MONTREALT • BULLETIN 4 • Friday August 7 • editor: Christina Lund Madsen clm@christina-bridge.com



## online bridge events organized by bid72 & netbridge.online

## It's Alt or Nothing

After courageous fights, we are down to our last four survivors. Gupta survived an encounter with the brave team Macavity, who entered the MontreAlt through the qualification event, Koeppel turned off the lights for Zhao, Black did not survive his encounter with the Red Devils, and their countrymen Barnsley lost to the Vikings from Swelce.

This is the last day of play, which means we said goodbyue to many participants yesterday. We thank you for your good spirit and sportsmanship and hope to welcome you back. In this bulletin you can see the future Alt Events, as you can on our website alt.bridgeresults.org.

In this bulletin we also bring a rare, personal interview with Alfredo Versace (a man worth waiting for). I want to thank all of you who take part in these interviews - you bring the World of Bridge closer together.

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 August 7 10:00 EDT/16:00 CET - Semifinal (28 boards) 14:30 EDT/20:30 CET - Final (32 boards)





## **Final Swiss Standings**

	Ranking after round 10				
rk	team	VPs			
1	GUPTA	137.15			
2	BARNSLEY	131.49			
3	BLACK	123.92			
4		122.49			
5		120.53			
6	ZHAO	114.63			
7		112.97			
8		112.49			
9	FEARLESS	108.90			
10	BRIDGE TOO FAR	107.27			
11		107.01			
12	RIPPEY	106.85			
13	DONNER	106.58			
14	GRAND SUD	106.58			
15	EDMONDS	104.19			
16	<mark>.◆</mark> TBD	102.91			

## All results on **Bridgeresults.org**

17	HUNGARY - GALIM	101.79
18		97.81
19		96.41
20	POTTER	96.31
21		95.19
22		92.93
23		92.64
24		92.07
25	GILLIS	91.14
26	BYRNES	89.57
27		84.91
28		79.69
29		77.32
30		73.44
31	SELIGMAN	70.33
32		42.49

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## Knockouts

### QUARTERFINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
GUPTA	10.1	<u>48</u>	58.1	<u>33</u>	91.1
		<u>26</u>	26	28	54

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
	1.1	<u>25</u>	26.1	<u>51</u>	77.1
ZHAO		20	20	<u>29</u>	49

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
BLACK	3.1	<u>28</u>	31.1	<u>23</u>	54.1
		<u>34</u>	34	<u>38</u>	72

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
BARNSLEY	6.1	<u>18</u>	24.1	<u>14</u>	38.1
		<u>35</u>	35	27	62

Semifinals				
	c/o			
GUPTA	0.1			
KOEPPEL				
RED DEVIL	S			
SWEICE	0.1			

## For upcoming Alt Events see

## ALT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG

## **Hobson's Choice**

As the last qualifying round got under way I opted for a match which might determine who took the eighth place, Black vs. Macavity.

I could easily have written about Board 1, a misdefence in one room and a dubious opening bid in the other, but as one of the contracts was 1NT I did not want to risk incurring the wrath of David Bird and kept my powder dry in the hope of something better. However, we should note that Macavity picked up 6 IMPs.

#### Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dewit	McIntosh	Vandewiele	King
_	_	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	2 • *	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3 • *	Pass
3♥*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣ 1♥ 4+♠ 2♦ Reverse or 6+♣, 2♠, 15-17 2♥ Relay 3♦ Reverse 3♥ Fourth suit



#### By Mark Horton

South led the ♥2 and declarer put in dummy's ten. When that held he was in clover and finished with 10 tricks, +430.

#### Closed Room

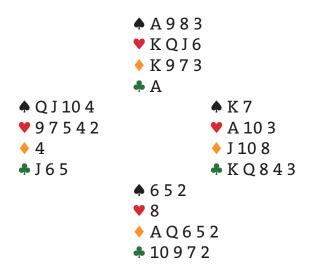
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	van Bijsterveldt	Gold	Schols
_	_	1♣*	Pass
1♥*	Pass	2 🔶	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3 🔶	Pass
4	Pass	5♠*	Dble
Pass*	Pass	6♦	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣ 1♥ Transfer 2♥ Fourth suit
5♠ Exclusion Blackwood Pass 1 key card



South led the ♥J and declarer won in dummy and played three rounds of clubs, ruffing with dummy's ten. He then played on trumps, +920 and 10 IMPs for Black. Black then had the better of some minor exchanges and with four deals remaining they led 27-20.

#### Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.



### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dewit	McIntosh	Vandewiele	King
_	_	_	Pass
Pass	1 • *	Pass	3 🔶 *
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1 Natural or 2+ 18-19 balanced
- 3 Mixed Raise

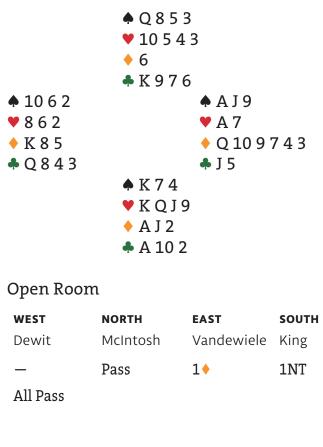
East led the ♣3 and when declarer played dummy's nine West fell from grace by covering with the jack. Declarer won, played the ♦7 to dummy's queen and a heart for the king and ace. Having see West play the ♥9 East switched to the ♠K, but declarer now had nine tricks, +400.

## Closed Room

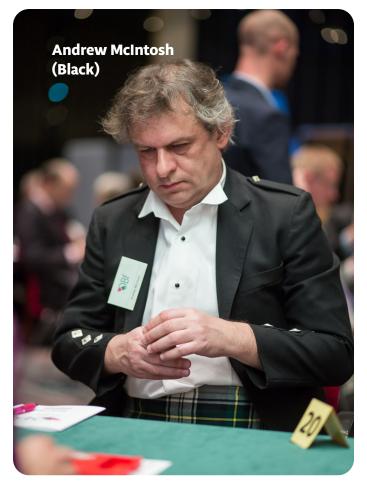
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	van Bijsterveldt	Gold	Schols
_	_	_	2 🔶
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♣3 and when declarer played dummy's two West followed with the six and declarer won with the ace and played the ♥Q. East pounced on that and continued with the ♣4 for a rapid one down and 10 IMPs - a body blow for Macavity.

### Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.



West led the ♦5 and declarer took East's king and played the ♥K. East won and returned the ♦3. When declarer tried the jack West won and played a third diamond and East cashed his tricks for one down.



#### **Closed Room**

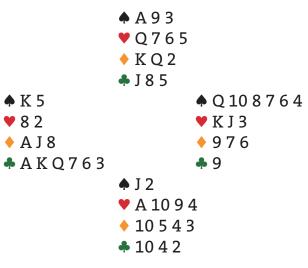
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	van Bijsterveldt	Gold	Schols
_	Pass	1♦*	Dble
2 ♦	Dble*	3 🔶	Dble
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

#### 1 Unbalanced Dble Responsive

East led the >10 and declarer took dummy's ace, ruffed a diamond and played a heart to the king. When it held he ruffed his remaining diamond and played a club to the ten and queen. West switched to the >6 and East took the ace and exited with the >9. Declarer pitched a spade, ruffed in hand, went to dummy with the >K and played a heart. He could ruff the diamond return and draw the outstanding trump, +620 and 12 vital IMPs. When West was in with the AQ he needed to find a heart exit. East wins and plays a diamond forcing declarer to ruff. If he draws the last trump East will have enough winners with the A and a diamond.

However, suppose instead of ducking a club to West declarer plays a low spade? East can't profitably play the ace so dummy's king wins. Now declarer cashes dummy's club ace and then runs the ten. East wins, but declarer will get home with a winning view in clubs.

## Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.



### Open Room

<b>west</b> Dewit	<b>NORTH</b> McIntosh	<b>EAST</b> Vandewiele	<b>SOUTH</b> King
Devit	MCIIICOSII		_
_	_	2 🔶 *	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♥*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♦ 5+M weak or 22-23 bal. or GF with ♦/♥/♠
4♣ Transfer to your major 4♥ Spades

North led the ♦K and declarer won and played three rounds of clubs, pitching dummy's diamonds. He followed that

with a heart to the jack and ace, won the heart return in dummy, ruffed a heart and played the  $\bigstar$ K, finishing with 11 tricks and +450.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Black	van Bijsterveldt	Gold	Schols
_	_	2 ♦ *	Pass
3♣*	All Pass		

2 Bad weak two in a major 3+ Natural, NF

Declarer ducked the lead of the ♦K and when North switched to the ♠A he unblocked the king. North now tried the ♥6 but declarer played dummy's jack and when South won and went back to diamonds declarer won, drew trumps and played a spade to the queen for ten tricks. That meant a loss of 8 IMPs, enough to give Macavity a last gasp win, 40-38 IMPs, 10.66-9.34 VP, enough to secure eighth place.

