

The Minor ALT Invitational II

SEPTEMBER 21-25 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

New Minor Format

The Alt began as an event for eight top teams, handpicked and invited by the organisers. Then we added the Alt Mixed, an always popular discipline especially during corona when so many are stuck at home with their spouse.

Next came the Major Alt for 32 teams, held only a few times a year as a humble replacement for the American Nationals. Allowing more teams increased the interest, and we now even have a qualifying event for the Major Alt.

It is a difficult balance hosting world class events while wanting to give teams not packed with world champions a chance to compete among the stars. We also had the luxury problem to have so many competent teams applying to participate that we are now extending the Minor Alt and testing a new format. We hope you will enjoy it and as always welcome any feedback.

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

Monday September 21

10:00 EDT/16:00 CET RR 1 (24 boards)

14:00 EDT/20:00 CET RR 2 (24 boards)

[Link to results](#)

[Minor Alt Results](#)

[Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins](#)

Alt.bridgeresults.org



Welcome to the 2nd Minor Alt Invitational



by Christina Lund Madsen

Welcome to a new version of the Minor Alt Invitational. Team Gupta has been dominating the past Alt events, so we decided to put a stop to it by changing the format. The Minor Alt II consists of 14 teams divided in two groups of similar strength according to the completely unbiased organisers. Each group plays all teams in the other group, 7 matches of 24 boards. The final ranking within the group (the teams will not have played each other but all the same opponents) will decide who qualifies for the quarterfinal.

In the quarterfinals, number 1 plays number 4 and number 2 plays number 3 in each group. See the Conditions of Contest in this bulletin for details. We recommend you read them in any case.

As soon as Mr. Gupta heard about this change, he decided not to register a team. Luckily we have a lot of other interesting contestants. We welcome back the De Botton, who were regulars in the Alt Events in the spring and are now back in the game along with two other English teams. They will be challenged by Ireland, who were invited a late evening at the pub.

Another interesting team is Moss, a team with the classic combination of a French, a Polish and an American pair. We also have a team all the way from South Africa with two Norwegians, a Swede and a South African.

Team Zhao is back too, which means we are represented on 4 different continents.

Among our other world class teams, I am particularly happy to see the junior team Robinson. The two young superstars Jacob Freeman and Finn Kolesnik have agreed to team up with over the hill and former junior world champions Kevin Rosenberg, Dennis Bilde-Emil Jepsen, the Grossack brothers and Alon Birman-Dror Padon, who are only a few kilograms away from looking exactly as they did 10 years ago.

Goodbye and welcome to Sjoert

As many know and even more don't, Sjoert Brink has been working behind the Alt scenes since the beginning. He put together the current team, and he is one of main reasons the Alt events have become the most prestigious online events during Corona. He is now stepping back to focus on his bridge game, which clearly has suffered during his occupation with the Alt.

"I decided to stop organising the ALT tournaments. The organisation as it is now is perfect and I am not needed anymore. I am a bridge player and that is what I want to do. Play bridge instead of organising bridge battles."

I would like to thank Jan van den Hoek for his excellent organisation skills, TD Denis Dobrin for his software and professionalism and Christina for making the best bulletins in the world. I can leave knowing the Alt will remain a success. Thank you to Alt of you!"

But fear not - Sjoert is back among us as a player, and since he is no longer my boss, there will be no censorship of his disasters.

