

THE ALT MIXED TEAMS IV

OCTOBER 5 - 9 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

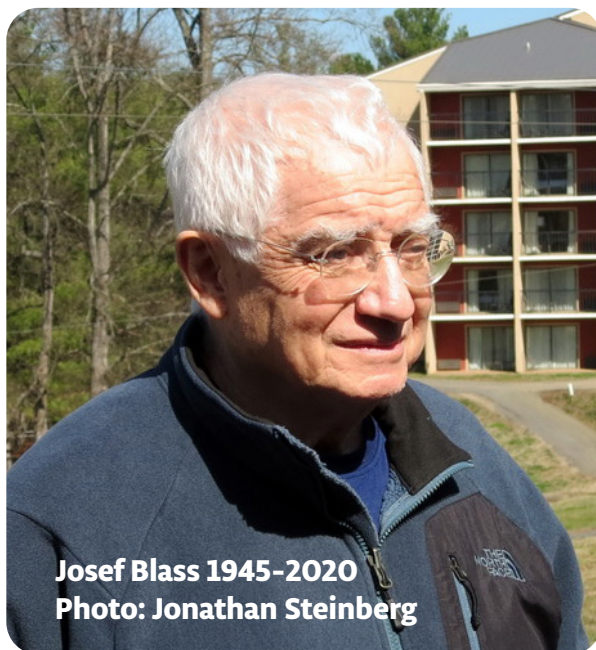
The Last Survivor rests

The bridge world has suffered many losses in the past months and last week we parted with Josef Blass after a long race against a disease that finally overtook him.

Josef Blass was an extraordinary man. A Holocaust-survivor as a newborn and a professor of Mathematics who got kicked out of Poland to become the man behind the most important pension plan in the United States. And a bridge lover. Yet he was a humble man with an interest in other people despite his own fascinating life. He would walk around at bridge tournaments with his backpack and a little smile.

Josef has been a recent victim in the Alt-bulletin and we remember him by republishing his interview, since the best way to describe a human being is by their own words.

One of his team members wrote me after Josef's passing: "I am very sad. You know he was much more than a client for us." He was a mentor and a friend and an inspiration to us all.



Josef Blass 1945-2020
Photo: Jonathan Steinberg

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 October 5

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)

Welcome to the 4th Alt Mixed Teams



by Christina Lund Madsen

One again we have a field of stars and entertainers (I will leave it to the players to determine which category they are in).

We are happy to see not only one, but two Norwegian mixed teams. I was surprised when I saw the Turbo team roster:

Christian Bakke (chrien)
Jon Egil Furunes (turbonorge)
Fredrik Helness (fredrik101)
Gunn Helness (gunn1961)
Torild Helness (helstokk)
Torild Heskje (heskjet)
Gunn Tove Vist (Dronninga)
Boye Brogeland
Tonje Brogeland

A lot of family members on this team. I thought I knew all members of the Helness family, but I have never heard about Torild Helness before, but perhaps it is a sister? Log on to BBO or read the bulletin tomorrow to find out.

Speaking of family members, Thomas Bessis and Irene Baroni have played all editions of the Alt Mixed teams and are still engaged. Congratulations!

Among our newcomers we have some American teams who do not appear very newbie when you look at their lineup. Team Koda and team Wilson are as welcome to the Alt Mixed family as the rest of you.

Draw Round 1

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	DONNER	SWEDEN MIXED
2	ZORLU	TURBO
3	LITCHIS	NEW ENGLANDERS
4	WILSON	KODA
5	PARKER	SILLA
6	ALPERT	HINZE
7	MENSCHIES	VEGAS STRONG
8	FRANCE SUD	PENFOLD

[Link to results](#)

[Alt Mixed Results](#)

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

Alt.bridgeresults.org



Hommage à Reese



By Mark Horton

For a number of years I have been producing articles in the style of the man considered by many to be the greatest bridge writer of them all. In *Play These Hands With Me*, he penned a story entitled, *One that got away*, in which he describes a skilful move that might be new to most readers. This deal from the final of the recent Mixed ALT struck me as instructive:

North was looking at this modest hand:

Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 8 4 2
♥ K 2
♦ Q 10 2
♣ 9 7 5 3 2

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sanus	Michielsen	Aluf	Cullin
1NT	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2NT Puppet 3♣ No 5-card major 3♦ 4+♥

Rightly or wrongly North led the ♣3:

♠ 8 4 2
♥ K 2
♦ Q 10 2
♣ 9 7 5 3 2

♠ A 7 6
♥ 8 7 4 3
♦ 9 8 5 4
♣ A K

Declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed the king, partner following with the ten and then discarding the ♦7. Declarer's next move was a diamond for the six, jack and your queen. You play high-low in a suit to show an even number. Your move.

North switched to the ♥K, but this was the layout:

Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 8 4 2
♥ K 2
♦ Q 10 2
♣ 9 7 5 3 2

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

♠ K Q J 10
♥ Q J 10 9 5
♦ 7 6 3
♣ 10

Declarer could win, unblock the diamonds, cash two clubs and cross to dummy with a spade to secure a ninth trick with the ♦9.

Post Mortem

North knew that South held three diamonds. Either ♦A76 or ♦763. It was unlikely that South would have discarded from the first of these, given that he is known to hold at least five cards in one of the majors. If West has the ♦AK North knows that the suit is breaking and that the ♦9 is a potential trick.

If declarer is to be prevented from scoring it dummy's ♠A must be removed, so North's only hope is to switch to a spade.

I suspect that South's play in diamonds was designed to suggest that he wanted a spade switch. Had he played the ♦6, followed by the ♦3 he would have denied any interest in spades.

Note that if declarer plays a diamond to the jack at trick two, the defenders are helpless.

This is what happened in the other room:

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Donner	Ayaz	Rimstedt	Acar
1NT*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1NT 14-16

2NT Puppet Stayman

3♣ No four-card major, some five-card minor

North led the ♠8 and South won with the ♠10. Now continuing spades will remove a vital entry to dummy, but South switched to the ♥Q and when it held he continued with the jack.

(If South goes back to spades, an inspired declarer can duck, win the third spade,



cash the top diamonds, unblock dummy's clubs, return to hand with a heart and exit with a diamond to force North to lead a club into the ♣QJ8.)

Declarer won with the ace, unblocked dummy's clubs getting the bad news when South pitched the ♠J and played a diamond to the ace. He continued with two winning clubs, pitching a diamond and heart from dummy, crossed to the ♠A and took a diamond finesse. North won, cashed the ♣9 and exited with a spade to give South the last two tricks.

Declarer can get home by retaining all dummy's remaining diamonds. After cashing two clubs he cashes the ♦K and exits with the ♦J when North will have to give dummy the last two tricks.

Most players keep a careful eye on the honour cards as they appear. To become a true expert you have to pay equal attention to the spot cards that are played.

Josef Blass

1945-2020

by Christina Lund Madsen



Please tell us about your background. Where you come from, live, family, education, professional career.

- My family is from the city of Lwów (today, Lviv, part of Ukraine). Until 1939, Lwów was part of Poland, and since September of 1939, it became a part of the Soviet Union.

Both of my parents were highly educated people with multiple academic degrees. I grew up in a very caring environment, but with a strong emphasis on education. I went to elementary and high schools in Warsaw. After I graduated in 1963, I enrolled into the Mathematics Department of Warsaw University from which I graduated in May of 1968 with a Master of Science degree. In July of 1968, I immigrated to the United States and enrolled into the Department of Mathematics at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I received my Ph.D. in early 1970 and ended up teaching for over 30 years at various universities.

Since 1976, I pursued a parallel business career and I am still involved, but on a very limited basis.

In 1981, I founded a company, Pension Research Institute (PRI), with the objective of bringing academic research to real life applications in pension plan design and the investment field. Our main contribution was coming up with a concept of the 401(k) Plan and developing the original master 401(k) Plan for Fidelity Group.

You were born in 1945. How did your family fare during WWII?

