

The Minor ALT Invitational II

SEPTEMBER 21-25 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

May the cards be with you

Yesterday we saw the double-digit swings I promised, which the content (and scope) of this bulletin illustrates.

Before the last round today status is that in group A Donner and Black are sure to qualify, however the bottom 5 are all within reach of the last two spots. Since the teams play the other group, there is not the usual "If A beats B, then C cannot pass". No, it more resembles an IMP-race. Doesn't that sound thrilling?

In group B we sadly have to say goodbye to Robinson and Baldursson, who both have more than a 20 VP-gap to 4th place. Zhao and Fredin are comfortable, so the real battle is between Macavity, De Botton and Potter. May the cards be with you (and the kibitzers)!

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 September 24

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

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

Link to results

[Minor Alt Results](#)















Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

Alt.bridgeresults.org



Today's Draw

Round 7

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

Knockout stage

The Quarterfinals (24 boards) will be according to the following composition:

Quarterfinal 1: 1st place of Group A versus 4th place of Group A – carry over 10.1 IMP in favor of the highest ranked team (in the qualifying stage)

Quarterfinal 2: 1st place of Group B versus 4th place of Group B – carry over 10.1 IMP in favor of the highest ranked team (in the qualifying stage)

Quarterfinal 3: 2nd place of Group A versus 3rd place of Group A – carry over 6.1 IMP in favor of the highest ranked team (in the qualifying stage)

Quarterfinal 4: 2nd place of Group B versus 3rd place of Group B – carry over 6.1 IMP in favor of the highest ranked team (in the qualifying stage)

Results

See our full calendar at

Alt.bridgeresults.org

Results

Round 5

| Tbl | Group A | Group B | nBrd | IMPs | | VPs | |
|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| | | | | A | B | A | B |
| <u>1</u> | DONNER | BALDURSSON | 24 | 57 | 33 | 14.92 | 5.08 |
| <u>2</u> | IRELAND | MACAVITY | 24 | 28 | 65 | 3.23 | 16.77 |
| <u>3</u> | MOSS | DE BOTTON | 24 | 44 | 25 | 14.08 | 5.92 |
| <u>4</u> | OBEZIT INT | POTTER | 24 | 64 | 53 | 12.54 | 7.46 |
| <u>5</u> | BLACK | FREDIN | 24 | 31 | 60 | 4.31 | 15.69 |
| <u>6</u> | CHATEAU BERTHEAU | ROBINSON | 24 | 19 | 46 | 4.61 | 15.39 |
| <u>7</u> | HARRIS | ZHAO | 24 | 29 | 70 | 2.75 | 17.25 |

Round 6

| Tbl | Group A | Group B | nBrd | IMPs | | VPs | |
|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| | | | | A | B | A | B |
| <u>1</u> | DONNER | ZHAO | 24 | 58 | 46 | 12.75 | 7.25 |
| <u>2</u> | IRELAND | BALDURSSON | 24 | 73 | 49 | 14.92 | 5.08 |
| <u>3</u> | MOSS | MACAVITY | 24 | 37 | 60 | 5.24 | 14.76 |
| <u>4</u> | OBEZIT INT | DE BOTTON | 24 | 57 | 89 | 3.89 | 16.11 |
| <u>5</u> | BLACK | POTTER | 24 | 99 | 19 | 20.00 | 0.00 |
| <u>6</u> | CHATEAU BERTHEAU | FREDIN | 24 | 69 | 57 | 12.75 | 7.25 |
| <u>7</u> | HARRIS | ROBINSON | 24 | 68 | 51 | 13.72 | 6.28 |

| Ranking after round 6 | | | Ranking after round 6 | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| rk | Group A | VPs | rk | Group B | VPs |
| 1 | DONNER | 86.63 | 1 | ZHAO | 86.40 |
| 2 | BLACK | 74.37 | 2 | FREDIN | 78.73 |
| 3 | MOSS | 57.64 | 3 | MACAVITY | 67.01 |
| 4 | CHATEAU BERTHEAU | 48.58 | 4 | DE BOTTON | 65.01 |
| 5 | IRELAND | 45.41 | 5 | POTTER | 58.89 |
| 6 | HARRIS | 44.05 | 6 | ROBINSON | 42.74 |
| 7 | OBEZIT INT | 42.00 | 7 | BALDURSSON | 42.54 |

