

MONTHLY INVITATIONAL TEAMS



TOP ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS • MIT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG

The weather, stock market and Covid-vaccines are equally unpredictable. The European Championships are cancelled, the US trials are at least postponed, and we are all expecting the WBF to announce the World Championships will not take place in the late summer as planned. On a good note Lotan Fisher is ready to reconquer the bridge world, so those who enjoy blood sport are looking forward to his first encounter with Bobby Levin.

The ones who simply prefer world class bridge have come to the right place; it is an honour and a privilege to welcome you all to the first Monthly Invitational Teams:



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 April 20

**12:00 Eastern Time / 18:00 CET – Round 1
(20 boards)**

**14:45 Eastern Time / 20:45 CET – Round 2
(20 boards)**

Today's Schedule

Round 1

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
<u>1</u>	 <u>WOLFSON</u>	 <u>NICKELL</u>
<u>2</u>	 <u>GUPTA</u>	 <u>IRELAND</u>
<u>3</u>	 <u>SETTON</u>	 <u>LEVINE</u>
<u>4</u>	 <u>EDMONDS</u>	 <u>BERTHEAU</u>

Round 2

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
<u>1</u>	 <u>IRELAND</u>	 <u>WOLFSON</u>
<u>2</u>	 <u>NICKELL</u>	 <u>LEVINE</u>
<u>3</u>	 <u>GUPTA</u>	 <u>EDMONDS</u>
<u>4</u>	 <u>BERTHEAU</u>	 <u>SETTON</u>

Format

Full Round Robin followed by semifinals for the top-4 teams. Read more in the Conditions of Contest in this bulletin or on the event website.

Results

Event website
mit.bridgeresults.org

Meet your Opponents

by Christina Lund Madsen



We are proud to present a field in the April Invitational Teams resulting in several emails from teams slightly offended not to have been included after having seen the participants.

Since it has been so long since we all saw each other, allow me to summon up who the contestants in this event are:

Nickell is one of the most intimidating names in the bridge world and so cool its owner even adopted Nick as his first name. In an attempt to remain an all-star team rather than an all-senior team, the Nickell team now consists of 3 seniors (despite acting like a junior Bobby Levin belongs to that group) and three young guns, who curiously all have married women who scare the masculinity out of most men.

The best part about having the Nickell team in the event is that we also have Levine. It is like watching Real Madrid against Barcelona, Federer vs. Nadal, Kong vs. Godzilla.

Once upon a time the wet dream of most bridge players was to see Meckstroth-Rodwell against Helgemo-Helness. Mike Levine, appropriately known for his many inventions, united the estranged Nickell-sons with the former felons from Monaco/Norway, who are no less frightening after learning some new tricks in prison.

Speaking of former nationalities, we have the newly adopted Swiss national team (consisting of a Polish and a Dutch pair) playing for someone almost as pretty as Pierre Zimmermann.

For those who wonder if they actually live in Switzerland, we can reveal they have each their apartment in a team building (literally speaking) in Geneva on a floor according to their value for the team. Brink believes he belongs in the penthouse, but that honour belongs to the Helgemo of his generation (maybe even Geir's generation), Michal Klukowski.

Speaking of stars of their generation, it is always funny listing the major names of an event and mention Zia as number 17. Naren Gupta has exploited the Covid-bubble to improve his bridge skills at a speed any junior would envy him in the hands of the great Zia and teammates such as Muller-de Wijs, who are believed to be so pure their statistics and plays are now the benchmark for comparisons with online violators.





Lorenzo Lauria (Setton)

Hilda Setton, who is allegedly a distant neighbour of our other Swiss players, has her usual French charmeurs and for this special occasion she treated herself to some Versace, the best thing ever to come out of Italy. In case anyone dares to disagree, Alfredo has brought Don Lorenzo to send them a scowl Al Pacino would envy him, and that is the end of that conversation, unless you fancy sleeping with the fishes.

