

Bauke Muller – Simon De Wijs (The Netherlands)

By Kees Tammens (translated and edited by Christina Lund Madsen)

At only 51 Bauke Muller is the oldest and most experienced player of the Dutch open team. He is the only player who was also on the team the first time the Dutch team won the World Championships back in 1993. He then partnered Wubbo de Boer, who is nowadays the captain of the Dutch juniors.

Simon de Wijs started his career with current teammate Ricco van Prooijen on the Dutch junior team back in the mid-nineties. In the beginning of the new millennium he partnered Bas Drijver with whom he won national titles as part of the Lombard, a famous bridge club in Rotterdam.

Bauke Muller and Simon de Wijs began their partnership in 2005. Since the beginning they have been the backbone of the Dutch open team with two open European championships (2005 and 2009) and rarely place outside the podium, the highlight of course being the Bermuda Bowl in 2011.

Bauke is married and the father of a grown up daughter and has mysteriously managed both to finish an education and travel the world winning the most prestigious tournaments while still attending his daytime job.

In 2012 Bauke Muller received a Royal Decoration by Her Majesty Beatrix of The Netherlands. After the victory in the Bermuda Bowl in 2011 (Mullers second) the Queen appointed Muller as Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau as the most successful bridge player of his country. His teammates now refer to him as “Sir Bauke”.

Simon is the father of a son and twin daughters and has recently devoted his life completely to family and bridge as a full-time professional.

Simon and Bauke are playing a highly artificial system known throughout the world as TARZAN. They often run into a series of relays making them less audience-friendly to watch; however it usually gets them to the right spot – if they reach it before the clock runs out...

**Bauke Muller receiving his Royal Order.
In the background his partner Simon De
Wijs (in blue) is proudly applauding**
Photo: Louk Herber

