



ALT supports CAT BULLETIN 2 • Sunday December 20 • editor Christina Lund Madsen • clm@christina-bridge.com

A Mix of Gems & Disasters

The best part about a charity event such as this is the chance to watch a team of random world stars play with each other with absolutely no idea what they are playing.

The first board I saw, Weinstein-Nowosadzki went -670. The next they missed a grand slam. Of course "Suzanne & Hugo" are still leading. When I saw their team a couple of days ago, I asked David Gold who he was playing with. "No idea. I don't even know who is on my team."

I sent him the roster: Sjoert Brink, Bas Drijver, David Gold, Jacek Kalita, Michal Klukowski, Oren Kriegel, Roger Lee, Michal Nowosadzski, Steve Weinstein.

His reply: "LOL. Perhaps they can use me for less important matches."

So they lined David up to play with Michal Nowosadzski against Bilde-Madala. He provided the opponents a short resume of their agreements:

Gold → nat system, udca, 3/5 suit, 4th NT. not discussed anything

A little later Nowosadzski and Gold had the impressive auction 1C - 1D, 1NT - 2D, 2H - All Pass.

Gold → 2 non americans trying to work out what part of NMF applies here

Of course Bilde-Madala as the gentlemen they are allowed the contract to make.


All players should enter BBO 10 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

10:00 EST / 16:00 CET	RR 7 (7 boards)
11:15 EST / 17:15 CET	RR 8 (7 boards)
12:30 EST / 18:30 CET	RR 9 (7 boards)
13:45 EST / 19:45 CET	RR 10 (7 boards)
15:00 EST / 21:00 CET	RR 11 (7 boards)

Leaderboard

Ranking after round 6

rank	team	#	1	5	12	2	4	3	8	6	10	7	11	9	Adj	c/o	VP tot
1	 SUZANNE & HUGO	1	♠		7.43		19.00		17.62	15.78			9.53	18.01		0.00	87.37
2	 REMEMBERING ROLAND	5		♥	6.01			9.53	16.04			10.00	18.19	17.21		0.00	76.98
3	 ABDAF	12	12.57	13.99	♦	12.94		18.85	1.47		14.63					0.00	74.45
4	 BLITZEN	2			7.06	♣	11.77			16.04		11.35	13.31	5.68		0.00	65.21
5	 WILKINS	4	1.00			8.23	♠			8.23		19.00	16.04	12.18		0.00	64.68
6	 CANADIAN & FRIENDS	3		10.47	1.15			♥	17.21		11.77	4.22		15.78		0.00	60.60
7	 HINZE	8	2.38	3.96	18.53			2.79	♦		17.21	10.00				0.00	54.87
8	 DONNER	6	4.22			3.96	11.77			♣	13.65	16.04	4.22			0.00	53.86
9	 NETBRIDGE	10			5.37			8.23	2.79	6.35	♠		15.50	12.94		0.00	51.18
10	 YOSHKA	7		10.00		8.65	1.00	15.78	10.00	3.96		♥				0.00	49.39
11	 GUPTA	11	10.47	1.81		6.69	3.96			15.78	4.50		♦			0.00	43.21
12	 HARRIS	9	1.99	2.79		14.32	7.82	4.22			7.06			♣		0.00	38.20

Format

The qualifying stage will be played as a Round Robin.

11 matches of 7 boards each played during Saturday-Sunday.

The top 4 teams from the qualifying stage will advance to the knockout stage on Monday.

Results

NB
NETBRIDGE

Playing the cards online

To Catch a Thief

By Mark Horton



This event in support of the CAT Defense Fund is headlined as Felines to the Rescue which set me thinking about possible titles. One of my favourite actors is Cary Grant. I watched him for the umpteenth time in North by Northwest (remind me to use that sometime) on Friday evening.

In the Hitchcock movie which serves as my title he plays a retired cat-burglar who specialised in jewel robberies. Would there be any priceless gems in the opening round?

