

MONTHLY INVITATIONAL TEAMS



TOP ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS • MIT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG

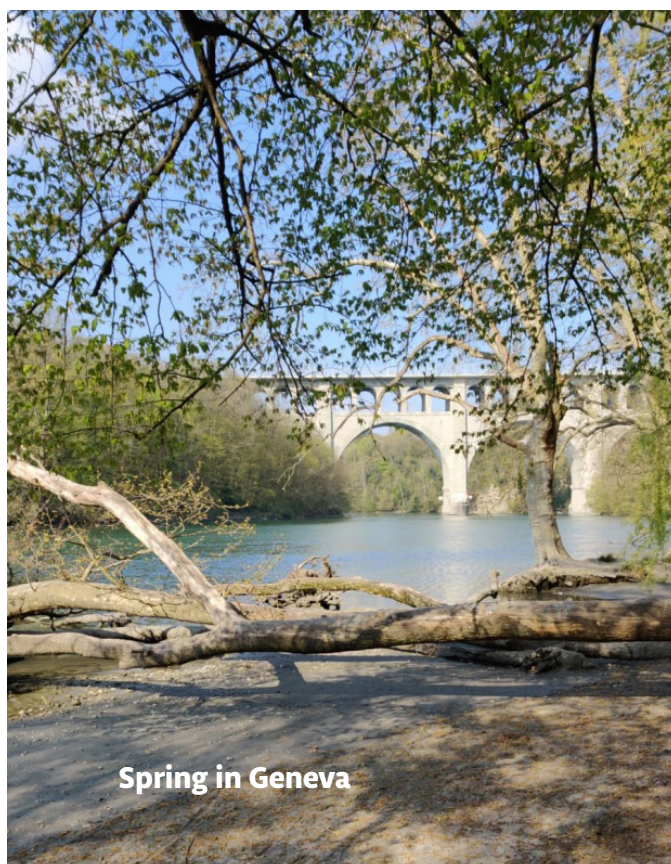
Spring Bridge

The results are as unpredictable as the spring weather. After the first day Ireland has taken a narrow lead ahead of Bertheau, with Levine hanging on in third.

Then we have almost a 12-IMP gap to Wolfson ahead of the rest of the pack.

We can't wait to see what today's Spring Bridge has to offer. Remember to send us hands where either you or your opponent did something worth mentioning - we cannot watch all tables at once.

Victim of the Day is Zia - the man all juniors and women dream of playing with.



Spring in Geneva

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









Wednesday April 21

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

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

Today's Schedule

Round 3

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

Round 4

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

Ranking after round 2

rank	team	#	2	5	3	8	7	1	4	6	VP tot
1	 <u>IRELAND</u>	2	♠			<u>17.44</u>	<u>16.08</u>				33.52
2	 <u>BERTHEAU</u>	5		♥					<u>17.06</u>	<u>15.61</u>	32.67
3	 <u>LEVINE</u>	3			♦			<u>12.98</u>		<u>14.39</u>	27.37
4	 <u>WOLFSON</u>	8	<u>2.56</u>			♣		<u>13.41</u>			15.97
5	 <u>GUPTA</u>	7	<u>3.92</u>				♠		<u>11.08</u>		15.00
6	 <u>NICKELL</u>	1			<u>7.02</u>	<u>6.59</u>		♥			13.61
7	 <u>EDMONDS</u>	4		<u>2.94</u>			<u>8.92</u>		♦		11.86
8	 <u>SETTON</u>	6		<u>4.39</u>	<u>5.61</u>					♣	10.00

Results

Event website
mit.bridgeresults.org

Victim of the Day

Zia Mahmood

by Christina Lund Madsen



What is your age, where are you from, where do you live and how many children and ex-wives do you have (that you are aware of)?

- Mid 70's and feel 20. I have one ex-wife (a lovely lady). Two boys at 17 and 19. My only selflessness and more beautiful than I can describe.

At what age and how were you introduced to bridge?

- Started at around 22. Like most things at that stage chasing a woman and found a life.

How would your life look if you had not become a bridge player?

- Businessman (not clear how successful). A gambler, but unstressed and happy as I always get lucky.

Which is the most memorable experience bridge has given you?

- I appealed to the World's bridge players who generously pooled in money after an earthquake in Pakistan. The result was a school in the mountains of Mansehra near Kashmir - "The World Bridge Campus".

When is the last time you were nervous before a bridge match?

- I rarely get nervous about bridge - only about the welfare of my children or family.



A game is still a game. People are far too uptight when they play. Relax and enjoy.

When and why did you move from Pakistan?

