Minor ALT IV BULLETIN 1 • Tuesday November 17 • editor Christina Lund Madsen • clm@christina-bridge.com

The minor ALT INVITATIONAL IV & TampAlt Qualification



NOVEMBER 16-20 2020

WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

Dutch Dominance

After day 1 of our two simultaneous events, Dutch players are found in all leading positions.

In the Minor Alt Moss (Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, Jacek Kalita, Michal Klukowski, Roger Lee, Sylvia Moss) is leading group B with an impressive score of 36.40 VPs after two matches.

The leader in group A with 30.77 VPs is Eastwest (Jan Willem Boiten, Ruben Buijs, Simon ter Elst, Oscar Nijssen, Tim van de Paverd, Ruurd Riewald, Yael Topiol, Hans Vergoed, Roefi Vilier, Kevin Vreeswijk) who are perhaps not as famous as Brink & Drijver outside the Netherlands, but much better looking.

FInally we have an almost equally goodlooking Dutch all star team leading the TampAlt Qualification, team Coppens (Kees Bakker, Ton Bakkeren, Rob van de Berg, Pim Coppens, Bob Drijver, John Lesmeister, Danny Molenaar, Bart Nab, Gert-Jan Ros, Tim Verbeek, Ricardo Westerbeek, Dennis Stuurman) with 42.58 VPs ahead of Vinita Gupta with 40.98 VPs.

The bridge has not disappointed so far, so we are excited to see what today has to offer.

Today's Schedule TampAlt Q

Tuesday November 17

- 10:15 EST / 16:15 CET Round 4 (14 boards)
- 12:45 EST / 18:45 CET Round 5 (14 boards)

15:15 EST / 21:15 CET - Round 6 (14 boards)

Today's Schedule Minor Alt

Tuesday November 17

10:00 EST / 16:00 CET - RR 3 (24 boards) 14:00 EST / 20:00 CET - RR 4 (24 boards)

Results Minor Alt Invitational IV

RR 1

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Toom	n Brd	IMPs		VPs	
ומו	Home leam	Visiting Team	nBrd	Η	V	Н	V
1	GUPTA		24	<u>41</u>	<u>33</u>	11.90	8.10
2	DE BOTTON		24	<u>52</u>	<u>43</u>	12.12	7.88
3	HARRIS		24	<u>51</u>	<u>39</u>	12.75	7.25
<u>4</u>	RED DEVILS		24	<u>41</u>	<u>61</u>	5.74	14.26
<u>5</u>	MOSS		24	88	<u>22</u>	19.51	0.49
<u>6</u>		BLACK	24	<u>37</u>	<u>53</u>	6.47	13.53
<u>7</u>	POTTER		24	<u>60</u>	<u>46</u>	13.15	6.85
<u>8</u>		BRIDGESCANNER	24	<u>64</u>	<u>24</u>	17.13	2.87

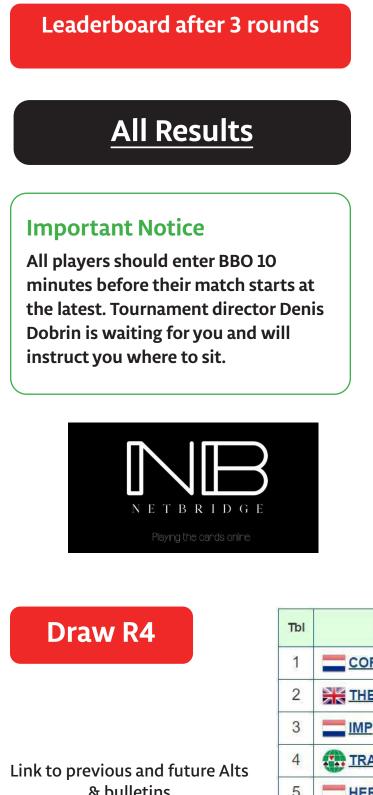
Tbl	Home Team Visiting Team	n Pro	IMPs		VPs		
	Home leam	Visiting Team nBro		Η	۷	Н	V
1	GUPTA	FREDIN	24	<u>45</u>	<u>51</u>	8.54	11.46
2			24	<u>54</u>	<u>57</u>	9.25	10.75
3	DE BOTTON		24	<u>41</u>	<u>48</u>	8.32	<mark>11.6</mark> 8
4		HARRIS	24	<u>78</u>	<u>43</u>	<mark>16.5</mark> 1	3.49
5	MOSS	BLACK	24	<u>73</u>	<u>35</u>	<mark>16.8</mark> 9	3.11
<u>6</u>			24	<u>39</u>	<u>69</u>	4.17	15.83
<u>7</u>	GILLIS		24	<u>53</u>	<u>52</u>	10.25	9.75
8			24	<u>55</u>	<u>73</u>	6.10	13.90

