

THE ALT MIXED TEAMS

AUGUST 24 - 28, 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

Donner has done it

Donner defeated Zorlu in yesterday's final of the mixed teams. This is a long desired victory for Gary Donner, who has been a faithful Alt-participant with varying teams almost since the beginning and signed up for all Alt events until 2027. We hope his teams will keep playing though they have reached the top of the podium.

Both semifinals seemed over after the first set, but Zorlu surprised with a massive comeback. Read more inside this bulletin.

Yesterday we also received the tragic news that yet another bridge star is in the sky. Catherine D'Ovidio passed away after a battle with cancer she could never win. We will remember her in next week's Minor Alt bulletin. ♥

Next Alt Mixed Teams

The next edition of the Alt Mixed Teams is scheduled for October 5-9. alt.bridgeresults.org is open for teams to apply for an invitation. The event is open for up to 16 teams.

Link to results

[Alt Mixed Results](#)

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

[Alt.bridgeresults.org](http://alt.bridgeresults.org)

Final

	1	2	Total	
Donner	0.1	24	46	70.1
Zorlu	16	36	52	



Forgettable



By Mark Horton

As the semi-finals got under way I tossed a coin and it came down in favour of Donner vs. Apricots. Searching for title that might convey how the match unfolded I recalled an old crossword clue: 'not a match to remember (11)'.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Donner	Franceschetti	Rimstedt	Setton
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♠3 and declarer put up dummy's ten, overtook it with the ace and played back the ♠9. When it held she played a heart to the king and a club to the jack, West pitching the ♠4. Declarer continued with the ♣7, East winning with the ten as West threw another spade. Back came the ♥Q and declarer ducked and won the next heart.

Although declarer had taken a poor line, it was still possible to emerge with nine tricks by playing on diamonds, but she fatally played two rounds of clubs and that meant she finished one down.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Michielsen	Zochowska	Cullin
—	—	Pass	1♣*
2♠	2NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ Strong
2NT Natural, game forcing

East led the ♠7 and West won with the king and switched to the ♥9. Declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the ♣A, unblocked the ♠A and played the ♣9 to the queen and king.



Hilda Setton

The heart return was taken by the king and declarer cashed two spades. West's switch to the ♥9 meant that East was now caught in a three-suit squeeze and declarer had eleven tricks and 13 IMPs.

A mildly aggressive double of a game gave Donner another 5 IMPs and then came:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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



Per-Ola Cullin

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Donner	Franceschetti	Rimstedt	Setton
—	Pass	1♦	1♠
All Pass			

Eric Kokish is a great supporter of strong overcalls, but he would I believe have taken a different position here. The defenders took two tricks, +200.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Michielsen	Zochowska	Cullin
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
1♦	Pass*	3♣*	Dble
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

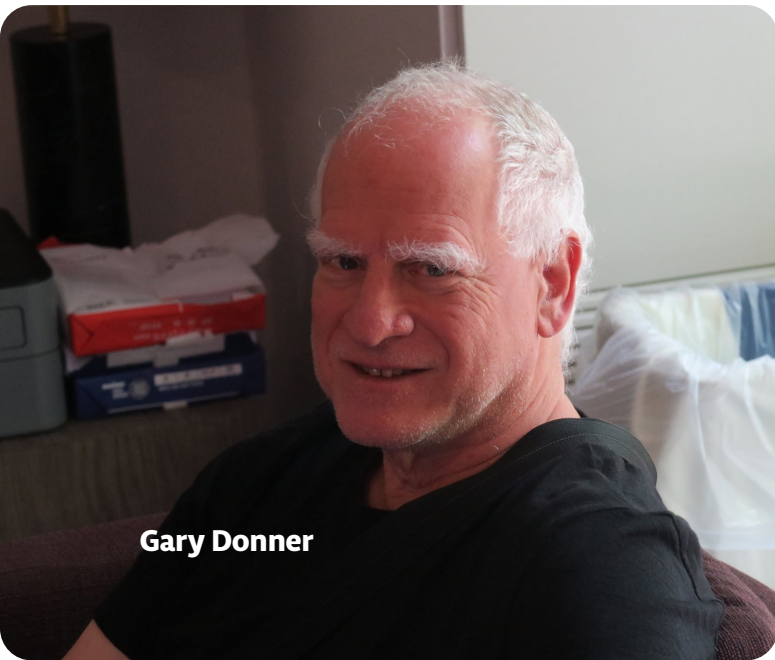
1♣ Strong Pass Less than GF 3♣ Fit jump

Here too declarer took eleven tricks and +650 was worth 10 IMPs.

