THE ALT MIXED TEAMS

AUGUST 24 - 28, 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

The Excitement Byrnes

After having spent most of their time on top, Magic Creatures had to change position after a rendez-vous with Byrnes, who yesterday rejected all who got close by pounding them back in their rightful place with three massive victories.

We have a new leader and though nobody is being thrown out of the party yet, some teams need to wipe off the dust from their screens and practice their wrists.

In today's bulletin we interview Adam Grossack, a member of team Byrnes, where he reveals all his secrets of success

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

Wednesday August 26

10:00 EDT/16:00 CET Match 7 (14 boards)

12:30 EDT/18:30 CET Match 8 (14 boards)

15:00 EDT/21:00 CET Match 9 (14 boards)

Link to results

Alt Mixed Results

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

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The Ones that Got Away

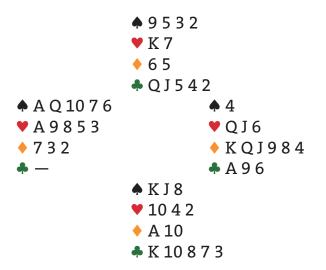


By Mark Horton

You may have appreciated by now that bridge is an impossible game to master. Although one can play extremely well for long periods the reality is that every set of deals is likely to see all kinds of mishaps taking place, even when the players are of the highest class. However, that is all part of the fascination that attracts people to the game.

In Round 3 I spotted some missed opportunities in the match between Apricots and Penfold.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Preddy	Zochowska	Selway	Lorenzini
_	Pass	1.	Pass
1♠	Pass	3 ♦*	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

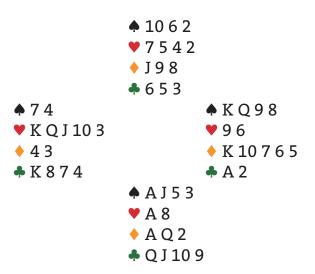
3♦ Natural, less than 16 points

West could have opted for a more exploratory auction, but that works both ways - it may help South to find a killing lead. South led the \$3 and declarer ruffed, cashed the ♠A, ruffed spade, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade and played the ♦J. South won with the ace and switched to the ♥2, which forced declarer to take the losing finesse, so one down. In another match Jenny Wolpert followed a similar line (there South had elected to overcall 2♣). Having avoided an initial heart lead there is a route to 12 tricks, declarer winning the club lead with the ace and playing a spade to the queen. When it holds declarer can afford to play a diamond for the king and ace, win the heart switch with dummy's ace, ruff the spades good and draw the outstanding trumps.

In the other room Baroni-Bessis bid 1♦-2♦*-2♠*-2NT-3♥-3♠*-4♥, West having shown a mild slam try with 55 in the majors and +450 was good for eleven IMPs.

Elsewhere, Hans Vergoed (who has adopted the handle: MrVeryGood) was in 5 ◆. Asli Acar led the ♥2 and Ilker Ayaz won with the king and returned the seven. Declarer won with the queen (very good) and continued with the ♦Q (not so good). South won and led her remaining heart for her partner to ruff. Perhaps the opening lead should have made declarer suspicious (West had shown both majors) and persuaded him to take the spade finesse in order to dispose of his third heart?

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Preddy	Zochowska	Selway	Lorenzini
_	_	_	1.
1♥	Pass	14	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led the ♥K and continued with the ten, declarer winning with the ace and playing the ♣9. East won with the ace and fatally switched to the ♦6. That gave declarer three tricks in the suit and seven in total.

It is easy to see that if East switches to a top spade the defenders must come to seven tricks, but presumably East did not interpret West's play in the heart suit as promising an entry in clubs. At the other table EW made 2♥.

Marion Michielsen and Per-Ola Cullin defended 1NT doubled in an identical fashion - save for the fact that Per did switch to the ♠K.



