

MONTHLY INVITATIONAL TEAMS



TOP ONLINE BRIDGE EVENTS • [MIT.BRIDGERESULTS.ORG](https://mit.bridgeresults.org)

One Team to Rule them All

After a close and low-scoring final, Bertheau (Peter Bertheau, Gunnar Hallberg, Simon Hult, Oren Toledano, Daniel Zagorin, Ami Zamir) took their second title yesterday after defeating Gupta (David Gold, Naren Gupta, Daniel Korbel, Zia Mahmood, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs) 74-56.1. After the match I got a text from Bertheau saying "Your events are too weak."

I replied: "We will just stop inviting you then."

We hope to return in August - we try to rotate teams to have different participants each event, so we cannot guarantee to invite all teams from our two previous events, yet we would like to know if you are interested/not interested in future MIT-events and are happy to receive any kind of feedback you might have.



Results

Event website
mit.bridgeresults.org

Final					
	c/o	1	2	3	Total
GUPTA	0.1	11	25	20	56.1
BERTHEAU	17	30	27		74

Victim of the Day

Denis Dobrin

by Christina Lund Madsen



As the dedicated colleague I am, I completely forgot my co-organizer Denis Dobrin's birthday yesterday. Today I try to make up for it by republishing this interview from December 2020.

You know him as the invisible voice who calls you to the tables and reminds you to do your lineup. But who is our director Denis Dobrin? You might be in for a surprise or two.

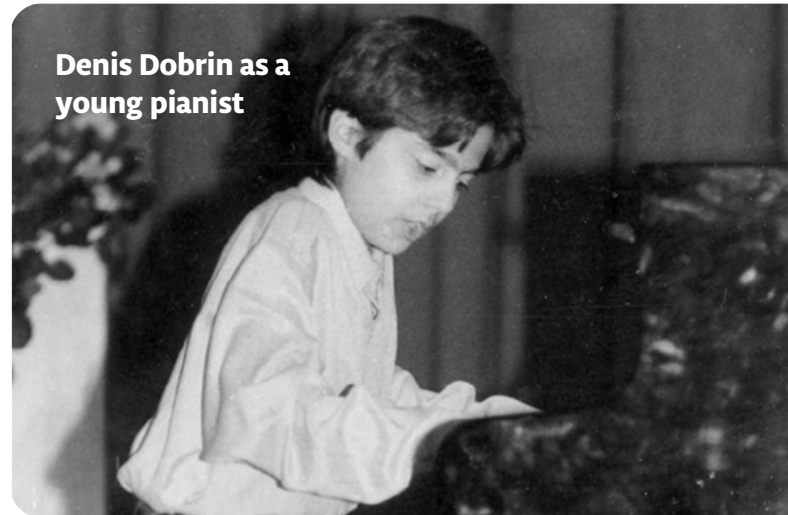
What is your age, where do you come from, where do you live, who is your closest family?

- I am 37 years old. I was born in a relatively small town in Yaroslavl region of Russia (at that time – USSR) about 320 km from Moscow. Currently live in Moscow. I am happily married and have two kids: son (7 years old) and daughter (1 year old).

Tell us about your background and professional status.

- I am a professional piano player by education, but by the will of fate I haven't worked a day in my life as a professional performer or a teacher of piano.

I am currently working in a real estate business and doing certain things in the area of bridge: in particular, I am a board member of the Russian Bridge Federation and also I am cooperating with many tournament organizers all over the world being invited to their events as a TD.



