World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 63. Tuesday, 9 March, 2021

SF. ROUND 2. 16.30 CET / 10.30 EST

Gupta	VS	Levine	VUGRAPH
Compton	VS	France Sud	VUGRAPH

Final. ROUND 1. 19.13 CET / 15.30 EST

To be announced

Final. ROUND 2. 21.30 CET / 15.30 EST

To be announced

CONVENTION CARDS: PLEASE UPLOAD THEM!

It is highly recommended for all participants to prepare and load your convention card.
If you need help, here is a quick video tutorial, provided by Andrew Robson:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrL2FnyFaJc

FINAL SYMPHONY

Eric Rodwell playing the piano

The Semifinals are underway:
Gupta are facing Levine and Compton are facing France Sud.
Today the second half of the Semifinals will be played, along with the Final (two segments x 16 boards each).
At the end of the day we will know the winners of the OCBL Super Cup!

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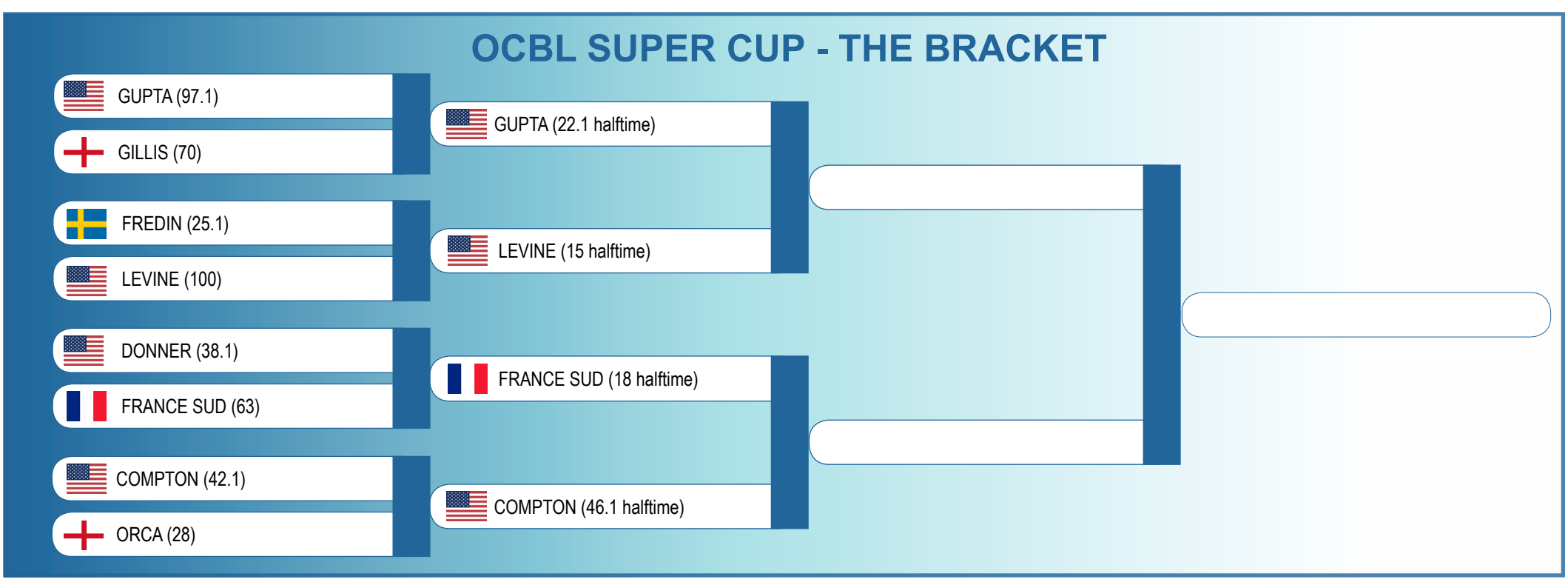
OCBL SUPER CUP - THE BRACKET



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OCBL UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN LEAGUE
29 March - 25 April, 2021

Play every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday at 21.30 CEST - 15.30 EDT

APRIL CUP
5 - 9 April, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 5 April	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Tuesday 6 April	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 7 April	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Thursday 8 April	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
KO:	Friday 9 April	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

MAY CUP
3 - 7 May, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 3 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Tuesday 4 May	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 5 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Thursday 6 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
KO:	Friday 7 May	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