A tactical opening bid of 2NT on ♠Q8 ♥AKJ765 ♦K9 ♣A32 resulted in the loss of 6 IMPs and when NS missed a game in the Open Room, another 9 IMPs changed hands.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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



Gary Donner

- 1NT 15-16
- 3♣ Asking
- 3♦ 4(5)♦
- 4♣ Natural
- 4♦ Better than a cue bid
- 4♠ Cue bid
- 5♦ 0/3

That represented another 13 IMPs and as the match neared half-way the score was 57-1.

There were changes of personnel in the Open Room for the second half, but the damage had been done. As is often the case the deals offered little in the way of opportunities for the team chasing the game.

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Donner	Franceschetti	Rimstedt	Setton
—	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

It was not difficult to predict what was going to happen in the other room:

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Michielsen	Zochowska	Cullin
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Larsson	Baroni	Helgemo	Bessis
Pass	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♦	All Pass		

Declarer played to ruff two spades and pitched one on the ace of hearts, so +150.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Michielsen	Zochowska	Cullin
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	All Pass

The play was essentially the same, spade lead and a trump switch, declarer rapidly getting up to eleven tricks and at last a significant swing for Apricots.

In deference to David Bird I will refrain from mentioning Board 19, a 1NT contract that is a certainly for a second volume of Misdefend These Hands with Me which delivered 6 more IMPs to Apricots.

Along came a deal with an opportunity to play for a swing:

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Larsson	Baroni	Helgemo	Bessis
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		



Thomas Bessis

South led the ♥K and continued with the jack, declarer winning, playing a spade to the ace, a club to the king and a second spade. That meant the defenders could cash out for one down.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Michielsen	Zochowska	Cullin
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♥
4♠	All Pass		

South led the ♥K and declarer won at once, which was theoretically best on this layout. She continued with a spade to the ace and played a club. Was there any chance she would put in the ten, which would allow her to dispose of dummy's hearts? I didn't think it was likely, but it is the sort of play one might try when you are desperate for points. Alas, declarer won with the ace and played a second spade, so no swing.

There were no miracles and it was Donner who advanced to the Final.

Well-earned Swing

By Brian Senior



Brian Senior has graciously written a deal in which several stars in the Alt Mixed teams sparkle - including his own opponent.

Playing in the Alt Mixed III, my team was beaten in Round 9 of the Swiss qualifying stage by a team featuring the strong Israeli pairing of Noga Tal and Yaniv Zack.

Seven pairs played in 4♥ on this deal, always played by East. Three were successful, four were not. Zack, alas for our cause, was one of the successful ones.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Tal	Senior	Zack	Penfold
–	–	1NT ¹	Pass
2♦ ²	Dble ³	2♥ ⁴	3♦
Dble ⁵	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1. 15-17
2. Transfer
3. Diamonds
4. Heart support
5. Game try

At most tables North overcalled 2NT to show the minors; I chose to only show diamonds – for the lead against a likely heart contract.

Sandra Penfold led the six of diamonds, MUD, to the three, nine and king. Zack played back his remaining diamond so I won and played the queen of clubs, which he ducked, followed by the ten of clubs.

Zack won the ace and proceeded to draw trumps ending in hand, ruffed the third club, then led a low spade to the four, nine and queen. He ruffed the diamond return and led the jack of spades to the king and ace, pinning the ten; 10 tricks.

Whether North shows both minors or only diamonds, declarer has a pretty good idea regarding the distribution by the time he reaches the crucial play. It is therefore surprising that, of the seven declarers in game, two played ace and another spade, and a third made the bizarre play of low from dummy to the four and jack (perhaps that was a miss-click?).