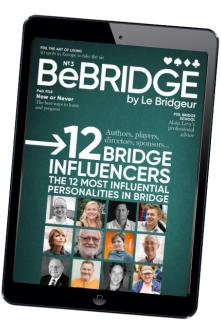
## **Alt in the Future**

24 - 28 August	Alt Mixed III
31 August - 4 September	Minor Alt Invitational I
21 - 25 September	Minor Alt Invitational II
5 - 9 October	Alt Mixed IV
12 - 16 October	Minor Alt Invitational III
19 - 23 October	Alt Mixed V
16 - 20 November	Minor Alt Invitational IV
16 - 19 November	TampAlt Qualification
30 November - 4 December	Alt Mixed VI
14 - 18 December	TampAlt – Main event

8 top teams will compete in the Minor ALTs and up to 16 teams in the Alt Mixed. All participation is by invitation. For more info and to apply for an invitation, see <u>alt.bridgeresults.org</u> or write to info@netbridge.online. The Alt team reserves the right to make changes to the schedule.



## The new online magazine for bridge addicts



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## Victim of the Day Alfredo Versace

#### by Christina Lund Madsen



How old are you now, where were you born, where do you live and have you ever had a normal job?

- I'm 51 years old, I live in Rome and I was born in Turin. I had only one job outside of bridge, but it was not real. I enjoyed helping my uncle in a restaurant with my cousins for two years when I was a child.

## How has your life in Italy been during corona and how is it today?

- During lockdown I stayed in the house waiting for better times helping my kids. Buying food and cook something until things would be better.

We got Lucky in Rome, we never really suffered from the virus, but the news that were coming from the North of Italy struggled our hearts. So we heard all the news all the time hoping in a better situation.

## How did you begin to play bridge?

- I started to play bridge at 9 years old because my grandparents owned a bridge club, so when I went to visit them I started to kibitz and soon my curiosity became bigger and bigger... Up to advising me at 16 years to stop to study and start a serious professional bridge life. Thankfully forever to Maria Teresa Lavazza who took me in her team when I was 15 years old and won my first Italian Championship. She has been an important part of my life. Teaching me the way to behave and helping me always. Italo Santia was my bridge mentor. What would you have become if not a bridge player?

- I can't imagine my life without bridge. Only chance to work without it is to become a chef, I'm pretty good in a kitchen.

## *Tell us about your children and about being a father.*

I love my kids, I have 3 boys at 20, 18 and 13 years of age, and I have a wonderful relation with them. I took example from my own father. The maximum he did with me was to look at me with a bad face showing he totally disagreed with me.
Probably I have been too soft with them, but I love the way they grew up, they are funny with max respect of all people.
Except their father and mother... (obviously I'm joking. <sup>(i)</sup>)

## *Of your many moments in bridge, which is your best memory?*

- Only time I really argued strongly with Lorenzo was about the education of my son.☺

We were travelling on a train and we started fighting. We got lucky that a child psychologist was travelling close to us. She decided to put herself in the middle of the fight and finally we stopped.

#### Mustafa's question for you:

Which game do you think you are better at, Barbu or Bridge? - I feel barbu.. In bridge a lot of people beat me every day. In barbu it is pretty hard. And the advantage to play alone without seeing Don Lorenzo in front of my eyes... Thats probably the best part.

Not many people know this, but you are also a champion on the dance floor. What do you like to do besides bridge and dancing?

Dancing is not really my hobby but ok.
Actually I'm free up to 4 o'clock in the afternoon, then i start to play online and I'm pretty busy. My life changed a little but still I like to play tennis and we organize soccer matches with my kids, their friends and bridge players in Rome and sometimes they come from outside. Funny, we enjoy a lot! Pezzana Stadium, we have also a page on Facebook.

How would Lorenzo Lauria describe you in 3 words? (words, not waves with his arms)

- How does Lorenzo describe me?.. Irresponsible... Funny... and... Untrusthworthy. ☺

At some point you were going to play for Monaco. It was the big news and gossip of the Bridge world. What happened?

- Monaco was a nice short experience. Something changed in the Monaco rules about national teams and we took different paths. I had a good time with Pierre and he behaved very nicely with us, and now I'm really happy to come back to play for Italy.

As an Italian, how do you feel about the case of Fantoni-Nunes?



- Very sad speaking about them, I just do for you, Christina, I really don't like. We have been friends and teammates for a long time, then some things in our friendship changed just before they moved to play for Monaco. Success, money and the sensation that nobody can touch you can be dangerous in life. They paid the biggest price. I remember those days... articles in every Italian newspaper, in the news on television. So bad especially when you have a daughter or son. I hate public gogna (italian word). After 5 years I can say that it's time to stop. I like to forgive people and give them occasion to show they work hard on themselves. I know I will not be popular at all now, but that's my nature, sorry.



