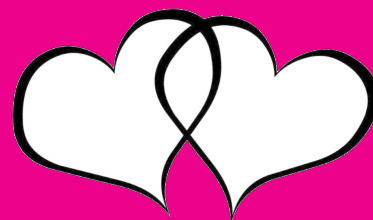


MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS






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Tulips+ still Undefeated

Tulips+ fended off attacks from the second and third placed teams yesterday to remain undefeated before the last match in the Round Robin. The Tulips have such a big lead that they are guaranteed to finish either first or second and heavy favourites for first.

Last round is a Danish, which means that all teams will play the team closest to them in the ranking and the VPs will be added to a team's total, which means the Tulips are favourites for the title.

Our battle in the bottom is almost more exciting than the uneven fight in the top, since three teams are within 2 VPs. All to fight for in today's matches for all teams.

Ranking after round 6		
rk	team	VPs
1	 TULIPS +	95.33
2	 LATINAVIANS	78.63
3	 LAST MINUTEMEN	65.00
4	 RUBENSTEIN	56.21
5	 TURNIPS	50.81
6	 FUGL	45.65
7	 ALPERT	44.53
8	 DINKIN	43.84

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

April 25th

10:00 EST / 16:00 CET – R7 (16 boards)

12:15 EST / 18:15 CET – R8 (16 boards)









Same schedule throughout the week

Results & Today's Draw

Results

Ranking after round 6		
rk	team	VPs
1	 <u>TULIPS +</u>	95.33
2	 <u>LATINAVIANS</u>	78.63
3	 <u>LAST MINUTEMEN</u>	65.00
4	 <u>RUBENSTEIN</u>	56.21
5	 <u>TURNIPS</u>	50.81
6	 <u>FUGL</u>	45.65
7	 <u>ALPERT</u>	44.53
8	 <u>DINKIN</u>	43.84

Round 7

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	 <u>LAST MINUTEMEN</u>	 <u>LATINAVIANS</u>
2	 <u>TURNIPS</u>	 <u>DINKIN</u>
3	 <u>TULIPS +</u>	 <u>RUBENSTEIN</u>
4	 <u>ALPERT</u>	 <u>FUGL</u>

Round 8 is Danish (1 v 2, 3 v 4 etc)

Tough Assignments

Round 5 & 6



By Mark Horton

The third day of the April Mixed featured some difficult problems in both bidding and play.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Tulips+ v Latinavians

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nilsson	Jansma	Palma	Levin
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♠	2NT	3♠	4♣
All Pass			

South had better options than 4♣. Apart from a raise to 3NT a takeout double was an option, strongly suggesting at least 4♥ was a possibility.

West led the ♠2 and declarer won with the ♠J, played a spade to the queen, pitched a diamond on the ♠A, cashed the ♦A and ruffed a diamond, East discarding

the ♥8. A heart to the jack saw East win with the ♥A and exit with the ♥2. Having won with dummy's ♥K declarer ruffed another diamond as East disposed of the ♥6. When declarer continued with the ♥10 West ruffed and East, with only clubs left, underrated. The ♠k was ruffed in turn by the ♣7, ♣10 and ♣Q and declarer exited with a heart, ruffing with dummy's ♣J which ensured 10 tricks, +130.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Schippers	L. Madsen	Stienen	Verhaegen
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♠*	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♠ 5♠ + ♦/♣, 5-10

East led the ♠10 for the jack, king and three and declarer won the next spade with the ace and played the ♣J, ducking when it was covered by East, who returned the ♠9.

Declarer won, fatally discarding the ♥4 from dummy. A club to the eight saw West discard a diamond and after cashing two more clubs declarer played a heart for the nine, jack and ace. East cashed the ♣10 and switched to the ♦J, covered in turn by the queen, king and ace. When the ♥K collected West's ♥Q it was clear why parting with a heart was wrong.

One down, -50 and a 5 IMP swing.



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barry	Brekka	Ferro	Lindstrøm
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	1NT	2♠	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♠10 and declarer ducked East king, won the second spade, played the ♣J for the king and ace and a heart for the nine and king. East won and played a spade and declarer could only manage eight tricks, -50 and a 10 IMP loss.

