



THE BULLETIN

ALT SWISS TEAM-PAIRS

FEBRUARY 8-12, 2021

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SEAMON-MOLSON CONVINCINGLY TAKES INAUGURAL SWISS TEAM-PAIRS



From left to right:
Janice Seamon-
Molson, Sylvia Shi
and Daniel Korbel
(he played only one
match)

images: WBF, ACBL, Peg
Kaplan

KUDOS FOR THE ONE-PAIR TEAMS

February 12, 2021. We have come to the end of an exciting week of Swiss Pairs based on IMPs. Kudos for the one-pair 'teams'. For them it must have been a grueling event: playing four-handed 130 boards in a world class field.

We are curious to know your opinion on how you experienced this type of competition, so feel free to let us know.

And yes, like any other Alt, this one counts for the Triple F Race. By the end of the year individual players with the most Triple F points will be awarded money prizes. See page 17 of The Bulletin for the current ranking. Currently Zia and Nareng Gupta are on top.

Katherine Todd: *'My unsolicited opinion 10x3 a day is really nice!
Even 12 I like a lot!!'*

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Master Point Press



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Triple F

Follow the Alt on **Twitch**
and enjoy **Adam Grossack's**
comments:
<https://www.twitch.tv/nevereast00>

ALT SWISS TEAM-PAIRS

February 8 - 12, 2021

www.bridgeresults.org
all info on alt tourneys

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PARKER Zach Grossack (germs345) Chris Parker (cmp56) Stewart Rubenstein (stewr) Anam Tebha (anamtebha)	PITCH&PUTT Hester Gast (hester02) Bas van Roosmalen (basvro)	REYNOLDS Lance Kerr (lkerr) Victor Oranje (victornl) Tom Reynolds (tomreynold) Arjan Roelofs (arjannl)	ROBINSON Adam Grossack (nevereast) Linda Robinson (saba) Eric Schwartz (waldorf1)
SEAMON-MOLSON Richard Coren (wambibird1) Dan Korbel (danny) Janice Seamon-Molson (janicem) Sylvia Shi (sylvias)	SELIGMAN Michal Kwiecien (michal1) Marcin Lesniewski (lesniak) Martin Seligman (mseligman)	 ALT SWISS TEAM-PAIRS FEBRUARY 8-12, 2021	

FIRST MATCH FIREWORKS

Martin Cantor



We started off with a bang.

Match 1. Board 4. W/All

♠ K 6	♠ 8	♠ Q J 10 9 7 5 3 2
♥ J 8 3	♥ 6 5 4	♥ 9
♦ A 9 3	♦ K J 8 6 5 4	♦ 7
♣ J 6 5 4 2	♣ K 10 3	♣ A 9 7
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W O Z </div>	
	♠ A 4	
	♥ A K Q 10 7 2	
	♦ Q 10 2	
	♣ Q 8	

Six Norths had a weak 2♦ in their armory, and three of them ended in 5♦X and a nice +750. Where North passed East had to decide between 3♠ and 4♠. Despite the six losers I like 4♠ which makes life more uncomfortable for South, but 5♥ will usually be the winning action.

One auction I very much disliked was P - P - 4♠ - Dbl - P - 5♦ - P - 5♥. Over a 4♠ preempt 4NT is best played as take-out, and double is usually a strong no trump type, allowing for partner to pass unless s/he expects to make the five level. Doubling then pulling suggests a hand with serious slam interest, so if I were North on that auction, with the singleton spade and the minor suit kings, I'd have thought long and hard about raising to slam - possibly in diamonds reading 5♥ as a cue bid.

There were three outlier auctions. One East opened 3♠ and South bid and played 3NT. You wouldn't bet on making it would you? West duly led the ♠K on which East played the queen and South ducked. West now unaccountably switched to the ♣2, won with the queen. Declarer tested hearts, grabbed a diamond, and cashed out for a surprising make. I suspect that declarer's surprise was nothing compared to East's when he discovered that partner had another spade all the time. The second oddity was the South who passed a 4♠ opener. And the third was the East who passed North's 2♦ opener, but then bid 4♠ when South's 4♥ came back to her. That was doubled but partner's two key cards held the loss to one trick and a gain of 9 IMPs.

Match 1. Board 5. N/NS

♠ A 9 7 2	♠ J 10	♠ K Q 8
♥ K 3	♥ 9 6	♥ A Q J 5 4 2
♦ A K J 4 3	♦ 10 6	♦ Q 9 7 2
♣ 10	♣ A K 9 7 6 5 4	♣ -
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W O Z </div>	
	♠ 6 5 4 3	
	♥ 10 8 7	
	♦ 8	
	♣ Q J 8 3 2	

EW can make the grand slam with 16 tricks in hearts, diamonds or even spades. Everyone made 13 tricks, everyone bid slam, but only two bid the grand, one in

each red suit. So how hard is it to bid when North opens 3♣, as happened at every table except one? East will overcall hearts at the three or four level according to temperament. It's not a bad idea for South to pass rather than raise the preempt; raising clubs can tip EW off as to their shortage. At any other vulnerability there is a good case for bidding 6♣; you can be pretty sure they will bid and make a slam, and the big danger is them bidding and making seven. You can check out all the auctions for yourselves at

https://bridgeresults.org/o/2021_alt_swiss_pairs_1/2021_Alt_Swiss_Pairs_1_d5p.asp#BRD

but mostly East either didn't or couldn't show the void. Here are the two successful auctions:

West	North	East	South
<i>Soliman</i>	<i>Lahrmann</i>	<i>Chechelashvili</i>	<i>Zanassi</i>
	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♦	3♣	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	6♣*	Pass
7♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

6♣ odd number of aces and void in ♣

West	North	East	South
<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Castner</i>	<i>Gottlieb</i>	<i>King</i>
	3♣	3♥	4♣
5♥	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

I like this last one enough that I will nominate it for the Alt Best Bid Hand award. And so, on to the very next board:

Match 1. Board 6. E/EW

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

With an opening bid facing an opening bid NS are ?always? getting to game - one pair didn't - but which game? Unsurprisingly, nobody bid it in no trump, which would be particularly uncomfortable on a blocking club lead. Three pairs found the making spade game, the other seven played in 4♥, doubled twice. The defense to 4♥ is tough. It basically needs for the defense to cash the two red aces in the first two tricks, then play another diamond so that in time the ♥10 will become the setting trick.

No one found that defense, but making isn't easy either, even on a non-perfect defense, as shown by the fact that most declarers still went off, some on a diamond lead, others with an opening black card. The two declarers who made did get a diamond lead, but their Easts ducked this to South's king, and now they had the timing to ditch their losing diamonds on spades.

Match 1. Board 10. E/All

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

Finding the club slam proved too tough for all eleven NS pairs here. Yes, the EWs made life harder with spade or diamond preempts. And yes, it's not so easy when both hands are at the lower end of opening point counts, but better than that in playing strength, and with good controls. Not to mention that, if hearts don't break 3-3, you have to guess well in spades if they aren't led; and if East bids spades you are likely to guess wrong (then again, if East bids spades West might well lead one).

Would you open the East hand? Vulnerable, eight losers, poor suit, just two points, four cards in the other major, these are five 'classic' reasons not to. Reasons to be cheerful? Well, eau de cologne shape, and first seat not second. Just four Easts respected the wisdom of the elders. Two compromised a little by opening at the two level, either directly or with a Multi. The other five went for the full-blooded 3♠ opening, presenting South, in the first instance, with a problem. One South was rewarded for his bravery when he bid and made plus one in 3NT on a top diamond lead. The other four passed, perhaps because 4♣ would be non-leaping Michaels showing clubs and hearts. Twice West now raised to 4♠ and South reopened with a double, intended as penalty, but taken out to 5♥, producing the only two plus scores for EW. Of the other two cases, in one South and West passed, North bid 4♥ and played there, making; and in the other South passed and West bid 5♦ ending three light but undoubled. Where East passed, South mostly opened 1♣ and West intervened with lots of diamonds, leading to 4♥ or 5♣ or, in one case, 5♦X and 800.

