World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 6. Saturday, 9 January, 2021

Hill win the January Cup

Joyce Hill

Kevin Dwyer

Shan Huang

Mikael Rimstedt

Ola Rimstedt

What a day!
Both the Semifinal matches got the adrenaline flowing!
You can read about this in detail in Mark Horton's article published on page 6.

Hill (Joyce Hill, Kevin Dwyer, Shan Huang, Mikael Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt) and Gupta (Naren Gupta, Simon Cope, Simon de Wijs, Bauke Muller, Zia Mahmood, Peter Crouch) advanced to the Final. The last match was won by Hill by 44.1 IMPs. Congratulations!!!

The third place is shared by the teams who reached the Semifinals but not the Final: Black (Andrew Black, David Gold, Gunnar Hallberg, Simon Hult, Andrew McIntosh, Thomas Paske) and Israel Seniors (Joseph Engel, Julian Frydrich, Doron Limor, Yaacov Mintz, Eitan Orenstein, Doron Yadlin).

Zoom

Zoom is not mandatory for the OCBL Mixed League starting today. However, players can freely decide to use it.

If anyone is unfamiliar with Zoom and would like to try it, please let us know and we will do our best to facilitate the process for you.

We are getting ready to offer Zoom services for the final stages of the upcoming WBT OCBL events. We will arrange and manage the meetings, so that teams wishing to use Zoom will be able do that with no effort, since we will take care of starting the meetings for them. For now the service will be offered to all teams and they will be free to choose whether to use it or not.

The feedbacks we have received are that video increases the social aspect of the game, explanations are made faster and more clearly, creating a much more enjoyable game for all.

Schedule Today

OCBL MIXED LEAGUE

SWISS ROUND 1. 17.00 CET / 11.00 EST

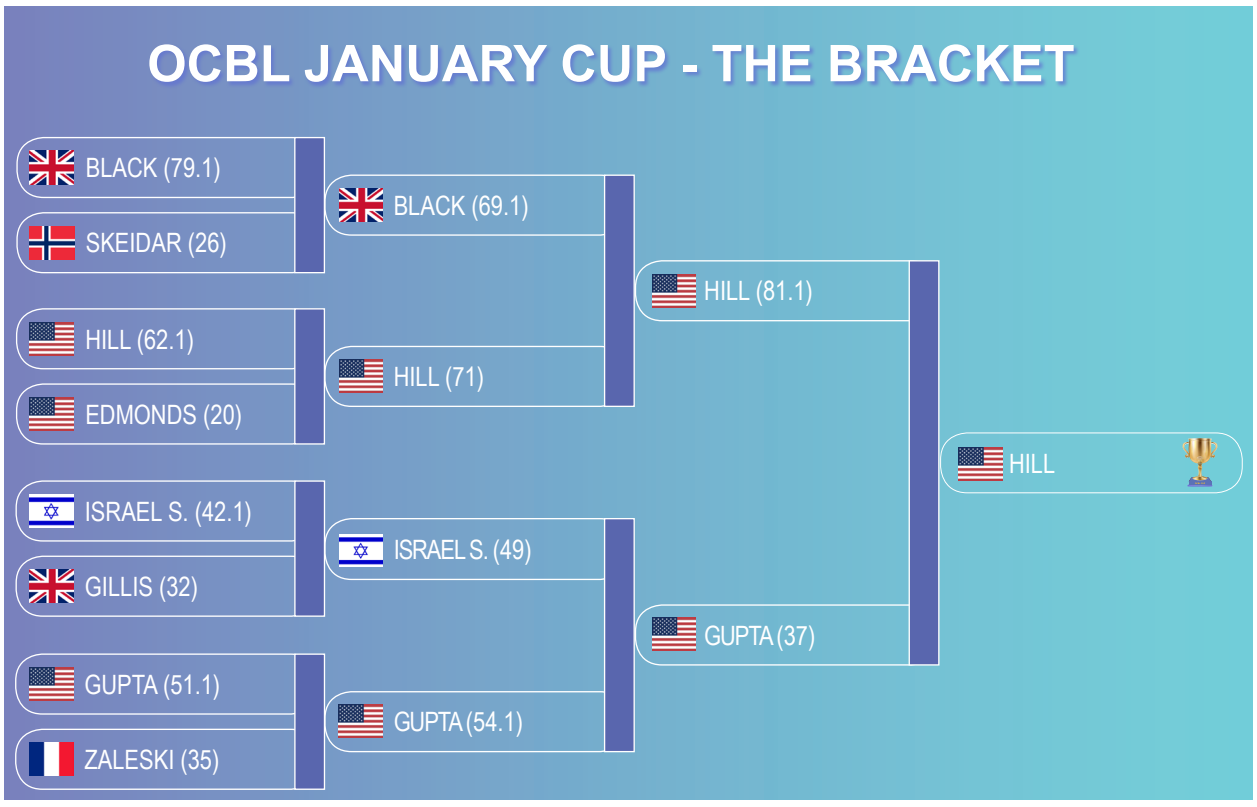
Weekend Warriors	**VS**	Fan
Alpert	**VS**	Munich
VUGRAPH Potter	**VS**	Medium Rare
Harris	**VS**	Cole
Sugi	**VS**	Pace e Salute
Sleepless in Seattle	**VS**	Puzzles
Robinson	**VS**	Carmichael

