

The Minor ALT Invitational I

AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 4 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

Keep the Distance

With one match of the Round Robin to go, Gillis has distanced himself from the field and are certain to qualify if they get 4 VPs against Gupta.

De Michelis, Potter and Gupta are trailing by 13, 15 and 16 VPs, but they have to uphold their social distancing to Donner and Lebowitz.

Yesterday we received a note all the way from Australia:

"I just want to say THANKS for keeping Alt-Inv 'live' BBO."

It makes us happy that kibitzers continue to follow and enjoy the Alt Events. It brings us ALTogether despite the distance.

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

Thursday Sept. 3
10.00 EDT/16.00 CET

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

Thursday Sept. 3
14.00 EDT/20.00 CET

**Semifinals
24 boards**

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 5 & 6

Ranking after round 6		
rk	team	VPs
1	 GILLIS	79.68
2	 DE MICHELIS	66.94
3	 POTTER	64.85
4	 GUPTA	63.18
5	 DONNER	56.34
6	 LEBOWITZ	54.98
7	 BLACK	49.59
8	 FREDIN	44.44

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	 FREDIN	 GUPTA	24	67	71			9.01	10.99
2	 POTTER	 BLACK	24	60	35			15.08	4.92
3	 DE MICHELIS	 DONNER	24	31	50			5.92	14.08
4	 LEBOWITZ	 GILLIS	24	62	40			14.60	5.40

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	 GUPTA	 BLACK	24	40	18			14.60	5.40
2	 DE MICHELIS	 POTTER	24	77	35			17.36	2.64
3	 DONNER	 GILLIS	24	8	50			2.64	17.36
4	 FREDIN	 LEBOWITZ	24	37	63			4.76	15.24

Wizard Times

By Mark Horton



Teams led by Harry Potter and Sirius Black - that would be a bridge match to savour. Okay, the Christian names are different, but perhaps they could provide us with suitable entertainment on day 3 of the event. What's more there were unlikely be any 'killing curses' involved.

For the third time in a row the early deals offered little in the way of excitement.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	Dwyer	Gold	Potter
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♣4 and declarer won with the jack and pursued a Jourdanian idea by cashing his four heart winners, discarding the ♠6. South parted with the ♠4 which was fine, but then discarded the ♠7, which gave declarer a chance. He played a spade and not believing South could be down to ♠J10 he put in the nine. South won and switched to the ♣K, declarer winning and playing the ♠K. North took that and returned a spade and after cashing two tricks in the suit declarer played the ♦6. When South followed with the four dummy's seven forced North to surrender the game going trick to dummy's king, +600.

That must have been painful - not unlike a Cruciatus Curse.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Demuy	McIntosh	Huang	Paske
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

3♠ 1444

South led the ♠4 and North won and switched to the ♣9, South winning with the queen and returning the ♥8. Declarer won with the king and played the ♣J, South winning with king and calmly exiting with a heart. Declarer won with the jack and tried a diamond to the king. North took the ace and exited with a spade, leaving declarer a trick short of his target, -100.

Thomas Paske

Photo: EBL



Board 6. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	Dwyer	Gold	Potter
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♦*	Dble	6♥
All Pass			

2NT 4+♥ game forcing
 3♣ Singleton or void
 3♠ Cue bid
 4♣ Cue bid
 4NT RKCB
 5♦ 0/3 key cards

West led the ♦10 and declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♥QJ and played a club to the ten. After cashing the ♣A she still needed the spade finesse and the slam rolled home.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Demuy	McIntosh	Huang	Paske
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2NT Hearts, game forcing
 3♥ Club shortage, extra values
 4♣ Serious cue bid
 4♦ Last Train

After a diamond lead declarer drew trumps and took the ruffing finesse in clubs. He still scored twelve tricks as East had 'cleverly' played the ♦K on the first round of the suit and West switched to a spade.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	Dwyer	Gold	Potter
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Dble	2♠*
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

2♠ Weak

I don't mind reminding you of Edgar Kaplan's comment 'takeout doubles should be taken out' although technically it might be best to remind West. There was no defence, +670.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Demuy	McIntosh	Huang	Paske
—	—	—	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Dble	All Pass	

3♣ Wide range

South led the ♠Q and North won and switched to a trump. Declarer won, played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing, came to hand with a spade and ruffed a diamond with the ♥J. he then played a spade and was assured on ten tricks, +790.

