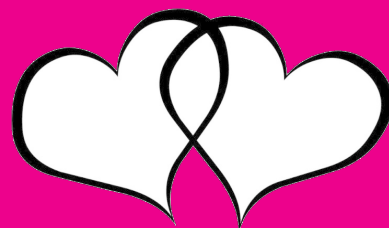


MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS



ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS • MMT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG

Turkey to the Top

"Some great play in this set." That comment accompanied Mark Horton's report from the first set of the final. I received another text from a faithful kibitzer:

"How can they be so SLOW?"

Great play as well as slow tempo indicates the players take the final seriously, and that makes it so much more entertaining to watch.

The Strawberries took the lead, but Turkey National Mix kept fighting and in the end emerged victorious. Congratulations to both teams for an excellent performance.

At some point during the event we had over a thousand kibitzers at one table.

It warms us to entertain so many locked at home. Thank you all for playing and kibitzing!



Upcoming Events

22-24 February	Mixed Pairs
8-12 March	St. Louis Mixed Teams
22-26 March	March Mixed Teams

mmt.bridgeresults.org

Final

	1	2	3	T
Turkish Nat. Mix	30	39	33	102
Strawberries	46	26	19	91

[All Results](#)

Sparkling Start

By Mark Horton



The final of the February Mixed Teams was between Turkish National Mix and Strawberries, the former carrying forward a lead of 0.1. It featured some top class play and defence.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

♠ K Q 8 5
♥ 6 3
♦ A 9 2
♣ Q 7 6 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Setton	Sanus	Franceschetti	Aluf
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠*	2♥	2♠
4♥	5♣	Dble	All Pass

1♠ Denies four spades

West cashed the top hearts and then played two rounds of spades. Declarer could not avoid the loss of a diamond and two trumps so that was four down, -800.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kokten	Bessis	Aluf	Baroni
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
1♥	1♠*	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣
1♠ Takeout without four spades

Declarer won the club lead with dummy's ace and played the ♦J. South took the ace and switched to the ♥3, but declarer won, ruffed a diamond, drew trumps and claimed, +420 but a loss of 9 IMPs.



Hilda Setton
Photo: Festival Juan-les-Pins

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Setton	Sanus	Franceschetti	Aluf
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠*	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♠ Diamonds

East led the ♥6 and declarer won with the jack and ran the ♣9, West winning with the jack and switching to the ♦2. Declarer put up the queen and cashed four rounds of clubs, pitching three diamonds as West parted with a diamond and a heart and East a heart and a spade. A spade to the queen lost to the ace and East returned a spade, declarer taking dummy's king and played the ♥K. East ducked that, but could claim the last three tricks, one down, -100.

In the four card ending, declarer must exit with a spade. East wins but dummy will score two more tricks. If West had returned a heart as opposed to a diamond then declarer would have had no chance. If declarer plays a club to the ace at trick two

and then plays a spade to the queen the defenders have no real chance of defeating the contract.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kokten	Bessis	Aluf	Baroni
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♦	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♥6 and declarer won with dummy's nine and played a spade to the queen and ace. He won the return of the ♥4 in hand and ran the ♣8 to West's queen. When a diamond came back he put in the queen and played a spade for the eight and jack. West exited with a club and declarer cashed his winners in the suit and in the three-card ending he exited with the ♥K. East could win, but was forced to lead into dummy's ♠K9.

A delightful piece of play that garnered 12 IMPs.

Board 5. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Setton	Sanus	Franceschetti	Aluf
Pass	Pass	1♦	4♠
5♦	Dble	All Pass	

South led the ♠A and switched to the ♥K. Declarer won with the ace and led the ♦4, ducking when South followed with the six. There was no way to avoid the loss of four trumps and the ♣A which added up to four down, -1100.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kokten	Bessis	Aluf	Baroni
1♣	Pass	1♥	4♠
All Pass			

You see how complex bridge has become when East, facing an opening bid, cannot double 4♠.