Teams / Players / Nicknames

BALDURSSON

Sverrir Arnarsson	gauksi
Jón Baldursson	ICEBALDI
Olaf Bergström	Zangman
Bjorn Fallenius	bf88
Einar Gudjohnsen	Einarusa
Birkir Jonsson	birkirjon
Steinar Jónsson	Steinarjon
Aolsteinn Jorgensen	jorgi
Mats Nilsland	nilsland

BLACK

Andrew Black	Boggis
David Gold	Dagold
Gunnar Hallberg	Rerack
Simon Hult	Hultahult
Andrew McIntosh	Mcintosh
Tom Paske	Thomas1000

CHATEAU BERTHEAU

Peter Bertheau	Pbertheau
Sjoert Brink	Sjoertbr
Bas Drijver	Basdr
Mikael Rimstedt	MikaelRim
Ola Rimstedt	Olarim
Dan Zagorin	pez007

DE BOTTON

David Bakhshi	Bakhshi
Thomas Charlsen	tcharlsen
Janet de Botton	Capt Lulu
Thor Erik Hoftaniska	kasper20
Artur Malinowski	malisuper
Tom Townsend	mug

DONNER

Brad Moss	Brad
Joe Grue	Joegrue
Sandra Rimstedt	Sandria
Cecilia Rimstedt	Cillar
Marion Michielsen	Lady007
Per-Ola Cullin	pocken
Gary Donner	Gdonnersc1
Max Rotaru	Maxentius

FREDIN

Allan Livgard	Livgard
Peter Fredin	P_Fredin
Terje Aa	Aate
Alon Apteker	Alonap

HARRIS

Marusa Gold	marusab
Jonathan Harris	Jdache
Niall Iggoe	ibraves
Vladi Isporski	smileyv
Petar Ivanov	Lav1naa
Eddie Malhasyan	Master DJ
Steve Root	AsNuttyAs
Todor Tiholov	polborta
Rumen Trendafilov	rumen

IRELAND

Grainne Barton	bartong
John Carroll	coppers
Nick Fitzgibbon	nickfg1
Tom Hanlon	kinder1
Hugh McGann	hmg2
Adam Mesbur	Amesbur
Mark Moran	markpm

How to kibitz the Alt Events 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 Cecilia Rimstedt "Cillar", click on the name and choose 'follow' instead of neutral. Any time you see her online, you can click on her and take a seat at her table. See you on BBO!

Teams / Players / Nicknames



OBEZIT INT

Sedat Aluf	monk99
Bülent Aslan	baylind
Hakan Göksu	kesna
Nezih Kubac	nezihk
Ibrahim Mumcuoglu	lmumcuoglu
Tunga Ogus	tungas
Ali Ucar	no weak
Omer Umur	ttlfb
Nafiz Zorlu	begse

POTTER

Kevin Bathurst	kmb24
Vince Demuy	okvince
Kevin Dwyer	kdwyer
Shan Huang	precisebri
John Hurd	johnhurd
Cookie Potter	ohceep

ROBINSON

Dennis Bilde	ballebo-jr
Alon Birman	Hatol
Jacob Freeman	Jacob04
Adam Grossack	nevereast
Zach Grossack	germs345
Emile Jespen	emilos
Finn Kolesnik	fkolesnik
Dror Padon	drorp
Linda Robinson	Saba
Kevin Rosenberg	kevsters

ZHAO

Choon Chou Loo	bridgeboy
Simon de Wijs	sm1
Bauke Muller	beukertje
Gideon Tan	serapuff
Ricco van Prooijen	riccovp
Louk Verhees	loukie
Chen Zhao	zhaochen

MACAVITY

Kees Bakker	Keesbak
Pim Coppens	pimcop
Dennis Dewit	Hyperon
John Lesmeister	Jlesme
Gert-Jan Ros	rosgjw
Emile Schols	Mkgnao
Michel Schols	Futuralis
Niels van Bijsterveldt	nielsvbij
Tim van den Bos	Timvdb
Emiel Vandewiele	blink128

MOSS

Thomas Bessis	malpaluche
Jacek Kalita	bridge24jk
Michal Klukowski	Skrzat96
Roger Lee	rogerclee
Sylvia Moss	sylvie
Frederic Volcker	fred92130

