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## Gupta Alt-Dominating

Team Gupta has been dominating the MontreAlt, and the final was no exception. The Red Devils were conquered in an actionpacked show followed by thousands of kibitzers. This was the second Major Alt title for Gupta, who also won our first Major Alt.

We have asked Naren Gupta to send new photos of his team if they plan to continue their Alt dominance, since we are currently recycling the pictures in the bulletin.

This was the end of yet another Alt event. We play throughout the fall and probably as long as corona is our constant uninvited companion. Check [alt.bridgeresults.org](http://alt.bridgeresults.org)

We have received many encouraging messages during the MontreAlt. 20.000 kibitzers have watched during the week, and we are happy and grateful for the interest. We try our best to make the events entertaining for players as well as kibitzers. Which is why messages like these warms us:

"You are doing a splendid job and I am thoroughly enjoying watching."

Thank you.

### Quote from kibitzer

"Top performers deserve a live audience and the audience deserves live top performers."

Kees Bouwen

### Final

	1	2	Tot
Gupta	41	58	99.1
Red Devils	37	29	66



# Alt about Undos

by Christina Lund Madsen



In the semifinal between SweIce and Red Devils, a declarer from Red Devils landed in 5♥X after this auction:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	4♥	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	

East was on lead with

♠ AKT43 ♥ Q42 ♦ 95 ♣ QJT

He intended to lead the ♠A, but playing with cards on BBO (rather than hand diagrams) BBO autosorts the suits after a trump suit has been decided. So instead of clicking on the ♠A, East hit the ♥Q.

He asked for an undo, but was not granted one by declarer.

The semifinal was close with a victory for Red Devils by 53-40.1 and the result on the board could potentially have changed the outcome.

After this was reported, the Alt Organisers discussed what to do in a situation with an obvious misclick and a refusal of an undo.

First of all, we believe it is in the spirit of the game and the Alt to grant an undo if it - as in this case - is an indisputable misclick.

Secondly, we encourage players to adjust their settings to use hand diagrams rather than pictures of cards to avoid this auto-placing the trump suit (it does not happen using hand diagrams).

This incident has led the Alt to amend the rules regarding undos in the following way:

To avoid such refusals in obvious misclick-situations (bidding as well as play), each player will get a “challenge” (in the RR as well as the KO-phase) whereby the TD can be summoned to the table.

Play at the moment of the refusal must be shut down till the TD arrives. The TD is the one who can assess the situation, and if he believes the undo is justified by an obvious misclick that no reasonable player should refuse, the undo has to be accepted by the opponents.

The CoC of the Alt Events will be adjusted to reflect this policy.



## Thank you



The Alt would like to thank all the people contributing to the success of this event. BBO-staff and -commentators, bridge writers, organizers, invisible people pulling strings, kibitzers and players.

You know who you are.



## Knockouts

### SEMIFINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <b>GUPTA</b>	0.1	<u>35</u>	35.1	<u>42</u>	77.1
 <b>KOEPEL</b>		<u>38</u>	38	<u>25</u>	63

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <b>SWEICE</b>	0.1	<u>22</u>	22.1	<u>18</u>	40.1
 <b>RED DEVILS</b>		<u>33</u>	33	<u>20</u>	53

### FINAL

team	c/o	Seg1	Sum1	Seg2	Total
 <b>GUPTA</b>	0.1	<u>41</u>	41.1	<u>58</u>	99.1
 <b>RED DEVILS</b>		<u>37</u>	37	<u>29</u>	66

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# The Odd Couple



By Mark Horton

How do you decide who covers what when there are only two matches?

To save time it was agreed on Thursday that I would take the odd numbered deals. I watched Gupta v Koeppel, the former enjoying a significant carry-over of 0.1 IMP.

Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	Koeppel	Gupta	Tokay
—	Pass	1NT	2♦*
2♥	All Pass		

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sementa	De Wijs	Madala	Muller
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦*	3♣	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

South led the ♣10 and North won with the ace and switched to the ♠J. Declarer took the ace, drew trumps and pitched a spade on the top clubs, +420.

