

The Minor ALT Invitational I

AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 4 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

Potter's Photo Finish

Gillis was dethroned in the last match of the Round Robin yesterday when Gupta fought for their spot by besting the leaders of the week. Meanwhile Potter came sneaking from behind to overtake them both in an Altime photo finish. Less than 2 VPs separated number 1-2-3.

That meant Potter won the right to choose their semifinal opponent. The question is whether Potter could break the winner's curse (choosing, then losing).

How that went, you can read inside this bulletin.

We said goodbye to six teams yesterday. We thank you all for playing and hope to see many of you back in future 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.

Final

Friday September 4 at 10.00 EDT/16.00 CET

36 boards

Gupta (0.1) - De Michelis

Link to results

[Minor Alt Results](#)

Link to previous and future Alts &
bulletins

Alt.bridgeresults.org



Scoreboard

[Link to results](#)

Minor Alt Results

Final

c/o

Gupta



0.1



De Michelis

| Ranking after round 7 | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| rk | team | VPs |
| 1 |  POTTER | 82.54 |
| 2 |  GILLIS | 81.89 |
| 3 |  GUPTA | 80.97 |
| 4 |  DE MICHELIS | 73.41 |
| 5 |  DONNER | 72.17 |
| 6 |  LEBOWITZ | 68.51 |
| 7 |  BLACK | 53.76 |
| 8 |  FREDIN | 46.75 |

| Tbl | Home Team | Visiting Team | nBrd | IMPs | | Adj | | VPs | |
|----------|--|---|------|-----------|-----------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | Home | Visit | Home | Visit | Home | Visit |
| <u>1</u> |  GILLIS |  GUPTA | 24 | <u>25</u> | <u>71</u> | | | 2.21 | 17.79 |
| <u>2</u> |  POTTER |  FREDIN | 24 | <u>67</u> | <u>22</u> | | | 17.69 | 2.31 |
| <u>3</u> |  BLACK |  DONNER | 24 | <u>32</u> | <u>62</u> | | | 4.17 | 15.83 |
| <u>4</u> |  LEBOWITZ |  DE MICHELIS | 24 | <u>59</u> | <u>43</u> | | | 13.53 | 6.47 |

SEMIFINAL

| team | c/o | Seg1 | Sum1 | Seg2 | Total |
|---|------|-----------|------|-----------|-------|
|  POTTER | 10.1 | <u>13</u> | 23.1 | <u>50</u> | 73.1 |
|  DE MICHELIS | | <u>49</u> | 49 | <u>30</u> | 79 |

| team | c/o | Seg1 | Sum1 | Seg2 | Total |
|--|-----|-----------|------|-----------|-------|
|  GILLIS | 6.1 | <u>13</u> | 19.1 | <u>26</u> | 45.1 |
|  GUPTA | | <u>21</u> | 21 | <u>41</u> | 62 |

A Misguided Falsecard

By Toine van Hoof



Jan van Cleeff (bid72) drew my attention to this hand from round 6:

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

At first sight, and also at second, this is a dull 4♠ by North. Declarer cannot lose more than three tricks: ♥A, ♣A and ♣K. Van Cleeff had noticed that Kevin Dwyer went one off. How? East led the ♥4 to his partner's ace and Dwyer played the king. Was it a misclick? No. This was the bidding:

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Klukowski | Dwyer | Zatorski | Huang |
| — | 1♣* | Pass | 1♦* |
| 1♥ | 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 4#S | All Pass | |

1♣ 16+ 1♦ 0-7

Dwyer assumed that West had overcalled on a fivecard suit and tried to dissuade him from giving his partner a heart ruff.

Against a pair playing standard leads, this would have been a laubable effort. However, in their Polish style Piotr Zatorski would have led the ♥3 from 4-3. So if Michal Klukowski had held five hearts, he could not have gone wrong.