Alpert v Last Minutemen

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
P Herrera	Bianchedi	G Herrera	Sultan
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♣ Stayman

East led the ♣2 and declarer won with the ♣J and played a diamond for the jack, queen and king, West switching to the ♠2. Declarer won with dummy's ♠J, played a diamond to the six and the ♥K.

East won and returned the ♠10, declarer winning and continuing with the ♥J. West won and exited with a spade and declarer won, cashed the ♦A and played a club to the queen for 10 tricks, +430.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Wood	Versace	McLaughlin
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♠	Dble*
All Pass			

Dinkin v Fugl

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
A Fuglestad	Sobel	O Fuglestad	Nelken
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1NT 14+-17

2♣ Stayman

2♦ No major

East led the ♠10 and declarer took West's ♠K and played the ♣J for the king and ace followed by a heart for the nine, jack and ace, East returning the ♠9, followed by the ♠5. Declarer won, cashed the ♥K and played the ♣7, overtaking it with dummy's eight (letting it run leaves up the possibility of an overtrick).

A diamond to the ace was followed by a heart finesse and the ♣Q was the game-going trick, +400.

North led the ♣J and continued with the ♣7, declarer ruffing South's ♣Q and playing the ♥Q for the king and ace followed by the ♠5 for the four (the counter-intuitive ♠J is best) six and queen. North cashed the ♥J and continued with the ♥3, declarer ruffing South's ♥10 and playing a diamond for the jack and queen.

At this point the simplest defence is to play the ♠J, but South exited with the ♣6 and North ruffed as declarer pitched a diamond, cashed the ♠A and exited with the ♦6. Declarer won with the ♦8 and played the ♦10, but when she ruffed it with dummy's ♠10 she was two down, -500 costing 2 IMPs.

Turnips v Rubenstein

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
A Grossack	Franceschetti	Parker	Setton
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	3NT
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♣4 and declarer won with the ♣J, played a diamond for the jack, queen and king and took West's return of the ♦3 with the ace, East discarding the ♥2. When declarer continued with the ♥K East won and switched to the ♠10 for the jack, king and ace and declarer played the ♥J, West winning and returning the ♠8.

Declarer won and played the ♣7 for the king and ace but there were only eight tricks, -100.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Tebha	Tartarin	Rubenstein
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♠	Dble*
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♠10 and the trick was completed by the jack, king and ace. The ♣J was covered and ducked and declarer surprisingly took the next spade, continuing with dummy's top clubs. When West parted with the ♥9 a heart for the queen, king and ace meant the contract was only one down, -50 and a 2 IMP gain.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Tulips+ v Latinavians

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nilsson	Jansma	Palma	Levin
Pass	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1NT 14-16

3♣ Both majors, maximum

4♥ Spades

South led the ♣10 and declarer won with the ♣A and cashed the ♠A, North discarding the ♦7. The ♠J was covered in turn by the queen and king and declarer played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing. Ten tricks were in sight, but when declarer exited with a heart North played four rounds of the suit and that was one down, -50.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Schippers	L. Madsen	Stienen	Verhaegen
1♣*	1♦	Dble*	1♠
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

1♣ 10-12 balanced or 16+
Dble4+♥

North led the ♦4 and declarer won with dummy's ♦K and played a heart for the eight, nine and jack. When North continued with three more hearts declarer won and played a spade to the ace, North's discard disclosing the route to the rest of the tricks, +590 and 12 IMPs.

To defeat 4♥x North must continue with a diamond at trick three. She can win the next heart and play another diamond, forcing dummy to ruff. If declarer plays a third trump North wins and plays another diamond, ensuring two down.

Dinkin v Fugl

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
A Fuglestad	Sobel	O Fuglestad	Nelken
1♣*	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣

South led the ♠3 and with time in hand declarer could afford to play a heart to the nine and later a second heart to the seven, finishing with 10 tricks, +430.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barry	Brekka	Ferro	Lindstrøm
Pass	1♦	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

South led the ♦3 and declarer won with the ♦K and played a heart for the eight, nine and jack. A diamond return to the ace saw declarer play a heart and North took the ♥A and exited with a diamond, declarer ruffing and playing another heart.

North won and continued diamonds, declarer ruffing and playing three rounds of clubs which meant he finished three down, North ruffing the ♠A and cashing his minor suit sevens. Surprisingly he cashed the ♦7 before the ♣7. -150 meant an 11 IMP swing.