RR 2

|--|

Ranking after round 2			Ranking after round 2		
rk	Group A	VPs	rk	Group B	VPs
1	EASTWEST	30.77	1	MOSS	36.40
2	DE BOTTON	20.44	2	POTTER	27.05
3	GUPTA	20.44	3		26.88
4	FREDIN	19.34	4		22.68
5		18.00	5	GILLIS	16.72
6		17.42	6	BLACK	16.64
7		17.35	7		8.97
8	HARRIS	16.24	8		4.66

Results TampAlt Qualification



rk	Ranking after round 3 team	VPs
1		42.58
2		40.98
3	THE MUGS	38.72
4	PELKA	38.60
5		35.29
6	JEDI KNIGHTS	35.23
7		33.44
8	HERRES!	32.76
9	ELEMISH FEAST	30.07
10	NORFOLK AND CHANCE	25.67
11	BELGIUM 2	25.61
12	HONEY BADGERS	25.17
13		24.04
14		23.20
15	DE ZEEROB	16.92
16		11.72

& bulletins

Alt.bridgeresults.org

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1		
2	THE MUGS	
3		JEDI KNIGHTS
4		ELEMISH FEAST
5	HERRES!	NORFOLK AND CHANCE
6	BELGIUM 2	HONEY BADGERS
7		
8	DE ZEEROB	

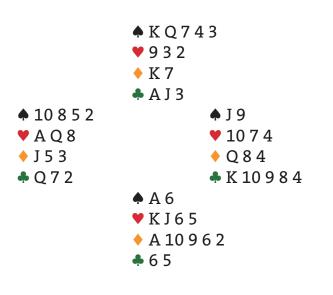
Brink is Back



By Toine van Hoof

Having skipped the previous Minor Alt Invitational Sjoert Brink is back and he immediately made his mark.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.



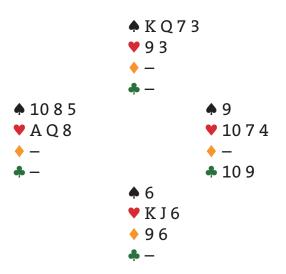
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Failla	Drijver	De Michelis	Brink
-	-	Pass	1 • *
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2 🔶 *
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1 5+ or 4441
- 2♣ asks for 3♠
- 2 🔶 no 3 🌩

Giuseppe Failla had an awkward lead and did well by tabling the \$2. Brink inserted the jack, which lost to the king. Luca De Michelis returned the \$4.

East put up the queen, which was ducked, and a third club cleared the suit, East contributing the 8 and South the ♥5. Brink now cashed the \bigstar K and played a diamond to the 10, won by the jack. West got off with a spade, which ran to declarer's ace. Brink cashed the \diamondsuit A and when the queen dropped he could cash two more.

This was the end position:



On the ♦9 West could afford to discard the ♥8. Giving up a possible overtrick Brink threw the ♠3 from dummy. Then came the ♦6 and West was squeezed out of his ♥Q.

Brink discarded the ♠7 and played the ♥K, establishing his ninth trick. Plus 600 and plus 300 from the other table meant a 14 IMPs win for the Moss team.

Brink had read the club position perfectly, allowing him to duck a diamond to West. He said he had four clues.

First, EW lead third and fifth. Secondly West seemed to have a difficult lead. Thirdly Brink noticed that for a short moment East had considered to double 2.



And finally it was obvious that West by playing the AQ in trick 2 instead of the seven had unblocked the suit. These all pointed in the same direction and Brink went for it.

Double dummy analysis shows that West could have defeated the contract by switching to a spade in trick 3. This effectively messes up declarer's communications.

