THE ALT MIXED TEAMS V

OCTOBER 19 - 23 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

You win some and lose some

Alpert is still in the lead after round 7, but a loss to Donner in round 6 meant Wilson and Silla closed the gap and are not only 4 and 5 VPs away respectively with a 15 VP gap to 4th place. However halfway through round 8, Alpert is leading Wilson by 50-11 and look certain to qualify for the semifinals.

Surprisingly the winners from only two weeks ago, Turkish Zorlu, are second to last and have no hope of qualifying. But what would you prefer: To be second in all events or win one and be last in he next?

Carlos Hoyos had the remark of yesterday when Alpert played Donner. He had 10 balanced opposite his partner's 13 balanced (though 6233), and 9 tricks were available in NT.

Janice Seamon-Molson: How do we get to 3NT?

Carlos Hoyos: You have to call me.

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

Thursday October 22

10:00 EDT / 16:00 CET RR 8 - 2nd half

(10 boards)

11:45 EDT / 17:45 CET RR 9 (20 boards)

15:00 EDT / 21:00 CET Semifinal 1 / 2

(16 boards)

Leaderboard

Link to results

Alt Mixed Results

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

Alt.bridgeresults.org



Ranking after round 7				
rk	team	VPs		
1	ALPERT	97.29		
2	WILSON	93.04		
3	SILLA	92.44		
4	<u></u>	77.22		
5	DONNER	69.64		
6	ALT STARS	68.74		
7	EDMONDS	63.98		
8	UNICORNS	51.88		
9	ZORLU	48.36		
10	HINZE	37.41		

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

Results

RR 6

TbI	Home Team	Visiting Team	nBrd	IMF	s	Ac	lj	VF	s
IDI	nome leam	visiting learn	пыч	Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	DONNER	HINZE	20	<u>30</u>	<u>43</u>			6.80	13.20
2	UNICORNS	ALPERT	20	33	<u>51</u>			5.80	14.20
3	<u> ISRAEL</u>	ALT STARS	20	<u>30</u>	<u>45</u>			6.39	13.61
4	WILSON	<u>ZORLU</u>	20	63	<u>34</u>			16.08	3.92
<u>5</u>	₩ SILLA	<u>EDMONDS</u>	20	44	32			12.98	7.02

RR 7

TbI	Home Team	Visiting Team	nBrd	IMF	s	Ac	lj	VF	s
וטו	Tolle leali	visiting learn	пыч	Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	DONNER	ALPERT	20	<u>25</u>	<u>6</u>			14.39	5.61
2	HINZE	ALT STARS	20	20	<u>54</u>			3.20	16.80
3	UNICORNS	WILSON	20	<u>19</u>	<u>39</u>			5.42	14.58
4	<u>EDMONDS</u>	<u> </u>	20	<u>35</u>	<u>49</u>			6.59	13.41
<u>5</u>	<u>CORLU</u>	SILLA	20	<u>16</u>	<u>50</u>			3.20	16.80

Draw R9

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	DONNER	WILSON
2	ALT STARS	EDMONDS
3	ALPERT	₩ SILLA
4	C ZORLU	HINZE
5	UNICORNS	<u> </u>

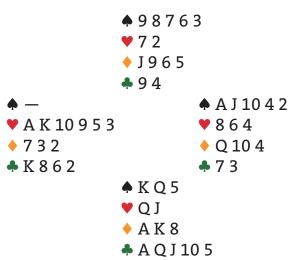
Nap Hands



By Mark Horton

With a bevy of World Champions on display, and a match that you felt Unicorns had to do well in against the leaders, this was what the racing correspondents might describe as a 'nap' selection. In case you didn't know, the term nap is derived from the card game Napoleon which, like bridge, is all about taking tricks.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	Myers	Alpert	Brock
_	_	_	2♣*
2♥	Pass	3♥	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

2♣ Weak with ♦ or strong

The weak option meant that South had to double 3♥ -otherwise she would have been happy to pass. The defenders took two hearts, a club and three spades for two down, -100.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Berkowitz	Hoyos	Campanile	S. Molson
_	_	_	2♣
2♥	Dble*	2♠	All Pass

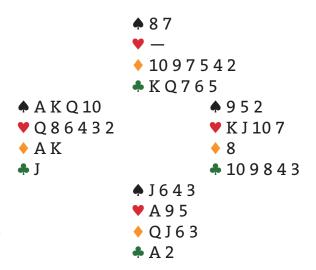
Dble Hoping it suggested a worthless hand

This deal attracted my attention because it highlighted what I believe might be a method that has become forgotten.

North hoped his double described a poor hand (I think Reese may have been the first to suggest this idea) and once the bidding was over South let us everyone in on a secret - she had never had that auction before.

