

The Minor ALT Invitational I

AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 4 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

A Call for Action

The first day of the Minor Alt Invitational resembled warm up from the kibitzers' point of view. We missed more doubles, redoubles and tough 5-level decisions.

It is not often you see all eight tables playing exactly the same contract and making the same amount of tricks as in the first three boards of the event. Either the cards are too boring or the players are too levelled.

As a player, you never feel the cards are boring, but as a kibitzer it does not get your juices flowing seeing the entire field playing 3 diamonds with 10 tricks.

So today we hope the cards will be unfriendly, the players overbid and the (re)doubles fall without mercy.

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 Round 3 & 4

Tuesday September 1
10.00 EDT/16.00 CET

**Gupta - Lebowitz
Potter - Donner
De Michelis - Black
Gillis - Fredin**

Tuesday September 1
14.30 EDT/20.00 CET

**Gupta - De Michelis
Gillis - Potter
Donner - Fredin
Black - Lebowitz**

Link to results

[Minor Alt Results](#)

Link to previous and future Alts &
bulletins

Alt.bridgeresults.org



All the Children



by Christina Lund Madsen

In Scandinavia we have some children jokes (though they are often rather harsh) that go something along this:

All the children were planned, except Jake. His parents made a mistake.

Watching the results of board 23 from last night I came to think of such a joke, and since I missed having Sjoert play in the Alt events, I think it is time to focus on yet another of his bad boards - just to make his father happy (I still have hopes of becoming his daughter-in-law in some distant future).

All the Children played 4♠, except Sjoert and Bas. Over 3NT Sjoert bid pass.

Board 23. W / All

♠ KQT3	♠ J87	♠ A9642									
♥ 652	♥ K87	♥ J3									
♦ QT2	♦ J83	♦ AK6									
♣ AK7	♣ Q432	♣ J65									
	<table> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 5										
	♥ AQT94										
	♦ 9754										
	♣ T98										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Drijver	Gold	Brink	Black
			Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2NT was forcing and 3NT was max with 4♠ and suggestion to play with 4333.

Sjoert passed and Black made the clever lead of the ♥Q. He hit the Gold with Kxx and so the defense took the first 5 tricks for -100 and 12 IMPs for Black.

That did not prevent Gillis from winning by 68-27 and 17.25-2.75 in VPs.

Welcome back, Sjoert. ♥



Bridge Series
A. 21 September-6 October 2018

Leaderboard & Draw

Gillis had a magnificent start to our Minor Alt with two big victories. Rumours say that Boye and Espen will be investigated by a secret special division due to their massive butler score.

It looks slightly different for Fredin at the other end of the scoreboard, but fear not: He has called in Swedish reinforcements, and the more brothers, the merrier.

[Link to results](#)









[Minor Alt Results](#)

[Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins](#)

Alt.bridgeresults.org

Ranking after round 2		
rk	team	VPs
1	 GILLIS	36.31
2	 POTTER	33.43
3	 DE MICHELIS	20.08
4	 DONNER	17.46
5	 LEBOWITZ	17.19
6	 BLACK	16.47
7	 GUPTA	11.92
8	 FREDIN	7.14

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
<u>1</u>	 GUPTA	 POTTER	24	<u>27</u>	<u>55</u>			4.46	15.54
<u>2</u>	 DONNER	 LEBOWITZ	24	<u>25</u>	<u>50</u>			4.92	15.08
<u>3</u>	 DE MICHELIS	 GILLIS	24	<u>15</u>	<u>75</u>			0.94	19.06
<u>4</u>	 FREDIN	 BLACK	24	<u>29</u>	<u>46</u>			6.28	13.72

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
<u>1</u>	 DONNER	 GUPTA	24	<u>43</u>	<u>32</u>			12.54	7.46
<u>2</u>	 LEBOWITZ	 POTTER	24	<u>31</u>	<u>78</u>			2.11	17.89
<u>3</u>	 FREDIN	 DE MICHELIS	24	<u>31</u>	<u>92</u>			0.86	19.14
<u>4</u>	 BLACK	 GILLIS	24	<u>27</u>	<u>68</u>			2.75	17.25

Bank Holiday Blues

By Mark Horton



Yesterday was one of the 8 'Bank Holidays' that take place in England & Wales, so named because of the fact that the financial institutions close for the day. Traditionally they are a cause for celebration with the general public flocking to the seaside, but under Covid-19 that sort of activity is frowned upon (although you can be sure the rules will be ignored somewhere). Smart people stay indoors and play bridge!

