

THE ALT INVITATIONAL

online bridge events organized by
bid72, bridge24 & netbridge.online



PRE-BULLETIN
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Among Peers

The success of the *Columbus Alt* last month encouraged us to organize more Alts. Last month's tourney was named after the Spring Nationals, which were supposed to be held in Columbus, Ohio. The virus thwarted that one, but luckily bridge has quite a few online alternatives. This week's *Alt Invitational* has the same, though extended, format as the aforementioned Columbus Alt. Extended? Yes, we start with a round-robin of seven matches, but add a 24 board semifinal and a 36 board final. Therefore, this Alt takes an extra day. We hope to arrange a new Alt every three or four weeks.

So, we are now on the brink of a series of (hopefully) great events joined by eight world class teams. How to participate? Well, to enter an Alt is not that easy, as it is by invitation only. The field is carefully picked, where quality and honesty are the main criteria. We are aware of the fact that playing online offers lots of electronic opportunities to cheat. On the other hand, we are convinced that due to the 'among peers' factor we can achieve enough security. What bridge pro would put their reputation at stake?

Have fun with this one! The next Alt Invitational is scheduled already for the week of April 20th.

IMPORTANT!

All players should enter BBO 15 minutes before their match starts at the latest. BBO coordinator Don Freeland is waiting for you and will instruct you where to sit.

TODAY'S PLAY, 1&2

Monday April 6
10.00EDT / 16.00CET

Blass-Chen
De Botton-Hungary
Meltzer-Milner
Street-Team NL

Monday April 6
14.30EDT / 20.30 CET

Blass-Hungary
Chen-De Botton
Street-Meltzer
Team NL-Milner



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How to bid a cold grand?

The very first board in the last round of the inaugural Columbus Alt brought us a cold grand in clubs:

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

♠ 7 5 4 2	
♥ 7 4	
♦ Q 9 8 5 2	
♣ J 10 2	



Only two pairs displayed impeccable technique to reach the optimum (7♣ and NOT 7NT).

Lavazza v. Upmark

West	North	East	South
Madala	Berteau	Bilde	Upmark
	Pass	1NT ¹	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠ ²	Pass	3♦ ³	Pass
3♥ ⁴	Pass	3♠ ⁵	Pass
4♣ ⁶	Pass	4♦ ⁷	Pass
4♠ ⁸	Pass	5♣ ⁹	Pass
5♦ ¹⁰	Pass	5♠ ¹¹	Pass
7♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 15-17
2. gf relay
3. five-card minor, max
4. relay
5. 5♣
6. establishing clubs as the trump suit
7. cue bid
8. RKC, 1430
9. 0 or 3 key cards
10. extras?
11. yes, in spades

Blass v. Tulin

West	North	East	Sout
Pepsi	vProoijen	Blass	Verhees
	Pass	1NT ¹	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠ ²	Pass	3♣ ³	Pass
3♦ ⁴	Pass	3♠ ⁵	Pass
4♣ ⁶	Pass	4♥ ⁷	Pass
4♠ ⁸	Pass	5♣ ⁹	Pass
5♦ ¹⁰	Pass	5NT ¹¹	Pass
7♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. 15-17
2. gf relay
3. Five-card clubs
4. relay
5. doubleton heart
6. RKC for clubs
7. 0 or 3 key cards
8. trump queen?
9. yes, but no kings
10. asking for queens
11. ♠Q or ♥Q plus ♦Q



Rules and Regulations

The numbers 1 through 4 from the round-robin will go to the semi finals. In case of a tie in victory points:

1. the mutual result will decide
2. still equal: the most 'wins' (BAM-ish) will decide.
3. after that: the team with the highest IMP score on a board will go through

Team number 1 may choose its opponent from numbers 3 and 4. The captain will mail to info@netbridge.online their choice within an hour after the round-robin is finished. If late then matches will be: 1 versus 4 and 2 versus 3.



TeamNL Bridge Open

Currently we live in a surrealistic world, in which the bridge community, too, is looking for alternatives. Club games, tournaments, and competitions are on hold, and everyone is seeking to practice their beloved sport online. 'TeamNL Bridge Open', the Dutch national selection, is also dealing with this new reality.