South's lead was poorly judged - partner was unlikely to doubling in the hope of taking several spade tricks. The ♣J should work, as when North gets in he can switch to a trump and although declarer will be able to ruff two diamonds when he tries to get to hand with a spade North will take the ace and play the ♣A, promoting a trump trick for himself. (Returning the ♣Q at trick three also works!) It was a whopping 16 IMPs for Potter.

On Board 11 East was on lead with ♠J98753 ♥76 ♦A4 ♣Q65 after the following auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	Dwyer	Gold	Potter
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	1NT	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

What would you lead?

East went with the ♠9 which gave declarer a small chance of making as West's hand was ♠A6 ♥AQJ1093 ♦QJ62 ♣8. Declarer did not rise to the occasion (as literally when West took the ♠A and switched to the ♥Q declarer withheld the king) and finished four down to lose 7 IMPs when compared with 4♥ doubled minus one in the other room.

A heart would have given declarer no chance. It doesn't look clear to me, although you could argue that partner's hearts are likely to be better than your spades.

I was terribly tempted to write about Board 13, misplayed in one room, misdefended in the other, but as the contract was 1NT it has been vetoed by David Bird. It's worth taking a look on the web site: https://bridgeresults.org/o/2020_alt_minor_1/2020_alt_minor_1r1r.asp

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	Dwyer	Gold	Potter
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♦Q and declarer won with the ace, crossed to dummy with a heart and played a spade to the jack. That was followed by the ♦K, a diamond ruff and a spade to the queen. After drawing the last trump declarer exited with the ♣J and



West won with the queen and exited with the ♦J. Declarer ruffed and having seen East's nine she tried the ♣4. There was nothing wrong with that, but when West followed with the three she played dummy's eight. East won and forced out the last trump with a heart leaving West with the ♣A7 over declarer's ♣K6.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Demuy	McIntosh	Huang	Paske
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♦J and declarer won with the ace, played a heart to the ace and a club to the nine, jack and queen. West switched to the ♥J and declarer ruffed cashed the ♦K, ruffed a diamond and played a club, covered in turn by the ten, king and



Andrew Black

ace. West returned the ♣ 3, ruffed and overruffed and East exited with the ♥ K, declarer ruffing with the ♠ Q and ruffing his last club. East overruffed and played a heart, promoting East's ♠ 10 for two down.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	Dwyer	Gold	Potter
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
5♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass

4NT RKCB

5♣ 1/4 key cards
 5♦ Spade queen?
 5♠ No

South led the ♣ 10 and declarer won with the ace and cashed his hearts before playing the top spades. He was two down, -200.

I wonder why East didn't bid 6♥?

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Demuy	McIntosh	Huang	Paske
—	—	—	3♣
Pass	5♣	5♥	All Pass

South led the ♣ 3 and declarer won, ruffed a club, drew trumps and played a diamond for the king and ace, +680. NS deserved better for their spirited bidding.

It had been someway short of being a magical encounter, but that is sometimes the way a bridge match unfolds. Potter had come out on top 15.08-4.92.

BeBRIDGE
♥♦♣♠ by Le Bridgeur

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**.

Why digital?

Always have your magazine with you. You can read BeBRIDGE on your tablet and computer. You can bring it with you anywhere.
Easy to read. You can easily zoom in on any part of the page, so small font doesn't have to be a concern.

Want to subscribe?