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Donner	D Bilde	S Rimstedt	Madala
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

1♦ 2+♦

In my playing days we used to use a double of 1NT by a passed hand to show both majors or both minors (I famously forgot the convention when playing against a certain Eric Rodwell in the 1994 World Open Pairs in 1994). Perhaps that was North's intention here?

In any event South was happy to pass and he led the ♥Q, followed by the king and jack. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♣2, North taking the ace perforce and cashing the ♥7 followed by the eight ('I have something in diamonds partner').

Declarer pitched a spade and a diamond while dummy shed two spades. The ♠J was covered by the queen and king and South switched to the ♦J, declarer winning with the ace and playing a club to the king. When North discarded declarer had to go two down, -300.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	Moss	Gupta	Grue
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	Dble	Rdbl	1♦
Pass	Pass	2♣	All Pass

North led the ♥4 and declarer ducked, won the next heart and played a spade for the queen and king. Back came the spade nine, taken by the ace and declarer played the ♣2. North won, cashed the ♠J and continued with the ten, ruffed by dummy's ten



Zia

and overruffed by the jack, South exiting with the ♣8. Declarer won with dummy's king, drew the outstanding trump and played a diamond to the ace and a diamond, one down, -50, but a 5 IMP pickup.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Donner	D Bilde	S Rimstedt	Madala
1♦*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- 1♦ 2+♦
- 2♦ Natural, forcing for one round
- 2♥ Artificial, 11-13 balanced

South led the ♥J and declarer appeared to be doomed. She won with the ace, cashed the ♣A just in case, and then played two rounds of diamonds, South winning and playing hearts from the top, two down, -200.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	Moss	Gupta	Grue
Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

- 3♦ Good hand, 3♠

North led the ♥7 and South followed with the ten as declarer won in dummy and ran the ♠J. He then cashed three more spades and on the last of them North pitched the ♥4. Declarer exited with a heart and South won with the king and exited with the jack, North winning and cashing two more tricks in the suit, South coming down to ♦K7 ♣Q8.

North had to exit with a club and the nine was covered by the queen and king. A club to the ace was followed by the ♦Q and that was +600 and 13 IMPs.
A typical gem from Zia.

If North had pitched a club instead of a heart declarer would no doubt have cashed two clubs ending in dummy and advanced the ♦Q.

Four declarers made 3NT after a heart lead, but the other three did not get a testing defence as South blocked the hearts. Perhaps this was the 'jewel in the crown'.

In the Open Room 3NT had gone two down:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Klukowski	Hinze	Gold	Enfield
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♥ Fourth suit, game forcing

North led the ♦J for the queen, three and ten and declarer continued with a diamond to the ace, North ruffing and exiting with the ♥8. Having taken dummy's ace declarer ruffed a diamond with the ♠9 and when North could not overruff he played the two top spades ending in dummy, ruffed a diamond, crossed to dummy with the ♣A and played a diamond, graciously letting South decide when she wanted her sxQ.

At this point I realised that it was only a 7 board match! Time to come up with a title for Round 2!

(I asked David Gold after the first match what it was like to play with the soon-to-be best player in the world, and he replied: "I just subscribed to the LKD-principle." See if you can guess what the LKD-principle is and send me an email if you think you know. Answer in tomorrow's bulletin./CLM)



ALT

Invitational

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ALT BOARD-A-MATCH ~ January 11-15, 2021

ALT's first special in 2021

For the first time Alt will organise a Board-a-Match tournament. It's also the first Alt event of the new year. It will be held from January 11-15 and pre-registration is open now. Invited so far: teams Donner, Gillis and Koeppel.

[Apply through this link](#)

The Black Cat

By Mark Horton



I have always been confused about black cats - are they harbingers of doom or indicators of good-fortune?

If you have read Edgar Allan Poe's short story (or seen movie Tales of Terror with Vincent Price and Peter Lorre) you will perhaps be inclined towards the latter.

Would round 2 reveal any luck, be it of either hue for Remembering Roland and Canadian and Friends?