To defeat 4♥, South has to find a spade lead, or start with two rounds of diamonds when North ruffs and plays a spade. Tough.

2♦ Diamonds and a major

North led her diamond, but South put in the queen, so here too declarer took ten tricks, but lost 6 IMPs.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sementa	De Wijs	Madala	Muller
—	—	—	2♥*
Dble	All Pass		

2♥ 6(5) cards frequently could be very weak

West led the ♠K and switched to the ♦K. When it held he cashed the ♠A and exited with the ♦2 to dummy's ace. When declarer played dummy's heart East went in with the ace and played a diamond. Declarer ruffed, played a club to the king and followed it with the ♣Q. West took the ace and got off play with the ♥9. Declarer won, played a spade, won the heart return and played another spade, so the ♥8 also scored, two down, -300.

If East holds on to the ♥A the defenders must come to another trick.

#### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	Koeppel	Gupta	Tokay
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	3♣*	Dble*	3♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	4♠
4NT	All Pass		

#### 3♣ Black suits

North led the ♠5 and declarer won and played a diamond, North taking the ace and playing a second spade. There were only nine tricks, -100 and another 9 IMPs went away.

At this point Gupta trailed 25-0 (they had dropped 10 IMPs when Zia misjudged the play in a tricky 4♠).

He got back into the match when a soft defence allowed Zia to make 3NT on Board 8.

#### Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

#### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sementa	De Wijs	Madala	Muller
—	1♠	All Pass	

North's opening bid was limited to 15 points so passing with South's ace less wonder was an option.

East led the ♥Q and as is so often the case found an unlucky lie in the suit. Declarer won in hand, played a spade to the king and ran the ♣Q, East winning and returning a club to the ace. Declarer then played on spades and although East scored a club ruff there were nine tricks, +140.

#### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	Koeppel	Gupta	Tokay
—	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♦5 to dummy's king and when a spade to the king held declarer ran the ♣Q. East won and returned the ♦10 for the jack and queen and West switched to the ♠6, East winning and playing a diamond, two down, -100 and another 6 IMPs for Gupta.

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

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

### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sementa	De Wijs	Madala	Muller
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1♣ 16+ any distribution

1♦ 0-8 or 9+ less than 2 controls

East led the ♣6 and West took the ace and switched to the ♦10. When the queen held declarer played the ♥K, followed by the ♠A, the ♦A, and a diamond ruff. He pitched a club on the ♠K and played a heart, claiming eleven tricks, +450.

### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	Koeppel	Gupta	Tokay
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Dble	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the ♣6 but here West put in the nine and Declarer won with the king. He unblocked the ♠A and played the ♦7 but that meant he was down in top cards, a loss of 11 IMPs that gave Gupta the lead.

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

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

### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sementa	De Wijs	Madala	Muller
—	1♥	1♠	Dble*
3♥*	4♥	4♠	All Pass

3♥ Spade support



South led the ♥J and North won with the king and switched to the ♣K. Declarer won with dummy's ace, drew trumps ending in hand, cashed two clubs and played a diamond to the king for +620.

#### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	Koeppel	Gupta	Tokay
—	1♥	1♠	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

South led the ♥J and North won and switched to the ♠2. Declarer won with dummy's nine, played a spade to the king and ran the ♣J, North winning with the king and exiting with the ♣2. Declarer won, ruffed a heart, played a club to the queen, and ruffed a heart, but now had to lose a trick to the ♠J and the ♦A, one down and 12 IMPs away.

Having ruffed one heart and returned to hand with a club all declarer had to do was play a diamond.

#### Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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



Lynne Koeppel

#### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sementa	De Wijs	Madala	Muller
—	—	—	2♥
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the ♣3, but there were nine tricks on top, +400.

#### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Versace	Bessis	Tokay
—	—	—	2♥
2♠	Pass	3♥*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♥6 and declarer won with dummy's ace and returned the queen, South winning with the king as North pitched the ♦3. South switched to the ♦9 and declarer took the ace and drew trumps in four rounds. When South showed out on the next round of diamonds there were only nine tricks, a 10 IMP swing giving Koeppel the lead.