LINE-UP

We kindly ask you to remember to send us the line-up in time. It is very important for the tournament to run in the right way.

The OCBL Mixed League is starting today

The new OCBL event is starting today!
14 top level teams registered to play the OCBL Mixed League.
The tournament lasts 7 weeks and is played on Saturdays and Sundays.
A swiss qualification stage will be followed by the knockouts. **See details on page 9**.



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OCBL UPCOMING EVENTS

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE
12 January - 27 February 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/openleague1/

JANUARY OPEN TEAMS
18 - 22 January 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/januaryoteams/

OCBL FEBRUARY CUP
1 - 5 February 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/februarycup/

FEBRUARY OPEN TEAMS
15 - 19 February 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/februaryot/

MARCH OPEN TEAMS
8 - 11 March 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/marchot/

OCBL MARCH CUP
22 - 26 March 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/marchcup/

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE
30 March - 16 May 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/openleague2/

OCBL MIXED LEAGUE
27 March - 9 May 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/mixedleague2/

OCBL APRIL CUP
5 - 9 April 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/aprilcup/

APRIL OPEN TEAMS
19 - 23 April 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/aprilot/

OCBL MAY CUP
3 - 7 May 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/maycup/

MAY OPEN TEAMS
31 May - 4 June 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/mayot/

OCBL JUNE CUP
4 - 18 June 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/junecup/

About the OCBL Events:

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE
Play 3 days a week:
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
at 21.30 CET (15.30 EST)
Qualification + Knockout

OCBL MIXED LEAGUE
Play 2 days a week:
Saturday and Sunday
at 17.00 CET (11.00 EST)
Qualification + Knockout

OCBL CUP
Play 5 days
Qualification + Knockout

OCBL OPEN TEAMS
Play 5 days (4 in March)
Qualification + Swiss A

The Same Old Story

by **Mark Horton**

When you are trailing going into the remaining session of a match, the first thing you have to achieve is to score the required number of IMPs. The second is to ensure that while you are doing it you don't let points slip away. In the Quarterfinals of the OCBL January Cup, Zaleski trailed Gupta by 28.1 - could they turn the match around?

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ A K Q 10 8 ♡ A 6 ◇ 9 3 2 ♣ 5 3 2	
♠ J 7 6 4 ♡ K J 8 4 2 ◇ K ♣ K 10 6		♠ 5 ♡ 5 3 ◇ A Q J 10 8 5 4 ♣ Q 7 4
	♠ 9 3 2 ♡ Q 10 9 7 ◇ 7 6 ♣ A J 9 8	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cronier	*de Wijs*	*Combescure*	*Muller*
—	1♠	3◇	All Pass

The defenders started with two rounds of spades and declarer ruffed and played a heart to the jack and ace. After that nine tricks were assured and with the ♣J onside there proved to be ten, +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Volcker*	*Gupta*	*Lévy*
—	1♠	2◇	2♠
3♡	3♠	4♡	Dble
All Pass			

Zia's intervention pushed NS too high, but he had not allowed for the fact that his partner might take him seriously. North cashed the ♠A and switched to the ♣2 for the four, jack and king and declarer ruffed a spade, came to hand with a diamond, ruffed another spade, pitched a spade on the ◇A and continued with the ◇Q, ruffed by the ♡10 and overruffed by the jack. If declarer now exits with a low heart he will escape for one down, as

Naren Gupta

Francois Combescure - pic: EBL

the best South can do is win and return a heart when the defenders score only the two outstanding aces. However, he tried a club to dummy's queen and South won an exited with a club and now South could win the heart exit and play a fourth club, ensuring two more trump tricks,+300 and 10 IMPs - a great start for Zaleski.