Alpert v Last Minutemen

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
P Herrera	Bianchedi	G Herrera	Sultan
Pass	1♦	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♦3 and declarer took North's ♦Q with the ♦K and played a spade to the king, North discarding the ♥6. A spade for the jack and queen saw South switch to the ♣10 and declarer won with the ♣K and cashed two spades, North parting with a second club and the ♦4.

Declarer cashed two clubs and when North discarded the ♥J he exited with a heart. North won and had only to play a diamond to ensure one down, but he cashed the ♥A and Declarer emerged with an overtrick, +430.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Wood	Versace	McLaughlin
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

South led the ♣10 and declarer won with the ♣K and played a heart for the eight, nine and ace. The diamond return was taken by the ♦K and a second heart went to North's jack as South pitched the ♠2. Declarer won the diamond exit and played a third heart, North taking the ♥K and playing a diamond, but declarer ruffed with the ♥10, played the ♣J to the queen, drew the outstanding trump and played a spade to the ace, +420 to flatten the board.

Turnips v Rubenstein

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
A Grossack	Franceschetti	Parker	Setton
1♦	1♥	Dble*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

- 2♠ Minimum, 4♠
- 3♥ Game try

North started with three rounds of hearts and South ruffed and switched to the ♦8. Declarer won with dummy's ♦K, cashed the ♠A and was soon claiming, +420.



Anne Laure Tartarin

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Tebha	Tartarin	Rubenstein
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	Rdbl	All Pass

South led the ♦J and continued with the ♦8, declarer taking North's ♦Q with the king and cashing the ♠A. That was soon followed by a claim, +800 and 9 IMPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Tulips+ v Latinavians

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Nilsson	Jansma	Palma	Levin
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1NT Natural or 3♠, 6-7

3♥ 5♠+5♥, 14-16

South led the ♣4 and North won with the ♣A and returned the ♣3, declarer ruffing and making the classic safety play of cashing the ♥A. When it collected the ♥K declarer continued with the ♠2 and South took the ♠A and played the ♣K. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♠K, played a diamond to the ace and a heart, claiming the rest, +650.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Schippers	L. Madsen	Stienen	Verhaegen
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South led the ♦10 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a heart for the queen and king. When South switched to the ♣4 North won with the ♣A and returned the ♣3, declarer ruffing and cashing the ♥A. When South discarded he was one own, -100 along with 13 IMPs.

Dinkin v Fugl

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
A Fuglestad	Sobel	O Fuglestad	Nelken
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♣	4♥	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♠K and declarer won in dummy and exited with the ♠6, East taking two tricks in the suit as West discarded the ♥83. The ♥A was followed by a diamond and West took the ♦A and returned the ♦8 for East to ruff. Declarer ruffed the ♥10 exit with dummy's ♣J and played a club to the queen, but that meant she was four down, -800.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barry	Brekka	Ferro	Lindstrøm
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

South led the ♦2 and declarer took dummy's ace and played the ♠J, South winning and continuing with the ♦5. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ♥A, ruffed a spade and played the ♦Q, ruffed and overruffed. Declarer cashed the ♥Q and claimed, +680, but a 3 IMP loss.

Alpert v Last Minutemen

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
P Herrera	Bianchedi	G Herrera	Sultan
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass

East was somewhat unlucky when West decided against raising hearts. South led the ♦10 and declarer won with the ace and played a heart for the queen and king. He ruffed the diamond return, cashed the ♥A and played the ♠2, South taking the ace and playing a third diamond which allowed declarer to discard his losing club as North ruffed with the ♥J, +170.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Wood	Versace	McLaughlin
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Having taken the lead of the ♦10 with dummy's ace declarer played a heart to the ace and a spade, South winning and switching to the ♣4 which held declarer to 11 tricks, +650 and 10 IMPs.

Turnips v Rubenstein

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
A Grossack	Franceschetti	Parker	Setton
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT*	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1NT Semi-forcing

4♦ 'Hopefully cue for hearts'

A diamond to the ace was followed by a heart to the queen and king. South switched to the ♣4 and declarer ruffed the second round of the suit and cashed the ♥A, claiming for one down, -100.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Tebha	Tartarin	Rubenstein
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♥	All Pass

A diamond to the ace saw declarer continue with a heart to the ace and that resulted in 11 tricks, +650 and 13 IMPs.



