

# the MAJOR ALT



**JUNE 22 - 26, 2020**

**online bridge events organized by bid72 & netbridge.online**

## Major Pride

Yesterday before the beginning of the first match I watched on BBO as all the world stars logged on one by one, all waiting to be called to their tables. I felt a rush of joy and excitement and pride because despite corona, we can still come together and play our wonderful game.

As organisers we try our best; we might make mistakes along the way, but every time we try to improve and create a tournament participants and followers all over the world can enjoy.

We miss telling stories in the bar and seeing each other face to face, but we can still interact with each other online and for that I am grateful.

We hope today will be even better than yesterday.

**All players should enter BBO 10 minutes before the beginning of a match. TD Denis Dobrin will instruct you where to sit. All players must have their name in their BBO-profile. Private isn't allowed for the sake of opponents and kibitzers.**

### Today's Schedule

Tuesday June 23

**10:00 EDT/16:00 CET Match 4 (14 boards)**

**12:30 EDT/18:30 CET Match 5 (14 boards)**

**15:00 EDT/21:00 CET Match 6 (14 boards)**



# Undaunted

By Martin Cantor



Thirty-six tables of top class players; now that is what I call spoiled for choice as a bridge commentator and kibitzer.

For no scientific or particular reason I decided to watch the Black v Nickell match, specifically David Gold and Andrew Black tackling Eric Rodwell and Jeff Meckstroth.

It turned out to be a pretty good choice as the match started with a bang.

## Board 1. N / None

|  |  |   |         |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|---------|---|--|--|
| <p>♠ T 8 7 6 3 2<br/>♥ A<br/>♦ 7 6 5<br/>♣ Q 8 2</p> | <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table> | N | W     E | S | <p>♠ K 4<br/>♥ K 9 7 6 2<br/>♦ Q 9 3<br/>♣ K T 6</p> | <p>♠ Q 9<br/>♥ Q T 8 5 4 3<br/>♦ K 4 2<br/>♣ J 7</p> |
| N  |  |   |         |   |  |  |
| W     E  |  |   |         |   |  |  |
| S  |  |   |         |   |  |  |
| <p>♠ A J 5<br/>♥ J<br/>♦ A J T 8<br/>♣ A 9 5 4 3</p> |  |   |         |   |  |  |

| WEST     | NORTH   | EAST       | SOUTH |
|----------|---------|------------|-------|
| Rodwell  | Gold    | Meckstroth | Black |
| McIntosh | Nickell | King       | Katz  |
| —        | Pass    | 2♥         | Dbl   |
| All Pass |         |            |       |

The auctions were identical at both tables, and so were the first two tricks: ♥J lead to the ace, and a small spade taken by North's king.

Gold and Black got the rest of the defense card perfect, when Gold switched at trick 3 to the ♦9, allowing them to take three tricks in that suit, two in clubs and their other top spade, to go with two trumps for -4 and 800.

Nickell preferred to play a second spade at trick 3 which wasn't fatal, nor was Katz's ♠J to the next trick, ruffed by declarer, who exited a club. Perhaps seeing the danger looming South smartly hopped up with his ace and played another club to partner's king.

Nickell did the right thing when he now played a diamond, but when he chose his small one declarer ducked, and Katz won his ten to leave him with a difficult decision. He couldn't be sure of the heart spots, nor could he be sure which of the hidden hands had the ♦K and which the ♦Q.



Playing partner for the king he cashed his ace, so now only 3 down, 500, and 7 IMPs out.

In other matches 25 pairs played 3NT+2 (one of them doubled), 1 made 3NT+3, one pair made 5♣.

Of the seven others defending 2♥X, five took the maximum 800 while two slipped a trick for 500.

### Board 2. E / NS

|   |  |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p>♠ A Q 9</p> <p>♥ A 8 5</p> <p>♦ 9 6 4</p> <p>♣ T 9 4 2</p> | <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table> |   | N |  | W |  | E |  | S |  | <p>♠ K T 5 4 2</p> <p>♥ K 6 2</p> <p>♦ A J 7 5</p> <p>♣ A</p> | <p>♠ 6 3</p> <p>♥ Q J T 9 7 3</p> <p>♦ T 8 3</p> <p>♣ Q 5</p> |
|   | N  |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |
| W   |  | E   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|   | S  |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|   |  | <p>♠ J 8 7</p> <p>♥ 4</p> <p>♦ K Q 2</p> <p>♣ K J 8 7 6 3</p> |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |

You have just gone for 800 non-vulnerable after opening a weak 2♥ with an 8-count, then on the very next board you are again non-vulnerable and again you have a six card heart suit but this time with only 5 HCP. What do you do?

Undaunted, you stick to your system and open a weak 2♥. The auction continues:

| WEST     | NORTH | EAST       | SOUTH |
|----------|-------|------------|-------|
| Rodwell  | Gold  | Meckstroth | Black |
| —        | —     | 2♥         | Pass  |
| 3♥       | 3♠    | Pass       | 4♠    |
| All Pass |       |            |       |



This time your vulnerable opponents aren't interested in a penalty and bid to a solid looking spade game. Partner takes your heart lead and plays back a diamond. Dummy wins to play a trump to the 9, 10 and 3. The small heart is ruffed for another trump play, and all the defence gets is the two major suit aces. Not much to it.

| WEST     | NORTH    | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|----------|------|-------|
| McIntosh | Nickell  | King | Katz  |
| —        | —        | 3♥   | Pass  |
| 4♥       | All Pass |      |       |

Except, in the other room, Phil King, who only went 3 off doubled on the previous board was even less daunted, so on this one, with a better suit, and in first rather than second seat and with vulnerable opponents, he opened a full-blooded 3♥, raised by McIntosh to 4♥.

