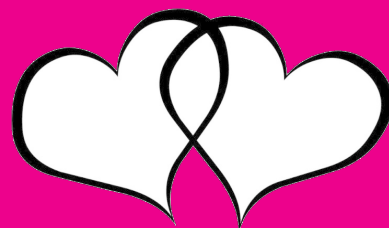


# MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS



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

## Not a lot of Distancing



Alpert is 16 VPs clear of SWUSA in second and seem to be in good shape, but with two matches to go nobody is safely in the top four, and the distance between the top 10 teams is as short as at a concert before Covid.

Victim of the Day we have hijacked from the leading team. Giorgia Botta has moved to New York to teach them bridge and pizza.

We remind the winner of the RR to inform us as soon as possible which team of the third and fourth place they choose. May the cards be with you!

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

Thursday March 11

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

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

15:15 EST / 21:15 CET – Semifinal segment 1

## Today's Schedule

### Round 10

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

### Round 11

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

## Knockouts

The top 4 teams qualify for the semifinals. The winner of the Round Robin must inform their choice of opponents between team 3 and 4 as quickly as possible after the last match in order to prepare the line up-system.

## Results

### Cross table by ranking after Round 9

rank	team	#	7	1	2	3	5	11	6	4	9	10	12	8	VP tot
1	<a href="#">ALPERT</a>	7	13.96	4.94	12.16	16.88	12.97	8.72		15.26		17.19	19.47		121.55
2	<a href="#">SWUSA</a>	1	6.04			15.66	13.72		2.23	11.58	17.49	11.28	10.97	16.21	105.18
3	<a href="#">FRANCE SUD</a>	2	15.06		4.34	14.64	4.34	12.97	16.55	13.96	3.45	17.77		2.66	101.40
4	<a href="#">MAUBERQUEZ</a>	3	7.84	4.34	5.36	4.34	5.36			17.04	17.49	15.06	9.03	18.76	100.28
5	<a href="#">SUSHI</a>	5	3.12	6.28	15.66	14.64	4.34	9.03			8.72	18.65	7.03	16.55	99.68
6	<a href="#">MARLENKA</a>	11	7.03		7.03		10.97	5.15	5.15	13.72	9.34	19.74	18.29		96.42
7	<a href="#">PARKER</a>	6	11.28	17.77	3.45			14.85	9.34	3.97	0.62	13.23	18.04		92.55
8	<a href="#">AUSTERLITZ</a>	4		8.42	6.04	2.96		14.85	10.66	7.84	17.34	19.08	3.12		90.31
9	<a href="#">APRICOTS</a>	9	4.74	2.51	16.55	2.51	11.28	6.28	16.03	12.16	4.34		16.55		88.61
10	<a href="#">TULIPS ++</a>	10		8.72	2.23	4.94	1.35	10.66	19.38	2.66		13.96	16.88		80.78
11	<a href="#">ALL MIXED UP</a>	12	2.81	9.03		10.97	12.97	0.26	6.77	0.92	3.45	6.04	4.34		53.22
12	<a href="#">KICK COVID</a>	8	0.53	3.79	17.34	1.24	3.45	1.71	1.96	16.88		3.12		4.34	50.02

## Results

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

# Case for the Defence



By Mark Horton

Everyone knows that the opening lead is frequently a critical moment for the defenders. That's why this deal from Round 6 attracted my interest:

## Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

On this layout you can make 4♥, but it is easy to see EW reaching 3NT which can be defeated by a spade lead.

After 1♥-2♦-2♥-2♠ were East to bid 2NT and West raise to game South would lead a club and if declarer played dummy's queen North would have to find a spade switch.

Were West to become declarer it would perhaps be easier for North to lead a spade.

However, were the bidding to start 1♥-1♠ and West end up as declarer in 3NT how easy is it for North to find a spade lead?