It couldn't be simpler, subscribe:

- **through the website:** <https://us.lebridgeur.com>
- **by phone** at +33 (0)1 42 96 87 34
- **by email** at abonnement@lebridgeur.com

Dissecting the CAT

Interview with David Gold



by Christina Lund Madsen

This interview was made with the consent of all members of the CAT.

What is CAT?

- CAT stands for Credentials Advisory Team. We advise the online bridge events of ALT, OCBL and Bridgehouse when we believe a player should not participate in their events due to suspicions of ethical misbehaviour.

Who are the current members?

- Boye Brogeland, Roger Lee, Sabine Auken, Joe Grue, Brian Platnick and David Gold.

How and when in the process did you become involved with the CAT?

- I have been a member of CAT since the start. I received a phone call from one of the founding members asking if I would be interested in joining. I was honored and accepted right away.

What was your personal motivation for entering this project?

- I love bridge, have always just wanted a fair game. A game decided on skill.

How has it been for you so far?

- It has been a lot of work and stress. It isn't just analysis; it is also dealing with a lot of politics. However, for me it has been fine - something to do in these times and I believe in the cause.



You recently posted [an article on BridgeWinners](#) saluting the confessors and advising other cheaters to come forward. What are your motives for this?

- I have always believed in forgiveness. My whole life I have apologized when I have done wrong (and realized it) because we all make mistakes. It is absurd to have a situation whereby one makes a mistake and there is no way to ever make it right. The way to make it right though is to tell the truth. Some people may be harsher than me on this issue, but I just want peace. For me - admit what you did. Say sorry is all it takes.

How does the CAT identify the suspects?

- A player becomes of interest either by a rumor, tip, suspect hand(s), suspect result(s) or highlighted by one of our statisticians. At this point we open a file on the player.

Our aim is as much to prove they are innocent as anything else. Then, we do the work.

How do you determine which players have violated the codes of ethical conduct?

- Once we have done enough work to reach a conclusion we vote on the player. If we all vote 5/7 is enough (CAT used to consist of 7 members/CLM).

I do not wish to reveal all our methods because it is important that we stay ahead of the cheats, but we have teams of analysts, we have statisticians. We do a lot of work – this is taken very seriously.

Are there different kinds of violations?

- Mostly we are dealing with players who have gained an advantage. Most commonly by self-kibitzing. However, in some cases there are pairs communicating with each other – perhaps by phone/zoom or simply playing in the same room. We are able to tell whether it is self-kibitzing or a ‘colluding pair’-colluding pairs do not declare so well since they cannot see opponent’s cards.

Can you give an example about a case without mentioning names?

- We have seen a case where we believe that one player actually operated both accounts sometimes. We believe this because player A is world class and player B is known to be weak, yet plays as well as player A. Both player A and B are double dummy. Of course, it could just be that they both self-kibitz but when you see as many hands as we do you start to get a good feel for what the actual scenario is.



What do you do after determining players are guilty of unethical behavior? Do you confront them, do you inform their partners and teammates?

- We simply advise ALT/OCBL/Bridgehouse if there is too much risk to the integrity of the event, should this person play. We aim to only inform the person but it can be hard for their teammates not to find out.

How many players did you so far advise the organizers not to invite?

- 29, I think.

Have they followed your advice?

- Let's just say that those three events are very clean now. I highly recommend them.

How do the players react to your assumption that they have been cheating?

- Most seem to quietly accept it. Some threaten us with legal action. Not much in between that.

Do you cooperate with other partners (NBOs, BBO, other investigative committees)?

- CAT advises ALT, OCBL and Bridgehouse. That is all I am at liberty to say.

How often have you acquitted potential suspects?

- A few, but so far, often where there is smoke there is fire, in truth.

How sure are you of the ones you believe are violators of ethical conduct and how can you be convinced enough to jeopardize fellow bridge players' livelihood in some cases?

- I believe we have made no mistakes, but we are human and it is of course possible. I hope not.