Pre-empt work. Neither North nor South really had a good way into this auction, so there it rested.

Declarer has five trump tricks and the ace of spades, four off -200 and 10 IMPs, a flying start for the Black team.

Including Gold-Black 30 pairs played 4♠ making ten or eleven tricks. One NS pair played 3NT making, two played 5♣-1. And two other EWs got away with playing 4♥ undoubled.

Fred Pollack for team Street went the same four off, but Geir Helgemo for Vinita got out for minus two.

Karen Arens in South led the K, Q and a small diamond, putting Erwin Witteveen in North on lead, and now the defense have blown one trick, as South needed to play either a heart or a spade through before the third diamond.

After cashing the ♣A North played the thirteenth diamond, but no other play at that point is either better or worse - all are heading for three down. After pitching his ♣Q and ruffing in dummy Helgemo led another club, and when North ruffed this he gave declarer another gift. Helgemo overruffed, cashed the trump ace and exited another heart, forcing North, down to spades only, to lead into dummy's AQ.

Mind you, the two fewer undertricks only cost 1 IMP against 650 at the other table.

The logo for bridgescanner, featuring the word "bridgescanner" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, centered between two horizontal white lines. Above the top line is a stylized blue bridge icon, and below the bottom line is a stylized blue inverted bridge icon. The logo is set against a dark blue background.

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A circular, aerial view of a city skyline, likely New York City, showing numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The image is centered on the page and serves as a background for the main text.

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## Leaderboard

| Ranking after round 3 |   |       |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| rk                    | team  | VPs   |
| 1                     |  <a href="#">BLASS</a>         | 45.36 |
| 2                     |  <a href="#">NICKELL</a>       | 43.26 |
| 3                     |  <a href="#">DE BOTTON</a>     | 40.90 |
| 4                     |  <a href="#">TULIN</a>         | 40.67 |
| 5                     |  <a href="#">VINITA</a>        | 40.61 |
| 6                     |  <a href="#">GUPTA</a>         | 40.59 |
| 7                     |  <a href="#">STREET</a>        | 39.74 |
| 8                     |  <a href="#">SOULET</a>      | 39.24 |
| 9                     |  <a href="#">BIANCHI</a>     | 36.19 |
| 10                    |  <a href="#">NETHERLANDS</a> | 34.38 |
| 11                    |  <a href="#">DALTONS</a>     | 33.48 |
| 12                    |  <a href="#">RUSSIA</a>      | 33.47 |
| 13                    |  <a href="#">LEBOWITZ</a>    | 33.37 |
| 14                    |  <a href="#">SELIGMAN</a>    | 33.28 |
| 15                    |  <a href="#">GOLDBERG</a>    | 33.16 |
| 16                    |  <a href="#">MELTZER</a>     | 32.25 |
| 17                    |  <a href="#">DONNER</a>      | 32.00 |
| 18                    |  <a href="#">IRELAND</a>     | 30.77 |

See all results on [Bridgeresults.org](https://bridgeresults.org)

|    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| 19 |  <a href="#">SWISS TEAM</a>      | 29.49 |
| 20 |  <a href="#">LAVAZZA</a>         | 29.21 |
| 21 |  <a href="#">GILLIS</a>          | 28.65 |
| 22 |  <a href="#">CHOCOLATA</a>       | 28.43 |
| 23 |  <a href="#">NORWAY WOMEN</a>    | 28.37 |
| 24 |  <a href="#">LESLIE</a>          | 27.81 |
| 25 |  <a href="#">DENMARK</a>         | 27.09 |
| 26 |  <a href="#">ROLL</a>          | 26.77 |
| 27 |  <a href="#">MARINA</a>        | 26.28 |
| 28 |  <a href="#">ROMBAUT</a>       | 25.60 |
| 29 |  <a href="#">BRIDGESCANNER</a> | 23.17 |
| 30 |  <a href="#">HUNGARY</a>       | 22.78 |
| 31 |  <a href="#">EDMONDS</a>       | 20.98 |
| 32 |  <a href="#">JUNIORS</a>       | 18.94 |
| 33 |  <a href="#">BLACK</a>         | 16.54 |
| 34 |  <a href="#">NETBRIDGE</a>     | 16.39 |
| 35 |  <a href="#">BID72</a>         | 11.35 |
| 36 |  <a href="#">OLCZYK</a>        | 9.43  |

# The Boys are Back in Town



By Mark Horton

After a week's vacation the ALT was back with a bang as some of the biggest names in bridge settled down to a series of 14 board matches. I went to the contest between teams representing the USA and the UK, Nickell and Black. See if you find these deals interesting:

## Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>♠ 8 6<br/>♥ Q 2<br/>♦ 10 8 6 5<br/>♣ K 9 7 4 3</p> <p>♠ K Q J<br/>♥ A 4<br/>♦ A K Q 4 2<br/>♣ Q 6 2</p> | <p>♠ A 10 7 5<br/>♥ 10 9 5<br/>♦ J 3<br/>♣ A J 8 5</p> <p>♠ 9 4 3 2<br/>♥ K J 8 7 6 3<br/>♦ 9 7<br/>♣ 10</p> |
|--|--|

## Open Room

| WEST     | NORTH   | EAST | SOUTH    |
|----------|---------|------|----------|
| McIntosh | Nickell | King | Katz     |
| 2NT      | Pass    | 3♣*  | Pass     |
| 3♦       | Pass    | 3NT  | All Pass |

I think everyone knows that bidding can be tough after a 2NT opening. You would like to reach 6♦ with the EW cards, but that looks beyond the powers of mere mortals.

North led the ♣4 and that was +720. Could the famed RM Precision do the trick?