## All Mixed Up v Parker

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Baroni	Lahrman	Donati	Todd
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

2♠ Several hands without four spades  
 3♦ Hxx in diamonds 3♥ Asking  
 3♠ 6♥ and minimum

South led the ♣J and North took the ace as declarer followed with the king and switched to the ♠3, South winning with the king and returning the ♥4 which allowed declarer to take 11 tricks, +450.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moller	A Grossack	Gurvich	Parker
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the ♠3 and when the king held South continued with the jack, followed by the four for a rapid one down.

## Sushi v Alpert

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Natt	Versace	Leeming
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

South led the ♦J and declarer won with the ♦K (North playing the 9), crossed to the ♥K and played a club. North went up with the ace, declarer dropping the king, and switched to the ♠3. South took the king and returned the jack and North overtook it with the ace and tried a third spade - a good try, but declarer ruffed with the ♥9 and could claim when the trumps divided, +420.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barden	Z Grossack	Robinson	Botta
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♠3 and the defenders took the first five tricks as before.

#### Marlenka v Austerlitz

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bogacki	Gross	Sauvage	Taylor
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♥2 and with both red suits behaving declarer had 11 tricks, +460.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Woodcock	B Delestre	Draper	Delestre
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♠3, a rapid -50.



#### Mauberquez v Apricots

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Setton	Beauvillain	Franceschetti	Vitetta
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♦9 and declarer played dummy's eight, winning with the queen when South followed with the four. After unblocking the ♥K declarer played a diamond to the ten and South won and switched to the ♠J for the queen and ace. North continued with the ten and South won with the king and returned a spade, North cashing the nine and the ♣A for one down.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Monod	T Bessis	Mauberquez	V Bessis
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North found the spade lead, -50.



## Tulips ++ v France Sud

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Payan	Thiele	Cabanes	Verdegaal
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♣6 and declarer put up dummy's king, unblocked the ♥K, played a diamond to the king and cashed the top hearts, +490.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jansma	P Poizat	Levin	Poizat
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		



Marion Michielsen

North led the ♠3 which was worth 11 IMPs.

## SWUSA v Kick Covid

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Benner	Rimstedt	Del'Monte	Dwyer
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The ♠3 ensured a one trick defeat, -50.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Cullin	Boyd-Bowman	Michielsen	Taylor
—	Pass	2♥*	All Pass

2♥ 10-13, 6♥

The defenders did well to score three tricks 'on the go' but +170 was worth 6 IMPs.

It may look odd to lead a suit that has been bid against you, but there is little point in leading a heart, a diamond rates to be too slow and your club holding makes leading that suit unattractive. In general terms, a player who leads the opponent's suit in this situation will have a strong holding.

Notice that everyone who led a spade selected the three. The ten would cost the defenders a vital trick. Once North has decided to lead a spade it is in the hope that partner will have something useful in the suit, so the ten is more likely to cost than gain.

The defence rests!

# Three of a Kind



By Mark Horton

Just in case the Editor is short of copy I have selected three deals where bidding a slam was a possibility.

## Round 8

### Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Taylor	L. Madsen	Gross	Lahrmann
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♣	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

After North's overcall East had to choose between 4♣, 3♠ and 4♠. 4♣ was the most popular, attracting six supporters while 3♠ was selected four times and 4♠ twice. 4♣ is especially attractive if it promises a void, but although the annotations from the players indicate it shows a shortage, only Kevin Dwyer and Cecilia Rimstedt suggested it was specifically a void.

North led the ♥7 and when declarer played dummy's five South put in the ten

and switched to a spade, declarer finishing with 11 tricks, +450.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gast	Gold	v. Roosmalen	Seale
—	—	1♦	Pass
1♠	2♣	4♣*	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	6♣*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

- 4♣ Short with spades
- 4♦ Cue (mixed) 4NT RKCB
- 6♣ Odd number of key cards with ♣ void

This was the only table where 6♠ was bid, West being content to bid 4♠ over 4♥ at the other tables where this sequence was repeated.

Imagine North were to lead a heart. If declarer puts in dummy's jack South wins with the ace and returns a heart, declarer winning with dummy's king. If declarer then ruffs a heart, cashes the ♠K and plays a spade for the jack and ace it is possible to ruff another heart, draw the outstanding trump and cash the diamonds for 12 tricks. Not a certainty, but certainly a possibility.