Now West had only four hearts and from his point of view the ♥4 might have been led from 743. He first cashed ♣A and ♣K, getting an even count. Then he had to consider the possibility that East had the ♦A. Klukowski:

"I was 100% sure declarer had ♦A (and 99% sure that he also had ♦K). He had already shown a 16+ hand and then after a single raise from partner he directly jumped to a game, without even inviting it. So I decided that my best chance was to play my LHO to have dropped the king from ♥K3."

Klukowski cashed the ♥Q and the contract was one off: 12 IMPs to De Michelis.

Exactly the same happened at the table where Cecilia Rimstedt (N) and Gary Donner (S) played against Espen Lindquist (E) and Boye Brogeland (W). The only difference was that, after an identical auction, East led in standard style the ♥7. Now throwing the ♥K under the ace, suggesting that East had led from 73, made more sense. However holding only four hearts, Brogeland could not be deceived. The ♥7 was either a singleton or a doubleton. So he confidently cashed the ♥Q, followed by ♣K and ♣A for down one and 12 IMPs to Gillis.

Under the Hammer

By Mark Horton



What do auctioneers and bridge players have in common? They both rely on bidding activity and during Lockdown they have found the Internet an indispensable tool. They are both beginning to return to something approaching normality - here and there bridge clubs are beginning to re-open and some auction houses are now allowing members of the public to attend and bid in person.

So far the biggest Festival to commit to staging an event this year is the XXIII Madeira International Bridge Open, due to take place 29 October - 9 November 2020. The list of registered participants already includes some big names, including that of the Editor of this bulletin. All the information you need can be found at:

<https://www.bridge-madeira.com/>

The fact that I am bidding for bottles of wine in three auctions this afternoon might impact on the length of today's report, but BBO will always be running in the background.

I decided to watch the maillot jaune Gillis (I could not resist a plug for the Tour de France - at least we have spectators!) against Gupta, the former almost certain to qualify, the latter looking for a good result that would keep them ahead of the pack.

On board 2 West was on lead against 3NT with ♠AJ53 ♥J42 ♦KQ987 ♣8, knowing that South held a strong notrump with no major and North a major. Your lead?

I recall from reading Kelsey that perceived wisdom in this situation is that you lead an honour if you have an entry and a low card without one. I checked the brilliant Bird/Anthias Winning No Trump Leads and discovered the top honour is a big winner, coming out at 40%, compared to the 22.3% for a low diamond.

Naturally Zia and Brogeland led an honour only to find partner with ♦J5 so the suit was blocked - flat at +600.

Kevin Bathurst was the only player to lead a low diamond - it flattened the board against 4♥ down one at the other table.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|--------|-------|--------------|
| Zia | Gillis | Gupta | Saelensminde |
| 2♠ | Dble | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

Espen Lindqvist



West led the ♠J and declarer won with the ace and played the ♥4, East winning with the ace and returning a heart. The 5-0 break was a blow that declarer could not recover from, -100.

Double-dummy you can make it by never touching trumps. You can also make 3NT - and three pairs managed that.

Closed Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Brogeland | de Wijs | Lindqvist | Muller |
| 2♦* | Dble* | 2♥* | Dble* |
| 2♠ | Pass | Pass | Dble* |
| All Pass | | | |

2♦ 0-7 one major or 24+ bal. or 4441 GF
 Dble 12-15 balanced or strong
 2♥ Pass or correct
 Dble Takeout
 Dble Takeout

North led the ♣6 and declarer ducked, won the next club and pitched a club on the ♥A before playing a spade. North won and exited with the ♥K declarer ruffing and playing a diamond to the queen followed by a diamond to the ace and the ♦J. North won and returned the ♠4, so declarer was one down, -200 and Gupta led, 9-7.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|--------|-------|--------------|
| Zia | Gillis | Gupta | Saelensminde |
| — | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | All Pass |

North led the ♣J for the queen and ace and South continued with the ♦A followed by the seven, North winning with the king and switching to the ♠3. Declarer took South's ten with the king, pitched a heart on the ♣K, ruffed a club, cashed the ♥A, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club and ruffed a heart. North overruffed with the ace, but then had no good move, +110.
 The winning defence is for North to refuse to overruff! he can overruff the next heart, draw the outstanding trumps and cash a diamond for one down.