If South had found the difficult play of taking the ♣A at trick two and switching to a trump then two rounds of hearts will hold declarer to eight tricks.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cronier	*de Wijs*	*Combescure*	*Muller*
—	—	4♡	Dble
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♡	5♠	All Pass	

Declarer ruffed the heart lead, drew trumps and played three rounds of diamonds, East winning and switching to clubs, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Volcker*	*Gupta*	*Lévy*
—	—	4♡	Dble
5♣	5♡*	Pass	5♠
6◇	6♠	Pass	Pass
7♡	Dble	All Pass	

I thoroughly approve of Zia's 5♣, designed to help partner if the opponents keep bidding. 6◇ was designed to confuse and when North bid 6♠ it appeared to have worked. If East had doubled (as he surely should with his club holding) Zia would have reaped a rich reward, but when his partner passed he could not risk it and took the cheap phantom save.

South led the ♠A and declarer ruffed, crossed to the ♡A and played a diamond to the queen and king. When South switched to the ♣3 the contract was only one down when North put in the ♣Q and declarer's diamonds went away on the ♣KJ. Still, it resulted in the loss of 5 IMPs.

By the time we reached the final deal of the session, Zaleski had scored 29 IMPs and given up only 3.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Cronier	*de Wijs*	*Combescure*	*Muller*
3◇	3♡	5◇	Dble

North cashed the ◇A and switched to the ♣4, South winning with the king and returning the ♡10. North took the ace and sent back the ♣6. Declarer put up dummy's ace and South ruffed and exited with the ◇Q. That meant the contract was four down, -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Volcker*	*Gupta*	*Lévy*
2◇	2♡	4◇	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ◇7 and having won with dummy's ace declarer played a club, East rising with the ace and returning the ◇8. Declarer ruffed in dummy, pitched a diamond on the ♣Q and played a spade. East's discard was a bitter pill to swallow and three more tricks had to be lost, -100 along with 14 IMPs and the match. If declarer had ruffed a club, ruffed his last diamond, cashed the ♡A and then discarded a heart on the ♣Q he would have secured 10 tricks, but not victory.

It was just the same old story.

Alain Levy - pic: Facebook

No Country for Old Men

by **Mark Horton**

The semifinals of the OCBL January Cup started quietly then burst into life in the second half with a series of testing deals:

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

	♠ 9 7 5 4 ♡ 7 5 ♢ 7 6 2 ♣ J 9 6 4	
♠ K Q 8 ♡ A Q J 6 2 ♢ A 8 5 ♣ A 10		♠ A 6 3 ♡ 8 ♢ K Q 10 9 ♣ K Q 7 5 2
	♠ J 10 2 ♡ K 10 9 4 3 ♢ J 4 3 ♣ 8 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Engel*	*Cope*	*Frydrich*
—	—	—	Pass
2♣*	Pass	3♡*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♢*	Pass
4♠*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♢	All Pass		

2♣ Strong, ♣, balanced or 4441
3♡ 5+/4+ minors, short heart, slam try
4♢ 5+♣,extras
4♠ Cuebid
5NT Pick a slam

South led the ♢3 and declarer played safely for 12 tricks, drawing trumps after cashing two clubs, +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Limor	*de Wijs*	*Mintz*	*Muller*
—	—	—	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♡*	Pass	7NT	All Pass

2NT 20-22
3♠ Transfer to clubs if West has 3+♣
3NT No club fit
4♣ Aces
4♡ 0-3

Doron Limor

Thomas Paske

When the clubs failed to break, declarer had little chance and he went two down, -200.

I wonder if he considered jumping to 7♢ over 4♡? That would have offered West a choice of contracts - and you can make 7♢!

Gupta collected 17 IMPs.

In the other match both sides reached 6NT.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ 8 2 ♡ 7 ♢ J 10 9 8 6 3 ♣ K Q 8 3	
♠ Q 10 9 6 ♡ A K Q 10 6 3 ♢ K 5 ♣ 10		♠ A K J 7 ♡ J 2 ♢ A 2 ♣ J 7 6 5 2
	♠ 5 4 3 ♡ 9 8 5 4 ♢ Q 7 4 ♣ A 9 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	*O Rimstedt*	*McIntosh*	*M Rimstedt*
1♡	3♢	Dble*	4♢
4♡	All Pass		

North led the ♢J and declarer claimed 12 tricks, +480.