However, David Gold found a devastating lead when he tabled the ♣Q! Naturally declarer ruffed in dummy, but that meant the slam was already doomed! A diamond to the ace saw North follow with the queen and declarer continued with a heart to the king, South winning with the ace and returning the ♦5.



## All Mixed Up v Marlenka

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Taylor	L. Madsen	Gross	Lahrman
2♦*	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♦*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

2♦ Multi, weak 2♥/♠

3♦ 'Not discussed'

5NT Pick a slam

Although NS had somehow avoided discussing this particular sequence it was clear that North was showing a good hand with a diamond shortage.

Declarer could win in dummy but simply didn't have enough tricks.

Even if declarer had got the hearts right there would still be no more than 11 tricks.

**Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.**

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

On this deal you would like to reach 6♣, but you are sure to see EW in the auction, which may complicate matters.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gast	Gold	v. Roosmalen	Seale
2♦*	Pass	2♠*	Dble
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ Multi, weak ♥/♠ or strong NT

2♠ Heart tolerance

3♣ Values

3♠ Asking

East led the ♠J and declarer claimed 11 tricks.

## Alpert v Apricots

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Setton	Z Grossack	Franceschetti	Botta
2♦*	Dble	2♠*	3♠*
Pass	4♠	Pass	6♣
All Pass			





Chris Parker

## France Sud v Parker

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Tebha	Zuccarelli	Rubenstein	Palau
2♠	Pass	3♠	Dble
All Pass			

Here North's diamond lead saw declarer play dummy's king and South won with the ace and switched to the ♠6 North allowing dummy's jack to score, so two down, -300.

If North takes the ♠K and switches to a club declarer ruffs in dummy, but should then go three down as South has the entries to give North two diamond ruffs.

2♦ Multi    2♠ Pass or correct  
3♠ 'Meant as a cue bid'

Most defences to a Multi use a double of 2♦ to show 13-15 balanced or some stronger hands, so I wonder if North thought 2♦ was weak in diamonds. North's raise to 4♠ suggests that things were perhaps unclear, but South's final bid was right on the money!

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	T Bessis	Fruscoloni	Bessis
2♠	Pass	3♠	Dble
All Pass			

North led the ♦3 but South withheld the ace, declarer winning with the jack, ruffing a club and running the ♠J which saw North follow with the seven. There was nothing more to the play, declarer scoring seven tricks, -300.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
R Poizat	A Grossack	Poizat	Parker
2♠	Pass	3♠	Dble
All Pass			

Here South took the diamond lead with the ace and played the ♥K before returning a diamond so declarer was safe for seven tricks, no swing.

## Sushi v Kick Covid

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Elmore	Natt	Compton	Leeming
2♠	Pass	3♦*	Dble
4♦	Dble	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

3♦ Non-forcing



Bas van Roosmalen

East's 3♦ strikes me as an excellent idea - it may help partner with the lead, pave the way for a sacrifice or, as here, make life awkward for NS.

West led the ♦ 2 and declarer won with the ace, ruffed a diamond and took two rounds of hearts. The 5-1 break meant there was no way to score more than 7 tricks, -150. That was unlucky, but declarer knew that West held nine cards in spades and diamonds, so the possibility of a bad trump break could not be discounted. Suppose at trick two declarer plays a spade, West taking the ace and exiting with a spade. Declarer wins with dummy's king pitching a diamond and can now afford to cash two hearts. When West discards declarer plays on clubs and the defenders cannot score more than three tricks.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barden	Del'Monte	Robinson	Benner
2♦*	Dble	Pass	3♣*
All Pass			

2♦ 'Weakish 2M, <8 HCP, could be five  
3♣ Values

Once again we encounter a double from North. Here it resulted in an unfortunate accident.

In the match between Austerlitz and SWUSA Cecilia Rimstedt opened 3♠, was raised to four and South's double ended the auction, -500 when declarer managed seven tricks. In the other room the Delestres' bid 2♠-3♠ and Gary Donner bid 3NT over Sandra Rimstedt's double.

