

THE ALT MIXED TEAMS V

OCTOBER 19 - 23 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

Alt for Alpert

She could have been on the front page every day of this week, leading the the event from day one, and yesterday Claire Alpert and her team (Carlos Hoyos, Leonardo Fruscolini, Janice Seamon-Molson and Alfredo Versace) could claim the title as the winner of the fifth Alt Mixed Teams.

Two semi-finals close down to the last board saw Alpert defeat Wilson and Silla defeat Israel to face each other in the final.

This week has provided brilliancies as well as disasters, and the kibitzers enjoy noth. Thank you for the entertainment.

We are back November 16-20 with the Minor Alt Invitational.



Claire Alpert
Photo: WBF

Qualification for TampAlt



December 14-18 we have our end of season Major Alt, TampAlt, with room for 32 teams. Many top teams have already registered, but you don't have to be a world star to have a chance.



We have a qualification November 16-19 and at least the top 2 teams qualify. Read more at alt.bridgeresults.org

	Final		
	1	2	Total
ALPERT	49	46	95.1
SILLA	49	22	71



Results

SEMIFINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 ALPERT	10.1	25	35.1	52	87.1
 WILSON		30	30	28	58

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 SILLA	6.1	42	48.1	19	67.1
 ISRAEL		5	5	55	60

FINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 ALPERT	0.1	49	49.1	46	95.1
 SILLA		49	49	22	71

Link to results

[Alt Mixed Results](#)

Link to previous and future Alts &
bulletins

Alt.bridgeresults.org



At the Double

By Mark Horton



Thanks to the carry over Alpert led Wilson 35.1-30.0 in their semifinal. No need for either side to panic but a wild set of deals is always welcome.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Wolpert	Hoyos	Kranyak	S. Molson
—	—	4♦	Pass
4♥	5♣	Pass	6♣
Dble	All Pass		

Here's a question for you - what does West's double mean? Is West asking partner to lead a diamond or a heart? The former would have torpedoed this particular ship immediately, but when East led the ♥7 declarer was in the game.

He ruffed, crossed to the ♣A, ruffed a heart with the ♣8 and played the ♣Q, West winning as East pitched the ♦2.

Declarer ruffed the return of the ♥A and drew the outstanding trump. Declarer cashed his remaining trumps throwing diamonds from dummy played a diamond to the jack and ace and a spade to the ace. He knew West was 2-8-0-3. Was her last spade the queen?

Declarer's next card is hard to explain - he played the ♦Q. That made East's king the setting trick.

To answer the question I posed earlier, perceived wisdom is that the double asks partner to lead their suit (see Bill Root's Modern Bridge Conventions).

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	v. Prooijen	Alpert	Wilson
—	—	3♦	3♠
4♥	4♠	All Pass	

West led the ♥A and declarer ruffed in dummy, came to hand with a club and played the ♦6, West ruffing and exiting with the ♠10 for the jack, queen and king. Declarer pitched a diamond on the ♥K, ruffed a heart and played the ♣Q.

When East ruffed that (discarding saves a trick) declarer overruffed, drew the last trump and could endplay East in diamonds for +650 and 13 IMPs which saw the lead change hands.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Wolpert	Hoyos	Kranyak	S. Molson
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	2♠*
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦	Dble	All Pass

2♠ Diamond support

There were three tricks to lose, -100.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	v. Prooijen	Alpert	Wilson
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

3♦ 9-11, 4♠

South led the ♥2 and declarer put up dummy's ten, finishing with ten tricks and 11 IMPs, regaining the lead.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Wolpert	Hoyos	Kranyak	S. Molson
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Dble	3♣	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	5♦
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

East led the ♠3 and West won with the ace tried to cash the ♥A. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♣A, crossed to dummy with a spade and took the club finesse, +1370.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	v. Prooijen	Alpert	Wilson
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3♣ Game forcing

3♠ Looking for the best game

East led the ♥10 and when it held and declarer discarded a club it was easy to take the first five tricks, -100 and 16 IMPs.

Alpert edged the next three deals 11-10 and then came:

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Wolpert	Hoyos	Kranyak	S. Molson
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Once North had bid 4♣ it NS were in trouble unless they could stop in 4NT, which is unlikely. Perhaps with such a weak suit South should prefer a rebid of 2♠.

West led the ♥4 and the defenders played three rounds of the suit, East ruffing with the ♣9 which meant the contract was two down, -200.



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	v. Prooijen	Alpert	Wilson
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♠10 and declarer elected to win with dummy's ace and played a heart to the queen. West ducked that and got his reward when declarer played a second heart. East could win and play the ♠Q. Declarer ducked, won the next spade and played a club, but West could win and cash out for one down.

Having won the first spade in dummy, declarer needed to play a club when the ♥Q held, then she would have picked up 13 IMPs rather than the three that changed hands.

That was the last chance for Wilson and Alpert advanced to the final to face Silla,

Norwegian Heights

by Christina Lund Madsen



After two tight semifinals Alpert and Silla maintained the excitement by ending the first segment of the final with the score 49.1-49 (with a 0.1 carry-over for Alpert as winner of the RR).

People born in Norway are not scared of heights, illustrated well at the bridge table. Ann Karin Fuglestad and Erik Sælensminde are particularly adventurous:

Board 12. West / NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fuglestad	Hoyos	Sælensminde	S. Molson
1NT*	Pass	2♣*	Dble
2♥	Dble*	3♥	Dble
All Pass			

1NT showed 8-12, 2♣ is non-forcing Stayman, South's first double shows points (not clubs, as the attentive reader might notice) and North's double is take-out.