Lastly, we have our Irish heroes. They were among the first to accept the invitation, only because they thought they signed up for a live event organized in Copenhagen where it is allowed to drink beers during play. Alas, perhaps that wish will be fulfilled in a not too distant future.

Speaking of online violators, Jeff Wolfson brought his own undercover spy in the innocent shape of Eldad Ginossar, who along with the rest of the players on team Wolfson (not least the captain himself) have hairstyles most of their peers envy them, especially during the past year of Covid.

No tournament without some juniors. Peter Bertheau has surrounded himself by juniors in the shape of Dan Zagorin and the young israelis Oren Toledano and Ami Zamir (they might not technically be juniors, but since the WBF keep raising the age limit they surely fit into one of the youth categories).

Simon Hult is so seasoned he can hardly be considered a junior anymore; the same cannot be said for his partner Gunnar Hallberg. Despite being the first in our event eligible for a Covid-vaccine, he bids like a 16-year old who just got lucky for the first time.



Tom Hanlon (Ireland)

Teams / Players / Nicknames

BERTHEAU

Peter Bertheau (pbertheau)
Gunnar Hallberg (gunnarhall)
Simon Hult (hultahult)
Oren Toledano (orentol)
Daniel Zagorin (pez007)
Ami Zamir (zamir1)

EDMONDS

Sjoert Brink (sjoertbr)
Bas Drijver (basdr)
Jodi Edmonds (jodi e)
Piotr Gawrys (badaud4)
Zachary Grossack (germs345)
Michal Klukowski (skrzat96)
Joel Wooldridge (firechief)

GUPTA

Simon De Wijs (sm1)
David Gold (dagold)
Naren Gupta (nareng)
Daniel Korbel (dank)
Zia Mahmood (zia)
Bauke Muller (beukertje)

IRELAND

Leslie Amoils (amoils)
Grainne Barton (bartong)
John Carroll (coppers)
Nick FitzGibbon (nickfg1)
Tom Hanlon (kinder1)
Hugh McGann (hmg2)
Adam Mesbur (amesbur)
Mark Moran (markpm)

LEVINE

Geir Helgemo (micelle45)
Tor Helness (helstokk)
Mike Levine (mikerl)
Jeff Meckstroth (jjmeck)
Bob Morris (bobat3333)
Eric Rodwell (bumportant)
Eddie Wold (womoco)

NICKELL

Ifti Baqai (ifti)
Mitch Dunitz (dunitz)
Eric Greco (greco)
Geoff Hampson (ghampson)
Ralph Katz (ralphk)
Bobby Levin (levin)
Nick Nickell (fnickell)
Steve Weinstein (stevo)

SETTON

Thomas Bessis (malpaluche)
Pierre Franceschetti (gewd)
Lorenzo Lauria (llorenzo)
Hilda Setton (ldase)
Alfredo Versace (nevaio)
Frederic Volcker (fred92130)

WOLFSON

David Berkowitz (Mikeyb)
Billy Cohen (billycohen)
Gary Cohler (gcohler)
Steve Garner (garner)
Eldad Ginossar (eldad)
Dror Padon (drorp)
Jeff Wolfson (jwolfson)



Nick Nickell and
Bobby Levin

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Conditions of Contest • April Invitational Teams

1. The 2021 April Invitational Teams will be hosted in Bridge Base Online from 20th to 24th of April, 2021.

2. All participants are bound by the regulations within this document.

Participation is by personal invitation to the team captain and all players must be accepted by the tournament organiser.

Teams can consist of 4 – 10 players. If necessary, more players can be added. There are no minimum play requirements.

At the moment teams and/or players are registered, they automatically agree to play according to the conditions in this document.

