

# THE ALT MIXED TEAMS V

OCTOBER 19 - 23 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

## Alpert's early lead

After the first two and a half match (amazing format), team Alpert has taken the lead. Halfway in match 3 Alpert is up 11-4 against the Alt Stars, who are currently second.

Round 2 was one of the biggest IMP-exchanges we have seen in the Alt. Unfortunately all our writers went for Round 1, but you can see all actions, bids and played cards on our results page.

Due to personal circumstances a team had to withdraw and we thank the Alt Stars for filling in.



Claire Alpert  
Photo: WBF

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

Tuesday October 20

10:00 EDT / 16:00 CET	RR 3 – 2nd half (10 boards)
11:45 EDT / 17:45 CET	RR 4 (20 boards)
14:45 EDT / 20:45 CET	RR 5 (20 boards)



# Leaderboard

Ranking after round 2		
rk	team	VPs
1	 <a href="#">ALPERT</a>	33.69
2	 <a href="#">EDMONDS</a>	32.29
3	 <a href="#">ALT STARS</a>	32.00
4	 <a href="#">SILLA</a>	27.04
5	 <a href="#">UNICORNS</a>	21.45
6	 <a href="#">WILSON</a>	18.75
7	 <a href="#">DONNER</a>	14.02
8	 <a href="#">ISRAEL</a>	11.60
9	 <a href="#">ZORLU</a>	6.33
10	 <a href="#">HINZE</a>	2.83

## Draw R4

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	 <a href="#">DONNER</a>	 <a href="#">ISRAEL</a>
2	 <a href="#">ZORLU</a>	 <a href="#">UNICORNS</a>
3	 <a href="#">SILLA</a>	 <a href="#">HINZE</a>
4	 <a href="#">ALPERT</a>	 <a href="#">EDMONDS</a>
5	 <a href="#">WILSON</a>	 <a href="#">ALT STARS</a>

## Draw R5

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	 <a href="#">DONNER</a>	 <a href="#">UNICORNS</a>
2	 <a href="#">ISRAEL</a>	 <a href="#">HINZE</a>
3	 <a href="#">ZORLU</a>	 <a href="#">ALPERT</a>
4	 <a href="#">ALT STARS</a>	 <a href="#">SILLA</a>
5	 <a href="#">EDMONDS</a>	 <a href="#">WILSON</a>

[Link to results](#)

## [Alt Mixed Results](#)

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

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





## Results

### RR 1

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
<u>1</u>	 <b>DONNER</b>	 <b>EDMONDS</b>	20	<u>29</u>	<u>48</u>			5.61	14.39
<u>2</u>	 <b>WILSON</b>	 <b>SILLA</b>	20	<u>36</u>	<u>61</u>			4.55	15.45
<u>3</u>	 <b>ALT STARS</b>	 <b>ZORLU</b>	20	<u>54</u>	<u>27</u>			15.77	4.23
<u>4</u>	 <b>ISRAEL</b>	 <b>ALPERT</b>	20	<u>31</u>	<u>49</u>			5.80	14.20
<u>5</u>	 <b>HINZE</b>	 <b>UNICORNS</b>	20	<u>10</u>	<u>51</u>			2.32	17.68

### RR 2

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
<u>1</u>	 <b>DONNER</b>	 <b>SILLA</b>	20	<u>31</u>	<u>37</u>			8.41	11.59
<u>2</u>	 <b>EDMONDS</b>	 <b>ZORLU</b>	20	<u>88</u>	<u>45</u>			17.90	2.10
<u>3</u>	 <b>WILSON</b>	 <b>ISRAEL</b>	20	<u>72</u>	<u>54</u>			14.20	5.80
<u>4</u>	 <b>UNICORNS</b>	 <b>ALT STARS</b>	20	<u>55</u>	<u>85</u>			3.77	16.23
<u>5</u>	 <b>ALPERT</b>	 <b>HINZE</b>	20	<u>87</u>	<u>27</u>			19.49	0.51

## CAT Legal Defense Fund

Participate in the Alt's fundraising event December 19-21

We welcome teams at all levels and all entry fees go to the CAT Legal Defense Fund (administered by Marty Fleisher)

[Click here to register](#)

Click this link to donate

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/gary-donner>



# What's in a Name (II)

By Mark Horton



Welcome to the latest ALT Mixed Event - I thought I would start by looking at the match between Unicorns and Hinze (pity they are not calling themselves the Griffins). Would any of the players be able to bring off a coup worthy of one of Victor Mollo's immortal characters?

## Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brock	G Hinze	Myers	Enfield
—	—	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	3♠	3NT
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

2♥ 8-11

Some partnerships play that when 2♠ is doubled they can redouble to indicate a high honour in the suit without any real length. Although East couldn't do that here he was not slow to support spades on the next round.

North started with two rounds of spades and declarer won with dummy's king and played a diamond for the ten and jack, claiming nine tricks, -100. Probably South has to bid more than 3♣, but finding a route to a slam is not easy after East has opened.

## Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
E Hessel	Campanile	I Hessel	Berkowitz
—	—	2♥	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Would you have taken a bid over 3NT? In any event, +690 was worth 11 IMPs.

5 pairs bid 6♣, but at one table Irene Baroni overcalled 4♠ and then Thomas Bessis went on to 6♠ over North's 6♣ - and that was worth 13 IMPs as teammates recorded +1370.



Thomas Bessis  
Photo: Peg Kaplan



My next deal was somewhat humbler in terms of it's potential, but it illustrated a number of important points:

#### Board 4. Dealer West All Vul.

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

#### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brock	G Hinze	Myers	Enfield
1NT	All Pass		

North led a time honoured fourth best of his longest and strongest, the ♣4, but it gifted declarer a trick. Having taken South's ♣10 with the jack, declarer tried a spade to the king, but South won with the ace and played the ♣J. When it held she switched to a heart, but it was the ♥3 not a Rodwell Files 'pusher' - the ♥J and declarer could play the ♥8 which meant she was now sure of her contract, +90.

#### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
E Hessel	Campanile	I Hessel	Berkowitz
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1NT	All Pass		



Here North led (beer card aficionados look away now) the ♦7 and declarer won with the ♦K and rather than try to sneak a spade through went for the Jourdanian approach of cashing the long suit. South pitched two spades and a heart, declarer two clubs and North a spade and a heart.

When declarer played a spade to the queen North might have unblocked the jack, but when declarer played a second spade South won with the ace and switched to the ♣J. When it held he played his reaming jack and North took the rest for one down and 5 IMPs.

True, West had opened 1♣, but if the opening bid had been 1NT I suspect North would have chosen the same lead - being passive is currently the dish of the day when it comes to defending notrump contracts.

5 pairs were allowed to make 1NT, only three going down.

Then came a deal which made me think for a moment I had been transported to the Twilight Zone:



# Board 6. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brock	G Hinze	Myers	Enfield
—	—	Pass	1♦*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3♣
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

1♦ 2+, 11-15    2♦ forcing    4NT quant

North-South was the only pair to reach 6♦ and the contract might have been worthy of a better fate.

West led the ♠A and continued the suit, declarer winning in dummy, taking three rounds of hearts, ruffing with the ♦8 only for West to overruff with the nine and exit with a spade. Declarer eventually finished two down, -200.

How would you have tackled 6♦?

A player who leads an ace against a slam may well have a useful holding in trumps (imagine West held ♦J965). At trick three, declarer might cash the ♦A. If East follows declarer comes to hand and advances the ♦10, running it if West plays low. That's how you win a brilliancy prize and get into the Bulletin. Alas, it would not have worked here.



Kay Enfield  
Photo: Peg Kaplan

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
E Hessel	Campanile	I Hessel	Berkowitz
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

West led the ♣J and when it held she continued with the jack. Declarer won that and perhaps fearing the clubs were 2-4, and not wanting to have to make two early discards from dummy, exited with a low club. East won with the queen and switched to the ♥10, declarer winning with dummy's ace and cashing the ♦A, on which East discarded the ♥5. Unblocking the ♦8 declarer continued with a low diamond to the ten and jack and West cashed the ♠A for one down.