The hand was played in 3NT at fifteen tables and went down twelve times. Brink was the only one who made it on a club lead. After ducking twice most declarers started by cashing three spades, planning to cash two more and hoping something nice would then materialize. When the spades did not break they invariably went two or three off. In the match between the Friendly Israelis and Bridgescanner 3NT was made at both tables. The friendly Israeli on the West seat led the ♥A and switched to a spade, after which declarer easily made nine tricks.

At the other table West returned the favor by leading the ♥Q. Declarer won in hand with the ♥K, gave up a diamond to East, ducked the heart return to West's ace and then had eleven tricks for a 2 IMPs win.

One pair stayed out of game:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Van de Paverd	De Donder	Nijssen	Bahbout
-	-	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	3 🔶
All Pass			

2. weak two in clubs or strong

West led a club which was ducked to the 10. East returned the ♥7 to the queen and West played another club to the ace. Declarer played three rounds of trumps and ruffed the club return. He played his last trump, forcing West to bare his ♥A. He then played a small heart and made nine tricks for plus 110.

Yael Topiol could have scored plus 600 at the other table. She played the hand exactly like Brink did but in the ending she unfortunately miscounted her tricks. She discarded a heart on the >9 instead of a spade and went one off.

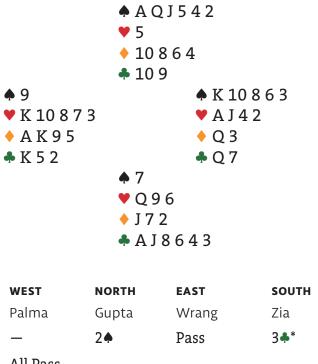
Double Duty



By Mark Horton

With two events taking place I decided to cover a match from each of them. In the Minor Alt IV the spotlight was on Gupta and Ventin.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.



All Pass

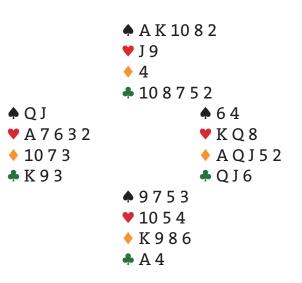
3. Non-forcing but North is allowed to raise

West led the ♦A and switched to the ♣2, declarer winning with the ace and returning the ♣3. West took that with the king and switched to the ♥3, East winning with the ace,cashing the ♦Q and then playing the ♥2. That added up to three down, -150.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Volcker	Brenner	Bessis	Villas Boas
_	3♠	Pass	Pass
	C	rass	rass

East led the ♣Q and declarer won with dummy's ace and played back a club, West winning with the king and switching to the ♠9. Declarer won with the ace and exited with a diamond, East winning with the queen and continuing with the ♥A followed by the ♥J. Declarer ruffed and again exited in diamonds, eventually scoring two more trumps, four down, -800 and a dozen points had flown away.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Palma	Gupta	Wrang	Zia
_	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2 ♦ *	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♣ Stayman 2♦ No major

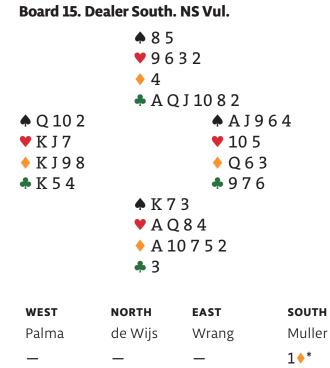
South led the \clubsuit 5 and North cashed five tricks in the suit and switched to the \diamondsuit 4, three down, -150.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Volcker	Brenner	Bessis	Villas Boas
_	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 ♦ *	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

2 Transfer

South led the ♥4 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ◆3 for the four, queen and king. North had followed to the heart with the nine (perhaps the jack was a better shot?) and when South exited with a heart declarer drew trumps and claimed 11 tricks, +450 and another 12 IMPs.

After 9 deals Gupta led 40-0!



1 2+

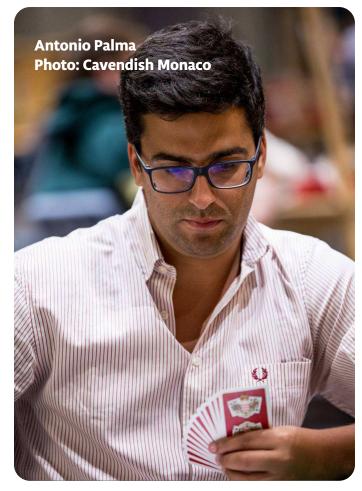
Pass

3. To play, less than invitational

3.**

Declarer lost a spade, two hearts and a club, +110.

