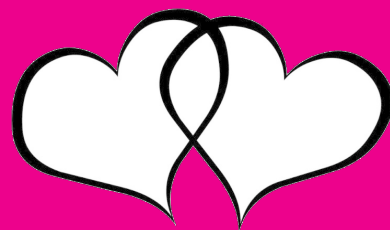


MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS



ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS • MMT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG

Alpert in Favourite Position

Claire Alpert, winner of the January MMT, has taken the lead in a tight field with almost 7 VPs ahead of Apricots and France Sud.



Claire Alpert
Photo: WBF

Yet only 20 VPs are separate the teams placed 1-10 after 6 of 11 matches in the Round Robin, which is promising for the excitement in the next matches. Four teams will qualify for the semifinals.

Victim of the Day is Veronique Bessis, a member of the Apricots in second place.

We wish you all the best of luck today and remind you we are always happy to receive entertaining hands.

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

Wednesday March 10

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 7

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

Round 8

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

Round 9

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

Results

Cross table by ranking after Round 6

rank	team	#	7	9	2	5	4	6	1	11	3	10	12	8	VP tot
1	ALPERT	7	♠		4.94	16.88		8.72	13.96	12.97				19.47	76.94
2	APRICOTS	9		♥	16.55		12.16	16.03		6.28	2.51		16.55		70.08
3	FRANCE SUD	2	15.06	3.45	♦	4.34				12.97	14.64	17.77			68.23
4	SUSHI	5	3.12		15.66	♣			6.28	9.03	14.64	18.65			67.38
5	AUSTERLITZ	4		7.84			♠			14.85	2.96	17.34	19.08	3.12	65.19
6	PARKER	6	11.28	3.97				♥	17.77			0.62	13.23	18.04	64.91
7	SWUSA	1	6.04			13.72		2.23	♦		15.66		10.97	16.21	64.83
8	MARLENKA	11	7.03	13.72	7.03	10.97	5.15			♣				18.29	62.19
9	MAUBERQUEZ	3		17.49	5.36	5.36	17.04		4.34		♠		9.03		58.62
10	TULIPS ++	10			2.23	1.35	2.66	19.38				♥	13.96	16.88	56.46
11	ALL MIXED UP	12		3.45			0.92	6.77	9.03		10.97	6.04	♦		37.18
12	KICK COVID	8	0.53				16.88	1.96	3.79	1.71		3.12		♣	27.99

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

That's Entertainment

By Mark Horton



In pre-Covid days, top tournaments frequently attracted a massive number of spectators, particularly during World and European Championships. As a commentator you hope that the deals will be exciting - there is nothing much you can say (or write) about a series of results that consist of part-scores and dull games. Whilst those types of deal can be instructive, they are not what the crowds want to see. These two deals from the second and third rounds had potential, but they were far from easy.

Round 2

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

SWUSA vs. Mauberquez

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Voldoire	Michielsen	Avon	Cullin
—	—	—	3♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

For those who are interested, South opened the bidding on ten occasions, 5 times with a weak Two Diamonds and five times with 3♦. On this benign layout you would like to be in 6♥, but what is West supposed to do over East's double? 4♦ is possible, but when East bids 4♥ West has no obvious continuation. Perhaps the answer is for West to overcall 3NT - more on that later.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	Harari	Rimstedt	Halfon
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	1♠	Dble*	2♦
3♠*	4♦	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣ 4NT RKCB 5♠ 2 KC + ♥Q

Once West had shown strength with 3♠ East was happy to look for a slam and it was worth 13 IMPs.

France Sud vs. Sushi

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Leeming	C Mus	Natt	Mus
—	—	—	3♦
3NT	4♦	5♦*	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	All Pass
5♦	Majors		



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Tebha	T Bessis	Rubenstein	Bessis
—	—	—	3♦
3NT	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♥	All Pass

We can see that East was bidding 5♥ to ask about trump quality, but West probably took it as asking for a diamond control.

Would you have known what partner was after?

Notice that North was not tempted to raise to 4♦.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Setton	A Grossack	Franceschetti	Parker
—	—	—	2♦
Dble	4♦	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Was there a case for East to bid 6♥ over 5♣? Easy enough if you are a 'paper tiger!'

One final aside; if South opens 2♦/3♦ and West passes what should North do?

Raising diamonds or bidding spades are possibilities. Personally I like the look of 3NT (if that's not an entertaining bid I don't know what is) which might be too much for East, although joining in the fun with 4♦ would be great.

I have always been partial to reporting deals where a slam is bid without the use of Blackwood.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gautret	Sandqvist	Payan	Shashou
—	—	—	2♦*
2NT	3♦	4♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

I leave you to decide if East was worth another bid. You might like to consider what a bid of 4♠ over 4♥ should suggest?

Missing the slam (it was only reached twice) cost 12 IMPs here.

Apricots vs. Parker

The auctions in the match between Apricots and Parker were interesting:

Round 3

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Maurin	v. Roosmalen	Hugon	Gast
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

North led the ♥K and when South played the ace declarer ruffed, unblocked dummy's diamonds and ruffed a heart. North overruffed and exited with a diamond and declarer had to lose a club for a somewhat unlucky one down.

