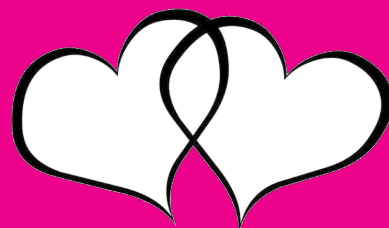


MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS



ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS • MMT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG

What a Wonderful Day

The debut of the Monthly Mixed Teams went just as we hoped for; all line-ups were miraculously made in time, we had no breakdown or players from the US Westcoast who overslept, and all participants seemed to enjoy themselves, though some more than others.

Grant Thornton Iceland were among the teams having fun, in the lead with 46.25 VPs followed by Koda, Uli and Parker.

As we all know, this early in a Swiss the outcome is impossible to predict, so we hope all players will give it their best again today. The top 8 is within reach for everyone.



Sveinn Runar Eiriksson from Grant Thornton Iceland

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 December 8

10:30 EST / 16:30 CET – Round 4 (14 boards)

12:50 EST / 18:50 CET – Round 5 (14 boards)

15:10 EST / 21:10 CET – Round 6 (14 boards)

Draw Round 4

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	 <u>GRANT THORNTON ICELAND</u>	 <u>ULI</u>
2	 <u>KODA</u>	 <u>PARKER</u>
3	 <u>ISRASWE</u>	 <u>SANTA-TOMTE ALLIANCE</u>
4	 <u>SWEDEN MIXED</u>	 <u>KOEPEL</u>
5	 <u>EPSILON</u>	 <u>MINITER</u>
6	 <u>FLYING BURROS</u>	 <u>BULLDOGS</u>
7	 <u>ALPERT</u>	 <u>AUSTERLITZ</u>
8	 <u>ISRAEL</u>	 <u>KLEOPATRA</u>
9	 <u>PENFOLD</u>	 <u>ABISCO</u>
10	 <u>MAUBERQUEZ</u>	 <u>MEDIUM RARE</u>

Format

Ten rounds of swiss (14 boards/match). The top 8 teams qualify for the quarter-finals on Thursday.

Besides round 1, all draws will be based on the result of the previous match.

See the CoC in this bulletin or on mmt.bridgeresults.org/ for more info.

Results

Future events
mmt.bridgeresults.org

Results after Round 3

Use of Zoom

Using Zoom with one of your opponents is not mandatory in this event. Yet we encourage it for social reasons. It is much more like live bridge and makes it easier to ask questions to your screenmate about system and carding.

At the start of a round, North can send a zoom link to East and West a zoom link to South or the other way around. As with screens, it is always North-East and South-West interacting.

Email addresses aren't needed - you can simply send a private message via BBO to your screenmate with a link. It's very easy and enjoyable.

Nothing can replace live bridge, but let's strive for the best bridge we can until we are back at the tables.

[Link to Zoom](#)

Ranking after round 3		
rk	team	VPs
1	 GRANT THORNTON ICELAND	46.25
2	 KODA	40.61
3	 ULI	39.95
4	 PARKER	39.30
5	 ISRASWE	36.77
6	 SANTA-TOMTE ALLIANCE	35.08
7	 SWEDEN MIXED	34.77
8	 KOEPEL	34.14
9	 EPSILON	30.00
10	 MINITER	29.94
11	 FLYING BURROS	29.76
12	 BULLDOGS	29.06
13	 ALPERT	27.38
14	 AUSTERLITZ	25.93
15	 ISRAEL	25.38
16	 PENFOLD	22.60
17	 KLEOPATRA	22.56
18	 MAUBERQUEZ	22.47
19	 ABISCO	18.34
20	 MEDIUM RARE	9.71

Victim of the Day

Denis Dobrin

by Christina Lund Madsen



You know him as the invisible voice who calls you to the tables and reminds you to do your lineup. But who is our director Denis Dobrin? You might be in for a surprise or two.

What is your age, where do you come from, where do you live, who is your closest family?

