

# THE ALT MIXED TEAMS

AUGUST 24 - 28, 2020



WORLD CLASS ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS

## From Magic to Muggle

You cannot look away for a match without losing track of the leaderboard. Yesterday's leaders team Byrnes have dropped to 3rd place, while British Barnsley with Apricots have initiated a sprint just before the goal line, and they look hard to catch with more than a 10 VP-lead ahead of Byrnes.

Magic Creatures begin to look more and more like muggles, having dropped to 6th place and need to make sure not too many teams fly past them in the last match of today.

The excitement is intact, and for that we are thankful. We have many happy 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 August 27

10:00 EDT/16:00 CET Match 10 (14 boards)

14:00 EDT/20:00 CET Quarterfinal

(28 boards, 2 x 14)

Link to results

[Alt Mixed Results](#)

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

[Alt.bridgeresults.org](http://Alt.bridgeresults.org)



# The Suicide One-Card Squeeze

By David Burn



*David Burn is a faithful commentator of the Alt Events and has given us permission to repost this article.*

This deal from the Alt Mixed Teams nearly featured a play I have not previously encountered.

**Dealer West. All Vul.**

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lund Madsen	Michielsen	Bakkeren	Cullin
1♣	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	3♥	Dble	All Pass

East-West judged well to pass out 3♥ doubled - at the other table the contract was 3NT by West, which failed when the spades did not produce four tricks. You can follow the play by clicking the Next button.

West started with a trump lead, thoughtfully choosing the seven (as it happens a high trump would not have been fatal, but the low one was good play). Declarer won the queen with the ace and played his club to the ten and East's jack. East returned the queen of spades, ducked to dummy's king, and declarer led a diamond - nine, jack, king. West played a second trump, the king was played from the table and East... discarded a club.

At first this didn't seem to matter, but a horrible thought struck me. A keen student of Adventures in Card Play, I knew all about one-card squeezes, and West was going to become the victim of just such an ending.

Club ruff, ace of diamonds, diamond ruff, club ruff and the fourth round of diamonds would squeeze West in the ace of clubs. She couldn't pitch it, because then dummy's last club would be a winner, and she couldn't keep it, because then declarer could ruff the last club with his last trump for his ninth trick.

Alas, declarer went after diamond ruffs before club ruffs and went down one anyway. So the world will have to wait a while longer for the first suicide one-card squeeze.

But I would have missed this altogether had the Alt people not decided to show live vugraph and damn the cheats. Good for them, and good for all the great players taking part.

# Leaderboard & Draw

## Results Round 7

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	<a href="#">BYRNES</a>	<a href="#">GRAND SUD</a>	14	<a href="#">12</a>	<a href="#">23</a>			6.77	13.23
2	<a href="#">MAGIC CREATURES</a>	<a href="#">APRICOTS</a>	14	<a href="#">25</a>	<a href="#">46</a>			4.54	15.46
3	<a href="#">DONNER</a>	<a href="#">NEW ENGLANDERS</a>	14	<a href="#">12</a>	<a href="#">60</a>			0.72	19.28
4	<a href="#">BARNSELEY</a>	<a href="#">NETHERLANDS MIXED</a>	14	<a href="#">58</a>	<a href="#">22</a>			17.91	2.09
5	<a href="#">RUBENSTEIN</a>	<a href="#">PENFOLD</a>	14	<a href="#">10</a>	<a href="#">65</a>			0.09	19.91
6	<a href="#">ZORLU</a>	<a href="#">SWEDEN MIXED</a>	14	<a href="#">68</a>	<a href="#">51</a>			14.64	5.36
7	<a href="#">BUQQY</a>	<a href="#">VEGAS STRONG</a>	14	<a href="#">27</a>	<a href="#">9</a>			14.85	5.15