Do I see a realistic route to the slam, with either spade or diamond interference (or both)? Nope. Proving another wise saying of the elders: preempts work.

WHEN TO DOUBLE (AND WHEN NOT)



Peter Fredin (left) and Eltje Schippers: ...nothing in common...
images: Elisabeth van Ettinger

Eltje Schippers and Peter Fredin, what do they have in common? Easy answer: NOTHING.
Why? Wait and see.

Round 4, board 6

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

Let's first have a peek at the clash between the numbers one and two of the leaderboard, Seamon-Molson versus Donner:

West	North	East	South
Donner	Seamon-Molson	Rimstedt	Shi
2♣ ¹	Pass	Pass	4♦ ²
Pass	5NT ³	Pass	6♦ ⁴
Pass	6♥ ⁵	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- 1 Natural, 11-15 (Precision)
- 2 Two-suiter diamonds and a major (Leaping Michaels)



- 3 Pick-a-Slam; 4 Longer diamonds
- 5 Pass or correct

Thirteen tricks cold. Still, North-South won 8 imps in the butler, because even small slam was not always in sight. For instance:

West	North	East	South
Stienen	Lahrmann	Schippers	Todd
2♣ ¹	Pass	Pass	3♣ ²
Pass	6♠	?	

- 1 Natural, 11-15 (Precision)
- 2 Undiscussed

From East's point of view it is pretty obvious that 6♠ will go down. Eltje Schippers, however, decided to refrain from a penalty double. Probably she recalled the (in)famous double by Peter Fredin on a hand from an EC way back in the nineties where he doubled 4♣ with a straight flush in the trump suit. Infamous? Yes, his vulnerable German opps ran to 7♣ made, and ever since this type of double was called a 'Fredin Double'.

On the diagrammed board it is seven red indeed. Long story short, Schippers didn't take the risk and passed convincingly. How right she was; and a better proof that she and Fredin have nothing in common doesn't exist. By the way, six spades had no chance at all, winding up minus three.

But what about the grand, which seems almost impossible to reach? Only one NS pair succeeded: >



Ahmet Soliman: ...going to the ultimate level...
image: WBF

West	North	East	South
<i>Rubenstein</i>	<i>Soliman</i>	<i>Grossack</i>	<i>Chechelasvili</i>
3NT ¹	Pass	4♣ ²	6♦
Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

- 1 Gambling
- 2 Pass or correct

North, Ahmet Soliman from Egypt, did well to raise his partner's inspired 6♦ to the ultimate level.

Another 'fine' example of when NOT to double stems from another tournament, the USBF Online Championships, May 2020:

S/-

♠ K Q 9 2	♠ 6	♠ 10 8 4 3
♥ J	♥ Q 9 7 5 3	♥ K 10 8 6
♦ J 10 8 3	♦ Q 7 6	♦ A 4 2
♣ 10 7 4 3	♣ A K 9 2	♣ J 6
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W O Z </div>	
	♠ A J 7 5	
	♥ A 4 2	
	♦ K 9 5	
	♣ Q 8 5	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♣ ¹	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥ ²	Pass	2♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	3SA ³
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass

- 1 forces 2♦
- 2 5+♥, invitational
- 3 4-3-3-3, choice of games

East, Zach Grossack, led the ♠4 (third and fifth) to the ace. Declarer ruffed a spade, played a diamond to the king, ruffed another spade, cashed ♣A, crossed to dummy with ♣Q, ruffed the fourth spade and continued with ♣K, ruffed by East. At this point East was lost. He cashed ♦A and played back a diamond to the queen, but a heart instead wouldn't help him either:

♠ -	♠ -	♠ -
♥ Q 9		♥ K 10 8
♦ -		♦ -
♣ 9		♣ -
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W O Z </div>	
♠ -		
♥ J		
♦ J		
♣ 10		
	♠ -	
	♥ A 4 2	
	♦ -	
	♣ -	

Declarer, in need of another two tricks, advanced his last club. East ruffed and dummy undertruffed. Curtains.

Beautifully played by Huub Bertens - who else? - who took full advantage of Zach Grossack's unfortunate penalty double.

Huub Bertens ...who else?...
image: Elisabeth van Ettinger



One may come to the conclusion that it is better NOT to double at all.

W(H)ell no! Going back to the Alt, on the last board in his match against the bid72 squad (round 9) Zach's brother Adam looked at:

♠ 8 6 5 2 ♥ 10 8 5 ♦ J 10 6 2 ♣ 6 2

Sitting South he heard:

E/All West	North	East	South
1NT ¹	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♣ ²	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	?

1 15-17; 2 invitational, no 4-card major required

Adam figured it was time to double! There it rested:

♠ 4 3	♠ Q J 9	♠ A K 10 7
♥ A 7 4	♥ K J 3	♥ Q 9 6 2
♦ A Q 7 5	♦ K 8 4 3	♦ 9
♣ K Q J 8	♣ A 10 3	♣ 9 7 5 4
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W O Z </div>	
	♠ 8 6 5 2	
	♥ 10 8 5	
	♦ J 10 6 2	
	♣ 6 2	

With all cards open it is easy to notice that there are nine or ten tricks for the take. Declarer, misguided by

South's double, was convinced that the red kings were reversed and went down. A great deceptive double by Adam Grossack, who perfectly understood that his partner must have a lot of points. It brought his side a juicy 13 imps.

So what do the bro's have in common? Maybe a little too early to answer that question. Time will tell.



Adam Grossack:
...great deceptive
double...

THE ALT BEST HANDS AWARDS

We **encourage** kibitzers, players and journalists to nominate interesting or beautiful hands from Alt events, season 2021, for one of these awards:



bid72 Best Bid Alt Hand



BeBridge Best Played Alt Hand



Master Point Press Best Defended Alt Hand

You can e-mail your contributions to altbesthands@gmail.com.

When you do so, you run the risk that your nomination will be published in The Bulletin. Award winners and their nominators will be rewarded with nice prizes such as Master Point Press vouchers for bridge books and subscriptions to BeBridge Magazine and bid72, the premium app on bridge bidding.

RISE AND SHINE

Toine van Hoof

Second hand low is a generally recognized rule of thumb that dates from the time of whist. On the next deal North needed to ignore it in order to defeat a game contract.

Round 7, Board 10. Dealer East. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gal	Molson	Dombi	Shi
Solomon	Castner	Capal	King
Gottlieb	Seligman	Fredin	Lesniewski
		2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Against 4♠ South leads the ♣K. Declarer has four obvious losers. Gergely Dombi and Tracy Capal both started with setting up the diamonds but that did not work out. After taking the ♦A North played the ♥K to dummy's ace. Declarer cashed the ♦Q, followed by the jack, which was ruffed by North with ♠8. Declarer overruffed, reentered dummy with a club ruff and played ♦10. North discarded a club and East a heart. South ruffed and returned a heart to the jack. With ♠A still to come this meant one off.

Peter Fredin had a better plan. He played a spade from the board at trick 2 and when North played second hand low declarer was home. He drove out the ♦A and got rid of a heart loser as North ruffed the ♦J with the ♠A.



Arjan Roelofs: ...wide awake...