Time Trouble



By Mark Horton

A frantic day where almost everything failed to go according to plan meant I had to revise my plans for coverage of Round 5. Fredin v Black was my (very) late choice (it was only after the match had finished that I discovered they were both occupying second place) and there was no shortage of excitement.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|--------|----------|----------|-------|
| Fredin | McIntosh | Apteker | Paske |
| — | — | — | 1♦ |
| Pass | 1NT | 3♥ | 4♠ |
| 5♥ | 6♦ | All Pass | |

West led the ♣K and continued with the ace for a quick one off.

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-------|---------|----------|-------|
| Black | Livgard | Gold | Aa |
| — | — | — | 1♦ |
| 2♣ | Pass | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 3♣* | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♣* | Pass | 4♦ |
| Pass | 4♥* | Pass | 4♠ |
| Pass | 5♦ | Pass | 5♠ |
| Pass | 6♦ | All Pass | |

4♣ Good raise in spades or diamonds (so North hoped!)

4♥ Cue bid

West led the ♣A but when South followed with the ten he switched to the ♥A and that gave declarer a parking place for the ♣Q and he was able to ruff two spades in dummy (drawing a round of trumps along the way) for +920 and 14 IMPs for Fredin.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Alon Apteker



From the players' explanations it appears there may have been a misunderstanding, but with North as declarer it was impossible to prevent 12 tricks, so that was another 13 for Fredin.

Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|--------|----------|----------|-------|
| Fredin | McIntosh | Apteker | Paske |
| — | — | 1♣ | 2♥ |
| Pass | 2NT* | Pass | 3♥ |
| Pass | 4♥ | All Pass | |

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

2NT Asking

West led the ♠6 and declarer went up with dummy's ace and claimed 12 tricks.

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-------|---------|----------|-------|
| Black | Livgard | Gold | Aa |
| — | — | Pass | 2♦* |
| Pass | 2NT* | Pass | 3♠* |
| Pass | 4♣* | Pass | 4♠* |
| Pass | 6♥ | All Pass | |

- 2♦ Weak multi
- 2NT Asking
- 3♠ Hearts, 6/7 points
- 4♣ Cue
- 4♠ 1 key card +♥Q

Open Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|--------|----------|----------|-------|
| Fredin | McIntosh | Apteker | Paske |
| — | 1♥ | 1♠ | 3♦* |
| 3♠ | 4♣* | Pass | 4♥ |
| 4♠ | Dble | All Pass | |

- 3♦ Fit
- 4♣ Undiscussed

South led the ♣K and switched to the ♥10, North winning with the ace and returning the ♦5. Declarer won with the ace, drew trumps, cashed the ♥K and exited with a club. A diamond loser went on the ♣10, so that was just one down, -100.



Thomas Paske is known as quite the boxer, here facing Dutch Joris van Lankveld before the Open Europeans' final, won by Paske.
Photo: EBL (European Boxing League)

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|--------|----------|---------|-------|
| Fredin | McIntosh | Apteker | Paske |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2♦* | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 4♣* | Pass |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |

Closed Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|---------|------|-------|
| Black | Livgard | Gold | Aa |
| — | 1♥ | Pass | 2♠* |
| Pass | 2NT* | Pass | 4♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

2♠ Mini splinter
2NT Asks

East led the ♣5 and declarer won with dummy's king and played a heart to the queen, East winning, cashing the ♠A and then playing a diamond for the king and ace. Declarer ruffed the diamond return, cashed the ♥A and could claim, +420 and 8 IMPs.

2♦ Transfer 4♣ Splinter

No doubt having a diamond in with his heart, West started with the 'obvious' 1NT. North led the ♦5 and declarer won with the ten and quickly disposed of two diamonds on the top clubs before playing a heart to the ten. He lost three trumps tricks but that was still +620.

