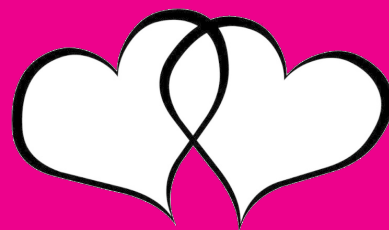


# MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS



ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS • [MMT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG](http://MMT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG)

## The Fantastic Four

For once all the top-4 teams in the Swiss prevailed in the quarterfinals.

Left Coast put up a good fight against Robinson, the final score 59.1-45 for Robinson including their 10.1 carry-over as winner of the Swiss.

In today's semifinals Robinson face Tess, while Alpert will have the pleasure of Israden.

Sadly that means we have said goodbye to 14 teams. Your company has been such a pleasure and we have rarely had such a feeling of all players performing ethically, leaving the TD with no cases and the organizers with time to enjoy the show.

We hope to continue allowing kibitzers. Your input on this and other matters is always welcome.  
Au Revoir!



**Zach Grossack from team Robinson is in top shape for the semifinals**

**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

Friday January 15



**10:00 EST / 16:00 CET – Semi (28 boards)**



**14:30 EST / 20:30 CET – Final (28 boards)**



**NB: We start half an hour earlier today**



## Knock-Outs

### QUARTERFINAL



team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>ROBINSON</u>	10.1	<u>6</u>	16.1	<u>43</u>	59.1
 <u>LEFT COAST</u>	0	<u>16</u>	16	<u>29</u>	45



team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>TESS</u>	1.1	<u>21</u>	22.1	<u>46</u>	68.1
 <u>PARKER</u>	0	<u>2</u>	2	<u>21</u>	23

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>ISRADEN</u>	3.1	<u>17</u>	20.1	<u>43</u>	63.1
 <u>BAMSA</u>	0	<u>23</u>	23	<u>14</u>	37

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>ALPERT</u>	6.1	<u>18</u>	24.1	<u>27</u>	51.1
 <u>SWEDEN MIXED</u>	0	<u>19</u>	19	<u>19</u>	38

### SEMIFINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>ROBINSON</u>	0.1	<u>0</u>	0.1		0.1
 <u>TESS</u>		<u>0</u>	0		0

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <u>ALPERT</u>	0.1	<u>0</u>	0.1		0.1
 <u>ISRADEN</u>		<u>0</u>	0		0

## Swiss Final Ranking

### Future events

[mmt.bridgeresults.org](http://mmt.bridgeresults.org)

## Results

### Next Event

The next Monthly Mixed Teams take place February 8-12.

Notice the dates have been changed from the original dates of February 22-26, because 8-12 do not conflict with any other team events.

Remember that all teams are welcome - this is not an exclusive elite event.

If pairs have trouble finding teammates, send us an email at [mmt@bridgeresults.org](mailto:mmt@bridgeresults.org) and we will help hooking you up.

Because the Spring Nationals have been cancelled, we have two events in March. We hope to welcome many of you in the St. Louis Mixed Teams.

Ranking after round 10		
rk	team	VPs
1	 <a href="#"><u>ROBINSON</u></a>	130.68
2	 <a href="#"><u>ALPERT</u></a>	122.54
3	 <a href="#"><u>ISRADEN</u></a>	117.18
4	 <a href="#"><u>TESS</u></a>	116.90
5	 <a href="#"><u>SWEDEN MIXED</u></a>	116.89
6	 <a href="#"><u>BAMSA</u></a>	109.35
7	 <a href="#"><u>PARKER</u></a>	106.38
8	 <a href="#"><u>LEFT COAST</u></a>	100.82
9	 <a href="#"><u>JUST SIPPIN</u></a>	99.52
10	 <a href="#"><u>WILSON</u></a>	96.19
11	 <a href="#"><u>DREAMLAND</u></a>	95.28
12	 <a href="#"><u>AUSTERLITZ</u></a>	91.35
13	 <a href="#"><u>BEETLECATS</u></a>	90.43
14	 <a href="#"><u>MEDIUM RARE</u></a>	86.73
15	 <a href="#"><u>IMPEACHER SQUAD</u></a>	85.66
16	 <a href="#"><u>TURKISH NATIONAL MIXED TEAM</u></a>	83.09
17	 <a href="#"><u>KLEOPATRA</u></a>	81.43
18	 <a href="#"><u>NEW ENGLANDERS</u></a>	69.58

# Edgar Denied

By Mark Horton



Among the many famous comments made by the legendary Edgar Kaplan was something to the effect that 'takeout doubles should be taken out'.