The winning line is for declarer to ruff his last heart then overtake the ♠J. When South shows out on the third round declarer can play to ruff two diamonds in hand which gets him up to ten tricks.

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

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

### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sementa	De Wijs	Madala	Muller
—	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦*
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥*	Pass	4♠*
Dble	Rdbl*	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

- 1♣ 16+ any distribution
- 1♦ 0-8 or 9+ less than 2 controls
- 1NT 18-19
- 2NT Clubs
- 3♦ Natural, game forcing
- 4♦ Cue bid
- 4♥ Cue bid
- 4♠ Cue bid
- Rdbl First round control

On this layout a spade lead was not testing and declarer soon had all the tricks, +940.

### Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Versace	Bessis	Tokay
—	2♦*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass	All Pass		

2♦ 18-19 3♠ Shortage, both minors

Perhaps South should have bid 4♦ over 4♣?

It was a loss of 11 IMPs for Koeppel.

### Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

### Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sementa	De Wijs	Madala	Muller
—	—	—	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	3♣	Dble
Rdbl*	Pass	3♦	All Pass

### Rdbl SOS

South cashed two diamonds and switched to a heart, but declarer won in dummy, ruffed a heart and played a spade to the ten, emerging with nine tricks, +110.



## Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Versace	Bessis	Tokay
—	—	—	1NT
Dble*	Pass	2♣*	Dble
2♦	Dble*	All Pass	

Dble Major + minor

2♣ Pass or correct

Dble Take out

It was similar scenario here, but it cost +380 and those 7 IMPs reduced the margin to a single IMP.

Had South taken out the double to 2♥ it would have been easy enough to secure eight tricks, despite the 4-1 trump break.

## Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

## Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Sementa	De Wijs	Madala	Muller
—	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
1♥	1NT	All Pass	

1♣ 16+ any distribution

1♦ 0-8 or 9+ less than 2 controls



Antonio Sementa

1NT 18-19

East led the ♦10 and declarer won, cashed two more tricks in the suit and then played a heart to the ace and a heart. West won and switched to spades and the defenders cashed four tricks in the suit, forcing declarer to throw a heart and a diamond. East exited with a diamond and declarer had to lose two club tricks at the end, one down.

## Closed Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Lorenzini	Versace	Bessis	Tokay
—	1♦	Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led the ♦2 and declarer ruffed in dummy and played the ♥9, which lost to South's ace. The club switch was taken by North's king and he returned the ten. Declarer won, ruffed a diamond, drew trumps and claimed, +620 and 11 IMPs that saw Gupta regain the lead, which they

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# An Amazing Pair of Pushes

## - The Final of the MontreAlt

By Toine van Hoof



Team Gupta (Bessis-Lorenzini, Gupta-Mahmood and Muller-De Wijs) dominated the Swiss and won their quarterfinal match against Macavity quite comfortably.

After a narrow escape in the semifinal against Koepfel they faced the Red Devils (Bahbout-De Donder, Caputo-Van der Vorst, Coenraets-Engel and Arts-De Roos) in the final. The Belgians qualified as eighth for the KO phase where they eliminated Black and Sweice.

Reaching the final came probably as a surprise to them because they could only field one regular partnership. In the first half Geert Arts and Steve De Roos played in the open room against Thomas Bessis-Cédric Lorenzini, while Steven De Donder partnered Zvi Engel in the closed room against Naren Gupta-Zia Mahmood.