OPEN LEAGUE
10 May - 6 June, 2021

Play every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday at 21.30 CEST - 15.30 EDT

JUNE CUP
31 May - 4 June, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 31 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Tuesday 1 June	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 2 June	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Thursday 3 June	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
KO:	Friday 4 June	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

Quarterfinals

by Brian Senior

Set one

The quarter-finals were played over two 16-board sessions, with a carry-over from the qualifying stage which included a fraction of an IMP to prevent the possibility of a tie and hence avoid any prospect of extra boards being required. The carry-over was in each case in favour of the team which qualified in the higher position.

We had four matches which were all, broadly speaking, USA v Europe. So who would come out on top, the old world or the new?

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Gupta v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Brogeland*	*Gupta*	*Lindqvist*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♡	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Gupta passed as dealer but, when Zia opened 1♡ in third seat, jumped to 3♠ in response to show an unspecified singleton. Facing a passed hand, Zia didn't fancy slam so didn't bother to find out which shortage his partner held, instead simply signing off in game. There was no way that Gupta could bid on now so the excellent slam was missed. The friendly club position meant that 13 tricks were easy; +510.

West	North	East	South
Saelensminde	*de Wijs*	*Gillis*	*Muller*
–	–	1♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♡	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

Gillis opened the East hand and Saelensminde showed a game-forcing four-card raise. When Gillis showed his two-suiter, Saelensminde took control, asking for key-cards then inviting Seven. Gillis was unwilling to bid the grand himself but admitted to holding the king of clubs. Saelensminde wasn't confident about there being 13 tricks and, indeed, on a different club lay-out there would not have been, so he settled for 6♡ and was no doubt pleasantly surprised to find that his side had gained 11 IMPs.

Donner v France Sud

West	North	East	South
Donner	*Mus*	*S. Rimstedt*	*Gautret*
–	–	1♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♢	Pass
5♡	All Pass		

Rimstedt opened the East hand and Donner's 2NT response was modified Jacoby, including game-invitational hands. Three Diamonds was initially a game try and Donner not only accepted the try but asked if his partner had a shortage. Four Diamonds showed the diamond shortage, 4♠ was Key-card, and 5♢ showed two key-cards without the ♡Q. Donner guessed to pass now, only to find that Six was cold and Seven making; +510.

West	North	East	South
Fleury	*Grue*	*Girollet*	*Moss*
–	–	1♡	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♢	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♢	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♢	Pass	6♡	All Pass

Girollet opened and Fleury responded with a game-forcing relay. Three Clubs was natural and showed at least 5-4 but a near minimum, 11-14. Three Diamonds was a second relay, the response showing both the fifth club and the diamond shortage. Four Spades was again Key-card, but Fleury was much more optimistic than Donner. On hearing of the two key-cards, Fleury asked for kings and heard that his partner held the ♣K. There seems to be some mild misunderstanding as on BBO 6♣ was also described as denying the ♠K, but then 6♢ as asking for the ♠K, but on the other side of the table taken as asking for the ♣Q. No matter, 6♡ was pnce again good enough for +11 IMPs, and it will be agreat comfort to less experienced readers to see that the experts too have the occasional misunderstanding in slam auctions.

Peter Fredin

Compton v Orca

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Smith*	*Forrester*	*Moses*
–	–	1♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♢	Pass	6♡	All Pass

Forrester opened the East hand and 2NT was GF Jacoby. Three Clus was natural, 3♡ asked, and 4♢ showed the shortage. Now Crouch cuebid 4♠ and it was Forrester, East, who used Key-card. Five Diamonds showed zero or three and Forrester settled for the small slam – Seven was unlikely to be solid if Crouch could not himself take control and ask for key-cards.

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Plackett*	*Huang*	*Erichsen*
–	–	1♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♢	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♢	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

Huang opened and 2NT was a limit raise or better. Three Clubs was an artificial acceptance of a game invitation and 3♢ an artificial ask, 3NT showing the diamond shortage. After an exchange of cuebids, 4♠ was Key-card and 5♢ showed two without the queen. Bathurst invited Seven and Huang showed the ♣K, which was not sufficient for Bathurst, who settled for Six and a flat board.