- I moved around age 30. I wanted to play more bridge, enjoy London and do anything but work. I succeeded in all those.



Zia with the only bridgeplayer ever to match him in charisma - Omar Sharif

You live in England, play for the United States and come from Pakistan. In which country does your heart lie?

- I am a patriotic Pakistani by birth. I owe bridge loyalty to the USA who have given me opportunity and success. I love London as my children are here and I am too old for the pace I used to enjoy in my many happy years in New York. Divided loyalties I guess.

Tell us about an early childhood memory.

- I remember playing cricket (I was good) and I remember kissing my first girl. I was 14 - she was 18! I was a guest learning German at her parents' house in Düsseldorf... The deal was I would get the kiss if I beat her at table tennis. I played the game of my life!

How many of the women you have bumped into during your life time do you remember the names of?

- I don't like to discuss liaisons... but will admit I once played an event in Cannes for three days with a very nice lady as kibitzer for the whole event. After it was over she reminded me we had had an affair some 20 years before! I hadn't recognised her, but when she reminded me I did remember her name. But was and still am ashamed of myself...

Redheads, blondes or brunettes?

- Are u joking?!
All 3... preferably at one time!

How would your ex-girlfriends describe you in three words?



What is biggest flaw?

- Selfish... egotist.

What are you most scared of?

- Ill health or unhappiness of a family member.

What is your biggest regret?

- I wish I had had more children at a younger age (I was 56 when I had my first) as the age gap does matter.

What would you like to be remembered for?

- A devoted father.
A fun guy who was honest when he played the game and tried to set a good example especially to the Eastern world who have had less bridge personalities.
A good lover...

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Geir Helgemo, Alfredo Versace and Michal Klukowski? (Nope, you don't get any female options)

- U need to read my new book Bridge my way part 2 where I put my top 10 players... Kiss?

After I've been screwed so many times over the years by these great players I think we are past the kissing stage.

Kill...?

None of these while Bocchi and Big Bang are still around!

Who do you think should be a future victim in the bulletin? Tell us something you would like to know about that person.

- Yourself!

- We enjoyed great restaurants... I was quite selfish... fun while it lasted... rarely lied but bullshitted more than most... and believe one great moment of passion shared is more than a long period of mediocrity.

How would your sons describe you in three words?

- Helicopter dad!

What are you good at apart from bridge?

- Making speeches. Sport (once upon a time). Writing... talking... being relaxed. Able to judge a person accurately after a short time.

DISCOVER THE NEW

BeBRIDGE

♥♦♣♠ by Le Bridgeur

THE MARCH ISSUE HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED!



In this issue

The March 2021 issue of **BeBRIDGE** is a veritable cornucopia. Discover the **Secrets of winning pairs** and read all about the **Transatlantic Seniors Cup**. Find out what it's like to be a **Director** and take our quiz about the **History of bridge**.

David Bird's Abbot is back with the latest instalment of the adventures of his bridge playing monks and **Frankly Speaking** meets **Fernando Lema**. Along with the regular articles that stimulate your 'little grey cells' it's an issue you can't afford to miss.

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Countdown



By Mark Horton

There have been some very strong online events over the past 12 months, but a few weeks ago the Editor sent me a link to the list of teams competing in this Invitational event.

Ever since, I have been ticking off the days on my calendar to the start of play. Take a look at the team lists and try counting the number of world champions taking part.

What would our galaxy of stars make of this deal from the opening round?

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

If NS find their heart fit they might bid 6♥. Absent a club lead I think you would be happy enough to be there.

A club lead is threatening, but the capricious nature of the bridge gods is illustrated by the situation in the diamond suit.

Wolfson v Nickell

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Katz	Wolfson	Nickell	Garner
—	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥*
All Pass			

3♠ Slam try with shortness somewhere
3NT Asks for shortness
4♥ Spade shortness

NS exchanged some potentially useful information, but North had no way of knowing about South's first round controls. Declarer won the diamond lead, drew trumps and played a second diamond, +710.



Steve Garner
Photo: Peg Kaplan

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Ginossar	Weinstein	Cohen	Levin
—	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♥*
All Pass			

An identical sequence with an identical meaning and an identical outcome.

Gupta v Ireland

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Amoils	Gold	Hanlon	Zia
—	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♣*
Dble*	Pass	Pass	Rdbl*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5♥*
All Pass			

- 4♦ 'Milder balanced slam try'
- 4♠ Cue
- 5♣ Cue
- Rdbl First round control
- 5♦ Cue/Last Train
- 5♥ 'Nothing more to say'

NS must have been close to bidding the slam, but they knew a club lead was on the way. Another +710.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	FitzGibbon	Muller	Mesbur
—	1NT	Pass	2♣
2♠	Dble	Pass	3NT
All Pass			



1NT 14-16 Dble Penalties

East led the ♠J and declarer took 12 tricks, +690.

