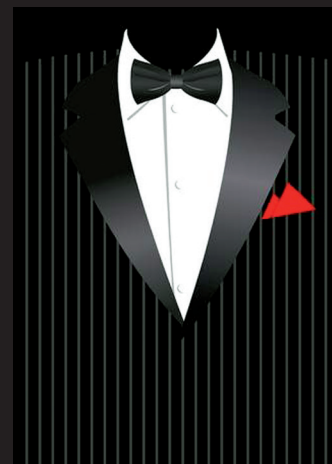


The minor ALT INVITATIONAL IV & TampAlt Qualification

NOVEMBER 16-20 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

Moss Massacre

Moss continues to slaughter one opponent after the other in group B with a massive score of 71.16 VPs out of 80 possible. Black is second about 20 VPs behind.

In group A Eastwest maintain the lead with 58.56 VPs ahead of their Belgian Red Devil neighbours with 52.46 VPs. Three matches remain for the teams to squeeze into the top 4 of their respective groups.

In the TampAlt Q The Mugs have taken the lead, Vinita still in second and the Imps in third, yet halfway in the Swiss the field is still wide open.

Let us see how the devils, imps and muggles fare in today's adventures.

Sylvia Moss
Photo: Jonathan Steinberg



Today's Schedule TampAlt Q

Wednesday November 18

10:15 EST / 16:15 CET – Round 7 (14 boards)

12:45 EST / 18:45 CET – Round 8 (14 boards)

15:15 EST / 21:15 CET – Round 9 (14 boards)

Today's Schedule Minor Alt

Wednesday November 18

10:00 EST / 16:00 CET – RR 5 (24 boards)

14:00 EST / 20:00 CET – RR 6 (24 boards)

Results Minor Alt Invitational IV

RR 3

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	nBrd	IMPs		VPs	
				H	V	H	V
1	GUPTA	DONNER	24	51	43	11.90	8.10
2	FREDIN	RED DEVILS	24	29	56	4.61	15.39
3	VENTIN	EASTWEST	24	44	44	10.00	10.00
4	HARRIS	DE BOTTON	24	53	77	5.08	14.92
5	MOSS	WILSON	24	73	18	18.65	1.35
6	BLACK	FRIENDLY ISRAELIS	24	64	34	15.83	4.17
7	DE MICHELIS	BRIDGESCANNER	24	79	34	17.69	2.31
8	POTTER	GILLIS	24	61	42	14.08	5.92

RR 4

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	nBrd	IMPs		VPs	
				H	V	H	V
1	GUPTA	RED DEVILS	24	17	85	0.35	19.65
2	DONNER	EASTWEST	24	13	59	2.21	17.79
3	FREDIN	HARRIS	24	91	23	19.65	0.35
4	DE BOTTON	VENTIN	24	26	52	4.76	15.24
5	MOSS	FRIENDLY ISRAELIS	24	72	40	16.11	3.89
6	WILSON	BRIDGESCANNER	24	48	33	13.34	6.66
7	BLACK	POTTER	24	94	46	17.99	2.01
8	GILLIS	DE MICHELIS	24	33	59	4.76	15.24

All Results

Ranking after round 4			Ranking after round 4		
rk	Group A	VPs	rk	Group B	VPs
1	EASTWEST	58.56	1	MOSS	71.16
2	RED DEVILS	52.46	2	BLACK	50.46
3	FREDIN	43.60	3	POTTER	43.14
4	VENTIN	42.59	4	DE MICHELIS	37.59
5	DE BOTTON	40.12	5	WILSON	37.37
6	GUPTA	32.69	6	FRIENDLY ISRAELIS	34.94
7	DONNER	28.31	7	GILLIS	27.40
8	HARRIS	21.67	8	BRIDGESCANNER	17.94

Results TampAlt Qualification

Leaderboard after 6 rounds

All Results

Important Notice

All players should enter BBO 10 minutes before their match starts at the latest. Tournament director Denis Dobrin is waiting for you and will instruct you where to sit.