All Pass



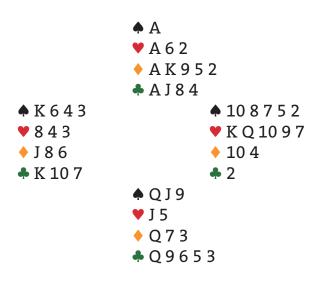
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Volcker	Brenner	Bessis	Villas Boas
_	_	_	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

East led the ♣6 for the king and ace (if West withholds the king declarer wins, cashes the ♣A ruffs a club and must then duck a heart, subsequently cashing the heart ace, ruffing a diamond and playing winning clubs). A heart to the queen lost to the king and a spade was returned and ducked to dummy's king. Declarer cashed the ♥A and the ♦A, ruffed a diamond and played winning clubs, claiming 11 tricks, +650 and 11 IMPs.

If East leads a diamond, there is no winning line for declarer. It was the start of a comeback, Ventin collecting bits and pieces to close to within 20 IMPs.

West led the ♥3 and after some thought declarer ducked it to East's queen, won the return of the ♥K with dummy's ace, played a diamond to the queen and advanced the ♣Q. When it held he played a club to the jack and was home, +1370 and 12 IMPs.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Palma	de Wijs	Wrang	Muller
Pass	1♣*	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass*	Pass	Dble
Pass	3 🔶 *	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1 15+

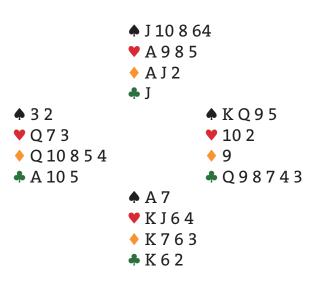
Pass 6-8 or hearts Pass Forcing 3♦ 5+♦, game forcing

Declarer won the third round of hearts, cashed five rounds of diamonds and then played the A and a club, +630.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Volcker	Brenner	Bessis	Villas Boas
Pass	1♦	1♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Palma	de Wijs	Wrang	Muller
_	_	Pass	1 • *
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2 🔶	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1 2+

2 Game forcing relay

West led the ♦4 and declarer won with dummy's jack and played the ♣J, putting up the king. West took the ace and returned the ♦Q, East ruffing and exiting with the ♠5. Declarer put up the ace, cashed the ♥K and played a heart to the ace, losing a spade and a heart for -50. Once declarer had played the ♣K there was no way to recover. I have no idea as to the best line, but suppose declarer cashes the ♥A at trick two and continues with a heart to the jack, West winning and exiting with a heart. Declarer wins in hand and plays the ♠J for the queen and ace and then ducks the ♠7 to East's nine. Now declarer is on the spade guess for ten tricks.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Volcker	Brenner	Bessis	Villas Boas
_	_	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1NT 12-14

2. Forces 2.

3♥ Smolen

4**+** Cue bid

East led the ♦9 and declarer took West's queen with the ace and played a spade to the ace and a spade for the jack and king. East switched to the ♣Q for the king, ace and jack and West exited with the ♦10, ruffed by East who exited with the ♣9. Declarer ruffed and cashed the ♥A and was one down so no swing. It was Ventin's last chance as the last 2 boards were flat, Gupta hanging on for a 41-33 IMP win.

TampAlt Qualification

In the TampALT Q I kept an eye on Jedi Knights v Transnationals - they are playing different deals.

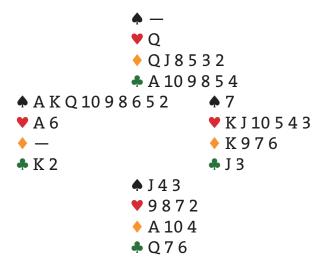
The first two offered marginal slams that could be made, but both teams played safe.



On Board 3 the bidding was more or less identical, with EW bidding 1♥-4♥ while North doubled either immediately or on the next round, South bidding 4♠.

The two hands were ♠AK102 ♥7 ♦QJ82 ♣10652 and ♠8754 ♥A5 ♦K4 ♣QJ983. Smith tackled trumps by playing low to the ten (!) while Balodis cashed the ♠AK felling the doubleton ♠QJ for a 10 IMP pick up.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.