Martin Cantor had the right idea - he's off on holiday, and we have no money for a replacement.

Spoilt for choice I went for De Michelis v Gillis. After three regulation games the score was 1-0 to Gillis.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brogeland	De Michelis	Lindqvist	Failla
1♦*	Dble	1♠	2♥
Pass*	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♦	All Pass

1♦ 4+ but not 3343 Pass Maximum of 2♠

North led the ♥A and South followed with the four. Whatever that meant North now tried the ♣4, +600.

Given South's free bid of 2♥ there is a chance that left to his own devices declarer would have taken the right view.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
DiFranco	Gillis	Manno	Saelensminde
1♦*	Dble	Rdbl	2♥
3♣	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♦	All Pass

1♦ 4+♦, unbalanced
4NT Even number of key cards

North cashed the ♥A and again South followed with the four. North switched to the ♠9 and declarer won in dummy, drew trumps, eliminated the majors, crossed to dummy with a diamond and played a club, putting in the ten for a 12 IMP loss. 5♦ made five times and went down twice, with one pair collecting 500 from 3♥ doubled.

On Board 5 both teams played in a comfortable part-score, ignoring the possibility of a Meckwellian 3NT with their combined 22 count - it would have made in comfort. They were in good company as no-one reached it.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brogeland	De Michelis	Lindqvist	Failla
—	—	—	1NT
Dble*	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Dble*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Dble Points or penalties

2♣ Diamonds

Dble Takeout

South led the ♦4 and North took dummy's jack with the ace and switched to the ♣3. South took the ace and returned the seven, but declarer played dummy's jack, took the ♦K, played a spade to the ace, a heart to the queen and exited with the ♠Q. South won with the king but that was the last trick for the defence.

Luca De Michelis



If North switches to a heart at trick two declarer cannot set up a discard in time and will be held to nine tricks. As it happens, the entry position is such that a trump switch also works, but a diamond does not. In that case declarer wins and plays the ♠10/9 to the ace followed by a club. He will then be able to exit with a high spade and get back to hand with a trump to play a second club.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
DiFranco	Gillis	Manno	Saelensminde
—	—	—	1NT
All Pass			

West led the ♥6 and declarer won with the jack, played a diamond to the ace and a club for the queen and king. West switched to the ♠3 and East took the ace and returned the eight, declarer winning with the king, cashing the ♣A and exiting with the ♣9. West won, cashed the ♦K, two spades and heart for one down - an 11 IMP swing.

If West had switched to the ♠10 rather than the three, declarer could have been held to four tricks.

For the record, only two pairs bid 4♠ - they both made it.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brogeland	De Michelis	Lindqvist	Failla
—	—	—	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

4♣ Hearts, always a good suit

South led the ♠3 and the defenders took two spades, a diamond and a club for one down.



Andrea Manno

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
DiFranco	Gillis	Manno	Saelensminde
—	—	—	1♦
3NT*	Dble	4♥*	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

3NT Good four of a major overcall
 4♥ Pass or correct

East led the ♥J and when West followed with the ten he switched to the ♦3. When declarer put in the queen West won and returned the ♣7. When declarer played the eight East won and returned a diamond for West to ruff.

Congratulations if you would have risen with the ♦A. Playing low is also a good idea.