2♠ was hopeless and finished two down,-200 representing a loss of 7 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.





WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	Myers	Alpert	Brock
1♥	Pass	3♣*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♥	All Pass		

3♣ Bergen raise, 6-10 with 4♥ 4NT RKCB

5♣ 1/4 key cards

Only three players overcalled 2NT (two came in later with 4NT!). Coming in late may be easier on the opponents, as they have had a chance to limit their hands, but if you bid immediately with North's cards partner might expect a bit more given the vulnerability.

5♥ made on the nose.

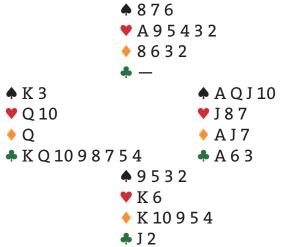
Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Berkowitz	Hoyos	Campanile	S. Molson
1♥	2NT*	4♥	4NT*
6♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

2NT Minors 4NT Competitive

North led the ♣K and declarer lost to the missing aces, -200 and 13 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	Myers	Alpert	Brock
_	3♥	Dble	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

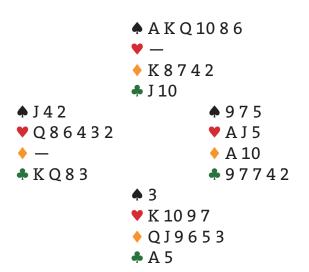
North led the ♥A but switched to a diamond, so +620.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Berkowitz	Hoyos	Campanile	S. Molson
_	2♦*	2NT	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

- 2♦ 1 Major 3♠ Forces 3NT
- 4♦ Clubs 4NT Accepts clubs with 0/3 KC

Beautiful bidding, but North led the ♥A and continued the suit, a fast one down and 12 IMPs away.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	Myers	Alpert	Brock
_	_	Pass	1.
1♥	4♥*	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

4♥ Splinter

Would you have bid 5♣ with the South hand?

No need, when partner bid one for the road.



West led the \clubsuit K, but declarer could win and dispose of a club on the second round of spades, +920.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Berkowitz	Hoyos	Campanile	S. Molson
_	_	Pass	1♦
2♥	2♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	4♥*	Pass	5♦

4♥ Cue bid

All Pass

The South hand is modest, but you can make a case for bidding 5♣ over 4♥ (well, I can). +420 gave Unicorns 11 badly needed IMPs.

A slam missing two aces cost Alpert another 11 IMPs and then both teams missed a reasonable 6♦ with ♠1053 ♥K104 ♦ J4 ♣J10754 opposite ♠AK ♥A986 ♦ AKQ987 ♣A - West held ♥Q3, so the five pairs who bid it made in comfort.

Having trailed 6-42 at the half, Unicorns had taken the second session 27-9 - but that meant they lost 5.80-14.20 and were probably out of contention. Meanwhile Alpert continued their winning streak.

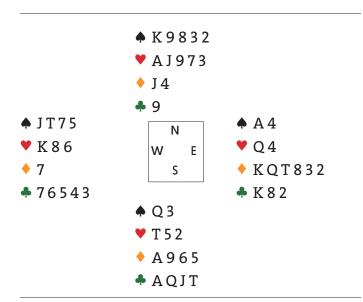
Bid Well and Play Well



By Martin Cantor

Mark Horton's article in yesterday's Bulletin referred to Rixi Markus' advice to 'bid boldly, play safely'. My tip is in my title - if only I could follow my own advice. Let's see whether the Mixed Alters can. I watched Silla versus Edmonds in Round 6.

Board 11. S / None



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Z Grossack	Saelensminde	Botta	Fuglestad
_	_	_	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	2 🔷	Pass
Pass	2♥	3♦	Pass
Pass	3♥	All Pass	

1♣ 2+ 1♥ Spades

I was surprised that Fuglestad did not bid the game, since you have at least a 50 % chance of covering partner's minor suit losers, and an honour in each of his majors. I expect she would have bid it if vulnerable.

Botta led the obvious diamond honour and Saelensminde, being in only 3, chose to spurn the chance of discarding the losing diamond via a successful club finesse, preferring to set about the spades.

The •Q was taken by the ace, a diamond was cashed, and a club to the ace followed. Spade to the king and spade ruffed, East discarding a diamond, then a diamond ruffed, West discarding the •J. Now declarer could simply play a winning spade, but ruff it with the ten, to secure nine tricks.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Blaagestad	Wooldridge	Eide	Edmonds
_	_	_	1.
Pass	14	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	2 🔷	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2♣ relay to 2♦, either invitational or to play

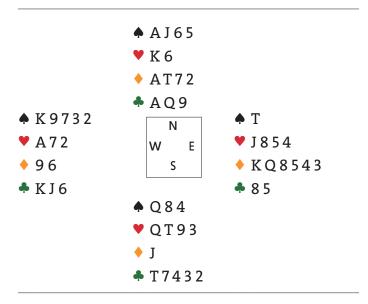
Another controlled auction, but here Edmonds accepted the invitation.