Open Room

T			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Weiss	Jones	Selway	Smith
_	_	3♥	Pass
6♠	6NT*	Pass	7♣
Dble	All Pass		

North's unusual notrump came at the highest possible level.

West led the ♥A and switched to the ♠A. Declarer ruffed in dummy and played a diamond to the ace. West ruffed that and played the ♥6 and declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the ♣A, drew the outstanding trump and forced out the ♦K, three down, -500.

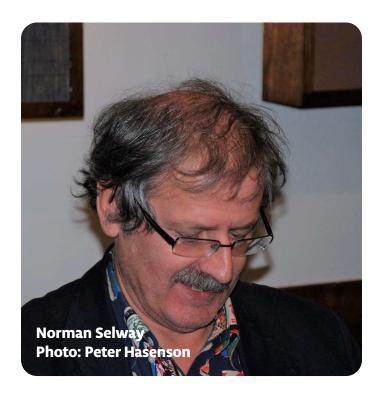
Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Shields	Mickelsone	Chamberlain	Balodis
_	_	2 • *	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3 ♦ *	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

2 Multi
2 Pass or correct
3

North cashed the A but that was the only trick for the defence, +1430 and a 14 IMP swing for the Knights.

On Board 8 West held ♠ KQ632 ♥ AJ54 ♦ A9 ♣ KJ and Weiss opened 1♠, saw North overcall 2♦ and partner bid 2♠. That was enough for West to try 4♠ which made in comfort when East had ♠ 10985 ♥ KQ982 ♦ 1087 ♣9.



Shields also opened 1♠ but his partner jumped to 3♥ over 2♦, clearly intended as a fit jump. There was clearly some confusion about the meaning of this bid as West cue bid 4♦ and then asked for keycards over 4♥. When partner responded 5♦ West bid 5♥ and when East bid 5♠ he bid 6♥ which was doubled for -300 and a 12 IMP loss.

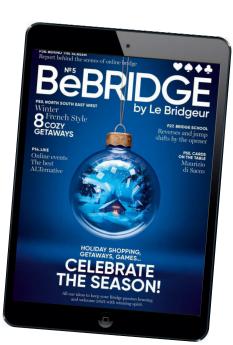
On Board 10, East, having opened 1♣ and seen his opponents reach 3NT via a protective double, a response of 2♣ and a jump to game had to lead from ♠96 ♥QJ52 ♠ AK42 ♣J76. Clearly he did not know his classics 'When God deals you AK in a suit it's so you don't have a lead problem' - Barry Crane when he opted for the ♥Q. That was -630 in top tricks - with the first five in diamonds available for the defence. Teammates reached the better contract of 4♠ and scored +680 to pick up a couple of IMPs.

In this particular match 'the Force' was not operating to full effect and the Knights bit the dust. **DISCOVER THE NEW**

- X 🔷 🛦



THE NOVEMBER ISSUE HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED!



In this issue

The latest, festive edition of BeBRIDGE is full of tremendous articles. Alain Levy shows you how to handle strong two-suited hands, emphasising the use of reverses and jump shifts. He also highlights the use of Splinter bids by the opener. Wilfred Libbrecht shows you how to be innovative in the 'sandwich' seat and the Editor reports on the Online ALT events. Our Experts offer their opinions on some tricky bidding problems and Cinema Club looks at the work of the master of Suspense, Alfred Hitchcock. With all the regular features and a host of ideas for Christmas, it's an issue you can't afford to miss.

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Victim of the Day Tom Reynolds



by Christina Lund Madsen

Where do you come from, where do you live, what is your age and family status?

- My ancestors came to America from County Kent. The court house in County Kent burned down in 1500, so the earliest known ancestor Christopher Reynolds was born in 1530 and emigrated to Connecticut. There is a cemetery in Ridgebury Cn that I can trace my family back to before the American Revolution. Joshua Reynolds' company was called up to defend the powder storehouse in Concord but probably was too far away to get there in time to kick you know who in the you know what. (In case some do not know who, Tom is talking about kicking the British, who in 1775 tried to seize the colo*nists' qunpowder, but were thwarted/ed.*) I live in Pasadena, California, the home of the Rose Parade.

I am married, 3 children, 8 grandchildren. I believe I turn 21 next year and will need to grow up.

How have you fared during Covid?

