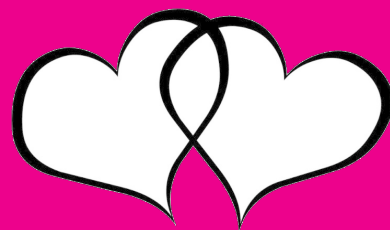


MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS



ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS • MMT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG

Ranking Reshuffled

Once again the organizers managed to plan the event so the Victim of the Day is a member of the team leading the event. The leaderboard was thoroughly reshuffled yesterday, sending our first and second on a trip down the leaderboard, promoting BAMSA, Alpert and Israden to the top 3.

Today we meet professor Samantha Punch from team BAMSA. BAMSA is a sociology project on bridge. Professor Punch has interviewed 52 bridge players, among them participants in the January Mixed Teams, one of them Zach Grossack, whom we quote:

"...all the good players I know are tough to play against, they're fast, they're moving, they're unreadable."

We assume he is talking about the MMT-field.

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.

Eva Gunnarsson from Sweden Mixed took this picture of a beautiful winter dawn from her balcony in Göteborg.



Today's Schedule





Wednesday January 13

10:30 EST / 16:30 CET – Round 7 (14 boards)

12:50 EST / 18:50 CET – Round 8 (14 boards)

15:10 EST / 21:10 CET – Round 9 (14 boards)

Draw Round 4

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	 <u>BAMSA</u>	 <u>ROBINSON</u>
2	 <u>ALPERT</u>	 <u>ISRADEN</u>
3	 <u>SWEDEN MIXED</u>	 <u>BEETLECATS</u>
4	 <u>TESS</u>	 <u>AUSTERLITZ</u>
5	 <u>LEFT COAST</u>	 <u>PARKER</u>
6	 <u>JUST SIPPIN</u>	 <u>KLEOPATRA</u>
7	 <u>IMPEACHER SQUAD</u>	 <u>WILSON</u>
8	 <u>DREAMLAND</u>	 <u>NEW ENGLANDERS</u>
9	 <u>TURKISH NATIONAL MIXED TEAM</u>	 <u>MEDIUM RARE</u>












Convention Cards

It is not mandatory to upload convention cards for this event. However we ask you to prepare a few sentences to inform opponents of your basic system and carding at the beginning of each match, especially if you play something unusual to allow them to discuss their defense briefly. Please alert all bids that may come as a surprise to the opponents. Remember we all come from different countries and bridge cultures.

Results

Future events
mmt.bridgeresults.org

Results after Round 3

1	 BAMSA	78.00	10	 AUSTERLITZ	59.97
2	 ALPERT	72.40	11	 KLEOPATRA	57.40
3	 ISRADEN	71.96	12	 PARKER	57.17
4	 SWEDEN MIXED	71.76	13	 IMPEACHER SQUAD	56.10
5	 ROBINSON	71.20	14	 DREAMLAND	52.68
6	 TESS	70.79	15	 TURKISH NATIONAL MIXED TEAM	47.18
7	 BEETLECATS	63.44	16	 MEDIUM RARE	46.95
8	 LEFT COAST	63.32	17	 WILSON	42.08
9	 JUST SIPPIN	59.99	18	 NEW ENGLANDERS	37.61

Format

Ten rounds of swiss (14 boards/match). The top 8 teams qualify for the quarterfinals on Thursday. See the CoC on mmt.bridgeresults.org for more info.

Monthly Mixed Teams in 2021

8 - 12 February	February Mixed Teams	Registration
8 - 12 March	St. Louis Mixed Teams	Registration
22 - 26 March	March Mixed Teams	Registration
12 - 16 April	April Mixed Teams	
17 - 21 May	May Mixed Teams	
7 - 11 June	June Mixed Teams	

See the full calendar for 2021 at mmt.bridgeresults.org

Bad Timing

By Mark Horton



On this deal from Round 4, atypical play at both tables proved to be expensive:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

East led the ♠K and continued with the five, declarer ruffing in dummy, playing a club to the ace, cashing the ♥K, crossing to dummy with a diamond, pitching a diamond on the ♥A and ruffing a diamond high. When East pitched a heart declarer ruffed a spade and ruffed another diamond, but East overruffed this one with the ♣K and exited with a club, leaving declarer a trick short, -100 but still 13 IMPs to the good!