West	North	East	South
Green	Roelofs	Hoogenkamp	Oranje
		2♠*	Pass
3♣*	Dbf	3♦*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

2♠ weak
3♣ puppet to 3♦ (inv. ♠ or COG); 3♠ invite

Ed Hoogenkamp also tried a spade at trick 2 but Arjan Roelofs was wide awake. He knew declarer had a good weak two, which made it unlikely he had a spade guess. So Roelofs rose with the ♠A and switched to the ♥K for a shining plus 100.

We thank Martin Cantor's team of commentators, among them Martin himself, David Burn, Peter Lund and Dave Galt. They provide lots of fun to the Alt kibitzers.

Those who would like to join this team, please contact Martin on BBO (cantorm) or via AltBestHands@gmail.com

A massive number of kibitzers (1149) is closely following the Alt Swiss Team-Pairs.

TOP BIDDERS CLUB

Mark Horton

A new style ALT event, Swiss Team-Pairs demanded a fresh approach, so I determined to look out for deals that contained at least a modicum of interest in the bidding department.

We start with this deal from Round 3:

R3 Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

South opens 1♦ (it looks automatic, but Marina Witvliet started with a gambling 3NT and when the Editor responded 4♣ East doubled and West bid 5♣ over South's 4♦, which cost 500 when North doubled) North responds 1♥. What should South rebid?

There were two votes for 2♦, five for 3♦ and one for 2♥. It is generally accepted that the jump shows at least a six-card suit and seven playing tricks, some partnerships agreeing that it may also contain some support for partner's suit.

After 2♦ what should North do? There was one pass and one rebid of 2♠ - that saw South jump to 4♥.

Where the rebid was 3♦ North bid 3NT at four tables, which did not work out well. It looks better to bid 3♠, which was Sylvia Shi's choice, which saw her partner, Janice Seamon- Molson, bid 4♥.

At a couple of tables East doubled on the first round and South redoubled to show the heart support which led to 4♥.

R4 Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

This was the (almost) universal start to the auction:

West	North	East	South
?	1♦	Pass	1♠

Obviously as West you want to get involved, but what's the best way to do so?

Three players bid 2♠ (one after North had passed and South opened 1♠). Three bid 2NT, Two went with a double, two with 2♣ and one bid 2♦. Notice that no one bid 1NT. In years gone by that 'sandwich notrump' was used to show a light takeout, but as Larry Cohen points out, there are too many thieves out there so it's best to use it as a natural bid.

With 4♠ making for NS (three pairs were allowed to play there) EW want to reach 5♣/5♥. That happened several times, two pairs being allowed to play in 5♣ (only one of them doubled), while the other five saw their opponents advance to the five level. The best EW result went to Andrew Rosenthal and Aaron Silverstein, who were allowed to play in 4♥ after West overcalled 2NT and East jumped to the ten trick game.

Of all the alternatives I prefer the choice of Nathalie Saada, who opted for 2♦ (which, however, many play as natural). It leaves room for partner to bid 2♥ with a weak, unsuitable hand, and suggests a less powerful hand - with that West can bid 2♠, forcing partner to bid at the three level.

R5 Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

On this deal EW would like to reach 6♠.

At the tables where East was able to open 1♠ - North sometimes started with a 9-11 1NT -South overcalled 3♣; we'll look at that in a moment. One East opened 3♠ and the auction continued 4♣*-4♦-4♥-(Dbl)-Pass-4♠-Pass. Although holding two first round controls outside your suit is unusual (and perhaps undesirable) for a preempt, East's pass over the double should be construed as encouraging. If West redoubles to show first round heart control East may decide to bid 5♣, after which the slam will be reached.

West	North	East	South
<i>Reynolds</i>	<i>Seamon-Molson</i>	<i>Kerr</i>	<i>Shi</i>
	Pass	1♠	3♣
3♦	3♥	3♠	4♥
6♠	Pass	Pass	7♣
Dbl	Pass	7♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South led the ♥8 and declarer won with dummy's ace, North following with the king. Declarer cashed the ♠A and followed it with the ♣AK on which he pitched his hearts. He then ran his trumps to reach this ending:

♠ -	♠ -	♠ 5
♥ 10	♥ Q	♥ -
♦ K 10	♦ Q 6 2	♦ A J 7
♣ 6	♣ -	♣ -
	<div>W N O Z</div>	
♠ -		
♥ 6		
♦ 5 3		
♣ Q		

R8 Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

N

W O

Z

♠ Q 9 8 6 4
♥ 6 5 4
♦ 10 6 3
♣ 9 2

Here is a technical approach:

 \succ

West	North	East	South
<i>Gast</i>	<i>Van Cleeff</i>	<i>Van Roosmalen</i>	<i>Witvliet</i>
			Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
3NT	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 2♣ Weak majors or 19/20 NT or stronger
- 2♥ Can be false preference; 2NT 19-20
- 3♣ Forces 3♦; 3♦ Forced; 3♠ 4♥

West	North	East	South
<i>Solomon</i>	<i>Lund</i>	<i>Capal</i>	<i>Hansen</i>
2NT*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

If you don't want to give up on the possibility of locating a heart fit then something like this might be the right approach:

West	North	East	South
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
3NT	Pass	?	

Now you bid diamonds - how many I leave you to determine!



Bas van Roosmalen:
...technical approach..

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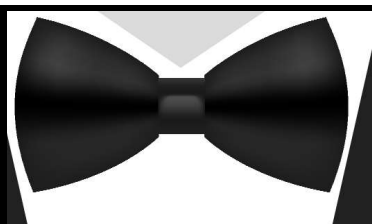
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THE ALT 2021 SEASON

22 - 26 February 2021	New Alt Competition - Event 2	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
15 - 19 March 2021	Alt - to be announced...	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
29 March - 2 April 2021	New Alt Competition - Event 3	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
26 - 30 April 2021	New Alt Competition - Event 4	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
10 - 14 May 2021	Alt - to be announced...	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
24 - 28 May 2021	New Alt Competition - Event 5	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
7 - 11 June 2021	Alt - to be announced...	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
21 - 25 June 2021	New Alt Competition - Event 6	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
5 - 9 July 2021	Alt - to be announced...	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
9 - 13 August 2021	Alt - to be announced...	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
23 - 27 August 2021	New Alt Competition - Event 7	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
6 - 10 September 2021	Alt - to be announced...	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
20 - 24 September 2021	New Alt Competition - Event 8	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
11 - 15 October 2021	Alt - to be announced...	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
25 - 29 October 2021	New Alt Competition - Event 9	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
8 - 12 November 2021	New Alt Competition - Event 10	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
15 - 19 November 2021	Alt - to be announced...	Conditions of contest	Apply for invitation	Participants
13 - 17 December 2021	New Alt Competition - Event X	Preliminary info	Apply for invitation	Participants

HIDDEN GEM

Mark Horton

With so many tables in play it is very easy for an interesting deal to slip through the net and this almost happened in one of the recent ALT events (January New) this deal surfaced in Round 2:

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Primavera</i>	<i>Bouwen</i>	<i>Percario</i>	<i>De Winter</i>
	1NT*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1NT (14)15-17; 2♥ Transfer



Kees Bouwen

East led the ♣7 and when declarer played low from dummy West had a little think. Eventually Kees Bouwen won with the ace and switched to the ♠2. Declarer put up the queen and when it held he could be confident that the ace was with West.

As it happens, West and North were online bridge friends and declarer felt that West's thinking time at trick one suggested he also had something in the red suits. Declarer decided to play on hearts and West took the third round of the suit and returned the ♦9. Declarer knew that if East gained the lead, a spade through dummy would be fatal, so, after checking that he would still be able to make the contract if the ♦K was onside after all, he went up with the ace, felling the singleton king.

The Rabbi was right! Declarer cashed his winners in clubs and hearts and West was squeezed out of a diamond, the marked finesse yielding eleven tricks.