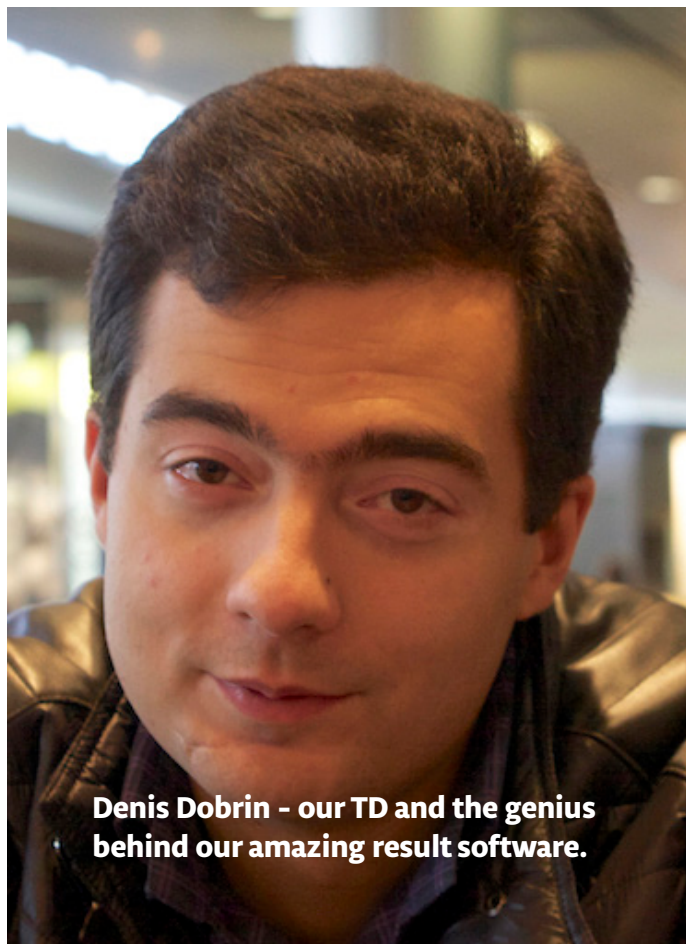
Denis Dobrin as a young pianist

How has it been living in Russia during corona and how do you think the country has handled the pandemic?

- In spring we were in a complete (almost) lockdown and that was really tough mainly because of the kids with unlimited level of energy being locked in one place for a few months. Now life is quite normal. There are certain restrictions but nothing similar to what we had in spring. Sometimes we are brave even to organize some face-to-face bridge events. At the moment it is difficult to say how the country is handling the pandemic as the numbers are high and they are still growing. We will see.

What do you remember from being a little boy growing up in the Soviet Union and is Russia much different today?

- There are many different (and even opposite) opinions about the Soviet Union and what kind of country it was.



Denis Dobrin - our TD and the genius behind our amazing result software.

We have bridge players, but our federation is a small vegetable shop compared to what it could be if the reactions of many people (especially the parents) when they are told that bridge is a card game were not so negative. But we are working on this, step by step.

Tell us about your past as a pianist.

- Actually I am a pianist. I have never earned money by playing or teaching piano, but so what? ☺

Why did you not pursue a career as pianist?

- Life consists of a million decisions you have to make and at some point I had to make my choice taking into account all the circumstances. So, I made the decision.

How did you become involved in bridge?

- One of my friends introduced bridge to me when I was about to move to Moscow in order to start my studies in the Russian Academy of Music. I just fell in love with bridge; nothing less, nothing more.

How did you end up as an acclaimed EBL-director?

- There is no miracle behind this, but hard work and much experience. I started organizing and directing bridge events when I was 16, so it is already a 20-year journey. And at some point I was very lucky to meet Anton Osipov who became my closest friend and also a colleague (*Osipov is also assisting the MIT when necessary/CLM*) and we did a lot of events together being excited and full of enthusiasm to improve things and discuss the cases like players discuss the hands. As for the official international title, I got it only a few years ago.

What I can tell you is that for children it certainly wasn't that bad. I remember that my family (actually my mother) had a very low income (like many others – it is true) but I didn't have problems getting a proper education, medicine, going to a music school, sports, summer camp etc. Basically many things were given to children. Today Russia is completely different. It gives much more opportunities, also for children. But many of them available only if the parents can afford. That is of course my personal impression about this specific topic. But what is common in "both" countries – it is my motherland, so I just love it.