Crossing to the ♣A was fine, but declarer then needed to ruff a spade. Then she cashes the ♦A, comes to hand with a heart and plays her remaining spade. East can score the ♣K, but declarer has the rest.

Another (better) line is to cross to the ♥K at trick three, ruff a spade, pitch a diamond

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Uran	Edmonds	Ovesen	Wooldridge
—	—	1♥	2♦
4♥	5♣	Dble	Pass
5♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

South led the ♠4 and declarer won with the ace and played the ♥2. When South put up the ace, the appearance of the king ended the defence's interest in the deal, +850.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hurd	Lund Madsen	S Rimstedt	Sokol
—	—	1♥	2♦
4♥	5♣	Dble	All Pass



Jo-Arne Ovesen was pleasantly surprised to make his contract

on the ♥A, cash the ♦A and ruff a diamond high (even the ace works). East can over-ruff, but declarer has the rest.

If East switches to a diamond at trick two, then declarer goes up with dummy's ace, unblocks the ♥K, ruffs a spade, pitches a diamond on the ♥A and ruffs a diamond with one of the ♣QJ10. Once again East will only score the ♣K.

By now you will have realised that the only defence is for East to lead a diamond at trick one. Then West can win the first spade and cash the ♦K.

Notice that if South is declarer in 5♣ (it happened once) then West has to find an impossible diamond lead, and if declarer then crosses to the ♥K and leads a spade East must duck to allow West to win and play a second diamond for East to ruff. All told, 5♣ was defeated six times - no-one finding a diamond lead.

(Horton was worried if he might be excused from his non-paid job as a writer in this bulletin reporting on the editor's misplay. The reply was that the lazy play deserved a proper bashing and that it saves the editor from her own self-flagellation./CLM)

Who hides behind a Name?

We encourage all players to send photos of themselves, so we can see the face behind the name on the screen. Using Zoom while playing is also a way to do this.

Below we introduce Amy Casanova (cricket75) and Hal Montgomery (phlpdx) from the Left Coast. We wonder how you cannot use Casanova as your BBO-alias, but it was probably taken...



DISCOVER THE NEW

BeBRIDGE

♥♣♦♠ by Le Bridgeur

THE JANUARY ISSUE
HAS JUST BEEN
RELEASED!



In this issue

The first 2021 issue of **BeBRIDGE** is packed with outstanding articles. **The Riddle of the Hands** updates you on the race to stamp out online cheating, while **The Online Contact Bridge League** offers an insight into some of the strongest online events. **David Bird's** Abbot is here with the latest instalment of the adventures of his bridge playing monks and **Alain Lévy** takes a penetrating look at 2 over one game forcing. Add to those all the regular articles that will maximise your bridge playing skills and fine tune your bidding systems it's an issue you must have.

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Victim of the Day

Samantha Punch

by Christina Lund Madsen



Where were you born, where do you live, what is your age and relationship status?

- Kent, England; Stirling, Scotland; 50 (during lockdown); in a relationship with Stephen Peterkin, who is also my partner.

How did you begin to play bridge?

- It was the new hobby I took up to fill the gap after my PhD (in geography, Leeds University). I moved to Scotland for my first job as a researcher whilst I was finishing the PhD during weekends/evenings. But bridge soon became a bigger monster than the PhD had been, and it took over my life. As a late starter, I had a lot of catching up to do (my excuse for still bidding like a junior sometimes ☺).

What has been the best bridge has given you so far?

- Bridge has always been about escapism for me. It's always exciting going to a new tournament and losing yourself in the cards.

