

# The minor ALT INVITATIONAL III

OCTOBER 12-16 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

## Black's Friday

5 IMPs in total was all team Black needed to win both their semifinal and final yesterday.

First victim was Gillis in a low-scoring second set, while Harris defeated Korczyn in a bloodier battle, but Harris was 1.1 imp short of repeating their victory from the last Minor Alt.

Captain Black had the following comment after his team's first Alt-victory:

"Obviously thrilled to win such an exciting match - just very happy for my guys who are getting used to their new partners."

We also got a much appreciated email from a Mike:

"Absolutely great to see the matches you are letting us see. Lockdown made easier for us!"

We are happy when we make other people happy. See you on Monday for the Alt Mixed!



Andrew Black celebrating his Alt victory Saturday morning



Results



NETBRIDGE

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# Results

## SEMIFINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <b>BLACK</b>	10.1	<u>47</u>	57.1	<u>16</u>	73.1
 <b>GILLIS</b>		<u>59</u>	59	<u>10</u>	69

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <b>HARRIS</b>	6.1	<u>35</u>	41.1	<u>40</u>	81.1
 <b>KORCZYN</b>		<u>28</u>	28	<u>22</u>	50

## FINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <b>BLACK</b>	0.1	<u>40</u>	40.1	<u>30</u>	70.1
 <b>HARRIS</b>		<u>30</u>	30	<u>39</u>	69

## Future Alt Tournaments

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
7 - 11 December 2020	Alt Mixed VI
14 - 18 December 2020	TampAlt – Main event (32 world class teams)
19 - 21 December 2020	Alt supports CAT - Felines to the rescue (all entry fees go to the CAT Legal Defense Fund)

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# Restricted Choice

## Semifinals

By Mark Horton



With only two matches to choose from I went with the closest. For those of you with short memories Gillis started the day with a commanding lead of 1.9 IMPs.

While we are waiting for the deals to appear the au pair remarked about this deal which adorned the front cover of Bulletin 4:

### Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

She was mainly interested in the bidding at the two tables where the auction was 1♠-Pass-1NT-All Pass. She wanted to know why West hadn't bid 3NT. Before I could suggest that it would very speculative, she went on say that partner would then bid 4♠ as a transfer to clubs when West could end proceedings with 5♣.

She also mentioned that if East opens 2NT promising a pre-empt in clubs or a game forcing hand with clubs (which happened at one table) then there is a lot be said for playing a response of 4♣ as RKCB.

Coincidentally the first deal of interest in the second session contained an analogous point:

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

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



Andrew McIntosh

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Saelensminde	Paske	Gillis	McIntosh
—	—	—	Pass
4♠	5♣	All Pass	Pass

3♠ was perhaps a little pushy, as the clubs are not quite solid, and even if partner has a spade stopper you need a little more than that. Being able to bid 4♣ to ask for key cards would be nice, but does not allow for the occasions when South wants to play there.

East led the ♠5 but there were only two tricks for the defence, +400.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	Brekka	Gold	Brogeland
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	3♠*	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

3♠ Looking for a spade stopper

West led the ♦A and then cashed the ♠A for 10 effortless IMPs and the lead.

There followed a series of deals where occasionally overbidding might have brought in a lot of points - for example playing 6♥ with ♠4 ♥AKQ1043 ♦AJ42 ♣A2 opposite ♠J109863 ♥862 ♦KQ ♣Q7 where hearts were 2-2, so even a club lead through the queen could not stop 12 tricks, or bidding 4♠ with ♠964 ♥Q8 ♦98 ♣J98752 facing ♠AKQ5 ♥53 ♦AK432 ♣A3 where spades and diamonds were 3-3.



David Gold  
Photo: Peter Hasenson

### Board 13. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Saelensminde	Paske	Gillis	McIntosh
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♠*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

2♠ Game forcing  
5♣ Exclusion Blackwood  
5NT 2 keys +♠Q

## Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	Brekka	Gold	Brogeland
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4♥*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
6♦	Dble*	Pass	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

3♦ Could be weaker than usual in high cards

4♥ RKCB

5♦ 2 keys +♦Q

Dble Lightner

If North had passed over 6♦ one suspects South would have led the ♥A. When you see that dummy I think you are likely to switch to a spade.

### Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

## Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Saelensminde	Paske	Gillis	McIntosh
1♣	1♠	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			



Geir Brekka  
Photo: Peter Hasenson

Call me old-fashioned, but what sort of hand does East want before he redoubles?

South led the ♠J but declarer was not hard pressed to take 11 tricks for +990. The au pair reckons +1480 is better.

## Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	Brekka	Gold	Brogeland
1♣*	1♠	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Only +650 here, but enough, as Black won the set 16-10 and the match 73.1-69.

62 IMPs changed hands in the other match, where Harris defeated Korczyn 81.1-50.

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# Swings and Roundabouts of Altrageous Bridge



By Martin Cantor

After the first half of the all English final, Black led Harris by 10.1 IMPs.

In the second half the match swung back and forth as the lead changed sides repeatedly: Black's score changing from (ignoring the 0.1 carryover) +10 to +9; then -2; +4; -10; -8; +3; and then came board 10.

## Board 10. E / All

<p>♠ 3</p> <p>♥ AKQJ63</p> <p>♦ Q3</p> <p>♣ AJ73</p>	<p>♠ QJT987</p> <p>♥ 9</p> <p>♦ K765</p> <p>♣ Q6</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	<p>♠ K64</p> <p>♥ 742</p> <p>♦ JT42</p> <p>♣ K92</p>
N						
W     E						
S						
	<p>♠ A52</p> <p>♥ T85</p> <p>♦ A98</p> <p>♣ T854</p>					

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Root	Paske	Igoe	McIntosh
—	—	Pass	Pass
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

Steve Root might have had a lot less for his 4♥ bid, but facing a passed partner 4♠ could perhaps be described as bearing the hallmark of youthful exuberance.

You have eight winners and four pretty inevitable losers, so are you going one down or two?

Hearts were led and continued, ruffed, and trumps were cleared. When a club was led off dummy Root rose with the ace to play another heart, reducing declarer to a single trump. Now a diamond went to dummy's 8 and West's queen, who played his last heart, squeezing his partner who had to bare his ♣K. Declarer played a diamond towards dummy, Igoe splitting his honours (playing low is no better) and Paske could now have got out for one off by exiting a club to endplay East in diamonds. However, the position was not clear so he cashed out for -500.

Which might be OK since 4♥ has play and was the contract in the other room.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	Trendafilov	Hult	Isporski
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	2♠	Pass	3♠
4♥	All Pass		

North led top spades and declarer ruffed the second, drew two rounds of trumps and played a diamond to the ten and ace. Another spade was ruffed, the ♦Q was taken by the king and a third round of diamonds was won by dummy's jack. The last trump was drawn and the final

trump played to gather more information on the distribution.

If declarer now drops the ♣Q offside he makes, but with a good inferential count he went with the odds by finessing. One off, 12 IMPs to Harris, now back in the lead by 9.

The next board had lots of interest too.

**Board 11. S / None**

<p>♠ 9 7 2 ♥ 9 2 ♦ 9 8 6 ♣ A 9 8 5 3</p>	<p>♠ A 8 6 5 3 ♥ T 8 5 4 ♦ J 2 ♣ 7 6</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ K Q J 4 ♥ A Q 6 ♦ A K Q 4 ♣ J 2</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											
<p>♠ T ♥ K J 7 3 ♦ T 7 5 3 ♣ K Q T 4</p>												

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	Trendafilov	Hult	Isporski
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Isporski led the ♣Q to the 3, 7 and 2. With no way to know whether partner had a second club, he had to find a switch. When he chose the ♥3 the hand was as good as over when a top spade at trick 3 dropped South's 10 for 3 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and a club.



Steve Root  
Photo: Peter Hasenson

In practice he ended with ten tricks, and could have made eleven after Trendafilov, when in with the ♠A, played the eight of hearts back, turning Hult's ♥6 into a threat against South's KJ.

