

MONTHLY INVITATIONAL TEAMS



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Bertheau on Top

Yesterday's front runners Ireland and Bertheau both suffered their first loss in round 3 yesterday, and it seemed that would bring balance to the force.

Yet both teams came back winning in round 4, and Bertheau is now on top of Ireland with Levine tagging along some 10 VPs behind. Yet with three full matches to go, the field is so tight one blitz can turn the table upside down.

In our first match today Ireland and Bertheau will fight for the top spot.

While we wait you can read about Ireland's John Carroll who is the victim of the Day.



Peter Bertheau in his favorite position

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 April 22

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

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

Today's Schedule

Round 5

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

Round 6

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

rank	team	#	5	2	3	7	8	4	1	6	VP tot
1	 <u>BERTHEAU</u>	5			<u>15.11</u>			<u>17.06</u>	<u>6.80</u>	<u>15.61</u>	54.58
2	 <u>IRELAND</u>	2				<u>16.08</u>	<u>17.44</u>	<u>8.17</u>		<u>10.82</u>	52.51
3	 <u>LEVINE</u>	3	<u>4.89</u>				<u>10.82</u>		<u>12.98</u>	<u>14.39</u>	43.08
4	 <u>GUPTA</u>	7		<u>3.92</u>				<u>11.08</u>	<u>14.58</u>	<u>11.83</u>	41.41
5	 <u>WOLFSON</u>	8		<u>2.56</u>	<u>9.18</u>			<u>11.34</u>	<u>13.41</u>		36.49
6	 <u>EDMONDS</u>	4	<u>2.94</u>	<u>11.83</u>		<u>8.92</u>	<u>8.66</u>				32.35
7	 <u>NICKELL</u>	1	<u>13.20</u>		<u>7.02</u>	<u>5.42</u>	<u>6.59</u>				32.23
8	 <u>SETTON</u>	6	<u>4.39</u>	<u>9.18</u>	<u>5.61</u>	<u>8.17</u>					27.35

Results

Event website
mit.bridgeresults.org

Redressing the Balance

By Mark Horton



Having reported a deal from the first days play where no-one bid a slam I thought I would attempt to redress the balance in Round 3:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

6♠ is not much of a contract, but the heart suit is frozen, the ♦A is onside and South has the ♥K and sole control of the diamond suit. At this level anyone reaching 6♠ is going to make it.

Wolfson v Levine

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Helness	Wolfson	Helgemo	Garner
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

4♣ Cue

That looks a great sequence - once East cannot cue bid either red suit West knows going beyond game is dubious.

South led the ♥7 and declarer won with dummy's ace, +650.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Berkowitz	Meckstroth	Cohler	Rodwell
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

4♥ Transfer 5♠ 2 key cards with ♠Q

North led a club and declarer cashed 5 spades and played a diamond to the king and one to the queen, South overtaking with the ♦A to switch to a heart and declarer ran it to the queen, +1430 and 13 IMPs.





2♥ Transfer
Dble 'Takeout'
Pass '2 spades or sometimes one'

South led a club and declarer won with dummy's queen, drew trumps and played a diamond, South taking the ace and exiting with the ♣J. Declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the ♦K, ruffed a diamond and then cashed his remaining trumps squeezing South in the red suits, +680, but a 13 IMP loss.

Nickell v Bertheau

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	Nickell	Hult	Katz
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led a club and after trumps had been drawn he ducked the diamond continuation. North won the second round of the suit with the queen and switched to the ♥J, a good try, but declarer could claim, +680.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Levin	Zagorin	Weinstein	Bertheau
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

4♠ 'Strong balanced slam try'

Ireland v Edmonds

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Klukowski	FitzGibbon	Gawrys	Carroll
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

4♥ Transfer
5NT 2 key cards, ♠Q and 1 king

North led the ♦Q and South took the ace and returned the six. When the king survived declarer drew trumps and South discarded three diamonds, enabling declarer to claim, +1430.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Amoils	Drijver	Hanlon	Brink
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Dble*
Pass*	Pass	4♠	All Pass



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	de Wijs	Lauria	Muller
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

3♥ 'Slam try with 6♠'

3♠ 'Hearts'

North led a trump and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a diamond to the king. When it held he ducked a diamond, won the spade exit with the queen, ruffed a diamond drew trumps and in due course South was squeezed in the red suits, +1430 and 13 IMPs.

Declarer did not try for the overtrick, simply cashing the ♥A when the ♦K held, +650 and an IMP changed hands.

Setton v Gupta

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Korbel	Bessis	Gupta	Volcker
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Declarer found an amusing variation - after drawing trumps he played a diamond to the king and then cashed all his remaining back suit winners, forcing South down to ♥K9 ♦A. He was then thrown in with a diamond to lead away from the ♥K, +680.



Victim of the Day

John Carroll

by Christina Lund Madsen



How old are you, where are you from, what is your age and sexual preference?

- 49, Dublin-Ireland, 50, mornings.

Tell us about your educational background and bridge/work/family life balance?

- I have a computer science background and I've worked in that field most of my life. Between work, bridge and family - I wish there were more hours in the day.

How has life been for you during the past year?

