# The Minor ALT Invitational II

**SEPTEMBER 21-25 2020** 



**WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS** 

# Already at the Bar

Yesterday a few minutes before the start of the quarterfinals, our patient TD Denis Dobrin texted Marusa Gold asking for team Harris' lineup, which was not submitted though all other teams sat ready to go. The response was the following:

marusab (Private): 1sec

marusab (Private): We didnt know we Q marusab (Private): Will tell you in a sec

marusab (Private): I am really sorry about this we just found out.

marusab (Private): I am trying to find out. I am so very sorry we didnt mean to be unprofessional

Not only did Harris manage to field a team 2 minutes before game time, they also knocked out Donner. The team later revealed that they did not think they had a chance to qualify (hence that they do not read the bulletin). Had we been at a live tournament, we would have found the Harris team at the bar.

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**

Friday September 25

10:00 EDT/16:00 CET Semifinal (28 boards)

2:30 EDT/20:30 CET Final (32 boards)

Link to results

#### **Minor Alt Results**

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

**Alt.bridgeresults.org** 



## **Today's Draw**

#### SEMIFINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
FREDIN	0.1	<u>0</u>	0.1		0.1
HARRIS		0	0		0

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
ZHAO	0.1	0	0.1		0.1
BLACK		0	0		0

## **Knockout stage**

### Semifinals

Semifinal 1: winner of Quarterfinal 1 versus winner of Quarterfinal 4 – carry over 0.1 IMP in favor of the highest ranked team (in the qualifying stage)

Semifinal 2: winner of Quarterfinal 2 versus winner of Quarterfinal 3 - carry over 0.1 IMP in favor of the highest ranked team (in the qualifying stage)

#### **Final**

Final: Carry over 0.1 IMP in favor of the highest ranked team (in the qualifying stage); in case both teams have the same ranking the carry over will be given to the team with the higher sum of the Victory Points.



See our full calendar at

Alt.bridgeresults.org

# Results

#### **QUARTERFINAL**

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
DONNER	10.1	<u>5</u>	15.1	<u>26</u>	41.1
HARRIS	0	21	21	29	50
team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
FREDIN	6.1	47	53.1	<u>53</u>	106.1
DE BOTTON	0	3	3	14	17
team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
ZHAO	10.1	16	26.1	34	60.1
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MACAVITY	0	34	34	14	48
MACAVITY team	3770		34 Sum1		48 Total
	0	34	1227	14	

	Ranking after round 7				
rk	Group A	VPs			
1	DONNER	92.37			
2	BLACK	75.90			
3	MOSS	71.90			
4	HARRIS	58.48			
5	IRELAND	58.36			
6	CHATEAU BERTHEAU	53.50			
7	OBEZIT INT	51.50			

	Ranking after round 7				
rk	Group B	VPs			
1	ZHAO ZHAO	104.87			
2	FREDIN	84.47			
3	DE BOTTON	79.27			
4	MACAVITY	72.58			
5	POTTER	65.94			
6	BALDURSSON	57.62			
7	ROBINSON	53.24			

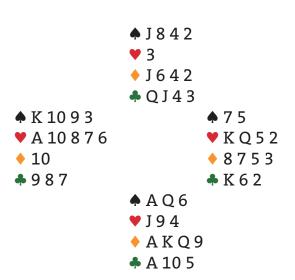
# **Slim and None**



By Mark Horton

Rightly or wrongly I decided to follow the match between Potter and Ireland. They were fifth in their respective groups, so a win was more or less imperative along with favourable results elsewhere. As to the likely hood of either of them reaching the play-offs I was reminded of a discussion about the likely outcome of a boxing match where a commentator opined that one of the pugilists had two chances, 'slim and none'. Unfortunately slim had left the building.

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



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	Fitzgibbon	Huang	Mesbur
_	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Dble*	Pass*	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

1♣ 17+ Dble Majors Pass 0-5

West led the ♣7 for the queen, king and ace and declarer played the ♥J West taking the ace and switching to the ♣10. Declarer won with the queen, ruffed a heart, played a diamond to the king, ruffed a heart and was not hard pressed to take the rest, +170.

#### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moran	Hurd	Carroll	Bathurst
_	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3NT*
All Pass			

3♣ Puppetish3♦ No major or 5♠3♥ Asking3NT No major

West led the ♥7 and the defenders took the first five tricks for a 6 IMP swing. Remarkably, 11 deals later it remained the biggest swing of the match, Ireland ahead 21-9.

Meanwhile, Baldursson was ahead of Chateau Bertheau 27-0, mainly because they picked up 10 IMPs on this deal, defeating 3NT and making 5.

By the time we had reached Board 17 Ireland had picked up a couple of IMPs to lead 23-9, while Baldursson had been pegged back by the Chateau, the score changing to 32-20.



#### Board 17. Dealer North. None Vul.

**♦**852

♥J1054

QJ873

**\$** 8

**♦** 9 7 4 3

♥Q972

**9** 

♣ A K 6 5

♠ A K 10 6

♥ A 8 6

♦ 10 6 5 4

**9** 3

♠ Q J

**♥** K 3

♦ A K 2

♣ QJ10742

#### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	Fitzgibbon	Huang	Mesbur
_	Pass	1♦*	1NT
2♣*	Pass	2♠	3♣
Dble*	Pass	3♥	All Pass

1♦ 2+ 2♣ Majors Dble Undiscussed

You can see how tough this game is when EW had no idea what the double of 3. meant. I'll qualify that by saying that I am sure West know what it meant - and right he was, as 3. doubled would have been cut to ribbons.

South led the ♠Q and declarer won in dummy and played a diamond, North winning with the jack and switching to the ♥4. Declarer took the ace, cashed the ♠K and tried to cross to the ♣K. North ruffed and exited with a spade, declarer winning with the ace and playing another spade. South pitched a club so dummy's nine won and declarer ruffed a club and played the ♠10. North ruffed that with the ♥J and exited with the ♥10, South's ♣J representing the setting trick, -50.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moran	Hurd	Carroll	Bathurst
_	Pass	1 (2+)	1NT
2♣*	2♦	2♠	3♦
3♠	All Pass		



South led the ◆K and switched to the ♣Q. Declarer won in dummy, played a spade to the ace and queen and a heart, South taking the king and exiting with the ♣J, North ruffing dummy's king and switching to the ♥J. Declarer took the ace, cashed the ♠K and played a heart to the queen, claiming nine tricks, +140 and 5 IMPs.

I have included this deal primarily to illustrate the conventional bids by West - and the importance of knowing what you are doing in a competitive sequence.

With Ireland ahead 32-11 only four deals remained.

#### Board 21. Dealer North, NS Vul.

	<ul><li>AQ8732</li><li>♥954</li><li>A7</li><li>63</li></ul>
<b>4</b> 9 5	♠ K 10 6 4
♥ A Q 10 3	<b>♥</b> J 6 2
10 9 5	♦ K Q 4 2
♣ A 10 4 2	<b>♣</b> K J
	<b>♠</b> J
	♥ K 8 7
	◆ J 8 6 3
	♣ Q 9 8 7 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	Fitzgibbon	Huang	Mesbur
_	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Dble	2♠	Dble	All Pass

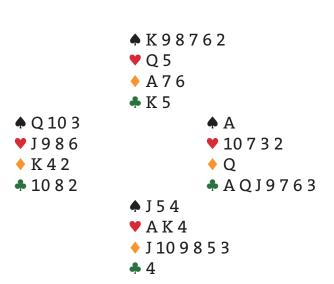
#### 1NT Non-forcing

East led the ◆Q and declarer won and played a spade which dummy's jack was allowed to win. Then came two rounds of clubs, East winning the second and switching to a heart for queen. Back came a diamond and East won and played the ♥J so that was three down, -800.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moran	Hurd	Carroll	Bathurst
_	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ◆Q and declarer won and played back a diamond. East won with the king and when West, who had played the ◆9 on the first round of the suit now followed with the ten East tabled the ♥J and declarer was soon inscribing -800 onto his card. A dull push?

#### Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dwyer	Fitzgibbon	Huang	Mesbur
_	_	2♣*	Pass
Pass	2♠	3♣	4♠
All Pass			

2 6+ 10-15

Declarer could not avoid the loss of four tricks, and another one went in the wash -200.

#### Closed Room

All Pass

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Moran	Hurd	Carroll	Bathurst
_	_	1 (2+)	1.
Pass	14	2♣	2♠
3♣	4♠	5♣	Dble

How realistic was it of East to advance to the five-level facing a partner who could not bid over a 1♦ overcall?

South led the ♥K and switched to the ◆J,
North winning with the ace and returning
the ♥Q. When it held he exited with the
♠8 and declarer won perforce with the
ace and tried the ♣A. When his majesty
declined to appear the damage was -800.
That was a body-blow costing Ireland 14
IMPs.

However, they held on to win 38-25, knocking Potter out of the top 4 in their group, and with Baldursson defeating fourth placed Chateau Bertheau 56-31 Ireland had overtaken them. Yet there was a twist in the tale, as Harris defeated Macavity 46-25 and that meant they edged Ireland out by the huge margin of 0.12 VP.

## **Future Alt Tournaments**

5 - 9 October 2020	Alt Mixed IV (only two spots left)
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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 aimed at top teams)

14 - 18 December 2020 TampAlt - Main event (up to 32 teams)

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#### 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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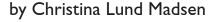
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# **Lesson of the Day**

# **Quarterfinals**

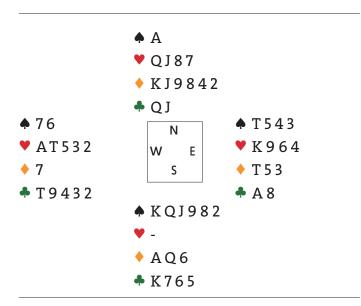




Yesterday's quarterfinals had different degrees of excitement. Some matches were close, one was not. We take a look at the quarterfinal battles one by one by focusing on a single board, which could have changed the outcome of 3 out of 4 matches.

In the match between Fredin and De Botton, our featured board is a tête-a-tête between two Norwegian pairs:

#### Board 5. N/NS



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Fredin	Hoftaniska	Apteker	Charlsen
_	1.	Pass	14
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4
All Pass			

Knowing North to have wasted values in hearts and a minimum hand (in this case a maximum minimum hand), South gave up the fight in 4♠.

His Norwegian counterpart did not.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Malinowski	Livgård	de Botton	Aa
_	1♦	Pass	1
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4 🔷
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥*	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

- 4♠ Cue (4xh would have been BW)
- 5♥ Two aces, no queen

1370 minus 680 meant 12 IMPs for Fredin.

After 23 out of 24 boards, Fredin was leading De Botton by 100-6 (not including Fredin's 6.1 c/o). On the very last board De Botton picked up 11 to make the final score 106.1-17.

The De Botton-players can enjoy the privilege of exiting the event without flagellating themselves for leading a spade rather than a heart against a NT-contract.

Black vs. Moss was one of the more exciting mathces. Black built up a solid lead of 41-4 after the first segment, 12 IMPs coming from our featured deal.



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lee	D. Gold	Moss	Black
_	1.	Pass	14
Pass	2♦	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3NT	Pass	4.
Pass	4♥	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

2NT was forcing and 4♥ keycard. Black finished the auction with his jump to 6♦.

At the other table the French flirted with the 5-level, but rare for Frenchmen did not manage to seal the deal:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
McIntosh	Volcker	Paske	Bessis
_	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

2♥ is artificial, forcing one round, and 3♠ either natural or asking for a ♣-stopper.

The auction is natural, but Bessis never showed his diamond values and with soft values and only one ace Volcker did not have enough to bid slam. Because of his heart void Bessis was left to guess and this time was wrong.

In the second half Moss made a massive comeback with 48-11, which means that the match would have tied at 52-52 without Black's 6.1 carry-over from the group play. Well fought by Moss.

The biggest surprise in the quarterfinals was the exit of the dominating Donner team. As group winners they had the privilege of playing against 4th placed Harris. When team Harris finally sat down for the quarterfinals they did not realised they had qualified for, they grabbed their chance.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Tiholov	Moss	M. Gold	Grue
_	1.	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Dble	RDble	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Looking at the auction, it feels like South is looking for best game and should perhaps have given it a cuebid over 3♠ or a natural 4♠. (All bridge writers know how much the players appreciate such contributions to their post mortem.)

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Donner	Harris	C. Rimstedt	Malhasyan
_	1.	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♦
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

At the other table captain Harris showed the simple way to slam. 12 IMPs to Harris and victory of 50-41.1 (including Donner's 10.1 c/o).

Despite a 5.57-14.43 loss to Harris in round 7, Macavity clung on to their spot in the top 4 and now faced group winners Zhao with a VP-average of 15 after the group play. The Flemish squad put up a proper fight and would have won the match on our featured board if they had not fallen off the horse during the ride.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Ros	de Wijs	Lesmeister	Zhao
_	1.	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1♦ was 2+, 2♥ was artificial GF and 3♥ showed 4♥ and 6♦.

De Wijs - Zhao stopped in 4♠, when South probably owed another bid though North had a limited hand according to their system.

This was a chance for Macavity for a swing, and so it was, but in the wrong direction.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
v. Prooijen	Dewit	Verhees	Vandewiele
_	1.	Pass	1
2 ♦*	Dble	4♥	4NT*
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass



As the only player in the field, van Prooijen found the West hand worth an overcall. In his defense he is a Dutch playing Belgians. Now NS entered an auction where South was keycarding and North signing off. Verhees holding the A finished with a double to wake up his partner.

Van Prooijen, knowing Verhees' good sense of humour, despite the double found the only lead to allow the contract to make by clicking on the ♥A.

Now South had the chance to ruff out the ▼K and pitch all four clubs, but he probably could not imagine West not having the ▼AK for his lead, especially after East's likely double for a club lead.

Lesson of the day: If you only have one chance to make your contract, play for that chance regardless of how hopeless it seems.

200 + 680 meant 13 IMPs in the wrong direction and so Zhao prevailed with 60.1-48 and face Black in today's semifinal.

# Victim of the Day

## **Andrew Black**

by Christina Lund Madsen



Where do you live, how old are you, family status, other relevant background info?

I live on a stud farm in Surrey, England
 we breed racehorses. Married with six dependents – two girls, two boys and two huge dogs.

What is your educational background and your current occupation?

- I was thrown out of University for being too lazy. I had a lot of different careers, including creating Betfair, which is a betting website. Today I run my stud farm, I own an oil re-refining business and I part own and work with a company that makes DNA vaccines (and is making one for Coronavirus).

What are the most (un)successful ideas you ever had?

- My most successful idea was Betfair, which became a big business very quickly; although in percentage terms my oil company has been very successful as I originally bought it for £1.

I also once bought a football club (Swindon) for £1, but that was extremely unsuccessful financially.

I've had lots of stupid ideas and also bought loads of stuff I've never used.

My wife reminds me that I once paid £25k for an entire Victorian safe room taken out of a Paris bank; and years later it is still

How do you spend your time during the current corona-situation?

sitting in a container somewhere.

- I've been very happy at home with my kids and playing bridge online.

How did you begin to play bridge?

- I grew up playing a lot of cards but I didn't start playing bridge until school when I was 16.

What is the most important thing bridge has given you?

- Friends and sanity.

What is your main goal within bridge (besides winning an Alt event)?

- Winning is nice but that isn't what really drives me. There are a lot of plays that I know about but have never made at the table – that's probably where I get the most *pleasure*.

What did you dream about as a boy?

- Literally anything. I remember one time cuddling in bed with my girlfriend (now wife); and she asked me what I was thinking; and I told her I was thinking about an unusual design for a bicycle brake and explained how it would work. She stopped asking questions like that after a while.

What is your main goal in life?

- My kids to grow up to be happy and responsible adults.

Tell us something about yourself that very few people know.



- I own four pinball tables and I have webbed toes.

What do you like to do when nobody is looking?

- When I'm happy sometimes I sing and dance; but don't tell anyone.

What has been the highlight of your life so far?

- I guess the birth of my kids.

Which has been the toughest time of your life so far?

- The death of my brother and my father. Treasure what you have.

Gunnar Hallberg's question for you:

- 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? - I have no secrets. I've been lucky in business but I enjoy it, which I think is key. Don't let fear or greed get in your way, don't let anyone make you do anything you don't want to do and keep your ego repressed.

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Sandra Rimstedt, Jacek Kalita and Tom Hanlon?

- I haven't met Sandra but I don't want to kiss the other two so I'll definitely pick her. I've played against Tom a lot and I think he's a fantastic player – it would be a privilege to partner him. It would also be a privilege to partner Jacek, though I don't really know him – killing him seems a bit mean, not to say psychotic. I might pass on that one...

Who do you think should be a future victim and what would you like to know about x?

- Since his name came up I'll pick Tom Hanlon. Is he as good a poker player as he is a bridge player?

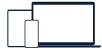


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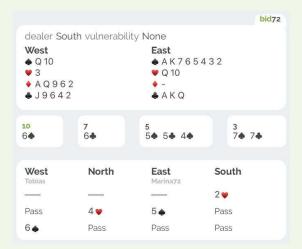
If you wish to watch the players whenever they are online, you search for your chosen one (fx Cecilia Rimstedt "Cillar", click on the name and choose 'follow' instead of neutral. Any time you see her online, you can click on her and take a seat at her table. See you on BBO!



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5♠ = asking for heart control

6♠ = got it



'In stead of 4♠ East should double and bid 3NT over the expected 3♥.'

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- 1. Two-way Checkback Stayman; 2. Responding with both Majors after 1NT; 3. (Non) Leaping Michaels;
- 4. Gazzilli; 5. Gambling 3NT; 6. Lebensohl after a Weak Two; 7. Rubensohl and Transfer-Lebensohl;
- 8. 1♥/1♠ 2NT (fit); 9. 4♣: Fit and slamgoing

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