Who could tell, in this tight match, whether the additional overtrick might make a difference?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Root	Paske	Igoe	McIntosh
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

- 2♣ strong
- 2♦ relay
- 2♥ ♥ or 22-23
- 2♠ most hands

Here too South led a top club, but then found the more challenging switch of a low diamond.





Thomas Paske  
Photo: EBL

Just 1 IMP to Black, now down by 8 with 5 boards to go. The next three were flat, and on the penultimate Harris scored 1 to restore the 9 point lead as we came to the last board.

**Board 16. W / EW**

	♠ A Q J 2										
	♥ 7 5 2										
	♦ 7 3										
	♣ K 9 8 5										
♠ 9 8	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K T 7 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ A K 9 6		♥ J T 8									
♦ A Q T 6		♦ J 9 8 2									
♣ 6 3 2		♣ A Q									
	♠ 6 5 3										
	♥ Q 4 3										
	♦ K 5 4										
	♣ J T 7 4										

We can all see eight tricks, and the old saying is that where there are eight there will be nine. And so it proved to be.

The ♠Q was ducked, then the ♠9 was taken by the ace. In essence South is always going to be endplayed in one or other suit. A heart through declarer to South's jack left him with a choice of unpalatable options. In practice he chose the ♣Q, and ducking this would have left him stuck, but taking it and cashing diamond and spade winners did just as well, with McIntosh either giving up the fourth diamond, discarding his club to be endplayed in diamonds to lead into the heart tenace or, his actual choice, baring the ♥K, which Igoe duly dropped to make his contract.

The open room was slightly ahead of the closed, and this was the auction there.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Root	Paske	Igoe	McIntosh
1♣*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
1♠*	Pass	1NT	All Pass

- 1♣ 1+
- 1♥ ♠s
- 1♠ fewer than 4 ♠s

As you can see, all the honours sit well for declarer, and the tens, nines and eights make for a lot of tricks - McIntosh led a small club and Igoe made eleven of them. Would EW in the other room bid the game?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	Trendafilov	Hult	Isporski
1♦	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass*
Pass	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

660-210 = 450 = 10 IMPs, so at the last gasp Black had won by 1 IMP - plus of course their 0.1 carryover. Congratulations to them, also to the Harris team who came so close.

### Pass not penalties

I don't know whether Trendafilov's feather-light double impeded or impelled East-West, but they got to the right spot, and when Isporski led the jack of clubs Hult took the same eleven tricks.

Work commitments mean I haven't been able to see as much of this Alt tournament as I usually manage, or as I'd have liked. But what I've seen of the semi-final and final was as exciting as any bridge for a while, so thanks to the Alt organisers, and players, for the entertainment.

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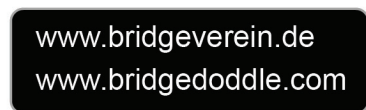
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## Partnership building, testing agreements

dealer South vulnerability None

<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
♠ Q 10	♠ A K 7 6 5 4 3 2
♥ 3	♥ Q 10
♦ A Q 9 6 2	♦ -
♣ J 9 6 4 2	♣ A K Q

10 6♣	7 6♣	5 5♠ 5♣ 4♣	3 7♠ 7♣
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<b>West</b> Tobias	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b> Marina72	<b>South</b>
—	—	—	2♥
Pass	4♥	5♠	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

5♠ = asking for heart control  
 6♣ = got it

dealer South vulnerability East-West

<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
♠ J 9 6	♠ Q 10 5 3
♥ K Q J 10	♥ A 6
♦ A 2	♦ K 9
♣ A 6 5 2	♣ Q J 10 4 3

10 4NT 3NT	6 5NT 4♣ 4♥	5 4♣ 3♣ 3♥
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<b>West</b> Tobias	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b> Marina72	<b>South</b>
—	—	—	2♦
X	3♦	4♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

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

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- 1♥/1♠ - 2NT (fit);
- 4♣: Fit and slamgoing

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