As major tournaments were canceled - NABCs in America, practice matches between nations, training facilities - TeamNL Bridge Open and its staff had to search for alternatives. Matches are scheduled on Bridge Base Online; bidding practice via bid72 and training via Skype now are part of the training program. This event, with its strong field of contenders, offers an excellent opportunity.

TeamNL Bridge Open is preparing for the European Team Championships and the World Bridge Games, both of which are now obviously doubtful for this year. Our selection consists of six pairs: Berend van den Bos & Joris van Lankveld, Bob Drijver & Bart Nab, Merijn Groenenboom & Maarten Schollaardt, Danny Molenaar & Tim Verbeek, Bauke Muller & Simon de Wijs, and Ricco van Prooijen & Louk Verhees.

Anton Maas will soon resign from his position as team captain. Gert-Jan Ros will succeed him. Ros has already been deeply involved with TeamNL Bridge Open lately. Ton Bakkeren will remain coach of the team.

Maas was coach in 2011 when the team won the Bermuda Bowl on home ground. After that Maas resigned as coach, but he returned as captain in 2015. In that year a squad from the selection won the teams at the European Open Championships in Tromsø. In 2016 the team under Maas' captaincy and Bakkeren's coaching won the World Bridge Games and collected bronze at the European Championships in Budapest. 2019 was good for silver, both at the European Open Championships and at the Bermuda Bowl.

We hope to meet all of you in good health at the bridge table.

Hans Kelder

Director Topbridge Dutch Bridge Federation

The Bridge24.pl Foundation

by Marek Wójcicki

Origin

At the beginning of the 21st century the results of Polish bridge players, both pairs and teams, at international events have not been particularly noteworthy. This contrasts with the world and European championships of the eighties and nineties, in which there were series of medals and wins for Poland. At that time there was a great deal of competition among a large pool of players of international standard, allowing the selection of a highly competitive national team. However, this golden era of Polish bridge seemed to come to an end.

And that's when, in 2013, Igor Chalupec, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Jacek Pszczoła and Tomasz Sielicki decided on an effort to change this trend and to build a stable structure by creating conditions for the development and training of Polish bridge players, allowing them to devote most of their time and activities to bridge. They established the Foundation Bridge24, now one of the most recognizable names in the world bridge community. They decided not just to target the most elite players, but also to set up a parallel track for the most promising young players. The Foundation aims to promote bridge as a beneficial social activity and seeks to encourage players of any level. It also cooperates with the Polish Bridge Union and is proud that its players can support Polish national teams for world and European Championships, hopefully allowing Poland to return to a historic pole position.

What the Bridge24.pl foundation did

It has built a team that combines experience and youth. Relatively quickly - after two years - some of the most promising players have become international stars thanks to their achievements. Jacek Kalita and Michał Nowosadzki won gold in the Bermuda Bowl 2015, together with players who also helped to restore the reputation of Polish bridge, like Piotr Gawrys, Michał Klukowski, Krzysztof Jassem and Marcin Mazurkiewicz. (We should also add here Stanisław Golebiowski and Włodzimierz Starkowski, members of Mazurkiewicz Team, which won the Rosenblum Cup 2014 in Sanya.) Then they won silver at the World Pairs Championships and the World Transnational Teams plus some

American titles. Wojciech Gawel and Rafal Jagniewski, following their victory in the Spingold of 2013, have built a stable position between world top pairs. Bartosz Chmurski and Piotr Tuczynski have followed the same track. More experienced players of our team also confirmed their reputation by winning world titles: Jacek Pszczoła in the transnational teams 2013 and mixed pairs 2014, Bermuda Bowl 2015; Krzysztof Buras and Grzegorz Narkiewicz in the Cavendish 2014. A long list of national wins in Poland could be added here. But the greatest confirmation that Bridge24.pl has made the right choices was the Bermuda Bowl 2019. The Polish team, consisting of six players from Bridge24 - Krzysztof Buras, Bartosz Chmurski, Jacek Kalita, Grzegorz Narkiewicz, Michal Nowosadzki and Piotr Tuczynski, won the most prestigious world championship.