No doubt you can see ways in which the contract can be made. Perhaps the prettiest is for declarer to draw trumps, then cash three more rounds, unblock the diamonds and ruff a heart.



North will be down to ♦J10 and three clubs, and forced to throw a club, after which declarer can play two rounds of diamonds forcing a lead into the split club tenace.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Todd	Voltaire	Lahrmann	Avon
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♦J and declarer unblocked dummy's honours, came to hand with the ♠Q, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, drew trumps, finishing with 12 tricks and 11 IMPs.

All Boards are Equal

By Mark Horton



In the New York Times in 1986 Alan Truscott wrote, 'Expert bridge players, by and large, are not superstitious'. However, over the years I have detected signs that suggest this is not always the case. At the European Championships in Birmingham a member of the British Women's team that won the title was told by one of her teammates to change her dress before the start of a match - it was green and England were about to play Ireland.

Another of England's women world champions is famous for wearing the same pair of shorts throughout an event. Terence Reese wrote that he was not in any way superstitious - but then added that it would not be in anyone's interests to ask to borrow his pencil.

My interest in the topic stems from the number 13 and the fact that it is generally considered to be unlucky. That is open

to debate, but what, in my experience, is undeniable, is that in a bridge event Board 13 is frequently exciting - perhaps it deserves to be acknowledged by some simple phrase - 'All bridge boards are equal, but one is more equal than others'.

This cropped up in Round 4:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

On the face of it this does not appear to be a newsworthy deal. NS hold the balance of power, but the best fit belongs to EW and they are likely to play in a heart part score.

Maubquerque vs. Sushi

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barden	Avon	Robinson	Voldoire
—	1♣	Dble	Pass
1♥	All Pass		



Paul Barden and Claire Robinson

It's a matter of style as to what action you take with the East hand over 1♣. Here 9 players preferred to overcall 1♥. The Kaplan-Rubens Hand Evaluator rates the East hand at 14.05 - and when partner bids hearts it increases in value because of the fifth heart.

North led the ♣A and declarer ruffed and played a spade for the king and ace, North continuing with the ♠9 followed by the eight. Declarer ruffed in dummy and played the ♦J for the king and ace, cashed the ♦Q, ruffed a diamond, played the ♣Q for the king and a ruff and played a diamond. South ruffed high and played the ♠Q allowing North to score the ♥K, +110.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Harari	Sandqvist	Halfon	Shashoua
—	1♣	1♥	Pass
3♥	Dble	4♥	All Pass

South led the ♠2, opening up the frozen suit, and when declarer played dummy's five North won with the ace and switched to the ♣K. Declarer ruffed, played a spade to the king, a diamond to the queen, ruffed a spade, played the ♣Q for the king and a ruff, cashed the ♦A, ruffed a diamond and played the ♣10, covered by the jack and ruffed. When declarer continued with the ♦3 South discarded the ♠Q, but that allowed declarer to ruff in dummy and the ♥A was the tenth trick.

After the opening lead, could either side have done better?

I'll leave you to think about it while we look at another match:

SWUSA v Alpert

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Cullin	Versace	Michielsens
—	1♣*	1♥	Pass*
3♣*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1♣ 16+

Pass 0-4 p where A=3, K=2, Q=1

3♣ Bergen raise

Here South led the ♠3 and this time North followed with the eight, declarer winning with the jack and playing a spade for the two, king and ace. North switched to the ♦4 and declarer won with dummy's jack, played a diamond to the queen, ruffed a spade, played a heart to the ace and ruffed his remaining spade before ruffing a club and ruffing a diamond. South could score the ♥QJ but declarer had the rest, +620.



Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Donner	Z Grossack	Rimstedt	Botta
—	1♣*	1♥	Pass
2♥	Dble	3♥	All Pass

1♣ 'Can be 2♣'

South led the ♣4 and declarer ruffed North's jack and played a diamond for the six, jack and king. When North returned the ♣5 declarer ruffed, cashed two diamonds pitching a spade from dummy and continued with the fourth diamond. When South pitched the ♠2 declarer discarded the ♠K from dummy and North won with the nine and continued his deceptive game by returning the ♣3. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a spade, and ruffed a club, but South overruffed and continued with the ♥6. Declarer could win with the ace and ruff a spade, but that was her last trick, one down.

Kick Covid v Marlenka

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Seale	Compton	Gold	Elmore
—	1♣*	1♥	Pass
2♥	Dble	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣
2♥ 'Weakish raise'

West led the ♥3 for the king and ace and East returned the five, declarer taking the queen and playing a club to the jack. East ruffed and exited with a heart, declarer



Catherine Draper

winning and pitching a second diamond from dummy. A diamond for the jack, king and ace saw East cash the queen and exit with the ♥10. Declarer ruffed and played a spade to the ace followed by the club ace. East ruffed that and exited with a heart, declarer discarding a club as West ruffed with the ♠K for one down.

