THE ALT MIXED TEAMS IV

OCTOBER 5 - 9 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

The Field Tightens

After 6 or our 10 matches in the qualifying swiss, Turkish Zorlu has taken the lead in a tight field ahead of Vegas Strong, Sweden Mixed and the Norwegian Turbo. The rest of the field follow in a neat row down the scoreboard, and nobody is yet lost, though some teams might want to change their strategy (like benching the editor).

Meanwhile we have solved the mystery about the mysterious Norwegian Helness-sister. It was a Freudian slip whose origin we have not been able to reveal. We are still waiting for confessions.

Torild Helness is indeed Tor Helness, the Norwegian superhero known equally for his strengths and weaknesses.

Since the Alt Bulletin has in its possession the only existing picture of Tor Helness in a suit, we bring it on today's front page in case Team Turbo's results do not provide an excuse for bringing it in a later edition.



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 October 7 10:00 EDT/16:00 CET Match 4 (14 boards) 12:30 EDT/18:30 CET Match 5 (14 boards) 15:00 EDT/21:00 CET Match 6 (14 boards)

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Results

	Tbl	Home Team	Ministing Trans		IMPs		Adj		VPs	
R 4	ICI	Home leam	Visiting Team	Brd	Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
	1	MENSCHIES	SWEDEN MIXED	14	<u>25</u>	<u>61</u>			2.09	17.91
	2			14	<u>19</u>	77			0.00	20.00
	3	FRANCE SUD	VEGAS STRONG	14	<u>23</u>	<u>40</u>			5.36	14.64
	4			14	<u>58</u>	<u>40</u>			14.85	5.15
	<u>5</u>		CT ZORLU	14	4	<u>34</u>			2.96	17.04
	<u>6</u>		HINZE	14	<u>30</u>	<u>47</u>			5.36	14.64
	<u>7</u>	PENFOLD	SILLA	14	<u>15</u>	<u>32</u>			5.36	14.64
	<u>8</u>			14	<u>45</u>	<u>31</u>			13.96	6.04

	Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
R 5			visiting lean	BIU	Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
	1		VEGAS STRONG	14	<u>13</u>	<u>26</u>			6.28	13.72
	2			14	22	22			10.00	10.00
	3	C ZORLU		14	<u>28</u>	<u>13</u>			14.19	5.81
	<u>4</u>	HINZE	FRANCE SUD	14	<u>18</u>	<u>30</u>			6.52	13.48
	<u>5</u>			14	<u>67</u>	<u>20</u>			19.18	0.82
	<u>6</u>	SILLA		14	<u>31</u>	<u>19</u>			13.48	6.52
	<u>7</u>			14	<u>37</u>	<u>37</u>			10.00	10.00
	<u>8</u>	PENFOLD	NEW ENGLANDERS	14	<u>36</u>	<u>23</u>			13.72	6.28

	Tbl Home Team	Visiting Team	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs		
R 6			visiting lean	BIU	Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
	1			14	<u>25</u>	<u>41</u>			5.58	14.42
	2	PARKER	C- ZORLU	14	<u>9</u>	<u>44</u>			2.23	17.77
	<u>3</u>			14	<u>6</u>	<u>51</u>			1.02	18.98
	4	VEGAS STRONG	HINZE	14	<u>45</u>	<u>23</u>			15.66	4.34
	<u>5</u>	FRANCE SUD	SILLA	14	26	<u>34</u>			7.56	12.44
	6		PENFOLD	14	27	<u>17</u>			12.97	7.03
	7			13	37	<u>51</u>			6.04	13.96
	<u>8</u>	ALPERT	NEW ENGLANDERS	14	27	<u>37</u>			7.03	12.97

Leaderboard & Draw

Draw Round 7

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	C- ZORLU	VEGAS STRONG
2		
3		
4	PARKER	FRANCE SUD
5	SILLA	
6		
7	HINZE	
8	PENFOLD	

Results

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins <u>Alt.bridgeresults.org</u>

Ranking after round 3					
rk	team	VPs			
1	MENSCHIES	49.61			
2	SWEDEN MIXED	43.45			
3		39.05			
4	PARKER	35.22			
5	FRANCE SUD	34.34			
6	VEGAS STRONG	31.55			
7	KODA	30.99			
8		30.66			
9		30.13			
10	C ZORLU	29.74			
11		26.99			
12	HINZE	25.31			
13	PENFOLD	22.71			
14	SILLA	20.40			
15		19.65			
16		10.20			



The Undefeated



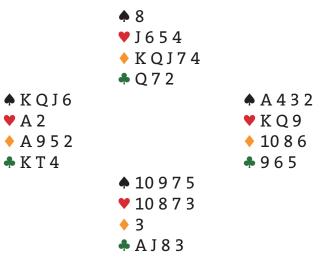
By Mark Horton

Zia sent me a host of 'puns for educated minds' - I think they originated with Gabriel Chagas. He subtly finished with this one:

"There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did."