The first score was for the Red Devils:

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Arts	Lorenzini	de Roos	T Bessis
–	Pass	1♣1	1♥
Dbl2	Pass	1NT3	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1. 16+; 2. 5-7 any or 7+ no fivecard; 3. 16-18

Against 3NT Bessis led the ♣5. De Roos played low in dummy and took North's #10 with the ace. He continued with the ♦K to South's bare ace. Bessis returned the ♣9 covered by the ♣Q which held. Now declarer ran the ♦10 and ♦9, entered his hand with the ♥K and advanced the ♥J. South, who had discarded two hearts, covered with the queen. Declarer won with the ace, crossed to the ♥10 and cashed ♦Q, ♥2 and ♠A: ten tricks, 430.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Donder	Gupta	Engel
–	Pass	1NT1	2♥
	All Pass		

1. 15-17; 2. 5♥ and 4+m

In the closed room Gupta opened a 15-17 NT. When Engel interfered, Zia did not have a suitable hand to compete. Engel went two off for minus 100 and a gain of 8 IMPs.

The Red Devils won one more IMP for an extra overtrick in 3NT on Board 2, but then Gupta struck back with some luck:



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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Arts	Lorenzini	de Roos	T Bessis
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♥1
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

#### 1. splinter

When Bessis opened 1♣, Lorenzini had an awkward bidding problem. He didn't want to pass and decided to bid his best major. Bessis had a sound splinter and the train stopped in 4♠. De Roos led the ♦A, collecting the 10 from West. De Roos was unaware of North's undersized spade holding. The only chance he saw to beat the contract was through a diamond ruff. So he continued diamonds after which the contract could no longer be defeated. Lorenzini drove out the ♠A and only lost a trick to the ♥A: NS plus 420.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Donder	Gupta	Engel
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♦	3♣	All Pass	



Thomas Bessis

At the other table De Donder passed 1♣. Gupta balanced so the final contract became 3♣, which Engel made with an overtrick: plus 130 for the Red Devils, 7 IMPs to Gupta.

On Board 4 Gupta and Zia lost 13 IMPs when they bid 6♠ which required a friendly lie of the cards: minus 100. Arts-De Roos did not even make a slam try and scored an uneventful plus 650. The next hand was more interesting:

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

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Arts	Lorenzini	de Roos	T Bessis
–	3♣	4♠	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♥	Dbl
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			

Bessis found an excellent vulnerable save against 4♠ and doubled when his opponents took the push. He led the ♦K, cashed the ♥A and played a heart. North could not ruff but had the ♣A as the setting trick: plus 100 to Gupta.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Donder	Gupta	Engel
–	3♣	4♠	All Pass

Engel did not bid 5♣ over 4♠. He led the ♦K and shifted to the ♣10. When that held, he continued with the ♣9 to North's jack. Gupta ruffed and pulled two rounds of trumps, bringing down the queen. He cashed two more spades before successfully playing a heart to the nine. For some reason North followed with the ♥8. This was the position with West on lead:

♠	–	♠	7 5
♥	K 7	♥	Q 10 6
♦	Q 10	♦	–
♣	K	♣	–
	♠		♠
	♥		♥
	♦		♦
	♣		♣

Declarer ruffed the ♦10 in hand and played another heart. Bessis rose with the ace and played the ♦A. East had to ruff, played a heart to the king and lost the last trick to the ♣A.

Declarer survives if he ruffs the useless ♣K and plays a heart to the 7 (or advances the ♥10 if North had stuck to his ♥8). Gupta still won 2 IMPs on the board and now trailed by 13.

After a push on Board 6 Gupta gained another 10 IMPs when Bessis propelled his partner into game while at the other table Engel invited (or perhaps his 3♥ was meant to be forcing) and saw his partner pass. The Red Devils picked up 2 IMPs on a partscore deal. Then came this:

#### Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

		♠	9 7 5		
		♥	Q J 10 7		
		♦	K Q J 10 5		
		♣	7		
♠	K Q 10 6	♠	J 4		
♥	8 4	♥	A K 6 5 3		
♦	A 7 4	♦	6 2		
♣	K 10 9 6	♣	A Q 8 4		
		♠	A 8 3 2		
		♥	9 2		
		♦	9 8 3		
		♣	J 5 3 2		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH		
Arts	Lorenzini	de Roos	T Bessis		
–	Pass	1♥	Pass		
1♠	2♦	Pass1	Pass		
Dbl2	Pass	4♠	All Pass		

1. max. 2♠; 2. takeout



four clubs. Zia cashed ♣A and ♣Q and claimed ten tricks: 12 IMPs to Gupta, who now led 31 to 24.