- I was born in July of 1945 in Krasnoturynsk (USSR). It is hard to imagine, but both of my parents were prisoners, so I was actually born in a labor camp. We are Jewish and my parents were the only survivors of their 23-member family.

How do you remember growing up in Poland in the post WWII years?

- We returned to Poland in August of 1946. My memory of growing up in Poland in the post-WWII years is very positive. We lived a very privileged life. My father became a high official in the government and also a university professor. My mother worked with foreign artists visiting Poland and traveled with Polish artists abroad. There was not much money, but there were plenty of privileges: a free apartment, a limousine with a driver, a housekeeper, free vacations, etc. I had plenty of friends interested in history, sports statistics, mathematics, books, and many other topics.

What made you leave Poland and move to the US?

- I was literally kicked out of Poland. In March of 1968, we had large student demonstrations at Warsaw University and I was one of the leaders. After the student movement was suppressed, we had a choice: Leave Poland, or go to jail.

Josef Blass lost to illness at the age of 75. The world has lost a hero.



I decided to leave. The others stayed and twelve years later formed Solidarity. *(An anti-bureaucratic social movement, using methods of civil resistance to advance the causes of workers' rights and social change in Poland during the 1980's/ed.)*

What are the most distinctive differences between Poland and the US?

- The main difference between Poland and the United States, in my opinion, is that in the US, "the sky is the limit."

I have never encountered institutional objections to what I wanted to do. And also, there is a real acceptance by the majority of people for immigrants like myself.

In which of the two countries does your heart lie?

- My heart clearly lies in the United States, but I continue being Polish – Chopin music, Mickiewicz poetry, my Polish students, the Solidarity movement, my bridge team, and the language – that's my "Polishness".

Paul Street has the following question for you:

How did you first start playing bridge and have you ever given it up for a period of time?

- I started playing bridge when I was eight years old. I was on vacation in southern Poland. There were three boys there, ages 12-14. They made me the fourth. I have played ever since, but not as frequently as I have since 2001.

Which is your fondest bridge memory so far?



Josef Blass was happy to befriend so many characters and teammates in the bridge world.

What has been the greatest sorrow in your life?

- The greatest sorrow in my life was the health of my youngest grandson, Hudson. He is currently eight years old, but at the age of two, he fell victim to a very rare type of leukemia.

If you could give a piece of life advice to all us youngsters, what would it be?

- My advice is to pay close attention to your family life. I have been with my wife Ewa for 53 years. This is the main reason behind my successful and very good life.

Do you have any tattoos? If you were to get one in writing, what would it say?

- I have no tattoos. If I were to get one, it would be two points, three inches apart and a sign saying "How to get there."

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill among Fredrik Nystrom, Johan Upmark and Michal Nowosadzki?

Partner: Michal Nowosadzki
Kiss: Fredrik Nystrom, Johan Upmark
Kill: None. Poles and Swedes have not fought since the early eighteenth century.

- My fondest bridge memory is being exposed to and befriended by so many top players including Rodwell, Meckstroth, Levin, Weinstein, Grue, Moss, Hampson, Greco, Passell, the Italian Team, and obviously my team members: Pepsi, Zaremba, Lesniewski, Kalita, Nowosadzki, Brink, Drijver, Jassem, Martens, Kwiecien and Buras.

I also acquired new life-time friends like Paul Street, Mike Levine, Rose Meltzer, Wayne Stuart, Melanie Tucker and Hugon Karwowski.

What do you like to do when you do not play online bridge?

- When I am not playing bridge, I study history, and still do a little investments. I also spend a lot of time with my grandchildren.

You have accomplished more than most in life. Is there any goal you have not achieved and regret having missed?

- I have achieved much more than what I expected, both in mathematics as well as in business. I do not think I regret missing any goals.