A little research revealed that Simon de Wijs and Steve de Roos also collected 11 tricks.



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dealer East vulnerability None NBW-03			
West		East	
♠ A K 10 8 3		♠ 2	
♥ 2		♥ A K J 10 6 4	
♦ A 9 5		♦ K Q J 8	
♣ A K 6 4		♣ Q 10	
10 7♦	7 6NT	6 7NT 6♥ 6♦	5 7♥
West Marina72	North	East Tobias	South
—	—	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

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Anyone?

Something went terrible wrong here.
Who is to blame?



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THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DUMMY EVER

Everybody vulnerable, you are the dealer on the very last board of the event. What would you open first in hand with:

♠ A K Q J 9 8 3 ♥ A K Q J 2 ♦ 6 ♣ -

Adam Grossack did something less than smart: he opened 7♠, where 7♥ or a small slam might work out better. Well, on this lay-out, to be honest:

E/All	♠ 7 5		♠ A K Q J 9 8 3
	♥ 9 8		♥ A K Q J 2
	♦ K 9		♦ 6
	♣ A 10 9 8 7 5 3		♣ -
♠ -		N	
♥ 10 6 5 4		W	
♦ Q 10 8 7 5 4 3		O	
♣ Q 4		Z	
	♠ 10 6 4 2		
	♥ 7 3		
	♦ A J 2		
	♣ K J 6 2		

Obviously 7♥ is an easy make on a non-diamond lead: sooner or later seven diamonds disappear on the seven-bagger in spades. But *Nevereast* (Adam's nick on BBO) didn't open 7♥ and there was no lead problem anymore. Whatever. When Hester Gast (South) kicked off with ♦A, the hand was history.

The hand would qualify for a challenging lead problem with west as declarer. Impossible? Never ever use that phrase in bridge. My table:

West	North	East	South
<i>Donner</i>	<i>Van Cleeff</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Witvliet</i>
		1♣ ¹	Pass
1♦ ²	2♣	3♣ ³	DbI
3♥	Pass	5♣ ⁴	Pass
5♦ ⁵	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 1 Precision (16+)
- 2 Negative (0-7)
- 3 Both majors
- 4 Exclusion
- 5 0 or 3 key cards

In a desperate effort to hit The Bulletin I led a fancy ♦9. Still 12 tricks and a glance at the world's most beautiful dummy.

Seamon-Molson and Seligman were battling for victory. True, the Americans had a comfortable lead before the last round, but then encountered a



Cecilia Rimstedt
image: ACBL

6.86-13.14 defeat against the Poles. And they almost lost the tournament on that same final board:

West	North	East	South
<i>Lesniewsky Seamon-Molson</i>		<i>Seligman</i>	<i>Shi</i>
		2♣ ¹	Pass
2♥ ²	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

- 1 strong, any
- 2 double negative

Sylvia Shi led a spade, but declarer duly took his 12 tricks. However, had EW, in an ultimate effort to win the event, tried for the grand in hearts, North would have to find a lead. We will never know which.

2021 NEW ALT COMPETITION (NewCo)

Alt Team Points Ranking

rk	Team	Total Points	Event 1	Event 2	Event 3	Event 4	Event 5	Event 6	Event 7	Event 8	Event 9	Event 10
1	LEBOWITZ	500	500									
=	RED DEVILS	500	500									
3	DE BOTTON	450	450									
=	MOSS	450	450									
5	DONNER	400	400									
=	NICKELL	400	400									
7	EDMONDS	300	300									
=	GUPTA	300	300									
9	AMATEURS	200	200									
=	BLACK	200	200									
=	ORCA	200	200									
12	SKEIDAR	175	175									
13	CANTOR	150	150									
14	ALTSHULER	125	125									
15	BRIDGESCANER	100	100									
=	FREDIN	100	100									
=	GILLIS	100	100									
18	RIPPEY	75	75									
19	QUARANTEAM	60	60									
20	SALVO	50	50									
21	IMP	40	40									
22	CANADIAN & FRIENDS	30	30									
=	HARRIS	30	30									
=	HOK	30	30									
=	ISRAEL	30	30									
=	JEDI KNIGHTS	30	30									
=	KOEPEL	30	30									
=	MIXED NUTS	30	30									
=	NETBRIDGE	30	30									
=	RED TURTLE	30	30									
=	SMALL IN NAME ONLY	30	30									
=	ULI	30	30									
=	VINITA	30	30									
=	WILSON	30	30									

ALT COMPETITION TO BE CONTINUED

The next event, **NewCo 2**, will be held **February 22-26**. So far 25 teams entered and the event is still open for registration (until February 18).

In January NewCo started the competition with promotion and relegation, as a result of which there will be a reshuffle at the start of the second event. The exact composition of the four groups depends on the current teams and those still to come (before closing day); new teams are always welcome to step in during the competition. At the end of the year the teams with the most **'team points'** will play in a grand final. The players are awarded **Alt Master Points**, part of the **Triple F Alt Race**, with money prizes for the five highest.

Teams registered as of this writing: Altshuler, Amateurs, Black, Canadian & Friends., Cantor, De Botton, Donner, Edmonds, Fredin, Gillis, Harris, HOK, Jedi Knights, Lebowitz, Mixed Nuts, Moss, Netbridge, Orca, Quaranteam, Red Devils, Salvo, Skeidar, Vinita, Wilson, Zhao.

For applying, go to <https://alt.bridgeresults.org/reg/AltNewCo2.htm>

Lastly, we are happy to inform you about our first **weekender**, **March 6-7**, for some teams as a kind of warming up for the **NAOBC** soon after, but of course open to all teams who like to play high level on Saturday and Sunday (seven sessions of seven boards). If interested in this, another new Alt format, go to

https://bridgeresults.org/o/2021_alt_swiss_teams_1/2021_alt_swiss_teams_1_coc.htm for schedule (and CoC) and <https://alt.bridgeresults.org/reg/AltSwissTeams1.htm> for applying.

THE TRIPLE F ALT POINT RACE

The Alt is proud to introduce the **Triple F Alt Point Race**. Each individual player participating in any Alt event in 2021 is automatically included in a **General Ranking**. By the end of the season (December 2021) the Top Five is rewarded with money prizes: 1000 / 600 / 400 / 300 / 200 (in euros). The Alt is grateful to Triple F Logistics, a Dutch-based company, who made this possible.

Points Allocation, 2021 Alt Season

Group A (in first session valid for A Red and A Blue)	Group B	Group C	Group D (Swiss)	Stand alone tournaments
1 500	1 400	1 300	1 200	1 400
2 450	2 350	2 250	2 175	2 350
3 400	3 300	3 200	3 150	3 300
4 300	4 200	4 150	4 125	4 250
5 200	5 100	5 100	5 100	5 200
6 100	6 75	6 75	6 75	6 150
			7 60	7 125
			8 50	8 100
			9 40	9 75
			10+ 30	
				10 50
				11 45
				12 40
				13 35
				14 30
				15 29
				16+ 28