The Bridge24 Foundation took care of women and youth players, too. Four members of the Polish women team were for a long time in our squad, winning gold in European Teams, as well as some junior players. Their main achievements were gold at the 2015 European and 2016 World Junior Teams Championships (Kamil Nowak) and gold in the 2019 World Youth Open Championships (Kacper Kopka, Tomasz Kielbasa, Krzysztof Cichy). Moreover, the Foundation organized six editions of the Palace Cup tournaments, where the world stars play at the invitational tournaments, while other players can meet playing the same hands at the parallel event. A traditional pro-am tournament is a place where they can meet together.

In addition, Bridge24.pl tries to popularize our game by participating in the Bridge2Success project and supporting numerous events promoting contract bridge. <http://sztukaipasja.pl/pasja/en/prezentacja/>

How to kibitz the Alt Invitational at BBO?

Like in the previous Alt we expect thousands of spectators at BBO. Still, how to reach a specific table? The solution though is very simple. Just search your favorite player under his nickname and join his table.

For instance. You wish to watch today's match Blass versus Chen, especially the table where BasDrijver is gonna play. Just search Bas under his nick 'BasDr' and 'follow' the guy. As soon as the match starts you can take a seat at his table.

Teams, players, nicknames

Blass

Jacek Pszczola	pikolo
Josef Blass	bljosef
Jacek Kalita	bridge24jk
Michal Nowosadzki	bridge24mn
Sjoert Brink	sjoertBr
Bas Drijver	BasDr

Street

Nicolas L'Ecuyer	caucase
Paul Street	Boulevard1
Ron Pachtman	ronpa
Piotr Zatorski	dzeronimo
Fred Pollack	Fredp
Kamel Fergani	fergani

Milner

Sabine Auken	jcmx
Roy Welland	roy
Reese Milner	Reesem
Hemant Lall	Hemantlall

Zhao

Zhao Chen	zhaochen
Liu Jing	LiuJing
Bauke Muller	beukertje
Simon de Wijs	sm1
Louk Verhees	loukie
Ricco van Prooijen	riccovp

Hungary

Gábor Winkler	winkiboy
Miklós Dumbovich	dumbovich
Balász Szegedi	korszurku
Gál Hegedűs	gal
Csaba Szabó	csaboka13

Team NL

Maarten Schollaardt	skollie
Merijn Groenenboom	MerijnG
Danny Molenaar	dannymo
Tim Verbeek	timve
Joris van Lankveld	ennaji
Berend van den Bos	BerendBs
Bart Nab	bnab
Bob Drijver	bobdrijver
Guy Mendes de Leon	Guymdl
Thibo Sprinkhuizen	Thibos

De Botton

Jason Hackett	mutton
Alexander Hydes	itsgrim
Janet de Botton	capt Lulu
Artur Malinowski	supermali
Thor Erik Hoftaniska	kasper20
Thomas Charlsen	tcharlsen

Team Meltzer

Nik Demirev	ndemirev
Rose Meltzer	rcm
Piotr Nawrocki	nawrot
Piotr Wiankowski	vifon_e
Bartosz Chmurski	chmurka
Piotr Tuczynski	miszczu



www.bid72.com

big 5

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Questions? Ask Saskia:
info@bid72.com

1. Random hands www.bid72.com/random-boards/

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- ✓ ranking and rating
- ✓ fit for any system at any level

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2. Topic boards www.bid72.com/topics/

- ✓ a set of Topic boards is dedicated to a specific piece of bridge theory
- ✓ each set contains appr. 100 boards ready to bid in-app
- ✓ 3 levels of themes: starter/club/expert
- ✓ popular themes: Jacoby Transfers, Check-Back Stayman, Gazzilli
- ✓ sheets with preferred methods designed by the world's best players and teachers

1 Topic costs 100 Bid Points

100 Bid Points USD 1.99 / 500 Bid Points USD 6.99 / 1000 Bid Points USD 12.99

3. Bidding contests www.bid72.com/bidding-contest/

- ✓ for bridgeclubs and communities
- ✓ each month 8 new boards in-app
- ✓ results and handrecords

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4. Create your own boards www.bid72.com/create-and-upload-your-own-boards/

- ✓ create and upload your own boards to **bid72**
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check the link above for (low) costs

5. Basic education www.bid72.com/teachers/

- ✓ sets of practice boards for starters
- ✓ relevant powerpoints presentations
- ✓ feedback to teachers
- ✓ teachers follow their own rithm and plan

*free service for students with **bid72** account (even in trial)*

*discount for teachers on their **bid72** account*