## Closed Room

| WEST    | NORTH    | EAST       | SOUTH |
|---------|----------|------------|-------|
| Rodwell | Gold     | Meckstroth | Black |
| 1♣*     | Pass     | 2♦*        | Pass  |
| 3NT     | All Pass |            |       |

- 1♣ RM Precision, 16+
- 2♦ 8-10 balanced

The answer was a resounding no. North led the ♣3 and declarer was soon claiming all the tricks.

However, I did find pairs who reached 6♦. They included Cronier and Duboin, who bid:

| WEST    | NORTH    | EAST   | SOUTH |
|---------|----------|--------|-------|
| Cronier |          | Duboin |       |
| 2♦*     | Pass     | 2♥*    | Dble  |
| 2NT     | Pass     | 3♣*    | Pass  |
| 3♥      | Pass     | 3♠     | Pass  |
| 3NT     | Pass     | 4♣     | Pass  |
| 4♦      | Pass     | 5NT    | Pass  |
| 6♦      | All Pass |        |       |

Yes, it was a slam swing. Also:

| WEST  | NORTH    | EAST       | SOUTH |
|-------|----------|------------|-------|
| Monod |          | Marberquez |       |
| 2♦*   | Pass     | 2♥*        | Pass  |
| 2NT   | Pass     | 3♣*        | Pass  |
| 3♦*   | Pass     | 4NT*       | Pass  |
| 6♦    | All Pass |            |       |

Clearly 6♦ offered East a choice of contracts. It was worth 12 IMPs.

6♦ was not the only slam reached on the deal - for example:

| WEST    | NORTH | EAST  | SOUTH    |
|---------|-------|-------|----------|
| Bareket |       | Lengy |          |
| 2♣      | Pass  | 2♦    | Pass     |
| 2NT     | Pass  | 3♣    | Pass     |
| 3♥      | Pass  | 6NT   | All Pass |

That was worth 17 IMPs against the 6♣ reached at the other table.

#### Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

|            |               |             |
|------------|---------------|-------------|
|            | ♠ 7 2         |             |
|            | ♥ A 10 7 3    |             |
|            | ♦ 9 5 4 3     |             |
|            | ♣ 7 6 5       |             |
| ♠ A K 9    |               | ♠ J 10      |
| ♥ J 9 5    |               | ♥ Q 6 2     |
| ♦ Q J 2    |               | ♦ A K 7     |
| ♣ 10 9 4 3 |               | ♣ A K Q J 2 |
|            | ♠ Q 8 6 5 4 3 |             |
|            | ♥ K 8 4       |             |
|            | ♦ 10 8 6      |             |
|            | ♣ 8           |             |

#### Open Room

| WEST     | NORTH   | EAST | SOUTH    |
|----------|---------|------|----------|
| McIntosh | Nickell | King | Katz     |
| —        | Pass    | 2NT  | Pass     |
| 4NT      | Pass    | 6♣   | All Pass |



I have searched in vain for an EW Convention Card to get the range for 2NT. The Kaplan-Rubens Hand Evaluator rates West's cards at 9.35, which suggests that 4NT is too much with those cards and no five-card suit. East's collection rates 19.85, which is OK if the range was 19-20, but not so hot if it was anything else.

South led the ♠6, but that was no help to declarer, who could not avoid the loss of two heart tricks.

#### Closed Room

| WEST    | NORTH    | EAST       | SOUTH |
|---------|----------|------------|-------|
| Rodwell | Gold     | Meckstroth | Black |
| —       | Pass     | 2NT*       | Pass  |
| 3NT     | All Pass |            |       |

2NT 19-20, 5 major, 6 minor possible

Here too, South led a spade and declarer played low from dummy and claimed +460 and 11 IMPs.

**Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.**

|             |             |              |  |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|--|
|             | ♠ J 9 7 3 2 |              |  |
|             | ♥ A K Q 3   |              |  |
|             | ♦ A 6       |              |  |
|             | ♣ A K       |              |  |
| ♠ 6 5 4     |             | ♠ A 10       |  |
| ♥ 8         |             | ♥ 10 9 7     |  |
| ♦ 9 7 3 2   |             | ♦ K 10 8 5 4 |  |
| ♣ J 9 7 5 3 |             | ♣ 6 4 2      |  |
|             | ♠ K Q 8     |              |  |
|             | ♥ J 6 5 4 2 |              |  |
|             | ♦ Q J       |              |  |
|             | ♣ Q 10 8    |              |  |



**Andrew Black**  
Photo: Peter Hasenson

**Open Room**

| WEST     | NORTH   | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|---------|------|-------|
| McIntosh | Nickell | King | Katz  |
| —        | 1♠      | Pass | 2♠    |
| Pass     | 3♥      | Pass | 4♥    |
| All Pass |         |      |       |

East led the ♦4 and declarer lost only to the ♠A, +480.

**Closed Room**

| WEST    | NORTH | EAST       | SOUTH |
|---------|-------|------------|-------|
| Rodwell | Gold  | Meckstroth | Black |
| —       | 1♠    | Pass       | 2♣    |
| Pass    | 2♦*   | Pass       | 2NT   |
| Pass    | 5NT*  | Pass       | 6♠    |
| Pass    | 6NT   | All Pass   |       |

- 2♣ can be short, not GF
- 2♦ artificial, decent hand +
- 2NT GF

6NT is the par contract, but only if played by North to protect against a diamond lead. If North had passed 6♠ East would have needed to find a heart lead to defeat it - he can get in with the ♠A and give West a heart ruff. That might not be an easy lead to find but 6NT also depended on the lead.

There was no reprieve as West led the ♦2 and East won with the king and (nervously?) cashed the ♠A for one down and 11 IMPs.