Moving on, my match selection today was influenced by the fact that this morning's radio included Telling Tales, an interview with Danny Robins, a writer, comedian and self-confessed Swedophile. The fact that it included the two undefeated teams leading the field was a lucky coincidence.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
U Goldberg	Grossack	L Goldberg	Botta
_	_	_	Pass
1♣*	3 🔶	Dble*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

14 16+

North led the ♦Q and declarer won with the ace and returned the two, North taking the jack as South pitched the ♣3. North switched to a club, but declarer was assured of nine tricks, +600.

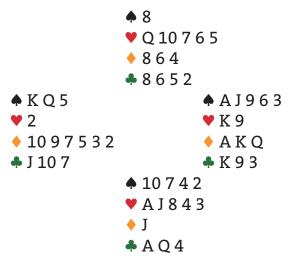
Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Cole	Eriksson	Bianchedi	Helin
_	_	—	Pass
1 •*	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

1♦ 4+♦

South led the ♥7 and declarer won in dummy and cashed the ♠KQ getting the bad news. Even with the ♣A onside declarer could only get up to nine tricks, -100 and a 12 IMP loss.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



Alejandro Bianchedi and Margie Cole almost equally enthusiastic. Photo: WBF

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
U Goldberg	Grossack	L Goldberg	Botta
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Dble*
Rdbl*	2♥	3NT	All Pass

1 4 16+	Dble	Majors	Rdbl	5-7
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When South led the ♥2 declarer cashed out for +690.

Closed Room

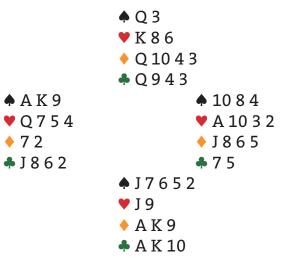
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Cole	Eriksson	Bianchedi	Helin
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♠	All Pass

3♣ Puppet
4♥ Slam try
4NT RKCB
5♣ 1/4 key cards

West's 4♥ was optimistic.

South led the \$4 and declarer won with dummy's king and played a heart for the king and ace. A second spade saw North pitch the \$8 and declarer won in hand, ruffed a heart and ran the \$J. There was no miracle layout, so one down, -100 and a 13 IMP swing.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
U Goldberg	Grossack	L Goldberg	Botta
_	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

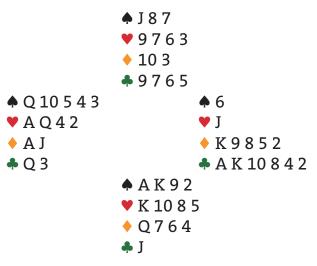
West cashed the ♠A and when East discouraged with the ten she switched to the ♥5. If East had won this with the ace and returned a heart the defenders would have been in control. Ducking was also fine (although more complicated) unless East played the ♥10, which is what happened here. Declarer won with the jack and now had a second stopper in the suit. Declarer cashed the ♦A then played three rounds of clubs, going up with dummy's queen and playing the ♠Q. West was helpless and declarer was soon writing down +600.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Cole	Eriksson	Bianchedi	Helin
_	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	3NT*	All Pass	

1♣ 15+
1♥ Game forcing, balanced
1♣ 5+♣
3NT Not 3♣

East led the ♥2 and the trick was completed by the jack, queen and king. Declarer crossed to the ♣AK, cashed the ♦A and played a club to the queen. When the diamond also failed to deliver four tricks the contract was two down, -200 and Menschies were on the board at last, still down 13-36.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
U Goldberg	Grossack	L Goldberg	Botta
_	_	2♣*	Dble
2♠	All Pass		

2♣ 11-15, 5♣+4♥/♠ or 6♣



Clearly EW had a major misunderstanding about the meaning of $2 \clubsuit$.

North led the ◆10 and declarer won with the jack, unblocked the ace, crossed to dummy with a club and played the ♥J covered by the king and ace. She ruffed a heart and played the ◆K pitching a heart and North ruffed and exited with a club, South ruffing and returning a diamond. When declarer ruffed North overruffed and exited with a heart, leaving declarer with three trump losers which meant one down.