Have a look at this deal from the last round:

## Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
S. Molson	Jarlvik	Hoyos	Trendafilova
—	—	—	2♠*
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

2♠ 5♠, 5+ ♦/♣, 5-10

If West had followed Edgar's advice and bid something (presumably 2NT) who knows what would have happened next. She led the ♥9 for the jack, ace and a ruff and declarer played a club, West winning with the ten and switching to the ♦10 (a trump is best as they lie) East taking the ace and returning the now essential ♠Q.

Declarer won with the ace, crossed to the ♠J, cashed the ♥K pitching a club and threw another club on the ♥Q as West ruffed. Declarer had to score two diamonds and a spade, so one down, -200.

After ruffing the heart declarer's best move is to play a diamond to the king and ace. If East switches to a trump declarer wins, cashes the ♦Q, crosses to the ♠J, cashes the ♥K pitching a diamond and ruffs a diamond, which together with the master spade adds up to seven tricks.

Although David may not be following the play, I have already had an email from Brother Hubert, who suggests an initial trump lead might be a good idea. If declarer plays low from dummy, takes East's queen with the ace and plays a club West wins and plays a second trump after which declarer is never taking more than 6 tricks.



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
U Goldberg	Versace	L Goldberg	Pramotton
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	3♥*	All Pass	

3♥ 9-11, 6/7♥, invitational

East led the ♣A and switched to the ♠Q, declarer winning with dummy's king and playing a spade to the jack, East ruffing and exiting with the ♣K. Declarer ruffed, played the ♥J and then the queen and East won and played the ♣2. There was no way to avoid two down, -200 for what is sometimes called 'a dull push'.



## Monthly Mixed Teams in 2021

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

[Registration](#)

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See the full calendar for 2021 at [mmt.bridgeresults.org](http://mmt.bridgeresults.org)

# Quarterfinal Highlights

by Christina Lund Madsen



Robinson won the Round Robin after annihilating Left Coast in the last match of the Swiss 19.99-0.01. But since Just Sippin lost to BAMSA by 3.97-16.03, Left Coast clung to the 8th spot by little more than a VP to spare.

They were not spared being Robinson's first choice as winner of the Swiss; however the Left Coast put up quite a fight and were ahead several times, making Robinson happy about the 10.1 IMP carry-over.

Alpert qualified safely in second place and picked Sweden Mixed as the QF-opponent. Israden chose BAMSA, leaving Tess to play Parker.

Our featured board created swings in all four matches.

## Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ JT975	♠ 432	♠ AK8
♥ QJ93	♥ 752	♥ 86
♦ -	♦ T8743	♦ AKQJ6
♣ QT92	♣ 76	♣ KJ8
	<div> <div>N</div> <div>W      E</div> <div>S</div> </div>	
	♠ Q6	
	♥ AKT4	
	♦ 952	
	♣ A543	

## Robinson vs. Left Coast

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Z. Grossack	Ekinci	Botta	Bauer
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Dble
RDble	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	All Pass	

2NT 22-24

3♥ No 4- or 5-card major

Redouble was to play...

Partnering Zach, who likes to RD and blame his partner in case it is wrong, Botta did not dare pass 3♥RD with 10 of her 21 upgraded points in diamonds, though the investment would have resulted in +960.

Knowing most of the heart layout, Grossack judged well to bid 3NT, which proved unbeatable. 10 tricks for +430.

At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Benner	Kranyak	Delmonte	Wortel
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	3♠	All Pass

3♥ showed 5♠ and 4♥, 4♦ was a cuebid.



Ivatury opened a loaded 20-21 NT and soon found himself in 4♠ after the same Smolen-auction as Benner-Delmonte.