Closed Room

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|-------|---------|------|----------|
| Black | Livgard | Gold | Aa |
| — | — | — | 2♦* |
| Pass | 2♥* | Pass | 2♠ |
| 2NT | Pass | 4♥ | All Pass |

2♦ Weak multi 2♥ Pass or correct



Allan Livgård and Terje Aa at the Norwegian Marit Sveaas International Bridge Tournament. The event is expected to take place next summer.

South led the ♠3 and declarer won in dummy and played a heart for the king and ace. he took the ♠J continuation with the ace and played the ♥10 and South won and played a third spade for North to ruff, the contract finishing two down - another 13 IMPs away.

There is a beautiful double dummy line after a spade lead. Declarer must play four rounds of clubs, pitching two spades (!) and ruffing the fourth club before exiting with a heart. Say South switches to a diamond. Declarer must play dummy's ten and unblock the king under the ace. He wins the diamond return and plays another heart. South takes the ace and exits with a spade, but declarer ruffs, crosses to the ♦Q and can collect North's hearts! Wow!

On the following deal NS had a virtually laydown 6♠, but it was missed at both tables. David Gold opined that it would give me a 'Bulletin hand' but I will leave you to discover how it happened (regular readers will know that at 18.00 the au pair expects a cork to be popped or drawn).

If you have been counting you will have noticed that my featured deals delivered 48 IMPs to Fredin, but Black had scored some bits and pieces and when NS went looking for a slam they found that even 5♠ was too high on number 21 and Black scored 12 IMPs to trail 31-55 and that was almost the final score (31-60). Although Black lost heavily, both teams retained their positions as second in their respective groups.

**THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE
HAS JUST BEEN
RELEASED!**



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.

Always have your magazine at your fingertips.
You can read BeBRIDGE wherever you are.
 No need to worry about the size of the font as
you can zoom in on every page.

It couldn't be simpler to subscribe:

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

A Rare Coup



By Toine van Hoof

We all know the Emperor's Coup, the discarding of an ace in the defense to create an entry to the winners in partner's hand. The term was coined by the legendary French player Jacques Blaizot. He named it after Bao Dai, the last emperor of Vietnam. According to Blaizot, as cited by a skeptical Pierre Albarran in his book *Cent Donnes Extraordinaires*, during a rubber at the Dalat Palace the emperor even threw away two aces to defeat a 3NT contract.

Most of us will also remember that Jean Besse won the Bols Brilliancy Prize in 1982 by executing an Emperor's Coup at the World Championships. However, I doubt that anyone has since seen such a play in real (or online) life. I certainly did not until yesterday evening. It happened on the first board of Round 6 in the match between Zhao and Donner.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|-------|------|----------|
| Grue | Zhao | Moss | Muller |
| — | Pass | 1♣* | 3♠ |
| 4♣* | Pass | 4NT | All Pass |

1♣ strong
4♣ hearts

Against the unhappy contract of 4NT Bauke Muller led the ♠Q. Brad Moss won with the ace and started working on diamonds. He advanced the ♦8 which ran around to the jack (!).

To beat the contract North now needed to play a diamond. When he returned a small club, Moss was in business. He let it run to the 10 and played the ♥K. Chen Zhao won with the ace and played another club to East's jack.

Moss began to see the light. Expecting South to have the ♦A, he could cash ♣A and ♣K, discarding ♥5 and ♥9 from dummy, and play a diamond. However, on the ♣K Muller as South made the brilliant move of jettisoning the ♦A, a classical Emperor's Coup. As planned Moss pitched the ♥9 and played a diamond. When South showed out he put up the king, followed by the ♦5 to North's queen. Zhao cashed the ♣Q for down one.

At first I was a disappointed to see GIB indicate that, in spite of this great defense, declarer could have prevailed. But look at the beautiful ending that emerges if declarer throws a diamond instead of the ♥9:



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

With ♦A out of the way, declarer can afford to cash the ♠K. He discards another diamond in dummy and North is squeezed in three suits.

