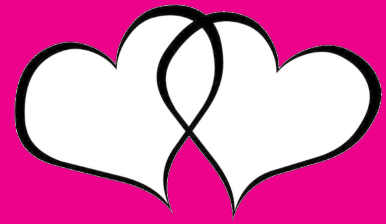


MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS



ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS • MMT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG

The Essence of Bridge

As much as we have missed seeing our regular participants, our newcomers move me the most. If you haven't read the mini-interviews from yesterday, I advise you to do so, and we have more today. A few quotes from today's bulletin:

My ambition is to keep learning, and so far I have mostly learned humility.

- Fred Wardwell

My bridge ambitions include remembering to splinter.

- Kate Sears

What moves me is the pure love of the game that shines through these interviews and the joy and friendship this group of strangers has found in each other's company.

Their presence in this event comprises the main essence of bridge for all players; to challenge yourself throughout life in the company of good friends.

After two rounds of Swiss, our German Juniors+ have taken the lead ahead of all the world champions, which hardly makes the event less entertaining.

All players should enter BBO 5 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

March 1st

10:00 EST / 16:00 CET – R3 (16 boards)

12:15 EST / 18:15 CET – R4 (16 boards)

Same schedule throughout the week

Results & Draw

Draw Round 3

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	 GERMAN JUNIORS +	 CREDS
2	 TURNIPS	 MARCH HARES
3	 MIXSTERS	 NOR'EASTER
4	 BENTLEY	 ALPERT
5	 SNAPDRAGON	 COAST 2 COAST
6	 BLIZZARD	 SMART RABBIT

Ranking after round 2		
rk	team	VPs
1	 GERMAN JUNIORS +	31.91
2	 CREDS	28.36
3	 TURNIPS	26.80
4	 MARCH HARES	24.69
5	 MIXSTERS	24.27
6	 NOR'EASTER	21.67
7	 BENTLEY	19.57
8	 ALPERT	17.03
9	 SNAPDRAGON	16.66
10	 COAST 2 COAST	14.50
11	 BLIZZARD	7.38
12	 SMART RABBIT	7.16

Results

Next Event:
May Mixed Teams
May 2-5
Registration: [mmt.
bridgeresults.org](http://mmt.bridgeresults.org)

Global Warming

Round 1



By Mark Horton

Reporting on an event that rejoices in the title 'World Warm Up Mixed Teams', I can't help but reflect that if the mad monk pushes the button my title will be more than appropriate.

While the world holds its collective breath life goes on, and where best to start our coverage that with the opening deal of Round 1:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 10 9 7 4	♠ K Q J 8 6 5								
♥ Q 7 6 4	♥ 9								
♦ 8	♦ J								
♣ A 9 8 4	♣ J 7 6 5 2								
<table style="border: none; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">♠ 3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ A K 10 8 5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ Q 9 6 5 4 2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		♠ 3		♥ A K 10 8 5		♦ Q 9 6 5 4 2		♣ Q	
♠ 3									
♥ A K 10 8 5									
♦ Q 9 6 5 4 2									
♣ Q									
<table style="border: none; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">♠ A 2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ J 3 2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A K 10 7 3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ K 10 3</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		♠ A 2		♥ J 3 2		♦ A K 10 7 3		♣ K 10 3	
♠ A 2									
♥ J 3 2									
♦ A K 10 7 3									
♣ K 10 3									

With the ♥Q in the right place NS can score 12 tricks in three denominations, while EW can save a few ♠ points by bidding 6♠. Please don't write in to ask me what North should open. I was taught you start with your longest suit, but 1♦ was the choice of only one player!

Bentley v March Hares

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Retter	Z Grossack	Petelko	Koeppel
—	1♥	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

It may appear surprising that West never supported spades, but there is no law that says East can't have been dealt a singleton club. It did occur to me that West might bid 5♣ over the double (which must imply a spade fit) and then leave East to decide if any further action is required.