(This interview was brought the first time in June 2020. We have republished it in honour of Josef Blass, who passed away last week. /CLM)

Teams / Players / Nicknames

ALPERT

Claire Alpert	clairee2
Francisco Bernal	Franco64
Katarzyna Dufurat	kas_
Carlos Hoyos	Charlie111
Christina Lund Madsen	christinas
Alfredo Versace	nevaio

DONNER

Gary Donner	Gdonnersc1
Cecilia Rimstedt	Cillar
Marion Michielsen	Lady007
Per-Ola Cullin	pocken
Joe Grue	Joegrue
Sandra Rimstedt	Sandria

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

KODA

Joshua Donn	jdonn
Christal Henner	christal
Uday Ivatury	uday
Roger Lee	rogerclee
Sylvia Moss	sylvie
Sheri Winestock	sheri

HINZE

Allison Cappelletti	Sonica
Mike Cappelletti	Cappjr
Kay Enfield	Cx107
Greg Hinze	Ghinze

LITCHIS

Irene Baroni	princi
Thomas Bessis	Malpaluche
Pierre Franceschetti	gewd
Hilda Setton	explumber

MENSCHIES

Alejandro Bianchedi	Alecuque
Giorgia Botta	Gio 89
Mustafa Cem Tokay	Tokay1975
Margie Cole	Mtc146
Zach Grossack	Germs345
Lynne Koeppel	Lgkoeppel

NEW ENGLANDERS

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

PARKER

Adam Grossack	nevereast
Christina Parker	cmp56
Stewart Rubenstein	stewr
Anam Tebha	anamtebha
Eric Schwartz	waldorf1
Jenny Wolpert	rymanjenny

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!

Teams / Players / Nicknames

PENFOLD

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

SILLA

Lise Blaagestad	
Geir Brekka	kaninen
Ann Karin Fuglestad	annkafu
Marianne Harding	rosenknopp
Erik Saelensminde	diktatore
Harald Eide	hareide
Mona Lindstroem	Kathinka

SWEDEN MIXED

Dan Bylund	diaoff1
Anders Eriksson	wew
Daniel Eriksson	24659
Lars Goldberg	mrgold
UllaBritt Goldberg	ullan
Malin Helin	malhe
Fredrik Jarlvik	freddy6
Ylva Pyykkö	ylvur
Helena Strömberg	strhel
Tatyana Trendafilova	tuti

TURBO

Christian Bakke	chrien
Jon Egil Furunes	turbonorge
Fredrik Helness	fredrik101
Gunn Helness	gunn1961
Tor Helness	helstokk
Torild Heskje	heskjet
Gunn Tove Vist	Dronninga
Boye Brogeland	boye
Tonje Brogeland	toxbo

VEGAS STRONG

Hjordis Eythorsdottir	Disa
Mark Itabashi	markl92660
Linda Lewis	vegaslew
Paul Lewis	pjaylewis



Alison Wilson

WILSON

Ida Gronkvist	Halko
Mikael Gronkvist	Mike_G
John Kranyak	Jkrans
Jessica Larsson	jela79
Cornelis van Prooijen	Riccovp
Alison Wilson	Flyfalcon
Guy Mendes de Leon	guymdl
Veri Kiljan	vkill

ZORLU

Asli Acar	aslicann
Sedat Aluf	monk99
Tuna Aluf	tuna2
Namik Kökten	naumoski
Sirma Sanus	lila_s
Ferda Zorlu	ferda64
Nafiz Zorlu	begse
Selen Büke	selenbukea
Ali Ucar	no weak

Conditions of Contest • Alt Mixed Teams IV

1. The Alt Mixed IV will be hosted in Bridge Base Online from 5th to 9th of October, 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 to the aforementioned terms.

Should a team be disqualified and/or withdrawn by themselves (before or during the event), no refund of the entry fees will be made.

3. Schedule of play:

Monday October 5 - Wednesday October 7 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 October 8:

10:00 EDT / 16:00 CET – Swiss (last round)

14:00 EDT / 20:00 CET – QF (28 boards)

Friday October 9:

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

The Alt team strongly encourages participants to play in the most respectful way. Any player can summon the director to the table in case of irregularities. The time for a request for a TD ruling expires 30 minutes after the end of the match. All requests will be decided by a qualified director (if appropriate - in consultation with another directors and/or world class players); no further appeal will be possible after his/her decision.

To submit protests, captains should send an 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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