Tell us about your educational background and current occupation.

- My undergraduate degree was Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies. I didn't do a masters, and moved into social sciences during the PhD which was about rural childhoods in South America. I lived in Bolivia on and off for four years – fascinating country. Now I'm Professor of Sociology at the University of Stirling.

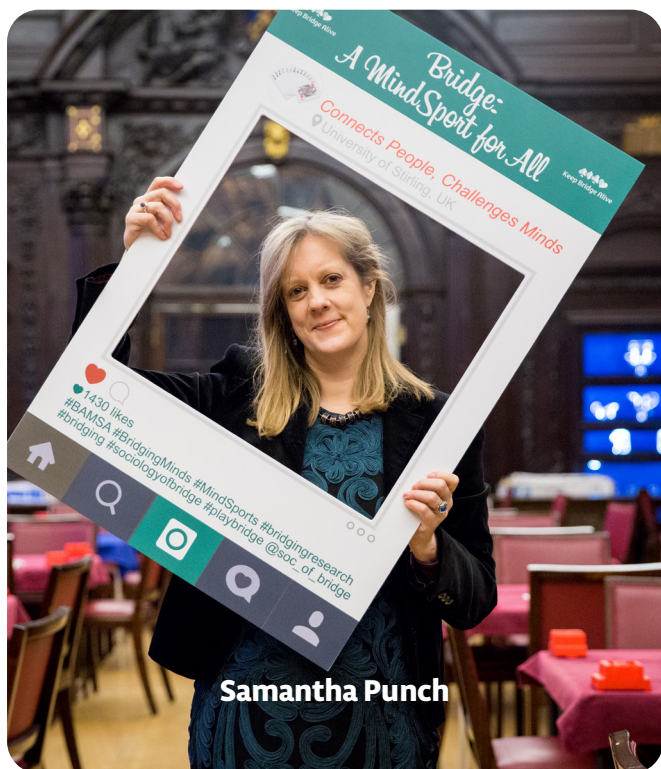
You are behind a sociology project first known as Keep Bridge Alive, and renamed Bridge: A MindSport for All. What is the purpose of the project?

- Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA) is a collaborative research project which explores the lived experiences of the bridge world, including the social, educational and health-related aspects of the mindsport. BAMSA's aim is to carry out social research and to work in partnership with bridge organisations to apply research findings to achieve three key goals:

- to transform the image of bridge,
- to increase participation,
- to ensure the sustainability of the mindsport.

What is your personal motivation and hope for this project?

- Initially I thought I could do something useful with my sociological skills for the bridge world. There's hundreds of academic papers written on chess and I'm sure that's partly the reason why chess is taken more seriously by schools and governments, etc. In comparison, there's hardly any research on bridge, especially in the social sciences. But when I wrote the first proposal to try to get funding for a PhD on the sociology of bridge, I realised that I wouldn't want to supervise a student to do the work as I'd want to do the interviews myself. So in 2013 I began interviewing my bridge heroes in my spare time and the project expanded from there.



Samantha Punch

Academically I hope to develop a new field – the sociology of mindsport – which fits between sports studies and leisure studies. More practically I hope the work will help shift the negative image of bridge as a dull game only for older people. The aim is for practical projects to follow to encourage more people of all ages to play in different contexts.

I also hope that the bridge world starts to tackle gender inequalities more directly – but that’s a more controversial topic that tends to get a lot of eye rolling!

The bottom line is that the BAMSA project is an opportunity to make a difference and academic work is much more enjoyable if it makes an impact in some way.

How do your academic surroundings react to you administering a bridge project?

- Great question, as it does get a mixed response. It’s been hard work trying to get academia to take bridge seriously and it’s a long slow process. Academia reacts in a similar way to most people when you

tell them you play bridge – most think it’s boring and don’t understand the attraction; some are intrigued.