Virtually everyone else played in 4♥ going down, and it was doubled 4 times.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brogeland	De Michelis	Lindqvist	Failla
—	2♣*	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2NT 22-23 3♣ Puppet
 3♦ 1/2 majors 3♥ Spades

East led the ♠3 and declarer won with the queen, cashed the ♦AK, the ♣A and then played a club to the nine and jack. He took the spade return with dummy's ace and played a diamond to the ten, so he was two down, -200.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Klukowski	Gillis	Zatorski	Saelensminde
—	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Boye Brogeland



Here 3♦ promised only one major. East led the ♣6 for the three, ten and ace and declarer immediately ran the ♣8 to West's jack. Back came the ♠2 for the queen, king and five and East continued with the jack, declarer taking dummy's ace and playing a heart to the ten which meant he was one down.

If declarer leaves hearts alone, playing four rounds of diamonds he can then cash two hearts and endplay East with a club, one of dummy's spades taking the last and ninth trick.

3NT made five times.

On Board 15 NS held ♠53 ♥AK98
 ♦AJ103 ♣KJ10 opposite ♠KJ4 ♥J7654
 ♦84 ♣Q64 and with the ♠AQ onside and the ♥Q singleton 4♥ was easy and worth 10 IMPs for Gillis when they bid it and De Michelis stopped in 3♥.



Simon Gillis

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brogeland	De Michelis	Lindqvist	Failla
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1NT*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣ 1♦ 4+♥
 1NT Not 3♥, normally not 4♠

South led the ♥10 for the queen, king and eight and North switched to the ♠2. Declarer played low and South won with the king and exited with a heart, but

the fall of the diamond honours meant declarer was in no danger, +400.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Klukowski	Gillis	Zatorski	Saelensminde
—	Pass	1♣*	1♥
1♠*	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1♣ Polish Club 1♠ Transfer to NT or cx

South led the ♥5 and declarer put up dummy's queen, took the king with the ace and tried the ♦9 covered by the jack and king. When the ace saw South follow with the queen declarer played the ♦5 to the ten, cashed the ♣A and played a club to the ten and jack. South took the next trick with the ♥10 and exited with the seven, dummy winning with the jack. When declarer cashed dummy's ♦3 South, squeezed, tried blanking his ♠K, but declarer played a spade to the ace and claimed nine tricks.

With time running out De Michelis was finding it hard to score - only 15 IMPs in 20 deals, while the big swings were all going the other way.

On 21 Gillis picked up another 10 reaching a cold 3NT while in the other room 4♠ was defeated by a ruff and bad trump break. On Board 22 EW attempted 6♠ with ♠AQ10974 ♥AK2 ♦75 ♣AJ facing ♠KJ63 ♥105 ♦KQ9 ♣Q975 after South had overcalled East's 1♣ with 2♥ on ♠82 ♥QJ9873 ♦10 ♣K843. South was on lead and the ♦10 saw him score a ruff at trick two. East did not open in the replay and 4♠ gave Gillis another 13 IMPs, advancing the score to 72-15.

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♥♦♦♦ by Le Bridgeur

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Victim of the Day

Massimiliano Di Franco



by Christina Lund Madsen

How old are you, where are you from and where do you live now?

- I'm 31 years old, I was born in Palermo and I'm living in Madrid for 4 years.

Do you have an education and are you by any chance still single?

- I have a degree in law but I never used it to work beside bridge. I went to live in Madrid for love and I'm still staying there

How has life been during Corona?

- I was in Madrid at the beginning and during the summer I went to Palermo. Luckily, I was very busy during the quarantine playing and teaching bridge and when I had some free time, I used it to work on developing the OCBL.



Massimiliano and Irene Baroni

Share your best junior bridge memory with us (it does not have to be bridge related, but we prefer that it will not be censored).

- I have been so lucky to start playing bridge very early so I could start traveling to international junior events since I was 15 years old.

So I had almost 10 years as a junior, and during those years I can remember how much I was looking for the summer with a European or World championship to play, so I would say that my best memory of the junior bridge is the feelings I had before and during each championship... Now it is still very fun but since it has become my job, I approach them more seriously.

You are one of the people behind the OCBL with Andrea Manno, who you also play with in the Minor Alt. How come you are playing in an Alt event as OCBL-organisers? Are you spies? If so, what is the most important thing you have discovered?

- We have studied ALT events very well, but I don't feel competitor with the ALT, I truly admire what you have done for the bridge community and have inspired us and others to try to keep top bridge alive during those difficult times.

