

# The Minor ALT Invitational I

**AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 4 2020**



**WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS**

## Gupta's Great Comeback

Bridge is a simple game. 8 teams play 228 boards over 5 days and at the end Gupta wins. Some might recognise this as a Gary Lineker-quote about Germany in football (soccer in the US), but it applies to the Alt Events as well. After a historic comeback Gupta has won the Alt Invitational for the third time in a row. We were planning to not invite the team for the next edition to let someone else have a shot at winning, but because we like team Gupta so much, we decided to extend the field instead.

Well done to De Michelis who deserves much credit for the breathtaking finish of the final. We look forward to welcome back both finalists along with the rest of the teams, who all made this event interesting and enjoyable.

### Next Minor Alt

The next edition of the Minor Alt takes place September 21-25. Due to lots of interest from qualified teams we have decided to welcome more than 8 teams. Apply for invitation via [alt.bridgeresults.org](https://alt.bridgeresults.org)

Link to results

[Minor Alt Results](#)

Link to previous and future Alts  
& bulletins

[Alt.bridgeresults.org](https://alt.bridgeresults.org)

### Final

	C/O	1	2	3	Tot
Gupta	0.1	16	22	52	90.1
De Michelis		26	48	0	74



# Imperfections

## Final 1st segment

By Mark Horton



Bridge players would do well to commit this quotation to memory:

*Mistakes are the stepping stones to success.*

John C. Maxwell

If NS could bid and make 4♥ it might be a good result.

Closed Room

See what you make of the first session of the latest ALT Final:

### Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Di Franco	de Wijs	Manno	Muller
—	1NT	Pass	2♦*
2♠	2NT*	3♠	4♦*
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

2♦ Transfer

2NT Good hand with a heart fit

4♦ Retransfer

North led the ♥K and declarer won, cashed the ♠A and played a diamond, claiming eight tricks when North took the ace, -300.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Michelis	Gupta	Failla
—	1NT	Pass	2♦*
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2♦ Transfer

Dble Takeout

East led the ♠4 and West won with the ace and switched to the ♦9, East winning with the king and switching to the ♣6 which solved declarer's problem, +420 and 3 IMPs.

### Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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



Bauke Muller

I would prefer not to show you the next deal, but for historical purposes I suppose I must include it.

### Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Di Franco	de Wijs	Manno	Muller
—	—	—	1♥
2NT*	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dble	All Pass

2NT ♠+♦

Declarer had to lose three aces, -100.

### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Michelis	Gupta	Failla
—	—	—	1♥
2♥*	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♥	Dble	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

2♥ Spades and a minor

### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Di Franco	de Wijs	Manno	Muller
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

- 1♣ 15+
- 2♦ 9-11 balanced
- 2♥ Relay
- 2♠ Reds or blacks or 4M333

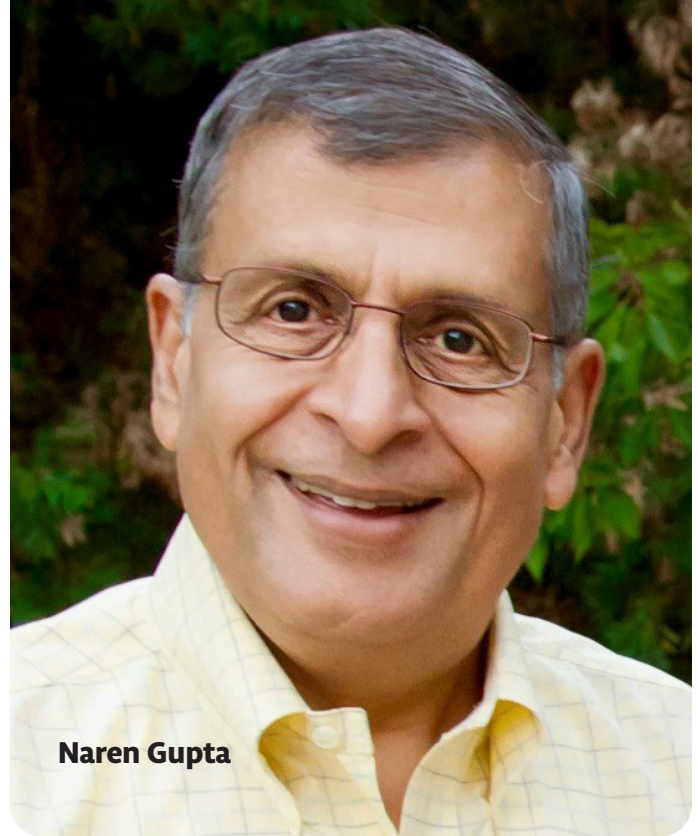
The defenders dropped a trick, +680.

### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Michelis	Gupta	Failla
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	2NT*	Dble	3♥
All Pass			

2NT ♥+♦, 5-5

That cost 10 IMPs and gave NS something to discuss at half-time.



Naren Gupta

South led the ♦K and declarer won with the ace and played back the ♦2, South winning with the queen and switching to the ♥6. Declarer ruffed with the ♠10 and cashed the ♠AK, North discarding a heart. Declarer ruffed a diamond and played the ♣J for the king and ace. Claiming would have been a good move at this point, but the play went on, declarer fatally playing a club to dummy's ten. That meant he lost trump control and had to go one down, -100 and a 5 IMP loss.

### Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Di Franco	de Wijs	Manno	Muller
—	—	—	1♦
Dble	4♦	All Pass	

With an awkward hand to lead from West went with the ♥7 and declarer won with the queen and took a diamond finesse. East won and switched to the ♠2 and West won with the ten, cashed the ace and exited with a diamond. In due course declarer had to lose another trick, -100. The Rabbi was not impressed.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Michelis	Gupta	Failla
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥*	Pass	1♠
2♣	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

### 1♥ Spades

West led the ♥3 and declarer won with the queen and played a diamond to the queen and king. East returned the ♥8 and declarer put up the ace and played the ♣K, West taking the ace. When West exited with a diamond declarer could win in hand, cash the ♣Q and enjoy the diamonds for a remarkable +600 and 12 IMPs. The Rabbi shook his head.

At the end of the first 12 deals Gupta trailed by 10 IMPs, 16-26.

*I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that don't work.*

Thomas Edison

# Never say Never

## Final - last segment

By Mark Horton



Yesterday evening I watched two sporting events unfold, where at one point it appeared to be clear as to who would win. Australia were cruising to victory in their 20-20 cricket match against England and De Michelis was outplaying Gupta with a 35.9 IMPs in the latest ALT final with only 12 deals remaining.

However, Australia lost their way and ended up losing by two runs - snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Could Gupta also pull off a miraculous comeback?

### Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Klukowski	Bessis	Zatorski	Volcker
—	—	2♣*	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2♣ Precision

If West had started with two rounds of his partner's suit declarer could have been defeated by a trump promotion, West eventually securing a trick with the ♥10. but he went with a diamond and declarer won with dummy's ace, pitched a club on the top spades and then played two rounds of hearts. East won, underlead his clubs and scored a diamond ruff, but that was only three tricks, +620.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	Di Franco	Muller	Manno
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	2♣	2♥
3♣	Dble*	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Dble Takeout

The defence started with three rounds of clubs and when declarer ruffed with the ♥9 West overruffed and switched to the ♠7. Declarer won in dummy and tried to cash two diamonds, East's ruff meaning -200 and 13 IMPs to Gupta.

*"ALT organizers, your events are always well organized and fun. Playing opposite the world's best bridge players and gifted individuals is a privilege none of us should take lightly. I get frequent messages from the kibitzers that watching live top-level bridge allows them to experience some of the excitement."*

Naren Gupta



The trailing team added 4 IMPs over the next 5 deals.

### Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Klukowski	Bessis	Zatorski	Volcker
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	6♦	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

- 2♣ Game forcing, natural or balanced
- 2♠ Fit or no diamond stopper
- 3♥ At least 6-4
- 3NT Non-serious
- 4NT RKCB
- 6♦ 1 key card + diamond void (!)

East led the ♣3 (on this layout nothing helps) and declarer ruffed and played a spade for the jack and king.

Frederic Volcker



West switched to the ♦Q and declarer won, cashed the ♠A, crossed to the ♥A, ruffed a club, drew the outstanding trump, went to the ♦A and cashed the ♣A, claiming, +980.

### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	Di Franco	Muller	Manno
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦*
Dble	2♥	Pass	2♠*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- 2♦ Game forcing with 5+♣-4+♦ or 6♣ or any 5♣440
- 2♠ 6+♣
- 3♣ 6+♠, 4+♥
- 3♥ Short clubs

West led the ♦Q and declarer won in dummy and played a spade for the jack and king. He won the next diamond and cashed his winners for +430 - 11 IMPs to Gupta, leading 27-0 in the set with four deals remaining.

When the Italians overbid to 4♥ with ♠8764 ♥A10653 ♦Q3 ♣97 opposite ♠A92 ♥KJ97 ♦K42 ♣A32 they finished two down - and lost 6 IMPs against the +140 in the other room - 34-0, three to go.

Both teams attempted 4♥ with ♠KQ1086 ♥Q65 ♦42 ♣863 facing ♠A3 ♥AK972 ♦K10953, but with South holding ♠J754 ♥3 ♦AQJ8 ♣A1075 it could not be made and Zatorski went three down, losing 5 IMPs as Muller managed nine tricks - 39-0 and a new leader.

An overtrick IMP made it 40-0 as we came to the last deal:

#### Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Klukowski	Bessis	Zatorski	Volcker
Pass	1♥	2♠	Pass
3♠	4♥	All Pass	

East led the ♦2 (the Poles lead low from small doubletons, so this could be both single- and doubleton).

West tanked for five minutes while the kibitzers held their breath. Klukowski brilliantly ducked - the only play to beat the contract.

Bessis won the jack, cashed the ♣A, the ♠A, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club and played a heart for the queen and ace. East needed to play a spade at this point, but for some reason he returned the ♣7 and declarer was home, +620.

#### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	Di Franco	Muller	Manno
1NT*	Dble	3♠*	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1NT 9-12      3♠ To play

Once again East led his diamond (Brother Hubert rang me to point out the merit of starting with two rounds of trumps) and West won and returned the four, East ruffing and playing a club. Declarer won, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a spade and played a heart for the king and ace. Back came the ♠8 and West's ruff was the setting trick. Even had declarer found the play of the ♥K after taking the ♣A it would not have mattered.

In one of the great comebacks Gupta had taken the last set 52-0!

Naren Gupta sent us the following note:  
*"I am thrilled to be on the winning team once again. Kudos to my team, who bailed me out after i gave up 50+ IMPs in the first two sessions".*

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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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## Partnership building, testing agreements

dealer South vulnerability None

<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
♠ 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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<b>West</b> Tobias	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b> Marina72	<b>South</b>
—	—	—	2♥
Pass	4♥	5♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

5♠ = asking for heart control

6♠ = got it

dealer South vulnerability East-West

<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
♠ 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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<b>West</b> Tobias	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b> Marina72	<b>South</b>
—	—	—	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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- 1♥/1♠ - 2NT (fit); 9. 4♣: Fit and slamgoing

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