(See the blog [Taking Bridge Seriously | Discover Society](#) written by Dr Miriam Snellgrove, BAMSA researcher)

I’ve been very lucky that my head of department has supported the work. Some people think I’m mad trying to switch academic fields after 20 years in childhood and youth studies, but I like a challenge and I’ve certainly got that...

What has been the biggest challenge so far?

- There have been many. The original plan was to do a two-month crowdfund campaign but there were many sceptics so it took a long time to convince the bridge world that the project was worth doing. Some people understood it straightaway and have been very supportive. But at times it did feel frustrating that so much time was spent trying to persuade bridge players that studying bridge as a mindsport would be beneficial for the community in the long run.

So it ended up taking more than 14 months of crowdfunding to raise money to pay the part-time researchers who work with me. (The University of Stirling covers my salary, but I also have a full teaching load of undergrads and postgrads, as well as supervision of masters and PhDs, so research is only two days a week. My current module has over 600 students on it!)

And that’s a challenge – combining bridge and work means fuzzy boundaries between work and play as the two have become entwined. That’s not easy as there’s little time off now, so bridge as escapism has been disrupted.

What have you learned so far?

- So far we've explored the strategic interactions of the game, the emotional control required to succeed, partnership dynamics, bridge identities, gender, the professionalisation of bridge and transferable life skills.

Our current project is looking at bridge and the digital; and our next one is researching bridge in schools.

To hear more, all players, organisers and teachers are invited to the BAMSA virtual Conference:

Bridging Academia, Policy and Practice, 28 June to 1 July 2021 (it's free to attend, if interested contact bamsa@stir.ac.uk).

What interests do you have outside of bridge and sociology (if any)?

- Yes, you're right, there's not much time left. But watching a film whilst doing a jigsaw seems to be a relaxing combination for me. I try to combine work trips with travelling which I love. I am quite happy to travel alone and meet people as I go. I've had research projects in Argentina, China, Vietnam and India so I've been lucky to see some interesting parts of the world.

What were you like as a child?

- Competitive. 😊

How would Stephen describe you in three words?

- Committed, adventurous, annoying. (He politely said sparkly (?!), competitive, hard-working).

Tell us a secret dream.

- It used to be to write a non-academic book. Lockdown gave me some space to write one – a bridge book with no bridge hands coming out later this year by Master



Point Press – Bridge at the Top, based on the edited interviews with great players. Now my dream is to win a medal. The Scottish women's team got close in the Olympiad in Wroclaw 2016, with 20 minutes to go versus France in the two-day semi-final, we were winning. Of course we then went on to lose to China in the play-off. Coming fourth is everyone's favourite...

What has been your biggest life challenge thus far?

- They say 'sitting is the new smoking' and unfortunately I'm the poster person for that as my back gave up seven years ago after working ridiculous long hours and playing bridge in the holidays. It's never been the same since and a specialist said I have the spine of a 70-year-old. Managing the pain daily is exhausting. A more fun challenge was parachuting out of a plane in Bolivia when I'd practised by jumping off a large stone in a friend's garden. I later found out that the plane

and the parachutes were passed on from the US once they no longer met safety standards there!

When in your life were you most happy?

- When I was living in a mud hut in Bolivia. My PhD fieldwork was in a rural community in Tarija, south Bolivia. People live off what they grow, very little cash, firewood and water collected each morning, out with the animals and working in the fields, no electricity, no TV, limited comforts. It was such a privilege to experience that kind of lifestyle, a real eye opener.

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Jenny Wolpert, Zach Grossack and Artur Malinowski?

- David Burn says my bidding is bonkers so I don't think I should partner Zach. I'm too old to kiss him so I'll have to kill him. I like Artur's black sense of humour so with Marilyn's permission I'll kiss him. Jenny seems to have the right temperament to cope with my intensity at the bridge table, so I'll partner her.

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

- Marie Eggeling – how did you end up being the President of the German Bridge Federation (DBV) and what are your plans for your term of office?