They increased their margin by 5 IMPs when the Red Devils went down at both tables and by another 2 IMPs on this slam:

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

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

Having denied a threecard spade support, East jumped to 4♠ after his partner's ill advised takeout double. The contract in the four-two fit was far from hopeless but could not stand a club ruff from the threecard spades: minus 50.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Donder	Gupta	Engel
—	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	2♦	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1. max. 2♠

Zia made the more practical bid of 3NT. As to the play the hand could originate from a textbook. North led the ♦K, ducked by declarer, followed by the ♠Q, also ducked and the ♦J, taken perforce by the ace. Zia drove out the ♠A, won the spade return, cashed another spade, crossed to the ♥A and cashed the ♥K. North followed suit in spades and hearts so he could not have

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Arts	Lorenzini	de Roos	T Bessis
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT1	Pass
3♠2	Pass	5♣3	Pass
5NT4	Pass	7♠	All Pass

1. GF, ♠ fit; 2. 14-16, no singl.; 3. exclusion;  
4. 2 KC + ♠Q

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Donder	Gupta	Engel
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	Pass	2NT1	Pass
3♦2	Pass	5♣3	Pass
5NT4	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♠	All Pass		

1. Jacoby; 2.14-16; 3. exclusion; 4.2KC + ♠Q





Zvi engel

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Arts	Lorenzini	de Roos	T Bessis
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥1
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠2
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♣
All Pass			

1. 5+♠; 2. 4+♣; 3. pick a slam

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Donder	Gupta	Engel
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥1
Pass	3♠2	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT3
Pass	5♦4	Pass	7♣
All Pass			

The bidding by both EW pairs was impressive. However, the grand slam that they reached was unsound. Arts went two light after Lorenzini's smart lead of a low club. De Donder led the ♣A and Zia only lost a trick to the ♠J.

The next board gave the other two pairs the opportunity to show their slam bidding skills:

#### Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

1. 5+♠; 2. no fit; 3. RKCB; 4. 1 or 4 (with ♣ as trump)

Impressive bidding again and now the grand was slightly better.

Against Bessis West led a low heart to the ace in dummy. Bessis cashed the ace and king of spades and played the ♠9. West showed out and did not have an intermediate trump. So declarer could ruff with the 4. He cashed the ♣K, crossed to the ♣Q and claimed.

Engel's task was much harder when West led a traditional trump. He played low in dummy, East inserted the 10 and South won with the ace. He crossed to the ♠A and played the ♠7, seeing the ♠10 appear from East. Engel spent several minutes weighing his chances. He could play the ♠K and ruff a spade in dummy. Due to the club lead he would then be forced to overtake ♣K, so this play would require the clubs to break (unless ♠10 was a false card and the ♠Q drops under the king).

Naren Gupta



Donder went out for the count which made them no wiser. They had to guess and both guessed wrong for a push.

Gupta extended their lead by 3 IMPs to 41-24 on Board 14:

**Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.**

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Arts	Lorenzini	de Roos	T Bessis
—	—	1♥	2♥
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

De Roos, who upgraded his nine count, led the ♥A against 4♠. He also cashed the ♥K and Arts discarded a discouraging ♣6 instead of an encouraging diamond. Now De Roos threw the contract by continuing hearts. Lorenzini had an easy loser-on-loser play. He shed the ♦K from dummy while West made a ruff from his certain trump trick: plus 420.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Donder	Gupta	Engel
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♦	3♦	5♦	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Engel chose the probably best and here winning line of finessing. When the ♠J held, he could soon claim his 2140.

After the next hand, Warren Spector commented on BBO: 'An amazing pair of pushes'.

**Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.**

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

Both NS pairs drove to 6♠ that required finding the ♣Q. Both Lorenzini and De

The closed room saw a predictable auction that ended in 5♦ doubled by West. De Donder and Engel quickly grabbed their four tricks: spade lead to the ace, ♣K to the ace, ♣J to the queen and a club ruffed by North for plus 300.