Parker took the ♥AK, next the ♣A, and exited a club won by East. Ivatury cashed the ♠A, then, probably prompted by South's cashing out, played the ♠K to score +420.

At the other table there was a minor crash on the Italian highway.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Baroni	Winestock	Donati	Donn
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

2NT 22-23

3♥ No 4- or 5-card major

4♠ 5404-shape

The BBO-records sadly do not record the Italian discussion that we are guessing must have followed this auction.

The contract was placed in West, and on a passive diamond-lead 5♠ can be made. However Winestock found a club lead, and Josh Donn happily cashed the ace along with two hearts before returning a club. Being already one off, Donati probably hoped for a bad break so 4♠ would go down as well, and took the first-time spade finesse to go down 3 when North now even got a club ruff.

11 IMPs for Tess, who won their quarter-final in the most convincing manner by 68.1-23.

Wortel led the ♥A and seeing a discouraging ♥7 from her partner, she cashed the ♣A, then the ♥K and exited a club.

From Delmonte's point of view, it looks unusual to cash an unsupported ace for no apparent reason, however South "knowing" declarer to hold the remaining points, the defense's only chance might be to find a suit for partner to ruff. East won the second club in hand, cashed the ♠A and three rounds of diamonds to try to find clues about the distribution. Eventually he crossed to dummy with a ruff to take the losing spade finesse for -50 and 10 IMPs for Robinson.

### Tess vs. Parker

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Henner	A. Grossack	Ivatury	Parker
—	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

## Maestro Versace



Due to his low honors and good intermediates, Barel settled for 3NT.

South led the ♥A followed by a low heart. Declarer played clubs, South ducking twice, and when declarer next cashed the ♠AK, she could claim 12 tricks, +490 and 11 IMPs.

Israden knocked out BAMSA 63.1-37 after 28 boards.

## Alpert vs. Sweden Mixed

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Strömberg	Hoyos	Bylund	S. Molson
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

## Israden vs. BAMSA

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Punch	Rasmussen	Peterkin	Pedersen
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

3NT 5♠ and 4♥

South led the ♥AK followed by the ♣A and a club. When East took the spade finesse, the contract was down 2 with the club ruff.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barel	Grünke	D. Tal	Eggeling
—	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

3♣ Puppet 3NT No majors

In an auction different from the other tables, 1♦ showed 16+, 1♠ 0-7, 2NT 22-24, 3♣ Puppet and 3♠ showing 5♠ and 4♥.

Hoyos did well to lead a club, where a diamond might allow EW to make. Molson won the ace, cashed the ♥AK and returned a club. When declarer took the spade finesse, EW were down 2 on the following club ruff.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	M. Lemborn	Versace	S. Lemborn
—	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

3NT 5♠ and 4♥

South led the ♥A, now switched to a low club. Versace won in hand, cashed the ♠A and played three rounds of diamonds, pitching 3 clubs from dummy. He played another heart, South winning to underled her club ace, ruffed in dummy.

Versace ruffed a heart with the ♠K, taking advantage of his good intermediates, and played a club, covered by the ace and ruffed in dummy. He played the last heart to his ♠8 and gave up the ♠Q at the end for 10 tricks and 11 IMPs.

### All the Children...

We finish our report with a bad All the Children-joke:  
All the children played game, besides Helle and Jan - they played slam.

### Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Punch	Rasmussen	Peterkin	Pedersen
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5cx
Pass	5dx	Pass	6hx
All Pass			

2NT GF 4+♥  
 3♣ Minimum  
 3♦ Any shorts?  
 3♠ Yes, and a stiff  
 4♣ Cue  
 4♦ Cue  
 4NT 1430  
 5♣ 1/4  
 5♦ Queen?  
 6♥ Yes

They make it look so easy... +980 and 11 IMPs for Israden.



Jan Pedersen and  
Helle Rasmussen  
(Jan is to the left)

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

## Nicolas Hammond

by Christina Lund Madsen



*Where do you come from, where do you live, are you willing to reveal your age and family status?*

- Nottingham, England. Atlanta, Georgia, USA. 29. Divorced. Three kids: 18, 19, 21. One of those statements may not be true.

