The Minor ALT Invitational I

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 4 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

Nobody is left Behind

Gillis continue to lead the field, but a little more than halfway no teams are left behind.

Fredin initiated a comeback by defeating the leaders from team Gillis, and despite two minor losses yesterday, team Potter is hanging on to second, which shows the evenness of the field; no easy matches and everybody beats each other.

Today's victim is Per-Ola Cullin, the man, the player, the legend.

And we have a little teaser for tomorrow; David Gold will be interviewed about the secret task force working day and night to ensure we can continue to allow kibitzers in the Alt Events

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 5 & 6

Wednesday Sept. 2 10.00 EDT/16.00 CET

Fredin - Gupta Potter - Black De Michelis - Donner Lebowitz - Gillis Wednesday Sept. 2 14.00 EDT/20.00 CET

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

Link to results

Minor Alt Results

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

Alt.bridgeresults.org



Leaderboard & Draw

Link to results

Minor Alt Results

Results Round 3 & 4

	Ranking after round 4					
rk	team	VPs				
1	GILLIS	56.92				
2	POTTER	47.13				
3	DE MICHELIS	43.66				
4	DONNER	39.62				
5	BLACK	39.27				
6	GUPTA	37.59				
7	FREDIN	30.67				
8	LEBOWITZ	25.14				

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
IDI	Home ream	visiting realit	IIDIU	Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	<u>GUPTA</u>	<u>LEBOWITZ</u>	24	<u>62</u>	<u>16</u>			17.79	2.21
2	POTTER	DONNER	24	<u>40</u>	<u>54</u>			6.85	13.15
3	DE MICHELIS	BLACK	24	<u>35</u>	<u>29</u>			11.46	8.54
4	GILLIS	FREDIN	24	<u>34</u>	<u>45</u>			7.46	12.54

Tbl	Home Team Visiting Team n	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs		
IDI	Hollie lealli	visiting realit	пыч	Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	<u>GUPTA</u>	DE MICHELIS	24	<u>38</u>	<u>47</u>			7.88	12.12
2	GILLIS	POTTER	24	<u>55</u>	<u>41</u>			13.15	6.85
3	DONNER	FREDIN	24	48	<u>52</u>			9.01	10.99
4	BLACK	<u>LEBOWITZ</u>	24	<u>70</u>	<u>50</u>			14.26	5.74

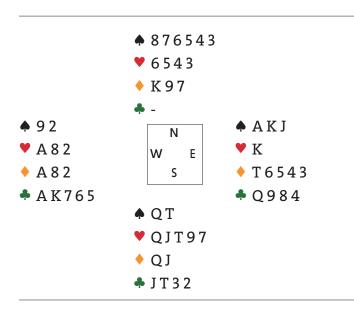
Dazzling Declarer Play



by Christina Lund Madsen

After the first day's warm up we had the pleasure of being dazzled by some excellent declarer play in the last round yesterday.

Board 13. N / All



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Brogeland	Hurd	Lindqvist	Bathurst
	Pass	1.	1♥
2♣	3♥	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

3♥ was weak and 5♥ asking for the ♣Q

Hurd led the ♥4 to dummy's king, South plsying the ♥Q. At trick 2, Brogeland played the ♦3 over the jack to his ace (a

way to make the contract with clubs splitting is to play for ♦Hx in either hand and eliminate the other suits for a ruff and sluff, but to prevent the hand with ♦Hx from unblocking, the play must be made early).

He carefully ruffed a heart with the ♣8. He continued with the ♣Q and saw the bad split. ♣9 followed, South played the 10, won by West's king. A spade to the ace, ♣4 from dummy, finessing with the 7, ♣A and now he exited with a diamond. South returned a heart to the ace, and Brogeland played his last club. North had to discard a spade to hold on to the ♠K, and now Brogeland played a spade to the king, pinning the Q, guessing North not to have Qxxxxxx of spades without showing them.

12 well-played tricks and +1370 was rewarded by 17 IMPs when declarer went down in 5♣ in the other room.

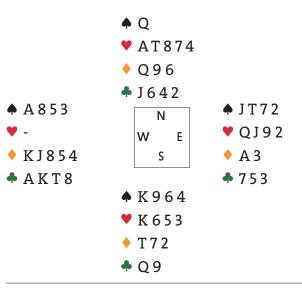
Peter Fredin also made 6♣ after a similar auction and the same lead. He also played a diamond to the ace at trick 2. Next a club to the queen, seeing the split, followed by the nine, covered, ace. He now ruffed a heart with the ♣8 and cashed the ♠A, noting the T from South. He cleared the trumps, cashed the ♥A and his remaining club, Cecilia Rimstedt making a brave attempt at misleading Fredin by pitching the ♠K. Fredin did not have as much count on the hand as Brogeland, but who needs that if you guess well?