## Results Round 8

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	<a href="#">BYRNES</a>	<a href="#">BARNSELEY</a>	14	<a href="#">32</a>	<a href="#">28</a>			11.28	8.72
2	<a href="#">GRAND SUD</a>	<a href="#">ZORLU</a>	14	<a href="#">21</a>	<a href="#">31</a>			7.03	12.97
3	<a href="#">MAGIC CREATURES</a>	<a href="#">BUQQY</a>	14	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">78</a>			0.00	20.00
4	<a href="#">APRICOTS</a>	<a href="#">DONNER</a>	14	<a href="#">16</a>	<a href="#">7</a>			12.71	7.29
5	<a href="#">NEW ENGLANDERS</a>	<a href="#">NETHERLANDS MIXED</a>	14	<a href="#">21</a>	<a href="#">18</a>			10.97	9.03
6	<a href="#">PENFOLD</a>	<a href="#">VEGAS STRONG</a>	14	<a href="#">24</a>	<a href="#">33</a>			7.29	12.71
7	<a href="#">RUBENSTEIN</a>	<a href="#">SWEDEN MIXED</a>	14	<a href="#">52</a>	<a href="#">11</a>			18.53	1.47

## Results Round 9

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team	Brd	IMPs		Adj		VPs	
				Home	Visit	Home	Visit	Home	Visit
1	<a href="#">BYRNES</a>	<a href="#">APRICOTS</a>	14	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">62</a>			0.09	19.91
2	<a href="#">BARNSELEY</a>	<a href="#">GRAND SUD</a>	14	<a href="#">47</a>	<a href="#">15</a>			17.34	2.66
3	<a href="#">NEW ENGLANDERS</a>	<a href="#">ZORLU</a>	14	<a href="#">23</a>	<a href="#">47</a>			3.97	16.03
4	<a href="#">MAGIC CREATURES</a>	<a href="#">PENFOLD</a>	14	<a href="#">24</a>	<a href="#">11</a>			13.72	6.28
5	<a href="#">BUQQY</a>	<a href="#">DONNER</a>	14	<a href="#">14</a>	<a href="#">47</a>			2.51	17.49
6	<a href="#">RUBENSTEIN</a>	<a href="#">VEGAS STRONG</a>	14	<a href="#">6</a>	<a href="#">36</a>			2.96	17.04
7	<a href="#">NETHERLANDS MIXED</a>	<a href="#">SWEDEN MIXED</a>	14	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">14</a>			7.84	12.16

Ranking after round 9		
rk	team	VPs
1	<a href="#">BARNSELEY</a>	114.00
2	<a href="#">APRICOTS</a>	112.71
3	<a href="#">BYRNES</a>	101.71
4	<a href="#">DONNER</a>	99.26
5	<a href="#">GRAND SUD</a>	97.37
6	<a href="#">MAGIC CREATURES</a>	96.74
7	<a href="#">ZORLU</a>	95.96
8	<a href="#">NEW ENGLANDERS</a>	88.16
9	<a href="#">BUQQY</a>	85.42
10	<a href="#">PENFOLD</a>	81.63
11	<a href="#">VEGAS STRONG</a>	78.50
12	<a href="#">RUBENSTEIN</a>	78.48
13	<a href="#">NETHERLANDS MIXED</a>	76.41
14	<a href="#">SWEDEN MIXED</a>	53.65

## Draw Round 10

Link to results

[Alt Mixed Results](#)

Link to previous and future Alts & bulletins

[Alt.bridgeresults.org](http://Alt.bridgeresults.org)

Tbl	Home Team	Visiting Team
1	<a href="#">BARNSELEY</a>	<a href="#">PENFOLD</a>
2	<a href="#">APRICOTS</a>	<a href="#">VEGAS STRONG</a>
3	<a href="#">BYRNES</a>	<a href="#">DONNER</a>
4	<a href="#">GRAND SUD</a>	<a href="#">NETHERLANDS MIXED</a>
5	<a href="#">MAGIC CREATURES</a>	<a href="#">SWEDEN MIXED</a>
6	<a href="#">ZORLU</a>	<a href="#">BUQQY</a>
7	<a href="#">NEW ENGLANDERS</a>	<a href="#">RUBENSTEIN</a>

# French Style

by Christina Lund Madsen



We have our share of French in this event and for the ones unfamiliar with French style, I will make a short introduction: The French are solid bidders and skilled cardplayers - and they are all "standard".

Pierre, with the very French surname Schmidt, one of our loyal commentators, sent me this board as an example of French style. We leave the word to Pierre:

## Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Marc Mus	Zochowska	C. Mus
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

"Catherine Mus was playing 4♠. Lorenzini (West, who had opened 1♦) led a trump, and the play went diamond to the 10 and king and a trump return from Lorenzini.