Groups / Draw / Results

Round 1

See our full calendar at

Alt.bridgeresults.org

Tbl	Group A	Group B	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				A	B	A	B	A	B
<u>1</u>	 DONNER	 POTTER	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>2</u>	 IRELAND	 FREDIN	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>3</u>	 MOSS	 ROBINSON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>4</u>	 OBEZIT INT	 ZHAO	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>5</u>	 BLACK	 BALDURSSON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>6</u>	 CHATEAU BERTHEAU	 MACAVITY	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>7</u>	 HARRIS	 DE BOTTON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00

Round 2

Results

Tbl	Group A	Group B	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				A	B	A	B	A	B
<u>1</u>	 DONNER	 ROBINSON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>2</u>	 IRELAND	 ZHAO	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>3</u>	 MOSS	 BALDURSSON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>4</u>	 OBEZIT INT	 MACAVITY	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>5</u>	 BLACK	 DE BOTTON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>6</u>	 CHATEAU BERTHEAU	 POTTER	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
<u>7</u>	 HARRIS	 FREDIN	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00

Victim of the Day

Thomas Bessis

by Christina Lund Madsen



How old are you, where do you live, any education, do you have any children you know of?

- I am 34 years old, I live in Paris now, I have a degree in maths, and I will just simply ignore the last part of your question.

How have you been spending your time during corona?

- Playing bridge on BBO. Playing some tennis. Enjoying Italian cuisine. Being happy.

Which time has been the hardest for you during the past six months?

- The passing away of Justin Lall. Especially as it came as such a shock to me. Like most I had no idea that his condition was so serious. Still I considered us close friends. I guess many of us feel they can say so, as Justin was everyone's friend. He was so unique. So fait. So brilliant. I mean... He is the only American pro that I know who figured out that when defending, the most useful signal to give to partner at trick one is almost always count... that says a lot to me. 😊

What do you think about online bridge compared to live bridge?

- Let's be clear first: I miss live bridge so much! Nothing can replace live bridge, playing with a partner and against two opponents at the table, trying to enter

their mind, touching the cards, feeling the tension at the table, playing for prestigious titles. I just can't wait to play high level real bridge again.

This being said - live bridge not being an option for now, it is a fantastic thing that the bridge community became so enthusiastic about online bridge.

I think that playing serious bridge online was difficult for many of us at first. We suddenly all had to learn how to play our best possible game in a completely new environment: At home behind a screen. Learning to get to a good level of concentration in those new conditions has not been an easy thing for me. But now it is not a problem anymore, I enjoy a lot playing in these high level competitions. There are also a few things that change when playing online compared to live: We alert our own bids, you can deduce less things from opponents' tempo, but mostly... I can scream at myself, my partner and/or the opponents, without anyone knowing about it, what a blast! 😊

It is no secret that you come from a legendary bridge family. Who would you choose to play a live bridge tournament with next week between your father, your mother and your brother?

- Thank you, darling, for this absolutely uninteresting but very possibly causing big family issues-question. I have to go with maman. Because... she's my mum, what else can I say.

Tell us your favourite story from your junior bridge years.

- Well, you and I both know that answering honestly to this request would not be appropriate in a bulletin of this standing.

Did you ever have a job outside of bridge?

- Does sorting my parents' decks of cards when I was 5 years old for 1 franc the deck count?

If you had to quit bridge tomorrow, what would you do instead?

- I would probably run out of friends to borrow money from to cover my sports betting debts.

(This was Thomas' initial reply. He wrote me about 23 minutes later asking me to replace his reply with the following./CLM)

- I would probably open a restaurant with Irene to try to make money out of her fantastic cooking skills. I guess I'd be a waiter in this scenario. So we would argue everyday because I would use all my charm to retain our feminine clients, and our marriage would inevitably end up in a tragic way.

All in all, better keep on playing bridge.



Thomas Bessis.
Photo: Peg Kaplan

How would Frederic Volcker describe you in three (English) words?

- He may say something like "Friend. Passionate. Tough". But at some point he would also definitely say "Let's drink Ricard."

What are you better at: French kissing or declaring?

- Ask Irene.

What is your biggest weakness?