Having unblocked the ♦8 declarer should come to hand with a heart and cash his clubs. On the second West cannot release a diamond as declarer would then pitch a spade from dummy and play a spade, but parting with a spade allows declarer to discard a diamond from dummy and then play a spade.

It was a modest 2 IMP swing, and although there were no major swings in the rest of the match, most of the small ones went in favour of Unicorns and they won easily, 51-10, 17.68-2.32 VP.



# Half Full or Half Empty?



By Martin Cantor

The second half of Round 1 was definitely one for the optimists. Or, if you're a cynic, for the overbidders.

## Board 13. N / All

♠ 9 6 2	♠ Q 7	♠ A K J T 8 4
♥ T 9 8 7	♥ J 6	♥ A K 4 3 2
♦ J 9	♦ A T 8 7 2	♦ K 5
♣ K 5 4 2	♣ A Q J 3	♣ —
	<div> <div>♠ 5 3</div> <div>♥ Q 5</div> <div>♦ Q 6 4 3</div> <div>♣ T 9 8 7 6</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W      E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	

Some people consider the number 13 to be unlucky. It was doubly so for four teams on board 13, since it is also the amount of IMPs they conceded when their opponents bid slam and they didn't.

Five Norths opened 1♦ and all those Easts overcalled 2♦ showing both majors. Three of their partners responded 3♥ and that always led to the making heart slam. The other two responded just 2♥, but one of the Easts still drove to slam, whereas the other pair stopped in 5♥ despite East's club splinter.

The remaining five Norths opened 1NT, either 14-16 or upgraded to 15-17. The East who overcalled 4♠ played there, unsurprisingly and deservedly.

Four Easts bid 2♣ for both majors but none of them got to slam. One also ended in 4♠ when West asked for preference despite the two colours' disparity.

The other three stopped short in 5♥.

Looking at just the EW hands slam is poor, but after North opens, whether 1♦ or 1NT, odds improve - but still far from good, especially with no entry to the West hand. Sharp-eyed readers (Mark Horton's au pair among them no doubt) will have spotted that nobody managed par, which is 7♦X by NS, saving an IMP against six of either major.

The next hand was also a bit of a glass half full or half empty decision. The key to the hand is whether you can hold your losers to one with a trump suit of KQT9852 opposite 63, when you can only lead up to the long suit once.

## Board 14. E / None

♠ A 4	♠ K Q T 9 8 5 2	♠ J 7
♥ Q 9 5 3 2	♥ J	♥ 8 7
♦ 7 6 4 3	♦ J 8 5	♦ A K 9 2
♣ 8 2	♣ A 5	♣ K J T 4 3
	<div> <div>♠ 6 3</div> <div>♥ A K T 6 4</div> <div>♦ Q T</div> <div>♣ Q 9 7 6</div> </div> <div> <div>N</div> <div>W      E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	



In three matches both pairs got to the spade game and made ten tricks, so no swing. In the other two matches one pair bid game and one stopped in 2♠, so here there were 6 IMP swings. Once to the team who bid game, but once, unexpectedly, to the team who bid the partial, when declarer took a first round finesse in spades to go one off in game.

#### Board 19. S / EW

♠ A K 4		
♥ A 6 4		
♦ Q T 9 7 5		
♣ Q 9		
♠ Q 9 8 7 6 3		♠ 2
♥ K 9 2		♥ T
♦ —		♦ K J 8 6 4 2
♣ A K 3 2		♣ J T 8 6 4
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W      E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
	♠ J T 5	
	♥ Q J 8 7 5 3	
	♦ A 3	
	♣ 7 5	

There are some people who, facing an unpassed partner, refuse to open a weak two with three cards in the other major. Only one of our Souths passed, while one, doubtless with an eye on the vulnerability, went all in with 3♥. I was watching Donner versus Edmonds, where the action was fairly typical:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
S Rimstedt	Radin	Grue	Wooldridge
—	—	—	2♥
2♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		



Zach Grossack

When 4♥ came back round to Sandra Rimstedt she started thinking. And thinking. Watching on BBO you could tell that her fingers were itching to bid. And so, knowing that partner was short in hearts, and thus with good chances of a fit in one of her suits, she gathered up her optimism, put on her rose-coloured glasses, and doubled. And was doubtless mightily relieved when Grue offered a choice of minors.