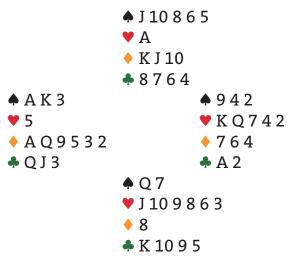
The winning move is to ruff the diamond with the \blacklozenge Q. Declarer can then exit with a trump and must come to eight tricks.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Cole	Eriksson	Bianchedi	Helin
_	_	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



North led the \diamond 10 and declarer won with the ace and then cashed his winners,emerging with nine tricks and another 12 IMPs, 25-36.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



Open Room

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Grossack	L Goldberg	Botta
—	—	Pass
1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass
	Grossack 14	Grossack L Goldberg − − 1♠ 2♥

14 16+

North led the ♠5 and declarer won with the ace and played a heart, North taking the ace and returning the ♠J. When that held he continued with the ♠10 and declarer won and played the ♣Q to the ace, cashed the ♥K pitching a diamond and then played a diamond to the queen and king, finishing three down when North exited with a diamond after cashing two spades, -300.

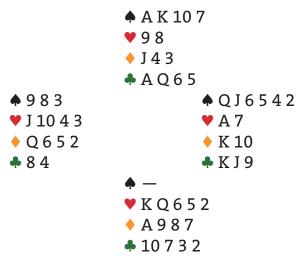
Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Cole	Eriksson	Bianchedi	Helin
_	_	_	Pass
1♦	1♠	Dble*	2♥*
2♠*	Pass	3 🔶	Pass
4	Pass	5 🔶	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

2♥ 5+♥ non-forcing

Declarer lost a spade, a club, two diamonds and a heart, which added up to -800 and 11 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Cole	Eriksson	Bianchedi	Helin
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	1NT*	2 • *	Pass
2♥*	Pass	2♠	All Pass

1NT 12-14, not 44 in the majors

- 2 One major
- 2♥ Pass or correct

South led the ♥K and declarer won and played back a heart, South taking the queen and exiting with a club. North won with the ace and returned the five, declarer going up with the king and playing the ♦K. South took the ace and exited with a diamond and in due course North took three trump tricks, one down, -50.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
U Goldberg	Grossack	L Goldberg	Botta
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♠	Dble
All Pass			

South led the \clubsuit 3 and when North put in the queen Declarer won with the king and played the \blacklozenge K. South ducked that but then took the ace when declarer continued with a second diamond.

This was a critical moment for the defence. If South switched to a top heart declarer must go down, but she played a second club and North won and returned a heart.



However, it was too late. Declarer went up with the ace, ruffed a club and pitched a heart on the \blacklozenge Q.

There were still three trumps to lose but that was +470 and 11 IMPs.

On the final deal EW held ♦K843 ♥AQJ4 ♦973 ♣AK opposite ♦A7652 ♥K75 ♦AKJ108 ♣ and both teams stopped in 6♠.

7NT looks reasonable as if either spades or diamonds behave you have 13 tricks. With spades 2 and the ♦Q singleton onside you could not go wrong. Bessis-Baroni and Henner-Ivatury were the only pairs to bid a grand slam - but both pairs were in the inferior 7♠.

Sweden Mixed had won in a canter, 61-25, 17.91-2.09 VP.

Victim of the Day Gunn Tove Vist



(As quickly becomes clear during this interview, it is not my best performance. Instead of filtering it, I have left all my blunders and Gunn Tove's subtle comments./CLM)

Where are you from, where do you live, what is your family situation?

- I'm from the middle of Norway. I live on a small farm in Stjørdal together with my fiancé Christer, our two boys Sivert (10) and Martin (8), the Irish setter Kira and the pregnant Siberian cat Karmen.

What is your educational background and what do you do for a living?

- I fell in love with bridge on the university. Besides playing bridge I have studied everything from Mathematics, Psychology and Neuroscience to Economics and Business administration. I work in Aglo high school where I'm managing director for our trainee office in addition to teaching Mathematics.

How has corona life in Norway been for you?

- Different. When I was doing home schooling for my boys while I also had to teach my own students, I thought I was going mad. I don't think I could have managed one more week.

At the same time the afternoons/evenings were fantastic. Instead of hurrying from one thing to the other, we had time together. I had more time for bridge and I could play online bridge against top players combined with my everyday life.

How did you begin to play bridge?

- I have always loved games. We used to play different card games in university. We played hearts on an online site called Playsite. Playsite also offered bridge. I decided to give it a try and I got hooked.

What is your best bridge memory (not necessarily bridge related)?

- There are so many. The bridge family is my second family and I'm so glad for all the fantastic people I have met and all the fun things I have experienced. It's rather boring to say my first gold medal, so I will rather tip the readers about a story that made me laugh so much I almost wet my pants. If you haven't heard the story about when Fredin didn't wake up in time for the European mixed Championship in Oostend, you have to ask him to tell it to you.

You are also a fantastic poker player. What do you like about poker compared to bridge and vice versa?