*If you could look at your past and give a good advice to a younger you, what would it be?* 

- Advise to Young Alfredo?? Hard, he would never follow advices. People tried, but one I can easily say:

"Alfredo, stay away from the gambling world."

It almost destroyed my life. I say almost because now for 2-3 years I'm far away from this world. A great therapist, doctor Florinda, and Emanuela, who left me alone 2 or 3 times helped me a lot. Now I feel ok about that, but... never say never. ©

What makes you laugh?

- Make me laugh, what? All.

What makes you cry?

- Cry? All... I'm very sensibile, maybe too much.

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Geir Helgemo, Zia Mahmood and Jeff Meckstroth?

- Easiest question ever... Kiss Zia, he is funny and good looking. Kill Jeff, so he will stop to beat me at the table (2 world final Bermuda Bowls are enough) and play with Helgie... Easy to play with and I prefer not to kiss him. ©

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

#### - Giovanni Donati.

Question to Donati: Do you think that in some years you will make the strongest mixed pair ever with Federica Dal Pozzo?



# **Devils and Doubles**

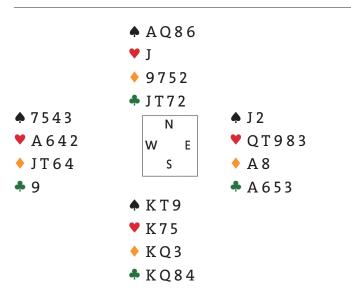


#### **By Martin Cantor**

Going into the last round of the Swiss, Gupta were safely qualified, but under pressure to retain their first place. Their opponents were the Red Devils who should manage to hold onto a qualifying spot if they avoided a very heavy defeat. I also chose to watch this match because of their team name, which they share with my football team (Manchester United) and my rugby league team (Salford).

We didn't have to wait long for some devilish action.

#### Board 3. S / EW



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Coenraets	T Bessis	Engel
_	_	_	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2 🔶
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

I have to admit that double would never have occurred to me with the East hand - but then I'm not Thomas Bessis, nor anywhere close to his class. He certainly picked his moment well.

Lorenzini led a spade (the double might have asked him to lead his weakest major), but at trick 2 Bessis got in with the ♣A and his ♥Q picked that suit up for a quick 3 down for -500.

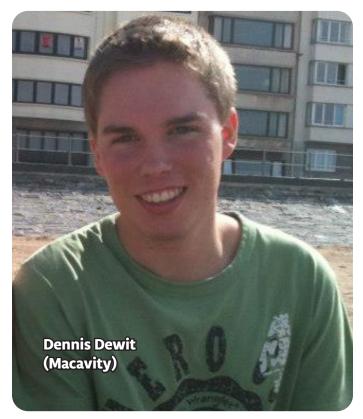
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Caputo	de Wijs	van der Vorst	Muller
_	_	_	1♣*
Pass	1 • *	1♥	1NT*
3♥	Dbl*	Pass	4♣
All Pass			

1 strong 15+
1 0-8
1NT 15-17, may be off shape
Dbl takeout

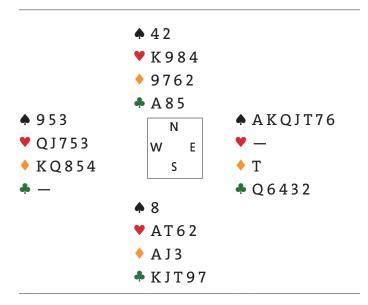
The Dutch maestros did well to avoid the failing 3NT, though I doubt they would have been doubled even had they bid it. Caputo led a - natural on the auction - ♥A, and declarer just lost the other two aces to score 130 and 12 IMPs.

At none vulnerable your LHO deals, and after two passes your RHO opens 4. What do you do holding

**♦**8 **♥**AT62 **♦**AJ3 **♣**KJT97?



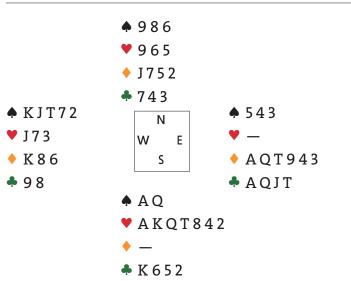
Engel chose to double, and his partner with ♠42 ♥K984 ♦9762 ♣A85 took what I think is the right action by passing. This did not end well:



Engel led the ♥A, ruffed by declarer, who played his diamond. Engel took the ace and continued the suit, not that anything else is better. Two clubs went away on top diamonds and the other three were ruffed. Two overtricks scored 790. In the other room 4♠ was allowed to play undoubled for 450, so another 8 IMPs went to Gupta.

