

The Minor ALT Invitational II

SEPTEMBER 21-25 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

The Important Day 3

So far we have not seen many boards providing several 15-IMP swings, but I have talked to our excellent director Denis Dobrin and asked him to hack BBO's dealer software so we can get the kind of hands kibitzers love. (Denis is capable of that because he is a former Russian software agent, as you might have guessed from his magnificent result software).

We have also crossed the halfway-point, which means the time has come for the trailing teams to produce some IMPs. In Group A Donner and Black look fairly comfortable, the bottom 5 teams trailing, yet last placed Obezit Int are only 6 VPs away from 4th place.

In Group B Zhao, Fredin and Potter possess the first three spots, the field slightly more divided, and Robinson needs to initiate a serious sprint being 20 VPs away from the qualifying 4th spot.

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

Wednesday September 23

10:00 EDT/16:00 CET RR5 (24 boards)

14:00 EDT/20:00 CET RR6 (24 boards)

[Link to results](#)

[Minor Alt Results](#)












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

Alt.bridgeresults.org



Today's Draw

Round 5

Tbl	Group A	Group B	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				A	B	A	B	A	B
1	 DONNER	 BALDURSSON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
2	 IRELAND	 MACAVITY	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
3	 MOSS	 DE BOTTON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
4	 OBEZIT INT	 POTTER	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
5	 BLACK	 FREDIN	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
6	 CHATEAU BERTHEAU	 ROBINSON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
7	 HARRIS	 ZHAO	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00

Round 6

Tbl	Group A	Group B	nBrd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				A	B	A	B	A	B
1	 DONNER	 ZHAO	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
2	 IRELAND	 BALDURSSON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
3	 MOSS	 MACAVITY	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
4	 OBEZIT INT	 DE BOTTON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
5	 BLACK	 POTTER	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
6	 CHATEAU BERTHEAU	 FREDIN	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00
7	 HARRIS	 ROBINSON	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			10.00	10.00

Results

See our full calendar at

Alt.bridgeresults.org

Results

Round 3

Tbl	Group A	Group B	nBrd	IMPs		VPs	
				A	B	A	B
1	DONNER	MACAVITY	24	96	28	19.65	0.35
2	IRELAND	DE BOTTON	24	25	53	4.46	15.54
3	MOSS	POTTER	24	30	69	2.99	17.01
4	OBEZIT INT	FREDIN	24	13	47	3.62	16.38
5	BLACK	ROBINSON	24	59	36	14.76	5.24
6	CHATEAU BERTHEAU	ZHAO	24	36	86	1.81	18.19
7	HARRIS	BALDURSSON	24	49	51	9.50	10.50

Round 4

Tbl	Group A	Group B	nBrd	IMPs		VPs	
				A	B	A	B
1	DONNER	FREDIN	24	33	54	5.57	14.43
2	IRELAND	ROBINSON	24	41	19	14.60	5.40
3	MOSS	ZHAO	24	50	48	10.50	9.50
4	OBEZIT INT	BALDURSSON	24	46	67	5.57	14.43
5	BLACK	MACAVITY	24	18	79	0.86	19.14
6	CHATEAU BERTHEAU	DE BOTTON	24	73	47	15.24	4.76
7	HARRIS	POTTER	24	26	46	5.74	14.26

Ranking after round 4			Ranking after round 4		
rk	Group A	VPs	rk	Group B	VPs
1	DONNER	58.96	1	ZHAO	61.90
2	BLACK	50.06	2	FREDIN	55.79
3	MOSS	38.32	3	POTTER	51.43
4	CHATEAU BERTHEAU	31.22	4	DE BOTTON	42.98
5	HARRIS	27.58	5	MACAVITY	35.48
6	IRELAND	27.26	6	BALDURSSON	32.38
7	OBEZIT INT	25.57	7	ROBINSON	21.07

No Fireworks

By Mark Horton



Encounters between representatives of England and Ireland have been keenly contested ever since the days of Oliver Cromwell. That simplified my selection on day 2, although on Monday the au pair complained that I had written too much thereby delaying the opening of the champagne.

The match started with Ireland stretching to thin games on the first two deals. When they failed they found themselves 10 IMPs adrift.

On Board 3 NS held

♠5 ♥KQ10643 ♦AK ♣K862
opposite
♠AK9872 ♥A7 ♦8 ♣AQ97

and both pairs reached the excellent 7♣. However, clubs were 4-1 so they were both one down. With hearts behaving 7NT and 7♥ would have made in comfort.

A couple of deals later NS were blessed with ♠863 ♥A104 ♦AJ5 ♣J432 facing ♠A109 ♥2 ♦K10963 ♣AK76.