As the cards lie, declarer can get home by playing North for a doubleton heart honour, playing a heart to dummy's jack as opposed to cross-ruffing. Not obvious.

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Brogeland | de Wijs | Lindqvist | Muller |
| — | 1♦* | 1♥ | 2♦* |
| Pass | 3♦ | Pass | 3♥* |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

1♦ 2+♦
2♦ Forcing

East led a major suit jack - but it was in hearts and that allowed declarer to win with the king and play back a heart. When dummy's queen held declarer cashed the top diamonds and had nine tricks, +600 and a dozen IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|--------|----------|--------------|
| Zia | Gillis | Gupta | Saelensminde |
| Pass | 1♥ | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♦ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |



Erik Saelensminde

East led the ♣9 and declarer won with the king, cashed the ♦A and exited with the two, West winning with the jack and switching to the ♥3. Declarer went up with the ace and played a diamond, East ruffing in with the ♥Q and exiting with a club. Declarer won and played another diamond, ruffing with the ♥7. He then played the ♥9 and was soon claiming, +620.

Closed Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Brogeland | de Wijs | Lindqvist | Muller |
| Pass | 1♣* | 2♠ | Dble* |
| Pass | 4♦* | Pass | 4♠* |
| Pass | 5♣* | Pass | 6♦ |
| All Pass | | | |

1♣ 15+
Dble Game forcing
4♦ Red suits
4♠ Cue bid
5♣ Cue bid

Declarer won the club lead in hand, played a club back to the ace, pitched a club on the ♠A and played a diamond for the ten and queen. He cashed the red aces, but it was all downhill thereafter and he finished three down, -150 and lost 11 IMPs.

As the cards lie you can make 6♥ - two did, but they got a diamond lead from East which helped. On a club lead you win in hand and must play a low heart, hoping East has a doubleton honour. You eventually squeeze West in the minors.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|----------|-------|--------------|
| Zia | Gillis | Gupta | Saelensminde |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| Pass | 1♥ | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2♥* | Dble | Pass | Pass |
| 4♦ | Dble* | Pass | 4♠ |
| Dble | All Pass | | |

2♥ Good raise
Dble Takeout

West led the ♥9 and declarer won with dummy's king and pitched a club on the ace. West ruffed and exited with the spade nine, declarer running it to his ten and playing a spade for the king and ace. He had nine tricks, but no way to generate a tenth, -200.

Closed Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|
| Brogeland | de Wijs | Lindqvist | Muller |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| Pass | 1♣* | 4♥ | All Pass |

1♣ 15+

4♥ went three down - it might have been four, but South pitched one spade too many. That gave Gupta 8 IMPs.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|----------|-------|--------------|
| Zia | Gillis | Gupta | Saelensminde |
| — | 1♠ | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♦ | Dble | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

North led a red king - naturally it was in diamonds and declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed his clubs. By the time he had finished the spades were good for four tricks, +490.

Don't you just love Zia's pass?

Closed Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Brogeland | de Wijs | Lindqvist | Muller |
| — | 1♠ | Pass | 2♦* |
| 3♣ | 3♥ | All Pass | |

2♦ Transfer to hearts, limited to invitational

A club lead and a diamond switch saw East win and give his partner a ruff. Even though West then exited with a club there were only eight tricks, -50 and Gupta had another 10 IMPs.

Is it worth mentioning that simply leading trumps beats 3♥ by a couple of tricks - another deal for Brother Hubert's collection.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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



Open Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|----------|-------|--------------|
| Zia | Gillis | Gupta | Saelensminde |
| — | — | Pass | Pass |
| 1NT | 2♥ | 3♥* | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | Pass | Dble |
| 4♦ | All Pass | | |

3♥ Stayman with a stopper

No doubt emboldened by the previous deal Zia opened a mildly eccentric 1NT. When 3NT was doubled he decided to run and must have been pleased with the outcome, a trivial +130.