In the other room in that match Alex Hydes went up with the *K at trick three, cashed his hearts and exited with a spade -but 1NT had not been doubled.

Here is a major accident:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Preddy	Zochowska	Selway	Lorenzini
_	2♣*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣ *
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

- 2. Game forcing
- 2♥ Six spades with two top honours

4NT RKCB

5♣ 1 key card

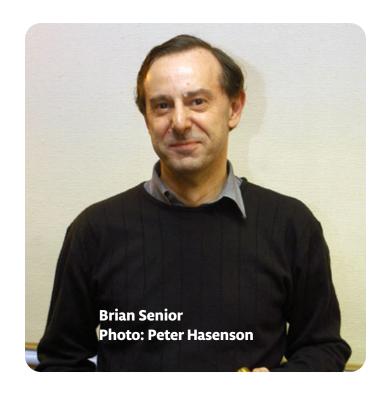
That looks easy enough, +450

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Baroni	Senior	Bessis	Penfold
_	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5 ♦*
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

2♣ Strong 4NT RKCB 5♦ 1 key card





East led the ♦A and followed it with the ♣A.

Opposite only one key card it looks very odd to take a shot at 6♥.

Could it be that North was hoping that the jump to 4NT was asking in hearts, (for most it would agree the last bid suit, spades) when 5 • would guarantee one of the minor suit aces? Or was North taking a huge gamble based upon the previous results in the match?

On the final deal, Lorenzini was looking at: ♦ A6 ♥ A8 ♦ AJ107643 ♣J10

and when East opened 2♥ he overcalled 3♦. West raised the ante to 4♥ and Zochowska doubled with ♠Q10542 ♥2♦5 ♣AQ9652.

That saw her partner jump to 6♦, which finished three down, -150, while in the other room NS collected 500 from 4♥ doubled.

It was still a good win for Apricots, 15.66-4.34 VP.

Leaderboard & Draw

Results Round 4

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	Brd	IME	s	Ad	j	VF	s
IDI	Home leam	visiting leath	ыч	Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	MAGIC CREATURES	GRAND SUD	14	<u>35</u>	8			16.55	3.45
2	RUBENSTEIN	DONNER	14	<u>33</u>	<u>31</u>			10.66	9.34
3	BARNSLEY	APRICOTS	14	22	14			12.44	7.56
4	VEGAS STRONG	C- ZORLU	14	1	<u>55</u>			0.17	19.83
<u>5</u>	BYRNES	BUQQY	14	<u>49</u>	3			19.08	0.92
<u>6</u>	NETHERLANDS MIXED	PENFOLD	14	<u>22</u>	24			9.34	10.66
7	SWEDEN MIXED	NEW ENGLANDERS	14	<u>23</u>	44			4.54	15.46

Results Round 5

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	Brd	IME	Ps .	Ad	j	VF	s
ibi	Home leam	violating leatin	Diu	Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	MAGIC CREATURES	BARNSLEY	14	<u>57</u>	<u>32</u>			16.21	3.79
2	RUBENSTEIN	BYRNES	14	<u>17</u>	47			2.96	17.04
3	DONNER	C- ZORLU	14	20	8			13.48	6.52
4	GRAND SUD	APRICOTS	14	<u>35</u>	<u>16</u>			15.06	4.94
<u>5</u>	VEGAS STRONG	NETHERLANDS MIXED	14	0	41			1.47	18.53
<u>6</u>	PENFOLD	NEW ENGLANDERS	14	<u>22</u>	<u>31</u>			7.29	12.71
7	BUQQY	SWEDEN MIXED	14	17	<u>12</u>			11.58	8.42