North cashed the ♥A and ♠K, then switched to the ♦5. More thought from Sandra, who got it right playing the jack. With the spades breaking the only real issue was whether she could find the ♣Q. She did, to score her game.

No swing here when Zach Grossack also made 5♣, but from East.

In the Alt Stars versus Zorlu match both Wests were in 5♣X, but here there was a 5 IMP-swing, when Aluf made an over-trick after the ♥A lead was followed by an immediate diamond switch.





Alison Wilson

## Board 20. W / All

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

The cards lie beautifully for EW, so much so that they can go plus in all five denominations, with eight tricks in each of NT, ♠ and ♦. In hearts they can make game, but why be content with that when you can make a small slam in clubs. So what contracts did our heroes and heroines find? And how did they all fare?

5♣ by W =  
2♥ by E +2      10 IMPs

3NT by W +1  
3NT by W -1      12 IMPs

3NT by W +1  
5♣ by W -1      12 IMPs

3♣ by E =  
3♣ by W +3      2 IMPs

3♣ by E +1  
2NT by W =      no swing

I'll leave you with this thought. Before you decide whether the glass is half full or half empty, ask yourself whether the glass is simply too big.

In Israel vs. Alpert both Souths went one down in 4♥. For Wilson, Alison Wilson played and made 3♥ gaining 5 against Lise Blaagestad's 4♥-1.

While for Hinze Kay Enfield made nine tricks for 140 in 3♥, losing 7 when Berkowitz made ten in 4♥, when West tried to cash a third round of clubs, giving a ruff and diamond sluff.

The final board of the match saw five different contracts, producing some bigger swings again. It was another one for the optimists - or, where it wasn't, it should have been.



# Victim of the Day

## Jessica Larsson

by Christina Lund Madsen



*Where are you from, where do you live and what is your civil status?*

- Sweden, Norway, in love.

*How have you spent your time during corona?*

- Staying mostly at home, trying to keep active being outdoors, and desperately trying to learn how to focus when playing bridge online. I have managed to make one trip back home to Sweden, but it is a bit of a hassle, since one needs to be in quarantine for ten days when arriving back in Norway. Overall I'm very lucky, my closest friends and family have not been sick.

*Give us a short summary of your education and job situation in the past and currently.*

- I have a bachelor in Media and Communication and a master in Conservation Biology. I worked some years within Marketing and SEO before I was an IT and Mgmt consultant for almost ten years. I got sick of it, dropped everything and moved to Australia for two years to take a master in something completely different. I was planning on doing a PHD there as well, but then I met Geir, and now I only play bridge.

*What were you like as a child?*

- I was a nerd. Can't see much has changed.

*Who is your role model?*

- There are many, but I do especially look up to my brother and my parents.

*How did you begin to play bridge and what was ?*

- At the kitchen table one Christmas, I believe at age 13/14. We always played a lot of cards and me and my brother begged my parents and my grandmother to teach us what they were playing.

*Gunn Helness' question for you: How did bridge become so important?*

- I asked myself that question many times. I quit bridge twice for studies, and yet I never seem to be able to keep away. I guess the easy answer is, I just love it, and I don't want to be without it.

*Describe the feeling winning the women's World Championships in Wuhan last year.*

- Truly amazing win - especially with my best friends in the world.

*Tell us the short (and decent) version of your love story with Geir Helgemo.*

- It all happened very fast. We were supposed to play some tournament and Geir invited me to his home a day or two before. Like the champ he is, he played out a perfect scenario with hiking, home-made dinners, jacuzzi and star gazing. And anyone who knows he's smile knows that I never stood a chance.