2♠ doubled would not have been much fun for EW. The defenders are sure of eight tricks and if declarer might easily lose more, in the worse scenario finishing with only three tricks, which would mean -1100.

Setton v Levine

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Helness	Franceschetti	Helgemo	Setton
—	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2NT 44 M

Another +710.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	Meckstroth	Lauria	Rodwell
—	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
2♠	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1NT 14-16

East led the ♠J and West pitched three spades on the diamonds. When he pitched another spade on the third heart declarer had the rest, +720.

Edmonds v Bertheau

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zamir	Wooldridge	Toledano	Edmonds
—	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Another regulation +710.



Simon Hult

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brink	Hallberg	Drijver	Hult
—	1NT*	Pass	2♣
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1NT 15-17

3♠ 'No agreement, but I hope shortness'

Here too West parted with too many spades, so +720.

Before we leave this deal its worth mentioning the psychological aspect.

If you are NS it would be all too easy to start worrying about the possibility that your opponents will have bid 6♥ (or on a really bad day 7♥).

Don't! The deal is dead and buried - make sure all your thoughts are focused on the new set of cards you can see on the one that follows.



Jodi Edmonds

Classic

by Christina Lund Madsen



Going off in 3NT while making 6 in a minor is an all-time classic.

Round 2 board 2 was yet another chapter to the story.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Ireland vs. Wolfson

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Berkowitz	Hanlon	Cohler	Carroll
—	—	1♦	1♥
Dble	3♥	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Due to the Irish macho-bidding, East-West reached the safe 5♣. Bad news is they could make 6 on the actual layout. Good news is it was still a 6-IMP pick-up when the Irish at the other table stayed out of game.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fitzgibbon	Ginossar	Mesbur	Cohen
—	—	2NT*	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

2NT Minors, could be very weak

I always envied using the 2NT-opening to show both minors, but here it was hardly a success with East's absolute maximum given the favorable vulnerability.

Nickell vs. Levine

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Helness	Greco	Helgemo	Hampson
—	—	1♦	1♥
Dble	2♦*	Dble*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♦ Good raise to 2♥, less than cue
Dble 3 spades

Despite South's vulnerable overcall and North's "good" heart raise, Helness had enough belief in his declaring skills to consider Qxxx a solid stopper (heaven forbid Helgemo should be declarer).

Down 2 was a push, when Rodwell at the other table as the only one among our stars refrained from overcalling 1♥ over 1♦ and so Baqai-Dunitz landed in 3NT down the same two despite Meckstroth leading a spade rather than a heart. There was plenty of time.

Bertheau vs. Setton

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zamir	Bessis	Toledano	Volcker
—	—	1♦	1♥
Dble	2♦*	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2♦ Heart raise with a top heart

Despite knowing North held a heart honour and his partner's 3♣-bid, Zamir also thought 3NT would lie well in his hands. He declared it as well as Helness for minus 100.

That was a lucky 11 IMPs gain when East at the other table was the main character in another classic "don't make T/O doubles of low-level contracts with a void".

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Setton	Zagorin	Franceschetti	Bertheau
—	—	1♦	1♥
1♠	2♥	Dble*	All Pass

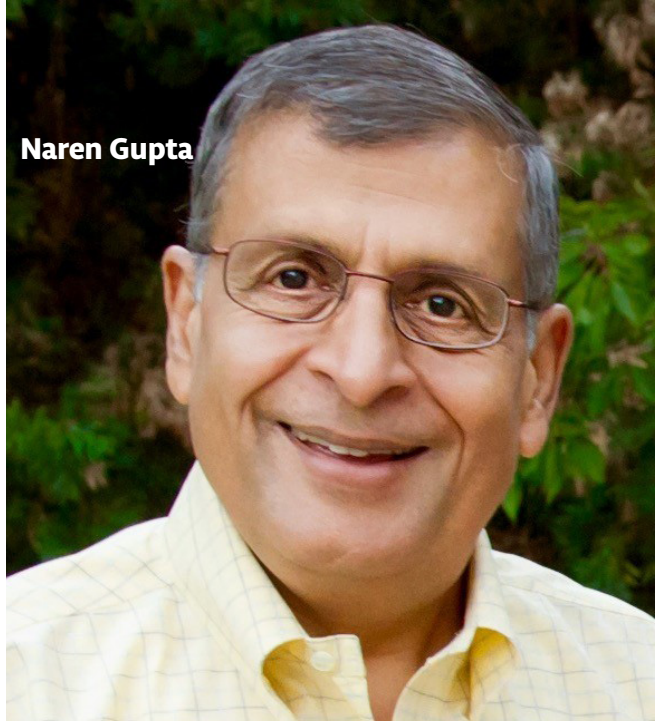
Dble "Not penalty"