How do you think the Russians today are affected by the country's history?

- They don't play bridge! Because card games of any type were forbidden for many years in our country.



Denis Dobrin celebrating his birthday with his family and his laptop yesterday...

As a TD, how often do you wish you were playing instead?

- Every time I am directing. It is a joke of course, but sometimes yes.

What is the funniest episode you ever experienced as a TD?

- You probably won't believe me but I don't have such an episode in my memory. The TD job – if done properly – is a bit more complicated than fun and I treat everything that happens more as an issue to be solved rather than fun.

Tell us something very few people know about you.

- I can't dance. I can't sing. I can't swim.

With so many abilities, how would you spend the rest of your life if you could choose anything?

- Travelling. But perhaps it is just my inner voice speaking on my behalf after a year of pandemic.

What is your greatest weakness?

- Kindness.

Which three character traits are for you the most important in a person?

- Honesty, decency, keeping a word.

What are your hopes for the future of the bridge world?

- Very trivial: face-to-face bridge to be restarted as soon as possible. The online bridge can stay; I have absolutely nothing against it. But real bridge is real bridge; it is much more than just a great game.

Who would you like to partner, kiss, kill between Sjoert Brink, Christina Lund Madsen and Boye Brogeland?

- This is by far the easiest question. I like women, so I would kiss Christina. I can't kill Boye as the bridge world would never forgive me killing the Sheriff. So, Sjoert... I hope you will understand.

You can find a demonstration of Denis' piano talents a late night after a long day directing [on this link](#).

DISCOVER THE NEW

BeBRIDGE

♥♦♣♠ by Le Bridgeur

THE MAY ISSUE
HAS JUST BEEN
RELEASED!



In this issue

The May 2021 issue of BeBRIDGE has arrived! The **World's Federations report on how they are surviving** - and thriving - during the pandemic. **Teachers** reveal how they are continuing to **educate the next generation**. Technicians will delight in the in-depth examination of **Major suit raises after a take-out double** and the truth about the subject of **third suit forcing** while **Alain Lévy** also examines some tough leads from an International event on Real Bridge. La Doyenne returns along with **David Bird's Abbot** and all the regular features. Finally there is an in-depth report on the delights of a trip to **Scotland**.

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By Mark Horton

(When I saw the title I feared that rumours of my upcoming age had caught up to me... as it's not the case I will allow the title/ed.)

The classic The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy includes a now famous question put to a computer called 'Deep Thought', as to 'the meaning of life, the universe, and everything'. Seven and a half million years later the computer answers '42'.

I'll leave you to discover the multitudinous reasons why this might actually be the case, but one of the most compelling might be that 42 is the number of deals being used to determine the winner of the June Invitational. Gupta went into the match holding a handy lead of 0.1 IMP.

On the opening deal NS held ♠J1083 ♥K7654 ♦A ♣QJ10 opposite ♠KQ5 ♥AQ92 ♦J752 ♣95. Neither pairs got beyond 3♥ on what Gunnar Hallberg described as a 'perfecto'.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zamir	Gold	Toledano	Zia
—	—	1♦*	Dble
1♠*	Pass	1NT*	Pass
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

1♦ 2+♦
1♠ 'No major'
1NT 'To play'

East led the ♠J for the queen and ace and West switched to the ♥7, East winning with the king and returning the ♦5 for the queen and king. West went back to spades and declarer won with the king, ruffed a spade, cashed the ♦A, played the ♦10 covered and ruffed, took a club finesse, cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club. He was up to seven tricks, but the defenders had the rest, -100.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Korbel	Hult	Gupta	Hallberg
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

West led the ♦2 and declarer won with the ten and played the ♣J, East winning, cashing the ♥K and then playing the ♦7 for the queen and king. West played back the ♥7 and East won and continued with the ♦5. All declarer could do was cash his winners, -200 and 3 IMPs for Gupta.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zamir	Gold	Toledano	Zia
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