Declarer won the spade lead with dummy's ace and ran the ♥J, +980.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kolton	Rasmussen	A Grossack	Jain
—	1♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

East's lower -level preemptive strike left South with a myriad choice of actions. You could argue that 4♥ is not enough, but your trump-support is modest. There is an argument for changing your mind when partner bids on over 5♠, but these competitive auctions are not always easy to judge.

The bottom line was that 11 IMPs changed hands.

Turnips v Nor'Easter

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Stashenko	Francheschetti	Usluel	Setton
—	1♥	2♠	3♠*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

The even lower overcall saw NS rapidly subside, +480.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Vachani	Tartarin	Piltch
—	1♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

That meant another 11 IMP swing was recorded.

Smart Rabbit v Mixters

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hammelev	Zack	Bo Krefeld	Barr
—	1♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	5♥	All Pass	

The regulation +480.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bareket	Brenner	Saada	Benzaquen
—	1♥	3♠	Dble*
4♠	5♦	Pass	6♦
6♠	Dble	All Pass	

South's double meant that the double fit came to light.

World Championship Book Salsomaggiore 2022

The official book of the World Championships in Italy will be released on or before the start of the World Bridge Series in Wroclaw later this year.

The principal contributors will be *Brian Senior, Barry Rigal, Mark Horton, Marek Wojcicki, Daniel Gulyas & Ron Tacchi*.

The book will include 300 pages of all results, photographs and extensive coverage of the four championship events.



The book will be available from bridge suppliers around the world at the official retail price of £25, US\$35 and €30.

- distributed by Master Point Press





Nina Benzaquen

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Hillyard	Versace	Gilman
—	1♥	2♥*	2♠*
3♠	4♦	4♠	5♥
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

2♥ Spades and clubs

That was 3 down, -500 but and 7 IMP gain.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

South led the ♦A and switched to the ♥2, North taking the king and continuing with the ace. Declarer ruffed, played the ♠Q and followed it with two rounds of clubs, claiming eight tricks shortly thereafter, -800 and an 8 IMP loss.

Alpert v Coast 2 Coast

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
McLaughlin	Hoyos	Wood	S. Molson
—	1♦	1♠	2♠*
3♠	4♥	4♠	6♦
Pass	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

South led the ♦K and switched to the ♥J. Declarer ruffed the second round of the suit and played the ♠K, South taking the ace and playing another heart. Declarer ruffed, played a spade to the nine and ruffed the ♥Q. He then tried the ♣J, but you don't get to be a World Champion by covering with the king and when South followed with the three that was -800.

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

This looks like a regulation 3NT by North, the outcome being decided by East's choice of opening lead. As you are about to see, appearances can be deceptive.

Alpert v Coast 2 Coast

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
McLaughlin	Hoyos	Wood	S. Molson
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦*(GF)
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	



Jane McLaughlin

East led the ♥4 and declarer took West's jack with the queen (Should I say anything about that? Given that you are going to finesse into the danger hand winning with the king offers no significant advantage.) and played a diamond to the queen.

West won and four heart-beats later he was one down, -50.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Hillyard	Versace	Gilman
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ Artificial game force
2♠ 4+♠

I remember being told by Bob Rowlands that leading from ace to four was a poor choice, and here, unwilling to give declarer a cheap trick, East started with the ♠Q. Declarer won with dummy's king, played a club to the ace and ran the ♦J.

West ducked, won the next diamond and played back the ♠8 for the ten, jack and ace. Declarer played a heart to the king and ace, won the heart return and cashed his tricks, +400 and 10 IMPs.

True, he could have endplayed East for an overtrick, but that's not the sort of thing you do when you have already dodged a bullet.