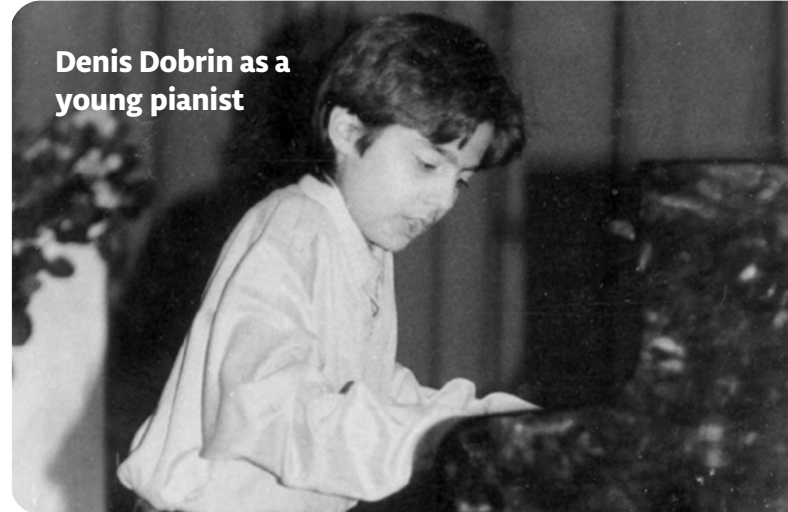
- I am 37 years old. I was born in a relatively small town in Yaroslavl region of Russia (at that time – USSR) about 320 km from Moscow. Currently live in Moscow. I am happily married and have two kids: son (7 years old) and daughter (1 year old).

Tell us about your background and professional status.

- I am a professional piano player by education, but by the will of fate I haven't worked a day in my life as a professional performer or a teacher of piano. I am currently working in a real estate business and doing certain things in the area of bridge: in particular, I am a board member of the Russian Bridge Federation and also I am cooperating with many tournament organizers all over the world being invited to their events as a TD.

How has it been living in Russia during corona and how do you think the country has handled the pandemic?

- In spring we were in a complete (almost) lockdown and that was really tough mainly because of the kids with unlimited level of energy being locked in one



Denis Dobrin as a young pianist

place for a few months. Now life is quite normal. There are certain restrictions but nothing similar to what we had in spring. Sometimes we are brave even to organize some face-to-face bridge events. At the moment it is difficult to say how the country is handling the pandemic as the numbers are high and they are still growing. We will see.

What do you remember from being a little boy growing up in the Soviet Union and is Russia much different today?

- There are many different (and even opposite) opinions about the Soviet Union and what kind of country it was. What I can tell you is that for children it certainly wasn't that bad. I remember that my family (actually my mother) had a very low income (like many others – it is true) but I didn't have problems getting a proper education, medicine, going to a music school, sports, summer camp etc. Basically many things were given to children. Today Russia is completely different.



Denis Dobrin - our TD and the genius behind our amazing result software.

It gives much more opportunities, also for children. But many of them available only if the parents can afford. That is of course my personal impression about this specific topic. But what is common in “both” countries – it is my motherland, so I just love it.

How do you think the Russians today are affected by the country’s history?

- They don’t play bridge! Because card games of any type were forbidden for many years in our country. We have bridge players, but our federation is a small vegetable shop compared to what it could be if the reactions of many people (especially the parents) when they are told that bridge is a card game were not so negative. But we are working on this, step by step.

Tell us about your past as a pianist.

- Actually I am a pianist. I have never earned money by playing or teaching piano, but so what? ☺

Why did you not pursue a career as pianist?

- Life consists of a million decisions you have to make and at some point I had to make my choice taking into account all the circumstances. So, I made the decision.

How did you become involved in bridge?

- One of my friends introduced bridge to me when I was about to move to Moscow in order to start my studies in the Russian Academy of Music. I just fell in love with bridge; nothing less, nothing more.

How did you end up as an acclaimed EBL-director?

- There is no miracle behind this, but hard work and much experience. I started organizing and directing bridge events when I was 16, so it is already a 20-year journey. And at some point I was very lucky to meet Anton Osipov who became my closest friend and also a colleague (*Osipov is also assisting the MMT when necessary/CLM*) and we did a lot of events together being excited and full of enthusiasm to improve things and discuss the cases like players discuss the hands. As for the official international title, I got it only a few years ago.

