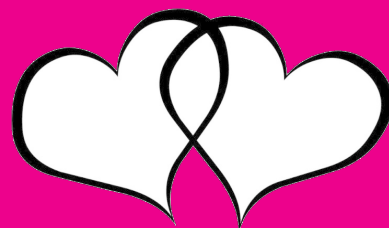


MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS



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Alpert Again

The final between Alpert (Claire Alpert, Giorgia Botta, Leonardo Fruscoloni, Zachary Grossack, Alfredo Versace) and France Sud (Bernard Cabanes, Eric Gautret, Catherine & Marc Mus, Jean Jacques Palau, Nadia Payan, Phillippe & Rokia Poizat, Helene Zuccarrelli) would have had a different outcome had it been two boards shorter. In a nailbiter Alpert won 81.1-78 and claimed her second MMT-title.

After the final Claire sent me an email with a classic Claire and Alfredo-correspondence:

"When we finished and Alfredo called, he just wanted to know why on two hands I didn't put him in game or at least invite him to game? He was a bit insulted that I don't think he's a good enough declarer.

- *Claire, you did very well, but on the hand I played 2S making 6, were you waiting for a better partner to make an invite?"*

We all hope for Claire that some day her dream partner comes along.



Upcoming Events

March 22-26 March Mixed Teams

([Registration](#) closes March 19)



April 12-16 April Mixed Teams



May 17-21 May Mixed Teams





Knock-Outs

SEMIFINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 ALPERT	10.1	41	51.1	37	88.1
 MARLENKA		20	20	35	55

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 FRANCE SUD	6.1	34	40.1	47	87.1
 APRICOTS		9	9	25	34

FINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 ALPERT	0.1	26	26.1	55	81.1
 FRANCE SUD		48	48	30	78

Results

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

The Way of the Slam

By Mark Horton



The final of the 2021 St. Louis Mixed Teams between Alpert and France Sud was an absolute cracker. I have agreed with the Editor to write up some of slam swings, leaving her to concentrate on deals more to her expertise ☺:

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Payan	Fruscoloni	Cabanes	Alpert
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

2♦ 'Game forcing, artificial'

East led the ♠4 and declarer took dummy's ace and claimed 12 tricks, +170.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Z Grossack	P Poizat	Botta	Poizat
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Dble	1♥
2♠	3♠*	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♦	All Pass	

East led the ♠4, but declarer was soon claiming, +920 and 13 IMPs.

The au pair thought that if you considered West's jump to 2♠ suggested a five card suit then it was unlikely that you could setup a spade trick. Your ♥Q might not be well-placed, so maybe you should cash your ace and hope you have a second trick - which you do if you continue clubs.



It all looks much easier on paper, don't you agree?

That deal helped France Sud to a half-time lead of 48-26.1.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zucarelli	Versace	Palau	Alpert
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

East led the ♥3 and declarer won with the five, crossed to the ♣Q and ran the ♦J, claiming the rest when it lost to East's king, +1440.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Z Grossack	C Mus	Botta	Mus
—	—	Pass	1♠
4♣	6NT	All Pass	

East led the ♣9 and having taken dummy's queen declarer played a diamond for the eight, queen and king, East returning the ♣7. Declarer won with the king, played a diamond to the jack, a heart to the king and a heart to the ace, West discarding the ♠2. When declarer continued with a diamond West pitched a club and although declarer could win and cash two clubs East could happily part with a spade and there were only 11 tricks, a 17 IMP swing.

If declarer leaves the diamond in dummy, returning to hand with a spade and cashing two clubs East can discard a heart and a spade, but when declarer plays a spade to dummy's ace, East, down to ♥J ♦105, will have no answer.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zucarelli	Versace	Palau	Alpert
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	2♥	2NT*	3♣
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

2NT Mixed raise



Georgia Botta

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ J 4 2
♥ A Q 8 7 4 3
♦ 10 3
♣ 10 8

♠ 3
♥ K J 2
♦ A K J 5
♣ Q 9 7 6 2

♠ A K Q 10 5
♥ 9
♦ Q 4 2
♣ A K 5 3

♠ 9 8 7 6
♥ 10 6 5
♦ 9 8 7 6
♣ J 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zucarelli	Versace	Palau	Alpert
1♣	2♥	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West led the ♠A and switched to a diamond, but declarer could take dummy's ace, draw trumps and claim, +1370.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Z Grossack	C Mus	Botta	Mus
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	2♥	3♥*	Pass
3♠	4♥	All Pass	

3♥ '♠ fit, 2NT stronger'

East led the ♠2 so the defenders took a trick, +680, but a loss of 12 IMPs.