In the other match both sides reached 6♠, only de Wijs overcalling 3♢. East doubled and when West bid 4♠ a cue bid of 5♢ saw West jump to 6♠.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Black*	*Huang*	*Gold*
1♡	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♢*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♢*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

2♣ 2+♣, game forcing
4♢ Forward going with a spade fit
4NT RKCB
5♢ 0-3 key cards

That was worth 11 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

	♠ 9 4 3 ♡ A Q J 10 5 ♢ A Q 9 ♣ Q 5	
♠ Q J 7 5 2 ♡ 3 2 ♢ K 6 ♣ K 9 7 3		♠ A K 10 ♡ 8 ♢ J 10 7 5 2 ♣ A J 10 6
	♠ 8 6 ♡ K 9 7 6 4 ♢ 8 4 3 ♣ 8 4 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	*O Rimstedt*	*McIntosh*	*M Rimstedt*
—	1♡	Dble	1♠
4♠	All Pass		

West brushed aside South's baby psyche.

North started with the ♡A followed by the queen and declarer ruffed in dummy with the ♠K, cashed the ♠A and ran the ♢10, North winning with the queen, cashing the ace and exiting with the ♣Q, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Black*	*Huang*	*Gold*
—	1NT*	Pass	2♢*
Pass	3♡*	All Pass	

1NT 14(15-17)
2♢ Transfer
3♡ Minimum, good trump support

Should East have risked a double of 3♡?

The cost was 11 IMPs.

There was a similar swing in the other match, again resulting from a1NT opening by Engel which kept East quiet.

Mikael Rimstedt

David Gold - pic: Monica Garneata

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	*O Rimstedt*	*McIntosh*	*M Rimstedt*
—	—	1◇	Pass
1NT	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	4◇*	Pass	4♡*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

2♣ Majors
4◇ Splinter
4♡ Last Train

How useful to be able to bid 2♣ over West's tactical 1NT (following a now very old Bols Bridge Tip that was perhaps ahead of it's time!).

West led the ♣3 and declarer won with dummy's ace cashed the ♠K (an important move) took two clubs pitching a heart, cashed the ♡A, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond and ruffed a heart with the ♠A, West pitching the ♣4. Declarer ruffed a diamond and ruffed a heart with the ♠8. West overruffed, but declarer could ruff his return and draw the outstanding trump, +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Black*	*Huang*	*Gold*
—	—	1◇*	Pass
Pass	Dble	1♡	1♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	4◇*	Pass	4♡
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

1◇ 2+◇, 10-15
4◇ Shortage

West led the ♡7 and declarer took dummy's ace, cashed three clubs pitching a heart, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond and ruffed a heart with the ♠8 West overruffing and exiting with the ♣5. When declarer guessed to ruff with dummy's ♠9 East overuffed and that brought West's ♠7 into the picture. Declarer overruffed, ruffed a diamond and now West could overruff declarer's ♠6 when he ruffed another heart to gain 17 IMPs.

With Hill ahead by 6.90 and Gupta by 5.10 both Black and Israel Seniors could hope to trun things around in the second session.

Letter to the Editors

We received the following message from Andrew Black, about a board featured in 'the Longest Day', a story written by Mark Horton and published in the 5th issue of our Journal. (https://ocbl.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/OCBL-journal-005.pdf)

Dear Mark,
I greatly enjoy reading the bulletin.
I note your write up on my 4♡ hand from Wednesday; with the suggestion that I took a sub optimal percentage line. I'd like to defend my honour on this point.
With Axxxx opposite Qxxx, the odds, as you say, are to play Ace and another. However here I am missing KJ10x, and assuming I play restricted choice I believe the odds are the same.
Helgemo (other room) had a Diamond lead - he has nothing to think about. He can and should play A and another.
I had a club lead taking out an entry to my hand. I tried a D at T2 (debatable but I like to put defenders on the spot early) and another club came back.
If I play A and another now, and Kxx is on my right, he will play a club next and lock me on dummy. Happily for me I had no real choice but to go down the alternative route, preserving my ♡A as an entry.
Thanks
Andrew