West overcalled South's 1♦ with 1♥ and East raised to 2♥. Both pairs went past 3NT which would have made as long as declarer located the ♦Q, Ireland stopping in 4♣ which made for +130 while de Botton got to 5♣ and went two down, Ireland suddenly ahead 11-10.

By the way, the teams were playing at breakneck speed - they were on to Board 7 by 16.30 CET.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ K 9 3 2
♥ K 10 8 7 3
♦ K 9 5
♣ 4

♠ Q J 5 4
♥ 9 6
♦ A 3
♣ A Q 8 7 6

♠ 10 7 6
♥ Q 5 4
♦ J 4 2
♣ 10 5 3 2

♠ A 8
♥ A J 2
♦ Q 10 8 7 6
♣ K J 9

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Malinowski	Carroll	de Botton	Moran
1♣	1♥	Pass	2♣*
Dble	2♥	All Pass	

In some quarters South's bidding might be considered conservative.

East led the ♣5 and West won with the queen and tried to cash the ace. Declarer ruffed, went to dummy with the ♠A, pitched a diamond on the ♣K and soon amassed ten tricks, +170.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Amoils	Bakhshi	Hanlon	Townsend
1♣	1♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the ♠6 and declarer won with the king and played a club for the king and ace. Back came the ♠4 to dummy's ace and declarer continued with the ♦6, putting up the king when West followed with the three and then playing a diamond for the ten and ace. The spade return was ruffed in dummy and declarer cashed the top hearts and then played two rounds of diamonds pitching a spade for +420 and 6 IMPs. The lead changed hands once more, de Botton 5 IMPs ahead.

At half-time, leading 20-12 de Botton made a switch in the Closed room.

On 16 NS held ♠10864 ♥KQ964 ♦3 ♣AK2 opposite ♠AK9 ♥8732 ♦Q1064 ♣J6. After 1♥ East overcalled 2♦ on ♠Q753 ♥J ♦AKJ952 ♣Q5. Moran showed his support with 2NT and then jumped to 4♥ over partner's 3♣. Charlsen was content to bid 2♥ and played there. This was the layout:

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

East led the ♦A and switched to the ♠3, declarer winning with dummy's ace and playing a heart to the king. After three rounds of clubs, ruffing in dummy, declarer played another heart and West took the



ace and exited with a diamond (as good as anything). Declarer ruffed, drew the outstanding trump, played the ♠10 to the king and exited with a spade, leaving his hand high for a 7 IMP pick up.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Malinowski	Carroll	de Botton	Moran
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Amoils	Hoftaniska	Hanlon	Charlsen
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♥	Dble*	3♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

2NT Spade support

North led the ♦7 and declarer won with the queen, cashed the ♠A, played a spade to the king and a club to the king and ace. Declarer won the diamond return in dummy, ducked a heart, won the next diamond and played a club, claiming when the jack appeared, +620.

I expect you have spotted North's mistake. He must duck the ♣K which leaves declarer helpless.

North led his spade, got in with the ♣A and switched to the ♥Q, South taking the ace and giving his partner a spade ruff. The ♥K meant -200 and the first double-digit swing of the match to de Botton, 13 IMPs better off and ahead 46-19 with only four deals left.

Ireland could make no impression and the final score was 53-25. It had not been a classic, but at least the au pair was happy - her glass would be filled at 18.00!

Future Alt Tournaments

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)

14 - 18 December 2020

TampAlt – Main event (32 teams)

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THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED!



In this issue

September's BeBridge overflows with outstanding articles. **The Mind of a Cheat** reports on the latest scandals to rock the world of bridge, while **The Corridors of Power** examines the world of bridge politics. There is in-depth coverage of the **latest edition of the Slava Cup**, and an insight into the incredible life of the man **behind the Law of Total Tricks, Jean-René Vernes**. **David Bird is back** with another instalment of the adventures of his bridge playing monks and you can exercise your 'little grey cells' by tackling **Ray Lee's latest bridge themed crossword**. Add to that all the regular articles that will allow you to hone your bridge playing skills and fine tune your bidding systems and it's an issue you cannot afford to miss.

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If they don't cover

by Christina Lund Madsen



I will be honest - 1NT making 150 ten times and 120 four times does not get me excited. As a player I know that almost every board has some interesting point worth discussing - as an observer the feeling is not mutual.

Alas, I looked for boards with interesting points from round 4 and this was as close as I got.

