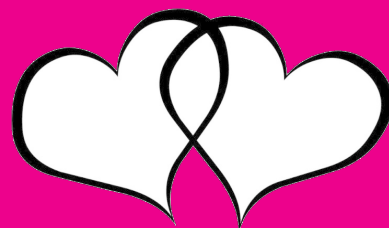


MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS



ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS • MMT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG

One Family to Rule them All

SWUSA has taken the lead ahead of Apricots and France Sud. As regular readers know, we take pride in betting on the team to lead the event after the first day and pick one of the members as Victim.

This week is no different and it is a pleasure to introduce Sandra of the Rimstedt Dynasty as Victim of the Day.

You might recognize the blonde heads on the picture.

Note that today's schedule is different from yesterday with slightly shorter breaks between matches 2 and 3.



World champions in the making

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

Tuesday March 9

10:30 EST / 16:30 CET – Round 4 (14 boards)

12:40 EST / 18:40 CET – Round 5 (14 boards)

14:50 EST / 20:50 CET – Round 6 (14 boards)

Today's Schedule

Round 4

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
<u>1</u>	 <u>ALL MIXED UP</u>	 <u>AUSTERLITZ</u>
<u>2</u>	 <u>MAUBERQUEZ</u>	 <u>SUSHI</u>
<u>3</u>	 <u>PARKER</u>	 <u>TULIPS ++</u>
<u>4</u>	 <u>SWUSA</u>	 <u>ALPERT</u>
<u>5</u>	 <u>KICK COVID</u>	 <u>MARLENKA</u>
<u>6</u>	 <u>FRANCE SUD</u>	 <u>APRICOTS</u>

Round 5

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
<u>1</u>	 <u>ALL MIXED UP</u>	 <u>APRICOTS</u>
<u>2</u>	 <u>MARLENKA</u>	 <u>FRANCE SUD</u>
<u>3</u>	 <u>KICK COVID</u>	 <u>ALPERT</u>
<u>4</u>	 <u>PARKER</u>	 <u>SWUSA</u>
<u>5</u>	 <u>SUSHI</u>	 <u>TULIPS ++</u>
<u>6</u>	 <u>AUSTERLITZ</u>	 <u>MAUBERQUEZ</u>

Round 6

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
<u>1</u>	 <u>ALL MIXED UP</u>	 <u>PARKER</u>
<u>2</u>	 <u>SUSHI</u>	 <u>ALPERT</u>
<u>3</u>	 <u>MARLENKA</u>	 <u>AUSTERLITZ</u>
<u>4</u>	 <u>MAUBERQUEZ</u>	 <u>APRICOTS</u>
<u>5</u>	 <u>TULIPS ++</u>	 <u>FRANCE SUD</u>
<u>6</u>	 <u>SWUSA</u>	 <u>KICK COVID</u>

Results

Cross table by ranking after Round 3

rank	team	#	1	9	2	10	6	11	5	4	7	12	8	3	VP tot
1	 SWUSA	1	♠						13.72			10.97		15.66	40.35
2	 APRICOTS	9		♥			16.03	6.28		12.16					34.47
3	 FRANCE SUD	2			♦				4.34		15.06			14.64	34.04
4	 TULIPS ++	10				♣				2.66		13.96	16.88		33.50
5	 PARKER	6		3.97			♠				11.28		18.04		33.29
6	 MARLENKA	11		13.72				♥	10.97		7.03				31.72
7	 SUSHI	5	6.28		15.66			9.03	♦						30.97
8	 AUSTERLITZ	4		7.84		17.34				♣			3.12		28.30
9	 ALPERT	7			4.94		8.72	12.97			♠				26.63
10	 ALL MIXED UP	12	9.03			6.04						♥		10.97	26.04
11	 KICK COVID	8				3.12	1.96			16.88			♦		21.96
12	 MAUBERQUEZ	3	4.34		5.36						9.03		♣		18.73

Results

Future events
mmt.bridgeresults.org

Monthly Mixed Teams in 2021

22 - 26 March

March Mixed Teams

[Registration](#)

12 - 16 April

April Mixed Teams

[Registration](#)

17 - 21 May

May Mixed Teams

7 - 11 June

June Mixed Teams

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

Bread & Butter



By Mark Horton

Whenever I see a deal that looks straight-forward, it can be a good idea to reserve judgement until all the votes have been counted.