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Wang	Burn	Luo	Graham
—	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

With an awkward hand to lead from West went with the ♠A and when East followed with the nine he switched to the ♦5. Declarer put up dummy's king (essential) unblocked the clubs, West pitching the ♦10 and exited with the ♦J, East winning with the queen as declarer (wrongly) discarded a heart. East's spade switch went to the jack and queen and West exited with a spade. Declarer won with the king and cashed two clubs. As long as West keeps the winning spade and the ♦A declarer must fail, but he threw the spade and now declarer could cross to dummy with the ♥K and play a losing diamond which squeezed East in hearts and clubs for +400.

Pitching a club on the ♦Q is best for declarer as then West is squeezed out of heart by the ♣K and declarer then has more than one way to get home by playing on hearts. Having cashed the ♠A West must switch to a heart - which

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lawrence	Sheng	Davis	Li
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Here West led the ♠3 and declarer won with the jack, played a diamond to the king, unblocked the clubs and ducked a diamond. East won and played a spade and West cashed out for a 10 IMP pick up.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Wang	Burn	Luo	Graham
—	2NT	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

3♥ Transfer

Hands where one player has all the aces can be tough. Perhaps South might have tried 4♣ over 3♠, and 5NT is also a possibility, asking opener to bid a grand slam with a maximum.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lawrence	Sheng	Davis	Li
—	2NT	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3♠	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

So, no swing.



Two pairs reached 7♠, but only one got to the top spot to earn 13 IMPs:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Itabashi	D Bilde	Dunitz	Madala
—	2NT	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♥*	Pass	7NT
All Pass			

4♦ Invitational + with spades

4NT RKCB

5♣ 1 key card

5♦ ♠Q?

6♣ ♠Q+♣K

6♥ ♥K

This was a gem from Bilde-Madala, yet they have agreed to avoid diamonds after a minor disaster in a later match:

Madala → sorry

Bilde → guess i could have played a high diamond

Madala → we are having problems with the small diamonds

Madala → They are never small enough

Bilde → yea we should stick to the other suits

Madala → good idea

Doing My Part

Interview with Gary Donner



by Christina Lund Madsen

As a sponsor of bridge teams, how has this year with online bridge been for you?

- I would say it has been up and down. I have gotten to play a lot of bridge against the best players in the world and with teammates that I like. I have learned a lot. Sometimes I play well and other times not so well. And sometimes we do well and sometimes not so well.

I think that if not for the availability of organized online bridge, I would have gone crazy by now. But the cheating is at times obvious and frustrating. And I have had people on my teams that it turns out have cheated and I am ashamed of that fact.

But despite it all, from a bridge point of view (and only a bridge point of view) I would say that the this year has been good.

How do you personally feel about the alleged online cheating and has it influenced your view on hiring teams in the future?

- I am disappointed by the cheating and saddened by the reaction to it.

It was probably to be expected that there would be some cheating in online bridge, after all there is cheating in face-to-face bridge as well, but I am amazed by how prevalent it has been.

But what bothers me even more and makes me sad is the reaction to it. Some people think that it is ok because online bridge is not serious. I cannot believe that someone can rationalize that self-kibitzing or collusion is ok. I mean, really?

And people tell you things that are just impossible to believe and convinces me that they think we are all fools. I had a professional tell me recently that they have played thousands of hands online, so they couldn't really remember if they had self-kibitzed to improve their result ever. I think I would remember it very well if I did that and their memory is far better than mine.

But there are many examples of this which just strain any credibility. And there is so much that can be done to make it more difficult to cheat that is simply not being done. So at times I actually feel that it is hopeless.

Recently a Hemingway quote was e-mailed to me: *"We are all broken, that's how the light gets in"*.