As a TD, how often do you wish you were playing instead?

- Every time I am directing. It is a joke of course, but sometimes yes.

What is the funniest episode you ever experienced as a TD?

- You probably won’t believe me but I don’t have such an episode in my memory.

The TD job – if done properly – is a bit more complicated than fun and I treat everything that happens more as an issue to be solved rather than fun.

Tell us something very few people know about you.

- I can't dance. I can't sing. I can't swim.

With so many abilities, how would you spend the rest of your life if you could choose anything?

- Travelling. But perhaps it is just my inner voice speaking on my behalf after a year of pandemic.

What is your greatest weakness?

- Kindness.

Which three character traits are for you the most important in a person?

- Honesty, decency, keeping a word.

What are your hopes for the future of the bridge world?

- Very trivial: face-to-face bridge to be restarted as soon as possible. The online bridge can stay; I have absolutely nothing against it. But real bridge is real bridge; it is much more than just a great game.

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Sjoert Brink, Christina Lund Madsen and Boye Brogeland?

- This is by far the easiest question. I like women, so I would kiss Christina. I can't kill Boye as the bridge world would never forgive me killing the Sheriff. So, Sjoert... I hope you will understand.

You can find a demonstration of Denis' piano talents a late night after a long day as director [on this link](#).



The Monthly Mixed Teams send a heartfelt thank you to Claire Alpert and Francisco Bernal for their generous donation to get us started with this project. Your hearts are as big as your smiles.

Playing like Helgemo

Highlights from R2 & R3

by Christina Lund Madsen



We have already been blessed with plenty of disasters and brilliancies. It is always fun for at least two people when someone goes for 2200.

In today's article we focus on the brilliancies. This board from round 2 presented an interesting play and defensive problem.

Board 11. S / None

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

Most tables went down in 3NT and four tables played in partscores. Ted Greenberg and Jenny Ryman made the contract with a little help from the defence, but Michael Barel found the winning line.

Valerie Sauvage led the ♥6 to the jack and king. Barel cashed 5 clubs on which North pitched first the ♦T, next two spades. South pitched two hearts and one spade. Because of the discards Barel guessed North's shape to be 3532, so he played a

spade to the ace, removing North's exit card, and played a heart to North, end-played in diamonds.

There is a way to beat the contract; South has to keep all four hearts and get in on the ♥7 to play a diamond through declarer, but nobody found that defense.

Three players, Julien Bernard, Brian Senior and Yaniv Zack, found the brilliant lead of the ♥A in the hope of finding a heart spot in dummy. That left West helpless.

In round 3 there was a slam in three potential denominations; spades, diamonds and NT. In diamonds and NT the challenge was right-siding the contract and in 6♠ you had to find the ♠Q.



Julien Bernard

In our top match between Koda and Grant Thornton Iceland Josh Donn-Sheri Winestock managed to get 6♦ rightsided by coincidence.

Board 11. S / None

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Niv	Donn	Eiriksson	Winestock
			1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

2♣ was artificial gameforce and 2♦ showed 6+ spades. Easy game. 2♥ was asking and 3♣ showed a balanced hand.

Josh was rather content with their system triumph but not as much when we realized it was minus 2 IMPs, when Mina Sawires and Audrey Rennels bid 6NT played by South:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Ivatury	Sawires	Henner	Rennels
			1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Nothing was alerted so I assume North was improvising trying to discover whether South had a heart control.

Six tables went down in slam, eight stayed in game. Stewart Rubenstein-Chris Parker and Jeff Roman-Patricia Herrera also bid 6NT making in the South seat, while Philippe and Benedicte Cronier landed in 6♦ in South when Benedicte true to her French ancestry passed the South hand and her husband opened 2♣ strong - and was blessed with a 2♦ relay.

The match ended with a small victory for GT Iceland 30-25, 11.58-8.42 VPs.

Board 2. E / NS

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fauconnier	Larsson	Halfon	Molberg
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Dble	RD
Pass	Pass	2♣	2♠
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Only two players made 4♠ on this deal from round 3. Four tables stopped in a partscore, and the rest went between 1 and 3 down. One table made it easy for NS by "saving" in 5♣ for -500. As usual we mention no names, but one of the players is the editor of this bulletin.