Then, because Lorenzini did not lead a high club, Catherine Mus played West to hold the ♥AQ with something like :

♠xxx ♥AQx ♦K9xx ♣KJx

She cashed the ♣A and ruffed a club, cashed the ♦AQ and ruffed a diamond in dummy with the ♠A, ruffed a third club and cashed the last spade, and with 3 cards left, she exited from her hand with the ♥K.

Very well played, but one down since East had an entry on the ♥Q to cash a club. Sometimes it's not your day..."

I had my own French encounter and let's just say it was not a success for one of the parties.

But since it is always more fun to dwell in other people's disasters, let us look at some of the other tables first:

## Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

In the top match at the time between Magic Creatures and Byrnes, Max Rotaru did not win an award for macho bid of the year:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Rotaru	Willenken	S. Rimstedt	Katz
		1♦	Dble
Rdbl	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♦	All Pass		

A solid +420. The French would salute.

At the other table Yaniv Zack (have you noticed how in mixed it is always the male part's fault?) had the chance to gain 980 or go for -300. He chose the latter.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Noga Tal	A. Grossack	Zack	D. Byrnes
		1♦	Dble
1♥	3♠	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Tricky. It looks like a lightner double and you do have 4-card support in your partner's suit. However you get to be declarer if you pass and partner if you run to 6♥.

Byrnes duly led a low heart, Grossack returned a club to the ace and another heart ruff saw the contract down 2, -300. 12 IMPS to Byrnes.

In the match between Donner and Netherlands Mixed it was close to a tie. Larsson - Helgemo reached 6♥ with steady hands. At the other table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Yael	Rimstedt	Vergoed	Donner
		1♦	Dble
1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
6♦	Dble	6♥	Dble
All Pass			

+1210 for a 6 IMP loss to Donner.

The same thing happened in Barnsley-Sweden Mixed, when the Swedish North-South pair also could not keep their fingers off the double.

After having mocked the others, here is my confession. I'm not one bid better. However I played against the French.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Marc Mus	Bakkeren	C. Mus	Lund Madsen
		1♦	Dble
1♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
6♦	Dble	6♥	Dble
Rdbl!	6♠	Dble	All Pass

The auction went precisely as at the other tables, until Monsieur Mus looked at the Blonde sitting next to him and thought "She looks naive enough to double with ♥Qxxx and a side ace". And right he was.

I was about to run to 6♠ as quickly as I could, but before I got the chance, my partner had already escaped. Christina's law of total IMPS: When a French guy redoubles, you run!

A slightly undeserved +800 only, however our teammates helped reward the French a deserved 9 IMPS by scoring +420 in 5 brave diamonds, so Max did not feel lonely.



# The General's Caviar

By Mark Horton



An appointment with the dentist meant that following Round 7 was impossible, so I resolved to look for something interesting in the one that followed. Martin Cantor was following the same match and found three exciting game contracts which left me with these offerings. As Hamlet might have remarked, 'they may not please the million, but will be caviar to the general'.

## Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

## Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Woodcock	Byrnes	Draper	Rotaru
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	Dble*	2♥	All Pass

North led her club and the defenders took the first three tricks, but declarer could win the diamond switch with dummy's ace, draw trumps ending in dummy and score the ♣10 for +110.

## Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kranyak	Nettleton	Wolpert	Hydes
—	—	—	1♣*
1♥	Dble*	2♦*	2♠
3♥	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣  
Dble4+♠  
2♦ Good heart raise

No doubt envisaging that East held at most a doubleton spade West went on, but with 2♠ likely to make it cost very little. North led her club and South won with the king and returned the eight, North ruffing and switching to the ♠3, South's nine being a more than useful card. Declarer quickly claimed eight tricks to lose 5 IMPs.

## Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

## Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Woodcock	Byrnes	Draper	Rotaru
1♠	Dble	3♠*	Dble
All Pass			

### 3♠ Weak

North led the ♦Q and when it held (South playing the ♦J) she switched to the ♥2. South took the ace and returned the ♥3 which saw declarer win with the king, cash the ♦A, ruff a diamond, play a spade to the ace, cross back to dummy with the ♠Q and play a heart, claiming nine tricks and +530.