Wooldridge won the diamond ace, came to hand with the trump ace and finessed in clubs for the diamond discard. Now he ruffed a club to hand, played a spade to the queen and ducked a spade, bringing down

Eide's ace. The diamond continuation was ruffed, and the spade king was ruffed with the queen. Then another diamond, ruffed again, Blagestad discarding the spade jack. Declarer's ♥J made dummy high, but a spade ruffed with the ten would also have worked.

A nice little oddity on this board: 7 IMPs changed hands in each of the five matches, according to whether game was bid or not.

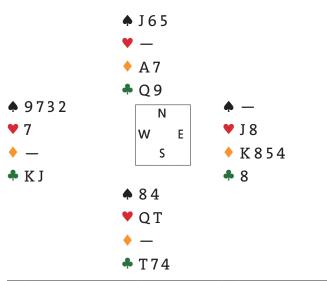
Board 13. N / All



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Z Grossack	Saelensminde	Botta	Fuglestad
_	1.	Pass	1♥
1♠	2NT	All Pass	

NS reached a normal-looking spot - as did four other pairs. The ♠T was covered all round, the ♠A cashed, then the ♥K, ducked, followed by the heart finesse, taken by West's ace. The ♦6 went to East's queen, and the ♦3 returned to the 9 and 10, dummy discarding a club. That left declarer on play in this position, with all sorts of endplay and stepping stone possibilities:



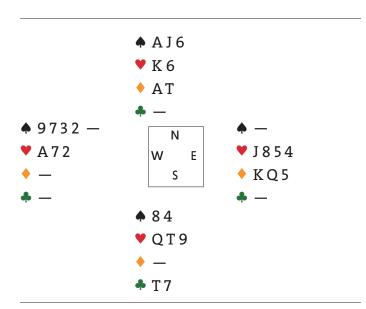


Declarer cashed the ◆A (club and heart from South and West) and exited with the ♣Q. West took his king and jack, and did his best to scramble communications by playing the ♠9, but declarer could win with the jack, cross to the 8, and cash his ♥Q for eight tricks.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Blaagestad	Wooldridge	Eide	Edmonds
_	1.	Pass	1♥
14	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Unless there is something not immediately apparent about their system, Jodi Edmonds' raise to game suggests either that she has very rose-tinted glasses, or that she credits Joel Wooldridge with superhero powers. And right she was, since GIB tells us that there are always nine tricks.

Joel's superhero powers were perhaps not tested to their full extent when the opening lead was the ◆3, giving him both a trick and an entry. The club finesse won and the suit was cleared, East discarding a diamond. West played her diamond through to her partner's 8 (heart from dummy), and he finally played her suit, 10-Q-K-5. Declarer now needed all but one of the remaining tricks, but West was hopelessly endplayed:

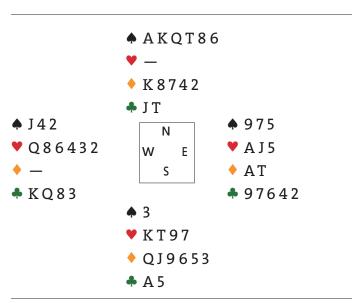


When she cashed her ♥A, the king was unblocked and the contract was claimed.



You can play through the various lines on various leads yourselves, but basically whatever they do the defenders are going to be endplayed into conceding too many tricks. Making nine isn't easy, and the only other to do so was van Prooijen, but he was only in 2NT. One North seems to have been rather careless - or exceptionally unlucky - going one down in 1NT.

Board 14. E / None





Bidding slams accurately with a void is never easy, with or without science, and the opponents interfering doesn't usually make it any easier.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Z Grossack	Saelensminde	Botta	Fuglestad
_	_	Pass	1♦
1♥	4♥*	Pass	5♦
Pass	6 ♦	All Pass	

North has a difficult decision after the overcall. He has powerful spades, huge support for opener's suit, and a void in opponents' suit. But he doesn't want to reveal to much; all he wants to know is how many trump honours South has, and whether she has a first or second round club control.

He chose 4♥, alerted as void in the suit (but not Exclusion Blackwood), doubtless hoping to hear about a club control.

Fuglestad, looking at her minimum and long and poorly placed hearts, reasonably chose not to show either black suit control. But Saelensminde gave himself one for the road anyway, and after the *K lead Fuglestad was able to claim after two rounds of spades held up.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Blaagestad	Wooldridge	Eide	Edmonds
_	_	Pass	1.
1♥	1♠	2♥	Pass
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

If there was a bit of bid and hope about Saelensminde's action, there was perhaps even more of it here.