Board 17. N / None

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Coppens	McIntosh	Bakker	Paske
—	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

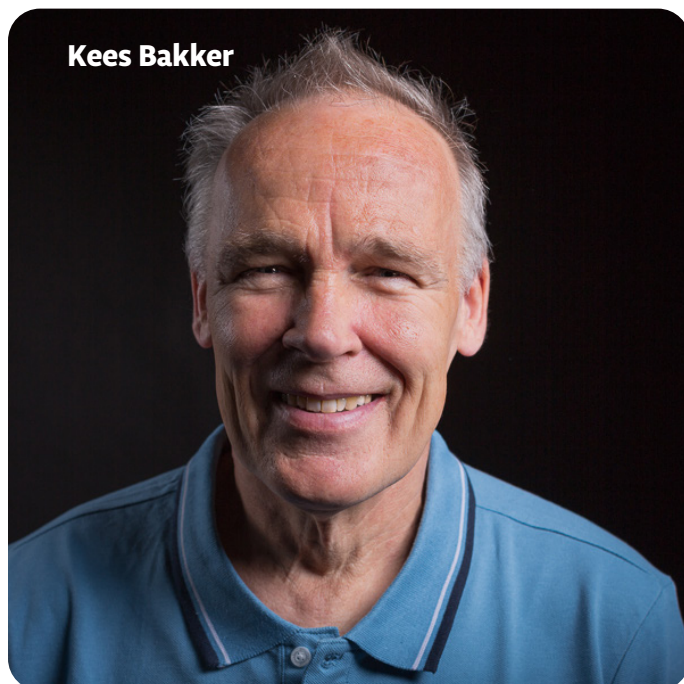
4♥ cuebid

With unbalanced hands and potential minor slams it often occurs that you end up in a minor slam missing both an ace and the trump queen, as in this case (I know the Americans love Minorwood to solve this problem. I'm not sure about the IMP balance between the times you stay out of a slam where you would not have found the queen vs. the times partner passes you out in 4 of a minor).

Kees Bakker led the ♣8, North playing dummy's 6, West winning the queen and seeing declarer's nine. Holding the ♦Qxx, Pim Coppens now "desperately" tried to cash the ♣A, ruffed. Seeing dummy it could not cost.

North played the ♦9 and let it run, giving up the chances of making with Qxxx in the West hand in favour of his intuition.

Kees Bakker



Down 1, mission accomplished and well done to East for not leading a trump and West for trying to cash the ♣A.

This is a situation where many players would normally use their table presence to try to get a read on the hand; one of the differences between live and online play. It also makes it easier if you know your opponents, and in this case the two Dutch players have the advantage of being unknown to most of the other Alt-participants. Tosh might need to finetune his radar for next time.

At the other table the contract was 5♦ making 6, so that was 11 IMPs for Dutch Macavity, who sent the group leaders Black down the abyss with their 79-18 (19.14-0.86) victory, which was impressive considering most boards in all other matches this set were pushes or 1-IMP swings.

Most tables played 3NT of 5♦ (one table got off in 5NT after discovering missing an ace and the trump queen, but that was not a success).

One other table was in 6♦ and made it.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Birman	Hanlon	Padon	McGann
—	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♦*	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

2♣ was a GF relay and South's other bids inquired about the hand, North's 4♦ showing 6-5 in spades and diamonds.



Padon also led the ♣8, perhaps thinking it was more likely that EW would have a trick in his doubleton than his 5-card heart suit, assuming North could have 65(20)-shape.

Birman also tried cashing the ♣A, ruffed. Now Hanlon played the ♦T towards dummy's AJx. Following the old women's pairs devise "If they don't cover, they don't have it" (women are Hanlon's specialty), he won with the ace and ran the jack, scoring 10 IMPs.

Ireland defeated Robinson 41-19, 14.60-5.40.

Victim of the Day

Peter Fredin

by Christina Lund Madsen



Editor's note: After more than 25 victims have replied to English questions in (sometimes bad) English, Peter Fredin chose to reply - in Swedish. I have translated his replies, but if you sometimes wonder "Does he really know that word?", the answer is probably no.

Where do you live, how old are you, what is your relationship status?

- I'm 50 years old and live in Malmö, Sweden. I'm single but have an 11-year old daughter.

How has your life been during corona?

- Because of corona I have played an incredible lot of bridge the past six months. A lot of rubber on BBO and at home combined with probridge in various BBO-tournaments.
I almost only played poker before the corona outbreak, but since the casino is closed I cannot do that anymore.

How did you begin to play bridge and how did you become a professional?

I began to play bridge around 15 thanks to my dad. My first pro deal I got in a partnership with Magnus Lindkvist in the year 2000. We had played together since 1997 with great success and he thought we should go to the US and try our luck. Rita Shugart and Roy Welland gave us a deal, and I am very grateful for that.