For Israswe Jessica Larsson made +620 in this manner:

East led the ♣Q, ducked, and continued the suit, ruffed by North, who played the ♥Q, covered by the king and ace. She now guessed correctly by playing a spade to the queen, seeing the jack drop. She continued with the ♥6 to the nine and finessed the ♠T. Knowing West held the ♠K and the ♣A, she now played the ♦J from her hand. Voila!

West still scored a spade trick, but that was it for the defence. +620 and 12 IMPs for Israswe.

Larsson is currently living in Norway with her boyfriend, Geir Helgemo, and it makes you wonder who is the master and who the padawan.

Only one other player made the contract, in a no less impressive way.

Also here East had doubled with the passed hand and West had bid clubs. Betty Levin (I could write B. Levin but if so you



might confuse her with a distant family member) also led the ♣Q, ducked and ruffed the second time followed by the ♥Q covered. Here Kåre Bogø's path parted from Larsson's; he continued with a heart to his ten and East's jack.

East continued with a third round of clubs ruffed by North now down to three trumps.

Bogø played a third round of hearts to dummy's nine and now faced the crucial spade guess. He chose the queen to see the jack, and having the same info from the auction as Larsson, he played the ♦K followed by the jack, covered, scooping the ten.

He continued diamonds, ruffed by West, who exited with the ♣T, but declarer could ruff in dummy and finesse in spades for ten tricks.

Bogø is also Norwegian, so the question is whether Helgemo is actually that brilliant or it is just something they put in the water in Norway.

Eyes on the Prizes

By Mark Horton



The International Bridge Press Association will announce the winners of its annual awards this coming weekend and the race to find candidates for 2021 is already under way. My cunning plan is to get a head start by reporting only those deals with award winning potential.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Preddy	Bernard	Selway	Portal
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	5♠	All Pass

3♣ Splinter
4♦ Cue bid
4♥ Cue bid
4NT RKCB
5♣ 1 key card
5♦ Asking for the ♠Q
5♠ ♣Q, ♠K

What went wrong?

The BBO record offers no explanation for 5♣, but from the explanation for 5♠ it seems clear that East thought 3♣ was a natural bid.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
B Cronier	Senior	P Cronier	Penfold
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

4♣ Splinter
4NT RKCB
5♣ 3 key cards
5NT Grand Slam try

That was +2210 and 17 IMPs.

One other pair stopped in game while 4 of the remaining 18 came to rest in 6♠.



Benedicte Cronier
Photo: Peg Kaplan



Dominique Portal

As is usually the case, breaking Burn's Law resulted in a poor result, 4♠ finishing four down, -400.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
B Cronier	Senior	P Cronier	Penfold
—	—	—	1♠
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

This would make a good lead problem for Alain Levy's column in Be BRIDGE (or perhaps he would consider it to be too easy?).

When South led a spade declarer claimed nine tricks, +600 and 14 IMPs.

When I gave the hand to the au pair she looked at me in surprise before suggesting that the ♥A might be a sensible idea.

7 pairs reached 3NT. Only Lapt Chan found a heart lead - he went with the ♥Q and when partner followed with the nine he continued with the ace and another which proved to be worth 7 IMPs.



Lapt Chan. Photo: Jonathan Steinberg

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Preddy	Bernard	Selway	Portal
—	—	—	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

DISCOVER THE NEW

BeBRIDGE

♥♦♦♦ by Le Bridgeur

THE NOVEMBER ISSUE HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED!



In this issue

The latest, **festive edition of BeBRIDGE** is full of tremendous articles. **Alain Levy** shows you how to handle strong two-suited hands, emphasising the use of reverses and jump shifts. He also highlights **the use of Splinter bids by the opener**. **Wilfred Libbrecht** shows you how to be innovative in the 'sandwich' seat and **the Editor** reports on the **Online ALT events**. Our Experts offer their opinions on **some tricky bidding problems** and **Cinema Club** looks at **the work of the master of Suspense, Alfred Hitchcock**.

With all the regular features and a host of ideas for Christmas,
it's an issue you can't 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!