It is unclear whether East's double showed extras. I assume 1♠ did not show 5, and East probably tried to get his three spades into play rather than just bidding 3♣, but West looking at vulnerable opponents and a 14-count opposite a partner who opened reasonably decided to pass.

After the unfortunate lead of the ♦A followed by the queen, South managed to scramble together 8 tricks (one club in addition to the five hearts and two diamonds), resulting in +670.

Yet that was not the biggest swing...

Naren Gupta



Gupta vs. Edmonds

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gawrys	de Wijs	Klukowski	Muller
—	—	1♦	1♥
Dble	3♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

A sensible auction, but with the ♣Q off and spades 4-2, the contract was one short.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Korbel	Drijver	Gupta	Brink
—	—	1♦	1♥
Dble	3♥	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Yesterday we started late for the sake of our West Coast-players, and so Naren Gupta was awake and perky by the second round. Brink led the ♥K, ruffed by declarer to play a diamond to the queen, cash the ace and play a club to hand to ruff a diamond, nodding to the friendly opponents. Despite the losing club finesse, it was 920 for Gupta and 14 IMPs.

Alpha Zero Returns

By Mark Horton



The dreaded appearance of the super computer Alpha Zero is still some time away, but when it does appear it may revolutionise the way we think about bridge.

For sure it will be more aggressive in the bidding and it's awesome analytical powers will come in handy at single dummy play and defence.

This deal is from Round 2:

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

You don't have to be Nostradamus to predict that South will open the bidding with some preemptive effort. Then it is not at all unlikely that EW will reach a spade contract. They might even reach the dizzy heights of 6♠.

Let us take a look at our heroes' quests.

Ireland v Wolfson

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Berkowitz	Hanlon	Cohler	Carroll
—	—	—	3♥
Dble	Pass	4♥*	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

South led the ♦10 and when dummy's queen held declarer cashed the ♠AK. When South pitched a heart declarer played a diamond to the nine and a club to the king, but North won and returned the ♥5 leaving declarer a trick short, -100.

If South's 3♥ had been based on a 2-7-1-3 it is not enough to find South with just the ♣A as he can rise with the ♣A and exit with a club. He has to have both club honours.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
FitzGibbon	Ginossar	Mesbur	Cohen
—	—	—	3♥
Dble	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

The play followed an identical pattern save for the fact that when North took the ♣A he exited with the ♠J. No swing.



Tor Helness

Declarer followed the 'standard' path - win the diamond lead and cash two top spades, -100 and a 13 IMP swing.

Gupta v Edmonds

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Klukowski	Muller	Gawrys	Muller
—	—	—	3♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

11 tricks meant +650.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Korbel	Drijver	Gupta	Brink
—	—	—	3♥
Dble	Pass	4♥*	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

This time eleven tricks meant -100 and the loss of 13 IMPs.

Nickell v Levine

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Helness	Greco	Helgemo	Hampson
—	—	—	3♥
Dble	Pass	4♥*	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Well judged by Helness to pass (after all Geir was declaring...)

Here declarer could win the diamond lead with dummy's queen, draw trump and play a diamond to the nine, +650.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dunitz	Meckstroth	Bagai	Rodwell
—	—	—	3♥
Dble	Pass	4♥*	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass



Piotr Gawrys

Bertheau v Setton

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Setton	Zagorin	Franceschetti	Bertheau
—	—	—	3♥
Dble	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Once more the contract was one down, -100.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zamir	Bessis	Toledano	Volker
—	—	—	3♥
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

That was +650 and a third 13 IMP swing.

What do you prefer on the East hand? 4♥, 5♠, 4♠ or 6♠?

I think Alpha Zero would approve of the 3♥ bid chose by South at every table. Whether it would agree with some of the bids chosen subsequently is another matter.

This strikes me as a very tough deal to analyse. Once you have worked out that a 2-2 trump break only helps when South has both club honours you might play a diamond at trick 3 and then play a club. You need to keep in mind that you still need to find South with both club honours. I think that is about a 1 in 8 chance, and I have this strange feeling that Alpha Zero might just take a different view and duck the first round of clubs completely!



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