East's 3♥-bid seems innocent at first sight. However after North's double East knows the risk of hearts breaking badly and holding good spades and too many points for the opponents to make game, competing for the partscore (or perhaps trying to push the opponents overboard) was hiking a level too high.

It's a dirty job, but Molson had to do double.

North led the ♣9 to dummy's ten and West overtook with the ace to take a losing spade finesse. Back came the ♦2, West playing the queen and North winning, returning the jack, Molson playing the 5, hoping her partner would play a club, but North continued with a third round of diamonds, ruffed by West. She played a spade to the ace and ruffed a spade, and now played a club to the queen, South getting her ruff.

Now a diamond to the triple void followed, West ruffing with the 6, North the ten and declarer playing dummy's king. She could escape for down 3 by playing a spade from dummy, but when she optimistically played a heart hoping for them to break, she was down four, -800.

At the other table East-West landed in 2♣ down 4 for -200, but mercifully undoubled, so -200 meant 12 IMPs for Alpert.

After 14 boards Alpert was up 49-25, but Silla picked up 12 IMPs on the last two boards.

On the last board the Norwegian hikers reached a very good slam on a 5-2-fit.

Board 16. West / EW Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fuglestad	Hoyos	Sælensminde	S. Molson
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♦	All Pass		

South led the ♠A and with diamonds nor worse than 4-2, East could claim.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fruscolini	H. Eide	Alpert	Blaagestad
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass

East-West stayed out of 6NT, which was right since there were only 11 tricks, but still a loss of 12 IMPs to be tied at the half.



Carlos Hoyos

The Norwegians' lineup was unchanged, but for Alpert Alfredo Versace entered.

On board 2 the Norwegians went climbing again and fell off a cliff.

Board 2. East / NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fuglestad	Hoyos	Sælensminde	S. Molson
		1♦	2♣
2♠*	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Dble	4♠	Dble
5♦	Dble	Pass	Pass
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

West alerted 2♠ as showing 5+ hearts, but as we can see East took it as natural. One of them is wrong and I am guessing the guy.

North, knowing about the misunderstanding and facing a partner who made a vulnerable overcall, saw his chance to swing the axe. West tried desperately to find a safe landing, but with the evil split there was no such and North-South did not cease their Norwegian wood-chopping.

North led the ♣J, ducked, and now cashed the ♦A and gave South a ruff with her lonely heart.

South cashed the ♣A, North pitching his spade, and a club ruff followed. North played the ♦J to dummy's king, South and West pitching spades. Declarer played the ♠Q, ducked by South and ruffed by North, who exited with a diamond.

Though West could finesse the ♥Q, she was stuck in dummy on the second turn and could only play a spade, allowing North to ruff with stiff queen.

No discount on the defence meant down 5 for -1100.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	H. Eide	Alpert	Blaagestad
		1♦	1♠
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

A more peaceful auction at this table. Interestingly, South chose to overcall 1♠ where Seamon Molson chose 2♣ at the other table.

This meant South could make the surprise lead of the ♣3 when EW reached 3NT. Sadly partner never returned her suit.

Alpert won the ♣K and played the ♠Q, covered by South and dummy's ace. Knowing the spade finesse is on, it is better to play hearts first due to the communication issues. A heart to the king and a finesse to the queen followed and Alpert must have been happy to see a heart returned, North endplayed with his 11 cards in the red suits.

And when a diamond to the king held, Alpert was even more cheerful than normally, which says a lot.

She scored 9 tricks for plus 400 and 17 IMPs.

Board 15. South / NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fuglestad	Hoyos	Sælensminde	S. Molson
			Pass
1NT*	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥	Dble	All Pass

1NT again showed 8-12, though they looked like 6 hcp to me by first look. East saw this as his chance to avenge previous doubles by North-South, but it was hardly the bloodbath he dreamt about.

Fuglestad made the nice lead of the ♠6 ducked to East, who continued with the queen, won by the ace. Declarer ducked a club to West, who continued with a spade, but that gave declarer a road to make on a cross-ruff. She ruffed, played a club to the ace, but now she played a heart. East can rise with the ace and play another heart, but when he ducked and Molson played the king, she was back to making. But instead of ruffing diamonds, she played the ♥Q, either playing for both hearts and clubs to break or to play safe for down 1 not to risk West overruffing with the ♥J she likely held.

In with the ♥A, East exited with a low diamond, and despite South winning that, she could only ruff two of her remaining diamonds for -200.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	H. Eide	Alpert	Blaagestad
			Pass
Pass	1♣	1♦	1♥
Dble	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Versace led the ♦5 and Blaagestad did well to pitch a spade and Alpert equally do by switching to ♠Q after winning the ♦A.



Declarer won with dummy's ace and now snuck a heart past East home to her diamonds, pitching spades from dummy to reenter with the ♣A to lead a second heart to her hand, claiming when the suit was 2-2.

The 13 IMPs it earned Silla only had cosmetic effect on the result, since Alpert had built up a solid lead to win the second set by 46-22 and 95.1-71 in total.

Congratulations to Alpert (whose name I'm tempted to spell Altpert) and better luck next time to the Norwegians.

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