You have a reputation for being a very creative player, whose actions sometimes backfire. How often do you estimate that you fire at the opponents, but hit yourself?

- I'm probably not as creative as my reputation. ☺ However I trust my tablefeeling 100 % and I'm not afraid to look like an idiot. I'm guessing I'm right at least 9 out of 10 times. I can be very wrong when the opponents have played and especially bid in a way I cannot understand.

What is your best bridge memory? It does not have to be bridge related.

- My best bridge memory is probably when we won the semifinal in the Rosenblum in 2006. I had lost a number of semifinals until then and remember the tears started running.

Have you ever had a real job and what would you do if you could not play bridge anymore?

- I was a mail carrier when I was young, but only because the working hours were amazing at the time, so I could play rubber at least 10 hours a day.
If I cannot make a living playing bridge, it is gonna be poker for me. No person would ever give me a normal job since I cannot do anything besides play bridge.

Tell us about an early childhood experience that made a profound impression on you.

- Mats Wilander in his semifinal against Clerf in French Open 1982. He was 17 years old and gave his opponent the ball. That made an impression on me. I try to play bridge the same way. The Rimstedts brothers remind me a lot of how Mats Wilander was as a competitor. We should all learn from him.

You live in Malmö, very close to Denmark and spend a lot of time here. What are the differences between Danes and Swedes (if any), both bridgewise and mentality?

People from Denmark are much more open and nice than Swedish people. When it comes to bridge I always say "The Norwegians can play cards but not bid, the Swedes can bid but not play cards and the Danes can neither bid or play." Most Danish people don't take bridge very seriously. They have a lot of good players but even more wonderful people.

You are known to be very vocal about cheating. You also accused Nowosadzki, who first denied, later confessed. What is your opinion about this today?

- I hate cheats! Cheats in ALL manners. I have kicked out a number of friends from my balcony after I thought they were being unethical. I think the biggest problem is that players take advantage of the tempo in the play. This is more or less impossible to do something about, sadly. Other kinds of cheating is just pathetic. I lost many WC and EC-medals over the years because of cheats. When it comes to Nowosadzki I had no suspicion that he was cheating besides one deal that looked completely sick. I have no particular opinion of him, but was he not the first to confess? Why he did so is written in the stars.



Peter Fredin

What is your opinion about the situation in the bridge world today?

- Most of the so-called top pros are not as good as everybody thinks. Despite that they are idolised. Pathetic and unfair for us 10-15 players in the world who really know how to play bridge. The clients listen to their contacts without having an opinion of their own. They hire bad players who in some cases have cheated their way to success. Unfortunately it is not so easy to know for the sponsors.

How would your best friend describe you in three words?

- My friends would probably say I'm spontaneous, honest and funny. And then be sure to add some less positive character traits as well.

What is your best quality?

- A good quality is I can be rather charming when I meet African women. Within a couple of years they unfortunately notice all my bad qualities, so now I'm back to single.

My best quality at the table is my feeling and tempo in the bidding. Most people don't understand this aspect and think I'm just a card player, which is an unfair description of me.

What is your worst quality?

- I have a lot of bad qualities but considering I lost a fortune on the stock market (twice) I assume I am bad at accepting a loss.

In bridge my worst quality is definitely that I am too emotional when I play. Way too often I become annoyed at my partner. However I'm very quick to apologise to my partner, which is usually accepted.

Among your (many) regrets, which is your biggest?

- One of my biggest mistakes in life was to say no to a partnership with Fredrik Nyström a number of years ago. The reason was I wanted to win the world championships and I did not think Sweden would have had a good team if we had played together. I thought it better if we played in each our partnership. I have regretted this many times since as I never had a serious partner after Björn Fallenius.

Outside of bridge I most of all regret that I did not focus more on sports and in particular table tennis when I was younger. I stopped it all when I began to play bridge.

Mikael Rimstedt's question for you: Out of all the people you have played with, who is your favourite partner/bridge personality?

- My favourite partner has to be Magnus because he taught me invaluable things about how to bid.

Who would you partner, kiss, kill between John Carroll, Marion Michielsen and Michal Klukowski?

- Without a doubt I choose John Carroll as a partner. He is supernice and likes to take a beer afterwards.

Marion gets the kiss because she is a sweet and fine girl.

Klukowski I don't know very well, but I would like to kill him in a World Championship final some time in the future.

Which player from the Minor Alt should be the next victim in the bulletin? Tell us something you would like to know about this person.

- Gunnar Hallberg is the next victim. He has more bridge in his little finger than most bridgepros have in their entire body. You can just sit and listen to this wonderful person for hours and hours.

My question is:

Why have you avoided me as your partner in all these years?



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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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