7 other pairs played four of a major and two 3NT. Thirteen played 6♥. Eight Norths played 6♠, and three of the Easts against them - Demuy, van Cleef and Erichsen - found the killing heart lead.

Top marks go to the four pairs who managed to get North playing 6NT: Bertens-Cheek; Aghemo-Buratti; Hemant Lall-Hamman; Gillis-Saelsenminde.

Despite Black's flying start, Nickell recovered to win the match 26-21 or 11.58-8.42.



## Draw Round 4

| Tbl | Home Team   | Visiting Team   |
|-----|---|---|
| 1   |  <a href="#">BLASS</a>           |  <a href="#">NICKELL</a>     |
| 2   |  <a href="#">DE BOTTON</a>       |  <a href="#">TULIN</a>       |
| 3   |  <a href="#">VINITA</a>          |  <a href="#">GUPTA</a>       |
| 4   |  <a href="#">STREET</a>          |  <a href="#">SOULET</a>      |
| 5   |  <a href="#">BIANCHI</a>         |  <a href="#">NETHERLANDS</a> |
| 6   |  <a href="#">DALTONS</a>         |  <a href="#">LEBOWITZ</a>    |
| 7   |  <a href="#">RUSSIA</a>          |  <a href="#">SELIGMAN</a>    |
| 8   |  <a href="#">GOLDBERG</a>      |  <a href="#">MELTZER</a>   |
| 9   |  <a href="#">DONNER</a>        |  <a href="#">IRELAND</a>   |
| 10  |  <a href="#">SWISS TEAM</a>    |  <a href="#">LAVAZZA</a>   |
| 11  |  <a href="#">GILLIS</a>        |  <a href="#">CHOCOLATA</a> |
| 12  |  <a href="#">NORWAY WOMEN</a>  |  <a href="#">LESLIE</a>    |
| 13  |  <a href="#">DENMARK</a>       |  <a href="#">ROLL</a>      |
| 14  |  <a href="#">MARINA</a>        |  <a href="#">ROMBAUT</a>   |
| 15  |  <a href="#">BRIDGESCANNER</a> |  <a href="#">HUNGARY</a>   |
| 16  |  <a href="#">EDMONDS</a>       |  <a href="#">BLACK</a>     |
| 17  |  <a href="#">JUNIORS</a>       |  <a href="#">NETBRIDGE</a> |
| 18  |  <a href="#">BID72</a>         |  <a href="#">OLCZYK</a>    |

### Vugraph

The matches on BBO  
VuGraph in Round 4:

Blass - Nickell

Swiss team - Lavazza

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players and go to his/  
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# Victim of the Day

## Jérôme Rombaut

by Christina Lund Madsen



*Tell us where you come from, your age, family, occupation and other significant (or boring) details.*

- I come from France, born near Paris and living near Lille now. I'm 46 years old. I have 3 children (Léo 16, Lila 14, Oscar 12) and I just divorced my wife few months before lockdown.

I'm now living with Vanessa Reess, a young beautiful French lady. I like all sports and at the moment especially padel tennis and triathlon. Lots of my time I spend it working for BBO and Funbridge.

*How has your life been during corona?*

- Great ! I was doing sport every day, staying with my 3 children (working a lot, 10-12 hours per day !)  
It was the first time I can spend so much days at home with my family.

*As a child, what did you dream of doing when you grew up?*

- My dream was to have a big family with between 3 and 8 children. I stop at 3... the minimum.

*When did you become involved with bridge full time?*

- In 2000 just after finishing my engineer school, I found a company looking for a computer developer playing bridge! I had the profile. ☺ I just dove into bridge for life.

*What did you do earlier in your life?*

- I did a lot of sports: horse riding, fencing, tennis, soccer, spearfishing, squash... Having parties with my friends and often playing cards (Barbu, poker ...)

*How did you begin to play bridge?*

- I played many strategic games, lots of different French card games and I started playing chess in competition. Few years later I discovered Bridge. During a summer I read a bridge book with a friend and we decided to try, I fell in love and I stopped all other games ! Very quickly we were integrated in a French junior group and that was the beginning of a so nice adventure...

*What bridge memory has made the biggest impression on you?*

- If you mean my best memory in bridge, I would say two:  
1) My first qualification for the French open team in 2002, I was watching the last board in the vugraph, it was so close in the match and our last board was not very good, I was hiding under my sweatshirt when one of my teammates made a brilliant bid and qualified us, I remember me exulting, pure happiness!  
2) When I was captain and we won the World Championship with my girls' team in 2017, running dressed to the swimming pool but unfortunately I don't remember the rest of the night...

*Tell us about your teenage years.*

Jérôme Rombaut with his son and partner in the Major Alt, Léo.



- Teenage were the best years, just having fun, nothing to worry about.

I just remember being with friends and taking life as a game.

*Which three words would your mother describe you by?*

- I hope she won't say fat but athletic, she may say sore loser or brilliant winner, she should say that I'm in love with everybody...

*Tell us about an experience that has made an everlasting impression on you.*

- Taking my first son (Léo) in my arm when he was born and hugging him all night, sharing this heat was really like paradise.

*Sjoert's questions for you:*

*1. What is more difficult, completing a triathlon or winning a bridge championship?*

- Triathlon is not that hard, you just have to convince your body to go further. For main event like ironman, 90% is already done during the preparation, you just have to work hard during 6 months. During a bridge championship, you have to manage your skill, your teammate spirit, accept your disaster ... the main difference is that all championship are totally different and that you are not alone, your friends make the adventure more difficult but more beautiful !

*2. Are you hoping to one day lose to your son in bridge?*

- Never! Please win against someone else.