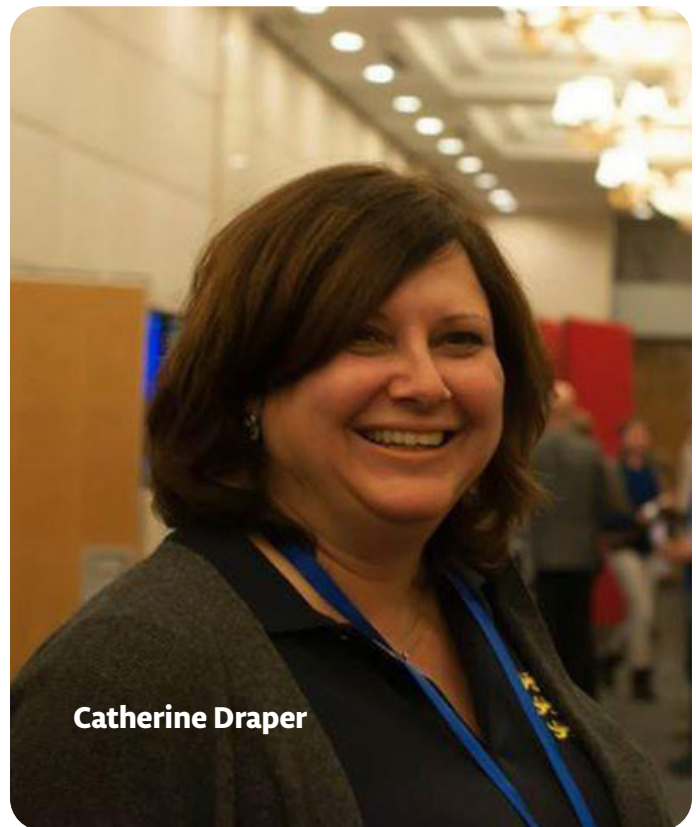
When you clearly hold the balance of power it can be a good idea to lead trumps, aiming to prevent declarer scoring tricks via a cross-ruff. 3♠ can be defeated, but North has to lead the ♠K. It is easy to see that after that South will be able to play two more rounds of trumps in short order when declarer cannot arrive at more than eight tricks.

If North switches to the ♠K at trick two declarer wins, cashes the ♦A, ruffs a diamond and plays a heart. Assuming South ducks declarer wins with the king, and now needs to find the play of exiting with a low heart.

## Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kranyak	Nettleton	Wolpert	Hydes
1♠	Dble	3♠*	All Pass

### 3♠ Weak



Catherine Draper

North led the ♥8 and declarer emerged with ten tricks but lost 8 IMPs.

When the last board hit the table Barnsley led by 2 IMPs.

### Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

♠ J 7  
♥ A 9 7 5  
♦ K J 5 3 2  
♣ K 7

♠ 9 6 4  
♥ J 2  
♦ 9 8 4  
♣ J 9 8 6 2

♠ 10 8  
♥ K Q 10 8 4 3  
♦ A 6  
♣ Q 10 5

Andrew Woodcock



declarer playing a diamond to set up the queen and subsequently scoring two clubs tricks for +450.

### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kranyak	Nettleton	Wolpert	Hydes
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

When I was a lad North's 3♠ would have been a try for game with a six-card suit, but non-forcing. It is possible to play it as forcing, but if you haven't discussed it.... It was an unfortunate way to lose 6 IMPs that gave Byrnes a narrow win.

### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Woodcock	Byrnes	Draper	Rotaru
—	—	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Dble	4♠	All Pass	

### 3♣ Game forcing

The precise meaning of 3♦ had not been discussed. Had North been aware that it showed a diamond stopper 3NT would have been an alternative to 4♠ (it was only reached by Parker-Rubinstein, who bid 1♥-1♠-2♥-3♣-3NT, declarer collecting eleven tricks after a low diamond lead).

East led the ♦9 and declarer put up dummy's ace, drew trumps and played a heart for the two and king and when West ducked it cost the defenders a trick,





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# Shared Features

By Martin Cantor



In the round 8 top of the table clash between Byrnes and Barnsley three boards shared several similarities.

## Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Woodcock	Byrnes	Draper	Rotaru
—	—	1♥	1NT
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Byrnes led the ♥6 to her partner's ace. We can all see that if he now cashes the diamond ace, the contract is cold off with two trump tricks to come. But of course he couldn't see that, hoping for a ruff, then his ace, and another hoped for trump trick.

Declarer's hopes were briefly raised that he might get all his diamonds away on clubs and hearts, but it wasn't to be when North could ruff the third heart with a small trump. One off.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kranyak	Nettleton	Wolpert	Hydes
—	—	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♥	All Pass

2♥ Kokish 2♠ forced 3♣ 6+ hearts

As is often the case, especially with two suiters, opening at the two level deprives you of much needed bidding space. Still, the contract is no worse than the 4♠ in the other room with two cashing aces and two trumps to lose. But, unlike in the other room, failing to take an ace here proved fatal. Hydes led the ♣J, allowing Wolpert to win and ruff a small club to set that suit up. When she led the ♠J off the table Nettleton had a difficult early decision, and she took the wrong view when she ducked. Now declarer could attack trumps and make ten tricks for 620 and 12 IMPs.

## Board 7. S / All

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



In the other room Kranyak looked at his natural trump trick and ignored received bridge wisdom when he chose to lead a small club rather than his singleton diamond. Hydes ducked, so Wolpert won and played a trump. When declarer threw diamonds on his trump leads he lost any chance of a defensive error letting the contract through. Two spades, a club and a trump for the defence meant one down and a second 12 IMPs to Byrnes in consecutive boards.

Two boards later the tables were turned:

### Board 9. N / EW

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Woodcock	Byrnes	Draper	Rotaru
Kranyak	Nettleton	Wolpert	Hydes
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

♠ K  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ KT8652  
 ♣ QT874

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q762  
 ♥ Q98542  
 ♦ Q  
 ♣ AK

♠ T98  
 ♥ AK7  
 ♦ J74  
 ♣ J632

♠ AJ543  
 ♥ JT3  
 ♦ A93  
 ♣ 95

In the open room Woodcock led his singleton diamond to the jack, queen and king. Declarer drew the three top trumps discarding clubs and played a diamond to the ace (spade discard from West).

When he then ruffed a diamond, West fell from grace by over-ruffing, giving declarer the tempo he needed to set up and reach a long diamond for a spade discard and ten tricks.

## Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Woodcock	Byrnes	Draper	Rotaru
—	2♦*	Pass	2♠
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

2♦ weak





**Max Rotaru**

Rotaru hopped up with the ace, cashed his diamond ace, but that was the end for the defence, ten tricks for declarer.

### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Kranyak	Nettleton	Wolpert	Hydes
—	3♦	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

With less information from the auction Nettleton led a club. Kranyak won perforce, played the ace and king of hearts, then the ♠T. Hydes naturally ducked, and in view of North's pre-emptive opening Kranyak played South for both top spades and put his queen up. When that lost his claim for one down followed shortly afterwards.

This time the 12 IMPs went to Barnsley, but Byrnes won a tight match 32-28, or 11.28 - 8.72. So there you have it; six major suit game contracts, each of them a trick short on best defence and play, each of them making at one table, down at the other, each of them worth 12 IMPs.

Byrnes led the singleton king of her partner's suit, on which he played the 3.

Did she take this as suit preference for clubs? Should Rotaru have played a higher spade? Would you have?

Whatever the rights and wrongs, Byrnes played a club next so Woodcock could win, draw two rounds of trumps with the queen and king to play a spade for the marked finesse.

## Future Alt Tournaments

Next week we continue with our Minor Alt events. Eight world class teams only. The field is ready and filled with some of the greatest players and personalities of the bridge world.

We are back with the Alt Mixed Teams in October, where we have two events:

5 - 9 October 2020	Alt Mixed IV
19 - 23 October 2020	Alt Mixed V

Read more and apply for invitation via [alt.bridgeresults.org](http://alt.bridgeresults.org)



# Victim of the Day

## Gary Donner

by Christina Lund Madsen



*Please tell us your age, where you live, occupation, professional background.*

- I am 67, live in South Carolina and have a second home in NYC. I am a retired partner in a consulting and software company. My professional background is just that, consulting and software. All my jobs since school have been in those fields.