Take a look at this one from the opening round of the 2021 St. Louis Mixed Teams:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

If EW are playing a 2/1 system then you could see the auction going 1♠-1NT-2♠-3♦. In the now somewhat antiquated Acol system the bidding would probably be 1♠-2♦-2♠-3♦.

Scientific players could respond with an invitational 3♦ with the East hand, when one would expect West to pass.

From my perspective it looks like an unexciting board, what we used to describe as a 'bread and butter' deal.

All Mixed Up vs. SWUSA

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	Tunçok	C Rimstedt	Salhon
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

3♦ Natural, invitational

There is nothing wrong with using 3♦ in this way, but 4♠ would have needed a very friendly layout and a series of minor miracles, none of which were forthcoming. Declarer was allowed to escape for two down, -200.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sokol	Michielsen	L. Madsen	Cullin
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the ♣2 (students of 'spot theory' would lead a heart - after all, they are numerically stronger) and when dummy followed with the five, North contributed the six and declarer won with the ten. If you want to know the NS agreements, the card I can see says '2nd-4th with ATT, top from interior sequence' and there is a note about Smith - 'High=Like'.

When declarer continued with the ♦Q South took the ace and North followed with the ten.

South now played a queen, which was good, but it was in clubs and declarer had 11 tricks, +660 and 13 IMPs.

Kick Covid vs. Tulips++

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
J Jansma	Brenner	Levin	Caprera
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

3♦ 6+♦, invitational

We have seen that sequence before. When North led the ♥A and continued the suit declarer must have thought he was in with a shout, but the trump division meant he could only muster nine tricks, -100.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Taylor	Both	Boyd-Bowman	A. Jansma
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

3♦ Natural, invitational

North led the ♣8 and when South followed with the two declarer won with the jack and played a diamond for the ten, king and ace. South switched to the ♥2 and North won with the nine and cashed the ace before exiting with the ♣6.



Declarer won with dummy's ace, pitched a club on the ♦Q and naturally played trumps, which meant she was one down.

That was unlucky, but a small precaution would have saved the day. After pitching a club declarer ruffs a club and only then starts on trumps. When North discards on the second round declarer cashes the ♥K and then exits with a low spade to endplay South.

Mauberquez v France Sud

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Poizat	Maurin	Poizat	Hugon
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦*	All Pass

3♦ Natural, non-forcing

Martine Rossard (Austerlitz)



South led the ♥2 (the ♣2 would be a losing choice here) and North won with the ten and switched to the ♣8. Declarer took the ace and played spades, but North ruffed the second round with the ♦9 and although declarer could pitch a heart he had to lose two clubs and a diamond for one down.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Monod	Zuccarrelli	Mauberquez	Palau
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

2♠ 6♠, a priori

North led the ♣8 and South won with the queen and switched to the ♥2. When declarer tried dummy's king it speeded up the play, -300 and a 5 IMP swing.

Apricots v Austerlitz

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Aubonnet	T Bessis	Carde	Bessis
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

2♦ Game forcing

One can see the attraction of 2♦, but in this age of miniscule opening bids it comes with no guarantees.

North led the ♣8 and South won with the queen and returned the two for the five (the jack is best) king and ace. South won the next trick with the ♦A and exited with the ♠2. Declarer finished four down, -400.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Setton	Romanowski	Franceschetti	Rossard
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

North started with the traditional ♣8 and South won with the queen and switched to the ♥2 for the king and ace. When North exited with a club declarer put in dummy's ten and played the ♦J. South took the ace, cashed the ♥Q and exited with the ♠5. Declarer won, crossed to dummy with a club, pitched a heart on the ♦K, ruffed a diamond, cashed the ♠K and exited with a spade to execute the endplay I mentioned earlier, only one down and 7 IMPs.

Marlenka v Sushi

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Leeming	Draper	Natt	Woodcock
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

2♦ Natural, game forcing

North's lead of the ♣9 saw declarer win with the jack and play a diamond for the king and ace. South switched to the ♠2 and that ensured two down.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Taylor	Sandqvist	Gross	Shashou
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♦	All Pass

3♦ Natural, invitational

3♠ Forcing, choice of games

When East bid 4♦ West had second thoughts and gave up on game. South led the ♥2 and declarer had only eight tricks for a flat board.