How many buttons does a real Italian man(no) leave open in his shirt?



Massimiliano with grande maestro Alfredo Versace.

- I would say to leave 2 open buttons is a must (the minimum to show some hair chest). Then depending on how the evening goes you can start to open the 3rd, then 4th and so on... ☺

How would Andrea Manno describe you in three words?

- Lucky, ambitious, spoiled.

You sometimes go by the nickname the devil. How come?

- It usually happens after the midnight of the last night of the NABC during the usual Karaoke party... Can't wait to transform again soon.

What is your biggest regret in life so far?

- I'm sure I will regret the too much sedentary life at some point. *(For those who as I wonder what sedentary means, it is too much sitting on your bum/CLM).*

If you were to leave the world too young, how would you like us to remember you?

- I have been deeply touched by how the world and more specifically the bridge world will remember Justin Lall, but this is reserved for a few special people.

Who would you like partner, kiss, kill between Ida Gronkvist, Antonio Palma and Per-Ola Cullin?

- I really don't want to kill any of these nice people with my hands, so I would kiss Per-Ola and I'm sure Antonio will commit suicide out of jealousy. Then I will be very happy to partner with Ida.

Who from the Minor Alt do you think should be a future victim in the bulletin? Tell us something you would like to know about this person.

- Per-Ola Cullin. I would like to know who is the best Portuguese bridge player and if he ever had a chance to play with him.

Teams / Players / Nicknames

BLACK

Andrew Black	Boggis
David Gold	Dagold
Gunnar Hallberg	Rerack
Simon Hult	Hultahult
Andrew McIntosh	Mcintosh
Tom Paske	Thomas1000

DE MICHELIS

Luca De Michelis	lucadm
Massimiliano Di Franco	M_DiFranco
Giuseppe Failla	gioffi
Michal Klukowski	skrzat96
Andrea Manno	Maqeda
Piotr Zatorski	Dzeronimo

DONNER

Brad Moss	Brad
Joe Grue	Joegrue
Sandra Rimstedt	Sandria
Cecilia Rimstedt	Cillar
Marion Michielsen	Lady007
Per-Ola Cullin	pocken
Gary Donner	Gdonnersc1

FREDIN

Gary Gottlieb	Garybrook
Peter Fredin	P_Fredin
Niklas Warne	Nikwar2
Krister Ahlesved	Kruska
Alon Apteker	Alonap
Mikael Rimstedt	MikaelRim
Ola Rimstedt	olarim
Peter Bertheau	pbertheau
Dan Zagorin	pez007

GILLIS

Sjoert Brink	sjoertBr
Boye Brogeland	boye
Bas Drijver	BasDr
Simon Gillis	rayas78
Espen Lindquist	stevieg
Erik Saelensminde	skaal1

GUPTA

Thomas Bessis	malpaluche
Simon de Wijs	sm1
Naren Gupta	nareng
Zia Mahmood	Zia
Bauke Muller	beukertje
Frederic Volcker	fred92130

LEBOWITZ

Christian Bakke	Chrien
Adam Grossack	nevereast
Zachary Grossack	germs345
Tor Eivind Grude	TEG91
Laurence Lebowitz	O lhl12
Fredrik Nystrom	F_Nystrom
Frederic Wrang	fly21

POTTER

Kevin Bathurst	kmb24
Vince Demuy	okvince
Kevin Dwyer	kdwyer
Shan Huang	precisebri
John Hurd	johnhurd
Cookie Potter	ohceep

How to kibitz the Minor Alt Invitational on BBO

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If you wish to watch the players whenever they are online, you search for your chosen one (fx Cecilia Rimstedt "Cillar", click on the name and choose 'follow' instead of neutral. Any time you see her online, you can click on her and take a seat at her table. See you on BBO!



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If you wish to watch the players whenever they are online, you search for your chosen one (fx Cecilia Rimstedt "Cillar", click on the name and choose 'follow' instead of neutral. Any time you see her online, you can click on her and take a seat at her table. See you on BBO!



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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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