- - -

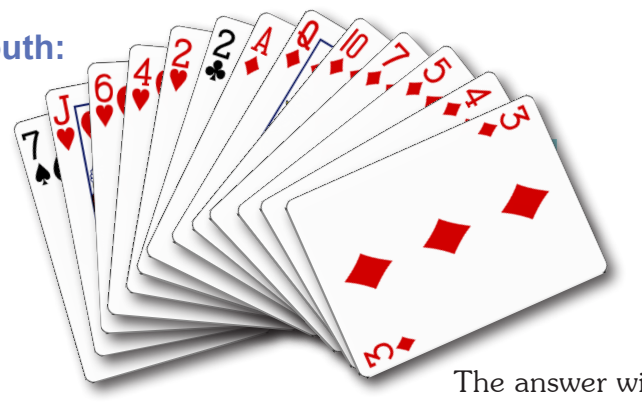
It's great to know we have at least one reader Andrew!
Odds wise, there is not much between the two lines in the trump suit and in the days when I played, I was always happy if partner made the contract. A diamond lead was slightly more popular that a club (a few East's started with a spade). Having taken a diamond finesse at trick two and avoided a potentially awkward spade return I think everything hinges on the trump suit. I fear I would have cashed the ace, but that may because I spent too much time partnering the Rabbi who hated losing to a singleton king!
Mark

A New Quiz!

Dealer North. E/W Vulnerable.

West	North	East	South
	1♡	Pass	?

Your cards as South:



The answer will be posted tomorrow!

The OCBL JOURNAL in your MAILBOX

Would you like receiving the OCBL Daily Journal by e-mail for free?

Just drop your e-mail address here: **https://ocbl.org/journal/**

You have to read this

by **Mark Horton**

The second session of the semifinals of the OCBL January Cup produced some dramatic deals that resulted in pulsating finishes in both matches - although initially that appeared to be an unlikely scenario.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Black*	*Huang*	*Gold*
—	1♣*	1♠	2♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♢*
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣, 2♣+5♢ possible
4♢ Splinter

West led the ♠10 and subsequently scored a ruff, +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hult	*O Rimstedt*	*Hallberg*	*M Rimstedt*
—	1NT*	Pass	2♢*
Dble	Pass*	2♠	6♡
All Pass			

1NT 12-14
2♢ Transfer
Pass 2♡

West led the ♠10 and when East gained the lead with the ♡A a second spade allowed West to ruff, -50 and an 11 IMP loss.

Simon Hult

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

	♠ 10 4 3 ♡ A J ♢ K 10 9 7 6 5 ♣ K Q	
♠ 9 7 ♡ 10 9 7 6 4 3 ♢ A J ♣ A 6 2		♠ A J 2 ♡ K Q 8 2 ♢ 4 3 ♣ J 8 7 5
	♠ K Q 8 6 5 ♡ 5 ♢ Q 8 2 ♣ 10 9 4 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Black*	*Huang*	*Gold*
—	—	1♢*	1♠
2♢*	Dble	4♡	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

1♢ 2+♢,10-15
2♢ 5+♡

West led the ♢A and switched to the ♡7, declarer taking dummy's ace and playing a spade. East went up with the ace (ducking does not help) and returned the ♢3. Declarer won with the queen, drew trumps and claimed, +790.

4♠ can be defeated, but only if West starts with a club. For example after two rounds of clubs declarer wins in dummy and plays a spade to the king. If declarer then goes to dummy with the ♡A and plays a spade East can win and return a spade when declarer must lose a diamond and a club.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hult	*O Rimstedt*	*Hallberg*	*M Rimstedt*
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

North led the ♣Q and declarer won with the ace and played a heart, North taking the ace and cashing the ♣K on which South played a well-intentioned ♣10. North switched to the ♠3 and declarer won with dummy's ace and cashed all his trumps to reach this ending:

	♠ 4 ♡ — ♢ K 10 9 ♣ —	
♠ 9 ♡ — ♢ A J ♣ 6		♠ J 2 ♡ — ♢ — ♣ J 8
	♠ K Q ♡ — ♢ — ♣ 9 4	

When he cashed the ♢A South had to throw a spade (he tried the king) but declarer exited with a spade to force a lead into the ♣J8 for +420 and a massive 15 IMPs.