How do you estimate the percentage of top players who cheated in the events you have investigated?

- 1/5 or so.

How do you see the future for players who have fallen for the temptation to cheat in online events?

- If they confess – rosy. If not – then the problem is that they will struggle to be accepted by the bridge community.

How many have confessed to their wrongdoings privately?

- Prefer not to say.

What has surprised you the most about online cheating?

- I am not at all surprised it occurred. However, some of the people who did it have shocked me to the core.

Did you have cases where you or the other members had to set aside personal feelings?

- Many – these people are all friends with at least one member of the committee. If it is too hard on anyone, they can take a back seat on that case. In practice we have all managed to stay as impartial as possible. Speaking for myself I have looked like a fool once – defending a friend but I had to shut up eventually.

How do you estimate the current status of online cheating?

- Now, it is very rare for these three events. The ALT is the most exposed due to allowing kibitzers (to be clear I hope ALT keeps this – to me, the avid players being able to watch and enjoy is at least as important as the experience for the players taking part). Some people who are out of the social loop and do not realise that they will get caught have tried their luck – they found out that was a bad idea. *Have you been part of finding players close to you guilty of ethical violations and how has that been for you?*

- Yes, I have. It has been hard but the bottom line is the same. Come clean and we can go for a beer the same day.

How do you handle your mixed feelings of pity and disappointment with the violators?

- I have had low moments where I feel “What is the point when people I have known for 20 years are prepared to cheat their friends like it is nothing”. People you go to dinner with, play on teams with and have drinks at the bar with. I remind myself that bridge is the best game in the world, I am so lucky to be in this world and I will fight for this world to be pure. If that doesn’t work, I speak to someone in CAT for a bit of emotional support.

Is there in your opinion a difference between online cheating and live cheating?

- I used to think so, but I am not so sure now. Online bridge is all we have for some time and I suspect some time yet. A cheat is a cheat ultimately – these people can kid themselves that online bridge does not matter but that is just a way of mentally coping. If you cheat at online bridge – you cheat at bridge. I think that many did not take online bridge seriously at first.

What do you think should be the punishment for online cheating (confessed and non-confessed)?

- For full confessions a mild punishment and crucially the bridge community can accept them back. For non-confessions it is not for me to decide but on a personal level I will never be friends/teammates/partners of those people. This is just me though, CAT is not the judge and jury, CAT simply investigates.



Despite emotional lows, Gold has no regrets having joined the CAT.

Can you still maintain your friendship and respect for players you know (or strongly believe) have cheated?

- If they admit it – absolutely. Otherwise, no.

How would you feel about a player representing his/her/their country after having confessed to or been highly suspected of online cheating?

- I haven’t touched on this yet but not all cases are the same, so I do not like a blanket approach in this regard. I think it depends on the level of the crime and also what that person does to make amends. As I have said earlier – I believe always in forgiveness.

How do you see the ideal solution to move on?

- All come clean. It is the only way.

Did you ever wish you had not entered the CAT?

- Not for a second.



Bridge Base
O N L I N E

Free, unlimited bridge on BBO



Your online bridge club

Social play. ACBL Games. Tournaments. Solitaire.



Computer, tablet or mobile phone:
Play on your favorite device!

How to kibitz the Alt Events 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!



bidding on an app
www.bid72.com

For Experts Only

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♣
----------	---------	---------------	------------

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♥
---------------	----------------	---------------

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♥.'

Join the Dutch Open Team and other national selections: **download the app bid72** (App Store or Google Play) and start bidding. Check our Expert Topics > bid72.com/topics

- 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

Practice bidding with our ever growing Topic Collection. Your editors are Jan van Cleeff and Simon de Wijs. Every Topic consists of approximately 100 boards.

Besides, the app offers lots of other stuff as well. For instance, an ocean of challenging random boards. Bid72 is an ideal platform to test your partnership agreements.

Sign-up for the *Newsletter* on www.bid72.com
and receive a free three-week trial !