Results Round 6

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	Brd	IME	°s	Ad	dj	VF	's
IDI	Home leam	visiting leath	ыч	Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	MAGIC CREATURES	BYRNES	14	<u>16</u>	<u>53</u>			1.96	18.04
2	DONNER	NETHERLANDS MIXED	14	<u>30</u>	<u>17</u>			13.72	6.28
3	GRAND SUD	RUBENSTEIN	14	<u>55</u>	24			17.19	2.81
4	BARNSLEY	SWEDEN MIXED	14	41	12			16.88	3.12
<u>5</u>	ZORLU	APRICOTS	14	<u>6</u>	<u>51</u>			1.02	18.98
<u>6</u>	PENFOLD	BUQQY	14	<u>29</u>	34			8.42	11.58
7	NEW ENGLANDERS	VEGAS STRONG	14	<u>52</u>	<u>36</u>			14.42	5.58

	Ranking after round 6	
rk	team	VPs
1	BYRNES	83.57
2	MAGIC CREATURES	78.48
3	GRAND SUD	74.45
4	DONNER	73.76
5	BARNSLEY	70.03
6	APRICOTS	64.63
7	NETHERLANDS MIXED	57.45
8	RUBENSTEIN	56.90
9	NEW ENGLANDERS	53.94
10	ZORLU	52.32
11	PENFOLD	48.15
12	BUQQY	48.06
13	VEGAS STRONG	43.60
14	SWEDEN MIXED	34.66

Draw Round 7

Link to results

Alt Mixed Results

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

Alt.bridgeresults.org

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

Crossing Borders

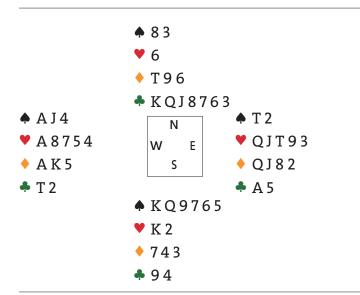
By Martin Cantor



In yesterday's bulletin I quoted two pieces of bridge wisdom. Here's another one for you: don't bid borderline slams. For a small slam the borderline is at 50%, since what you gain when they make against game in the other room is the same as what you lose when you go off.

In the match I watched in Round 4 -Rubinstein vs. Donner - one intrepid pair chose to cross the border twice. The first time they maybe strayed a fraction over, the second time a lot further. Let's see how it worked out for them.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Larsson	Parker	Helgemo	Rubinstein
_	_	1♥	2♠
2NT*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

2NT GF ♥ raise 3♥ minimum 3NT no singleton, slam interest

Jessica Larsson has seen Geir Helgemo's opening bids before, so when he firstly described his hand as minimum, then signed off after her continued slam interest, she took him at his word.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lund Madsen	Michielsen	Bakkeren	Cullin
_	_	1♥	1♠
2NT*	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦*	Pass	6♦	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

2NT GF with 3+♥

3♦ cue

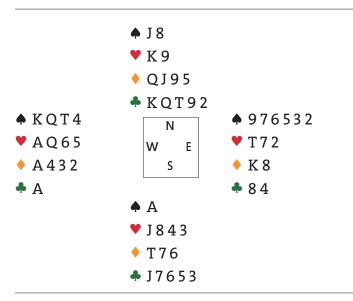
5♦ no agreement but I assume last train

Christina Lund Madsen may have seen Ton Bakkeren's opening bids before, but she drove to slam just the same. As you can see, the slam depends entirely on finding the ♥K in South.

If you could see both EW hands, and the auction, then in the open room you should avoid the slam, since the weak 2 bid makes the finesse slightly odds against. Whereas in the closed room the simple overcall makes it slightly odds on.

So both Wests did the right thing, at least in theory; but in practice only one pair was right, since the slam made, and Rubinstein scored 11 IMPs.

Board 8. W / None



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Larsson	Parker	Helgemo	Rubinstein
		_	
1♦	2♣	Pass	3 ♦ *

3♦ mixed raise

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lund Madsen	Michielsen	Bakkeren	Cullin
1.	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4 ♣*	Dbl	4♦	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

2♠ weak
2NT asking

3♠ minimum

4♣ cue

4NT RKCB 1430

5 ♦ 0



This time slam was never in question for Larsson-Helgemo, but they did face some hefty intervention (how often can you make slam when the opponents bid 3NT, apparently to make?).