*When and why did you move to the US?*

- Two days after graduation. Thatcher mini-recession; could not get a job in UK.

*What do you miss the most about your home country?*

- Sausage rolls. Yorkshire pudding. Intellectual humour. Oh... and my family, yeah.

*What is the main difference between Brits and Americans?*

- Go to an American supermarket, buy an English cucumber and an American cucumber. Hold one in each hand.

*What is your professional background and what do you do for a living?*

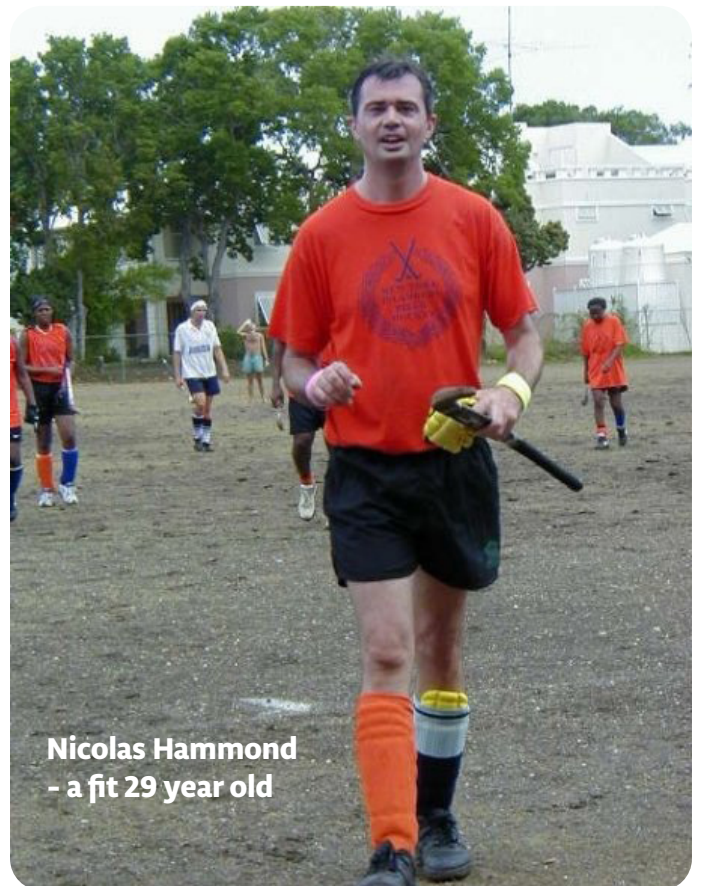
- BA/MA from Cambridge. Computer security is my specialty, I set up the security of the first online bank, did the first ever Internet banking transaction, started a company during security audits of online banks/stock markets etc. A professional bank robber but always white-gloved. Self-employed for the last 25+ years, I now do boutique consulting.

*How did you begin to play bridge?*

- In high school. My grandmother was a huge whist player and we played at the local village hall on Friday nights, a kind couple took me to play Bridge at the Nottingham Bridge Club when I was about 17. The wife is still alive and I am still in touch with her son. I restarted in the early 2000s and went to the local Bridge club in Atlanta and started to play there. Lot to re-learn.

*What has been the highlight of your bridge life thus far?*

- This.



Nicolas Hammond  
- a fit 29 year old



**Nicolas Hammond with Lindsey Weinger. Photo: Jerry Li**

(And winning the B Final of the World Mixed Pairs with Lindsey Weinger in 2016. Qualifying for the finals of the World Mixed Pairs with Kristen Onsgard in 2018.)

*How has your life been during corona?*

- Much less travel. Ridiculously busy with the cheating. Otherwise little changed.

*Marie Eggeling's question for you: Can you tell us something about your methods to detect cheating in bridge, especially regarding online bridge right now?*

- Various methods. Start with calculating data. For top players comparing their ability face-to-face (FTF) with their new found ability with on-line play. For collusive cheaters, comparing their ability to lead and defend compared to those that do not cheat, comparing their defensive ability with their declaring ability.