Round 6

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ Q J 5
♥ A 10
♦ 7 4
♣ A K Q 5 3 2

♠ 7 6 4 3 2
♥ Q 9 7 6
♦ J 3
♣ 10 9

♠ K 10 8
♥ K 8 2
♦ K Q 10 9 6 5
♣ 4

♠ A 9
♥ J 5 4 3
♦ A 8 2
♣ J 8 7 6

This looks like a straightforward deal, NS being able to make 3NT and 5♣ and that is what happened in two of the matches.



When North bid 5♣, presumably denying a spade control, South had a small chance of guessing what had happened but it was long odds against him finding a pass.

East led the ♦K and we'll draw a veil over the play, declarer finishing six down, -600 and a 15 IMP swing.

Rubenstein v Alpert

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Z Grossack	Versace	Robinson
Pass	1♣	1♦	Dble*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♦K (for some partnerships this asks for an unblock) and when West followed with the ♦3 he switched to the ♥2, declarer taking West's ♥9 with the ♥10 and playing the ♠Q for the king and ace.

Apparently declarer claimed 11 tricks at this point for +660 but as I'm sure students of the non-simultaneous double squeeze will see there is way to take an extra trick.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rubenstein	Bianchedi	Parker	Sultan
Pass	1♣	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East's intervention made life awkward.

West led the ♠2 and declarer managed seven tricks, -300 and a 14 IMP swing.

Latinavians v Dinkin

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barry	Palma	Ferro	Nilsson
Pass	1♣	2♦	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♦J and declarer took the third round of the suit, went to dummy with a club and played the ♠Q, +630.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gamio	Sobel	Minutti	Dinkin
Pass	1♦*	2♦	2NT*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

- 1♦ Artificial, 15+
- 2NT Lebensohl, Puppet to 3♣
- 3♦ Stayman + stopper

Obviously there was a misunderstanding.



Jeff Ferro

West led the ♠6 and declarer won with the ♠K, cashed the ♦A and played a diamond, taking dummy's king when West discarded the ♥6, cashing the ♣K and running the ♣J.

West won and exited with the ♣9, declarer winning with dummy's ♣10 and playing a heart to the jack, finishing with 10 tricks, +430.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Barry	Palma	Ferro	Nilsson
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♠*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1♣ 2+♣
- 1♠ No major
- 2NT 17-19

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Gamio	Sobel	Minutti	Dinkin
—	—	Pass	1♦*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4♥*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

- 1♦ Artificial, 15+, forcing
- 3♣ Artificial, diamonds and short hearts
- 3♦ Relay
- 3♥ 3253, 10+
- 3♠ Control ask
- 4♦ 4 Controls
- 4♥ Asks denial control
- 5♦ No heart control
- 5♥ Relay
- 5♠ No ♦Q

West led the ♦3 for the eight, queen and ace and declarer played three rounds of spades. He could not overruff East's ♦5 and finished one down, -50, for a loss of 10 IMPs.



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Petelko	Jansma	Moskovits	Levin
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♠6 and having won with the ♠K declarer took the top diamonds and ran the ♣10, finishing with 10 tricks, +430 and 10 IMPs.

Fugl v Turnips

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Brekka	Tartarin	Lindstrøm
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♠	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♠J and declarer won with dummy's king, took the top diamonds and ran the ♣J, cashing out on the return of the ♠Q for +400.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
A Fuglestad	Franceschetti	O Fuglestad	Setton
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

West led the ♠5 for the jack and king and declarer cashed the top diamonds, played the ♥9 to the ♥J, a club to the king and ran the ♣J, finishing two down, -100 and losing 11 IMPs.

Last Minutemen v Tulips +

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Schippers	Boyd Bowman	Stienen	P Herrera
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

East led the ♥7 and declarer won with dummy's ♥A and played two rounds of diamonds, putting in the ♦8 when West discarded the ♠5. When East switched to the ♠J declarer won with dummy's king, ducked a diamond to East, won the spade return, cashed two diamonds, played a club to the ace, a club to the king and exited with a spade, hoping to endplay West.

That resulted in one down, -50.

One of the many ways to take (at least) 10 tricks is to come to hand with the ♠A (or ♣K) and run the ♦8, which will deliver four tricks in the suit 92.39% of the time.