- I have simply stayed home and played bridge. My wife works from home. Covid ended my Christian ministry, which was sad for my congregation, my wife and myself.

My annual New Years Party that happened yearly since 1992 has ended but otherwise Covid has had little effect except that Bridge is now online.

Do you still work, and if not, when did you retire and what did you do?

- I am a retired engineer and small businessman focusing on computer networking. I retired in 1996. My advocation was a Pastor in two local nursing homes where I held Sunday services. I did this for 36 years until Covid closed the homes to all visitors.

Give us a summary of your bridge life.

- I am Life Master 10718 reaching that status in 1969. However, I took off between 1975 and 2000 as life got in the way. Returning, in 2001, I played very little preferring to scuba dive with my non Bridge playing wife. (Old underwater pictures here: www.tomandginnie.com) I did not play on weekends which also limited how much I played.

What is the best that bridge has given you?

- Actually, in terms of bridge, what is happing now. I get to play lots of Bridge in a time when other activities are limited.

You have been organizing the Reynolds KO's during corona as a non-profit event. What is your main motivation for running these events and how did you get the idea?

- My motivation is to play bridge. I do not like matchpoints and Covid made traveling to regional team games impossible, so I organized Reynolds Team Games to be able to play the game.

What do you like to do besides play bridge?

- I take pictures of birds. You can see my wife and my shots on Facebook (tom. reynolds.3975). I do not normally accept friend requests from people I don't know but will for a short time when this is published. Some photos are on www. realcoolphoto.com.

How would your closest friends describe you in three words?

- "Loud, generous" is what most people would say. Aside from my wife who would simply say "My honey", my best friend is my Bridge partner, Lance Kerr. What he would say might depend on our last set.

What are you most afraid of? - The pain of dying, not death.

What has been your greatest joy in life so far?

- That my wife of 37 years still loves me and wants to spend time with me after all this time. This is proof positive that miracles do happen.

What has been the hardest for you personally during these past nine months?

- Not being able to be there for my congregations in the nursing homes.

How do you think the US bridge scene will look on the other side of Covid?

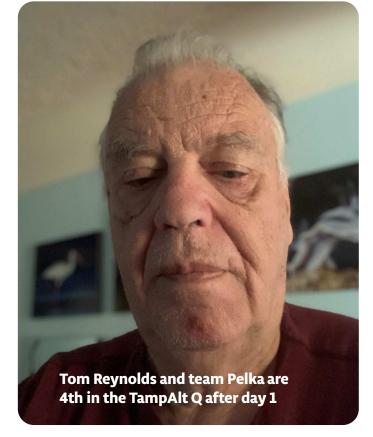
- I believe that online Bridge will endure, and that Reynolds Team Games will continue. A large percentage of our players are not U.S. based. Sometimes scheduling a match when players are from multiple time zones but playing teams from all over the world is a new dimension in Bridge.

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Bob Hamman, Boye Brogeland and Zia Mahmood?

- I would like to kill them all at the table. Zia would be the most fun to partner.

What would you like people to remember you for?

- When the time comes, I expect to echo the words of Bilbo Baggins as he stepped on the last fairy ship leaving the shire: "I do believe that I am ready for an exciting new experience."





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How to kibitz the Alt Mixed teams 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!



Partnership building, testing agreements

	uth vulnerabil	*		
West		East		
♠ Q 10		♠ A K 7 6 5 4 3 2		
♥ 3 ♦ A Q 9 6	2	♥ Q 10		
▼AQ96 ♣J964		♣ A K Q		
	-	and the set		
0	7	5	3	
•	7 6♣	5 5♠ 5♣ 4♠	3 7♠ 7♣	
West	North	East	South	
Tobias		Marina72		
			2 💗	
Pass	4 💗	5 🌧	Pass	
6 🌰	Pass	Pass	Pass	

6♠ = got it



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

Join the Dutch Open Team and other national selections: **download the app bid72** (App Store or Google Play) and start bidding. Check our Expert Topics > bid72.com/topics

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

Practice bidding with our ever growing Topic Collection. Your editors are Jan van Cleeff and Simon de Wijs. Every Topic consists of approximately 100 boards.

Besides, the app offers lots of other stuff as well. For instance, an ocean of challenging random boards. Bid72 is an ideal platform to test your partnership agreements.

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