A number of top players from early on-line play would have been the #1 player in various categories in the FTF world. For the lower level players, the number of successful unusual leads are the easiest way to detect cheating.

*What is your motivation for doing all this work detecting cheats?*

- Someone cheated against me in Chicago in 2015. No cameras, nothing I could do. On the train back to the airport I came with a method of detecting cheating from the data, implemented it and saw the results. Later that month the Fisher/Schwartz scandal started. I had an amazing piece of Bridge software (ACBLscore+), a method, some time, and now some usefulness for the methodology. I will continue until the player that cheated against me back then gets caught, which, ironically, may be very close to happening...

*Have you ever felt caught in a moral dilemma upon discovering that someone close to you or you felt sorry for was suspected of cheating and how did you cope with it?*

- The hardest is the kids. There are some juniors reading this, both U25 and U21, that quite clearly have been cheating, and have not been outed and are continuing to play. So far I've done nothing because there are so many other cases. When they read this, they will know who they are. If they go honest from now, should I report them later?

I dislike the posts about a single hand which proves someone is cheating. Without looking at a large set of boards, how can you tell if someone made a brilliant lead/play or got lucky or were cheating?

There are the adult players that are suspected, or have whispers, in many cases I have provided data to the suspected players so they can properly defend themselves. Although I might have an opinion on if they cheated or not, the difficulty in defending yourself is very hard without data. Anything that can help provide data - to both sides - is useful and speeds up the process.

*How often are you wrong?*

- 52% of the time I declare. 48% of the time I defend.

With the cheating, unfortunately I have rarely been proven to be wrong, much to the chagrin of a few players who cannot yet be named, but currently not playing. The stories obviously cannot be told, but some are now privately confessing to their friends which is a start.

*What has surprised you the most about the online cheating scandals?*

- The number of players, about 10-20% of top players when the first online events started. With ACBL BBO it is about 3-5% of all boards involve a cheating player. Who they are. There are some players widely respected in their own country, and have represented their country, that have been cheating.

The hypocrisy. Some of those defending some of the cheating players are, in fact, cheating players themselves, just not outed yet. Their time will come.

I anonymize boards, submit them to top expert players for verification; this is not stating someone is cheating from the statistics. The collusive cheating players

- those in the same room when they play - are unaware of the methods to catch them. Yet.

*What were you like as a child?*

- Perfect. Annoyingly good. My parents' words, not mine.

*I once heard a rumour you can solve the Rubik's cube in record time. Would you mind sharing your story with us?*

In High School, my math teacher showed us a Rubik's Cube back in 1979 from a Mathematics conference. They were not on sale yet. I bought one from Professor David Singmaster in London; when it broke, I wrote to him and bought another and described my progress. I was the fastest in the world at the time and he wrote it up in "Cubic Circular" (Googleable).

This led to a *book*, several TV appearances, newspaper and some magazine articles (Scientific American, Readers Digest). My first TV appearance was 37 seconds which was a record at the time.



Amy Casanova



Ishmael Delmonte



Arti Bhargava

*How would your mother describe you in 3 words if she is still with us?*

- A model child. She isn't with us any more but I called my Dad to check.

*What is your greatest weakness?*

- Responding to polite requests from cute journalists.

*What has been the greatest sorrow of your life?*

- Not telling the cute journalist how I feel about her and watching her blush while she types it in.

*What is your main life goal right now?*

- I am very lucky. I have fulfilled all my main goals in life.

*Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between your three attractive teammates Arti Bhargava, Amy Casanova and Ishmael Delmonte?*

- Two of them are fabulous kissers, highly recommended. I have yet to meet the other one. Perhaps you could post photographs. I am not a violent person so no desire to kill anyone.

I have yet to partner any of them, so perhaps I should ask the editor if she recommends the best kisser or the worse kisser if you have to pick a partner? Is there a correlation between kissing ability and bridge ability? I am afraid I have not kissed enough to know.

*(The editor recommends partnering someone you have no desire to kiss...)*

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

Meike thrashed me yesterday morning. So, Meike... Name something you can beat me at (besides bridge) and something I can beat you at.



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O N L I N E

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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!