He played a spade to the king and saw the queen drop.

An argument for getting the \clubsuit Q right is that North did not open $2\spadesuit$, which would be a possibility for some with \spadesuit Qxxxxx \blacktriangledown xxxx \spadesuit Kxx \spadesuit —.

On the last board of the day one declarer outplayed the rest of the field.

Board 24. W / None



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lebowitz	Gold	A. Grossack	Black
1.	1♥	1NT	3♥
4♥	Pass	4♠	All Pass

With his solid heart stopper, Grossack opted for 1NT in his first turn but still ended up in 4♠.

Black led the ♥3 and Grossack refrained from ruffing and pitched a club from dummy instead. Borth won the ace and



played the ♠Q, ducked by Grossack.
Gold switched to the ♣2 to partner's queen and dummy's ace. East played a diamond to the ace, diamond to the king and ruffed a diamond. He played the ♠J, covered by South and won with the ace. A spade to the ten followed, and Grossack played the ♥J, covered by South and ruffed with his last trump.

Now Grossack cashed the ♣K before playing the ♠J, and South could do nothing but ruff and play a heart into East's remaining Q9.

Excellent cardreading was rewarded by +420, which limited the loss on the hand to 2 IMPs when NS in the other room were doubled in 3♥ for -500.

Four East-declarers went down in 4xs, one in 3xs. Once again Peter Fredin was the only other declarer to make 4xs, but played in the West, receiving the lead of the ♥A, making life and the contract simpler.

The Night they Invented Champagne

By Mark Horton

Shortly before play began today I put the finishing touches to Misbid These Hands with Me which should appear sometime next year. That is a good enough reason to open a bottle of champagne, and one is on ice pending the completion of Round 3, where I'm taking a look at Potter vs. Donner.

Before we get down to the play, here are a few famous quotes about Champagne:

"Come quickly, I am tasting the stars!"
Dom Perignon, French Benedictine monk

"Champagne! In victory one deserves it, in defeat one needs it."
Napoleon Bonaparte

"I only drink Champagne on two occasions, when I am in love and when I am not" Coco Chanel

"Remember gentlemen, it's not just France we are fighting for, it's Champagne!" Sir Winston Churchill

"Why do I drink Champagne for breakfast? Doesn't everyone?" Noel Coward

"Champagne and orange juice is a great drink. The orange improves the Champagne. The Champagne definitely improves the orange."

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Time to see if our stars could deliver any champagne moments.

In recent reports I have mentioned the potential of the Bridge Playing engine Alpha Zero (still in the course of being developed). I wonder if its programmers have incorporated the Kaplan-Rubens Hand Evaluator. On the first deal of Round 3 North held a modest looking hand - ◆A1076 ▼A8742 ◆ 3 ♣A94. When 1♥ was raised to 2♥ North was content to let matters rest. However, on KR the hand rates 15.00 and as soon as your five-card suit is raised you can add on 3 points for the fifth trump. Partner held ♠K543 ▼KQ5 ◆6542 ♣108 and you could take 11 tricks in hearts.

Only De Michelis and Failla reached the game via 1♥-2♥-2♠-3♠-4♥.

On Board 3 NS held ♠ K1092 ♥ AK8 ♦ 10 ♣ Q10653 facing ♠ Q4 ♥ Q62 ♠ KQ984 ♣ AKJ. Donner - Rimstedt didn't know the meaning of 1♣*-1NT*-3NT (1♣ = 16+, 1NT = ♣) and when North bid 4NT South's jump to 6♣ resulted in the loss of 11 IMPs against the 3NT+2 in the other room.

Board 4 saw NS reach 4♥ with a trump suit of ♥AQ974 opposite ♥1085. In isolation the best line is to run the ♥10/8, offering a 22% chance of no loser and a 76% chance of four tricks, but there were other considerations and only Failla and Zagorin played the heart suit for no loser and a big swing.

As it happens 3NT would have been easier

At last we got something close to a cork-popping moment:

Board 9. Dealer North, EW Vul.