Bentley v March Hares

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Retter	Z Grossack	Petelko	Koeppel
Pass	1♣*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣ 2♣ Game forcing

East led the ♥4 for the jack and king and declarer played a diamond to the queen, West winning and returning the ♥6. When declarer followed with the two East contributed the five and the heart suit was blocked, declarer emerging with nine tricks, +400.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kolton	Rasmussen	A Grossack	Jain
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♥4 and declarer won with the queen and took the diamond finesse. When the queen held he played the ♣J to the ace and repeated the diamond finesse, West winning and returning the ♥6. Lightning struck for a second time when East contributed the five, so there was no swing.

Suppose declarer wins the opening lead with the ♥K and takes a diamond finesse that holds. Now you might consider running the ♣J. If it loses you still have chances, not least because East might play a second heart hoping West started with the queen.

Smart Rabbit v Mixters

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hammelev	Zack	Krefeld	Barr
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♠Q and declarer had an easy route to nine tricks, +400.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bareket	Brenner	Saada	Benzaquen
—	1♣*	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT

1♣ 2+♣

East led the apparently deadly ♥4 and declarer won with the queen and played a diamond for the queen and king, West returning the ♥3.



When declarer followed with the two East won with the five and switched to the ♠9. Declarer took dummy's ace and cashed his diamonds. East pitched two spades getting declarer up to ten tricks and after unblocking the ♠K he came to hand with the ♣A and cashed the ♠10.

When East discarded the ♥A declarer played a sneaky ♣3 and when East failed to take the queen that was +460 and 2 IMPs.

Snapdragon v German Juniors +

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Di Bacco	Gold	Farwig	Knottenbelt
—	1♣*	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣ (if 4432)



David Gold

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nettleton	Rieger	Paske	Pabst
—	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♠Q and declarer was not hard pressed to record nine tricks and pick up 11 IMPs.

Round 2

To the best of my knowledge the Editor does not possess psychic powers. However, having delivered a brief report on the opening round and advising her that I was now working on Round 2 she told me to take it easy. Had something in my previous article indicated that I am currently battling against a raging cold?

Whatever, in the finest traditions of the Mastermind question-master 'I've started so I'll finish' here is a deal that had something to offer:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

East led the ♥4 and declarer won with the king and played a diamond to the ace. He now continued with the five (how about the ten, leaving the lead in dummy if West ducks for a second time?) and his jack took the trick.

He now changed tack, crossing to dummy's ♠A and running the ♣J. East won and exited with the ♠Q, which appeared to be a fatal blow to declarer's hopes, but he ducked and when East switched to the ♣4 he had suddenly been handed a life-line. However, it was a hard one to grasp and declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♣K and exited with a diamond which resulted in three down when West won and played a heart, -150.

When East switched to the ♣4 declarer must unblock dummy's ♣10 under the ♣AK then cross to dummy with a spade and throw East in with a club after which declarer will score the two tricks he needs with the ♠10 and the ♥Q.

4♥ is the obvious resting place for NS (it was reached at 11 of the 12 tables) but the 5-0 trump break suggests that it has little chance. First impressions are often misleading.

Mixters v German Juniors+

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rieger	Yaninski	Pabst	Teneva
—	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the ♠4 and declarer won with dummy's queen and cashed the ♥K, West discarding the ♦3. Declarer switched to the ♦Q and West won and played a second spade, declarer winning and playing a club, East rising with the king and exiting with a club, West taking the ace and returning a diamond at which point declarer claimed for one down, -100.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
O Fuglestad	Di Bacco	A Fuglestad	Farwig
—	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the ♥2, which gave declarer an opportunity. Having won with dummy's seven and seen East pitch the ♦3 she played the ♦Q and West won and exited with the ♠9, declarer winning in dummy and playing the ♦4 to



Ann Karin Fuglestad

dummy's king followed by the ten. When East ruffed that with the ♥4 she overruffed with the eight, cashed the top spades pitching a club and played a club.

East won and exited with the ♣8 but the ♣A was the defender's last trick, +620 and 12 IMPs.

It is easy enough to see that ruffing the third diamond is a mistake, but declarer had already gone wrong.