South's hand rates 20.80 on the Kaplan-Rubens Hand Evaluator. West led the ♠A and followed it with the eight, declarer cashing his tricks for -50. Pity the ♥Q was not the king.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Korbel	Hult	Gupta	Hallberg
—	—	—	1♦
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
3♠	All Pass		

North led the ♦7 and South cashed the ace and king and then played the queen, North ruffing and switching to the ♥6. Declarer



put up dummy's king, ruffed the diamond return with the ♠10, went to dummy with a club and played the ♠2 for the king and ace. When the jack fell under the queen declarer claimed, +140 and 3 IMPs, doubling Gupta's lead.

On Board 7 after a couple of passes North opened 1♠ with ♠AQ984 ♥AKQ2 ♦J7 ♣K10 and was left to play there when South refused to respond 1NT with ♠73 ♥943 ♦K1086 ♣Q653. As the cards lay, 3NT would almost certainly have made. Didn't someone write a Bols Bridge Tip suggesting you should not be afraid to respond?

At the mid-way point of the first session Gupta was ahead 6.1-0.

Over the next three deals Bertheau got on the scoreboard, scoring 1, 2 & 1 in over-trick IMPs.



Zia Mahmood

North had a decent hand, but followed the generally sound principle of not advancing - in a situation like this partner is usually playing you for something. Declarer claimed at trick one, +1460.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Korbel	Hult	Gupta	Hallberg
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	4♦*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	5♠*
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

- 2♣ 20-21 balanced or any game force
- 2♦ Game force opposite 21
- 2♥ Natural game force
- 4♦ Splinter
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 key card
- 5♠ 'Undiscussed I believe'

That was 13 IMPs giving Bertheau the lead. Credit them to EW in the other room.

At the end of this thrilling set the score was 17-11.1 in favour of Bertheau.

Board 18. Dealer West. All Vul.

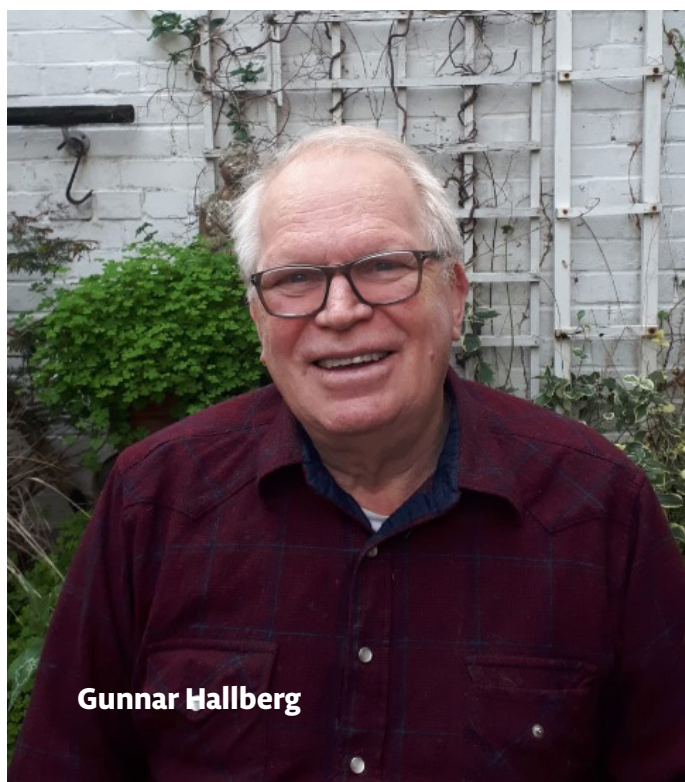
	♠ 5	
	♥ K Q 7 6 5	
	♦ K Q J 10 6	
	♣ 10 8	
♠ 8 4 2		♠ A Q J 9
♥ J 4		♥ 10 8 2
♦ 4		♦ A 9 2
♣ A K Q 9 6 5 2		♣ 7 4 3
	♠ K 10 7 6 3	
	♥ A 9 3	
	♦ 8 7 5 3	
	♣ J	

