



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Online Women's Teams

Online on RealBridge • 3 - 5 January, 2025

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## Welcome!



We in the WBF have increased our efforts for women in Bridge as we support the work of the WBF Women's Committee for their online events and newsletters. The inaugural Online Women's teams in February 2024 proved to be a huge success and set the stage for future WBF online teams. RealBridge was pivotal to its success and with their expertise this 2nd edition will be a huge success also.

We have introduced Bulletins for this online event as we look to ways to improve the quality of bridge for women.

Wishing you a wonderful online championship and may 2025 bring you good health and good Bridge!

Jan Kamras  
WBF President





**On behalf of the World Bridge Federation Women's Committee, I welcome you to the Second Annual Women's Online Bridge Team Championships. Last year's "national" event was highly successful and this year's "transnational" event looks to be even more so.**

**If the attendance at the recent North American Bridge Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada, is any indication, bridge participation is showing serious signs of returning to pre-Pandemic levels. There were more than 10,000 tables at the Vegas NABC... an especially excellent turnout at a fall competition.**

**Of special interest to readers here is the fact that the Women's events at the NABC far exceeded predictions. Hopefully, this is the start of a trend that will continue in the near and distant future.**

**Thank you to those behind the scenes for this 2025 Women's Online Competition: Mary Kelly Rogers, Anna Newton, Shireen Mohandes and Andy Bowles. Scheduling matches worldwide is very tricky, and I am in awe of how well this team works together to make it happen. Team efforts provide participants with a seamless schedule of play while maintaining the integrity of the game. Planning starts with registration and publicity, and ends months later with 70+ teams playing for three days until one winner is crowned.**

**Thank you to World Bridge Federation President, Jan Kamras, and the Executive Committee of the WBF for committing the funds to provide these Daily Bulletins. Having an online Bulletin presence validates Committee efforts to promote Women's Bridge worldwide. WBF members can kibitz on Vu Graph when possible, but if and when "real life" interferes, they will not be at a loss. The Daily Bulletins with their highly competent editorial staff will enable the audience to follow the action in print!**

**Finally, please remember that the WBF Women's Committee supports the highest levels of ethics and sportsmanship. We are counting on all participants to be kind and friendly to their partners and their opponents. With convenient online kibitzing, it is very important that we set the bar high for ourselves and our viewers... and show the world how respectful and welcoming Women's Bridge really is.**

**To the players: Have fun. Play your best.**

**To the VuGraph audience: Enjoy the excitement. Cheer on your favorite teams.**

**We hope that playing and watching on the great platform that Real Bridge provides will be an incentive to put together more teams for next year!**

**Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2025!**

**Suzi Subeck  
WBF Women's Committee Chair**





We're hoping 2025 will get off to a fantastic start for women bridge players around the world as the WBF stages its 2nd WBF Online Women's Teams on the RealBridge platform. The contest was born in February of last year when 64 teams from 31 countries took part and it has grown to over 70 teams from 40 countries with 450 players: this time transnational. It will grow further as players realise the competitive spirit and expertise of the game can be realised, that networking can actually happen and all this without the cost of travel and accommodation and with a low registration fee.

It's a mammoth task for the RealBridge team with complexities of a schedule that encompasses all time zones, 8 WBF zones, numerous sessions, thousands of boards, while play continues through the night with each team well informed of their schedule.

For this 2nd event we have introduced another first with three days of Bulletins; all the time creating the whole ambience of a live championship virtually and with Chief WBF Editor Mark Horton at the helm and the talented Francesca Canali on layout we are assured of top-notch reporting and a record that will be available into eternity!

Covid closed many doors but it opened others and RealBridge was one of those doors. What was realised in February was outstanding and this time it promises to be even better.

The WBF Women's Committee is committed to bettering bridge for Women, not only in the Women's Category but wherever women play, and for sure bright days lie ahead for the Women's category as all can see that women are active and determined to reach the highest of standards. We are fortunate that WBF President Jan Kamras and his executive are wholly supportive as we endeavour to meet our goals.