At the other table Ricco van Prooijen as one of the few made 3NT. Team Zhao won 10 IMPs on the board, but lost the match by 12.

It must not go unmentioned that on this deal Terje Aa (team Fredin) made 5♦ doubled for a 12 IMP-pickup, that Okay Gur (Obezit Int) won the same number of IMPs for making 3NT doubled and that team Robinson produced a bizarre push against Harris by scoring plus 800 for 3NT redoubled just made (Zach Grossack) and minus 800 for 3♠ doubled minus four (Alon Birman).

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) |

Read more and apply for invitation via alt.bridgeresults.org

Too Much Bidding



By Martin Cantor

I caught the tail end of the Round 5 match between Moss and De Botton. With lots of distribution and/or big fits, players tend to bid on “for insurance”. Not always successfully.

On this first offering no-one seemed sure of who the hand belonged to - which at least meant that no-one felt able to double.

Board 17. N / None

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

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|--------|----------|-----------|
| Bakhshi | Kalita | Townsend | Klukowski |
| — | 1♥ | Pass | 2NT* |
| 3♠ | 4cx | 4♠ | 5♥ |
| All Pass | | | |

2NT mixed/limit with 4+/mini splinter

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|--------|------------|----------|----------|
| Bessis | Hoftaniska | Volcker | Charlsen |
| — | 1cx | Pass | 1♥ |
| 1♠ | 3♠* | 4♠ | Pass* |
| Pass | 5♥ | Pass | 6♦* |
| Pass | 6♥ | All Pass | |

3♠ splinter

6♦ natural ♠ alerting natural bids eh! whatever will we be doing next?♥

As you can see, 4♠ by West is 2 off on a diamond lead. In their respective heart contracts both declarers made ten tricks, so just a 2 IMP swing.

Two boards later the swing was bigger:

Board 19. S / EW

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

2NT mixed/limit with 4+/mini splinter

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|---------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Bakhshi | Kalita | Townsend | Klukowski |
| — | — | — | 2♠* |
| 2NT | Pass | 4cx* | Pass |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |

2♠ !♠ & minor might be 5-4
4cx ♥ slam interest

David Bakhshi had a tough decision over the two-suited weak opening. I like his choice, but he must have been worried about partner going overboard in hearts, and so it turned out.

Tom Townsend's "slam interest" was perhaps optimistic. Then again, he wouldn't normally have a small singleton heart. They are not a regular partnership, but they did have an interesting discussion after the hand, finally agreeing that after a transfer over 2NT, 3NT, while not obligatory with a singleton, would definitively show a singleton.

If you have been analysing the deal while reading this you may have spotted that 4♥ can make - at least double dummy - by engineering a trump coup against North. Playing with odds rather than double dummy, Bakhshi took the spade lead in hand and tried a trump to the king. When he ran into a later spade ruff, he ended two off.

At the other table West was allowed to open, then reverse, then play 3NT, which we could all make.

Zach Grossack made 4♥ from the West hand after a spade lead. He instantly played a small diamond towards dummy's KJx, Ola Rimstedt in North understandably ducking. Now he could pitch two

diamonds from dummy and only lose 3 hearttricks.

After trailing in the first segment, Moss blitzed de Botton 29-0 in the second to win 44-25 or 14.08-5.92.

For the second match of the day I chose Fredin versus Chateau Bertheau. No swing in our match on this board, but plenty of interest.

Board 4. W / All

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

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|--------|----------|---------|
| Bertheau | Fredin | Zagorin | Apteker |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3♠* | Pass | 4cx |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 5cx |
| Pass | 6♠ | All Pass | |

6NT is icecold from the South hand, but 6xs is down on a club lead.

After much thought Dan Zagorin led the ♥3 and Fredin claimed 13 tricks.



Dan Zagorin
Photo: Peg Kaplan

Fredin then made two comments in the chat to the table. Firstly he explained that if South held the cxA, then the contract needed to be 6♠. Followed by “Bertheau tanked over 4cx, thanks for not leading a club Dan, classy mate”, which shows not only the nature of them both, but also the spirit in which the Alt tournaments are played.

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------|------------|---------|------------|
| Aa | O Rimstedt | Livgard | M Rimstedt |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Pass | 2NT* | Pass | 3cx* |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♥ |
| Pass | 4♠ | Pass | 4NT |
| Pass | 5♦* | Pass | 6NT |

2NT non minimum, balanced or 6♠
 3cx natural ♠ here we go again! ♥
 5♦ 3

At this table Ola’s 2NT rebid denied NS the option of playing the safe 6NT by South.

But it made no difference when Livgard chose the ♦7 lead for another immediate claim.

There was also no swing in the Donner v Zhao match when both tables played 4♠, but all the other tables saw a double digit swing. And it is double digit swings we will see on my final two boards.

Board 15. S / NS

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

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|--------|---------|----------|
| Bertheau | Fredin | Zagorin | Apteker |
| — | — | — | 1♠ |
| Dbl | 2♠ | 4♥ | 4♠ |
| 5♥ | 5♠ | Dbl | All Pass |

Here we see the lure of a void, and the worry that a double of a non-vulnerable contract would not be adequate compensation for a vulnerable game, getting NS too high.

The defense led and continued hearts in with the ♠A, so declarer lost control and emerged with minus 800 (1 diamond, 1 club and three spade tricks). Meanwhile...



Ola Rimstedt

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|------------|---------|------------|
| Aa | O Rimstedt | Livgard | M Rimstedt |
| — | — | — | 1♠ |
| 2cx | 2♠ | Dbl | 4♠ |
| 4NT* | Pass | 5cx | Dbl |
| All Pass | | | |

Here we see the lure of a void and of saving, non-vulnerable, against a vulnerable game, “as insurance”. Sometimes the insurance premium is way too high - 15 IMPs on this occasion.

The natural spade lead allowed declarer both to pitch a diamond and to lead up to his cxK, so only two down and minus 300. Mind you, three down for minus 500 would have only cost 1 IMP more, and playing in hearts for one down would only have saved 1 IMP.

If you think that was bloody, wait till you see this next one

Board 18. E / NS

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

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|----------|--------|----------|---------|
| Bertheau | Fredin | Zagorin | Apteker |
| — | — | 1♥ | 2cx |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | Pass |
| Pass | Rdbl | All Pass | |

Would you have run with the South hand? If so, to diamonds or hearts? You wouldn't have enjoyed either much, but at least you wouldn't have been redoubled.

Bertheau led the ♥6. I'll admit I didn't have the stomach to analyse the play in detail, but GIB says declarer can now come to six tricks, while a diamond or a top club holds him to five. Five is the number he came to anyway. -1600.

The auction was the same at the other table, apart from the redouble. Aa also led the ♥6 and Mikael Rimstedt scrambled up 6 tricks, so he lost 500 but gained 15 IMPs.

When the smoke cleared after a very swingy match, Chateau Berthau had won 69-57, 12.75-7-25, so chapeau to them.

Victim of the Day

Gunnar Hallberg

by Christina Lund Madsen



Victim of the Day – Gunnar Hallberg
What is your age, where do you live, are single, do you have any (grand)children?

Here comes a small part of my life's story. Born May 22nd 1945 in Lysekil Sweden. Age? You work it out. I have two daughters but no grand children. It will soon happen with my youngest daughter.

How have you spent your time during corona?

- Thirteen weeks self-isolated would have been extremely boring without our beautiful game. I have been playing online almost every day, mainly on team Black. My 19-year-old daughter Nisha is a wonderful human being. She and I are living together in a house in Brighton. My wife sadly passed away four and a half years ago.

How did you begin to play bridge (if you still remember)?

- I remember very well how I started to play. I was fourteen, on my way to practice handball. My best friend Lars came up to me, suggesting that I should join him to attend a bridge course. He me and some other friends were all keen card players. Poker Whist and Rummy, you name it, was all on the menu. The word "NO" hardly exist in my vocabulary, so that was what started my wonderful journey through life.



How come you moved from Sweden to England?

- I met my future English wife Paley in Marbella 1991. We spent the next four years between Stockholm and Spain. 1995 my mother in law died. She lived in Brighton. My very good friend Paul Fenn advised me to move to England in order to get the opportunity to try my hand at the rubber bridge game in London. Again the word YES made it an easy choice. We moved into a flat in Brighton 1995.

What is the nationality of your heart?

- Swedish. Although I love Brighton and the laid-back attitude on the English south coast, nothing beats Sweden.



Gunnar Hallberg (tallest and handsomest) with Swedish teammates in the early 80'es. A heartfelt thank you to Peter Hasenson for preserving photos such as this.

We cannot deny your senior status though you play with and as juniors. How has bridge developed during the past 40 years?

- Bridge has turned into a different game. Developing skills in defending and card play is ignored by the less talented players. Systems are flooding the market. Good for some, boring for others.

Forty years back we all faced the same problems at the table. 1NT showed a balanced hand. Today I've seen J Qx AQJxxx KJxx declared as 15-17. Fun?

That said I really enjoy playing in Alt tournaments where kibbing is allowed. My friends and students love to come back with comments on our play.

You partner a lot of very young players like Simon Hult and Christian Lahrman. How do you find playing with them compared to older players?

- I thoroughly enjoy playing with keen youngsters like Simon and Christian. I also do that representing Sussex, my county. Young or old, always fun to play a decent game of bridge. The generation gap is completely erased in the Swedish bridge community I belong to. I love them all.

Peter Fredin's question for you: Why have you avoided me as your partner in all these years?

- Eff off Peter! I have been looking for you ever since that morning when you left me to look after the ladies in the disco, downtown Nashville. Joke aside, it would be great to meet up, discuss life, women and bridge hands. I still recall, with great pleasure, the high level natter we have had in the past.

Tell us your fondest bridge memory.

- Fondest memory? Hard choice. My brain is packed with sweet stories. Winning the Vanderbilt 2006, playing with one of my all time favourite partners, Fred Chang, is very high on the list. It resulted in the following headline in The Daily Telegraph: "Gunnar Hallberg the first Englishman to win the prestigious Vanderbilt".

You were very ill 3 years back. Will you tell us the story and whether you have fully recovered?

- Caused by Diabetis 2 an old backinjury I stated to feel pain in my left leg about four years ago. All of a sudden I was in excruciating pain. It all developed very quickly to a nightmare. Obviously I consulted a doctor. With great economical support from my sponsor Andrew black I went private. To cut a long story short, with the enormous help of the most skilled doctors in this country , nurses, physio therapists, NHS staff at railway stations and airports I'm nearly back to normal. Walking outdoors with a stick, still loving life .

What is the greatest joy bridge has given you?

- Meeting people from all walks of life is a wonderful thing to experience. It has taken me and my family to all corners of the world. Two months in Austrailia with my then two year old daughter, being looked after by the most wonderful people is worth a chapter in my memories. The game of bridge has a knack to make people showing their true colours as we seen even online.

If you got the chance to do something differently in your life, what would it be?

- If I'm forced to choose, dealing in antiques would be fun.

Do you have any tattoos? If not, if you were to get one, what would it say?

- It would be on my forehead. "Don't you dare cheating me ! I'm a Viking".

What is the most important life advice you wish to pass on to future generations?

- Leave the word NO out of your vocabulary.

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Janet De Botton, Peter Fredin and Ola Rimstedt?

- I'm not a murderer. I'll kiss Janet on the cheek. I would enjoy playing with both Peter and Ola.

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

- I'm very interested to hear from Per-Ola Cullin if his penis extension has improved his and his wife's sexlife.

Editor's note: Per-Ola Cullin has already been a victim in the bulletin, but since we forgot to ask him this question of vital importance, we will leave it in. Gunnar Hallberg has nominated Andrew Black instead:

- How would you feel about leaving your brain to science for a thorough examination at the end of the day, so future entrepreneurs can know the secrets of your successes?



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 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!



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 !