Ranking after round 6		
rk	team	VPs
1	THE MUGS	83.93
2	VINITA	79.61
3	IMP	75.11
4	BELGIUM 2	70.44
5	JEDI KNIGHTS	70.21
6	COPPENS	68.34
7	TRANSNATIONALS	61.29
8	DE ZEEROB	58.53
9	NEW ENGLANDERS	58.40
10	HERRES!	55.55
11	FLEMISH FEAST	53.52
12	NORFOLK AND CHANCE	52.03
13	PELKA	51.45
14	SWEETWOOD VILLAGE	44.18
15	REMEMBERING ROLAND	43.75
16	HONEY BADGERS	33.66

Draw R7

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

Alt.bridgeresults.org

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	THE MUGS	IMP
2	VINITA	BELGIUM 2
3	JEDI KNIGHTS	COPPENS
4	TRANSNATIONALS	DE ZEEROB
5	NEW ENGLANDERS	HERRES!
6	FLEMISH FEAST	NORFOLK AND CHANCE
7	PELKA	SWEETWOOD VILLAGE
8	REMEMBERING ROLAND	HONEY BADGERS

Safety Play



By Mark Horton

As news came in yesterday that there had been a dramatic fall in the number of new Covid cases reported in France I made a quick check in an attempt to discover the safest places to be at the moment. Saint Helena looks pretty good (but watch out for your wallpaper) although Napoleon never thought much of the place. Where better than Christmas Island, although at one point the Australian government used it to locate citizens who had been in Wuhan. Vatican City is also doing well, although the entry requirements are unclear.

From a bridge playing point of view Bermuda looks promising, although their famous annual regional will not take place in January 2021. You can always play on-line, but heaven help you if you take more than 30 seconds over a play, or do something clever in the bidding, play or defence. If you think you might be behind in a match and take an anti-percentage line in an effort to generate a swing - and it works - then good luck with that.

Before we get to the main event, here's a little play problem:

♠ A J 10 5
 ♥ K 6
 ♦ 8 7 4
 ♣ A 10 9 5

♠ K 9 3
 ♥ Q J 10
 ♦ K Q J
 ♣ J 7 6 2

You are in 3NT and West leads the ♥5 (probably fourth best).

Remember, if you are playing online you have a whole 30 seconds to decide what to play from dummy at trick one. I might (or might not) come back to that later.

Meanwhile, would our stars being playing safe in Round 3?

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bakhshi	Root	Townsend	Igoe
—	—	2♥	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♦2 and when dummy's jack held he ducked a diamond to East's ten and finished with 11 tricks, +660.

A couple of points - were West to raise to 3♥ how do you play a double by North?

Absent a defensive raise, were North to end up in 6♣, what should East lead? (It had better be a heart if you are planning to defeat the contract.)

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Trendafilov	Hoftaniska	Isporski	Charlsen
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♦	Dble*	Rdbl
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

There were all of 20 kibitzers at this table - with such a vast following West felt entitled to take an entertaining view.

South led the ♦J and North won with the king and switched to the ♣5, South winning with the king and returning the two. After taking the queen, North switched to his spade and South won with the queen and switched to the ♥J, covered by the queen and ace. When North played back a heart (a mistake as the cards lie - simplest is to cash the ♦A and play a third round of the suit) declarer had a chance to escape for two down by putting in the nine. When he played the five South's eight meant the contract was three down, -500, but a 4 IMP gain for Harris.

North took exception to West's opening and called the Director - North had asked West before the start if they open very light NV and was told 11 (10) and though it was wrong to then open with a 3 count 3 minutes later.

From a personal point of view I don't think an expert should psyche against weaker opponents, but at this level anything is possible as long as partner is in the dark.



Thomas Charlsen

Experts are like everyone else, they don't like it when you psyche, especially when it works.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bakhshi	Root	Townsend	Igoe
—	—	—	1♣
Dble	1♦*	Pass	2♥
4♠	All Pass		

1♦ Transfer



David Bakhshi

Board 4. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bakhshi	Root	Townsend	Igoe
2♦*	Dble	Rdbl*	Pass
2♥	2♠	4♥	4♠
All Pass			

North led a trump and declarer won, played a spade to the ten and a diamond to the queen, recording eleven tricks, +650.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Trendafilov	Hoftaniska	Isporski	Charlsen
—	—	—	1♣
Dble	Pass	1♥	Pass
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West started with his top spades and declarer ruffed, played two rounds of trumps ending in dummy and then ran the ♥7 to West's queen. West cashed the ♦A, but then continued with the six, allowing declarer to secure ten tricks, -100 and 11 IMPs.

Having taken the ♦A West must exit with a spade when declarer should lose another trick.