- First of all the competitive aspect of both of them. I love to win and I hate to lose. Give me a challenge and I will try to win. I also like the fact that you can always get better, there's room for improvement. Especially in bridge. I never get bored of bridge or want to take a break. If I have had a bad day at the table, the first thing I want to do is to play more bridge to prove I can do better. You can discuss games and specific plays with other players both in poker and bridge and that brings so many different people together because we all are in love with the game. Even if we are competitors at the table, we have so much fun outside the table.

I like the mathematics in both poker and bridge, but I don't like the larger element of luck in poker. I like mixed poker games based more on skills better than Texas Hold'em for example.

I hate when I make the right decision in poker, but still lose. In bridge I accept losing if I have played correctly. Poker is normally an individual game. I like the partnership in bridge because I think it's easier to do your best when you play together with someone and it's even more fun to win when you do it as a team. Therefore I like to sell some percentages when I play poker so that I have to do my best not only for myself.

Who are hotter? Poker players or bridge players?

- Bridge players who play poker. 😳

You are married to a bridge player, Christer Kristoffersen. Tell us the highlights of your love story.

- Married??? Have you forgotten that you're supposed to be my bridesmaid WHEN we get married? We met on a bridge tournament. My good friend and bridge partner had a crush on Christer. I tried to be a good friend and wing girl and spent a weekend in a cabin together with Christer, Geir Helgemo and my friend. We played a lot of bridge, but no sweet music. I met Christer again a year or so later and we had a flirt. I was reluctant to go further because of the history with my friend, but Christer never gave up and here we are today; engaged with two boys.



Did you ever have a girl crush you would like to share with us?

- Haha... You know I have a crush on you Christina. ♥ I will never forget the moment when we shared a man in Tromsø.

If you could spend your time doing anything you wanted, what would it be?

- Right now I dream of a vacation with Christer and all my favorite bridge players on a nice place where we can enjoy life, play bridge and have fun. I need a social life and live bridge tournaments.

How would your husband describe you in 3 words?

- I still assume you mean my fiancé. I hope he says something like amazing, loving and smart, but I fear he would say something like competitive, controlling and whiny.

What is your biggest secret dream?

- If I tell you, it won't be a secret anymore...

Tell us about an experience that made a profound impression on you.

- I have always had a big heart for animals. I thought I was going to be a vet, but when I realized that I get heartbroken when an animal is sick or dies, I had to change my mind. I used to work as a volunteer for dogs that need a home. To help abused and neglected dogs made a huge impression on me.

What is your biggest life regret?

- Hard question. I'm happy with my life and how it turned out, but when I watch championships in handball, I always wonder if that could have been me. When I was 14 I was a very promising goalkeeper in handball (who would have thought?). I had a fantastic Polish keeper trainer. Unfortunately he had to move back to Poland. When he left he said to me that I would be Norway's best goalkeeper in a couple of years. I'm from a small place where the party life starts at 14-15, so instead of going for a handball career, I started my career as a party girl. A career that has been useful in the bar after several bridge tournaments.

How many tattoos do you have (and where)?

- 2. One on the ancle and one on my back. *(Finally a bridge player with tattoos!/CLM)*

Who would you like to partner, kill, kill between John Kranyak, Tor Helness and Alfredo Versace?

- No kiss for me? I'm more of a kisser than a killer so I allow myself to steal a kiss.



Tor is the only one I know of these players. I love the whole Helness family. Tor's charisma and presence are one of a kind, both at the table and of the table. He's also a great poker player. I have never played together with him nor kissed him. I would love to play with him, but since I don't know the others, I think I have to choose the kiss.

Alfredo Versace is a legend in bridge. He also seems like a gentleman. I think it would be amazing to play a tournament with him.

John Kranyak can kill me both in bridge and poker so I will try to kill him first. At the table of course, not in real life. ©

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

I would like to know more about the Norwegian legend Erik "Silla" Sælensminde. What is the true story behind his nickname "Silla"? Does it have anything to do with the fish herring? Does he have any great fish stories? Discover the new BEBRIDGE

THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED!



In this issue

September's BeBridge overflows with outstanding articles. The Mind of a Cheat reports on the latest scandals to rock the world of bridge, while The Corridors of Power examines the world of bridge politics. There is in-depth coverage of the latest edition of the Slava Cup, and an insight into the incredible life of the man behind the Law of Total Tricks, Jean-René Vernes. David Bird is back with another instalment of the adventures of his bridge playing monks and you can exercise your 'little grey cells' by tackling Ray Lee's latest bridge themed crossword. Add to that all the regular articles that will allow you to hone your bridge playing skills and fine tune your bidding systems and it's an issue you cannot afford to miss.

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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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big 5

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