Rubenstein v Alpert

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Alpert	Z Grossack	Versace	Robinson
—	—	Pass	2NT*
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

2NT 19-21

West led the ♠6 for the jack and king and declarer cashed the ♦A and ducked the ♦8 to East's jack. When East returned the ♥4 declarer put in dummy's ♥J, played a club to the ten, cashed the ♣K, overtook the ♣J, cashed the ♣6 and played a spade to the ace, squeezing East in the red suits.

When East discarded the ♥10 declarer could score three tricks in that suit along with the ♦K for +990.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rubenstein	Bianchedi	Parker	Sultan
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

After the standard spade lead declarer won with the ♠K, cashed the top diamonds and played a heart to the jack and a club to the jack, emerging with 10 tricks, +430 for a loss of 11 IMPs.

As it happens, I had penned a short piece about the problems of responding to an opening bid of 2NT when you might be interested in a minor suit slam just a few days earlier.



Linda Robinson & Zach Grossack

When you watch thousands of deals every year you see all sorts of systems in operation. They can all have problems where one player has the values for a 2NT opening bid (or an even stronger balanced hand that opens 2♣ and rebids 2NT) especially if the responder has significant minor suit values.

Eric Kokish's *Flags & Scrambles* is terrific (albeit complex) and is detailed in *The Rabbi's Rules*. Many years ago, working with Sally Brock and Sandra Landy, I constructed a series of responses that were designed to cover the situation where responder has those minor suit values.

This was the scheme:

2NT 3♠	Forces 3NT
3NT 4♣	Clubs and Diamonds
4♦	Diamonds and Clubs
4♥	Clubs
4♠	Diamonds
4NT	5♣+5♦

During one of my daily walks, it occurred to me that it might be possible to improve on this structure. Suppose you use 3♠ as Minor Suit Stayman? With no minor opener bids 3NT and then you can continue as before with the original structure. Of course, you must consider how to continue if opener does have a minor suit and bids it. After 2NT-3♠-4♣/4♦ you must agree how responder should continue. After 2NT-3♠-4♣ is 4♦ a cue bid agreeing clubs, or showing a single suited diamond hand? 4♥ and 4♠ can be cue bids and if you agree that 4NT shows the diamond hand then you can also use 4♦ as a cue bid.

After 2NT-3♠-4♦ then 4♥/4♠ can be cue bids, 4NT shows the club hand and 5♣ is a cue bid agreeing diamonds.