EW have a paying save in 6♠, but how to find it? If East was a passed hand then perhaps a splinter of 4♣ is a possibility? Another idea would be for East to bid 3♦ as a 'fit-non-jump' but the suit might not be considered good enough.

By the time the final deal settled on the table Alpert were ahead in the set 43-30 which meant they now trailed by 8.9 IMPs.

North led the ♥7 and declarer took all the tricks, +720.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Z Grossack	C Mus	Botta	Mus
1♣	2♥	2♠	3♥
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♣	All Pass

4♦ Cue bid
4NT RKCB
5♣ 1/4 key cards

North led the ♥A but that was that, +1370 and a 12 IMP swing that made the final score 81.1-78 in favour of Alpert. They had amassed 41 IMPs on the three slams deals from the second session!

DISCOVER THE NEW

BeBRIDGE

♥♣♦♠ by Le Bridgeur

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In this issue

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Zach in the Sunshine

by Christina Lund Madsen



English Marlenka put up a fight against Alpert in the second segment of the semi-final, yet were forced to yield with the score 88.1-55 (including their 10.1 carry-over).

France Sud left their French comrades from Apricots no chance, winning both sets with a large margin and 87.1-34 in total (including 6.1 carry-over).

That meant Alpert's American-Italians faced France Sud in the final. After a delayed start getting everyone visible on Zoom, France Sud built up a significant lead in the first half.

The biggest swing for Alpert came when our only junior in the final (Zach Grossack) bid two levels higher than the opponent in his seat at the other table.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Z. Grossack	P Poizat	Botta	R Poizat
—	—	—	1NT
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

The contract seems to have four unavoidable losers. However Philippe Poizat led the ♦7 to South's jack and Grossack's ace. Declarer played the ♠9, and Poizat won with the ace to return a diamond, leaving Grossack with no loser in that suit and himself out of trumps to ruff with when South got in on the second round of spades.

Rokia Poizat tried cashing a heart followed by a club, but there were no more tricks left for the defence. +790 for Alpert.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Payan	Fruscolini	Cabanes	Alpert
—	—	—	1NT
2♠*	3NT	All Pass	

At the other table Nadia Payan overcalled 2♠, showing spades and a minor, and Fruscolini had no invitational bid available and gambled on game.

Payan had no trouble leading the ♦AK and clearing the suit, then cashing out for her one down when in with the ♣A.

Yet it was 12 IMPs to Alpert, reducing France Sud's lead to 27-26 after 7 boards.

In the second half Alpert had to find 22 IMPs, and they were well underway due to some of the slam swings reported by Mark Horton. But on boards 12, 13 and 14 France Sud won 9, 10 and 3 IMPs, reclaiming the lead and leaving Alpert trailing by 14 IMPs.

Mark Horton reported on the final board (for the readers who begin with this article we will not spoil it), however that alone was not enough for Alpert. They needed a 3 IMP swing on the penultimate board as well:

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ A 3

♥ A 7 4

♦ 7 2

♣ 9 8 7 6 5 4

♠ Q T 9 8 6 2

♥ 3

♦ A K T 6 5

♣ A

N

W E

S

♠ J 4

♥ T 8 6 5 2

♦ 9 4 3

♣ J 3 2

♠ K 7 5

♥ K Q J 9

♦ Q J 8

♣ K Q T

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Z. Grossack	C. Mus	Botta	M. Mus
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Dble	RDble
2♥	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

South's redouble showed 3♠. North had a tough bid on her second turn, not happy to double 2♥ with a void and too many unpredictable women in her hand.



Zach Grossack

After listening to the auction Grossack refrained from a heart lead and instead chose the ♦3 to his partner's 9 and South's ace. Marc Mus played a low spade towards dummy, and Zach went up with the ♠K to play a diamond through dummy's queen, Botta cashing out for one down, +100 for Alpert.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zuccarelli	Versace	Palau	Alpert
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♣*	All Pass	

Versace showed an invitational hand with clubs, and when Alpert wisely passed and took 9 tricks, it was 5 IMPs for her team, and now down to whether her opponents would bid slam on the last board.



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