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zamir	Gold	Toledano	Zia
3♦*	Pass	5♦	6♥
All Pass			

3♦ 'Can be aggressive'



Gunnar Hallberg

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	Gold	Hult	Zia
1♣	2NT*	Dble	4♥
5♣	Pass	6♣	All Pass

North led the ♦K and in due course declarer lost a spade and two hearts, -200.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	Zagorin	Muller	Bertheau
2♣*	2♥	Dble*	3♣*
Dble	3♦	3♥*	Pass
4♣	4♦	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

East led the ♣3 and West won with the queen and switched to the ♦4, East taking the ace and returning the nine. West ruffed and played the ♠9, East winning and playing his remaining diamond for West to ruff, -200 and 9 IMPs for Gupta.

Board 19. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ A 7 5
♥ 6 5 4
♦ 10 7 6 4
♣ A 10 3

♠ J 8
♥ K 9 3
♦ K 8 2
♣ 9 8 7 6 2

♠ 10 9 6 3 2
♥ Q J 10
♦ A 9 5 3
♣ J

♠ K Q 4
♥ A 8 7 2
♦ Q J
♣ K Q 5 4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	Gold	Hult	Zia
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	2♠*	Pass
Pass	Dble*	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

2♠ Spades and a minor

West led the ♠J and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a diamond for the queen and king, West returning the eight which was taken by declarer's jack. A club to the ten lost to the jack and when East switched to the ♥J declarer claimed eight tricks, +120.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	Zagorin	Muller	Bertheau
—	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♣8 and declarer took East's jack with the king and played the ♦Q, East winning with the ace and switching to the ♥J. Declarer ducked twice, won the third round and played the ♦J, claiming, +600 and 10 IMPs.

Board 21. Dealer South. All Vul.

<p> ♠ J 8 6 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ 6 5 4 2 </p>			
♠ Q 5 ♥ J 8 6 5 ♦ K Q 8 ♣ K Q 7 3		♠ 9 3 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ A 5 3 2 ♣ A J 10 8	
<p> ♠ A K 10 7 4 ♥ A Q 9 4 ♦ J 10 4 ♣ 9 </p>			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	Gold	Hult	Zia
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	Pass	1NT*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♠A followed by the king, North playing the eight and six. He then switched to the ♦10 and declarer won with dummy's king and played a heart to the ten and queen. South cashed the ♥A (North had followed with the seven and three) and then exited with a club, declarer recording a miraculous +600.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	Zagorin	Muller	Bertheau
—	—	—	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the ♠6 and South won with the ace and cashed the king. When North dropped the jack, South cashed out for -200 and 13 IMPs.



If North had got the message implied by the order in which South played the ♠AK, three down could have been achieved.

Waiting for the next deal I spotted this exchange:

Zagorin --> Table: again you don't trust your defence?
de Wijs --> Table: We both don't trust my defence
Zagorin --> Table: it is much easier to be annoying in person
de Wijs --> Table: I think you are doing admirably well here also
Zagorin --> Table: touché

Going into the last deal Bertheau was ahead in the set 30-14, making the match score 47-25.1.