As you will doubtless have realised, if South retains the ♣109 then declarer must goone down.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Black*	*Huang*	*Gold*
—	—	—	Pass
1♢*	2♣	2♢*	Pass
2♡	2♠	3♠*	Pass
4♣*	4♠	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

1♢ 2+♢,10-15
2♢ 5+♡

Declarer ruffed the heart lead and played the ♠K West taking the ace and exiting with a heart, ruffed by declarer, who played a low diamond (continuing to play spades is best as the cards lie). East should duck that, but he took the ace and exited with the ten, declarer winning with the king and only now continuing spades. East ruffed in with the queen and exited with a heart. After ruffing if declarer guesses to ruff another spade he can escape for one down, but he cashed the ♣A first, so that was -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hult	*O Rimstedt*	*Hallberg*	*M Rimstedt*
—	—	—	Pass
1♢	3♢*	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

3♢ ♠+♣

South led the ♠9 and declarer won with dummy's ace, drew trumps ending in dummy, played a club to the queen and exited with the ♠10. North won and with no good move, exited with the ♢K, declarer claiming, +620 and 8 IMPs, making the session score 35-0.

Gunnar Hallberg

Zia Mahmood - pic: Arianna Testa / WBF

Meanwhile, in the other match:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ A Q 6 ♡ 7 4 2 ♢ Q J 5 ♣ J 7 5 3	
♠ K J 9 8 2 ♡ K 10 8 5 ♢ K 8 ♣ K 2		♠ 7 4 ♡ A J 9 ♢ 10 9 3 2 ♣ A Q 10 9
	♠ 10 5 3 ♡ Q 6 3 ♢ A 7 6 4 ♣ 8 6 4	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Orenstein*	*Gupta*	*Yadlin*
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♢4 and when dummy's king held declarer played a heart to the ace and followed it with the jack for the queen and king. A heart to the nine was followed by a spade for the jack and queen and North cashed the queen and jack of diamonds and exited with the ♣J, which saw declarer win with dummy's king, cash the ♡10 and play a club for +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Limor	*de Wijs*	*Mintz*	*Muller*
1♠	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1NT Relay

Yaacov Mintz

Once again South led the ♢4 and declarer won with dummy's king and played a heart, but he put in the nine and South won with the queen and switched to the ♠3 enabling North to cash four tricks, -100 and 12 IMPs for Gupta.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ K J 10 7 4 2 ♡ Q ♢ 7 4 ♣ 10 7 5 4	
♠ Q 8 ♡ A K 9 8 7 3 2 ♢ K 5 ♣ Q J		♠ A 6 5 ♡ J 5 4 ♢ A 9 ♣ A K 9 6 2
	♠ 9 3 ♡ 10 6 ♢ Q J 10 8 6 3 2 ♣ 8 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Orenstein*	*Gupta*	*Yadlin*
1♡	2♠	3♠*	4♢
4♡	All Pass		

Declarer took all the tricks, +510.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Limor	*de Wijs*	*Mintz*	*Muller*
1♡	2♠	3♠*	Pass
4♢*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♠*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♢	Pass	6♡	All Pass

3♠ Fit with a good hand
4♢ Cuebid
4NT RKCB
5♠ 2 key cards +♡Q
5NT Something more?
6♢ ♢K

That was enough for 11 IMPs.

Obviously the key to bidding the grand slam is to discover that West has not only very good hearts, but also the magical ♣QJ.

In the other match North overcalled 3♠ and East bid 4♣, but both sides stopped in 6♡.

As it happened Hill had made some gains, picking up 16IMPs on part score deals to keep their hopes alive.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

	♠ 6 5 3 ♡ A 9 ♢ 7 2 ♣ A Q J 7 5 3	
♠ K J 8 ♡ K J 8 4 ♢ A Q J 6 ♣ K 9		♠ A Q 10 9 7 2 ♡ Q 5 3 ♢ 10 5 ♣ 8 4
	♠ 4 ♡ 10 7 6 2 ♢ K 9 8 4 3 ♣ 10 6 2	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Black*	*Huang*	*Gold*
—	1♣*	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣, 2♣+5♢ possible

South led the ♣6, but there were only three defensive tricks, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hult	*O Rimstedt*	*Hallberg*	*M Rimstedt*
—	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♢	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1NT 10-12
2♣ Stayman

North cashed the ♣A and continued with the queen, declarer winning with the king and cashing six spades. North kept ♡A ♢7 ♣J53 and when declarer decided to play a heart he could cash out for one down, +100 and 12 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