↓ J8754
↓ J86
↓ Q1065
♠ 6
♠ AK1096
♠ 72
♠ AKQ94
♠ 98
♠ KJ4
♠ K10
♠ ♥ 1053
♠ A732
♠ AJ9874

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moss	Demuy	Grue	Bathurst
_	Pass	1♥	2♣
Dble*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the ◆2 and declarer took North's queen with the king, crossed to the ♠A, South pitching the ♣8, and played a heart to the nine and ten. South cashed his minor suit aces and declarer claimed the rest, +630.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	S. Rimstedt	Huang	Donner
_	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

3♥ Transfer

South found the dramatic lead of the ♣A and he continued with the four, North ruffing and returning the ♦6 for the jack and ace. When South played a third club North could ruff with the ♠5 ensuring a trick for the ♠J and one down.



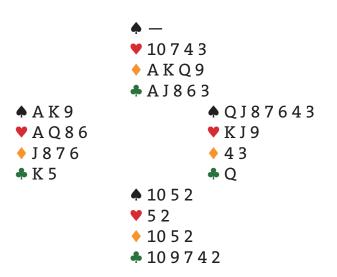
Andrew McIntosh also found the lead but after getting in at trick three with the ◆A he returned a diamond and now declarer could pick up the trumps and lose only an IMP.

If South starts with a heart and declarer wins and plays a spade to the king it will probably be followed by three rounds of hearts pitching dummy's diamonds. North ruffs, and must now resist the temptation to try for a club ruff. The winning defence is to exit with a trump. If declarer wins in hand and plays a club to the king South wins and returns the \$J.

There is a winning line after a heart lead, but as it involves immediately playing three more rounds of heart to dispose of dummy's diamonds it is a bit of a non-starter.

The 12 IMPs acquired on this deal gave Donner the lead, 22-15.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.



Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moss	Demuy	Grue	Bathurst
_	1.	2♠	Pass
4♠	Dble	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

4NT Clubs and diamond support

East led the ♠Q and declarer ruffed, cashed the ♣A and played off the topdiamonds, claiming ten tricks, -200.

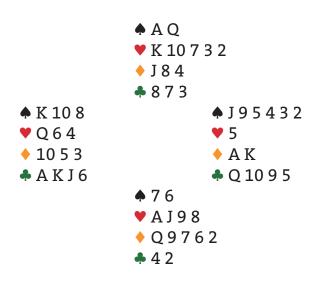
Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	S. Rimstedt	Huang	Donner
_	1 ♦*	1♠	Pass
2♦*	Dble	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1♦ **2**+♦

The defenders had three tricks, but after a diamond lead North did not cash the ♣A so -650 and 10 IMPs that left the scores tied, 26-26.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moss	Demuy	Grue	Bathurst
_	_	_	Pass
1 ♦*	1♥	2♥*	3♥
3♠	All Pass		

1♦ **2**+♦ **2**♥ **6**+ spades

East was guilty of breaking Meckstroth's Law and the result was +170.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	S. Rimstedt	Huang	Donner
_	_	_	Pass
1NT	Pass	4♥*	Pass
		4	газэ
4♠	All Pass		

4♥ Transfer

That gave Potter 6 IMPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

♠ K 8 6

♥J9765

♦ 7 5 3

102

♠ 10 4 2

¥ 3

• Q 10 8 4 2

♣ A K 6 4

A Q 10 4 2

♦ K J 6

♣ QJ953

♠ AQJ9753

♥ K 8

♦ A 9

\$ 8 7

Open Room

WEST Moss	NORTH Demuy	EAST Grue	SOUTH Bathurst	WEST Dwyer	NORTH S. Rimstedt	EAST Huang	S(
Pass	Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass	Pass	1♥	4
Dble*	2♠*	4.	4♠	Dble	Pass	5♣	Α
Dble	All Pass						

2♠ Weaker

West led his heart, got a ruff and with two clubs and a diamond to come that was -300.

Looking at all four hands one can see that bidding 4NT over 4♠ would have been a winner with the West hand, but would it have been enough for East to go on to 6♣?

Nystom and Wrang were pushed into 6♣ and Zia and Gupta took the save in 6♠. It was worth 4 IMPs as Volcker-Bessis were doubled in $5 \clubsuit$ for +950.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	S. Rimstedt	Huang	Donner
Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠
Dble	Pass	5♣	All Pass

That was still worth 8 IMPs, Potter suddenly ahead 40-27.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

Vincent Demuy and

Brad Moss - fierce

opponents.