Board 15 was a unamazing push and the final big swing of this half was for the Belgians:

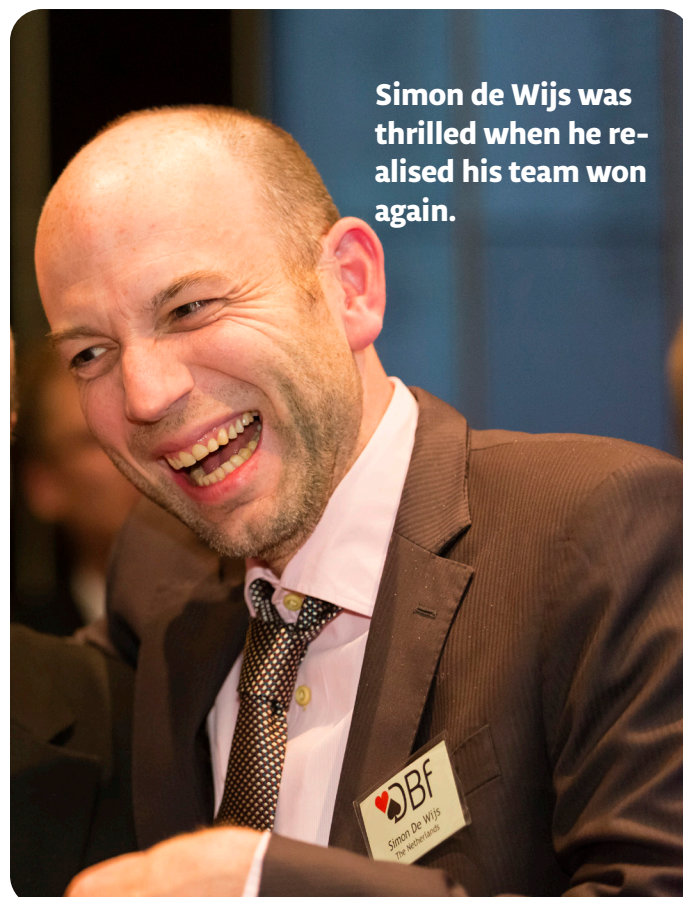
#### Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Arts	Lorenzini	de Roos	T Bessis
1♠	Pass	2♦1	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣2	Pass	4NT3	Pass
5♣4	Pass	6♠	All Pass

1. nat. GF; 2. cue, reasonable hand; 3. RKCB; 4. 2 KC + ♠Q

This was a rather poor slam but North did not find the killing club lead (two off). Declarer ran the ♥6 to his 7, drove out the ♠A and repeated the heart finesse. The losing clubs went away on dummy's diamonds.



Simon de Wijs was thrilled when he realised his team won again.

At the other table Zia and Gupta were less enterprising:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zia	De Donder	Gupta	Engel
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT1	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1. nonserious

After the lead of the ♦9 Zia made twelve tricks.

Score at the break: Gupta 41.1 (0.1 carry-over), Red Devils 37.

Read about the second half in the following article.

# Defence is tough

## - most of the time

By Martin Cantor



We continue with the second half of the final.

### Board 20. W / All

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Arts	Lorenzini	de Roos	T Bessis
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	5♥	Dbl	All Pass

Here's a tough defensive problem. You have doubled because of your two quick tricks, and it is certainly right to lead your AK this time.

When partner discards on the second round, what do you play at trick three? Does the discard make a difference?

If partner has nine spades there is no trick there, so you need a diamond ruff. If partner has eight spades you can beat the contract by one trick by playing a spade, but if he also has a heart (North surely

has at least six of them), then a diamond will take it two off. Since your side can probably make 620 in four spades, it is not unreasonable to go for the diamond ruff, and that is what de Roos did.