West led the ♥8 and East won with the ace and returned the four, declarer ruffing and playing the ♦6. West went up with the ace and continued with the ♥J which declarer ruffed.

When he exited with the ♣10 West took the jack and switched to the ♠8 for the queen and ace and declarer played the ♠7, East winning with the king and playing the ♥Q. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps and exited with a club.

East won with the queen, but had to lead a diamond giving dummy the last two tricks, two down, -200 and 16 IMPs.

If East exits with the ♣Q as opposed to the ♥Q, the defenders get another trick.



Sirma Sanus, Nafiz Zorlu and Sedat Aluf

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ K J 10 5
♥ 9 8 6
♦ 10 4
♣ A 9 7 3

♠ 9 7 3
♥ 10 7 4 2
♦ K 6 5 2
♣ K 8

♠ A Q 2
♥ A K Q J 5 3
♦ Q 8 7
♣ 2

♠ 8 6 4
♥ —
♦ A J 9 3
♣ Q J 10 6 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Setton	Sanus	Franceschetti	Aluf
—	—	—	3♣
Pass	4♣	4♥	All Pass

South led the ♣Q and continued with the ♣4, declarer ruffing with the ♥J and drawing trumps ending in dummy.



Namik Kökten and Tuna Aluf

North had to win and offer up a ruff and discard, +420.

Not the first well played hand of the event by this declarer.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kokten	Bessis	Aluf	Baroni
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♣
3♦*	3♥	4♥	All Pass

3♦ Mixed raise

South led the ♣Q for the king and ace and North switched to the ♠J. When the queen held, declarer drew trumps ending in dummy, ruffed a club high and played a diamond to the king and second diamond. South overtook North's ten with the jack, cashed the ace and exited with the nine, declarer conceding one down, -50 and 10 IMPs that saw Strawberries take the first of the three sessions to lead 46-30.1.

A diamond to the queen lost to the ace and South returned the three. Declarer won with dummy's king, played a spade to the queen, cashed the ace and exited with a spade.

Monthly Mixed Teams in 2021

22-24 February

February Mixed Pairs on RealBridge

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

French Class

by Christina Lund Madsen



The Strawberries had the seating rights in the second set, and they decided to let the love birds Bessis-Baroni have another dance with the fine Turkish pair Namik Kökten - Tuna Aluf. Not only the bridge was at an excellent level, also the atmosphere.

Barsis is what Irene Baroni and Thomas Bessis like to call themselves, yet there are many other combinations, like Baronessis (my personal favourite). For the ones not aware, they are engaged to marry this summer, and every time they play together, the wedding guests are holding their breath. Yesterday was a good day for those of us hoping the wedding will take place.

Bessis --> bien joué mon petit lapin ♥
 Baroni --> merci ♥
 Bessis --> bonne chance ma ptite bouchère d'amour ♥
 Baroni --> ahahah
 (Translation: "Well played my little bunny" and "Good luck my butcher of love")

At this point Tuna Aluf joined the conversation - in French, mind you - while her partner was thinking.

Aluf --> Ici on écrit une histoire d'amour ☺
 (Translation: "We write a love story here")

Now Kökten had heard enough.

Kökten --> don't know French but I take my time again

The first big swing for Turkey came on board 3.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Baroni	Kökten	Bessis	Aluf
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♥	4♣	6♣	Pass
6♥	7♣	Dble	All Pass

Tuna Aluf entered the auction with double for the minors, and that was not taken lightly by her partner. Bessis had not given up hope of a grand, so he jumped to 6♣.

The French chatting, vulnerability and knowledge of his opponent's club void tempted Kökten to correctly save in 7♣.

Bessis led the ♠K and shifted to a heart. Knowing the club layout, Kökten knew not to try the ♣Q to pin the stiff jack and was three off, -500.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Baroni	Kökten	Bessis	Aluf
—	1♣	1♥	Dble
2♣*	Dble	3♦	Pass
3♥	Dble	All Pass	

South had an awkward problem after the double of 3♥. After thinking long, she passed, which netted her side +200.