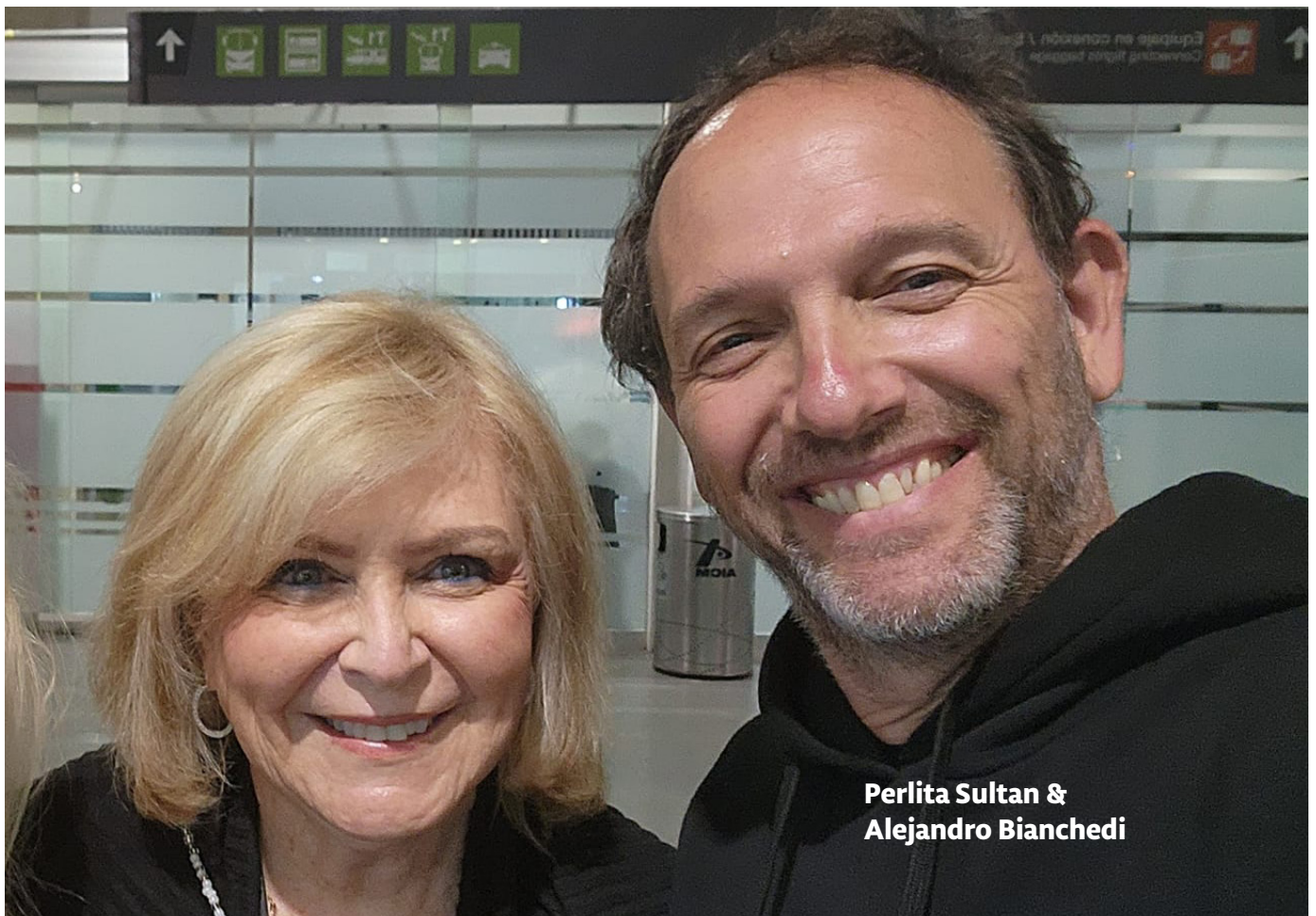
Here's an example:

Dealer West. None Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2NT	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

I'm going to keep an eye open over the next few months to assess if this is of any practical use, or should be consigned to the



**Perlita Sultan &
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Love in Bridge

The Hennebergs

by Christina Lund Madsen



This interview was originally made during the 2023 World Championships in Marrakech. It features Marlene and Jens Ove Henneberg from the Danish Mixed Team (and occasional MMT-participants). After the interview had been published in the bulletin, Jens Ove noticed all women in Marrakech were suddenly smiling at him...

After 20 years of marriage my parents had to decide whether they wanted to remain married or keep playing bridge together. They chose bridge. I have often wondered how couples juggle bridge and relationships and decided to interrogate some of them about their private lives.

How did you meet?

Marlene: We met at the pokertable at Christmas bridge in 2006. I thought he was cute and I went to the toilette and my partner Camilla said "Don't you think he was nice?" and I said "Yes, he was nice." Then he went home with her.

Jens Ove: My version is slightly different. I was on my way to the train when Camilla asked if I wanted to join her for a beer. Her boyfriend Johan (they also play together here on the Danish mixed team) went home long before. She is a journalist, so I was interrogated for 3 hours. Then at 5 in the morning, Johan wakes up and finds his GF talking to some man in the living room. Camilla asked me when I was going to hook up with her. I replied "Oh well, when the time is right." "No, you cannot wait that long, she said. "So what are you doing for New Years?"

Marlene: Camilla then called me. "Marlene, it is home. He likes you too and would like to join for New Years, so just call and invite him." But I didn't dare since I wasn't the one who had talked to him all night.

Jens Ove: New Years was very predictable. I was placed between Camilla and Marlene. At first we planned practical issues like whether we wanted cleaning in the house we were going to buy, and then at 5 in the morning we took a taxi back to Marlene.

Marlene: "And we have spent the night together ever since. I have just been away on a business trip for 12 days; apart from that we have been together since that night.

When was this?

Jens Ove: January 1st 2007. So 16,5 years.

Jens Ove is 14 years older. Which part did the age difference play?

Jens Ove: I didn't think it felt like a lot, but maybe you do, Marlene? You were a bit in doubt at the beginning, weren't you?

