

THE ALT MIXED TEAMS

AUGUST 24 - 28, 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

A Star is Gone

Last week the bridge world suffered a tragic loss when Justin Lall passed away only 33 years old. Not only was he a brilliant player, he was also a personality rarely seen within and outside the bridge world.

Our thoughts go to his family and friends who mourn and miss him. We hope that all participants will honour Justin this week by playing the game as he did; with the highest ethical standard, respect and support for partner and opponents and love of the game.

Players who only knew him by name can read an obituary in this bulletin to learn more about the star we have lost.

We hope that all participants will enjoy this week's Alt Mixed Teams.

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 August 24

10:00 EDT/16:00 CET Match 1 (14 boards)

12:30 EDT/18:30 CET Match 2 (14 boards)

15:00 EDT/21:00 CET Match 3 (14 boards)

Link to results

[Alt Mixed Results](#)

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

Alt.bridgeresults.org



Welcome to the 3rd Alt Mixed Teams

by Christina Lund Madsen



Former editions of the Alt Mixed Teams had only 8 participating teams; since mixed has become a popular discipline and we would like to give more players the chance to compete in our events, we have allowed more teams to enter and changed the format from a round robin to a swiss.

We play 10 matches of 14 boards, followed by quarterfinals for the top 8 teams on Thursday and semi- and finals on Friday.

You can read all details in the Conditions of Contest on the last pages of this bulletin.

The field consists of some of the usual suspects, but also many new faces. We have national mixed teams from the Netherlands, Turkey and Sweden and multinational teams from all over the world.

We have two English teams who have cleared their calendars to play 4-handed this week, and we have American teams from New York, New England and New Vegas along with a team of Magic Creatures from Israel and New York.

We also have some prominent names on team Byrnes, including three of the best things that ever came out of Sweden in the shape of Jenny Wolpert, Sandra Rimstedt and Ida Grönkvist. Rumours report John Kranyak insisted on a round with each of them; we will see during the week whether that dream will come true.

On team Donner we find another Swedish world champion, Jessica Larsson, who plays with her Norwegian boyfriend.

We are happy to welcome new and familiar faces to the third Alt Mixed Teams.

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	DONNER	GRAND SUD
2	APRICOTS	BUQQY
3	BYRNES	ZORLU
4	MAGIC CREATURES	NEW ENGLANDERS
5	SWEDEN MIXED	PENFOLD
6	BARNSELY	VEGAS STRONG
7	NETHERLANDS MIXED	RUBENSTEIN

[Link to results](#)

[Alt Mixed Results](#)

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

Alt.bridgeresults.org

A Case for Zoom

by Adam Grossack



These last months have been an adventure for the bridge world and its players. We have seen tragedies (deaths and cheating) which many of us have not processed. But what has held strong through this pandemic has been our love for bridge. This game has an intoxicating power and we yearn for its complexities. Thanks to BBO, we have been able to emulate bridge competitions whereby we can stay sharp, grow, and keep our passion alive. The best players in the world, the professionals, can continue to earn a living online which in turn attracts all the players at the next level who are hungry to improve their games and compete against the best.

The purpose of the ALT tournaments is, and has always been, to create the highest possible level of competition. The ALT team is committed to its participants and also its fans, which is part of the reason why they are the only major tournament left which still has live kibitzing. This double-edged virtue is great for the everyday fans who love to watch their favorite players. We know the risks - self-kibitzing - but we can keep trying to design new ways to prevent that.

Let's move to Zoom with the ALTs. Zoom will heighten the players' competitive experience by providing virtual screenmates. We can ask more questions to our opponents, get more physical tells, eliminate some "online-hesitations" and feel more connected to the game.

This is a great step that the ALT events can take with virtually no drawbacks. Zoom is very easy to use and if people are uncomfortable setting it up, it's very easy for one person to just send another person a link to their Zoom meeting and the prompts are very self-explanatory. The computer does the work for you.

I have participated in two events this summer which used Zoom meetings in conjunction with play and they both significantly heightened my experience in the tournament. These two tournaments were the online NAOBC and the USBF Invitational. Being able to have a Zoom session with your screenmate makes online bridge even closer to live bridge. We add back a social element.

Zoom is highly encouraged for the Alt Mixed teams and future events.

At the start of the rounds, North will send a zoom link to East and West will send a zoom link to South. Or if a player is unfamiliar with Zoom, let the player with experience send the links.

Email addresses aren't needed - you can just send a private message to your screenmate with a link. It's very easy. Nothing can replace live bridge, but let's strive for the best bridge we can until we are back at the tables.

[Link to Zoom](#)

Justin Lall

1986-2020

by Christina Lund Madsen



The Bridge world has suffered many losses during the nightmare 2020 has become. But none greater than last week when Justin Lall passed away a month before he would have turned 34.

Justin was everybody's best friend. And he knew a lot of people. He made us all feel special. He always made nicknames for everyone, many of which stuck forever. It was his way of building a personal bridge to a person.

He was generous bordering the ridiculous. He would join a group for dinner without eating himself and yet insist to pay for everybody. Actually he would just go up and pay before the check arrived to make sure nobody could object. If he thought someone did not tip the bartender well enough, he would throw in a 20 though the drink was 10 dollars.