He was disappointed. Arts had discarded the ♣3 on the second diamond, but I am not sure what discard would say 'I don't have a trump, play a spade'. The auction was friskier at the other table, where it looks like nobody was sure who was sacrificing.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
De Donder	de Wijs	Engel	Muller
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	5♥	5♠	6♥
6♠	Dbl	All Pass	

I was glad to see the final double to stop the merry-go-round as by this point I was getting dizzy. The hand was over quickly, South cashing three clubs then trying the ace of hearts, ruffed and claimed, for 8 IMPs to Gupta.

The Red Devils hit back two boards later, gaining 7 IMPs, when Zvi Engel was doubled in a cold 3♦ for 470 while teammate Geert Arts was going 2 off in 3♥ for 200.

And on the next board they scored even bigger:



## Board 23. S / All

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Arts	Lorenzini	de Roos	T Bessis
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

2♦ strong 2♥ waiting 3♣ about 8 tricks

Thomas Bessis' sudden leap to slam looks at best agricultural. Facing a hand with "about 8 tricks" when you have say 2,5 tricks also seems at best optimistic.

Even on a friendly heart lead the slam has just about no chance, but de Roos found the excellent lead of a small spade. Lorenzini ducked that, won the next spade, and played winners, hoping for either a horrible defensive error or a miraculous layout. Neither was available.

In the other room South played 3NT with an overtrick, so Red Devils scored 12, putting them into a 19-16 IMP lead for the segment, trailing by just 1.1 overall.



Steven De Donder

The next board was flat, but then the storm clouds broke. On board 25 de Roos-Arts played 4♠ on a 4-3 fit, ran into a cross-ruff and went three off vulnerable, and on the one after they declared 1NT, again three off vulnerable.

As I commented to the BBO kibitzers, minus 300 twice in a row doesn't look pretty when you aren't sacrificing.

So it proved, when on the first of those boards 3NT had nine top tricks for 600, then on the second de Donder-Engel were one down in 3♥. 23 IMPs away in two boards, plus a couple more on the next, meant the Devils were suddenly 22 behind on the set, 26.1 overall, with five to play.

Then this:

## Board 28. W / NS

♠ QJ94	♠ —	♠ AT82
♥ A8	♥ QJT32	♥ 97654
♦ T862	♦ Q743	♦ 5
♣ Q74	♣ JT86	♣ 953
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           N W      E S         </div>	
	♠ K7653	
	♥ K	
	♦ AKJ9	
	♣ AK2	

with his king. He played another top diamond which de Roos ruffed, but that was his last trick. His next spade was ruffed by Lorenzini who drew the remaining trumps, and the defence had only winners left. Minus six and minus 1400. So yes, defence is tough - but only most of the time.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
De Donder	de Wijs	Engel	Muller
1NT*	Pass	2♣	Dbl
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Looking at the NS hands, where would you like to play? Maybe 3NT, maybe 4♥, or even 5♦? All have chances, but none look easy despite your high combined point count.

Lorenzini-Bessis didn't have to solve this conundrum. I said earlier that aggressive opening bids can be a two-edged sword, and this time it really was a case of "he who lives by the sword dies by the sword".

GIB says that 3NT can be made on any lead, but it sure ain't easy single dummy. De Wijs led the ♠Q which Engel rather naturally took with his king, but now he could no longer make. His ♥K was ducked, so he played four rounds of diamonds ending in dummy then played a top heart. De Wijs simply won that, cashed his ♠J, played another to Muller's ace and ten, then a club through declarer sealed his fate.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Arts	Lorenzini	de Roos	T Bessis
Pass	Pass	3♥*	Dbl
All Pass			

3♥    0+ HCP, 5+♥

South led the ♦A, then played his ♥K, taken by dummy's ace. On the ♠Q North discarded a club and declarer took his ace, then played another which Bessis won

17 IMPs away, and the tournament almost surely with it, 43.1 behind and four to play. Board 31 was a non-vulnerable slam on a finesse, not bid at either table.

Red Devils did pull 10 back on the last board when 4♠ made at one table and failed at the other, so the final score was Gupta 99.1 - Red Devils 66.

Congratulations (again!) to the Gupta team, and well played to the Red Devils.





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