Photo: ACBL

♠ K Q 9 **9** 6 3

♦ K832

♣ QJ94

♠ A 8 3 2 ♥ A K 9 7 5 2

• 6

\$ 6 2

♠ J 10 4 **♥**QJ4

♦ A Q 10 5

♣ K 7 3

↑ 765

V 108

♦ J 9 7 4

♣ A 10 8 5



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moss	Demuy	Grue	Bathurst
_	_	_	Pass
1♥	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	4♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1NT Game forcing relay

2 Minimum, four+ spades

2NT Relay

3♣ 64/74

4♦ End signal

North led the ♣J and when it held he continued with the queen, covered by the king and ace. When South played the ♣10 declarer ruffed, played a diamond to the queen, pitched a spade on the ♠A (North dropping the king) ruffed a diamond high, played a heart to the jack, ruffed a diamond high, played a heart to the jack and ran the ♠J to North's king, claiming when the ♠9 was returned.

That looks it's worth a drop of bubbles!

If South switches to a spade at trick three, declarer cannot score more than nine tricks. Therefore, declarer should withhold dummy's •K at trick two. Say North switches to a trump. Declarer wins in hand, plays a diamond to the queen, cashes the •A, ruffs a diamond high, crosses to dummy with a trump, ruffs a diamond, crosses to dummy with a trump and exits with a club. South wins and plays a club, but declarer ruffs and then plays a low spade to endplay North.

There is a countermeasure - North must lead a low club at trick two! Then South gets in and can safely lead a spade.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	S. Rimstedt	Huang	Donner
_	_	_	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

North led a trump and declarer won in hand, crossed to dummy with a trump and ran the ♠J, North winning with the queen and switching to the ♣Q. That left declarer with no chance, so Donner had 12 well deserved IMPs.

If declarer takes the diamond finesse at trick to he can then ditch a club on the ◆A after which it should not be difficult to get up to ten tricks.



Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ Q 7 3 2

♥ A 9 8 6

♠ 9 4

♥ 5

AK865

♣ A K 9 8 4

♦ Q92

7 5

♠ A K J 10 6 5

Q 10 3 2

♦ 74

10

_--

♥ KJ74

8

♦ J 10 3

♣ Q J 6 3 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moss	Demuy	Grue	Bathurst
_	_	1.	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♠ 2♠

North led the \$7 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a heart, North taking the ace and playing a second club. Declarer won with dummy's king and

ruffed a club with the ♠J. North could overruff and return a spade but declarer could ruff a heart and soon had ten tricks, +620.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	S. Rimstedt	Huang	Donner
_	_	1♦*	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1 ◆ 2+ ◆ 3 ♣ Limited to 15

North led the ♥6 and South took the king and returned the jack, covered by the king and ace and North continued with the ♥9, South following with the four as declarer won with the queen. He crossed to dummy with a diamond and ran the ♠9. When it held he cashed dummy's top clubs and played a second spade only to be undone when South discarded. Nine tricks were no longer possible.

Having won the third heart, suppose declarer plays a spade to the nine. If it holds he can duck a diamond, just in case.

It was a good comeback by Donner who won 13.15-6.85. Champagne all round!

Victim of the Day

Per-Ola Cullin



by Christina Lund Madsen

How did you begin to play bridge?

- My mother and I played a lot of cards when I grew up. At times she would give me my allowance on Friday and win it back from me at poker on Saturday. But we also played trick taking games like Bismarck. We didn't know bridge though. Then when I was 15 I was a table tennis trainer for young kids. One day a (much older) brother of one of the kids turned up at practice to watch. We started talking and he told me he was a bridge player. So I asked him to teach me. He was unemployed at the time so we started playing bridge more or less every day. Bridge had me at hello.

How have you spent your time in Sweden during corona?

- To be honest, apart from bridge my life has not changed much. My kids have been able to go to school. I have been able to go to work. Restaurants, hair dressers and stores have been open. More importantly my wife and I have been able to hang out with her parents and my father, as they are relatively young and healthy. So far I have been fortunate enough not to have someone I know dying from the virus.

What have you missed the most this past half year?

- Live bridge. Going to the local club or the nationals to meet my friends.

But the biggest setback was that Marion and I did not get to play in our first open championship for Sweden in Madeira.

You were already a judge and had a potential big career within law. How come you changed directions and became a full time bridge player?