Meanwhile, Lund Madsen was not taking no for an answer, however many times Bakkeren said it. And this time the odds were stacked heavily against. You have a certain trump loser, and could have a second one if you are unlucky enough to find AJ8 offside. Then there are the heart losers. Even if the king is onside (there's your 50% already), on top of that you need either the jack to be with it doubleton, or a remote chance red suit squeeze. And so our editor paid the price for her gamble, losing the 11 IMPs gained on the previous slam. (The editor feels like defending her judgement on both hands, but since nobody else gets the chance in this bulletin, why should she? CLM)

We can certainly award Lund Madsen-Bakkeren the title of 'Intrepid Pair of the Day', since no other pair bid either slam, nor even got to the five level. I very much doubt that they will change their ways and I very much hope not.

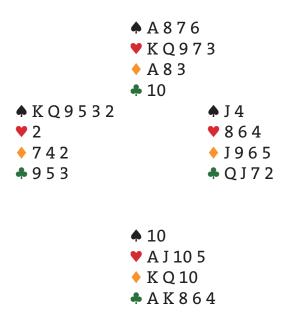
Bidding awards



By Toine van Hoof

Yesterday's first board was a grand slam in hearts for NS. There was nothing in the play so it was all about the bidding.

Dealer North. None Vul.



Five pairs stranded in $6 \checkmark$. We will not rub salt in their wounds and focus on the nine pairs that managed to get to $7 \checkmark$.

The award for the most efficient auction goes to Jenny Wolpert and John Kranyak (team Byrnes). They needed only eight calls to get there:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rahim	Wolpert	Rojko	Kranyak
-	1♥	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♥	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

2NT Jacoby 3♣ shortness 5♣ 0-3

Once South learned about the singleton clubs he could roll out Blackwood, check for the trump queen and bid 7♥.

It must be said that Mark Thiele and Renée Verdegaal (Netherlands Mixed) needed only five calls, but their auction was somewhat less elegant:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Preddy	Thiele	Selway	Verdegaal
_	1♥	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♥
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

3♠ splinter (according to South)

In the preparation for the European Mixed Championships, which were postponed till 2021, Renée needed to learn a lot of new agreements such as showing a spade splinter over 1♥ with 3NT. Mark took 3♠ as a preempt in spades and raised to 4♠. When Renée jumped to 6♥ he knew what went wrong and, looking at three keycards, the queen of trumps and a singleton, raised to 7♥. Well done.

The award for the longest (and probably slowest) auction unsurprisingly goes to Marion Michielsen and Per-Ola Cullin (team Donner):

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lund Madsen	Michielsen	Bakkeren	Cullin
_	1♥	Pass	2♣*
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5♠*
Pass	5NT*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♦*	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

- 2♣ GF relay
- 3♠ serious slam try
- 5 0/3
- 5 asking queen

5NT ♥Q, no kings

- 6♣ try
- 6♦ just better than 6♥

However, they have to share their prize with Anders Eriksson and Ylva Pyykkö (Sweden Mixed), who also get the award for the most careful bidding sequence:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jain	Eriksson	Rasmussen	Pyykkö
_	1♥	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠*
Dbl	Rdbl	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4 ♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

2NT Jacoby

3♥ 14-16 (!), splinter ♣

3♠ cue

Rdbl ♠A

4. asking for aces

4♦ 1A or 3A+♥Q



4♥ please pass if 1 ace

4**♠** no K

4NT asking queen

5♣ no Q

Over 3♥ South for some reason first bid her spade control and only then asked for keycards. North showed either one or three with the queen of trumps. It is hard to imagine a 14-16 hand with only one ace but South gave her partner the opportunity to pass 4♥ if that was the case. Then after 4♠, confirming three keycards and the ♥Q but denying any side kings, she could confidently bid the grand.