3. Schedule of play:

Tuesday, 20 April 2021

12:00 Eastern Time / 18:00 CET – Round 1 (20 boards)

14:45 Eastern Time / 20:45 CET – Round 2 (20 boards)

Wednesday, 21 April 2021

10:00 Eastern Time / 16:00 CET – Round 3 (20 boards)

12:45 Eastern Time / 18:45 CET – Round 4 (20 boards)

Thursday, 22 April 2021

10:00 Eastern Time / 16:00 CET – Round 5 (20 boards)

12:45 Eastern Time / 18:45 CET – Round 6 (20 boards)

Friday, 23 April 2021

11:00 Eastern Time / 17:00 CET – Round 7 (20 boards)

Semifinals Friday 23 April

14:00 Eastern Time / 20:00 CET – Semifinal. Segment 1 (16 boards)

16:10 Eastern Time / 22:10 CET – Semifinal. Segment 2 (16 boards)

Saturday, 24 April 2021 - Final

11:00 Eastern Time / 17:00 CET – Final. Segment 1 (14 boards)

After 10 minutes break – Final Segment 2 (14 boards)

After 10 minutes break – Final Segment 3 (14 boards)

4. Qualifying Stage

The qualifying stage will be played in the form of a “Round Robin” and will consist of 140 boards played in 7 matches of 20 boards each.

The results of each match shall be converted into Victory Points in accordance with the appropriate WBF IMP/VP scales

A team will receive 12 VP in case of a BYE.

In order to determine the grouping for the knockout stage, a tie between two teams will be broken by the result of the match between those two teams. If there is still a tie, the IMP quotient of all matches will be used to break the tie.

The top 4 teams from the qualifying stage will advance to the knockout stage.

5. Knockout Stage

The team placed 1st in the Round Robin gets to choose the opponent for the semi-final from the teams placed 3th – 4th in the Round Robin.

Semifinal will be played over 32 boards, 2 separate segments of 16 boards each.

Final will be played over 42 boards, 3 separate segments of 14 boards each.

There will be the following carry over:
In the semifinal no. 1 – 2 get a carry over of 10.1 – 6.1 IMP respectively.
In the final the higher ranked teams in the Round Robin get a carry over of 0.1 IMP as a tiebreaker.

6. Line-Up

In the Round Robin qualifying stage the lineup change is possible after 10 boards provided that no player would change the compass direction for the second half of the match. In other words it is possible to enter new players as a substitution of the existing players but not possible for the existing players to switch the table.

In the semifinal, change of the line-up is possible after 16 boards with no restriction (separate segments).

In the final, change of the line-up is possible after 14 boards with no restriction (separate segments).

In the Round Robin qualifying stage the captains submit their line up without knowing the line-up of their opponents (“blind line-up”).

In the semifinal the higher ranked teams in the Round Robin may select any one of the two segments in which to have seating rights and the opponents then have seating rights in the other segment.

In the final the higher ranked teams in the Round Robin may select any of the three segments in which to have seating rights and the opponents then have seating rights in the other two segments OR they may pass this right over; in other words, let the opponents take first choice of one segment leaving them with the remaining two segments.

In the Round Robin qualifying stage the teams are expected to submit their line-up as soon as practical but in any case not later than 30 minutes before the start of the round.

Teams who infringe this regulation will be subject to VP penalties according to this scale:

1st occasion – warning;
2nd and any subsequent occasion – 0.5 VP penalty.

The line-up must be submitted through the line-up web utility. All captains will be provided with the respective link and the password.

7. Running the matches

All players involved must be online and logged in to Bridge Base Online 10 minutes before the start of the round at the latest. Players must have their official name on their BBO profile. Private isn't allowed. Teams who infringe this regulation will be subject to VP penalties according to this scale:

1st occasion – warning;
2nd and any subsequent occasion – 0.5 VP penalty for each match for each player without official name on BBO profile.

The Tournament Director will create the tables and send invitations to the players in accordance with the submitted line-ups. Players are requested to accept the invitation immediately upon receipt.

All tables will play duplicated boards (same boards for every team).

The table settings will allow kibitzers but forbid communication between players and kibitzers. This decision can at any time be revoked by the tournament organiser.

Barometer scoring will be OFF. The scores are only visible (for the players) after the last board has been played. Kibitzers can see the scores during the match.