Once the trump split has been revealed it is clear that declarer will need some minor suit tricks. One possibility is to play a spade to the king at trick two, followed by a club.

If West wins and plays a spade declarer wins in dummy and plays the ♦Q. West wins and exits with diamond but declarer wins, pitches a club on the ♠A and plays a club, easily coming to ten tricks.

Creds v Bentley

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zolotow	Rosenberg	Tebha	Rosenthal
—	1NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1NT 15-17 (14+)

3♣ Puppet for 5 card major

3♦ No 5 card major

3♠ 4♥

East led the ♦9 (in theory the only suit that ensures the defeat of the contract) and West took the ace and returned the three. Declarer won with dummy's queen and cashed the ♥K, the 5-0 split ensuring the defenders would score four tricks and collect -100.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Cole	Z Grossack	Bianchedi	Koeppel
—	1NT	Pass	2♣*
2♦	Dble*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Dble 'Undiscussed'

East led the ♦9 and when declarer played dummy's queen West took the ace and switched to the ♠5. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played a club for the jack, West following with the ten. A diamond to the ten was followed by a second club and when East went up with the king declarer had 11 tricks, +660 and 13 IMPs.

Turnips v Alpert

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Franceschetti	Versace	Setton
—	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the ♠4 and declarer won with dummy's queen, cashed the ♥K and played the ♦4. When West followed with the three, declarer won with the king and cashed the top spades discarding a diamond.

When he played a club East hopped up with the king and exited with a diamond but declarer could ruff in dummy and play a club. West won and exited with a diamond, ruffed by East with the nine and overruffed with dummy's jack, declarer playing a heart to the queen and claiming ten tricks, +620.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Hoyos	Tartarin	S. Molson
—	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Dble	All Pass		

Knowing it was a pound to a penny that his partner held five trumps West chanced his arm.

East led the ♦9 and West took the ace and switched to the ♠2. In due course declarer lost two clubs and a heart, -200 and 13 IMPs.



Now declarer could discard dummy's ♠Q, cash the ♠K and play the ♠8. That caught East in the crossfire of declarer's trumps (as Reese used to write) and declarer claimed, +790.

If East ruffs with the ♥9 declarer overruffs in dummy, ruffs a club high and plays a heart picking up East's ♥105.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Knottenbelt	Cohen	Gold	N Tal
—	1NT	Pass	2♣*
2♦	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Snapdragon v Smart Rabbit

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Bareket	Paske	Saada	Nettleton
—	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
2♦	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♥	All Pass
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

East led the ♦9 and West took the ace and returned the three, declarer winning with dummy's queen and playing a heart to the queen followed by a club. East went up with the king and exited with a club, West taking the ace and returning the ♠7.

Declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♣9 and then played the ♦K. As long as East ruffs that (any trump will do) the contract must fail, but imagining it made no difference East discarded a spade.

East led the ♦9, West taking the ace and switching to the ♠7. Declarer won with dummy's jack, cashed the ♥J, played a heart to the queen, a diamond to the queen, cashed two spades pitching a club and then tried the ♦K.

East could choose between discarding a club and his actual choice of ruffing with the ♥9. Declarer discarded a club and when East exited with a heart the defenders eventually collected their club tricks for -100 and 13 IMPs.

By the end of the day the German Juniors+ had taken the lead ahead of the Creds, Turnips and March Hares.

Team Blizzard

- I played cards my entire life but decided to learn bridge just five years ago. My mother wanted to teach me bridge as a kid but none of my friends played so I wasn't interested in learning.

After Mom died, I found some of her bridge books and started reading them. I took classes, studied, and asked lots of questions. The more I studied, the more I realized how complex this game is and how much more I wanted to learn.

One of the highlights of learning bridge has been meeting and getting to know so many funny, wonderful, and intelligent people who have become bridge partners and friends. We challenge each other to grow and improve our game.