So maybe all this will let the light in. Regarding hiring teams in the future, I hope my team stays together for a long time, so I am not looking to change it. It is people I trust and admire, we work well together and most importantly the team consists of great teachers, which is what I need. However, if things ever did change, I could see myself hiring a confessed cheater if I felt they realized what they had done was wrong and had sat out an appropriate amount of time. I would certainly be comfortable hiring someone who had cleared themselves of any suspicions, but I would never consider hiring someone suspected of cheating who has not either sought forgiveness or gone through a process to clear their name. It would simply not happen. And I will do everything in my power to encourage other sponsors to do the same.

You took the initiative to the CAT Legal Defense Fund. What motivated you?

- I don't think that what the CAT has done to date is perfect, nothing is. But they took the initiative when no one else was willing to and they did it for free and invested more time than one could reasonably have expected them to. In my book, they are heroes. But no good deed goes unpunished. And them being sued for their good deeds done in good faith while predictable is just not something that I could stay on the sidelines and watch without trying to help.

I had two motivations in getting involved. One, I felt that all bridge players were the beneficiary of what CAT was doing and should share in the economic cost of the inevitable litigation. I am nowhere good enough as a bridge player to do the work that they did. But I could still contribute. And two, I was worried that deep pocketed people on the other side would think that they could sue the members of CAT and the members would have to back down because they could not afford a strong defense. And I wanted them to know that there was a deep source of funds to support the CAT members and that we would not be financially intimidated. I thought and still think that this would prevent some litigation.

How much money did you collect in total?

- To date, around \$80,000. But I am quite confident that we can collect a lot more if the need arises.

How much money has been spent so far on legal counselling?

- We have received requests for reimbursement for a fair amount. We do have to go through a due diligence process before



we fulfill the requests but I don't see any issues with that. The only administrative expenses we have had so far are some minimum legal expenses for filing fees to set up the CAT Legal Defense Fund. But the amount for those was specifically donated. We have also had some legal help but that was donated by the attorneys providing the service.

How much do you expect is needed?

- I don't really know the answer to this question. I wish I did.

You are also among the sponsors who signed the initiative on Bridgewinners encouraging online violators to confess and come back after a voluntary absence. What were you personally hoping to achieve with this post?

- We have this bad situation where there are a number of suspected players who are not being allowed to play in online bridge. And while many of us may know some names and be able to guess at others, it is all a mystery with a lot of gossip and not publicly available facts.

On top of that, many players would say they are innocent but had no route to clear their name. Which enabled everyone to do nothing.

And everyone has a different opinion of how to handle this.

When we started, I really did not see this as a sponsor initiative. I was hoping we could get the major bridge organizations to step up and accept jurisdiction and create both a fair process and some set of sanctions for those confirmed to be cheating.

The WBF stepped up to this on a go forward basis but nobody wanted to handle the problem for what has already occurred and I could not accept that people would have blatantly cheated and that there would be no consequences.

I remembered that when I was a consultant, a partner in my office used to say that as a consultant, your license to practice was your ability to sell. And I realized that this was true for a bridge professional as well. Their license to practice was their ability to get hired. So that if the sponsors got together we could not sanction someone but we could revoke their "license" if they could not get hired. So that became the basis for what was published. We are not colluding and making others say they won't hire someone but I can say for me and I would hope enough others say as well, that I

won't hire someone who is suspected of cheating and has not addressed it by acknowledging it and sitting out for some amount of time or clearing their name.

I also felt very strongly, as did the other sponsors, that everyone has to have an opportunity to clear their name if they are wrongfully accused.

This is for two reasons—the obvious one, that someone should not suffer consequences for something that they did not do, but also because then anyone who does not take advantage of this cannot claim that they did not have a chance.

So back to your question. I was hoping to get rid of the gossip, allow people to clear their names and if someone had cheated to give them a path back to being accepted in the bridge community. And it was obviously not just me but me and a number of other like-minded individuals who came together to undertake this initiative.

How do you feel about the reactions at this point?

- Of course I hoped that there would be an immediate reaction which is not the case. But it is still early. If I were one of the pros under suspicion, I would be weighing my options at this point. I think it is as much an economic decision as anything. The cost of doing nothing and the impact of that on future earnings vs. the cost of sitting out and the impact of that on future earnings. And in both scenarios, the answer is not known but something that has to be assessed.