Alpert v Parker

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Tebha	Z Grossack	Rubenstein	Botta
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♥J and declarer won with the king and played on diamonds, South taking the second round as North followed with the four and ten. When South continued with the ♥Q North took it and cashed out, -100.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Baroni	Versace	Donati
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♣8 and declarer took dummy's ace and played the ♦K, finishing four down when South won and switched to the ♠2, a 7 IMP swing.

Not quite as dull a deal as I had thought - but then that is so often the case at the bridge table!



Anam Tebha and Zach Grossack - opponents yesterday, friends today.
Photo: Peg Kaplan

Confessions of the Editor

by Christina Lund Madsen



Searching the boards from yesterday for disasters or brilliancies to entertain the readers with, I realised the majority of disasters were my own. Let me guide you through my decisions against Jan Jansma (Tulips ++), who had invited me to Zoom with him during the play, making the humiliation even worse as he could see my face and try to comfort me with remarks like "It was not so easy".

As is often the case, board 1 set the pace:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
J. Jansma	L. Madsen	B. Levin	Sokol
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

Looking at my lousy spade suit and 5233-shape, this seemed the perfect moment to open 1♣ with the intention to rebid 1NT after partner's red response.

Jan's 4♠-bid thwarted that plan, and greedily I doubled, most likely violating the 10-second rule after a jump with 8 seconds.

Jan: "Christina, you cannot double me on board 1."

Jan spent most of his time as declarer trying to guess my shape, but there was not way for him to wrong. -590 later we had the following dialogue:

"Opening 1C on that hand is the only way for you to get to 4♠X."

"Then they will get to 4♥X instead." Jan replied me to make me feel better.

"And how do you suggest they get there?"

He did not have a good answer to that, and right I was. Looking at the results, I will bet that a good part of the field decided to pass their partner's forcing 1NT.



West was content to keep quiet and cashed the first 8 tricks for +100.

To twist the knife, the only other pair to reach a spade contract was our teammates, after Mark Thiele and Renee Verdegaal opened a 10-13 NT. Sadly the contract was 5♠X...

A missed vulnerable game and some partscores later, I had a new chance to be the only one to find a killing play.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ AT85	♠ KQJ9642	♠ 3
♥ J7	♥ 862	♥ K9543
♦ JT97	♦ 83	♦ AKQ
♣ AQ6	♣ 9	♣ J432
	♠ 7	
	♥ AQT	
	♦ 6542	
	♣ KT875	

The contract was 3♠X at five tables after the auction 1♦ - (3♠) - X.

Catherine Mus managed to escape for one down after ruffing the third round of diamonds and playing the ♠K out of her hand. West won the ace and played the fourth diamond, North pitching her singleton club. Now West was endplayed and tried exciting with a low heart to the king and ace.

Catherine Mus ruffed a club to hand and cashed the ♠K, seeing the 4-1 split. With the intention of performing a trump coup, she played a heart to the Q and received the bonus of the ♥J.



Katherine Todd

That meant only one more spade trick for the defense, -200.

The other three declarers all went two off for -500. And now it was my time to shine.

On the lead of the ♦AKQ, Jan played the ♦JT9, which to me looked like strongly signaling a heart preference. So after ruffing the third diamond, I played a club to West's nine. Jan returned his 4th diamond, which I generously ruffed with the ♠9. I played the ♠Q, ducked by Jan, and the ♠J, won by the ace.

He exited a spade, and now all I had to do was throw him in with a spade (pitching the ♥T from dummy) but instead I decided to display my brilliance by playing a heart to the ten and his jack. After cashing his last spade, he was endplayed, but before then dummy was squeezed in clubs and hearts, so I had had to bare the ♣K king, and now Jan could safely exit with the ♣A.

Victim of the Day

Sandra Rimstedt

by Christina Lund Madsen



Sandra Rimstedt (to the left)

How old are you, where do you come from, where do you live, what do you do and how old are your children?

- I'm 33 years old, from Halmstad in Sweden, been living in NYC for the past 10 years, I'm a bridge professional and have two boys, Odin and Oliver, 5 and 2 years old.

Tell us about your education and occupations before becoming a full-time bridge pro.

- I have a bachelor's degree in economics and political science. After high school I went to work as a waitress in a Norwegian ski resort for three years. A while after I moved to NYC I went to work at the Swedish Mission to the UN for a couple of years. I loved it and learned so much. Then I got pregnant with my oldest one and it made more sense to go back to be a full-time bridge pro, which suited my new life with small kids in NYC much better.