Nevertheless she asked for queens. North said I have no queens, apart from the ♥Q already shown. Okay, then I will settle for 7♥. Well, maybe Ylva was just practising the system.

The award for the ugliest auction goes to Dora Lee and Wen Hu (team Buqqy):

WEST Grossack	NORTH Lee	EAST Gronkvist	south Hu	west S. Lemborn	NORTH Silin	EAST M. Lemborn	south Liu
_	1♥	Pass	2♠*	-	1♥	Pass	2♣*
Dbl	2NT	Pass	3♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT	Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	7♥	Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠*
All Pass				Pass	5♠*	Pass	7♥
				All Pass			

- 2♠ any splinter
- 3♠ spade splinter
- **5**♦ 3/0

South showed his spade splinter and when North signed off in 4♥, he asked for keycards and blasted into 7♥.

Finally, the award for the most sophisticated auction goes to Maxim Silin and Carrie Liu (New Englanders):

- 2. any GF hand
- 2NT 5♥ + 4♠
- 3♣ relay
- 3♥ 4=5=3=1
- 3♠ relay
- **4♥** 5 controls (A=2, K=1)
- 4♠ relay
- 5♠ A or K in ♥, ♠, ♦ + ♥Q

Impressive.

Behind the Screens



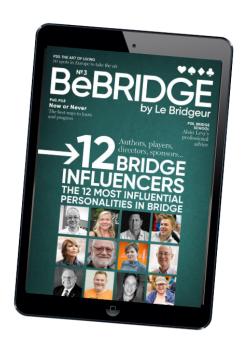


Do you ever wonder who ensures the event runs smoothly, invites players to the table and makes sure results are up directly after the last table finishes? The answer is Anton Osipov and Denis Dobrin from Russia.

Denis is also an EBL-director and our TD in the ALT. Thanks to their e ellent software we are able to provide perfect scoring of all matches. Spasibo!



The new online magazine for bridge addicts



What's new?

The July issue of **BeBRIDGE** is packed with articles you can't afford to miss. Highlights include interviews with **the 12 most influential personalities in bridge**, **Cédric Lorenzini's take on playing during Lockdown**, a look back at the lives and **empire of Ely & Josephine Culbertson**, the latest instalment of **the adventures of David Bird**'s bridge playing monks and a veritable cornucopia of articles that are both **entertaining and instructive**.

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Victim of the Day

Adam Grossack

by Christina Lund Madsen



Where do you live, what is your occupation and education and are you single?
- I live in Newton, Massachusetts which is a suburb of Boston. I am a professional bridge player and yes, I am single.

How has the last half year been for you?
- Could be a lot worse. I have been staying active, mountain biking and swimming and I have been able to play a lot online so no complaints there. I do miss traveling to tournaments.

Tell us your best memory from your junior days (not necessarily bridge-related).

- Well, I still am a junior at heart so there are still chances for more memories. I didn't start going to international junior events until I was 18 years old, believe it or not. I was playing a lot before then, but my mom didn't want me flying...

My first international junior event was in Philadelphia in 2010. We got eliminated from the main event in the Round Robin but they had an Individual after. I remember I qualified for the finals of that event in 23rd place out of 24 finalists. Somehow, I brought home the gold. Winning is sweet. This is when I first started meeting some of my contemporaries from different countries around the world. From then on I never missed another junior event if I could help it.

You play a lot with Zach, your younger brother. Who would you say is the better kisser/bridge player between the two of you?

- Great question, Christina. I don't know – I'm not qualified to answer.

What would you have become if not a bridge player? (There is still time, you know)

- Well, I worked for 4 years in finance so I might have gone that route. But that is a bit boring. I am also very interested in poker and have played medium stake poker cash games as well as some events at the WSOP. I might pursue a career in poker, you never know.

Disa's question for you: What is your Zensecret?

- I think I have to relearn my own methods; I may have regressed. I have grown into a habit of screaming into my computer in the Covid era. But I think what you are referring to is not having massive explosions at the table? I do think you are very Zen already, Disa. For me, it is about not having my mind on other things and really devoting 100 % of my energy to thinking about the bridge game in front of me. I try to clear my head before the game maybe with some exercise. I've made so many mistakes in the past that I know what type of errors to look for.

You are the middle of three sons; who is your mom's favourite?

- It depends on the day. She used to say that she loves all 3 of her children equally. She's eased off that a bit now. I know my older brother certainly tries to think that he's the favorite but we all know who really is.

By which three words would Zach describe you?

- Stubborn, slow, and boring.

How does your life look 20 years from now?
- I'd like to have a family and have my schedule designed well enough so I can spend enough time with my kids and be a good parent.

What do you dream at night?

- I dream that Christina Lund Madsen was more involved in my life.

You are close friends with Sylvia Shi, who has confessed to online cheating at bridge. How has this affected you?

- I was extremely shocked and disappointed to learn about what Sylvia had done and I still don't think I have processed it. I keep a level head in most of my endeavors, so I don't think it has affected me that much. I will say that I am being even more careful with my clients and which professionals I recommend for them.

Who is the love of your 28-year old life?
- Easy. That would be my new mountain bike, the Santa Cruz Hightower. It rides like a dream and peddles up things I never thought I could get up.

What has been the biggest crisis of your life so far?

- That would have to be my decision of whether to be a professional bridge player or have a more standard day job. My parents encouraged me to get my undergraduate degree and then whatever I chose after was fine with them. I am not one of these people that "can't do a desk job." I can. I am able to do it. And I did do it for a while. But I simply loved bridge too much. I wasn't willing to sacrifice my career in the bridge world and the trajectory of what I might accomplish there. I know it comes with some downfalls later in life (no matching 401K/health insurance etc. Have to travel a lot which might be tough if I have a family).



But it was the route I ended up going. I'll save the boring life for next time.

Who would you partner, kiss, kill between Anam Tebha, Cecilia Rimstedt and Christina Lund Madsen?

- I've thought a lot about this. My initial reaction was to kill Christina for writing this interview but I have changed my mind. I remember that Anam killed me off in her interview, so I am going to take revenge and kill Anam.

I have heard a lot about Cecilia's game and played against her and I am very impressed. Also, I've been playing with her partner, Ida, and clearly have a mastery of the Swedish club (just look at some of my bidding fiascos so far), so I'll partner Cecilia. And I am not sure why I am rewarding you, Christina, but I am. You can have that kiss I know you have been longing for.

Which player from the Alt Mixed should be the next victim in the bulletin? Tell us something you would like to know about this person.

- I nominate Gary Donner. If your wife got into bridge and hired a bridge professional, who would you recommend?

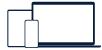


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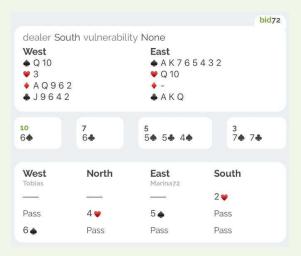
If you wish to watch the players whenever they are online, you search for your chosen one (fx Cecilia Rimstedt "Cillar", click on the name and choose 'follow' instead of neutral. Any time you see her online, you can click on her and take a seat at her table. See you on BBO!



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5♠ = asking for heart control

6♠ = got it



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

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- 1. Two-way Checkback Stayman; 2. Responding with both Majors after 1NT; 3. (Non) Leaping Michaels;
- 4. Gazzilli; 5. Gambling 3NT; 6. Lebensohl after a Weak Two; 7. Rubensohl and Transfer-Lebensohl;
- 8. 1♥/1♠ 2NT (fit); 9. 4♠: Fit and slamgoing

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