*Where have you been hiding during corona?*

- I have been in my own little bubble at home in South Carolina. My wife and I have the two best pandemic hobbies, bridge (for me only) and golf for both of us. We can do both of those without trouble during the pandemic.

*What are your interests outside of bridge?*

- Golf, travel and in particular travel to see whales and other ocean creatures. Our two best friends and us have been lucky that we “discovered” Patrick Dykstra who conducts whale trips to various parts of the world and we have done as many as we have had time for. On all his trips we get to spend hours and hours swimming with whales and other creatures.

*How did you become absorbed by the bridge world?*

- I played one year in high school and pretty much didn't play again for 30 years. Then when I got separated from my first wife, I was in an elevator in the building I lived in with 3 women, and they asked me if I played bridge and could be a fourth. I said yes. Never saw them again but started playing. I always went to tournaments but was not really serious, not a student of the game. As our business became more established I had more time

and started to play more and at some point realized to get good I needed to play with pros who would see the mistakes that I made but didn't even see. I have been absorbed since.

*What has surprised you the most?*

- In bridge, I would say how many mistakes the best players in the world make. Of course their mistakes are better than mine. I am always reminded of something John Wooden, probably the greatest American college basketball coach, said: “The team that makes the most mistakes usually wins”.

I think in bridge this is true, one is always being tested and the best players are very aggressive (especially after they see how I defend a hand). So they make lots of mistakes which cost them a little in order to have a few hands where they gain a lot.

*Which is your best bridge memory so far?*

- By far my best memory is the 2019 USBF mixed trials where we made it to the finals of the bracket to be USA2. Sadly we lost but we had a great team and all had a lot of fun. And we were always the underdogs. But it proved to me that there was hope for me in this crazy game.

*You are known to have many women on your teams, also in open events. Is that deliberate, and if so, what are your reasons?*

- I have always liked women. My best friend, besides my wife, is a woman. In business I always worked with women too. And if you look at women I play or team with now, they are not amongst the best women in the world, they are amongst the best bridge players in the world.

*What are your dreams and ambitions within bridge?*

- I would like to become a grand life master. I need lots more points and obviously to win a national event. Getting up there in years, I have to say the pandemic has not helped me reach this goal.

*If Corona disappeared overnight, what is the first thing you would do?*

- Go somewhere to swim with whales. Where would depend on the season.



**Gary Donner (to the right)**

*What were you like as a child?*

- I was a very slow developer. In fact I did not learn how to read until the end of 2nd grade (so I was 8 1/2 years old). I also had really bad hand/eye coordination. And I kept pretty much to myself. My parents were very worried about me. Once I learned how to read though I would read everything. I have always been a loner though and had very few friends but the ones I have are very close to me. I never applied myself in school but have always dived into things that interested me. Most of this is still true today.

*By which three words would your wife describe you?*

- Stubborn, relentless and creative (business wise)

*If you could change something about your past, what would it be?*

- Between the ages of 25 and 50 I almost never worked out. I did not take very good care of myself. I would be far healthier today if I had done a better job of that.

*Adam Grossack's question for you: If your wife got into bridge and hired a bridge professional, who would you recommend?*

- Irene is incredibly smart but impatient. She would do best with an great teacher but someone who is not going to sugarcoat that. Either Cecilia or Sandra Rimstedt fit that description perfectly.

*Who would you partner, kill, kiss between Eric Rodwell, Chris Willenken and Cecilia Rimstedt?*

- Well, I don't want to give up Cecilia as a partner. Eric is good for giving you major complicated system changes within the last 48 hours of playing with him. I think that qualifies as grounds for murder. So I guess I am kissing Chris. Maybe I would like it (Isn't there a Katie Perry song like that?).

*Who should be the next victim in the bulletin? Tell us something you would like to know about this person.*

- Chris Willenken. He is obviously a great player. He also teaches and has a business career. I would like to know with all that on his plate, what he does to get better as a world class bridge player. It is something I would ask anybody, how do they know what they need to focus on to improve and what are they doing to accomplish that.





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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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- 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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