1	Naren Gupta (nareng)	850
2	Zia Mahmood (zia)	850
3	Gary Donner (gdonnersc1)	735
4	Cecilia Rimstedt (cillar)	735
5	Per-Ola Cullin (pocken)	700
6	Joe Grue (joegrue)	700
7	Marion Michielson (lady007)	700
8	Brad Moss (brad)	700
9	Bauke Muller (beukertje)	650
10	Simon De Wijs (sm1)	650
11	John Diamond (dimebags)	650
12	Geoff Hampson (ghampson)	650
13	Ralph Katz (ralphk)	650
14	Bobby Levin (levin)	650
15	Nick Nickell (fnickell)	650
16	Brian Platnick (bplatnick)	650
17	Steve Weinstein (stevo)	650
18	David Gold (dagold)	550
19	Adam Grossack (nevereast)	528
20	Dennis Bilde (ballebo-jr)	500
21	Zachary Grossack (germs345)	500
22	Larry Lebowitz (pinoy12)	500
23	Agustin Madala (septiembre)	500
24	Antonio Palma (apalma)	500
25	Frederic Wrang (fly21)	500
26	Geert Arts (stratreeg1)	500
27	Sam Bahbout (sambah)	500
28	Philippe Caputo (caputo)	500
29	Valerie Labaere (etpuzsut)	500
30	Steven de Donder (pikarek)	500
31	Alain Labaere (kortrijk)	500
32	Steve de Roos (stevedr)	500
33	Mike van der Vorst (ratabar)	500
34	Sedat Aluf (monk99)	450
35	Bülent Aslan (baylind)	450
36	Enver Köksoy (koksoy)	450
37	Nezih Kubaç (nezihk)	450
38	Ali Uçar (noweak)	450
39	Ömer Umur (ttfb)	450
40	Nafiz Zorlu (begse)	450



Leaders in the Triple F Race: Naren Gupta and Zia Mahmood

41	David Bakhshi (bakhshi)	450	61	Kevin Dwyer (kdwyer)	400
42	Janet de Botton (capt lulu)	450	62	Peter Crouch (pitiful)	400
43	Thomas Charlsen (tcharlsen)	450	63	Sylvia Shi (sylvias)	400
44	Thor Erik Hoftaniska (kasper20)	450	64	Janice Seamon-Molson (janicem)	400
45	Artur Malinowski (malisuper)	450	65	Martin Seligman (mseligman)	350
46	Tom Townsend (mug)	450	66	Marcin Lesniewski (lesniak)	350
47	Tor Helness (helstokk)	450	67	Yaniv Zack (yanivz)	330
48	Sjoert Brink (sjoertbr)	450	68	Jodi Edmonds (jodi e)	329
49	Bas Drijver (basdr)	450	69	Joel Wooldridge (firechief)	329
50	Jacek Kalita (paulinka18)	450	70	Thomas Bessis (malpaluche)	300
51	Roger Lee (rogerclee)	450	71	Frederic Volcker (fred92130)	300
52	Sylvia Moss (sylvie)	450	72	Michal Klukowski (skrzat96)	300
53	Michal Nowosadzki (kot_korba)	450	73	Mikael Rimstedt (mikaelrim)	300
54	Sandra Rimstedt (sandra)	435	74	Ola Rimstedt (olarim)	300
55	David Chechelashvili (dato)	428	75	Nathalie Saada (natsa)	300
56	Ahmed Soliman (rabie3)	428	76	Gilad Altshuler (giladalt)	275
57	Piotr Zatorski (dzeronimo)	425	77	Alon Birman (hatol)	275
58	Franco Baseggio (baseggio)	400	78	Dani Cohem (cohen99)	275
59	Aitai Lo (aitail)	400	79	Amir Levin (amiri)	275
60	Bill Pettis (buffalo6)	400	80	Dror Padon (drorp)	275

THE TRIPLE F ALT POINT RACE (CONTINUED)