 I decided to quit my job at the Ombudsman of Justice last spring because I was more or less always thinking about my cases, even at home. It is a low intensive stress that is very energy draining. I wanted to be more present around my family. It started out really well. In the fall I took French for beginners at the university and was a stay-at-home dad with the occasional bridge trip. Then came Corona and I wasn't sure what was going to happen with my bridge income. So when in March I was offered an interesting position I decided to go back to work. I now work for a parliamentary committee with the task of strengthening the constitution and the independence of the judiciary.

How do you feel today about cracking the lead code of Fisher-Schwartz back in 2015?

- It is still a source of great pride of course. But it is barely worth calling a code. It is amazing how crude and simple their method was.



Which is your favourite part of the male or female body?

- My brain says the female tush, but my heart beats even faster when seeing female breasts, so I guess that's the correct answer for me.

Which is your best memory from a tournament (not necessarily bridge related)?

- It is a boring answer, but nothing comes close to the memories from Lille where we won the World Championship in 2012.

Massi's question for you: Who is the best Portuguese bridge player and if have you ever had a chance to play with him?

- I absolutely love Portuguese bridge players. I went to Madeira and Lisboa

last fall and I met a lot of incredibly nice people. The best player is probably Jorge Cruzeiro. We did not play together yet. The master of card reading - António Palma - is the crown prince of Portuguese bridge, but he has to learn how to control his temper before he can dominate Cruzeiro. My wife and I refer to António as my Portuguese boyfriend. He loves the game like no one else and we discuss a lot of bridge.

What are the differences between having a male and female regular partner?

- I do not think that I have noticed any particular gender related differences.

Which is your greatest strength as a player?

- I do not let bad boards affect my game. I'm a machine in that sense.



Which is your greatest weakness as a player?

- I am too slow. I am currently trying very hard to play faster.

Which is your greatest strength as a human being?

- It is for others to judge, but I would like to say my lack of prestige. I dont take myself very seriously.

Which is your greatest weakness as a human being?

- I never do today what I can do tomorrow.

How would your wife Julia describe you in three words?

- I asked her. Intelligent, humorous and moody.

If you could get one second chance to change something in your past, what would it be?

- I would have taken my mother's coughing more seriously and forced a doctor to x-ray her before it was too late.

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Simon de Wijs, Frederic Volcker and Simon Hult?

- Im a superficial person, so I will kiss the most handsome out of the three; Volcker. I would kill de Wijs. He is one of my favourites. Remarkably humorous and sharp. But he is too strong to have on opposing teams in future Bermuda Bowls. I like fast cars. And playing with Hult is like driving a Ferrari. He is absolute GOATmaterial.

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

 Andrea Manno. How did you quarantine your charm during the quarantine? It is a very strong force after all.



The new online magazine for bridge addicts



What's new?

The July issue of **BeBRIDGE** is packed with articles you can't afford to miss. Highlights include interviews with **the 12 most influential personalities in bridge**, **Cédric Lorenzini's take on playing during Lockdown**, a look back at the lives and **empire of Ely & Josephine Culbertson**, the latest instalment of **the adventures of David Bird**'s bridge playing monks and a veritable cornucopia of articles that are both **entertaining and instructive**.

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How to kibitz the Alt Mixed teams on BBO

As in the previous editions of the Alt Invitational, we expect thousands of spectators on BBO. Even though the Alt is not broadcasted via the BBO Vugraph, you can still watch any of your favourites. You simply search for your favorite player's nickname and join his or her table.

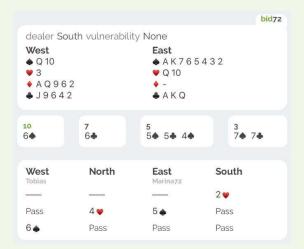
If you wish to watch the players whenever they are online, you search for your chosen one (fx Cecilia Rimstedt "Cillar", click on the name and choose 'follow' instead of neutral. Any time you see her online, you can click on her and take a seat at her table. See you on BBO!



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5♠ = asking for heart control

6♠ = got it



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

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- 1. Two-way Checkback Stayman; 2. Responding with both Majors after 1NT; 3. (Non) Leaping Michaels;
- 4. Gazzilli; 5. Gambling 3NT; 6. Lebensohl after a Weak Two; 7. Rubensohl and Transfer-Lebensohl;
- 8. 1♥/1♠ 2NT (fit); 9. 4♣: Fit and slamgoing

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