Fredin v Levine

West	North	East	South
Helness	*Sylvan*	*Helgemo*	*Morath*
–	–	1♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♢	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♡	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

Helgemo opened and 2NT was GF raise. Three Clubs showed clubs, 4♢ showed the shortage, and 5♡ showed two key-cards but no ♡Q. Five No Trump invited Seven, and Helgemo showed the ♣K. As we have seen before, That was not enough to convince West, who settled for the small slam.

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Wold*	*Apteker*	*Levine*
–	–	1♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♢	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

Apteker opened and Fredin's 2NT response was invitational or better. Unlike Huang, Apteker considered his hand to be a minimum

Zia Mahmood - pic: Arianna Testa / WBF

so said so with an artificial 3♣ rebid. In response to two further inquiries, Apteker admitted to a diamond shortage and a club control and that was enough for Fredin, who jumped to 6♡. Facing a minimum, Seven was never a serious consideration; flat board.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Wold*	*Apteker*	*Levine*
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

At most tables East led a heart and, indeed, a red-suit lead (other than a diamond honour) beats 3NT easily enough.

Apteker guessed to lead the major in which he had a little help for his partner – the three of spades – and that gave Wold a chance. He rose with the ten and, when that held the trick, was up to seven and needed either two more clubs or one club and one heart. Rather than play on clubs immediately, when it is necessary on this lay-out to finesse the nine at some point to succeed, or lead ace followed by the nine towards the jack, which is not a likely choice, Wold played the ten of diamonds off the table. Fredin won the king and solved declarer's problem in the club suit by switching to the two of clubs. That went to the nine and king, and Wold had three club winners without having had to guess the suit. He chalked up +600 and 13 IMPs to Levine, the same contract having gone down two at the other table after a heart lead followed by club to the queen.

Tony Forrester

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Gupta v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Brogeland*	*Gupta*	*Lindqvist*
–	–	2♢	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Gupta was playing a weak 2♢ so used it, and Zia just blasted 3NT. Perhaps fearing that diamonds were running so that the defence needed to take five tricks before declarer gained the lead, Brogeland led the suit in which he held the king, rather than the queen. It was the perfect moment for such a lead and the defence wasted no time in cashing five club winners. Lindqvist then got off play with a spade and Zia won on table and led a diamond to the ace then ran the nine of diamonds; down two for –200.

West	North	East	South
Saelensminde	*de Wijs*	*Gillis*	*Muller*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

De Wijs led a spade. Saelensminde ran this to his jack and played ace and another diamond. Going up with the king, he made 11 tricks for +660 and 13 IMPs.

Compton v Orca

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Smith*	*Forrester*	*Moses*
–	–	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	2♢	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Forrester opened the East hand at the one level then rebid his long suit. Two Spades was GF with a diamond fit and now Forrester admitted to heart support and Crouch went on to the heart game. That was well done as 4♡ is clearly a much better spot than 3NT. Smith led a spade round to the jack. Crouch cashed the ♠K, crossed to the ace of hearts and took a club pitch on the ♠A. Next he gave up a club, won the heart return with the king, and came to hand with a diamond to ruff his remaining club loser. When the ♢Q fell under the king, there was just a heart to be lost; +650.

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Plackett*	*Huang*	*Erichsen*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♢	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Huang did not open the East hand. His 2NT response was Puppet Stayman, and 3♢ showed five hearts and fewer than four spades. Four Diamonds was now a transfer to hearts. Plackett led a spade and Bathurst played as had Crouch; 11 tricks and no swing.

Donner v France Sud

West	North	East	South
Donner	*Mus*	*S. Rimstedt*	*Gautret*
–	–	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	2♢	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Rimstedt opened 1♢, promising only two cards, then repeated the suit. Donner explored with a GF 2♠ and, on finding heart support, bid the heart game. Mus led a club, Gautret winning the ace and continuing with a second club for the queen and king. Mus now returned a heart and Donner needed to get the diamonds right for his contract. He won the heart in hand, played three rounds of spades, ruffing the jack, then cashed the king of hearts and led a diamond to the ace then gave up a heart. Back came a spade. Donner was able to delay the diamond decision until trick 12, by which time he had convinced himself that the suit was splitting evenly, so he led to the king and had 10 tricks for +620.