*Your relatively short relationship has presented more challenges than most couples face in a life time (the doping case, prison because of the tax case).*

*How has it been for you personally?*



- Stormy times we called them. It was hard then, but I hardly think of it anymore. And there were bonuses, you really learned who your friends are.

*What was the best and worst part about Geir being locked away?*

- The best was that I got to practice to drive. I just got my driver's license. The worst was to be apart.

*How does your life look ten years from now (and are you married?)?*

- Of course we are married... haha. We live in Norway, and hopefully we get to travel the world again to play bridge and meet our friends.

*You lived in Australia for a while. What made you move there and what was the best you brought back with you?*

- See answer under education. I learned so much, had amazing lecturers and supervisors. And I met some amazing people working with environmental projects all over the world who I got to see some extraordinary nature and wildlife with, memories I will keep for life.

*Now you live in Norway. How has it been leaving Sweden and is there a big difference? You are all Vikings anyway.*

- I think my move from the inner city of Stockholm to a more quiet area outside Trondheim in Norway is the biggest change, rather than the countries themselves, like you said, are very similar.

*If you could change something about your past, what would it be?*

Jessica in the wild Norwegian nature



- Hehe, perhaps insisted on growth hormones so I got to be a little bit taller?

*Who would you partner, kiss, kill between Michael Barel, Thomas Bessis and Per-Ola Cullin?*

- I have played with Michael, so I guess he will be the one I will have to try to kill at the bridge table. I can't kiss Thomas, because the idea of getting Irene upset scares me, so I would kindly ask him to partner me in an event. Per-Ola was of course always the easy choice for a kiss.

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

Ida Grönkvist: Who is the better bridge player, you or your brother?



# Discover the new **BeBRIDGE** ♥♦♦♦ by Le Bridgeur

**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.

## Why digital?

Always have your magazine at your fingertips.  
**You can read BeBRIDGE wherever you are.**  
No need to worry about the size of the font as  
**you can zoom in on every page.**

## Want to join the club?

It couldn't be simpler to subscribe:

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





[www.bid72.com](http://www.bid72.com) / [info@bid72.com](mailto:info@bid72.com)

# big 5

These are the 5 pillars of bid72, the premium app on bridge bidding.  
Download bid72 from the App Store or Google Play and you are good to go.

## 1. Random hands [www.bid72.com/random-boards/](http://www.bid72.com/random-boards/)

- ✓ unlimited number of interesting boards, with and without competitive bidding
- ✓ ranking and rating
- ✓ fit for any system at any level

*3 weeks free trial (no strings attached)*

*1 month USD 3.49 / 12 months USD 28.99*

## 2. Topic boards [www.bid72.com/topics/](http://www.bid72.com/topics/)

- ✓ a set of Topic boards is dedicated to a specific piece of bridge theory
- ✓ each set contains appr. 100 boards ready to bid in-app
- ✓ 3 levels of themes: starter/club/expert
- ✓ popular themes: Jacoby Transfers, Check-Back Stayman, Gazzilli
- ✓ sheets with preferred methods designed by the world's best players and teachers

*1 Topic costs 100 Bid Points*

*100 Bid Points USD 1.99/ 500 Bid Points USD 6.99/ 1000 Bid Points USD 12.99*

## 3. Bidding contests [www.bid72.com/bidding-contest/](http://www.bid72.com/bidding-contest/)

- ✓ for bridgeclubs and communities
- ✓ each month 8 new boards in-app
- ✓ results and handrecords

*free service for users with a **bid72** account (even in trial)*

## 4. Create your own boards [www.bid72.com/create-and-upload-your-own-boards/](http://www.bid72.com/create-and-upload-your-own-boards/)

- ✓ create and upload your own boards to **bid72**
- ✓ for players, teachers and coaches to practice themed boards with partners and classes

*check the link above for (low) costs*

## 5. Basic education [www.bid72.com/teachers/](http://www.bid72.com/teachers/)

- ✓ sets of practice boards for starters
- ✓ relevant powerpoints presentations
- ✓ feedback to teachers
- ✓ teachers follow their own rithm and plan

*free service for students with **bid72** account (even in trial)*

*discount for teachers on their **bid72** account*