She led the ♣3 to the queen, and North cashed the ♠A and played a spade to South's queen. She cashed the king, on which North played the ♣A, trying to signal for a spade, but South could not see declarer's singleton and might not have expected her partner to hold seven clubs, so she continued a club.

On this layout it did not matter, as she had a natural heart trick when her partner held the queen, but had she held JT_x, playing a fourth spade would promote an extra trick for the defence.

The second set ended 39-26 for Turkey, meaning the French were up 72-69.1 before the last 16 boards.

They built the lead with 10 more IMPs during the first five boards, but then Irene Baroni faced this lead problem:

♠ T97 ♥ -- ♦ KJT983 ♣ Q954

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kizilok	Bessis	Kutuk	Baroni
—	3♥	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		



Basak Kutuk and
Ömer Kizilok

Irene opted for a low spade. She received the maximum punishment when dummy was this:

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ Q 6		
♥ K Q 9 8 7 6		
♦ 4		
♣ T 8 7 3		
♠ A K J 8 5 2		♠ 4 3
♥ 5 3 2		♥ A J T 4
♦ 7 5 2		♦ A Q 6
♣ A		♣ K J 6 2
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	
♠ T 9 7		
♥ --		
♦ K J T 9 8 3		
♣ Q 9 5 4		

Declarer now guessed to cash the ♠AK and had enough entries via club ruffs for lead hearts towards her hand to set up a diamond discard (the other went on the ♣K). A lucky +1430 meant 13 IMPs for Turkey and combined with three partscore swings it was enough to secure the Turkish victory 102.1-91 after a close and well-fought final.

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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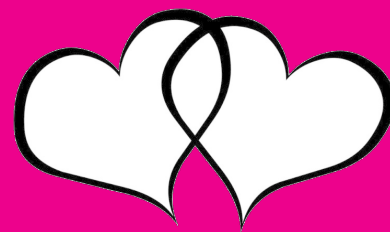
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MONTHLY MIXED PAIRS



FEBRUARY 22-24 ON REALBRIDGE

READ MORE AND REGISTER AT [MMT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG](https://mmt.bridgeresults.org)

Introducing the Monthly Mixed Pairs on RealBridge

Due to popular demand the Monthly Mixed Teams will host our first Monthly Mixed Pairs.

- Dates: February 22-24
- Time: 11:00 Eastern time/17:00 CET - 3:00/21:00
- Format: Matchpoints. Two days of qualification followed by A- and B-finals.
1/3 of the field will qualify for the A-final.
- Entry fee: 100 euro/120 dollars for three days of play (juniors half price)
- Boards 30-32 boards/day depending on number of participants. Either with a small break halfway through the event or enough time to go get a snack or coffee.
- Platform: RealBridge (realbridge.online)
- Registration: mmt.bridgeresults.org

Beginners as well as world class players are equally welcome.
We will have bulletins as you know them from the Monthly Mixed Teams, the same result software and a top EBL tournament director.

We have tested running events on RealBridge and would like to try this platform for the Monthly Mixed Pairs. We believe that though many like playing without shaving or doing their hair, meeting and chatting to so many opponents will add a social element. It is also possible to mute the audio and turn off the camera while getting coffee (or using the restroom as dummy) to limit the invasion of your privacy. We realize that many may not have not tried RealBridge before, but it is very easy and intuitive, and a profile is not even required. You simply log on via a link provided by us and play. The event will not be open to kibitzers.

If the tournament is a success, we plan to repeat the Monthly Mixed Pairs April 26-28 and perhaps a weekend, depending on your feedback in terms of format, times and wishes.

We are always happy to receive feedback, ideas and answer any questions you might have. You can write to mmt@bridgeresults.org.



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