Undo and claiming:
The tournament organiser encourages players to accept the opponent's undo in obvious misclick situations during the bidding as well as play.

In case a request for undo is refused, a player gets a "challenge" whereby the TD can be summoned to the table. Play must be shut down till the TD arrives. The TD will assess the situation, and if he believes the undo is justified by an obvious misclick the undo has to be accepted by the opponents.

Players alert their own bids. Bids must be alerted before entering the bids. If you don't alert before making your bid, your opponent may think that your bid is natural, make his/her bid, then see the Alert and legitimately ask for an undo in case the information changes his/her perspectives.

If players explain bids via chat they should set the recipients to Opponents, not Table, so that only opponents see the explanation not partner. The best way is to explain the bids via the BBO alert mechanism.

Players may not consult their own system card and use any aids to their memory or calculation or technique between the commencement of the auction and the end of play.

If players experience highly suspicious plays, we encourage you to send a report to the organizers at mmt@bridgeresults.org. We will not reveal your name as source.

Players are expected to finish 20 boards within 2 hours 30 minutes; 16 boards within 2 hours; 14 boards within 1 hour 45 minutes.

Conditions of Contest • April Invitational Teams

The Tournament Director may remove unplayed boards if in his opinion a delay in finishing the match in the allotted time would interfere with the smooth running of the competition.

8. Request of a TD ruling

The tournament organiser strongly encourages participants to play in the most respectful way. Any player can summon the Director to the table in case of irregularities.

The time for a request for a TD ruling expires 30 minutes after the end of the match. All requests will be decided by a qualified Director (if appropriate - in consultation with other directors and/or world class players); no further appeal will be possible after the TD's decision.

To submit protests, you should send email to: mmt@bridgere-sults.org

9. These Regulations may be amended and augmented at the discretion of the organizing committee if circumstances so warrant so as to ensure the smooth, efficient and enjoyable execution of the events.

Although the Monthly Invitational Teams are not aligned with any bridge organization, we take ethical violations seriously and report to Eric Laurant from the WBF Investigation committee if our experts and statisticians find ground to suspect a pair/player is violating the rules of bridge through self-kibitzing or illegal communication with partner or teammates.

10. The WBF Victory Points scale for 20 boards:

IMP	VP	
0	10.00	10.00
1	10.28	9.72
2	10.55	9.45
3	10.82	9.18
4	11.08	8.92
5	11.34	8.66
6	11.59	8.41
7	11.83	8.17
8	12.07	7.93
9	12.30	7.70
10	12.53	7.47
11	12.76	7.24
12	12.98	7.02
13	13.20	6.80
14	13.41	6.59
15	13.61	6.39
16	13.81	6.19
17	14.01	5.99
18	14.20	5.80
19	14.39	5.61
20	14.58	5.42
21	14.76	5.24
22	14.94	5.06
23	15.11	4.89
24	15.28	4.72
25	15.45	4.55
26	15.61	4.39
27	15.77	4.23
28	15.93	4.07
29	16.08	3.92
30	16.23	3.77
31	16.38	3.62
32	16.52	3.48
33	16.66	3.34
34	16.80	3.20

IMP	VP	
35	16.93	3.07
36	17.06	2.94
37	17.19	2.81
38	17.32	2.68
39	17.44	2.56
40	17.56	2.44
41	17.68	2.32
42	17.79	2.21
43	17.90	2.10
44	18.01	1.99
45	18.12	1.88
46	18.23	1.77
47	18.33	1.67
48	18.43	1.57
49	18.53	1.47
50	18.63	1.37
51	18.73	1.27
52	18.82	1.18
53	18.91	1.09
54	19.00	1.00
55	19.09	0.91
56	19.17	0.83
57	19.25	0.75
58	19.33	0.67
59	19.41	0.59
60	19.49	0.51
61	19.57	0.43
62	19.65	0.35
63	19.72	0.28
64	19.79	0.21
65	19.86	0.14
66	19.93	0.07
67	19.99	0.01
68	20.00	0.00



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