81	Yossi Roll (sroch)	275	146	Mårten Gustawsson (lagom)	100	211	Ge Sprinkhuizen (sprinksoet)	40
82	David Burn (dburn)	253	147	Andrei Arlovich (goblin2000)	100	212	Steve Root (asnuttayas)	30
83	Mike Graham (mdgraham)	253	148	Boguslaw Gierulski (bogier)	100	213	Veri Kiljian (Vkill)	30
84	Fredrik Jarlvik (freddy6)	253	149	Wojciech Olanski (olanski)	100	214	Guy Mendes de Leon (Guymdl)	30
85	Peter Lund (pelu)	253	150	Jerzy Skrzypczak (txt)	100	215	Thibo Sprinkhuizen (Thibos)	30
86	Leif Nygaard (nyg)	253	151	Erikas Vainikonis (bookie_lt)	100	216	Luc Tijssen (Luctijs)	30
87	Henrik Petersen (longrow)	253	152	Vytautas Vainikonis (vainikonis)	100	217	Ricco van Prooijen (Riccovp)	30
88	Tatyana Trendafilova (tuti)	253	153	Cezary Serek (cezar1966)	100	218	Louk Verhees (Loukie)	30
89	Richie Coren (wambibird1)	250	154	Christian Lahmann (christianl)	100	219	Alison Wilson (Flyfalcon)	30
90	Dan Korbel (dank)	250	155	Katherine Todd (kmtnyc)	100	220	Niall Igoe (ibraves)	30
91	Peter Gal (galim)	250	156	Chris Parker (cmp56)	100	221	Vladi Isporski (smileyv)	30
92	Gergely Dombi (toki42)	250	157	Anam Tebha (anamtebha)	100	222	Rumen Trendafilov (rumen)	30
93	Peter Fredin (p_fredin)	225	158	Stewart Rubenstein (stewr)	100	223	Kees Bakker (keesbak)	30
94	Alex Kolesnik (Kolesnik)	200	159	Victor Oranje (victornl)	90	224	Leo van den Brom (Lbrom)	30
95	Mass. Di Franco (m_difranco)	200	160	Arjan Roelofs (arjannl)	90	225	Rene Hermans (galileo60)	30
96	Andrea Manno (maqueda)	200	161	Cathy Baldysz (cathmark)	85	226	Nico Klaver (tttiger)	30
97	Piotr Nawrocki (nawrot)	200	162	Sophie Baldysz (zofiumb)	85	227	John Lesmeister (jlesme)	30
98	Kamil Nowak (kamiln)	200	163	Steve Green (bashgrove)	85	228	Gert-Jan Ros (rosgjw)	30
99	Mike Rippey (radiators)	200	164	Rob Helle (rhelle)	85	229	Kay Enfield (cx107)	30
100	Piotr Wiankoski (vino_e)	200	165	Ed Hoogenkamp (altocampo)	85	230	Greg Hinze (ghinze)	30
101	Andrew Black (boggis)	200	166	Giovanni Donati (giova007)	80	231	Karin Kelsey (Karinkelse)	30
102	Gunnar Hallberg (rerack)	200	167	Gabriella Olivieri (ollina)	80	232	Jacob Morgan (jpmnbr)	30
103	Simon Hult (hultahult)	200	168	Giacomo Percario (giacomopr)	80	233	Charlie Bucknell (shisai)	30
104	Andrew Mcintosh (mcintosh)	200	169	Federico Primavera (fulldiRe)	80	234	Elizabeth Gahan (lizgahan)	30
105	Thomas Paske (thomas1000)	200	170	Antonio Sementa (llaria75)	80	235	Christopher Kemp (otemplar)	30
106	Alexander Allfrey (allfrey)	200	171	Martin Cantor (cantorm)	75	236	Stephen Kennedy (gamertabby)	30
107	Simon Cope (copeyi)	200	172	Jonathan Davis (davisbiz)	75	237	Oliver Powell (kenzo13)	30
108	Espen Erichsen (espene)	200	173	Nick Smith (rogerhunt)	75	238	Ewa Wiczorek (ew19)	30
109	Richard Plackett (hoofie)	200	174	Rene Stienen (baaxpee)	75	239	Richard Chamberlain (rmchamb)	30
110	Andrew Robson (arobson)	200	175	Ely Schippers (eltje)	75	240	Tony Disley (ryegc)	30
111	Ashwini Gupta (axpt11)	200	176	Marina Witvliet (donkeym)	75	241	David Jones (uncle mort)	30
112	Kjeld Hansen (dkkello)	178	177	Jan van Cleeff (imp_jan)	75	242	Patrick Shields (patr1cks)	30
113	Lasse Aaseng (lasseaa)	175	178	Hester Gast (hester02)	73	243	Marc Smith (marcsmit)	30
114	Martin Andresen (mime477)	175	179	Kees Rentes (7slaper)	73	244	Adrian Thomas (sadnorth)	30
115	Geir Helgemo (micelle45)	175	180	Bas van Roosmalen (BasvRo)	73	245	Alex Hong (fhong)	30
116	Tom Johansen (brulle)	175	181	Raluca Dobrescu (ralooka)	65	246	Winston Huang (wshuang)	30
117	Kåre Bogø (osvaill83)	175	182	Ted Greenberg (ted greenb)	65	247	Jiangfeng Luo (mossby3)	30
118	Stephen Peterkin (spil)	150	183	Okay Gur (okay gur)	65	248	Ming Sheng (kainsheng)	30
119	Sam Punch (puncher)	150	184	Lynne Koeppel (lgkoeppel)	65	249	Yan Wang (wy7199)	30
120	Marcel Verhaegen (marcel_ve)	150	185	Gokhan Yilmaz (yilmaz_g)	65	250	Edward Xu (edward3048)	30
121	Gabriele Zanasi (zanna9)	150	186	Kees Bouwen (kebosporto)	60	251	Morten Bilde (ballebo)	30
122	Phil King (philking)	150	187	Jan de Winter (winjan)	60	252	Søren Bilde (sbilde)	30
123	Kevin Castner (jafra)	150	188	Jacob Freeman (jacob04)	60	253	Vinita Gupta (vinita)	30
124	Leonardo Cima (100dog)	125	189	Asaf Yekutieli (tol23)	60	254	Hemant Lall (hemantlall)	30
125	Gary Gottlieb (garybrook)	125	190	Ami Zamir (zamir1)	60	255	Andreas Plejdrup (andreasw)	30
126	Walter Schuster (schustmozz)	120	191	Thijs Hoebe (hoethi)	58	256	Bob Hamman (tgbbh3)	30
127	Mustafa cem Tokay (tokay1975)	115	192	Marco Zomer (mcozo)	58	257	Jon Cooke (mugsmate)	30
128	Aris Bremer (arisbreem)	103	193	Marusa Gold (marusab)	58	258	Ankush Khandelwal (fide51)	30
129	Jan van den Hoek (janonline)	103	194	Jonathan Harris (jdache)	58	259	Cameron Small (cameron_1)	30
130	John Carruthers (jgc)	100	195	Eddie Malhasyan (master dj)	58	260	Stefano Tommasini (stefanot)	30
131	Mitch Dunitz (dunitz)	100	196	Todor Tiholov (polborta)	58	261	Michael Barel (mich-b)	30
132	Ross Grabel (rossg)	100	197	Ulrike Schuster (chrispe1)	50	262	Ronnie Barr (ronniebarr)	30
133	Allan Graves (algraves)	100	198	Ruth Fleischmann (ruthiesrun)	50	263	Ilan Cohen (ilan13)	30
134	Martin Kirr (kirp)	100	199	Willem Alink (willemfbf)	45	264	Ilan Herbst (ilanh)	30
135	Jill Meyers (jillm)	100	200	Nikos Delimpaltadakis (nickd)	40	265	Tom Reynolds (tomreynold)	30
136	George Mittelman (mittmouse)	100	201	Dinos Doxiadis (rigas_karo)	40	266	Lance Kerr (lkerr)	30
137	Kerri Sanborn (kerri)	100	202	Filippos Karamanlis (firfos7)	40	267	Andrew Rosenthal (andrewr)	29
138	Boye Brogeland (boye)	100	203	Kostantinos Kontomiros (zlatan)	40	268	Aaron Silverstein (aarons)	29
139	Simon Gillis (rayas78)	100	204	Tasos Koukouselis (lelos)	40	269	Migry Zur Campanile (migry)	29
140	Espen Lindqvist (stevieg)	100	205	Yankos Papakyriakopoulos (yankos)40		270	Nancy Katz (heart27)	29
141	Erik Saelensminde (skaal1)	100	206	Manolis Protonotarios (emprot)	40	271	Warner Solomon (warnie)	28
142	Odin Svendsen (pirrum)	100	207	Petros Roussos (peter1961)	40	272	Tracy Capal (tra6y)	28
143	Alon Apteker (alonap)	100	208	Aristidis Sapounakis (asapou)	40	273	Eric Schwartz (waldorf1)	28
144	Jan Lagerman (jan_l)	100	209	Vasilis Vroustis (bill123)	40	274	Linda Robinson (saba)	28
145	Johan Sylvan (joppesyl)	100	210	Onno Eskes (onno)	40	275	Vincent Gaillard (vincentg)	28

MISPLAY OF THE DAY

Toine van Hoof



In the early days of the Alt tournaments Jan van Cleeff, the editor of The Bulletin, had an abundant supply of inspired auctions, brilliant dummy plays and killing defenses to write about. Perhaps that's why Martin Cantor saw fit in launching the Alt Best Hands competition. But with the current, as Mark Horton calls it, *cornucopia* of online events the general level of play has diminished. Moreover, self-kibitzing seems to have gone out of fashion (sóóó 2020). Therefore we now see many more mistakes in bidding, play and defense. This warrants the launch of an Alt Worst Hands competition. You need not submit any candidates. On our excellent results page it is easy to spot who went down in a game that all other declarers made or who found the only defense to let a hopeless slam through. There are no prizes. Your only reward will be seeing your name printed in this bulletin.

Monday

The misplay of the first day was executed by Tracy Capal.

Round 2. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Reynolds	Capal	Kerr	Solomon
Pass	1♠	2♦	1♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4♦*
Pass			Pass

East led a trump and the right play is obvious: go up with the ace, cash the ♠K and develop dummy's heart suit. As the ♠Q drops this would have resulted in an overtrick.

Capal played low to the first trick and the defense did not err. Tom Reynolds won the ♠Q and played the ♦K. Lance Kerr overtook with the ace, returned the ♥3 and got his ruff for down one.

Mustafa Cem Tokay and Janice Molson took a shot at the award when they did not draw two rounds of trumps after a club lead. However, the defense was soft so they both made an overtrick.

Tough luck for the East players who led the ♥3, got their heart ruff, underled the ♦A to partner's king and then saw declarer ruff the third heart with the ♠10. When East could not overruff, declarer banged down ace and king of spades to drop the queen and take ten tricks.

Jan van Cleeff was the only North who passed over the 1♥ opening bid:

West	North	East	South
Lesniewski	Van Cleeff	Seligman	Witvliet
Pass	Pass	2♦	1♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	2♠
Pass			Pass

Martin Seligman can hardly be blamed for balancing in the pass-out seat, giving Marina Witvliet the opportunity to bid again. Now Van Cleeff was quick to

raise her to game. Marcin Lesniewski led the ♦K. Seligman overtook with the ace, returned the ♥3, ruffed a heart and exited with the ♦Q. Witvliet ruffed, cashed the ♠A, crossed to the ♣A and advanced a spade. After some thought she decided to play for the drop and made her contract.

Tuesday

Today's winner is Henrik Petersen.

Round 4. Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Nygaard</i>	<i>Hoogenkamp</i>	<i>Petersen</i>	<i>Green</i>
1♥	Pass	1♣	1♦
3♣*	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
	Pass	Pass	Pass

3♣ invite

Against 4♠ South led the ♥J. Petersen won in dummy with the ace and nervously cashed the ♥K to discard a diamond. With the spades splitting four-one he could no longer make his contract.

Most other declarers chose the right line of playing a club to the king in trick 2. South wins and continues with a heart. Now declarer pitches a diamond on the ♥K, draws the trumps by taking a marked finesse, gives up a club and claims ten tricks.