Closed Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Brogeland | de Wijs | Lindqvist | Muller |
| — | — | Pass | Pass |
| 3♦ | 3♥ | 5♦ | Dble |
| All Pass | | | |

That was one too many and when declarer took a spade finesse, he was -300 and 10 IMPs the poorer.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|----------|-------|--------------|
| Zia | Gillis | Gupta | Saelensminde |
| Pass | 1♣ | 1NT | Pass |
| 2♠* | Pass | 3♣* | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

2♠ Asking for range or clubs 3♣ Maximum

South led the ♠2 and declarer was allowed to win with the queen and knocked out the ♦A. The defenders were helpless - declarer was content with nine tricks and +600.

Closed Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|
| Brogeland | de Wijs | Lindqvist | Muller |
| Pass | 1♦ | 1NT | All Pass |

Nine tricks here too, but that was yet another 10 IMPs away.

Gupta won by a distance, 17.79-2-21 and that allowed Potter to overtake Gillis.

Future Alt Tournaments

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 21 - 25 September 2020 | Minor Alt Invitational II (now up to 16 top teams) |
| 5 - 9 October 2020 | Alt Mixed IV |
| 12 - 16 October 2020 | Minor Alt Invitational III (now up to 16 top teams) |
| 19 - 23 October 2020 | Alt Mixed V |
| 16 - 20 November 2020 | Minor Alt Invitational IV (now up to 16 top teams) |
| 16 - 19 November 2020 | TampAlt Qualification (Not for world class teams) |

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Potter's Curse



by Christina Lund Madsen

As winners of the Round Robin, Potter made the choice of De Michelis in the semifinals as the lesser of two evils. However, as seen as so often before (last week in the Alt Mixed Teams), winning the right to choose your opponent often results in defeat.

After four boards Potter did seem victim of the winner's curse after De Michelis had a 35-0 IMPs lead (not including Potter's 10.1 c/o).

The first board was a peaceful over-trick-IMP. On board 2 Kevin Dwyer got doubled in 2♠ for -500 after a vulnerable adventure. Demuy-Bathurst went -200 in game in the other room due to the bad split, so 12 IMPs for Michelis.

Next board was a diamond slam bid and made by Manno - Di Franco despite Demuy-Bathurst trying to scare them away flashing muscles they did not have.

Board 3. S / EW

♠ AK4
 ♥ QJ763
 ♦ A652
 ♣ 4

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | N | |
| W | | E |
| | S | |

♠ JT98762
 ♥ T85
 ♦ -
 ♣ T53

♠ 5
 ♥ K4
 ♦ KQT984
 ♣ AK62

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|-----------|----------|-------|
| Bathurst | Di Franco | Demuy | Manno |
| | | | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1♥ | 1♠ | 1NT* |
| Dble | 2♠ | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 4♦ | Pass | 4NT* |
| Pass | 6♦ | All Pass | |

1NT showed 6♦ and 4♣ and 4NT an even number of keycards and not a minimum hand.

The Italians bid as if the Americans were not present at the table, completely unaffected by the vulnerable overcall and the value-showing double. And right they were. 12 easy tricks for +920 and 10 IMPs since the slam was missed in the other room.

6♦ was a push in our other semifinal
Gupta vs. Gillis.

Board 4 was another 10 IMPs, when a precision-opening kept Potter-Dwyer out of game, and to sprinkle salt in the wound De Michelis got an imp on both board 5 and 6, up 37-0. Potter needed to break the spell.

Along came board 10, where Andrea Manno all vulnerable opened a strong NT with ♠85 ♥AK2 ♦K6 ♣AQ9743. His left hand opponent bid 2♠, spades and a minor, pass to you. What do you bid?