Board 28. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

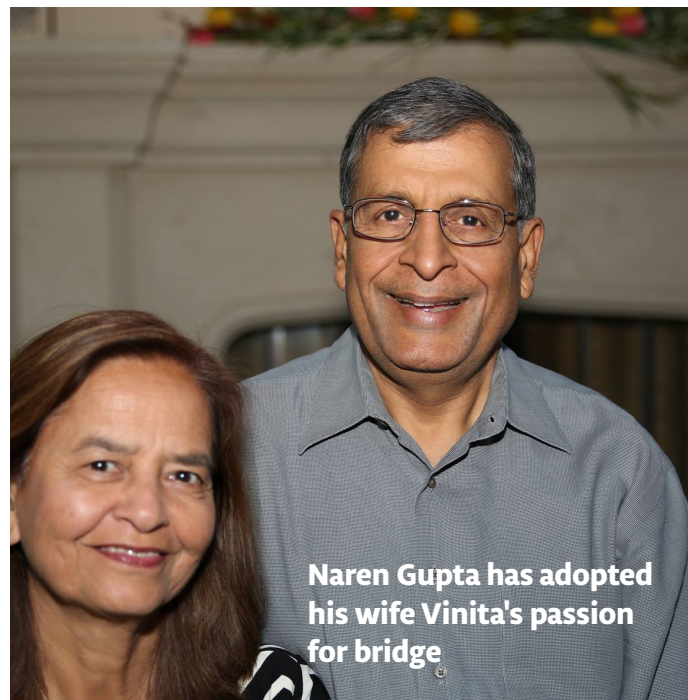
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Hallberg	Gold	Hult	Zia
—	—	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	Rdbl	Pass*
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Pass 'Not penalty'

South led the ♣3 for the nine, ten and ace and declarer ran the ♦Q, North winning and returning the ♣7 to South's king. Declarer took the diamond return with dummy's ace, played a heart to the king and a heart to North's jack. North switched to the ♠7 and declarer went up with the ace, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club and played the ♥Q claiming seven tricks, -500.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	Zagorin	Muller	Bertheau
—	—	1NT*	All Pass

1NT 15-17



South led the ♠Q and declarer won with the ace and played back a low spade. When dummy's eight held he played a heart to the queen and ran the ♦Q. When that held he played a diamond to the ace and a second heart to the king, exiting with the ♥10.

He could not be denied a trick with the ♣A, +90 and 11 IMPs that left all to play for over the remaining 14 deals.

Board 29. Dealer North. None Vul.

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



Ami Zamir and Oren Toledano

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zamir	Gold	Toledano	Zia
—	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♠*	Dble*	Pass*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣	4♠
4NT	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

Dble'A 2♠ bid I think'

Pass 'Some extra'

3♠ 'Meant as short, no real agreement'

4NT RKCB

5♠ 2 key cards +♥Q

South led the ♠A and continued with the king, declarer ruffing in dummy, cashing the ♥K, overtaking the ten and drawing trumps. He then played two top diamonds, claiming when South discarded as he could establish a fourth trick in the suit via the marked ruffing finesse, +980.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	Zagorin	Muller	Bertheau
—	Pass	1♥	4♠
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦	Pass	5♥	All Pass

4NT 'Slam interest, heart fit' 5♣ 'Pos'

Given the explanations it was surprising that the slam was rejected.

South led the ♠A, the only trick for the defence, but a useful 11 IMPs.

Board 31. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ 5 2
♥ K 7 6 4 3
♦ 8 5 4
♣ Q 9 4

♠ Q
♥ Q 8
♦ A 10 7
♣ A K 10 7 6 5 2

♠ J 9 8 7 6 4
♥ A 10
♦ K Q 9 6 3
♣ —

♠ A K 10 3
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ J 2
♣ J 8 3

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zamir	Gold	Toledano	Zia
—	—	—	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT*	All Pass		

2♣ 6+♣, 11-15

2♦ Ask

2♠ Unbalanced with extras

2NT Ask

3♣ '7th club with short somewhere'

3♦ Ask

3NT Spade short

South led the ♥9, explained as 'usually the 98 or short' and when declarer put up dummy's queen North covered with the king and continued with the ♥3. Declarer had eight tricks, but that was all, -100.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	Zagorin	Muller	Bertheau
—	—	—	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