	♠ A J 10 5 3 ♡ A 2 ♢ 10 5 4 2 ♣ 8 5	
♠ 6 4 ♡ 8 7 5 4 ♢ 8 6 3 ♣ K J 7 6		♠ Q 9 2 ♡ K Q 10 3 ♢ Q 7 ♣ A Q 4 2
	♠ K 8 7 ♡ J 9 6 ♢ A K J 9 ♣ 10 9 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Black*	*Huang*	*Gold*
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♡*	1NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣, 2♣/5♢ possible
1♡ Spades

South led the ♢K and when North followed with the five he switched to the ♡6. North won with the ace and returned the ♢2 for the queen and ace. Two more diamonds put North on lead and I was already typing in four down when North returned the ♡2, surrendering +180 instead of securing what would have been a match winning gain.

Easy to suggest, but after cashing the ♢K perhaps South should switch to a low spade?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hult	*O Rimstedt*	*Hallberg*	*M Rimstedt*
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♡*	Dble	2♠
All Pass			

1NT 12-14
2♡ Transfer
2♠ 3♠

West led the ♡5 and declarer took dummy's ace, crossed to the ♠K and ran the seven, +140 and 8 IMPs.

The final deal offered EW a non-vulnerable game. Hill missed it, but they just had enough in hand.

In the other match Gupta's lead was down to 0.1(!) but their opponents also missed game on the final deal so they won by 5.1.

It was great drama - could the final match it?

JANUARY CUP - RESULTS

SEMIFINAL 2/2

Hill	36 IMPs TOTAL: 71	41 IMPs TOTAL: 69.1	Black (+0.1)

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: Rimstedt O. S: Rimstedt M.	E: Huang S. W: Dwyer K.	E: Hallberg G. W: Hult S.	N: Black A. S: Gold D.

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=78102-1610044865

Gupta (+0.1)	28 IMPs TOTAL: 54.1	28 IMPs TOTAL: 49	Israel S.

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: de Wijs S. S: Muller B.	E: Gupta N. W: Zia Mahmood	E: Mintz Y. W: Limor D.	N: Orenstein E. S: Yadlin D.

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=78103-1610044868

FINAL 1/2

Hill (+0.1)	44 IMPs TOTAL: 44.1	9 IMPs TOTAL: 37	Gupta

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: Rimstedt O. S: Rimstedt M.	E: Huang S. W: Dwyer K.	E: Cope S. W: Crouch P.	N: de Wijs S. S: Muller B.

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=87347-1610124281

FINAL 2/2

Hill (+0.1)	37 IMPs TOTAL: 81.1	28 IMPs TOTAL: 37	Gupta

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: Rimstedt O. S: Rimstedt M.	E: Huang S. W: Dwyer K.	E: Gupta N. W: Zia Mahmood	N: de Wijs S. S: Muller B.

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=88604-1610130720

Online Bridge NEWS

THE ULTIMATE MIND GAME

Are you looking for ways to convince your friends or relatives to start playing bridge?

John Storey comes to your help! He recently wrote a post in Bridgewinners to recommend the following video from TEDxGLIMChennai:

You can play the video here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YICFXRPFek0&feature=youtu.be

Video description:
"Sunil Varghese (entrepreneur, start-up mentor) shares his experience on how Bridge is the ultimate mind game and a decision making enhancer in work and in life. He talks about how Bridge teaches us to prioritize time, meet deadlines, plan projects and most important, it trains us to make better and considered decisions.
This talk was given at a TEDx event, held at Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai, using the TED conference format but independently organized by a local community. Sunil Varghese a mechanical engineer and IIM B graduate, has over 25 years of experience in working with people, developing people, Leadership Development intervention and Executive Coaching, helping people change and achieve what they wish to. He is also a behavioural scientist and ACC level credentialed coach with erudition in spiritual discourse."

YOUR REPORT ABOUT THE PANDEMIC

We have asked players from different countries to tell us how the pandemic is going on in their area:

- **How has CoViD-19 affected Bridge in their country;**
- **whether Bridge clubs are open or not;**
- **how their Bridge Federation is reacting;**
- **when they feel F2F Bridge will be played again.**

Sugi reports from Singapore

"General situation in Singapore is controllable and manageable. The government is swift to step in to control the border as well as the spread in local community. We are still able to travel and gather maximum up to 5 people while recently the maximum is raised to 8 people to show the confidence in handling the pandemic as the news also show the presence of the vaccines.