A superb team has worked to bring you this event so it is mega thanks to Anna Newton, Fotis Skoularikis, Marc van Beijsterveldt, Dirk De Clercq, Shireen Mohandes and Andy Bowles.

Enjoy this tournament, enjoy the Bulletins and enjoy all the benefits of playing on RealBridge.

Mary Kelly Rogers  
Event Coordinator  
WBF Women's Committee Vice Chair



# 2024 Winners



## 1<sup>st</sup> Seabass

Susan Zhang (PC), Jill Meyers, Kerri Sanborn, Sylvia Shi

## 2<sup>nd</sup> WIMPs

Amy Casanova (PC), Margi Peterson, Christine Denny, Fran White, Laura Rowe

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Hungary

Villo Szucs, Esther Tichy, Hanka Lajos, Orsolya Hegedus (PC), Julia Hegedus, Agnes Zalai, Brigitta Fischer



# Tournament Directors and Technical Team

Marc van Beijsterveldt	Netherlands	Chief TD
Gary Barwick	Australia	
Sanjay Chakraborty	India	
Miltos Koutougkos	Greece	
Camila Nuñez	Argentina	
Andy Bowles	RealBridge	
Ken Johnston	England	
Shireen Mohandes	RealBridge	
Jeanne van den Meiracker	Netherlands	
Fearghal O'Boyle	Ireland	WBF Reviewer

## Format

13 matches of 8 boards.

Each match is 55 minutes long.

Players join sessions 15 minutes before the start time. If you are late starting a match, there are mandatory fines.

## Important Links

### WBF website

<http://championships.worldbridge.org/2025-wbf-online-womens-teams>

### Kibitzers

<https://kibitz.realbridge.online>

it will be deferred by 55 minutes

# Slamfest! Mark Horton

An astonishing 64 teams from around the world took part in the WBF's first Online event for Women's Teams, the brainchild of the indefatigable Mary Kelly Rogers. Only she, along with Anna Gudge, Shireen Mohandes and Andy Bowles knows how it was possible to coordinate the playing of 13 rounds over 3 days involving 31 counties from 7 WBF Zones.

Updates were posted on Bridge Winners, the focus being on some of the slam deals that occurred. Here are four of them:

Dealer South. E/W Vul.

<p>♠ 9 8 5 ♥ 10 8 6 ♦ A 9 6 4 3 2 ♣ 6</p>		<p>♠ A K 10 7 ♥ Q J 5 4 ♦ K Q J ♣ K 9</p>	<p>♠ 6 3 2 ♥ A ♦ 10 8 7 5 ♣ Q J 8 7 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Buss Thomsen</i>	<i>Tuus</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Sandford</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	3♦	Dble	5♦
Pass	Pass	6♥	All Pass

South's jump to 5♦ left East with a guess of sorts. There was obviously a reasonable chance that 5♦ would be expensive, but would it compensate for a possible +1430?

NS had won the bidding battle, but to make their victory complete North needed to lead her singleton club. When she went with the ♦A, declarer could ruff and play on trumps.

Dealer West. None Vul.

<p>♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A J 6 3 2 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ 5 2</p>		<p>♠ K Q 10 5 ♥ K 10 9 8 4 ♦ J 9 ♣ Q 4</p>	<p>♠ A J ♥ 5 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ A K J 9 8 6 3</p>
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How would you estimate your chances on this deal were you to bid a slam? For instance, 6♣ by West.

West	North	East	South
<i>Punch</i>	<i>Simic</i>	<i>Symons</i>	<i>Eric</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

3NT      Long clubs and natural

The ♣Q is a great card, but the lack of any first round controls is a worry.

North led the ♥A for the eight, seven and five. It's hard to blame North for continuing with the ♥2, hoping partner started with a singleton.

At another table the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
2♣*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass
2♣	Strong		
2NT	5+♥, 8+		



South led the  $\diamond A$  for the eight, four and nine. If the clubs are good for seven tricks, there are now ten tricks in dummy, so if declarer has the  $\heartsuit AK$  there is no defence. That indicates that you must switch to a heart, just in case, but when South selected a spade declarer could claim the rest.