South could have made life difficult for declarer by smoothly ducking the ♣A, which unsurprisingly was never found.

There was also a candidate for the worst defense.

Round 5. Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>King</i>	<i>Olivieri</i>	<i>Castner</i>	<i>Schuster</i>
1♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
	Pass	Pass	Pass

With not much to go on Gabriella Olivieri led a trump against 4♥ which is rarely a good idea. Walter Schuster finished the job by putting up the king. Declarer drew trumps, unblocked the ♠A, cashed ♦A and played a diamond to the 10. North ducked this so Phil King even made an overtrick. Peter Fredin also led the ♥7 against 4♥ but his partner Gary Gottlieb had the presence of mind to insert the 10. Declarer could not avoid the loss of two club tricks and the two red kings.



Gary Gottlieb

Wednesday

Janice Seamon-Molson and Zach Grossack both went off in a makeable 6♠.

Round 7. Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gal</i>	<i>Molson</i>	<i>Dombi</i>	<i>Shi</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♥*	Dbl	2♣
Pass	4NT*	Pass	3♣
Pass	6♠	Pass	5♥*
Pass			Pass

West	North	East	South
<i>Gast</i>	<i>Van Cleeff</i>	<i>Van Roosmalen</i>	<i>Witvliet</i>
	1♦	2♠	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

He also found the heart lead but picked the 9. It was too difficult for Hester Gast to decipher. She simply cashed the queen, king and ace of hearts and exited with ♥4, allowing Jan van Cleeff to score ten tricks.

Thursday

Marina Witvliet and Gary Donner found the worst lead of the day on Thursday.

Round 10. Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
<i>Gottlieb</i>	<i>Van Cleeff</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Witvliet</i>
	1♣*	1♥	2♥*
4♥	5♣	5♥	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

2♣ 2+
2♥ 9-11, clubs

South's lead of the ♠5 with K-x in trumps would not have been everybody's choice. As Edgar Kaplan used to say: If God has given me Q-J-10-9 of a suit, he must have wanted me to lead it. Peter Fredin won with the ace in dummy, played a heart to his ace, gave up a heart and claimed eleven tricks.

West	North	East	South
<i>Fleischmann</i>	<i>C. Rimstedt</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Donner</i>
	1♦*	1♥	2♣
2♥	3♥	4♥	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1♦ 2+

Gary Donner also led his singleton spade, allowing Mustafa Cem Tokay to make 4♥ doubled with an overtrick.

Round 11. Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

This hand was misplayed by most declarers so we will not nominate anyone. The three declarers who played 4♥ correctly were Yaniv Zack, Todor Tiholov and Gabriella Olivieri. Declarer has four minor suit winners and can ruff three spades in North. The ♥A makes eight and South can always make two tricks from Q109. Alternatively declarer can ruff his diamond losers in South. The crux is not to touch trumps and not let West get in to play trumps.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gottlieb</i>	<i>Zack</i>	<i>Fredin</i>	<i>Saada</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dbl
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Zack received the lead of the ♦K. He won the ace and immediately played four rounds of clubs, throwing two diamonds from dummy. All the defense got was a club trick, a diamond overruff and the ♠A.

West	North	East	South
<i>Reynolds</i>	<i>Tiholov</i>	<i>Kerr</i>	<i>Gold</i>
			1♦*
Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥*
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1♦ 0+, 10-15; 2♥ 4♥

Against Tiholov the ♣9 was led. He also played four times clubs, discarding two diamonds: ten tricks.

West	North	East	South
<i>Gast</i>	<i>Olivieri</i>	<i>Van Roosmalen</i>	<i>Schuster</i>
			Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Olivieri won the ♣9 lead in dummy, played a spade to the king and won the club return with the ace. She pitched a diamond on the ♣Q, crossed to dummy with the ♦A, ruffed a spade and exited with a diamond. West could do no better than to play a trump, that ran to the 8. Olivieri ruffed another spade with the ♥K, ruffed a club with the ♥Q and ruffed dummy's last spade with the ♥A. West could only score the ♥J.

RESULTS - www.bridgeresults.org

Round 1. 10 boards. Monday, 8 February 2021, 10:00 EST / 16:00 CET

Tbl	North - South	East - West	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	ISRAEL	BID72	10	20	11			13.14	6.86
2	REYNOLDS	PARKER	10	19	5			14.54	5.46
3	DONNER	GAL	10	20	20			10.00	10.00
4	FLEISCHMANN - TOKAY	GUPTA	10	29	16			14.28	5.72
5	MIKADINHO	CHECHELASHVILI - SOLIMAN	10	22	28			7.82	12.18
6	CASTNER - KING	FREDIN - GOTTLIEB	10	14	32			4.48	15.52
7	ROBINSON	PITCH&PUTT	10	17	15			10.77	9.23
8	IMPS-R-US	HARRIS	10	22	8			14.54	5.46
9	SELIGMAN	SEAMON-MOLSON	10	13	21			7.17	12.83
10	NETBRIDGE	CANTOR	10	11	22			6.28	13.72
11	EDMONDS	IMP	10	9	23			5.20	14.80

Round 2. 10 boards. Monday, 8 February 2021, 11:45 EST / 17:45 CET

Tbl	North - South	East - West	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	FREDIN - GOTTLIEB	IMP	10	18	22			8.50	11.50
2	IMPS-R-US	REYNOLDS	10	15	32			4.71	15.29
3	FLEISCHMANN - TOKAY	CANTOR	10	38	16			15.97	4.03
4	SEAMON-MOLSON	ISRAEL	10	14	15			9.61	10.39
5	CHECHELASHVILI - SOLIMAN	ROBINSON	10	32	20			14.00	6.00
6	PITCH&PUTT	GAL	10	32	27			11.85	8.15
7	DONNER	MIKADINHO	10	27	9			17.21	2.79
8	BID72	SELIGMAN	10	5	28			3.41	16.59
9	NETBRIDGE	GUPTA	10	9	32			3.41	16.59
10	PARKER	HARRIS	10	21	14			12.51	7.49
11	EDMONDS	CASTNER - KING	10	15	22			7.49	12.51

Round 3. 10 boards. Monday, 8 February 2021, 13:30 EST / 19:30 CET

Tbl	North - South	East - West	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	FLEISCHMANN - TOKAY	REYNOLDS	10	30	31			9.61	10.39
2	IMP	DONNER	10	9	46			1.16	18.84
3	CHECHELASHVILI - SOLIMAN	FREDIN - GOTTLIEB	10	28	28			9.23	10.77
4	ISRAEL	SELIGMAN	10	24	26			9.23	10.77
5	SEAMON-MOLSON	GUPTA	10	28	8			15.52	4.48
6	IMPS-R-US	PITCH&PUTT	10	35	13			16.39	3.61
7	GAL	PARKER	10	15	28			5.72	14.28
8	CASTNER - KING	CANTOR	10	20	18			10.77	9.23
9	ROBINSON	HARRIS	10	19	19			10.00	10.00
10	MIKADINHO	EDMONDS	10	32	42			6.37	13.63
11	BID72	NETBRIDGE	10	26	5			16.18	3.82

Round 4. 10 boards. Tuesday, 9 February 2021, 10:00 EST / 16:00 CET

Tbl	North - South	East - West	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	DONNER	REYNOLDS	10	18	18			10.00	10.00
2	SEAMON-MOLSON	FLEISCHMANN - TOKAY	10	32	25			12.51	7.49
3	IMPS-R-US	FREDIN - GOTTLIEB	10	10	25			5.20	14.80
4	SELIGMAN	CHECHELASHVILI - SOLIMAN	10	27	9			15.52	4.48
5	PARKER	ISRAEL	10	21	15			12.18	7.82
6	IMP	CANTOR	10	25	22			11.14	8.86
7	GUPTA	CASTNER - KING	10	27	22			11.85	8.15
8	ROBINSON	EDMONDS	10	22	19			11.14	8.86
9	BID72	GAL	10	7	46			0.90	19.10
10	PITCH&PUTT	HARRIS	10	12	38			2.84	17.16
11	MIKADINHO	NETBRIDGE	10	54	2			20.00	0.00