*Who do you want to partner, kiss, kill between Frederic Volcker, Bobby Levin and Peter Bertheau?*

- I could easily partner and kiss Frederic Volcker, he is appealing and funny, just to kiss him I would have to run faster than you. ☺

I would kiss Levin just because he thinks he is the most beautiful and kill Peter because I have one bullet in my gun.

*Who from the Major Alt do you think should be the next victim in the bulletin? Tell us something you would like to know about this person.*

- Cecilia Rimstedt, you're traveling so much, which place are you dreaming of living in?

## Teams / Players / Nicknames

### Bianchi

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Reno Bianchi         | inter2018 |
| Alfredo Versace      | nevaio    |
| Leonardo Cima        | 100dog    |
| Giovanni Donati      | giova007  |
| Alessandro Gandoglia | gandalf15 |
| Valerio Giubilo      | giammi    |

### Bid 72

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Jan van Cleeff          | IMP_Jan    |
| Marina Witvliet         | DonkeyM    |
| Gert Jan Paulissen      | gjp1965    |
| Xavier Dupuis           | XX man     |
| Onno Eskes              | onno       |
| Ge Sprinkhuizen         | Sprinksoet |
| Niels van Beijsterveldt | Nielsvbij  |
| Youp Caris              | youpmaster |
| Hervé Fleury            | Juransson  |
| Marc Girollet           | maxile     |

### Black

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Andrew Black      | boggis     |
| David Gold        | dagold     |
| Phil King         | philking   |
| Andrew McIntosh   | mcintosh   |
| Derek Patterson   | delberto24 |
| Gunnar Hallberg   | rerack     |
| Simon Hult        | hultahult  |
| Christian Lahrman | christianl |

### Blass

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Jacek Pszczola    | pikolo     |
| Josef Blass       | bljosef    |
| Jacek Kalita      | bridge24jk |
| Michal Nowosadzki | bridge24mn |
| Johan Upmark      | Mostovoi   |
| Fredrik Nyström   | F_Nystrom  |

### Bridgescanner

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Konrad Araszkievicz   | konrad80   |
| Andrei Arlovich       | goblin2000 |
| Boguslaw Gierulski    | bogier     |
| Krzysztof Kotorowicz  | przedpelk  |
| Mikhail Krasnoselskii | coreman    |
| Georgi Matushko       | matushko   |
| Wojciech Olanski      | olanski    |
| Jerzy Skrzypczak      | TXT        |
| Erikas Vainikonis     | bookie_It  |
| Vytautas Vainikonis   | vainikonis |

### Chocolata

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Ilan Bareket    | bareket  |
| Michael Barel   | mich-b   |
| Ilan Herbst     | ilanh    |
| Ophir Herbst    | herbst   |
| Ismail Kandemir | yakop    |
| Suleyman Kolata | atalok   |
| Asaf Lengy      | lengy    |
| Ophir Reshef    | oreshef  |
| Bar Tarnovski   | bar_t213 |
| Yaniv Zack      | Yanivz   |

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### How to kibitz the Alt Invitational on BBO

As in the previous editions of the Alt Invitational, we expect thousands of spectators on BBO. Even though the Alt is not broadcasted via the BBO Vugraph, you can still watch any of your favourites. You simply search for your favorite player's nickname and join his or her table.

If you wish to watch the players whenever they are online, you search for your chosen one (fx Simon de Wijs 'sm1', click on the name and choose 'follow' instead of neutral. Any time you see him online, you can click on him and take a seat at his table (assuming the tournament allows it).

See you on BBO!

## Teams / Players / Nicknames

### Daltons

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Mark Thiele     | mrxxx      |
| Yael Topiol     | top_33     |
| Renee Verdegaal | mrs_m      |
| Hans Vergoed    | MrVeryGood |

### De Botton

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Jason Hackett        | mutton    |
| Alexander Hydes      | itsgrim   |
| Janet de Botton      | capt Lulu |
| Arthur Malinowski    | malisuper |
| Thor Erik Hoftaniska | kasper20  |
| Thomas Charlsen      | charlsen  |

### Denmark

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Michael Askgaard   | askgaard |
| Lars Blakset       | Lblakset |
| Henrik Caspersen   | Hcasp    |
| Soren Christiansen | Sac      |
| HC Graversen       | HCDK     |
| Kasper Konow       | konow    |
| Jan Nielsen        | Jni33    |
| Peter Schaltz      | reteos   |
| Dorthe Schaltz     | DS_DK    |

### Donner

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Per-Ola Cullin    | pocken     |
| Gary Donner       | Gdonnersc1 |
| Joe Grue          | joegrue    |
| Marion Michielsen | Lady007    |
| Brad Moss         | brad       |
| Cecilia Rimstedt  | cillar     |
| Sandra Rimstedt   | Sandria    |

### Edmonds

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Jodi Edmonds    | jodewagon  |
| Zach Grossack   | germs345   |
| Tom Paske       | Thomas1000 |
| Mikael Rimstedt | MikaelRim  |
| Ola Rimstedt    | olarim     |
| Joel Wooldridge | firechief  |