- It has been a surreal year but I've been so busy it's gone by very quickly. I've missed live bridge and seeing everyone and the camaraderie. I've really missed the excitement and anticipation in the lead up to big tournaments - online will never replace that.

How did you begin to play bridge?

- My mum was a great player and a complete bridge addict. She tried unsuccessfully for years to get me to play. Then one time when I was 19, I wanted to borrow her car to go away somewhere. She agreed on condition that I attend bridge lessons at a course that was 6 months away. At that age 6 months away was like retirement planning so I agreed. 6 months passed, lessons started and I was enthralled.



What is your best bridge memory so far (it does not have to be bridge-related)?

- I've so many great memories it would be impossible to pick one. The exhilaration of early successes in local tournaments is hard to beat, representing Ireland for the first time was incredible, travelling to exotic places, Shanghai & Sanya come to mind, meeting fantastic people from all over the world and being a part of our little bridge universe is all fantastic. And then there are all the memories that I forgot the following morning, I bet they were great.

If you could pick any bridge event to attend next week, which would it be and why?

- Easy peasy, Copenhagen Invitational of course.

What interests do you have outside of bridge and beer?

- I've started playing piano again after a 30 year break and I love it. I also have saxophone in my garage which hasn't been taken out of its case in over 30 years, I may one day unleash it on my poor wife and kids.

What were you like as a teenager?

- Fortunate not to get thrown in jail.

How many sit-ups do you do pr. day?

- Does getting out of bed count as one?

If you were to make a Tinder-profile, what would it say?

- Happily married to a beautiful wife with two amazing children.

When in your life were you most happy?

- That's a tough one. The day I got married (in case my wife reads this). The birth of my sons (in case they read it). The summers, when I was a young teenager that went on forever in a maze of mischief are special.

If you could change one thing about your past, what would it be?

- Cesme, Turkey 2013, first night, big party. I would leave a key outside my hotel room



John Carroll with Prince Henrik of Denmark at the Copenhagen Bridge Invitational in 2015. The Prince was a great bridge enthusiast, who sadly passed away three years ago

when I returned home. Then, when I find myself naked on the corridor at 5 am I will use that key to get back in my room.

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Tom Hanlon, Mark Moran and Tommy Garvey?

- I kill Tom because sometimes he just makes it so tempting. I play with Mark because he's a fantastic player with an excellent temperament, and I kiss Tommy Garvey to see if it's true what all the girls say...

Who do you think should be a future victim of mine? Tell us something you would like to know about this person.

- Mark Moran. Is it true that since he got his new Aston Martin that's he's stopped stirring his martinis and started shaking them? How has his impression of bridge changed since his days as a junior versus rejoining as an open player after such a long absence.

DISCOVER THE NEW

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♥♦♣♠ by Le Bridgeur

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Triptych

By Mark Horton



Here are three deals from the third round that might be considered to offer up an interesting point.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

If spades are 3-2 you have 11 top tricks and various chances of scoring a twelfth. The field were content to play in 3NT/4♠ - with one exception:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Versace	de Wijs	Lauria	Muller
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	6♠*
All Pass			

- 1♣ 15+
- 2♦ 9-11 balanced
- 2♥ Artificial ask
- 3♠ 2-4-3-4
- 4♠ Slam invitation
- 4NT RKCB

If East leads a spade, diamond or club declarer will have an easy time, relying on the club suit once he discovers there is a trump loser.

However, East led the ♥3 and when declarer played dummy's two, the ♥K and a trump meant one down. That was a somewhat unlucky way to lose 13 IMPs.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Everyone played in 3NT by West and North always led a heart honour. (When you try this at home you will usually discover that it is dummy that has the ten.)

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Helness	Wolfson	Helgemo	Garner
—	—	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the ♥Q and declarer won with the ace and played two rounds of clubs, overtaking the jack with dummy's queen at which point South won and returned the ♥9. Declarer won with dummy's king and cashed the clubs, discarding three diamonds and the ♥10. North came down ♠10543 ♥8 but a diamond to the ace squeezed him in the majors for +490.

Had South retained the ♥9, the squeeze would not operate. Five defenders returned the ♥9 when in with the ♣A, but Helness was the only declarer to score the extra overtrick, more than one declarer failing to appreciate that their ♥6 had become a winner after North had discarded two hearts.



Les Amoils

If you swap the NS hands then 6NT is unbeatable! Say North leads a heart and then continues with a low heart when in with the ♣A. Declarer wins and cashes three more clubs discarding diamonds. He then plays a diamond to the ace and a spade to the queen and cashes the last club squeezing South in the majors.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

After East opens the bidding South is sure to overcall 4♥. Should West bid 4♠? Is it easier to do that if East has opened 1NT as opposed to 1♣? If West does bid 4♠ should North chance his arm with a double?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Amoils	Drijver	Hanlon	Brink
Pass	Pass	1NT	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

North led his heart and three rounds of the suit enabled him to ruff with the ♠10 after which a diamond switch would have meant three down.

Helgemo-Helness and Hult-Hallberg also bid 4♠ and went down 2, all collecting 10 IMPs when nobody found a double.



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