Dealer West. None Vul.

	$\spadesuit$ K		
	$\heartsuit$ 7 6 5 3		
	$\diamond$ J 6 5 2		
	$\clubsuit$ K 8 7 3		
$\spadesuit$ A 10 6 2		$\spadesuit$ Q J 7 4	
$\heartsuit$ A K Q 10 9		$\heartsuit$ 8 4 2	
$\diamond$ 7		$\diamond$ A Q 8	
$\clubsuit$ J 6 4		$\clubsuit$ A 10 2	
	$\spadesuit$ 9 8 5 3		
	$\heartsuit$ J		
	$\diamond$ K 10 9 4 3		
	$\clubsuit$ Q 9 5		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>A Castells</i>	<i>Bashar</i>	<i>M Castells</i>	<i>Moses</i>
1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	Pass
3 $\spadesuit$	Pass	4 $\clubsuit^*$	Pass
4 $\diamond^*$	Pass	4 $\spadesuit$	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5 $\spadesuit^*$	Pass
6 $\spadesuit$	All Pass		

When South led the  $\heartsuit J$  declarer won in dummy. One possibility was to come to hand and take the spade finesse. However, were it to fail, South might be able to ruff a second round of hearts.

Keeping the diamond finesse in reserve, declarer decided to cash dummy's  $\spadesuit A$  at trick two and when his majesty appeared she could play to ruff a diamond in dummy to get up to 12 tricks.

In the Closed Room, EW stopped in 4 $\heartsuit$ .

Dealer North. None Vul.

	$\spadesuit$ A K J 9 4		
	$\heartsuit$ Q 10 8		
	$\diamond$ J 6 3		
	$\clubsuit$ 10 7		
$\spadesuit$ 10 8 5 3		$\spadesuit$ 7	
$\heartsuit$ 3		$\heartsuit$ K 7 5 4 2	
$\diamond$ Q 7 5 4 2		$\diamond$ K 10 8	
$\clubsuit$ J 9 8		$\clubsuit$ A 5 4 3	
	$\spadesuit$ Q 6 2		
	$\heartsuit$ A J 9 6		
	$\diamond$ A 9		
	$\clubsuit$ K Q 6 2		

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gutierrez</i>	<i>Shi</i>	<i>Rózpide</i>	<i>Zhang</i>
—	1 $\spadesuit$	Pass	2 $\clubsuit$
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 $\spadesuit$
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5 $\heartsuit^*$	Pass	6 $\spadesuit$
All Pass			
4NT	RKCB		
5 $\heartsuit$	2 keycards		

With a nasty hand to lead from East went with the  $\heartsuit 2$  and declarer won with the  $\heartsuit 8$  and drew trumps, East discarding two clubs and a heart. When a club to dummy's king held declarer exited with a club, which, along with the heart finesse, was enough to get her up to 12 tricks.

Once East has not found the killing move of leading a diamond at trick one, the strongest defence is to hold on to all her clubs. Declarer can play a club to the king, but will then need to find the play of continuing with the  $\clubsuit Q$ , the subsequent club ruff establishing dummy's  $\clubsuit 6$ .

When the last card had been played the podium looked like this:

**Seabass** 209.65  
 Jill Meyers,  
 Susan Zhang (PC),  
 Kerri Sanborn,  
 Sylvia Shi

**WIMPs** 193.19  
 Amy Casanova (PC),  
 Laurie Rowe,  
 Fran White,  
 Christine Denny,  
 Margot Hennings,  
 Lamy Agelidis,  
 Evelyn Holtz,  
 Sara Rothmuller

**Hungary** 190.58  
 Orsolya Hegedus (PC),  
 Agnes Zalai,  
 Eszter Tichy,  
 Brigitta Fischer,  
 Villo Szucs,  
 Hanka Lajos,  
 Julia Hegedus