As well as Zack, Geir Helgemo and Namik Kokten found the play of low to the nine followed by pinning the ten – well played.

But this hand bothered me and I realised that I could have done better on defence. When declarer leads the first spade from dummy, he is hoping to find North with either 10x or H10 doubleton. What if I had played the ten! Might Zack not now have played me for the latter holding and gone down?



Yaniv Zack displayed excellent technique



... and Cecilia Rimstedt pure brilliance.

So I went through the play records and found that one of the four Norths put to the test had indeed put in the ten and declarer had indeed misguessed the position when his jack lost to the queen and a low spade came back, going up with the ace.

The successful defender was Sweden's Cecilia Rimstedt, and as her teammate, Geir Helgemo, was one of those to make the contract, I think we can say that this was a well-earned 12 IMPs to their side.

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.

More upcoming events including two Alt Mixed Teams in October:

21 - 25 September 2020	Minor Alt Invitational II
5 - 9 October 2020	Alt Mixed IV
12 - 16 October 2020	Minor Alt Invitational III
19 - 23 October 2020	Alt Mixed V

Read more and apply for invitation via alt.bridgeresults.org

A Fatal Signal

by Christina Lund Madsen



Both semifinals appeared to be over after the first set of 14 boards; Magic Creatures were up 49-3 against Zorlu and Donner had an even more massive lead of 51-1 over Apricots. However one surprise comeback was awaiting the kibitzers.

Mark Horton has covered the latter semifinal, so I will bring a board from the semifinal between Magic and Zorlu, in which a simple trump suit preference proved fatal.

Board 4. W / None

<p>♠ AKQ3 ♥ 987 ♦ QJ654 ♣ A</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ 97 ♥ AT6542 ♦ 92 ♣ JT4</p>	<p>♠ 8542 ♥ Q ♦ 83 ♣ KQ9862</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
		<p>♠ JT6 ♥ KJ3 ♦ AKT7 ♣ 753</p>										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barel	Acaf	Dana Tal	Acar
1♦	2♥	Dbl	3♦*
4♠	All Pass		

3♦ showed an honour in hearts.

Acaf made the brave lead of a low heart from the ATxxxx; it doesn't cost if partner has the king and in case partner has the

♥Q, declarer is very likely to misguess hearts at trick one. There is of course the risk that it might cost a heart trick in case of stiff king in either opponent's hand, however the North hand is not exactly a buffet of defensive tricks anyway.

South won dummy's queen with the king and played the ♦K and received an encouraging ♦9 from partner, followed by the ace of diamonds. Looking at her own trumpholding and seeing the ♠8 in dummy, she now made the excellent play of a third diamond, ruffed with her partner's ♠9. 1 off after solid defense.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Aluf	Willenken	Kokten	Campanile
1♦	1♥	Dbl	2♦
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Willenken overcalled 1♥, and 2♦ was not alerted, so presumed to be natural, perhaps indicating a heart fit.

Willenken led the ♣J to declarer's ace. Tuna Aluf played one round of trumps, Willenken playing the ♠9. Probably intended as suit preference for hearts, which he bitterly regretted a moment later.

SEMIFINALS	C/O	Seg 1	Seg 2	Total
MAGIC CREATURES	0.1	49	7	56.1
ZORLU		3	63	66
APRICOTS	0.1	1	33	34.1
DONNER		57	17	74

Aluf played a heart to the queen, South winning and tried the \spadesuit AK before returning a desperate club in the hope her partner could ruff.

Not this time, and that meant 10 IMPs for Zorlu. Had this board been a push, Magic Creatures would have won by 0.1.

The final: Donner vs. Zorlu

As many know, I have a thing for redoubles (it simply tickles a lot more) so I was thrilled to see a redoubled contract in the second set of our final.

Board 9. N / EW Vul.