That leaves Mauberquez v Tulips ++, both sides reaching 3NT after West opened 2♠.

## Round 9

### Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

### All Mixed Up v Sushi

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barden	v. Roosmalen	Robinson	Gast
—	1♠	Pass	3♣*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
	3♣ 6-9, 4♠		



## Austerlitz v Parker

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Baroni	Aubonnet	Donati	Carde
—	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Dble	Rdbl*	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

3♣ Puppet Stayman

3♠ 5♠ 4♥ Fit

4NT RKCB 5♦ 0/3 key cards

Rdbl ♦A

East found the threatening lead of the ♦5 and declarer took West's queen with the ace, cashed the ♠A, crossed to the ♠Q, cashed the ♣K, overtook the ten with the jack, pitched a diamond on the ♣A and played the ♥K, claiming 12 tricks.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moller	Sandqvist	Gurvich	Shashou
—	1♠	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Dble	5♥	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

3♦ 4♠, 9-11 3♥ Cuebid  
4NT RKCB 5♦ 1430

Declarer won the diamond lead, cashed the ♠K and played a club to the ten. West won, cashed the ♥A, the ♦K and exited with the ♣2, East's ruff meaning three down.

Declarer won the diamond lead, cashed the ♠AK, played a club to the king and overtook the ♣10 with the jack, +980.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bogacki	A Grossack	Sauvage	Parker
—	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

East led the ♣9, +480.

## Alpert v Mauberquez

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Avon	Botta	Voltaire	Z Grossack
—	2NT	Pass	3♣
Dble	3♠*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

3♣ Modified Stayman

3♠ 5♠ + ♣ stopper

+480 on the lead of the ♣9.





**Peter Both**

East led the ♦5 and after winning declarer followed Sandqvist's line and was the same three down.

### Tulips ++ v Marlenka

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Seale	Both	Gold	A Jansma
—	1♠	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	4♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

3♦ 6-9, 4♠

3♥ 'Short I guess'

East led the ♣9, -980.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Jansma	Draper	Levin	Woodcock
—	1♠	Pass	3♦*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Beauvillain	Fruscoloni	Vitetta
—	1♠	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♦*
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♠*
All Pass			

3♦ 4 card limit

The ♣9 meant +480.

In the other two matches no-one got beyond 4♠, but when Pierre Franceschetti overcalled Marion Michielsen's strong 1♣ with 2♥ Per-Ola Cullin's double netted -500 and an IMP.

I expect you would like me to discuss the play in 6♠ after a diamond lead. One advantage of playing East for the ♣Q is that you might score 4 club tricks. In that case you could cope with spades 3-1. You could also cope with 4-0 spades in either had and East having four clubs - as long as you play a club to the ten at trick two. Perhaps that suggest that playing East for the ♣Q is best, but it needs a better analyst than me!

3♣ 4♠  
 3♦ Semi natural  
 3NT Relay  
 4NT RKCB  
 5♦ 0/3 key cards  
 5♥ ♠Q?  
 6♠ Yes



# Victim of the Day

## Giorgia Botta

by Christina Lund Madsen



*Where are you from, where do you live, what is your age and how many boyfriends do you have?*

- I am from Rome, Italy. I live in NY, I am 32 yo and I have at least 3 boyfriends. Can you guess who? I give you a hint for each: one is a countryman of mine, the other one has a famous bridge-playing brother... However I only have one fiancé and he is the best of the bunch! (Especially because he doesn't play bridge)

*How has corona been for you as an Italian and living in NYC?*

- I am quite ashamed to say that it has actually been a new normal through which we really have not suffered. I am so lucky to be able to work remotely and I really took advantage of my - otherwise worthless - Italian passport to travel and spend extended time with my family in Rome during the year. There is also a wedding to plan - hoping it will happen - so that kept us quite busy as well. ☺

*Tell us about your background – education and if you ever had a real job?*

- Bridge was NEVER what I expected to call my full time job: I wanted to work for the UN! (Shoutout to Sandra who actually managed to do that for a while! So jealous). I studied Economics and Business in my undergraduate and International Relations for my master. Finding a job in the field was not easy and I eventually



decided to throw it all out of the window, bought a one way ticket to NY and started my adventure in the bridge world. I never had a real job but worked my whole life.