He never judged or tried to change anyone. He believed people should live their life as they wanted - as he did - and not adhere to society's notion of a "right" way of life. He was supportive of his friends regardless.

Loyalty was the most important character trait for him. It was difficult to cross him, but disloyalty would do the job.

Honesty was the second. If you asked him his opinion about bridge or love or life, he would give you his opinion whether you were going to like the answer or not, but never in a hurtful way.

His honesty was also displayed at the bridge table. He would go out of his way to make an ethical decision though it might cost the contract if he instaducked with an ace.

From a young age it was clear he was a rare talent. He achieved amazing results at a younger age than his fellow bridge stars. He won the World Junior Teams in 2005 at 18 and again in 2006, he became an American Grand Life Master at the age of 25, the youngest ever at the time. In 2011 he played his first Bermuda Bowl at 24, still a junior, and won silver. He was also an amazing poker player, and his brain was processing everything so quickly that when asked a question, he replied quicker (and louder) than anyone else.



Justin Lall with Joe Grue's gold medal from Lyon 2017 - in 2011 they won silver together. It is not clear who was happier Joe won - him or Justin.

He could probably have become good at anything he set his mind to; however he did not desire fame or power or money. He had a very modest nature for a man who was always the center of a group.

He was a loud, swearing, wild-haired gentleman in sandals.

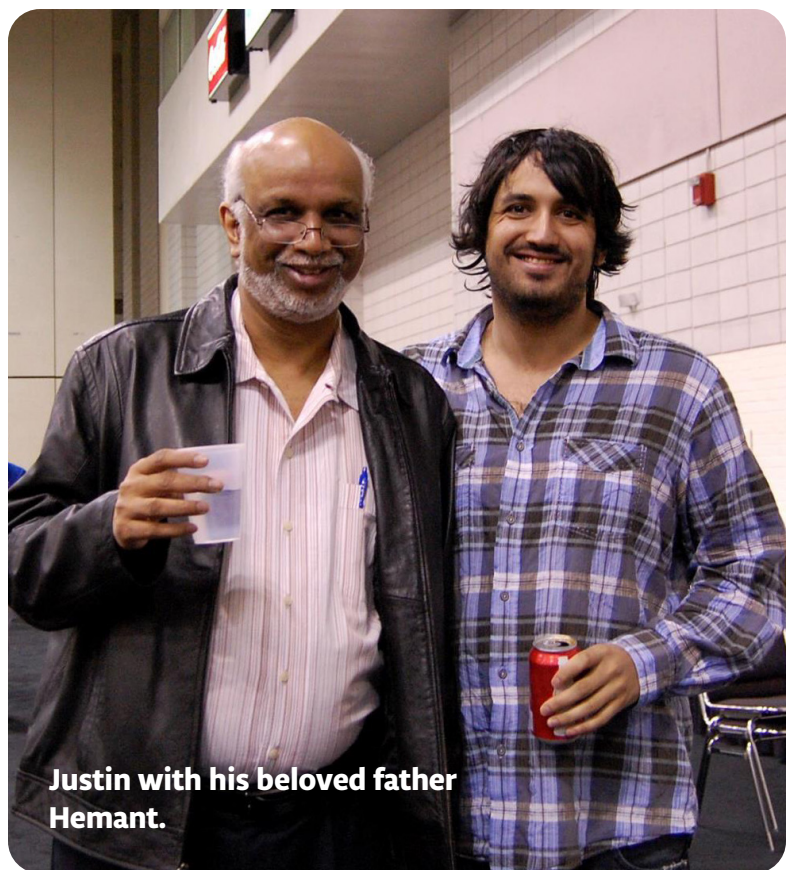
He was also a struggling man. He was bipolar and open about it. During a dark time after quitting his meds, he tried to kill himself by jumping off the Brooklyn Bridge. Luckily he survived (as one of the few who make that attempt) and realised he wanted to live - and that he needed to take his medicine. He wrote the following on his blog:

"I was so very wrong and arrogant, and I don't want anyone else to make the same mistake. Don't arrogantly assume you have more control than you do, and don't be too proud or ashamed to take medicine."

Because of his openness, many struggling with similar issues came to him to talk. He would always listen and always make them feel better. He might unknowingly have saved other people's lives.

When he made mistakes (jumping off the Brooklyn Bridge was one) he owned up to it and was always the first to apologise to others if needed.

It could be hard to love him – because to love him was to always worry. And so many did. He leaves behind his father Hemant, mother Jan, sister Jessica and love of his life, Stefanie, who loved him through ups and downs until their last kiss. Just as real love should be.



Justin with his beloved father Hemant.

Many would say he lived life on the edge. In truth he lived most of his life over the edge.

He might have died way too young judged by years, but judged by experience he has lived a full life.

He would not want us to mourn him for long. He would want us to remember him with stories, laughter and Jack Daniels & Coca-Cola.

His father once told me with a pride he could not hide:

"Justin used to be known as my son - now I'm known as Justin's father."

Always loved, never forgotten. Rest among the stars where you belong, JLall.