BAMSA has two research papers so far: The first explores the social dynamics of high-level tournament bridge. It looks at the ways in which top players develop different roles and identities:

As individuals, partners, team members and participants in the wider bridge community.

By considering the factors that lead to success as an elite player, the paper also contributes to the ongoing debate about the definition of sport and mindsport.

[\(Per\)forming Identity in the mind-sport bridge: Self, Partnership and Community](#) - *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*.

[Practical Summary of the Identity paper.](#)

The second paper is about the dynamics of the game and some of the transferable life skills that can be learned through playing bridge. It shows that playing bridge at the top level requires skills in reading people, strategic planning, flexibility in problem-solving, concentration and managing mistakes.

[Playing your Life: Developing Strategies and Managing Impressions in the Game of Bridge](#) - *Sociological Research Online*

[Practical summary](#)

The findings of both papers are based on interviews with 52 top bridge players from the USA, UK and Europe, many of whom play in the MMTs like Jenny Wolpert and Zach Grossack.

Feedback is always welcome – please send comments to bamsa@stir.ac.uk

And still not too late to donate!
[Keep Bridge Alive Campaign - a Community crowdfunding project in Bridge Of Allan by University of Stirling \(crowdfunder.co.uk\)](#)

BBO Retires

By Mark Horton



Monday, January 11 2021, was a sad day for bridge journalists, as the old version of BBO was finally retired. It offered many advantages for writers, perhaps the most important being that it automatically saved the details of the match you were watching.

However, the good news is that during Lockdown, the brilliant web site for the tournament shows all the deals in what looks remarkably like the 'old' setup.

This was the opening deal of Round 2:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Israden vs. IMPeacher Squad

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Taylor	N Tal	Boyd-Bowman	Bareket
—	1♦	1♠	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

East led the ♠A and switched to the ♥4, declarer winning in dummy and cashing the ♣K, two down, -100.

It looks obvious to raise clubs, but your diamond support is good and imagine partner proves to be 1-2-6-4? Then the advantage of playing in diamonds is clear.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barel	Ovesen	D Tal	Uran
—	1♦	1♠	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

East led the ♥6 and declarer won in hand and played a club to the king, no swing.



Four pairs played in 6♣, all finishing two down.

Austerlitz vs. BAMSA

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sauvage	Peterkin	Bogacki	Punch
—	1♦	1♠	2♣
Pass	3♠*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3♠ Splinter

West led the ♠3 and declarer won with the queen, cashed three diamonds, overtook the ♥Q and cashed two more diamonds before playing a club. When East played low and her nine held declarer could have cashed two heart to squeeze East for all the tricks, but she cashed the ♣K for +490.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Egging	Aubonnet	Grünke	Joligeon
—	1♦	1♠	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

East led the ♥6 and declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♦A, took dummy's ♦Q10, came to hand with the ♣A, drew the outstanding trump and played the ♠2. East had to duck that but having won with dummy's queen declarer cashed the ♣K and was one down.

East is known to have five spades (with six he would probably overcall 2♠) along with one diamond and a club. Declarer could have cashed two more hearts which would have revealed that East held only three cards in the suit (one had been discarded already). Then it became clear that East started with 4♣.



However, as we will see in a moment, there is no need to touch clubs before drawing trumps:

Another five pairs attempted 6♦. Three of them were the beneficiaries of the lead of the ♠A, another of the ♣Q. That leaves:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Levin	Saelensminde	J Jansma	Fuglestad
—	1♦	1♠	3NT
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

4♣ Natural 4♥ Cuebid
 4♠ Cuebid 4NT RKCB
 5♣ 0/3 key cards

East led the ♥4 and declarer won with the king, played a diamond to the queen, drew trumps and played a spade to the queen. He overtook the ♥Q, and played the ♣10, claiming after East covered with the jack and West showed out on the next round. It was worth 11 IMPs against the 4NT reached in the other room.



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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!