I was told early on the best way to improve is to play with and against the strongest players which is my motivation for competing in this event.

My goal is to keep learning and continuing to improve in this great game. One thing I've learned in bridge is I will never master this game. There is always more to learn and new challenges to meet but I'm enjoying the wonderful journey.

**Dori Senerchia
(Blizzard)**



**Sam Gallo
(Blizzard)**

Following my retirement, I joined ACBL in late fall of 2018 as I always wanted to play more Bridge but never had the time.

In 2019 I won the Ace of Clubs Award and won the Award again in 2021. I also qualified for the NAP Flight C to be held in Reno in 2022.

I play as frequently as I can as I truly enjoy the continuing challenge and competitive aspects of Bridge.

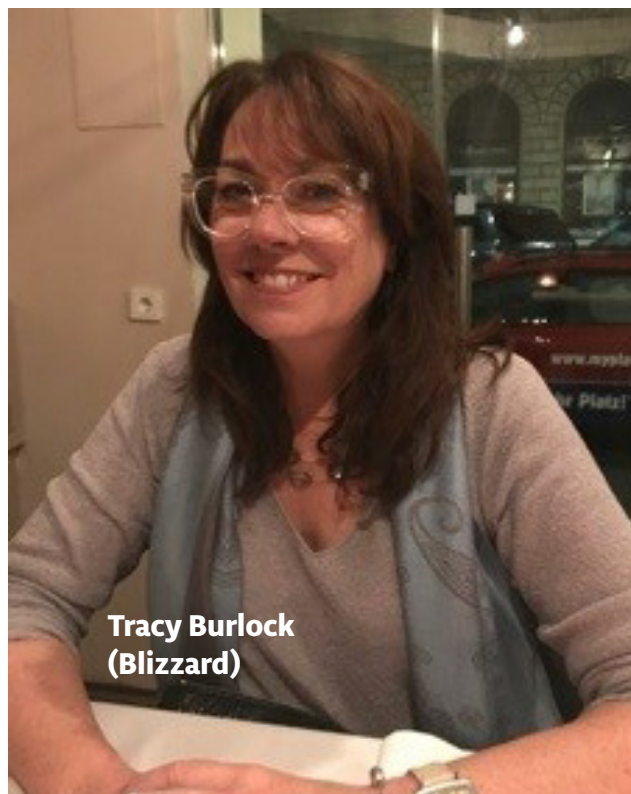
I am looking forward to playing against some top competition in this event to continue my improvement and hopefully play some tournament Bridge down the road.

- Contemplating my soon-to-be-empty nest, I took my first bridge lesson 7 years ago through an adult education program.

After the first class, I thought my brain would explode with the complexity of the game. By the third lesson, I was intrigued, and by the end of the course, I was devoted to learning more!

The highlight of learning bridge has been meeting and getting to know so many wonderful, funny, intelligent, curious people, many of whom I now consider good friends.

We are all collecting bridge “war stories,” and enjoy swapping them with each other as we learn and grow in the game. We share the goal of improving our game and learning new ways to to handle various bidding, declaring, and defensive situations. This event will undoubtedly test our skills, and motivate us to learn and improve our game.



**Tracy Burlock
(Blizzard)**

My goal continues to be to improve at the game, of course, but I have no illusions about the limits of my skills! I hope to enjoy the game, keep the gray matter from turning to mush, and to spend time learning and laughing with my bridge friends, for many years to come.

If there's one thing I've learned, it's that anything can happen so we should never give up.



**Fred Wardwell
(Blizzard)**

- In about 1965 my parents sat down with me and my brother Sam and taught us how to play bridge in one evening. They then announced that they didn't much like the game; that everyone needs to know how to play it; and that we could now play with our many relatives!

So we did. Strong twos. Four card majors. Goren. Except one uncle who didn't know Goren point count, just counted quick tricks. He won his share.