Teams / Players / Nicknames

APRICOTS

Thomas Bessis	malpaluche
Irene Baroni	princi
Cedric Lorenzini	pierced
Hilda Setton	explumber
Pierre Franceschetti	gewd
Joanna Zochowska	poetka

BARNSELEY

Catherine Draper	sn00py27
Alexander Hydes	itsgrim
Diana Nettleton	ettleton
Andrew Woodcock	rascalzee

BUQQY

Christine Booth	steph
Wen Hu	buqqy
Dora Lee	dorabridge
Leszek Majdanski	rzer
Yasser Rahim	yr
Silvana Rojko	cmrlj
Malgorzata Sawicka	mpasternak
Zia Ul Haque Shah	march26
Leonardo Rizzo	naninga
Dagmar Moravek	dagmar

BYRNES

Dori Byrnes	bridgeitgal
Ida Gronkvist	halko
Adam Grossack	Nevereast
John Kranyak	jkrans
Sandra Rimstedt	sandria
Max Rotaru	Maxentius
Jenny Wolpert	rymanjenny

DONNER

Geir Helgemo	micelle45
Cecilia Rimstedt	Cillar
Marion Michielsen	Lady007
Per-Ola Cullin	pocken
Jessica Larsson	jela79
Gary Donner	Gdonnersc1

GRAND SUD

Bernard Cabanes	Tonel34
Catherine Mus	Musm34
Marc Mus	Mandou123
Jean-Jacques Palau	Grozny06
Nadia Payan	Manad
Philippe Poizat	Taziop
Rokia Poizat	Coka2
Helene Zuccarelli	Zuzuh

MAGIC CREATURES

Michael Barel	mich-b
Nancy Katz	Heart27
Dana Tal	danat85
Noga Tal	nogatal
Chris Willenken	junior
Yaniv Zack	yanivz
Migry Zur Campanile	migry

NETHERLANDS MIXED

Mark Thiele	Mrxxx
Yael Topiol	Top_33
Renee Verdegaal	Mrs_m
Hans Vergoed	MrVeryGood



Geir Helgemo

Teams / Players / Nicknames

NEW ENGLANDERS

Parul Jain	paruljain6
Carrie Liu	Qiqi
James Rasmussen	jrr
Maxim Silin	bigmax

PENFOLD

Sandra Penfold	MRSP22
Kay Preddy	k preddy
Norman Selway	jespersens
Brian Senior	malmo1

RUBENSTEIN

Ton Bakkeren	tbak
Christina L. Madsen	christinas
Christina Parker	Cmp56
Stewart Rubenstein	Stewr
Jan van Cleef	IMP_Jan
Marina Witvliet	donkeyM
Camilla Krefeld	Camse2
Johan Hammelev	Johse61

SWEDEN MIXED

Gunnar Andersson	guand
Dan Bylund	diaoff1
Anders Eriksson	wew
Fredrik Jarlvik	freddy6
Mikael Lemborn	fusen1
Suzanne Lemborn	karlstad
Ylva Pyykkö	ylvur
Gudrun Strandberg	norsken28
Helena Strömberg	strhel
Tatyana Trendafilova	tuti



VEGAS STRONG

Hjordis Eythorsdottir	Disa
Mark Itabashi	mark192660
Linda Lewis	vegaslew
Paul Lewis	pjaylewis

ZORLU

Asli Acar	aslicann
Sedat Aluf	monk99
Tuna Aluf	tuna2
Ilker Ayaz	kanaryaz
Namik Kökten	naumoski
Sirma Sanus	lila_s
Nafiz Zorlu	begse

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!

Conditions of Contest • Alt Mixed Teams III

1. The Alt Mixed III will be hosted in Bridge Base Online from 24th to 28th of August, 2020.

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

The Alt Organization emphasizes that all its events are by invitation. Teams who are interested in receiving an invitation and believe they meet the standard of Alt's various events can apply.

Invitations for this event will be issued to 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 on the reserved rights as mentioned.

3. Schedule of play:

Monday August 24 - Wednesday August 26 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 August 27:

10:00 EDT / 16:00 CET – Swiss (last round)
14:00 EDT / 20:00 CET – QF (28 boards)

Friday August 28:

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

4. Qualifying Stage

The qualifying stage will be played in the form of 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 VPs in accordance with the appropriate WBF IMP/VP scales.

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 ranking 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: 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; unless there is a serious reason for that, 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.

Players should have their official name on BBO profile. Private isn't allowed. 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 for each match for each player without official name on BBO profile.

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: Alt encourages the players to accept the opponent's undo in obvious misclick situations during the bidding as well as play. In case such undo is refused, a player gets one "challenge" whereby the TD can be summoned to the table. Play at the moment of the refusal must be shut down till the TD arrives. The TD is the one who can assess the situation, and if he believes the undo is justified by an obvious misclick that no reasonable player should refuse, 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. But the best way is to explain the bids is via the BBO alert mechanism.

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.

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 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

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.



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big 5

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- ✓ feedback to teachers
- ✓ teachers follow their own rithm and plan

*free service for students with **bid72** account (even in trial)*

*discount for teachers on their **bid72** account*