Manno balanced with 3♣ and was punished by -650 when Demuy competed and Bathurst raised him to game. 10 IMPs for Potter.



Michal Klukowski - Piotr Zatorski practicing.
Photo: BridgeScanner

"Not over yet," I thought to myself, and then this slam materialized:

Board 10. E / All

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---------|
| | ♠ J 7 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♥ A Q J T 7 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♦ J | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ A K 7 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♠ T 9 | <table border="1"><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 | | ♠ 6 5 3 |
| | N | | | | | | | | | | |
| W | | E | | | | | | | | | |
| | S | | | | | | | | | | |
| ♥ 6 5 | | ♥ 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♦ Q 9 5 2 | | ♦ A K T 8 7 4 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| ♣ Q 5 4 3 2 | | ♣ J T | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♠ A K Q 8 4 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♥ K 9 3 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♦ 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ♣ 9 8 | | | | | | | | | | |

Nothing to the play and 12 tricks.

In the other room Klukowski was not as merciful as Bathurst:

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-----------|-------|----------|--------|
| Klukowski | Dwyer | Zatorski | Potter |
| | | 3♦ | 3♠ |
| 5♦ | Dble | All Pass | |

1430 - 800 = 12 IMPs to De Michelis.

Question is how to find the slam after West's interference?
Espen Gronkvist demonstrated a possibility in our other semi-final:

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Bathurst | Di Franco | Demuy | Manno |
| | | 3♦ | 3♠ |
| 4♦ | 4NT* | Pass | 5♦ |
| Pass | 5NT | Pass | 6♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

4NT was clubs and hearts until proven otherwise. 5♦ supposedly a good heart raise and 5NT offering a choice of slams.

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|--------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Bessis | Lindqvist | Volcker | Brogeland |
| | | 3♦ | 3♠ |
| 5♦ | 6♥ | All Pass | |

But Simon de Wijs was even more macho:

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|--------|---------|-------------|--------|
| Gillis | de Wijs | Sælensminde | Muller |
| | | 3♦ | 3♠ |
| 4♦ | 6♥ | All Pass | |

Halfway through Gupta led Gillis 21-13 (21-19.1 including C/O) and De Michelis Potter 49-13 (49-23.1 including carry/over).

Potter began the hunt. That did not begin well. Board 13 was 11 IMPs to De Michelis after a take-out double was not taken out, resulting in -730.

Now I decided the excitement was not enough to keep me from a much needed bath, and while I was away from the screen, Potter slowly crept closer winning 7, 6, 4 and then 12 IMPs on this board, once again a slam leap of faith.

Board 19. S / EW

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>♠ A K T</p> <p>♥ A 9 6</p> <p>♦ A 9 7 6 4</p> <p>♣ 6 4</p> | <p>♠ Q J 8 6 4 3</p> <p>♥ K</p> <p>♦ Q J 3 2</p> <p>♣ Q 8</p> | <p>♠ 7 2</p> <p>♥ Q J 8</p> <p>♦ T</p> <p>♣ A K J 9 7 5 3</p> |
| | <div><div>N</div><div>W<div>E</div>S</div></div> <p>♠ 9 5</p> <p>♥ T 7 5 4 3 2</p> <p>♦ K 8 5</p> <p>♣ T 2</p> | |

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|-----------|-------|----------|
| Bathurst | Di Franco | Demuy | Manno |
| 2NT | Pass | 6♣ | All Pass |

Manno found a great lead from the Kxx of diamonds, though it made no difference. Demuy won the ace, ruffed a diamond and cashed the ♣AK and took a heart finesse for 12 tricks.

Had the queen been third in North, East could have set up the diamonds and squeezed North in hearts and spades - besides upon unblocking the ♥A (transferring the squeeze threat to the ♥Q in hand) his Majesty would fall.

Question is whether he would have tried that instead of the simple finesse after the 2♥-opening. We will never know.