### Team Gillis

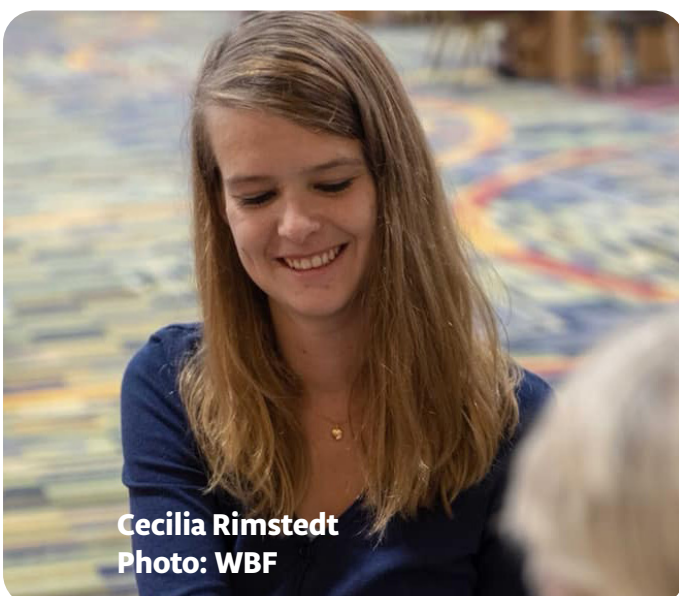
|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Simon Gillis      | rayas78 |
| Erik Saelensminde | skaal1  |
| Boye Brogeland    | boye    |
| Espen Lindqvist   | stevieg |
| Peter Crouch      | pitiful |
| Espen Erichsen    | espene  |

### Goldberg

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Vesa Fagerlund  | muppe     |
| Connie Goldberg | conniemc  |
| Artu Karhulahti | arleri    |
| Kauko Koistinen | koistinen |
| Clas Nyberg     | clas72    |
| Hua Poon        | krobono   |

### Gupta

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Bauke Muller     | beukertje  |
| Simon de Wijs    | sm1        |
| Cedric Lorenzini | pierced    |
| Huub Bertens     | H Bertens  |
| Thomas Bessis    | malpaluche |
| Naren Gupta      | nareng     |
| Curtis Cheek     | curtis     |



**Cecilia Rimstedt**  
Photo: WBF

## Teams / Players / Nicknames

### Hungary

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Miklos Dumbovich | dumbovich |
| Gal Hegedus      | gal       |
| Csaba Szabo      | csaboka13 |
| Balasz Szegedi   | korszurku |
| Gabor Winkler    | winkiboy  |

### Ireland

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Grainne Barton  | bartong |
| John Carroll    | coopers |
| Nick Fitzgibbon | nickfg1 |
| Tom Hanlon      | kinder1 |
| Hugh McGann     | hmg2    |
| Adam Mesbur     | Amesbur |
| Mark Moran      | Markpm  |

### Juniors

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Florian Alter      | Florian_a  |
| Arthur Boulin      | tutur300   |
| Théo Guillemin     | theoguille |
| Erik Hansson       | Hanseri1   |
| Castor Mann        | Castor01   |
| Alexander Sandin   | stridsvagn |
| Lauritz Streck     | Fluxo      |
| Stefan Thorpe      | Steffff    |
| Sibrand van Oosten | sibrand    |
| Leo Vornkahl       | EdgarV     |

### Lavazza

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Dennis Bilde           | Ballebo-jr |
| Norberto Bocchi        | Norby      |
| Philippe Cronier       | Phicro2    |
| Massimiliano Di Franco | M_DiFranco |
| Giorgio Duboin         | Giorginod  |
| Agustin Madala         | Septiembre |
| Andrea Manno           | maqeda     |
| Antonio Sementa        | ilaria75   |

### Team Lebowitz

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Zia Mahmood       | zia       |
| Laurence Lebowitz | O lhl12   |
| Adam Grossack     | nevereast |
| Michael Rosenberg | Scotty    |
| Vincent Demuy     | okvince   |
| John Kranyak      | jkrans    |
| Gavin Wolpert     | Gavin     |

### Leslie

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Mike Bell     | mickyb    |
| Michael Byrne | mgb81     |
| Kieran Dyke   | woozle    |
| Tim Leslie    | culross66 |
| Ben Norton    | bechno    |

### Marina

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Monica Aghemo   | Bebe2112   |
| Andrea Buratti  | Lucrezio14 |
| Ionut Coldea    | ionutcl    |
| Bogdan Marina   | dromikete  |
| Franck Multon   | mido       |
| Kiki Ward-Platt | SodaSpring |

### Meltzer

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Ton Bakkeren          | tbak       |
| Nik Demirev           | ndemirev   |
| Veri Kiljan           | Vkill      |
| Christina Lund Madsen | christinas |
| Rose Meltzer          | RCM        |
| Wayne Stuart          | wstuart    |
| Luc Tijssen           | Luctijs    |



Dennis Bilde

## Teams / Players / Nicknames



Zia Mahmood

### Netbridge

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Karen Arens           | karenar   |
| Kees Bakker           | keesbak   |
| Pim Coppens           | pimcop    |
| Marijn Huber          | marijnhu  |
| John Lesmeister       | jlesme    |
| Gert-Jan Ros          | rosgjw    |
| Martin van der Starre | martin001 |
| Erwin Witteveen       | erwinw    |

### Netherlands

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Bob Drijver         | bobdrijver |
| Merijn Groenenboom  | MerijnG    |
| Guy Mendes de Leon  | Guymdl     |
| Danny Molenaar      | dannymo    |
| Bart Nab            | bnab       |
| Maarten Schollaardt | skollie    |
| Thibo Sprinkhuizen  | Thibos     |
| Berend van den Bos  | BerendBs   |
| Joris van Lankveld  | ennaji     |
| Tim Verbeek         | timve      |

### Nickell

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Eric Greco      | greco     |
| Geoff Hampson   | ghampson  |
| Ralph Katz      | ralphk    |
| Robert Levin    | levin     |
| Jeff Meckstroth | jjmeck    |
| Nick Nickell    | fnickell  |
| Eric Rodwell    | bumporant |
| Steve Weinstein | stevo     |

### Norway Women

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Ann-Karin Fuglestad | annkafu    |
| Liv Marit Grude     | kompis     |
| Marianne Harding    | rosenknopp |
| Torild Heskje       | heskjet    |
| Bodil Oeigarden     | bodil1983  |
| Gunn Tove Vist      | Dronninga  |