He looks at her.

Marlene: Yes, I was. At the beginning it bothered me a bit when people commented on the age difference, but then when they heard his age, they said "Wow, he is looking really well", and I said "He always says he has a young wife."

Jens Ove has two children from a past relationship, though not his biological children; their father died at a young age and he took the role as their father of two twin girls from the age of 2 years old. They were 17 when he introduced his new girlfriend.

Marlene: They just sat and looked at me for a while and after an hour, the 17 year old born 45 min before her sister said "Now Jens Ove has not only two princesses, but three."

Did you ever want children of your own?

Mmm... no. It was more important to me to find the right man than to have children. If it happened, it happened, if not, that was fine too.

When did you decide to play bridge together?

Jens Ove: After a few years.
He is interrupted by Marlene:
No, we played together from the start.

Jens Ove: Oh, we did?

You both come from the western part of Denmark, where everybody plays very natural and similar systems. How did you decide to play precision?

Marlene: We both played the local Aarhus acol system, but in 2 different ways and we couldn't figure it out, so we decided to do something completely different.

We got a precision system from a successful Danish pair and then spent many, many hours with a glass of red wine in our kitchen to develop our own version.



Jens Ove: In our local club in Aarhus (the 2nd largest city in Denmark) they thought it was cheating. Somebody yelled at us for playing precision at matchpoints. He thought it was similar to cheating to play something the others didn't understand.

What is your greatest strength as a partnership, on and away from the table?

They both think a little.

Jens Ove looks at Marlene: That was a tough one, honey.

Marlene: We spent a lot of time trying to not argue at the table. That makes it easier to focus on bridge. And the strength in our relationship is that we are very good at being nice to and spoil each other.

JO: We like to do the same things, we like to host a spontaneous party in our home. We are very similar. We agree a lot about the values in life, also outside bridge. House, garden, golf, travelling to capital cities and bridge tournaments. We are happy with each other morning, daytime, evening.

What is the most annoying part about Marlene?

Jens Ove: I am not sure it is annoying, but when the clock gets close to midnight I have to make sure to get her to bed, otherwise I am forced to stay up till 4 or 5 in the morning.

Marlene: And the most annoying part about you is that you always wake up at 6 in the morning.

They seem so annoyingly happy I try to split them apart to ask each of them the same questions separately.

Which is your most memorable moment together, bridge or non-bridge related?

Marlene: That was our wedding. Amazing party and day and him and me being celebrated. He proposed to me on New Year's eve one year after we met.

Jens Ove comes back and I send Marlene outside. Before she goes away, he peaks at Marlene. "I am guessing it is the same event?"

Jens Ove: We have had many, but the greatest was our wedding in 2009. A wedding is always amazing and ours was the most amazing. We held it in our garden with 80 people in a tent. Jazz music and DJ till four or five and the party didn't end till 10:30 next morning.

While he is away, I also ask Marlene:
How would JO describe you in 3 words?

Marlene: B-person, impatient... She is rubbing her hands while thinking. - I am not sure... Always happy I think he might say. We were socializing at some badminton event. Jens Ove said "If Marlene is in a bad mood I just go pour her a glass of rosé, and then she is happy again. One of his friends then asked: "Which kind of rose?"

(While Marlene is out) How would you describe Marlene in 3 words?

Jens Ove: Lovable for sure. Amazingly entertaining person. It might not be very romantic, but she is so good at so many things. I cannot drive in a nail. She collects the furniture while I watch TV with a beer.

What would you think she said about you?
She doesn't think I am boring either. A hot man who is pleasant to be around. Maybe she would say I am a good person too.

How would you describe Jens Ove in 3 words?

Marlene thinks a long time: I don't know if I should call it patient, but he is always... down to earth. He trusts very much in his own qualities and way of life. He is really good to lean against. And then he is my best friend. The only thing we can ever really fight about is bridge.

When they are both back, I ask them about their bridge dreams.

Marlene: Our best tournament was when we played the World Bridge Games in 2016 in Wroclaw, where we reached the Quarter final against Russia. We lost by 14 IMPs and they later lost the final to the Netherlands.

Jens Ove: My dream is to win gold in the Mixed Teams. Not certain it will be this time and not sure it will ever happen, but that is what we dream of.

Marlene agrees. Of course.



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