2♦ Multi
Rdbl Please bid your suit

East led the ♥3 and declarer won perforce with the ace, cashed the ♠A and then ran the ♣Q. West won (the au pair wants to know why) and exited with the ♦8. Declarer won with dummy's ten and played the ♠J, putting up the king for 12 tricks, +680.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Trendafilov	Hoftaniska	Isporski	Charlsen
2♥	Dble	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

East led the ♥3 and declarer won and cashed the ♦AK, West pitching the ♥2. Declarer ran the ♣Q and when it held he repeated the finesse, West winning and returning the seven for East to ruff. Declarer won the diamond exit in dummy and after cashing two clubs he ran the ♠J, so -200 and a loss of 13 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bakhshi	Root	Townsend	Igoe
—	—	1♣	1♥
Dble*	Pass	1♠	2♣
4♠	All Pass		

South led the ♣A and seeing North's seven switched to the ♥Q. Declarer won with the ace and played back a club, South winning and playing the ♦8. Declarer took dummy's ace, played a spade to the ace and a low spade, South winning with the king and exiting with the ♦7. Declarer won in hand, played a diamond to the king, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club and drew the outstanding trump for +620.



Vlad Isporski
Photo: Jonathan Steinberg

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Trendafilov	Hoftaniska	Isporski	Charlsen
—	—	1♣	1♥
Dble*	3♥	Pass	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led the ♣A and again switched to the ♥Q. Declarer won with dummy's king and returned the ♣Q, South winning and exiting with the ♣2. Declarer ruffed with dummy's ♠8 and played a spade to the ace followed by a diamond to the ace and a spade for the ten, queen and king. North's ♠10 was the setting trick, -100 and a 12 IMP swing.

Like his counterpart at the other table, declarer had offered South two bites of the cherry by playing a second club as it allowed South to play a third round of the suit, setting up a fourth defensive trick. Perhaps I am being harsh, but looking at that dummy and the bidding it is impossible for partner to hold the ♥A.

If you are to score four tricks they are most likely to come from the black suits and your best shot is to play three rounds of clubs which leaves declarer without resource.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

North led the ♣3 and with little choice declarer played dummy's queen. When it held he cashed dummy's ♦A, ruffed a diamond and ran the ♠Q, South winning and exiting with a club. Declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a club, South pitching the ♦10 and cashed the ♠J to leave this ending:

<p>♠ 9 ♥ K 6 5 2 ♦ — ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ J 8 ♦ J 9 ♣ K</p>	<p>♠ — ♥ A Q 10 ♦ Q ♣ 8</p>
--	--	---

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bakhshi	Root	Townsend	Igoe
2♦*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- 2♦ Multi
- 2NT Asking
- 3♥ Spades

South led a club and when in with the ♠K a heart switch speeded up the play, +480.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Trendafilov	Hoftaniska	Isporski	Charlsen
2♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♠	All Pass

As you can see, declarer has more than one way to get home - perhaps the nearest is to cross to the ♥AQ and if the jack does not fall then ruff a club, squeezing South if he started with four hearts to the jack and the ♦K. West preferred to cash the ♠9 immediately, but he inexplicably discarded dummy's ♦Q and now had to lose a heart at the end along with 11 IMPs that should have gone the other way.

At this stage de Botton held a commanding lead, and although Harris gradually came back into the match they had left themselves with too much to do.

The final score was 77-53 or 14.92-5.08 for de Botton.

DISCOVER THE NEW

BeBRIDGE

♥♦♣♠ by Le Bridgeur

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**.

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Victim of the Day

Thor Erik Hoftaniska

by Christina Lund Madsen



Where are you from, where do you live and how many children and ex-wives do you have?

- I am from Vadsø, a small town, located on the northern shore of Varangerfjorden far north/east in Norway.

I have three kids: Katja 26, Karl Erik 23 and Kasper 17, they have different mothers, but they are very close and fond of each other.

Married only once....

What has been the biggest change in your life during corona?

- The biggest change is that I play a lot of Bridge online instead of FTF.

How and when did you begin to play bridge?

- My uncle was a bridge legend, so from a young age I was reading bridge columns, partly because of him, partly because they were next to the chess columns. I was very interested in the game before I started, which I did back in 1983...

What have you done for a living in the past and what do you do today?

- A lot of different ways of making a living, gambling was the main thing in my twenties, most of my occupations have been in small businesses where I have been the owner myself or together with my brother. It has been a strange mix of scaffolding, bartender, bouncer, painter, entrepreneur

in the building business. For the last decade investment in property has been the only thing outside bridge.

What is your prediction of the bridge world after corona?

- The Bridge world should get back to normal as soon as possible, it's hard to get it going because of the ridiculous politics from the regulators. But I strongly believe that even the politicians will soon understand that the ongoing strategy is wrong. And then the Bridge world will do absolutely fine.