Gupta won the match and the Swiss, while the Red Devils did just enough to get into the knockouts, where I again watched Gupta, who had chosen Macavity as their opponents.





South must have blinked when for the second hand in a row he picked up a heart suit of AKQTxxx. And for the second hand in a row he had to watch as his opponents bid to  $4 \blacklozenge$ .

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
N Gupta	Dewit	Zia	Vandewiele
_	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♣	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

With the spades lying so nicely, you can in fact make 6 from the East hand, squeezing South in clubs and hearts. But 4 was a normal contract at this table and Dewit led a spade, making life easier for Gupta, who wrapped up an overtrick.

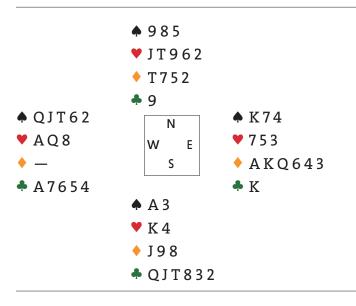
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Schols	de Wijs	van den Bos	Muller
_	Pass	1♦	Dbl
1♥*	Pass	1♠*	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

1♥ spades 1♠ 3 card spades

As we all would, Muller led a top heart, and van den Bos ruffed. To ruff another, he tried a diamond to dummy, on which Muller discarded a heart. After his second heart ruff he could still have made by playing a trump, but he lost his way by playing the &T. Muller pounced on that with his king and played another top heart to lock declarer in hand, effectively guaranteeing three trump tricks for the defence and a one trick set.

11 IMPs to Gupta, who continued to accumulate IMPs, and by the time we got to Board 22, Macavity needed some very big scores.

Board 22. E / EW



In the closed room the Belgians sniffed at slam but stopped in game, easily making 11 tricks.

Gupta and Zia were more ambitious:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
N Gupta	Dewit	Zia	Vandewiele
_	—	1NT	3♣
3♥*	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

3♥ spades 4NT keycard

I found 4NT dubious, and the 6♠ bid after the two ace response even more so, when the spade contract is going to be played by East. South has announced a 6-card club suit, you have five, and partner opened 1NT, so should have the other two. So a ruff beckons at trick one, and if one of partner's aces is in diamonds you are at



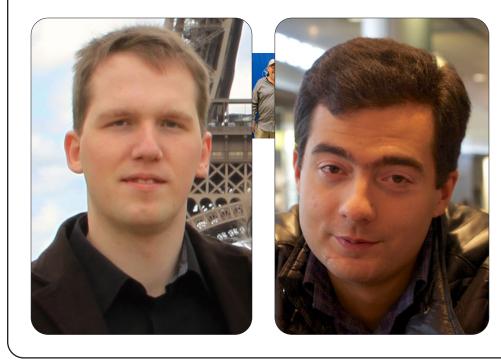
best on the finesse of the AK. Maybe Gupta was influenced by the state of the match, and thought that slam would be bid in the other room.

As it happens Zia's slightly off-shape opener meant there was no trick one ruff, and the 3♣ overcall had given him a lot of information. Vandewiele found a devilish ♥4 lead, which Zia studied long and hard.

Like the rest of us (as he sometimes is) he had no wish to go down at trick one, so he took the ace, played a club to the king, and pitched hearts on top diamonds. He played a third top diamond for a club discard, ruffed a heart, played a club, North inserting the  $\blacklozenge$ 9, forcing Zia to ruff with the king. He tried to ruff the last heart, but South ruffed with the  $\blacklozenge$ A and played a club, ruffed bu his partner's 8.

A 13 IMP loss that gave Macavity supporters a glimmer of hope, one that burned a little brighter when they gained a further six on the next board. But Gupta took 11 on board 24 to extinguish the tiny flame, and in the end Gupta won by 91.1-54 including their 10.1 carryover. Congratulations to them, but also well done to Macavity who came through the qualifying tournament and put up stiff resistance to the all-conquering Gupta team.

## **Behind the Screens**



Do you ever wonder who ensures the event runs smoothly, invites players to the table and makes sure results are up directly after the last table finishes? The answer is Anton Osipov and Denis Dobrin from Russia.

Denis is also an EBL-director and our TD in the ALT. Thanks to their e ellent software we are able to provide perfect scoring of all matches. Spasibo!



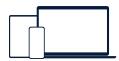
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