Round 5. 10 boards. Tuesday, 9 February 2021, 11:45 EST / 17:45 CET

Tbl	North - South	East - West	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	DONNER	SELIGMAN	10	8	20			5.46	14.54
2	SEAMON-MOLSON	REYNOLDS	10	23	24			9.61	10.39
3	FREDIN - GOTTLIEB	FLEISCHMANN - TOKAY	10	15	38			3.41	16.59
4	IMPS-R-US	PARKER	10	18	22			8.46	11.54
5	GAL	HARRIS	10	28	12			15.05	4.95
6	CHECHELASHVILI - SOLIMAN	ISRAEL	10	12	3			13.14	6.86
7	GUPTA	IMP	10	15	18			8.86	11.14
8	CANTOR	ROBINSON	10	8	11			8.86	11.14
9	MIKADINHO	CASTNER - KING	10	12	31			4.25	15.75
10	BID72	EDMONDS	10	28	5			16.59	3.41
11	PITCH&PUTT	NETBRIDGE	10	38	11			17.34	2.66

Round 6. 10 boards. Tuesday, 9 February 2021, 13:30 EST / 19:30 CET

Tbl	North - South	East - West	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	SELIGMAN	FLEISCHMANN - TOKAY	10	13	14			16.78	2.32
2	SEAMON-MOLSON	DONNER	10	32	8			16.78	3.22
3	REYNOLDS	GAL	10	9	34			3.03	16.97
4	CHECHELASHVILI - SOLIMAN	PARKER	10	21	30			6.86	13.14
5	FREDIN - GOTTLIEB	ROBINSON	10	39	1			16.97	3.03
6	IMP	CASTNER - KING	10	39	12			17.34	2.66
7	IMPS-R-US	GUPTA	10	18	25			7.49	12.51
8	HARRIS	ISRAEL	10	11	20			6.86	13.14
9	PITCH&PUTT	CANTOR	10	14	13			10.39	9.61
10	MIKADINHO	BID72	10	5	38			1.70	18.30
11	EDMONDS	NETBRIDGE	10	13	20			7.49	12.51

Round 7. 10 boards. Wednesday, 10 February 2021, 10:00 EST / 16:00 CET

Tbl	North - South	East - West	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	SEAMON-MOLSON	GAL	10	27	17			13.43	6.57
2	PARKER	FLEISCHMANN - TOKAY	10	15	29			5.46	14.54
3	SELIGMAN	FREDIN - GOTTLIEB	10	5	28			3.41	16.59
4	REYNOLDS	IMP	10	27	27			10.00	10.00
5	DONNER	BID72	10	27	11			15.05	4.95
6	GUPTA	ISRAEL	10	8	27			3.82	16.18
7	CHECHELASHVILI - SOLIMAN	PITCH&PUTT	10	12	15			6.86	13.14
8	CASTNER - KING	IMPS-R-US	10	31	18			14.28	5.72
9	CANTOR	EDMONDS	10	13	33			4.03	15.97
10	MIKADINHO	HARRIS	10	44	3			19.33	0.67
11	ROBINSON	NETBRIDGE	10	24	22			10.77	9.23

Round 8. 10 boards. Wednesday, 10 February 2021, 11:45 EST / 17:45 CET

Tbl	North - South	East - West	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	SEAMON-MOLSON	FREDIN - GOTTLIEB	10	25	10			14.80	5.20
2	GAL	FLEISCHMANN - TOKAY	10	31	11			15.97	4.03
3	DONNER	ISRAEL	10	12	26			8.50	11.50
4	IMP	SELIGMAN	10	7	35			2.49	17.51
5	PARKER	CASTNER - KING	10	18	23			8.15	11.85
6	CHECHELASHVILI - SOLIMAN	REYNOLDS	10	19	20			9.61	10.39
7	BID72	PITCH&PUTT	10	21	20			10.39	9.61
8	EDMONDS	GUPTA	10	28	7			16.39	3.61
9	MIKADINHO	ROBINSON	10	26	15			13.72	6.28
10	CANTOR	IMPS-R-US	10	20	31			6.28	13.72
11	HARRIS	NETBRIDGE	10	23	27			6.50	11.50

Round 9. 10 boards. Wednesday, 10 February 2021, 13:30 EST / 19:30 CET

Tbl	North - South	East - West	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	SEAMON-MOLSON	PARKER	10	51	22			17.68	2.32
2	SELIGMAN	GAL	10	24	24			10.00	10.00
3	FREDIN - GOTTLIEB	DONNER	10	29	29			10.00	10.00
4	ISRAEL	FLEISCHMANN - TOKAY	10	41	16			16.97	3.03
5	REYNOLDS	CASTNER - KING	10	24	26			9.23	10.77
6	CHECHELASHVILI - SOLIMAN	IMP	10	9	44			1.42	18.58
7	EDMONDS	PITCH&PUTT	10	50	1			20.00	0.00
8	ROBINSON	BID72	10	29	32			8.50	11.50
9	MIKADINHO	GUPTA	10	1	73			0.00	20.00
10	NETBRIDGE	IMPS-R-US	10	14	46			1.85	18.15
11	CANTOR	HARRIS	10	41	14			17.34	2.66

Round 10. 10 boards. Thursday, 11 February 2021, 10:00 EST / 16:00 CET

Tbl	North - South	East - West	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	SEAMON-MOLSON	EDMONDS	10	37	6			18.00	2.00
2	ISRAEL	GAL	10	28	17			13.72	6.28
3	SELIGMAN	REYNOLDS	10	38	16			15.75	4.25
4	BID72	FREDIN - GOTTLIEB	10	35	21			14.54	5.46
5	DONNER	FLEISCHMANN - TOKAY	10	24	31			7.49	12.51
6	IMPS-R-US	IMP	10	14	40			2.84	17.16
7	CASTNER - KING	PITCH&PUTT	10	28	28			10.00	10.00
8	ROBINSON	GUPTA	10	1	58			0.00	20.00
9	PARKER	NETBRIDGE	10	20	13			12.51	7.49
10	MIKADINHO	CANTOR	10	24	14			13.43	6.57
11	CHECHELASHVILI - SOLIMAN	HARRIS	10	32	17			14.80	5.20

Round 11. 10 boards. Thursday, 11 February 2021, 11:45 EST / 17:45 CET

Tbl	North - South	East - West	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				NS	EW	NS	EW	NS	EW
1	SEAMON-MOLSON	IMP	10	24	24			10.00	10.00
2	GUPTA	SELIGMAN	10	10	22			6.00	14.00
3	ISRAEL	FREDIN - GOTTLIEB	10	6	33			2.26	17.34
4	CASTNER - KING	GAL	10	31	10			16.18	3.82
5	FLEISCHMANN - TOKAY	BID72	10	24	18			12.18	7.82
6	EDMONDS	DONNER	10	12	23			6.28	13.72
7	PARKER	CANTOR	10	30	17			14.28	5.72
8	HARRIS	REYNOLDS	10	13	20			7.49	12.51
9	IMPS-R-US	ROBINSON	10	18	33			5.20	14.80
10	NETBRIDGE	CHECHELASHVILI - SOLIMAN	10	18	23			8.15	11.85
11	MIKADINO	PITCHBATT	10	39	8			17.84	2.16