- Les profiteroles.

Andrea Manno's questions for you: Why do you have a big attraction to Italian girls?

- Hehe, I didn't expect less from Andrea. I think that is because of their beautiful accent.



Thomas when he and Frederic were in Tokyo training secretly to become Karatekas.

Andrea: After your marriage to Irene, will she play for France or you for Italy?

- So far we both play for our own country, and we are very happy this way. We can't say that one of us won't ever switch to represent another country, because you don't know what the future is made of, but we are not considering it at all at the moment.

Speaking of Irene, tell us the highlights of your love story.

- We briefly met in our junior years, but it was not until 2015, when Irene decided to leave the poker world to pick up bridge again, that we exchanged a few words for the first time.

We then met here and there at various bridge championships, but we both had our lives. One day in Salsomaggiore, after we both lost in our semi final of the Italian Cup, we decided to meet up in the evening. I knew right away, Irene too. But still she decided for the fun to see how long she could resist. She showed good skills, but after ten months of tough resistance, she finally accepted her fate.

If you could change something in your past, what would it be?

- There are a few people I hurt and feel guilty about it, and I would love to be able to change that somehow.

Who do you want to partner, kiss, kill between Jeff Meckstroth, Tom Hanlon and your mother Veronique?

- Not an easy one. Well, Tom is used to suffer from my bad choices and would be the most inclined to forgive me, so sorry buddy, hope you'll pass me this one too. I would actually kiss Jeff because I just love his beautiful beard. Which means I am an honest person as I already said I would like to partner my mother.

Who from the Minor Alt should be the next victim in the bulletin?

- I would like to ask Mikael Rimstedt how he enjoys his life in Paris so far.

Conditions of Contest • Minor Alt II

1. The Minor Alt Invitational II will be hosted in Bridge Base Online from September 21st to 25th 2020.

2. All participants are bound by the regulations contained within this document.

The Alt Organization emphasizes that all their events are on invitation. Teams who are interested in participating and believe they meet the standard of Alt's various events can apply for an invitation.

Invitations for this event will be issued to 14 teams of 4 – 10 players. Alt reserves the right not to invite any team/player without giving a reason. At the moment teams and/or players (also who have played in the Alt before) are applying, they agree to the aforementioned terms.

Should a team be disqualified and/or withdrawn by themselves (before or during the event), no refund of the entry fees will be made.

3. Schedule of play:

Monday September 21 - Wednesday September 23 two group matches of 24 boards/day will be played at the following starting times:

10:00 EDT / 16:00 CET
14:00 EDT / 20:00 CET

Thursday September 24:
10:00 EDT / 16:00 CET – RR7 (last round)
14:00 EDT / 20:00 CET – 1/4 final (28 brds)

Friday September 25:
10:00 EDT / 16:00 CET – Semifinal (28 brds)
14:30 EDT / 20:30 CET – Final (32 boards)

4. Qualifying Stage

In the qualifying stage all teams will be divided into 2 groups of 7 teams and play 7 matches of 24 boards versus the teams of the other group (168 boards in total). 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 order to determine the grouping for the knockout stage, a tie between two teams will be broken by the IMP quotient (all matches).

The top 4 teams from each group at the end of the qualifying stage will advance to the knockout stage.

5. Knockout Stage

The knockout stage will consist of Quarterfinal (24 boards), Semifinal (28 boards) and Final (32 boards).