Yes, on the auction you think they might well lead a heart, but if they are listening they know you are ready for it.

The opening leadof the **\Pi**K was the same and so were the first three tricks, though the claim was delayed for a few more.

Silla won the match 44-32 = 12.98-7.02.

The board may have been flat in this match, but it wasn't elsewhere, with only one other 6♦ contract.

4♠ was played three times, gaining 11 in one match when their opponents forgot to check whether they had the ace of trumps and bid to 7♠.

The top score, beating the 920 par for 6♦, went to van Prooijen and Wilson for their 5♦XX+1, netting them 1000 (and 11 IMPs against 4♠+2).

Victim of the Day Ida Grönkvist

by Christina Lund Madsen



Where are you from, where do you live, how old are you and would you call yourself single?

- I'm 25 years old and grew up in a town called Örebro in Sweden. Nowadays I live in Stockholm. I normally don't go around and call myself anything. ⑤ Single is not a completely inaccurate way of describing me, though.

Tell us about your education and your current job situation.

- I graduated from law school last year and have been working for the past year as a law clerk in the Stockholm District Court. Corona has kept us busier than ever, filing people for bankruptcy, divorcing couples and handling all sorts of money related disputes. Crime didn't decline with the economy either, sadly.

How were you introduced to bridge?

- Our parents taught me and my brother to play when we were 11 and 13 during a family vacation. They have played as long as I can remember, mom was often away on tournaments playing on the Swedish women's team when we were kids. Traumatized by our dad's cooking we figured it was better to learn the game and get out there ourselves!

Which moment has been the most unforgettable in your bridge life?



- There have been many good ones, but winning the Venice Cup last year was a kind of milestone.

Tell us your best story from a bridge tournament (not bridge related).

- The craziest things happen during junior tournaments -- some which shouldn't be printed in bulletins... One hilarious story was from the Junior Europeans in Wroclaw Poland where we had some of our national team shirts stolen after we hung them out to dry outside the hostel. Some day later we were walking down the street in the city and saw a bearded (and very drunk) polish man wearing one of our shirts. He tried to hide in a liquor store when he saw his "team mates" approaching... In the end we got the shirt back, and he was one bottle of vodka richer.



How many books have you read?

- Somewhere in the high hundreds probably. When I was about 10 I read 100 books in a year. Now I'm happy if I manage 30.

Which place is highest on your list for your next vacation after corona and why?

- My next vacation will probably be wherever the first live bridge tournament is arranged, haha. My dream place to travel is the Inca trail in Peru but that will have to wait still.

Which experience in your life has so far made the biggest impression on you?

- Falling in love.

What do you think about Swedish men compared to men from other countries?

- Like comparing daisies to every other flower on the planet... Nothing wrong with daisies, but there are other flowers out there more to my taste!

Name the three things most important to you.

- Friends, kindness and conversation.

What is the most politically incorrect you have ever done?

- Haha, probably something I did in your company! But usually it's my mouth that gets me in trouble. I can make quite inappropriate jokes if I don't watch my tongue.

What do you want the most? To be a successful attorney or a successful bridge professional?

- Most of all I want to do something meaningful and be happy... I guess I could be of more help to people by being a successful lawyer, and bridge will be meaningful to me no matter if I'm successful or not (even if winning of course makes it more fun). I'd have to choose the former.

Jessica Larsson's question for you: Who is the better bridge player, your or your brother Mikael?

- That's a tough question, and a frequently asked one too. Some days my brother is the biggest idiot I know. Other days I'm the one you're embarrassed to admit you're related to (or maybe that's always...). Can we call it a draw?

Speaking of your brother, how would he describe you in three words?

- Annoying, funny, competitive.

I happen to know you don't have any tattoos... but if you were to get one, what would it say?

- I'm assuming I'd be very drunk if it happened so it would be something completely random. How about a can of tomato soup on the small of the back?

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Ola Rimstedt, Joe Grue and Massimiliano di Franco?

- I know Massimiliano didn't dare to kiss me in his interview so I'll show him how it's done. I would love nothing better than to partner Joe -- except maybe for killing Ola. Very easy choices to be honest.

Who do you think should be the next victim in the bulletin?



Tell us something you would like to know about this person.

- I want to know what Zach Grossack would have done if he had known about the pandemic three months prior to the rest of the world.

Alt Tournaments in 2020

16 - 20	November 2020	Minor Alt Invitational IV
16 - 19	November 2020	TampAlt Qualification
14 - 18	December 2020	TampAlt - Main event (32 world class teams)
19 - 21	December 2020	Alt supports CAT - Felines to the rescue (entry fees go to the CAT Legal Defense Fund)

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

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Bebridgeur 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.

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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!



big 5

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