So ask me in early January and I can give you a better answer. But I don't give up very easily.

How come you involve yourself so much personally in this?

- I honestly have no clue. Nor does my wife. Sometimes I feel like Don Quixote is my role model.

How would you like the bridge scene to look on the other side of Covid?

- Let's assume for this conversation that we can make the online game more conducive to ethical bridge. I think and hope there will always be the major championships, be it WBF, ACBL or EBL. And these will always have both the highest level of play while allowing someone like me to participate as well.

If I compare online play to the ACBL Regionals however, I believe that it is a much better concentration of the best bridge players and so if one wants to play at that level it is in fact a better competition. Plus one can do it from the comfort

of their own home. So I would like to see a mix of online high-level events, other tournaments and major championships going forward. I hope that organizations like ALT continue to be a major tournament sponsor going forward.

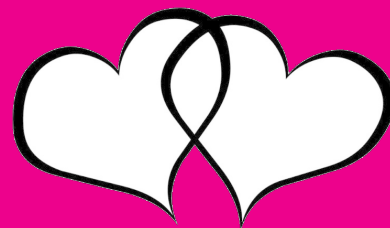
But it was not that long ago where I was not playing in these types of events. I had to grow into them. And I am old and won't be around forever. It is important that bridge continues to attract people who then decide to enter these events. So that cannot be ignored.

What are your team's ambitions in this event?

Of course we want to do well and win. But I want my team always playing their best, playing ethically, having fun and helping me become a better player for the future. If we do that we win even if we don't come in first place.

THE ALT MIXED TEAMS ARE REPLACED BY THE

MONTHLY MIXED TEAMS



NEXT EVENT JANUARY 11-15 2021

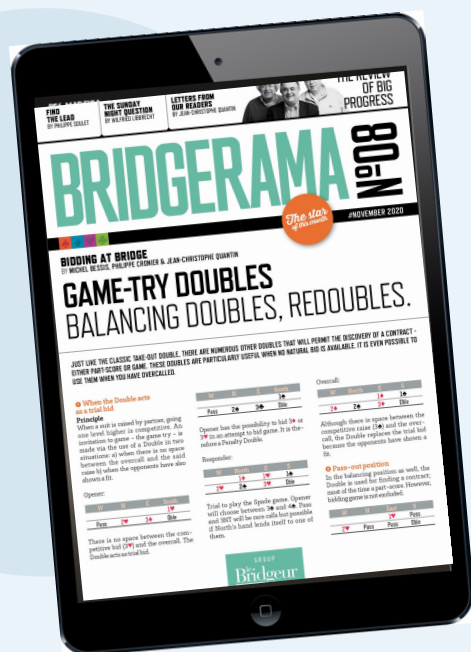
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Partnership building, testing agreements

dealer South vulnerability None

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

10 6♠	7 6♣	5 5♠ 5♣ 4♣	3 7♠ 7♣
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West Tobias	North	East Marina72	South
—	—	—	2♥
Pass	4♥	5♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

5♠ = asking for heart control

6♠ = got it

dealer South vulnerability East-West

West	East
♠ J 9 6	♠ Q 10 5 3
♥ K Q J 10	♥ A 6
♦ A 2	♦ K 9
♣ A 6 5 2	♣ Q J 10 4 3

10 4NT 3NT	6 5NT 4♠ 4♥	5 4♣ 3♠ 3♥
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West Tobias	North	East Marina72	South
—	—	—	2♦
X	3♦	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

'In stead of 4♠ East should double and bid 3NT over the expected 3♥.'

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- Two-way Checkback Stayman; 2. Responding with both Majors after 1NT; 3. (Non) Leaping Michaels;
- Gazzilli; 5. Gambling 3NT; 6. Lebensohl after a Weak Two; 7. Rubensohl and Transfer-Lebensohl;
- 1♥/1♠ - 2NT (fit); 9. 4♣: Fit and slamgoing

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