There will be the following composition of the KO matches including carry-over:

Quarterfinals:

- Quarterfinal 1: 1st place of Group A versus 4th place of Group A – c/o of 10.1 IMPs in favor of the highest ranked team in the qualifying stage
- Quarterfinal 2: 1st place of Group B versus 4th place of Group B – c/o of 10.1 IMPs in favor of the highest ranked team in the qualifying stage
- Quarterfinal 3: 2nd place of Group A versus 3rd place of Group A – c/o of

6.1 IMPs in favor of the highest ranked team in the qualifying stage

- Quarterfinal 4: 2nd place of Group B versus 3rd place of Group B – c/o of 6.1 IMPs in favor of the highest ranked team in the qualifying stage

Semifinals:

- Semifinal 1: winner of Quarterfinal 1 versus winner of Quarterfinal 4 – carry over 0.1 IMP in favor of the highest ranked team (in the qualifying stage)
- Semifinal 2: winner of Quarterfinal 2 versus winner of Quarterfinal 3 – carry over 0.1 IMP in favor of the highest ranked team (in the qualifying stage)

Final

Winner of Semifinal 1 versus winner of Semifinal 2 – c/o of 0.1 IMPs in favor of the highest ranked team in the qualifying stage; in case both teams have the same ranking, the carry over will be given to the team with the highest total of Victory Points.

Quarterfinal will be played over 1 segment of 24 boards with possible change of the line-up after 12 boards (see p. 6 below).

Semifinal will be played over 1 segment of 28 boards 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.

6. Line-Up

In the Round Robin and quarterfinal change of the line-up is possible after 12 boards provided that no player changes compass direction (so East will stay East and so on).

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

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

The line-up must be submitted through the line-up web utility as soon as practical. 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, which is the absolute deadline for line-ups.

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 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.

Players should have their official name on their BBO-profile. Private isn't allowed. Teams who infringe this regulation will be subject to the following VP penalties:

1st occasion – warning;

2nd and any subsequent occasion – 0.5 VP penalty for each match for each player without official name on BBO profile.

The TD will start 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 claim:

Alt encourages players to accept opponent's undo in obvious misclick situations during the bidding as well as play. In case an undo is refused, a player gets one "challenge" whereby the TD can be summoned to the table. Play must be shut down till the TD arrives. The TD will assess the situation, and if he believes the undo is justified by an obvious misclick, the undo has to be accepted by the opponents.

Players alert their own bids.

If players explain bids via chat they should set the recipients to Opponents, not Table, so that only opponents see the explanation not partner. The best way is to explain the bids via the BBO alert mechanism.

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

The gravest possible offence is for a partnership to exchange information through prearranged methods of communication other than those sanctioned by the Laws of Bridge or self-kibitzing.

Players are expected to finish 24 boards within 3 hours 15 minutes. The TD may remove unplayed boards if he estimates a delay in finishing the match within the allotted time would interfere with the smooth running of the competition.

8. Request of a TD ruling

The Alt team strongly encourages participants to play in the most respectful way and display reluctance to call the Director. Should a team wish for a ruling, the captain 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). The Alt team will inform and give the other team the opportunity (through its captain) to respond via email within 45 minutes. 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, email to: info@netbridge.online

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

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



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How to kibitz the Alt Mixed teams on BBO

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Partnership building, testing agreements

dealer South vulnerability None

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

10 6♠	7 6♣	5 5♠ 5♣ 4♣	3 7♠ 7♣
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West Tobias	North	East Marina72	South
—	—	—	2♥
Pass	4♥	5♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

5♠ = asking for heart control

6♠ = got it

dealer South vulnerability East-West

West	East
♠ J 9 6	♠ Q 10 5 3
♥ K Q J 10	♥ A 6
♦ A 2	♦ K 9
♣ A 6 5 2	♣ Q J 10 4 3

10 4NT 3NT	6 5NT 4♠ 4♥	5 4♣ 3♠ 3♥
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West Tobias	North	East Marina72	South
—	—	—	2♦
X	3♦	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass	—	—

'In stead of 4♠ East should double and bid 3NT over the expected 3♥.'

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- Two-way Checkback Stayman; 2. Responding with both Majors after 1NT; 3. (Non) Leaping Michaels;
- Gazzilli; 5. Gambling 3NT; 6. Lebensohl after a Weak Two; 7. Rubensohl and Transfer-Lebensohl;
- 1♥/1♠ - 2NT (fit); 9. 4♣: Fit and slamgoing

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