### Olczyk

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Jaroslav Cieslak   | palnik22 |
| Dominik Filipowicz | consus88 |
| Piotr Nawrocki     | nawrot   |
| Pawel Niedzielski  | consus2  |
| Jerzy Olczyk       | jerzyo48 |
| Piotr Wiankowski   | vifon_e  |

### Roll

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Peter Bertheau | pbertheau |
| Amir Levin     | amiri     |
| Josef Roll     | sroch     |
| Oren Toledano  | orentol   |
| Dan Zagorin    | pez007    |
| Ami Zamir      | zamir1    |

### Rombaut

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Michel Bessis       | besbes    |
| Bernard Cabanes     | bernard34 |
| Baptiste Combescure | batou     |
| Francois Combescure | aphobiah  |
| Leo Rombaut         | leo1311   |
| Jerome Rombaut      | jerome    |
| Lionel Sebbane      | superyoyo |
| Paul Segueineau     | seguinto  |

## Teams / Players / Nicknames

### Russia

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Alexander Dubinin | Willis_A   |
| Andrey Gromov     | agromov017 |
| Anna Gulevich     | katt       |
| Yury Khokhlov     | yukh       |
| Vadim Kholomeev   | hollyv     |
| Yury Khuppenen    | hupp       |

### Seligman

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Dennis Clerkin  | tashakelly |
| Jerry Clerkin   | jclerkin   |
| Mark Lair       | mslair     |
| Mike Pasell     | mnpasell   |
| Seppo Sauvola   | zebutin    |
| Martin Seligman | mseligman  |

### Soulet

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Philippe Chottin  | cholina    |
| Donatella Halfon  | attela     |
| David Harari      | sarroumane |
| Erick Mauberquez  | mauber     |
| Emmanuelle Monod  | mafraise1  |
| Dominique Pilon   | cap51      |
| Philippe Soulet   | phisou9    |
| Herve Vinciguerra | hvinci3141 |

### Team Street

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Nicolas L'Ecuyer | caucase    |
| Paul Street      | Boulevard1 |
| Ron Pachtman     | ronpa      |
| Piotr Zatorski   | dzeronimo  |
| Fred Pollack     | Fredp      |
| Kamel Fergani    | fergani    |

### Team "SWISS TEAM"

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Sjoert Brink      | sjoertBr  |
| Sebastian Drijver | BasDr     |
| Piotr Gawrys      | Badaud4   |
| Michal Klukowski  | Skrzat96  |
| Krzysztof Martens | snetram   |
| Fernando Piedra   | Ferpiedra |
| Pierre Zimmermann | Pzimm55   |

### Team Tulin

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Stan Tulin         | returned |
| David Bakhshi      | Bakhshi  |
| Louk Verhees       | Loukie   |
| Ricco van Prooijen | Riccovp  |
| Dror Padon         | Drorp    |
| Alon Birman        | Hatol    |

### Vinita

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Vinita Gupta     | vinita     |
| Bob Hamman       | TGBH3      |
| Geir Helgemo     | Micelle45  |
| Tor Helness      | helstokk   |
| Hemant Lall      | hemantlall |
| Debbie Rosenberg | debrose    |





1. The Major Alt Invitational I will be hosted in Bridge Base Online from 22nd to 26th of June, 2020.

2. All participants are bound by the regulations contained within this document. Invitations for this event will be issued to teams of 4 – 10 players.

### 3. Schedule of play:

Monday June 22 - Wednesday June 24  
three matches of 14 boards/day will be played at the following starting times:

10:00 EDT / 16:00 CET – Swiss Round 1  
12:30 EDT / 18:30 CET – Swiss Round 2  
15:00 EDT / 21:00 CET – Swiss Round 3

Thursday June 25:

10:00 EDT / 16:00 CET – Swiss (last round)  
14:00 EDT / 20:00 CET – Quarterfinal  
(28 boards, 2 x 14)

Friday June 26:

10:00 EDT / 16:00 CET – Semifinal  
(28 boards, 2 x 14)

14:30 EDT / 20:30 CET – Final  
(32 boards, 2 x 16)

### 4. Qualifying Stage

The qualifying stage will be played as a “Swiss” and will consist of 140 boards played in 10 matches of 14 boards each. The results of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the appropriate WBF IMP/VP scales (see p. 10 below).

In the Swiss stage, any errors in assigning opponents shall not invalidate the result of that, or any other, match.

In case of an odd number of teams the bye team will receive 12 VPs.

In the event of two or more teams having the same number of Victory Points, their rankings will be determined as follows:

The total Victory Points of each team's opponents (“Swiss Points”) is calculated and the team with the largest number of “Swiss Points” is ranked first, and so on. If two or more teams have the same number of “Swiss Points”, their rankings will be determined by their relative IMP quotients.

The top 8 teams from the Swiss qualifying stage will advance to the knockout stage.

### 5. Knockout Stage

Before the start of the knockout stage a fixed (standard) bracket will be created and the teams placed 1st – 4th in the Swiss will be seeded no. 1 – 4.

The teams placed 1st – 3rd in the Swiss, in that order, get to choose their opponents from the teams placed 5th – 8th in the Swiss. Those chosen teams are assigned seed no. 8 – 6 respectively. The teams placed 4th in the Swiss will play the quarterfinal against the remaining team which gets no. 5.

Quarterfinal and semifinal will be played over 1 segment of 28 boards each with

possible change of the line-up after 14 boards (see p. 6 below). Final will be played over 32 boards, 2 separate segments of 16 boards each.