Did you dream of making your living as a bridge pro or did you have other plans for your future?

- I never had that dream growing up while many around me did, but today I feel extremely fortunate that I somehow just landed here. I have always loved teaching, I love working with and meeting new people, I love traveling, I love being able to set my own schedule, bridge is the most fascinating game in the world and now my hobby is my profession. Hard to complain! It also feels good that I tried the UN job for a while, because now I feel that my choice to play bridge was better informed by my experience with a more traditional job.

Being part of a now world famous bridge family, most of us by now know how your parents taught you and your younger sister Cecilia bridge and then later taught you and Cecilia taught your younger twin brothers. How do you think this affected your bond as siblings (for better or worse)?

- The fact that we taught them how to play I don't think affected us in any special way, but just that we all have this hobby and profession together has for sure brought us closer. It has made my living far from Sweden a lot easier because I still get to see my siblings, and sometimes my parents, at many tournaments every year. It makes me feel that I'm not that far away from home.

What is the best and worst part about being a "Rimstedt"?



**Mother and daughter
(mother to the left)**

- Best is that I get to ride on my siblings' bridge merits.

Worst is that people may think that I'm extremely clumsy and disorganized because I'm related to the younger two.

Who is the rebel and who is the mediator among you siblings?

- I am definitely the mediator. I bring us all together more and fight less. Maybe just because I'm the oldest, worked with foreign affairs or maybe just because I'm the nicer one.

The other three are extremely stubborn. I would like to say that they are also the rebels, but I am the one who left our home country and tried to do something else than being a bridge pro after all...

How would your father describe you in three words?

- I asked him: "Adventurous, open minded and" then he said something random about goal-oriented, but I think he meant to say his "favorite kid".

Tell us your best favourite story from your junior years - not involving bridge.

- A friend lost a bet and had to go into the elevator naked with all the buttons pressed. A little unlucky that it was in the tallest building in Bangkok as well...

What is the highlight of your bridge life so far?

- I have many small ones, but two from the early days: When I was 17, my partner Emma Sjoberg, sister Cecilia and her partner Sara Sivelind won the Swedish junior championships and crushed all the older and more experienced guys. The other is when I won the Swedish Women's pairs with my mom in 2007, which also happened to be exactly 25 years after she won the same event with her mom.

You recently decided to represent the USA on the national team instead of your home country Sweden. What were your thoughts and dilemmas involving this decision?

- My heart will definitely always with my Swedish ladies' team. It was a hard decision because I was on a good and fun team with my sister and dear friends. We also kept doing better and better every year and helped each other improve. But living in the US and being a full-time pro here, it was natural to make the switch at some point. After my second child was born I had taken a break from WBF events anyhow. That combined with mixed events becoming a popular and exciting new field, it seemed like a good time to make the switch.

Nick Sandqvist's question for you: Who is the best player in the family, and how do you differ from each other in style and temperament?

- All my three siblings are multiple World Champions and I taught them every little secret trick growing up. So it must be me?

Sandra with Odin and Oliver



Mikael is definitely the tilter. I'm always terrified of partnering Cecilia for her deadly eyes, except when she gets a declarer play, then you are usually in great shape.

What do you miss the most about Sweden?

- Definitely my family and friends, but also how everything is a little more progressed than here in the U.S. Also, every day I crave Swedish candy and Swedish cheese, but luckily Amazon and some random stores in nyc have saved me multiple times.

Tell us something very few people know about you.

- I'm a master at picking up things with my toes. I'm also a Swedish champion gymnast.

What would you like to change about your past?

- Probably nothing. Even in the very tough and challenging moments it taught me something valuable and made me grow in different ways to be where I am today.

What is your biggest dream?

- That my kids will grow up to be happy, loving and caring people. Maybe also to win that World Championship one day...

Who would you partner, kiss, kill between John Hurd, Gary Donner and Joe Grue?

- I love to partner them all. And I really don't want to kiss or kill any of them. ☺ But if I have to pick, I will partner Joe because he is the fastest and I can't take it when other players are too slow. I would probably kill Gary because there are way too many kickbacks and random keycard exceptions in our system. I love hugging Jimmy because he is the best, so I guess I will throw a in a little kiss as well.

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

- I would love to know more about Veronique Bessis. If you could only pick one type of cheese and one bottle of wine for the rest of your life, which would it be?



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