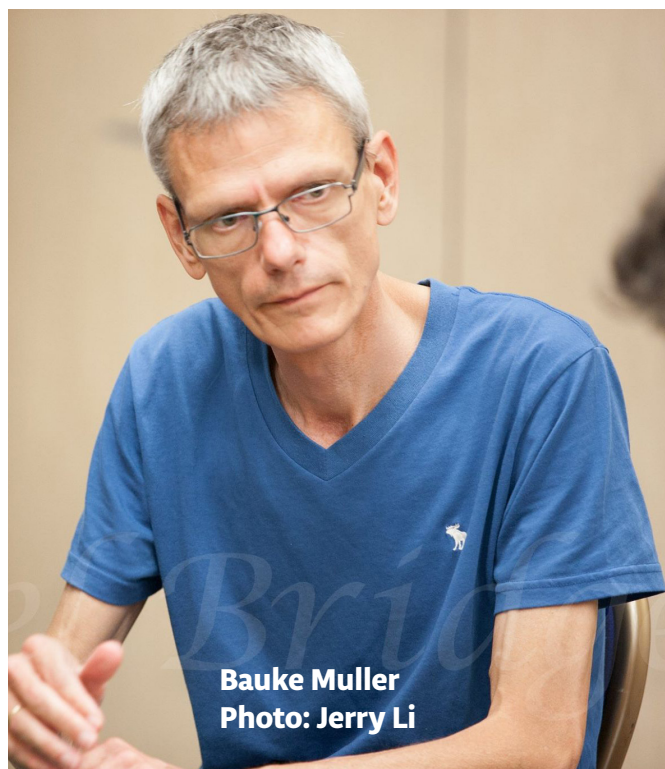
2♣ 6♣, (9)10-15
2♠ Non-forcing

South's double meant there was no chance North would start with a heart and the ♠5 was taken by the king, South switching to the ♥5. When declarer followed with the eight, North played the seven, declarer winning with dummy's ten. He cashed the ♦K and moments later had claimed nine tricks, +750 and 13 IMPs.

Board 37. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zamir	Gold	Toledano	Zia
—	1♠	2NT	4♠
All Pass			



East's 2NT is not annotated and although the players engaged in some discussion as to why West had not bid 5♣ there was nothing that indicated what East had shown.

East led the ♦K and declarer wisely ducked, won the heart switch with dummy's king and played a spade to the jack and ace, claiming when East returned the ♠4, +420.

It was another perfect deal for the Rueful Rabbit, who would have accidentally led the ♦3.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	Zagorin	Muller	Bertheau
—	1♠	2♠*	4♠
5♥	All Pass		

'No double no trouble' as they say. A spade lead meant the defenders could not be denied four tricks, -200 but 6 IMPs to Gupta, still in the hunt.



South led the ♦5 for the king and ace and declarer ruffed the diamond return and played a spade for the three, king and ace. Back came a diamond, declarer ruffing as South followed with the jack. Two rounds of trumps

ending in dummy allowed declarer to pitch a heart (he flamboyantly selected the jack) but there were still two losers in the suit, -100.

Board 38. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
de Wijs	Zagorin	Muller	Bertheau
—	—	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♥
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Zamir	Gold	Toledano	Zia
—	—	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Dble*	2♥*	3♦
Pass	Pass	4♣	All Pass

Those same four losers meant -500 and the loss of 9 IMPs. As it happens two rounds of clubs will put paid to 4♥.

On Board 40 EW held ♠AKJ107532
♥9 ♦QJ ♣A5 opposite ♠Q98 ♥Q1087
♦A1073 ♣82.

The ♦K was onside, but both sides stopped in game. However, even if Gupta had bid the slam it would not have been enough, as the last two deals were uncomplicated games.

And so Bertheau won the second MIT in a row - even more impressive the fields considered.

2♣ 10-15, 6+♣
2♦ Ask
Dble 'Not sure'
2♥ 'Unbalanced with max'

In a brief exchange after the play NS agreed that the double would be takeout by an unpassed hand.



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