Club houses are still down since (around February I think) and most activities are played in BBO.
I think it is difficult to answer when we are able to play face-to-face bridge again. However, with the help of technology, we can still play bridge online, and Realbridge has also developed its face-to-face technology in playing bridge online.
But the good news from this pandemic we can still play bridge online with friends or in tournament with other people across geolocation.
We have played online tournament organized by Yeh Cup Taiwan, Australia, Hongkong, Saudi Arabia, India, Indonesia, China as well as OCBL.

Coronavirus pic: courtesy of Telegram - Telegram.org

STARTING TODAY!

OCBL MIXED LEAGUE

9 January - 21 February, 2021

FORMAT

QUALIFICATION

The qualification stage will be played in the form of a Swiss tournament.
The qualification stage will consist of 200 boards per team, played in 10 matches of 20 boards each.
The top 8 teams will advance to the K.O.
Quarterfinal and semifinal will be played over 2 segments of 16 boards each.
Final will be played over 2 segments of 24 boards each with a possible change of the line-up after 12 boards

KNOCKOUT

At the end of the qualification stage the top 8 teams will play the knockouts:
#1 vs #8 #2 vs #7 #3 vs #6 #4 vs #5
There will be the following Carry Over:
in the Quarterfinal no. #1 & # 2 get a carryover of 8.1 IMPs and no. #3 & #4 get a carryover of 4.1 IMPs.
In the Semifinals and the Final there will be a carry-over of 0.1 IMP's as a tiebreaker.

REGISTERED TEAMS

WEEKEND WARRIORS
Edmonds J. (jodi e), Wooldridge J. (firechief), Grue J. (joegrue), Zur Campanile M. (migry), Donner G. (GDonnerSC1), Miniter G. (gillian), Rosenthal A. (andrewr), Rimstedt S. (sandria)

FAN
Kang-Wei Fan (firebolt), Ho-Yee So (Qriousbaby), Hor-yung Koo (Charmian), Pui-Yi Chan (Pearly04), Po-Ya Tsai (Mummy43), Li-Jen Chen (Mrsigma), Kwok-fai Mak (Kfmak), Pik-Kin Lau (Hellotony)

ALPERT
Alpert C. (Clairee2), Hoyos C. (charlie111), Fruscoloni L. (frusco), Molson J. (janicem), Versace A. (nevaio)

MUNICH
Baldysz Z. (zofiumb), Gotard T. (Tomi2), Schneider M. (docms), Eggeling M. (marabelle), Grünke P. (thetaker), Smykalla G. (karo72003)

POTTER
Potter C. (ohceep), Huang S. (precisebri), Cullin P.O. (pocken), Dwyer K. (kdwyer), Rimstedt C. (CillaR), Michielsen M. (lady007)

MEDIUM RARE
Tuncok C. (ctuncok), Chan L. (lapt), Salhon R. (limini), Fehrenbach S. (bignana1), Baskan B. (baskanb), Culbertson S. (stephannie)

HARRIS
Root S. (AsNuttyAs), Gold M. (marusab), Tiholov T. (polborta), Harris J. (Jdache), Gross S. (sgross)

COLE
Cole M. (mtc146), Koeppel L. (lgkoeppel), Dobrescu R. (ralooka), Bianchedi A. (alecuque), Tokay M. (tokay1975), Greenberg T. (ted greenb)

SUGI
Sugiharto (sugi), Nurkunyil A. (nurkunyil), Kelvin N. (smoz), Peihua L. (peihua)

PACE E SALUTE
Setton H. (Ldase), Franceschetti P. (gewd), Bessis T. (malpaluche), Baroni I. (princi)

SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE
Bauer T. (Marintlc), Eng K. (keng777), Ekinci O. (ekinci), Sieg E. (Vilgan)

PUZZLES
Hawkes J. (locushawk), Rahtjen A. (sweetsouth), Niederman D. (MrKnight), Malaspina P. (greeleygrl)

ROBINSON
Parker C. (CMP56), Robinson L. (saba), Grossack Z. (germs345), Rubenstein S. (StewR), Grossack A. (nevereast), Tebha A. (AnamTebha)

CARMICHAEL
Carmichael J. (moonbeam42), Donn J. (jdonn), Ivatury U. (uday), Moss S. (sylvie), Carmichael T. (TomC), Winestock S. (sheri), Henner C. (christal)

World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

JANUARY OPEN TEAMS

18 JANUARY - 22 JANUARY 2021

Take your seat.

Qualification + Swiss A

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG