

The Minor ALT Invitational II

SEPTEMBER 21-25 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

Surprising Victory for Harris

They thought the tournament was over for their part before the last match in the qualification. They knocked out a Donner-team in good form, then easily defeated Fredin, who had pulverised De Botton the day before. In the final they faced Zhao, the strongest team emerging from the group play with a VP-average of 15 pr. match. Harris beat them with their left arm on the mouse to claim the title in their debut in the Alt Events.

Congratulations to captain Jonathan Harris, Niall Igoe, Vladi Isporski, Petar Ivanov, Eddie Malhasyan, Steve Root, Todor Tiholov, Rumen Trendafilov and Marusa Gold.

Thank you to all participants, kibitzers, writers, readers and other fans. We are back in little more than a week with the Alt Mixed teams.

Next Minor Alt

The next edition of the Minor Alt Invitational takes place October 12-16. 8 top teams have already been accepted. Apply for invitation through alt.bridgeresults.com

Final

	c/o	1	2	Tot
Zhao	0.1	12	26	38.1
Harris		56	42	97

Results

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Comfortable Wins

By Toine van Hoof



The semifinals of the Minor ALT Invitational II saw both Harris (vs. Fredin) and Zhao (vs. Black) record a comfortable win. Both matches had a slow start without any big swings in the first six boards. Then came Board 7.

Dealer South. Both Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	De Wijs	D. Gold	Muller
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	3♣	Dbl	All Pass

Simon de Wijs was the only North who opened, third in seat, 3♣. On his partner's takeout double Andrew Black passed for business: EW plus 500.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zhao	McIntosh	Van Prooijen	Paske
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1♣ strong 2♦ 8-11, balanced

Tom Paske led the ♦2 and Ricco van Prooijen had an easy ride. The spade finesse was off so he scored plus 620 and 3 IMPs.

In the Harris-Fredin match both EW pairs bid to 4♥ through a Drury sequence. Both North players had doubled 2♣ so the defense started with three rounds of clubs. Niall Igoe ruffed with the ♥Q and made ten tricks. Terje Aa ruffed the third club with the ♥10 and went down: 12 IMPs to Harris.

On Board 11 Fredin won 11 IMPs back:

Dealer South, None Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Root	Fredin	Igoe	Apteker
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♦	1♠	Dbl
3♥*	Pass	4♠	5♦
All Pass			

3♥ fit jump

In 5♦ Peter Fredin ruffed the ♠A lead in dummy, led a club to his ace and advanced the ♣10. When East rose with the king it was plain sailing. Declarer took the heart switch with the king and drove out the ♦A: plus 400.

In the replay EW bought the contract in 3♠ (P-P-1♦-1♠-Dbl-3♠-A.P.) and Aa was allowed to make it (♦6-A; ♠4-A; ♥3-Q-K; ♥8-A; ♥7-♠3; ♣A instead of a diamond): plus 140.

In the other match Black won 6 IMPs, because Muller-De Wijs rested in 4♦ (P-P-1♦-1♠-Dbl-3♠-P-P-Dbl-P-4♦-A.P.) while Paske blasted into 5♦ (P-P-1♦-1♠-Dbl-3♠-P-P-5♦-A.P.).

Both declarers made eleven tricks. They ruffed four spades in dummy, using the ♣A, ♥K and a heart ruff as entries to the North hand. Then they played the fourth heart and safely discarded the ♣10.

Board 12 saw two big swings:

West Dealer. NS Vul.

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



Niall Igoe
Photo: Peter Hasenson

In Zhao vs. Black it all came down to locating the ♠J.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	De Wijs	D. Gold	Muller
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	2NT
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♠*	All Pass	

- 2♦ “weak only trash multi”
- 2♥ p/c
- 3♥ transfer
- 3♠ “should show support”

Black led the ♣5 and Bauke Muller took a long pause to plan the play. After two minutes he won with ♣A in dummy and advanced the ♠10. East played the ♠2 and then Muller took another three minutes before playing low in his hand. West ducked, came in with the next spade and switched to a diamond.



Chen Zhao

David Gold took the ace and underled his ♥A. Muller drew the last trump, cashed three club tricks discarding the second heart from dummy and ruffed a heart, emerging with an overtrick: plus 650.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zhao	McIntosh	Van Prooijen	Paske
Pass	Pass	1♦*	1NT
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1♦ 2+D, 11-15
2♥ spades

After the lead of the ♣7 Paske played a spade to his king. Chen Zhao tested Van Prooijen's nerves by pondering a while. When he finally took the king with the ace and played the ♥J, Van Prooijen quickly cashed his two aces and impatiently waited for the ♠J to come in: plus 100 and 13 IMPs.

In Harris vs. Fredin both NS pairs ended up in 3NT:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Root	Fredin	Igoe	Apteker
2♥*	Pass	3♥	3NT
All Pass			

2♥ weak (often five)

Igoe won the ♥J lead with the ace and unerringly switched to a diamond. Declarer crossed in clubs and successfully finessed in spades. To no avail. Steve Root won with the ace and returned a diamond: one off.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Livgard	Trendafilov	Aa	Isporski
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	2NT
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ multi with five card, up to 8 HCP
2♥ p/c
3♥ transfer

Allan Livgard seemed to have found the best lead: ♦10. Aa took the ace and returned the ♦J to declarer's king. A spade to the queen was followed by a spade to the 6. In with the ♠A West cashed ♦9 and ♦8, probably not noticing his partner's suit preference signal (first the 5 then the 4). He continued with a club and Vladi Isporski had nine tricks: 12 IMPs to Harris.

At halftime Harris led by 40 to 27.1 and Zhao by 27.1 to 15. For Harris Marusa Gold and Todor Tiholov took over from Root-Igoe, while the fourhanded Fredin team remained unchanged.

For Zhao, Louk Verhees already took over from his captain on board 14 (at 18:04: “Nice fast match ☺”) and at the other table Gunnar Hallberg and Simon Hult substituted Black-Gold.

Hallberg-Hult had a good start:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	De Wijs	Hult	Muller
—	—	—	1♠
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Hallberg won the lead of the ♠10, crossed to the ♦A and ran the ♣J followed by a club: plus 400.

At the other table a thin negative double by Andrew McIntosh scared Verhees off:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Verhees	McIntosh	Van Prooijen	Paske
—	—	—	1♠
2♣	Dbl	3♣	3♠
All Pass			

After the lead of the ♣A and a club to the king, declarer finessed in hearts and ran the ♠10 to the queen. He lost three diamond tricks, so went one off: minus 100, but 7 IMPs to Black.

Double dummy analysis learns that declarer can make nine tricks if he draws one round of trumps, finesses in hearts, cashes the ♥A in trick 4 and exits with a diamond. West may win the ♦J but is end-played. He can cash the ♦K but then has to give up his spade trick or offer declarer a ruff-and-discard. The same double-dummy analyzer shows that 3♠ can always be defeated. Therefore West needs to lead either a red card or, to create an entry to partner's hand, the ♣Q or ♣10.

In the other match Fredin won 6 IMPs when Livgard made 2♥ (1♠-1NT-P-2♦-P-2♥-A.P.) with an overtrick and Gold went two light in 3♥ after South had opened 2♠, promising 10-13 (2♠-2NT-P-3♦-P-3♥-A.P.).

Two boards later Gold-Tiholov had an accident that yielded them 11 IMPs.

Dealer North. None Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
M. Gold	Fredin	Tiholov	Apteker
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Apparently the only alternative for Hult was to pass over 1NT. He won the ♠K lead with the ace and shot back the ♠6. Muller took ♠Q and having seen De Wijs contributing the 10 and the 7, switched to a heart. De Wijs got his ruff, cashed the ♣A and still had ♦A to come: plus 500.

3♣ GF

Poor Alon Apteker. It was impossible for him to find the killing heart lead. He tried the ♠7, so EW scored plus 990.

On Board 19 Hult was punished for a risky overcall:

Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Verhees	McIntosh	Van Prooijen	Paske
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	3♦	Dbl
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣, 5♦ possible

McIntosh could also have collected 500 but he preferred to declare an interesting 3NT contract. East led a diamond to the king and the ace. Now West was to be kept out of the lead and McIntosh managed to do that in an elegant fashion. He played a spade, ducked by East, to the king and a club from the board. West produced the 10 and North played low. Van Prooijen won perforce with the ♣Q and was helpless. He cashed the ♦Q and played another diamond. McIntosh now claimed nine tricks not bothering to squeeze East in spades and hearts for an overtrick. Three IMPs to Zhao.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	De Wijs	Hult	Muller
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT*	3♦*	Dbl
All Pass			

In the other match Harris expanded their lead by 6 IMPs. Trendafilov-Isporski bid all the way to 5♣ (plus 400), while Fredin-Apteker stopped in 4♣ (plus 150) after leaving the opportunity unused to arrest Tiholov in 3♦.

1NT 9-14

3♦ only way to bid diamonds

Then there were two consecutive slam deals. Board 21 was the first one.

Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
M. Gold	Fredin	Tiholov	Apteker
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
3♠	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	All Pass	

Against 5♥ Gold led the ♠J to dummy's ace. To win the contract declarer needs to play ♥A and a heart. Apteker did cash the ♥A but then tried to cross to his hand with a club. West ruffed with the ♥K and played a diamond to Tiholov's ace, who still had a certain trump trick for down one.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Livgard	Trendafilov	Aa	Isporski
—	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
2♠	4♣*	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣ 1♦ 4+♥ 4♣ strong ♥ raise + ♠ cue

Trendafilov-Isporski had a nice auction to 6♣. East led a spade so declarer could draw trumps and discard his diamonds on ♠KQ before tackling hearts: + 1370 and 16 IMPs to Harris.



Simon de Wijs

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	De Wijs	Hult	Muller
—	1♣*	Pass	2♦*
3♠	6♣	All Pass	

1♣ 15+ 2♦ 9-11 balanced

Deprived from his relay sequence toy, de Wijs jumped to 6♣. Hult made life easy for declarer by leading the ♦A and switching to the ♥J: plus 1370.

De Wijs commented after the hand: "That's your just reward for trying to f*ck with our relays." ☺

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Verhees	McIntosh	Van Prooijen	Paske
—	1♣*	Pass	1♥
2NT*	3♠*	4♦	Pass*
4♠	5♥	5♠	Dbl
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣, 5♦ possible 2NT 65+ in ♠ + ♦
 3♠ "undiscussed but meant as ♥-support"
 Pass "I assume forcing"

Verhees lost three spade tricks, two hearts and a diamond: -800 for a gain of 11 IMPs.

Board 22. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
M. Gold	Fredin	Tiholov	Apteker
—	—	1♦	1♠
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	All Pass		

1♦ 10-15, 0+♦ 2♠ 5+♥ FG

The 4NT bid by West was not alerted so it was probably meant (and taken) as inviting. Tiholov did not want to run the risk of getting to another slam with two cashing tricks outside so he passed. EW + 690.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Livgard	Trendafilov	Aa	Isporski
—	—	1♣	1♠
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

2♦ hearts 2♥ not 3♥

Livgard took no chances and jumped to 6NT. Plus 1440; 13 IMPs to Fredin.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	De Wijs	Hult	Muller
—	—	1♣	1♠
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT*	All Pass		

4NT “RKC ♥ IMO”

Hallberg and Hult had a misunderstanding about 4NT and played there for + 690.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Verhees	McIntosh	Van Prooijen	Paske
—	—	1♦*	1♠
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

1♦ 2+♦, 11-15 HCP
2♦ 5+♥, 7+ HCP

When you ask Verhees after a winning bid why he made it, he usually answers “I did not have a clue.”

This hand was probably no exception. Paske had no clue either. He led a club, declarer’s unmentioned best suit. Plus 1440; 13 IMPs to Zhao.

There were a few more swings but Harris’ and Zhao’s leads were never challenged. Harris won by 103-57.1 and Zhao by 64.1-24.

To open or not to open, that is the ?

By Martin Cantor



Opening styles vary, even at the highest levels of the game. As we saw on this tasty morsel from the semi-final.

Board 26. E / All

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Livgard	Trendafilov	Aa	Isporski
—	—	Pass	Pass
Pass	2♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2♣ 18-22 balanced
4♦ spades

First in hand and vulnerable Terje Aa didn't have a suitable opening bid available, or maybe he thought it would be easier to describe the two-suited hand later. Second in hand and vulnerable Vladi Isporski deemed his hand too flimsy for a weak two opening. And so at this table it was passed round to Rumens Trendafilov,

who had an unusual tool in his bidding box. I can't say I like it much, but it silenced Aa, and when Isporski had a two-under-transfer available it worked just fine, keeping EW altogether out of it.

4♠ makes if you can get the diamonds right - or more easily if East leads a natural club, which he did. Trumps were drawn, a heart went on a club, and when West popped up with the ♦A on the first round there were 11 tricks.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
M Gold	Fredin	Tiholov	Apteker
—	—	2♥*	Pass
4♥	Dbl	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

2♥ 5+ weak 2

Todor Tiholov had no such qualms in the East seat, and Marusa Gold raised his weak 2♥ to game. Peter Fredin had an obvious double and Alon Apteker had an obvious 4♠. I've said before that when the bidding escalates quickly it can be hard to know who a deal belongs to, and that was certainly the case here.

Bridge wisdom has it that a pre-emptor should not bid again, and with just a five card suit some might call Tiholov's re-raise undisciplined. However it got them to the par contract, and it got them to an even better place when Apteker also re-raised.

Peter Fredin thought long about this, but in the end he added one for the road - very much a state of the match bid, knowing his team were trailing badly.

Marusa Gold led her two red aces, then a small heart, and declarer could claim a quick two off, losing 13 IMPs. What about the other semi-final?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Verhees	McIntosh	van Prooijen	Paske
—	—	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT*	3♥	3♠*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2NT shortage ask

3♠ “I think double shows short hearts”

Ricco van Prooijen also didn't see the East hand as an opening bid, but no such qualms for Thomas Paske - entirely in keeping with his tender years. East did come in at his second turn, but his initial pass deterred Louk Verhees from a raise, so Paske got to play quietly in game.

The defence cashed two hearts and switched to a club. Declarer drew trumps, cleared the clubs and led a diamond to the king. When the jack appeared on the next round he claimed his contract.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	de Wijs	Hult	Muller
—	—	3♣	Pass
3NT	Dbl	4♣	4♠
All Pass			



Todor Tiholov

Another young player reinforced their fearless reputation when Simon Hult opened the East hand 3♣, but this had the effect of burying the heart suit forever. Gunnar Hallberg's 3NT was a fair shot facing a vulnerable pre-empt, but Hult was never standing for Simon de Wijs' double, and Bauke Muller had an easy 4♠ bid.

Hallberg led the ♥A followed by a small one to partner's king. When Hult continued with the ♥J, declarer could ditch a diamond and ruff in dummy, draw a round of trumps, and claim for a flat board.

Is there a lesson in all this? Maybe. It's common to hear bridge commentators say “pre-empts work”. You could argue that here they worked for Tiholov and Paske. But not for Hult. One thing we do know; the days of quiet unopposed auctions are long gone.

Team of the Day

Final of the Minor Alt II

by Christina Lund Madsen



We all know the days where all we do is wrong and all the opponents do is right. That was what team Zhao had to face after the final of the Minor Alt II.

Board 4 and 5 provided two-digit swings in Harris' direction, and the destiny on both boards was decided by the choice of openings.

Board 4. W / All

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
M. Gold	Muller	Tiholov	Zhao
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1NT showed 14-16 and Marusa Gold reasonably upgraded her 13-count. Tiholov did not bother to invited and jumped straight to game.

Muller led the ♠6 to South's T and Zhao shifted to a low heart. Gold would not

have more spades run through her king, so she correctly won the heart, played ♣K and the ♣7 to the ace (preserving the 5 in her hand as an extra entry to dummy) and finessed diamonds.

10 tricks for +630.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Verhees	Root	v. Prooijen	Igoe
1♦	Pass	1NT	All Pass

At the other table Verhees opened 1♦, 2+, and East's 1NT ended the auction.

Igoe led the ♥5, ducked to North's Q, and Root now switched to a spade, West trying the king, and so had only 7 tricks for +90 and 11 IMPs for Harris.

Board 5. N / NS

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



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
M. Gold	Muller	Tiholov	Zhao
-	1♥	1♠	1♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Muller chose to open 1♥ with the North hand and Tiholov overcalled 1♠. Zhao could have considered 1NT with his 4333 but opted for 2♠ showing a good hearts raise. Muller jumped to game with his maximum opening.

Tiholov led the ♠K and switched to the ♣T to dummy's jack. Now Muller played two more rounds of clubs, not expecting East's canapé-overcall, third round happily ruffed by West who returned a spade to her partner's ace who exited a heart. There was still no spade/diamond squeeze, so the contract was down 1.

Toine van Hoof, our excellent reporter, asked Muller why he played this way rather than drawing trumps first.

His answer was:
"I cash my clubs and play spades. LHO is now endplayed. Not 100% yet but this seemed to be the best by far."

Think about it. East gets in and if he hold the ♦K and is tempted to lead away from that, the other diamond goes on the ♠Q. Playing a spade or a club (if possible) doesn't work either, and a heart will give away the queen. Muller's great play was rewarded by one off and Tiholov by 12 IMPs.

Harris won the first set 55 - 12 IMPS and Zhao never got close in the second, losing 26 - 42 and 38.1 - 97.

Sometimes it just isn't your day.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Verhees	Root	v. Prooijen	Igoe
	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

North's 1NT showed 14-16. It would not have been the choice by all with 5 good hearts and a small doubleton spade, but here it got his side to the better spot.

East led the ♠K to see dummy and now made the natural switch to the ♣T. Declarer won with the jack and ran the ♥7, cashed two more hearts ending in his hand and led a spade towards the queen. East won, exited with the ♣Q and with no spade/diamond squeeze, declarer gave up a spade trick at the end for +630.



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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!



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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♣
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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

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.

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