What were you like as a teenager?

- More interested in action than in school....

How would your children describe you in three words?

- Funny, unreliable, loving.

What do you consider your main competence (besides bridge)?

- Gambling, knowing what's the right strategy and then do the opposite...

Artur Malinowski nominated you but did not have a specific question, only asked me to be rough on you. I will ask a question on Artur's behalf:

What is the biggest amount of money you lost in one night at a casino?

- I can't answer to that in specifics in case my kids read this, but it will be fair to say that I have had some losses that are far above my paygrade...

Tell us a story about a woman who escaped your charm.

- Except from you, Christina, who got this magical way of always escaping, I only remember one story.
Back in 1998 I visited Hammerfest in Northern Norway, and as you can imagine it was impossible to avoid some festivities (or heavy drinking, that is the way they do things in that part of the world).
One of the local beauties joined the party and nothing "happened", after she left I got some bullying from "the boys":
"First you charm the clothes off the girls and then you talk them back on".
I had no intention of the first part, but I definitely understand the latter...

What is your best advice to young guys who need help picking up women?

- Be yourself, don't oversell, and most important be confident.
Confidence even beat money in that department...

Tell us something very few people know about you.

- People close to me love my cooking.

When in your life were you happiest?

- I always create some downs, but in general life is great.
I was very happy when my daughter was born, she was my first, I had beginner nerves... and then she came out just perfect!



Thor Erik Hoftaniska

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

A lot of mistakes, they also make life more interesting, but looking back I should and could have been nicer towards to some people, never with the intent of hurting, but sometimes the result...

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Marusa Gold, Sylvia Moss and Janet De Botton?

- Kill Janet, because we are always arguing about bidding.
Partner Marusa, she seems to be a really progressive one.
So Sylvia gets the kiss.

THE NEW ALT COMPETITION 2021

Preliminary information – all details will be in the Conditions of Contest

Dear Friends,

The Alt Team has the honor to introduce to you the **New Alt Competition** which starts in January 2021 and will consist of 10 independent team tournaments being played once a month.

Each tournament will be played during one week from Monday to Friday from 10:00 EDT (16:00 CET) till 15:00 EDT (21:00 CET); approximately 32 boards per day.

We anticipate our sessions to **not overlap** with other popular open category events.

Please kindly note the dates of all tournaments:

01 – January 25-29

05 – May 24-28

09* – October 25-29

02 – February 22-26

06* – June 21-25

10* – November 8-12

03 – March/April 29-2

07* – August 23-27

reserve – December 13-17

04 – April 26-30

08* – September 20-24

* *subject to confirmation*

The Format:

Each tournament will be played in several (most likely three) groups. In that case:

- Group A and Group B will consist of 6 teams which will play single stage Round Robin: 5 matches of 32 boards; 1 match per day.
- The last group will consist of an unlimited number of teams and the format will be either Round Robin or Swiss (with possible Danish in the last rounds).

The initial composition of the groups will be decided by the Alt Team. Starting from the second tournament the first 4 ranked teams from Group A and the winner of Group B of the previous tournament are **guaranteed** to play in Group A of the next tournament.

The same approach is applicable to the groups B and C.

The competition is **always open** to new teams.

After each tournament Alt will assign two types of Alt points: participating points (same for all teams participating in the particular tournament) and result points (in accordance with the ranking). The exact point scale will be published in the conditions of contest.

After all 10 tournaments the best 6 teams with maximum sum of the Alt points will be invited to play the Grand Final of the New Alt Competition 2021.

Few things that might be important:

- The matches of Group A will be open to the spectators; the matches of the other groups will be closed.
- Commentary during the VG matches (on BBO) will be assured by Alt's commentators.
- The entry fee will be flexible with a discount of 5% respectively 10% when registering in advance for 5 respectively 10 tournaments.
- There is **no** obligation to play every month; any team can join at **any** moment and play **any** tournaments. From the Competition global point of view the more sessions, the better chance to get to the Grand Final and ultimately win the whole event.
- Apart from the New Alt Competition we intend to organise various "standalone" Alt events; some of them will be completely new. Currently we are working on our calendar and as soon as we have news we will immediately inform you.

Thank you for participating in the Alt events!

Your Alt Team

alt.bridgeresults.org

THE ALT MIXED TEAMS ARE REPLACED BY THE

**MONTHLY MIXED
TEAMS**



FIRST EVENT DECEMBER 7-11 2020

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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!



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

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