THE ALT MIXED TEAMS

AUGUST 24 - 28, 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

The Winners' Curse

Barsley prevailed in the 10th match to win the Swiss and picked Zorlu, the Turkish mixed team, as their quarterfinal opponent. As so often before, choosing as the first proved fatal. Zorlu won by 60-41.1 despite Barnsley's 10.1 IMP C/O.

The Magic Creatures fixed their wand and teleported Byrnes back to America. Donner decided to stay a bit longer defeating Grand Sud by two IMPs. Les Apricots were slow starters, but their curve is only going in one direction, towards the final, if not sliced by Donner in today's semifinal.

We said goodbye to 10 teams yesterday. We thank you for your good spirits and entertaining bridge and welcome you back in October for our two next mixed events.

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

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

Link to results

Alt Mixed Results

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

Alt.bridgeresults.org



All England



By Mark Horton

Looking out of my office window at the never-ending rain, I contemplated the fact that it had probably deprived England of victory in the third Test Match against Pakistan. I then spotted that table one was to feature two English teams - and here rain was unlikely to have a role to play.

Board 1 was a possible slam - with AK2 ♥KJ10652 ♦74 ♣KQ opposite J4 ♥A9 ♦KQ109 ♣AJ962 both teams stopped in game. When I checked later three pairs had bid a slam. the two in 6♥ had made after a spade lead by essentially trying a combination play, cashing two top trumps and hoping to get diamonds away on the clubs.

The third slam was this one:

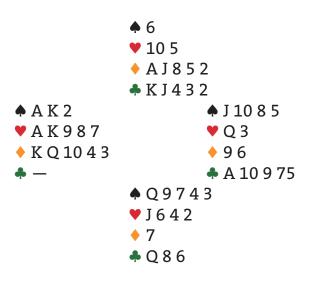
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Mus	Thiele	Mus	Verdegaal
_	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2 • *	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♣	All Pass

1NT 14-16	2 Vransfer
2NT Forcing	5NT Pick a slam

When East offered clubs as a possible spot West was delighted to accept.

6 is clearly the top spot - South led the
A but that was the only trick for the defence. It was worth 10 IMPs against the +480 recorded in the other room.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Preddy	Woodcock	Selway	Draper
_	_	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
3 🔶	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

1NT 18/19 balanced or 16+ unbalancedArtificial invitation or less

South led a club and declarer ruffed in dummy and played the ◆K, North taking the ace and switching to the ◆6. Declarer won perforce in dummy and cashed the other top spade. The trump break meant he was two down.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nettleton	Senior	Hydes	Penfold
_	_	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3 🔶	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North led the �6 and South covered dummy's jack, declarer winning with the ace, playing a heart to the queen and a diamond for the king and ace. North switched to the king of clubs and declarer won with dummy's ace pitching a diamond and played a second diamond. South ruffed, played a spade for North to ruff and then ruffed another diamond.

It was not easy for North to find the killing defence of immediately returning a diamond. However, after the club switch declarer should have played two more rounds of trumps. She can then simply play a diamond to the nine and will lose only three tricks.

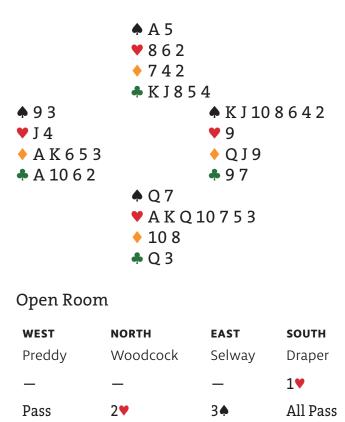
If declarer ignores the tempting play of a diamond at trick three, simply cashing three hearts, she can then lead a low diamond, giving up only two diamonds and a heart.

Over the first nine deals it was a bit like watching cricket, as only 6 runs (sorry, IMPs) were scored, four singles and a two, leaving Penfold ahead4-2.

On Board 10 there was a temporary flicker of excitement when there appeared to be chance of a 3 IMP swing, but soft defence in one room was matched in the other, resulting in another push.







South started with the top hearts and declarer ruffed, crossed to dummy with a diamond and played a spade to the eight and queen. When South failed to switch to a club declarer finished with ten tricks.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nettleton	Senior	Hydes	Penfold
_	_	_	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Open Room

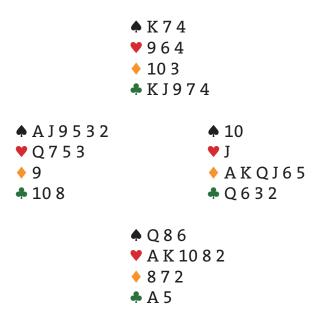
west Preddy	NORTH Woodcock	EAST Selway	south Draper
_	_	1♦	1♥
2♠*	Pass	3 🔶	All Pass
2 Weak			

I think it may have been Confucius who postulated that an opening bid of 4♥ operated as a transfer to 4♠ and so it proved to be here. West led the ♠9 and the defenders took the obvious tricks for two down, -300.

A couple of incidental points. After the 4♥ opening declarer would have had some chance of getting the trumps right in 4♠. North might have bid 5♣ over 4♠ - as we saw that might help the defence if EW were to bid on to 5♠.

That 4 IMP swing gave us a new leader.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



South led the ♥A and switched to a spade, declarer winning with dummy's ace and running the ♣8. When South withheld the ace declarer had secured a ninth trick.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nettleton	Senior	Hydes	Penfold
_	_	1♦	1♥
Dble*	2♥	3 🔶	3♥
All Pass			

Dble 4+♠

West led the ♦9 and East cashed ace and king and then played the ♠10, declarer being allowed to win with dummy's king. Two rounds of hearts saw East pitch a diamond and declarer ruffed a diamond and played a club to the ace and a club. West had already pitched a club, but rather than ruff she pitched a spade, overruffed the next club with the queen and exited with the ♥7, taking the last two tricks with the ♠AJ.

That meant the match finished as an exact tie, 7-7.

Results & Knock-outs

rk

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Results Round 10

Semifinals

ZORLU

APRICOTS

DONNER

MAGIC CREATURES

Tbl	Home Team	Home Team Visiting Team Brd	IMF	PS	Adj		VF	VPs	
101	Home ream	visiting ream	BIU	Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	BARNSLEY	PENFOLD	14	Z	Z			10.00	10.00
2		VEGAS STRONG	14	<u>29</u>	<u>51</u>			4.34	15.66
3	BYRNES		14	<u>30</u>	<u>42</u>			6.52	13.48
<u>4</u>	GRAND SUD		14	<u>26</u>	<u>31</u>			8.42	11.58
<u>5</u>			14	<u>34</u>	<u>31</u>			10.97	9.03
<u>6</u>	C- ZORLU	BUQQY	14	<u>11</u>	22			6.77	13.23
7			14	<u>31</u>	<u>30</u>			10.33	9.67

QUARTERFINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
BARNSLEY	10.1	<u>11</u>	<mark>21.</mark> 1	20	41.1
C ZORLU		<u>31</u>	31	29	60

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
BYRNES	1.1	35	36.1	27	63.1
MAGIC CREATURES		<u>39</u>	39	<u>53</u>	92

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
	3.1	24	27.1	<u>28</u>	55.1
GRAND SUD		<u>28</u>	28	<u>25</u>	53

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
	6.1	<u>39</u>	45.1	<u>43</u>	88.1
BUQQY		26	26	11	37

							Alt Mixed Result	S
							Link to results	
	Seg	1	Seg 2	Tota	al			
						14	SWEDEN MIXED	
		26	26	11	37			
	6.1	<u>39</u>	45.1	<u>43</u>	88.1	13		
_	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total	12		
		<u>28</u>	28	<u>25</u>	53			
	3.1	<u>24</u>	27.1	<u>28</u>	55.1	11	PENFOLD	
	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total	10	VEGAS STRONG	
							And the second se	

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8	BUQQY
9	
10	VEGAS STRONG
11	PENFOLD

CORLU

Ranking after round 10

team

MAGIC CREATURES

BARNSLEY

APRICOTS

DONNER

BYRNES

GRAND SUD

VPs

124.00

117.05

112.74

108.23

107.71

105.79

102.73

98.65

98.49

94.16

91.63

88.15

87.99

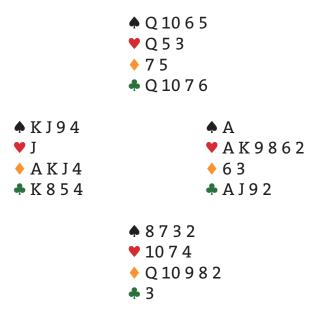
62.68

The Correct Line



The second board of Round 9 was a slam for EW:

Dealer East. NS Vul.



Nine pairs bid 6♣ (down twice), two pairs bid 6NT (both made) and one pair bid 6♥ (also made), while two pairs stayed in game. The play of 6♣ has some interesting aspects. Let's see how the nine declarers handled it.

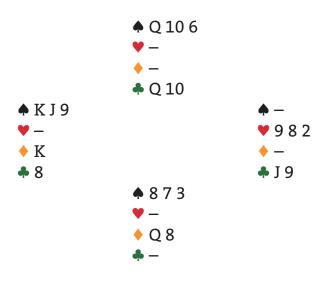
On a diamond lead the correct line is to cash K and A. If the clubs break three-two you can ruff two hearts in dummy. With the clubs four-one, you can only afford one heart ruff, because you need to play a club through North's queen-ten. You have a re-entry in form of the A to draw the 10 and cash the good hearts.

Paul Lewis (West) and Hans Vergoed (East) made twelve tricks this way.

The two declarers who went down were Rokia Poizat and Namik Kökten. Both started, after the diamond lead by South, by ruffing a heart. They cashed Kand A, seeing South discarding a diamond. Kökten crossed to the K and could have survived by playing a club (North has no more diamonds which is to be expected after South's diamond discard). However he continued by ruffing a diamond in hand and went one off.

Poizat, after winning trick 5 with the A, ruffed another heart in dummy and could no longer make the contract.

Carrie Liu also ruffed a heart after the diamond lead by South and also cashed ♣K and ♣A. She recovered in an elegant though inferior way. She cashed the ♠A and the ♥K and then played a diamond to the jack. When that held she played the ♠K, in this position:



North was helpless. If she discards a spade, declarer discards a heart and plays the \clubsuit 8. If she then goes up with the queen she can either play the \clubsuit 10, giving East the rest of the tricks, or a spade into the tenace.

Asli Acar ruffed the ♦K with the ♣10. Declarer overruffed and claimed twelve tricks.

Other inferior but successful lines were chosen by Sandra Rimstedt, Diana Nettleton and Yaniv Zack.

Rimstedt won the diamond lead in dummy, ruffed a heart, got back to her hand with the A and ruffed a second heart. When both opponents followed suit, she cashed the K and safely played a club to the jack: +920.

Nettleton was extremely lucky. She cashed the ♣K in trick 2 and then played a club to the jack (!). She ruffed a heart in dummy, re-entered her hand with the ♣A, cashed the ♥K and could claim twelve tricks.

Zack also played a club to the jack but only after having ruffed a heart first. He could then ruff a second heart, re-enter his hand with the A, cash the A and run the good hearts.

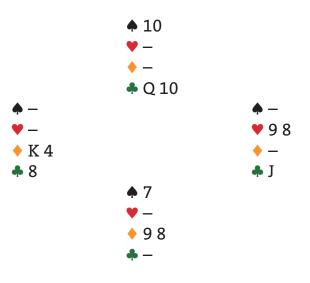
It is easy to construct hands where these declarers would have gone down with the clubs splitting three-two.

Irene Baroni was the only declarer who was treated to a spade lead by North, after having responded 2♣ to Thomas Bessis' 1♥ opening bid. She per force won the ♠A in dummy, cashed the ♥A and ruffed a heart. Now she correctly cashed the ♣K and ♣A (it's a lock with the clubs three-two).

When South showed out, Baroni managed to come to twelve tricks in a brilliant way.



She cashed the ♥K, played a diamond to the jack, cashed the ♠K and ruffed the a spade with ♣9. Then she played a diamond to the ace and advanced the ♦K in this position:

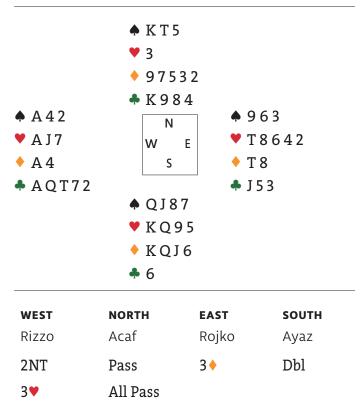


Ida Gronkvist ruffed with the ♣10 (if she discards ♠10, declarer continues with ♦4), Baroni overruffed in dummy and played ♥8, pitching ♦4. A magnificent plus 920.

Crunch Time

For the final round of the Swiss I headed to the crunch match between Zorlu in 7th and Buqqy in 9th. Under most scenarios at least one of them would qualify for the knockout stages, under some scenarios they both would, and under a very few neither would.

Board 4. W / All



A normal enough auction led to a normal enough contract. But a horrible one as the cards lie. Acaf respected her partner's lead directing double. Declarer took the ace, cashed the other red ace, then played the ♥J, won by South, who switched to a spade, ducked to North's ten. She continued diamonds and South continued spades, taken this time by declarer as North unblocked the king.



By Martin Cantor

Rizzo tried a third spade but Ayaz won to play a club through to the king. Back came a club for a ruff, and the king of trumps was the third undertrick.

Declarer has several ways to get to seven tricks, but playing on trumps, while a reasonable line, wasn't one of them.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sanus	Booth	S. Aluf	Shah
1NT	Pass	2 • *	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♦*	Dbl
Rdbl*	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

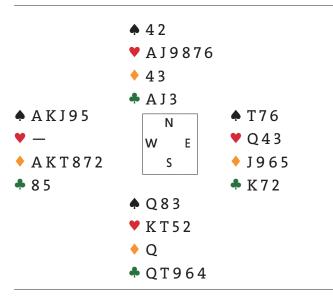
2♦ puppet to 2♥
2NT max heart fit
3♦ re-transfer
Rdbl Max wrong bid you will see

It appears that Sanus misbid at her first turn, and spent the rest of the auction trying to catch up, while Aluf was desperately trying to stop the runaway train.

Shah led a top diamond, and when it was ducked he played the !SQ, also ducked. Declarer won the second spade, cashed the diamond ace, and exited the third spade.

This was one of the better lines missed at the other table since it loses a trump trick fewer. Sadly for team Zorlu one trick better was also three down, and the double was worth 11 IMPs to Buqqy.





The interest here was in the bidding, EW making 12 tricks in diamonds or 11 in spades, NS making 9 in hearts or clubs. Meaning that the par contract is 6♥X minus 3 for -500. How did our victims fare? The auction in the closed room was short and to the point:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sanus	Booth	S. Aluf	Shah
1♦	2♥	Pass	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

In the open room the auction was more convoluted:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rizzo	Acaf	Rojko	Ayaz
1♦	1♥	Pass	3 🔶 *
4♠	5♥	6 🔶	Pass
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

3 unbalanced with 4 hearts mild invite



What do we make of the two auctions? I much prefer Acaf's one level overcall to Booth's jump, which I would make with a little club instead of the ace. But it had the effect of propelling the auction upwards quickly, and Aluf, with a flat hand and soft and potentially wasted values, had no reason to go on.

Whether Rizzo and Rojko would have got to the slam without being pushed, only they can tell us. After South's "mild invite", it may even have been bid as much for insurance as to make. When the dust settled, Buqqy had 2 IMPs on the deal. Six boards later, Buqqy had won 22-11 or 13.23 - 6.77, enough for Zorlu to qualify in seventh, and enough to carry Buqqy into eighth place above New Englanders. But only by the smallest of margins - one IMP less and the places would have been reversed. Crunch time indeed.

Victim of the Day Chris Willenken

by Christina Lund Madsen



How old are you, where do you live, what is your background and profession and IQ?

- I'm 44 years old. I live in New York City, where I was born and raised. Previously, I was a stock options trader and a high-frequency equities trader. These days, I spend most of my time teaching and playing bridge, but I also work as a strategist for Zoic Capital, a venture fund which invests in medical technology startups. I have never taken an official IQ test.

How did you begin to play bridge?

- I have always been interested in card games. My mother had played bridge at university, and when I was fifteen she suggested that I take a book out of the library to learn the game. I was pretty much hooked from that time.

What do you consider your biggest personal success?

- That's easy-- my life partnership with Dana. We are a team in everything.

Which character traits do you think world class bridge players have in common?

- The best players are highly analytical and cannot be diverted from long-run winning strategies by short-term bad luck. When I teach bridge, I spend lots of time explaining theory. Without a solid theoretical foundation, students may be fooled by short-term randomness into abandoning winning approaches. *If you could choose to be good at anything you wanted, what would it be?*

- Politics.

Tell us a childhood memory that made a profound impression on you.

- I moved schools when I was eight, and everyone made fun of me as the new kid. I was more easygoing before that.

What is your biggest dream?

- To play high-level bridge in an era where nobody benefits even a little bit from unauthorized information. When bridge is completely pure, it's the most rewarding endeavor I can imagine. We can make it happen, but it will require intelligence, toughness, and imagination.

Gary Donner's question for you: What do you do to improve as a world class bridge player?

- I work on my own game exactly as I work with my students: by studying theory. Obviously, at the elite level, everybody has a pretty good understanding of most situations. However, some of the more obscure positions require enough thought that they might be hard to analyze under the time constraints of tournament play. So, I try to familiarize myself with those positions, doing the analysis in advance. Bridge is a life-long learning experience. You have a reputation as a tough partner. What is your own view on this?

I think I'm tough but fair. I don't think I've been accused of resulting a partner yet.

If you were to have a (new?) tattoo, what would it say?

- "I don't like tattoos".

If you could change one thing in your life, past or present, what would it be?

- I would like to better understand the interpersonal dynamics of groups, mobs, and committees.

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Migry Zur Campanile, Jan Jansma and Andrew Rosenthal?

- Well, I do partner Jan and I have kissed Migry, so I hope Andrew is not reading this!



Who do you think should be a future victim in the bulletin? Tell us something you would like to know about this person.

Espen Lindkvist. He burst on the scene "only" a bit over a decade ago. I'd like to know more about his background and what he was doing before he and Boye started playing.

Future Alt Tournaments

Next week we continue with our Minor Alt events. Eight world class teams only. The field is ready and filled with some of the greatest players and personalities of the bridge world.

We are back with the Alt Mixed Teams in October, where we have two events:

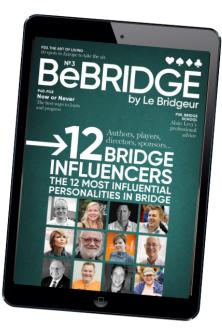
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The new online magazine for bridge addicts



333

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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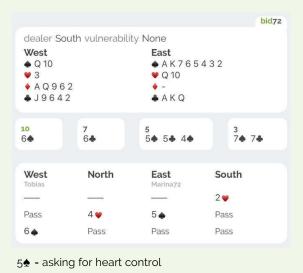
How to kibitz the Alt Mixed teams on BBO

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



6♠ = got it



'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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