At the end, if East exits with a diamond declarer has to follow suit and after ruffing West can play a club allowing East to score a trick with the ♠J.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Taylor	Draper	Boyd-Bowman	Woodcock
—	1♣*	1♥	Pass
3♣*	Dble	4♥	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
3♣ Mixed raise

South led the ♣4 and declarer ruffed, cashed the ♥A and continued with the eight, South winning with the jack, cashing the queen and exiting with the ♦8 for the seven, four and queen. When declarer continued with a spade to the king the contract finished three down, -300.

France Sud v Apricots

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Setton	Zuccarelli	Franceschetti	Palau
—	1♣	Dble	Pass
1♥	Dble	4♥	All Pass

North led the ♣A and declarer ruffed in dummy and played the ♦2 for the six, jack and king. North cashed the ♠A and continued with the nine, declarer winning with the king, cashing the top diamonds, ruffing a spade, ruffing a club and ruffing a spade. North's overruff ensured the demise of the contract, -100.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
C Mus	Bessis	Mus	Bessis
—	1♣	1♥	Dble*
2♥	Dble*	Rdbl	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Dble 4/5♠

Dble 'Good hand with 3♠ and 18/19

South led the ♣4 for the eight, king and a ruff and declarer played a spade for the king and ace. North now switched to the ♥K and declarer won and tried the ♠J. South won, cashed two hearts and exited with a club (as it happens a diamond is even better) declarer finishing two down.



It's time to return to the questions I posed earlier.

The first point is that after a spade lead, North does best to duck (well done Mr. Cullin!) but at trick three North must switch to the ♥K (as we just saw Thomas Bessis do).

The second point is that when declarer played to ruff a fourth diamond (as Halfon did) South could have ruffed high and exited with a spade allowing North to score the ♥K, when South will take the setting trick with the ♥Q.

Finally, declarer can avoid this by cashing the ♥A (which is essentially what Versace did) after which the fourth spade can be ruffed in dummy.

In the cases where North takes the ♠A at trick one switching to the ♥K should not work as declarer can win and cross ruff (being sure to play to ruff a fourth spade rather than a diamond).

I'm not superstitious, but I promise you that Board 13 will continue to deliver fascinating deals.

Victim of the Day

Veronique Bessis

by Christina Lund Madsen



Veronique Bessis a few years ago.
The male admirer in the background
is not her husband.

Where are you from, where do you live, will you reveal your age, who you are married to and how many children do you have with your husband?

- I'm from Paris (France) and I live in Paris. (Maybe I'm too old to tell it : 70!) My husband is Michel Bessis and we have two sons Olivier and Thomas, all of them bridge World Champions.

Tell us the highlights of your background; education, jobs, maybe a past as a professional football player?

- I had a very quiet life till I turned 16. I studied mathematics in university, then taught mathematics for 5 years, then taught bridge.

How have you experienced life in Paris during corona?

- During corona containment, we lived in Paris and went to our family house in Normandy with Olivier, Thomas, Irene (his fiancée), my sister and my brother in law, Alain Levy. There we began to play bridge a lot on BBO and teach bridge with Zoom. There it was very quiet.

Tell us a story from your teenage years that made an impression on you.

- When I was 16, I was fired from my highschool and my parents send me in a religious boarding school in the countryside. It was awfull. So I pretended to have a appendix burst. I came back to Paris, had a surgery and came back home to rest for two weeks.

Three days after came the big student revolution "May 68". All the students were in the street, it was a great fest and I watched it all from my window, very sad.

How did you begin to play bridge?

- In the university during breaks... and sometimes during lessons.

What has been the best moment of your bridge life so far (apart from the tournament you played with me)?

- ☺ Both my first World Champion titles and my four victories in the national French mixed pairs with Thomas.

What is the secret to playing (successfully) with your sons and husband?



The Bessis family
- sons Thomas and
Olivier to the left
and right

- For me the only point is if they are capable to be calm (Bessissss are a little too much nervous ☺).

Tell us the love story of you and Michel.

- I knew him for some years and one day, who knows why I fell in love with him and so did he.

How would Thomas describe you in three words?

- Sweet mam.

Who is your favourite among all Thomas' girlfriends?

- Ire!!! Of course, she makes him so happy.

What is the best and worst quality about the French?

Worst is easy: Impossible to speak fluently another language (I'm trying to learn Italian but I'm bad). I'm joking. The French are individualist and misogynist. The best, I'm thinking.... ?

Sandra Rimstedt's question for you:

If you could only pick one type of cheese and one bottle of wine for the rest of your life, which would it be?

- It would be Ducru Beaucaillou, a great wine of Bordeaux, and fine camembert.

If you could have done something differently in your life, what would it be?

- I would like to be a great singer.

Who would you partner, kiss, kill between Olivier Bessis, Thomas Bessis and Michel Bessis?

- Kiss and play with the three of them and sometimes kill the three of them.

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

- Giorgia Botta. I know nothing about her but she is very funny.



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