There will be the following carry over: a In the quarterfinal no. 1-4 get a carry over of 10.1 – 6.1 – 3.1 – 1.1 IMP respectively; in the semifinal and the final the higher ranked teams in the Swiss get a carry over of 0.1 IMP as a tiebreaker.

### **6. Line-Up**

All matches of the Swiss qualifying stage will be played without change of the line-up during a 14-board match unless unless there is a serious reason to do so (to be decided by the TD).

In the quarterfinal and semifinal change of the line-up is possible after 14 boards provided that no player can change the compass direction (so East will stay East and so on).

The final will consist of 2 separate segments, so there are no restrictions on the line-up.

The teams are expected to submit their line-up as soon as practical but in any case not later than 30 minutes before the start of the round.

Teams who infringe this regulation will be subject to VP penalties according to this scale:

1st occasion – warning;  
2nd and any subsequent occasion – 0.5 VP penalty.

The line-up must be submitted through the line-up web utility. All captains will be provided with the respective link and the password.

It is possible to change the submitted line-up but not later than 30 minutes before the start of the round.

The line-up is completely blind and will not be published before the start of the round.

### **7. Running the matches**

All players involved must be online and logged in to Bridge Base Online 10 minutes before the start of the round at the latest.

The Tournament Director will create the tables and send invitations to the players in accordance with the submitted line-ups. Players are requested to accept the invitation immediately upon receipt.

All tables will play duplicated boards (same boards for every team).

The table settings will allow kibitzers but forbid communication between players and kibitzers.

Barometer scoring will be OFF. The scores are only visible (for the players) after the last board has been played. Kibitzers can see the scores during the match.

Undo and claiming according to the BBO-guidelines: all players have the right to reject an undo or claim request for any reason. They are not required to explain why they have rejected such a request.

If players explain bids during the bidding via chat, then this is not communicated to “the table”, but only to “the opponents”. This way their partner cannot see the explanation, similar to explaining the bids via the BBO alert mechanism.

Players alert their own bids.

Players may not consult their own system card and use any aids to their memory, calculation or technique between the commencement of the auction period and the end of play.

Players are expected to finish 14 boards within 2 hours. The Tournament Director may remove unplayed boards if in his opinion a delay in finishing the match in the allotted time would interfere with the smooth running of the competition.

## 8. Request of the TD ruling

This tournament will of course be played in the most respectful way possible. Fun and good bridge are paramount. Netbridge relies on reluctance and restraint to call the Director. Should a team find a serious cause for demanding a ruling, then this will only be dealt with if the captain of the team announces this via email within 45 minutes after the last board played (with an explanation and a request for a specific adjustment of the score). Netbridge will inform the other team and give that team the opportunity (through its captain) to respond via an email within 45 minutes after being informed. The protest will be decided by a qualified director; or world class player; no further appeal will be possible after his/her decision.

To submit protests, you should send email to: [info@netbridge.online](mailto:info@netbridge.online)

9. These Regulations may be amended and augmented at the discretion of the organizing committee if circumstances so warrant so as to ensure the smooth, efficient and enjoyable running of the tournament.

Although this tournament isn't aligned with any bridge federation we will cooperate and provide them with all the information necessary to detect and prevent cheating.

## 10. The WBF Victory Points scale for 14 boards:

| IMP | VP    |       | IMP | VP    |      |
|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|------|
| 0   | 10.00 | 10.00 | 29  | 16.88 | 3.12 |
| 1   | 10.33 | 9.67  | 30  | 17.04 | 2.96 |
| 2   | 10.66 | 9.34  | 31  | 17.19 | 2.81 |
| 3   | 10.97 | 9.03  | 32  | 17.34 | 2.66 |
| 4   | 11.28 | 8.72  | 33  | 17.49 | 2.51 |
| 5   | 11.58 | 8.42  | 34  | 17.63 | 2.37 |
| 6   | 11.87 | 8.13  | 35  | 17.77 | 2.23 |
| 7   | 12.16 | 7.84  | 36  | 17.91 | 2.09 |
| 8   | 12.44 | 7.56  | 37  | 18.04 | 1.96 |
| 9   | 12.71 | 7.29  | 38  | 18.17 | 1.83 |
| 10  | 12.97 | 7.03  | 39  | 18.29 | 1.71 |
| 11  | 13.23 | 6.77  | 40  | 18.41 | 1.59 |
| 12  | 13.48 | 6.52  | 41  | 18.53 | 1.47 |
| 13  | 13.72 | 6.28  | 42  | 18.65 | 1.35 |
| 14  | 13.96 | 6.04  | 43  | 18.76 | 1.24 |
| 15  | 14.19 | 5.81  | 44  | 18.87 | 1.13 |
| 16  | 14.42 | 5.58  | 45  | 18.98 | 1.02 |
| 17  | 14.64 | 5.36  | 46  | 19.08 | 0.92 |
| 18  | 14.85 | 5.15  | 47  | 19.18 | 0.82 |
| 19  | 15.06 | 4.94  | 48  | 19.28 | 0.72 |
| 20  | 15.26 | 4.74  | 49  | 19.38 | 0.62 |
| 21  | 15.46 | 4.54  | 50  | 19.47 | 0.53 |
| 22  | 15.66 | 4.34  | 51  | 19.56 | 0.44 |
| 23  | 15.85 | 4.15  | 52  | 19.65 | 0.35 |
| 24  | 16.03 | 3.97  | 53  | 19.74 | 0.26 |
| 25  | 16.21 | 3.79  | 54  | 19.83 | 0.17 |
| 26  | 16.38 | 3.62  | 55  | 19.91 | 0.09 |
| 27  | 16.55 | 3.45  | 56  | 19.99 | 0.01 |
| 28  | 16.72 | 3.28  | 57  | 20.00 | 0.00 |

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