*What were you like as a teenager?*

- In Italian we would say "casa e chiesa" (home and church) except that my church was the bridge club :) I discovered other aspects of life in my early 20s after I started college... that's when the fun began, there wasn't a whole lot of casa OR chiesa happening then!

*Why did you move to New York and was it meant to be permanent?*



**Happy junior medalists from the open World Junior Championships in Atlanta 2013**

- I moved to NY because I had met a few bridge-playing locals that I knew were going to help me settle down and pursue the professional career.

Also does anyone ever ask "Why did you move to NY"? Just because it is NY! I always hoped it would be "permanent", but I do think I will live a double life one day, part-time Roman and part-time NY'er.

*How did you begin to play bridge?*

- I learnt at home, my mom and step-dad played A LOT when I was young. Spent many weeknights running around the bridge club and hearing them argue about "playing in a cue bid". I always wanted to learn cuebids but I knew right away never to pass one!

*What has been your highlight so far?*

- Hard to tell. Last year's (2019) trials were amongst the most fun in the last few years for sure. They were my 1st event as a USBF member and to see the US flag next to my name will always remain quite the highlight.

Learning to play with Zach has not been easy but we have managed and built a fantastic friendship while doing so.

*Tell us a good story from your junior years.*

- Oh my. You would have to write a whole journal about me. ☺

The junior worlds in Taicang, China, were definitely one of the most fun - besides the food, the heat and the humidity! We found this great club not far from our hotels where we would all go dancing the night before our days off. It had this "beach" theme with sand and stuff. They had the cutest blow up dolphin at the door that somehow ended up getting stolen and became the team mascot AND was brought all the way back to my house in Rome and then to future junior competition. Who stole it? We will never tell!

*As Sandra Rimstedt, who was our Victim earlier this week, you will also now represent the United States internationally – what were your feelings about this?*

- Mixed, as for her I am sure. Maybe even more in my case because I actually never



had the chance to represent Italy in the non-junior world and it was definitely a dream of mine to play in the Italian Women's team. Unfortunately that opportunity never came and I had to make a business/career decision.

Of course I am proud and excited at the chance of representing the US!

*You have an American fiancé – what is wrong with Italian men?*

- I actually have a German fiancé', we just happened to meet in NY. Nothing wrong with Italian men, but I need a more rational and less feisty partner than most Italians would be.

*Your fiancé is not a bridge player – what is wrong with male bridge players?*

- Nothing wrong there either (or is there?) but too much fighting about bridge in my past. Besides the tech world pays better. ☺

*How would your friends describe you in three words?*

- Crazy, loyal and potentially a bit bossy.

*Tell us something about yourself few people know.*

- Jeez, I wish I had a "national gymnast" in the bag or something. I studied Arabic in college and continued after, even in NY. I was somewhat decent at some point but then unfortunately I quit. It will be my full time hobby when I retire, absolutely loved it.

I am also an avid boxer, my new favorite workout. You can find me at a boxing gym nearby a host hotel at the nationals!

*Among your regrets, which is the biggest?*



Combining Italian heritage with NYC life style

- Probably that I never had a "real job" as you phrase it. I love what I do but I had much bigger dreams for my life, I wanted to make a difference. Surely naïve, but some days I feel bad that I never tried to change the world.

*Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Adam Grossack, Irene Baroni and Fredrik Nyström?*

- That is by far the easiest "partner, kiss, kill" you ever asked (at least the kiss part!)... Who would not want to kiss Fredrik? I might have to kill Adam, just to save Zach from an attempted murderer charge in the future, and partner with Irene since we are both Italian expats about to get married!

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

- Veronique suggested myself because I am funny! So I am going to suggest someone who is even funnier than me, and since there aren't many, I nominate my fantastic teammate Leonardo Fruscoloni. Spoiler.... he might also be one of my boyfriends!



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