One day four of us were playing in my dying grandmother's bedroom, she was sound asleep. Brother Sam bid something and she said loud and clear, “Now Sammy, you can't bid that!” and returned to her peaceful sleep.

So I played in a perpetual game in my fraternity house when classes didn't interfere, and upon graduation discovered and joined the ACBL and earned my first .02 or so master-points. Then I got serious about working for a living and only played social bridge and read the Bulletin for about 40 years. Most notable was the time ten of us showed up at a young couple's house to play and the baby sitter told us the young couple had gone out to a movie!

But retirement meant I could play more, and Covid meant I could play MUCH more. Shortly before Covid I ran into Tracy, and one day in the crowd around the results sheets at the Family Friendly Bridge Club, I shoulder bumped her and said: "Hey, nice game." She responded "Hey, want to play sometime?" And so here we are.

My ambition is to keep learning, and so far I have mostly learned humility.

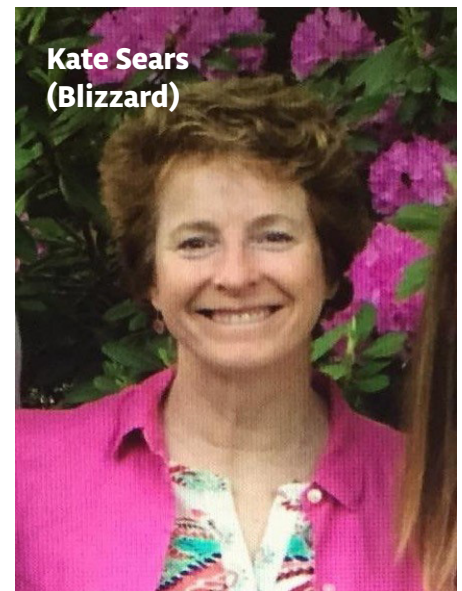
- I've been playing bridge for about 10 years, at first just casually and then more seriously since retiring.

A highlight has been qualifying for a spot in the NAP(C) tournament.

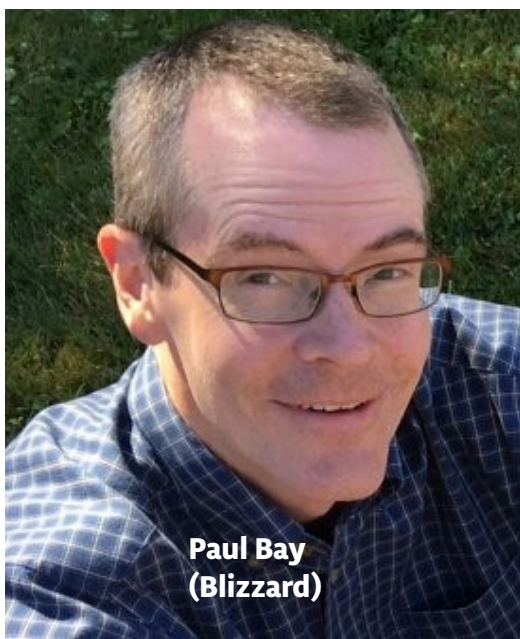
My bridge ambitions include remembering to splinter.

I'm participating in this team game to expand ways to enjoy bridge and engage with more people.

If there's one thing I've learned, it's that who you play with makes all the difference.



**Kate Sears
(Blizzard)**



**Paul Bay
(Blizzard)**

- I returned to bridge about four years ago after a 25-year hiatus.

I love the mathematics and puzzle-like aspects of bridge: the statistics, combinatorics, and game theory. Not every deal is interesting, but every new deal has the potential to be revealed as interesting!

I love writing little programs that produce random hands to investigate bidding sequences and rules of thumb for bidding and play.

If there's one thing I've learned, it's that no matter how sophisticated the rule of thumb, there will be some exception!

For this event, in addition to having fun with my friends, I'm hoping to learn at least one new rule of thumb that applies more broadly than just the current hand.



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