\spadesuit K J 8 7 3 \heartsuit A K J 3 \diamondsuit 5 \clubsuit A 8 4	\spadesuit Q 2 \heartsuit Q T 9 6 \diamondsuit K 9 8 6 4 \clubsuit K T <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table> </div>	N	W E	S	\spadesuit 4 \heartsuit 7 5 4 \diamondsuit A T 7 3 \clubsuit J 9 7 3 2	\spadesuit A T 9 6 5 \heartsuit 8 2 \diamondsuit Q J 2 \clubsuit Q 6 5
N						
W E						
S						

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Aluf	Michielsen	Kokten	Cullin
	Pass	Pass	1 \spadesuit
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Dble*	Pass	Pass	Rdble*
All Pass			

Dble Penalty
 Rdble SOS I think



Three members of team Zorlu: Namik Kökten, Nafiz Zorlu and Tuna Aluf. Photo: Turkish Bridge Fed.

The auction unfortunately doesn't report whether North took her partner's redouble as SOS and decided to pass anyway or whether they will add a chapter about redoubles to their system notes.

East led the \spadesuit 4, which North won with dummy's ace to play the \diamondsuit Q, won by East. He now played the \heartsuit 7 to West's king. She cashed the \spadesuit K and exited the \heartsuit 3, finessed with the 10 in North.

Marion played the \diamondsuit 9. This was the kill point. If she finessed, she would block the suit and the defense had 7 top tricks. With diamonds 3-2 she would make.

Perhaps it should have been a clue that East did not duck, but in any case she played the \diamondsuit 9, and when West did not follow, exited with the \spadesuit T to West, who in turn exited with the \heartsuit A and jack. North played the \clubsuit K, ducked, and took her \diamondsuit K for down 1 and -200.

It could have been better, it could have been worse for NS. It turned out to be better when their teammates had their back on this board.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Larsson	Ayaz	Helgemo	Acar
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Dble*	All Pass		

Same auction without the redouble.

Helgemo led the ♠4, which North unlike Marion led run to the king. West tried the ♥A and received a discouraging 7 from partner and now found the switch of the club 4 to the ten and jack, ducked. This was not good news for declarer.

Helgemo continued with the ♣3 to his partner's ace, and West cleared the suit. Declarer played the ♦Q to East's ace and he cashed his two club tricks (the others pic-thing hearts and spades, declarer getting squeezed from the ♠Q) and exited with a diamond to dummy's jack. North desperately tried to cash the diamond tricks, but no luck here and the defense got two more tricks for 3 off and +500 for Donner, which meant 7 IMPs.

The final was close, but on board 12 Aluf-Kökten went overboard in 6♣ missing two aces for 10 IMPs away, and the last 4 boards were pushes, including board 14 where Larsson found an elegant diamond shift to push the board for 3NT down 2.

Donner won by 70.1-52 after 32 boards. Afterwards he sent the following message acknowledging his opponents:



Geir Helgemo and Jessica Larsson at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco during the last American Nationals in November 2019. Too long ago.

"The Turkish team we played against were incredibly sportsmanlike. Most are, but they were in particular."

We hope to see all sportsmanlike participants back in October.

Congratulations to Team Donner for a great performance and to Zorlu for making it all the way to the finals.

Join us next week for the Minor Alt Invitational Teams.

BeBRIDGE
♥♦♦♦ by Le Bridgeur

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**.

Why digital?

Always have your magazine with you. You can read BeBRIDGE on your tablet and computer. You can bring it with you anywhere.
Easy to read. You can easily zoom in on any part of the page, so small font doesn't have to be a concern.

Want to subscribe?

It couldn't be simpler, subscribe:

- **through the website:** <https://us.lebridgeur.com>
- **by phone** at +33 (0)1 42 96 87 34
- **by email** at abonnement@lebridgeur.com



Bridge Base
O N L I N E

Free, unlimited bridge on BBO



Your online bridge club

Social play. ACBL Games. Tournaments. Solitaire.



Computer, tablet or mobile phone:
Play on your favorite device!

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!



bidding on an app
www.bid72.com

For Experts Only

Partnership building, testing agreements

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♣
----------	---------	---------------	------------

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♥
---------------	----------------	---------------

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♥.'

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;
- 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

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.

Sign-up for the *Newsletter* on www.bid72.com and receive a free three-week trial !