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Klukowski | Dwyer | Zatorski | Potter |
| | | | 2♥ |
| 2NT | Pass | 3♠ | |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

3♠ showed a gameforcing hand with clubs, and over Klukowski's 3NT I was wondering whether Zatorski would bid 4♣ or perhaps 4NT. Pass did not really occur to me, however it makes more sense playing with Klukowski. Pulling him from NT is similar to revert to 4♥ played by you after Helgemo bid 3NT – it must be a matter of life or death for the contract.

Potter kept fighting, picking up 10 and 11 IMPs on the two penultimate boards, which meant including the c/o they were down by 5.9 IMPs. 6 IMPs is a partscore swing. And indeed board 24 was a partscore but Potter could not produce the 6 IMPs needed to finish their comeback and break the winner's curse, so they had to fly back to America.

In our other semifinal Gillis succumbed to Gupta by 62-45.1 after a great performance in this event. I could write a lot about the last set, but I promised Sjoert's father not to write about more of his bad boards.

Victim of the Day

Andrea Manno



by Christina Lund Madsen

How old are you, where do you live, where do you come from?

- I am 36 years old, and I live in and come from Palermo, Sicily.

How has life been in Sicily during corona?

- In some way it was like the rest of Italy, we were completely under lock down for two months. But the most important difference was that we had very few cases. So we were not really scared for our families or friends.... and also we could count on good weather, so a terrace was enough to make days go faster.

How did you begin to play bridge?

- I started to play bridge in Nice. I was quite bored because I spent all my end of the year vacations there with my parents... so I was looking for a new activity. My father is a bridge lover, and I liked card games. He was going often to the club to play, so one day I asked to bring me with him. He was happy of course, so he explained me some rules and after a couple of hours I was playing my first tournament at the club!

What do you do besides playing bridge?

- I am an entrepreneur. I have a small boutique hotel and some other hospitality structures. But I'm working and developing also other businesses, I like to be overloaded. ☺

You and Massimiliano Di Franco have organized the OCBL-events during corona. How has it been working on this with your friend and partner?

- It was a good experience and opportunity. I think it helps to be partners and know each other well to settle easily the "disagreements".

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

- It depends on the type of shirt and what time of the night is it. ☺
My general rule is two for a business shirt, three for a linen shirt and so on.

Per-Ola's question for you: How did you quarantine your charm during the quarantine? It is a very strong force after all.

- I had to work on different areas... so I went for: reading, playing piano, zen, etc.

Speaking of your charm, what is your romantic status?

- Always in Love!

How would your x-fiancée describe you in three words?

- Reliable. Hyperactive. Distracted.

What were you like as a child?

- I was tiny, shy, but very curious.



Andrea Manno (to the right) with one of his bridge friends.

Tell us your favourite bridge memory.

- Fortunately I have a lot of good memories, but I would go for the most far, my first junior camp in New York in 2004. At that time for me everything looked new, also bridge! But was so fun, and also the first time that I heard Christina's abilities on karaoke. ☺

When was the most challenging time of your life so far?

- After my math degree I moved to North Italy to start to work. After some years in 2012 I got a good position in a big lighting company in Milano. At that point I felt like on a crossroad. I was sure that accepting I would dedicate my life to a company career... I decided to take a risk and go back to Sicily, to try to follow my route.

Who would you like partner, kiss, kill between Ida Gronkvist, Thomas Bessis and Dennis Bilde?

- I'm really curious about French kisses but Thomas beat me too many times, so I'm sorry, but it is time to stop this by killing him. ☺

I guess I will have an even better feeling kissing Ida than playing with her as partner, so I will play with Dennis!

If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?

- I would like to change many bad things of course... but if I really had the opportunity, probably nothing. Because every mistake taught me a lot and made me grow.

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

- Thomas Bessis:
Why do you have a big attraction to Italian girls? And after your marriage to Irene, will she play for France or you for Italy?



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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♣ |
|----------|---------|---------------|------------|

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 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♥.'

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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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