West	North	East	South
Fleury	*Grue*	*Girollet*	*Moss*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♡	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♢	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Girollet passed as dealer then used Drury and Fleury became declarer in 4♡ after Girollet had shown his diamond values. Grue led a spade and Fleury followed the now familiar line for 11 tricks, +650, and a 1 IMP gain.

Fredin v Levine

West	North	East	South
Helness	*Sylvan*	*Helgemo*	*Morath*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Given a blind lead by Helgemo's immediate raise to game, Sylvan made what looks to be the normal choice of the six of spades. Helness rose with the king and cashed the king of diamonds then led a second diamond to the queen and ace. When he cashed the remaining diamonds, Sylvan pitched a heart. Helness, who had also discarded two hearts, now had a third heart winner and 11 in all for +660.

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Meckstroth*	*Apteker*	*Rodwell*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Meckstroth too was given a blind lead and chose the ♠6. Fredin ran this to his jack and, like Helness, started diamonds with the king. Helped by clear discarding from Rodwell, Meckstroth knew to keep his hearts so Fredin also made 11 tricks – six diamonds, two hearts and three spades; no swing.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Gupta v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Brogeland*	*Gupta*	*Lindqvist*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♢	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Saelensminde	*de Wijs*	*Gillis*	*Muller*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♢	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Both Norths opened 1♢ in third seat, both Easts overcalled 4♠, and both Souths doubled. De Wijs left in the double, while Brogeland removed it to 5♣, where he played. So, who was right?

Gupta led the king of spades against 5♣ and continued with the nine of spades to Zia's ace, ruffed. Brogeland played ace and another diamond to the queen and king – Zia was well capable of having ducked with the king – and back came a third spade. Brogeland ruffed, ruffed a diamond, led a club to the nine, discovering the bad split, and ruffed another diamond. He could lead a club to the queen now and play the fifth diamond, conceding one club trick; –50.

Muller led ace and another diamond to declarer's king. Gillis now made the slightly odd play of the queen of spades to dummy's ace. He led the four of hearts to the ten and jack, ruffed the club return, and played king and another spade to Muller's jack. Muller returned the three of hearts to the seven, queen and king, and Gillis had to concede two heart tricks so was down two for –300 and 8 IMPs to Gupta.

Compton v Orca

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Smith*	*Forrester*	*Moses*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Smith did not open the North hand but Forrester made the same 4♠ bid as we have seen from other Easts. He was left to play there and Moses led ace and another diamond to the king. Forrester crossed to the ace of spades to lead the four of hearts to the nine, ten and jack, and Moses returned the jack of spades. Forrester won the queen and rattled off three more spade winners. Moses pitched a heart, but it didn't matter as, when Forrester now played the king to pin the queen, that established not only the ♡8 but also dummy's ♡7, and he had 10 tricks for an excellent +420.

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Plackett*	*Huang*	*Erichsen*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♢	4♠	Dble
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Plackeet did open the North hand and we saw the usual 4♠ overcall and double. When Plackett took that out to 5♣, Bathurst fancied his trump holding sufficiently to double – the contract could hardly be making overtricks, after all.

Huang led the queen of spades and continued with a second spade to the ace and ruff. Plackett played ace of diamonds and a diamond to the nine and king. He ruffed the spade return, cashed the ♢Q then ruffed a diamond, and led the jack of clubs to the king and ace. The queen of hearts to the king and ace saw Plackett back in dummy to lead a club to his nine, but there was no way to avoid a club loser; down one for –100 but 8 IMPs to Orca.

Donner v France Sud

West	North	East	South
Donner	*Mus*	*S. Rimstedt*	*Gautret*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♢	1♠	Dble
Pass	2♣	3♠	Dble
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

Mus opened as North and Rimstedt added some variety to proceedings by making a simple 1♠ overcall. She jumped to 3♠ at her next turn but then permitted Mus to declare 4♣.

After the usual two rounds of spades, Mus ruffed and led the nine of hearts to the jack followed by a club to the ace, thinking that Rimsted had more high cards and less distribution, perhaps. He played the queen of diamonds now in a desperate attempt to recover, and Rimstedt assumed him to have a sequence to back it up so didn't cover. The ♢Q held the trick and Mus continued with a diamond to the queen followed by a grand crossruff, at the end of which he had to concede two trump tricks but had the rest; 10 tricks for +130.

West	North	East	South
Fleury	*Grue*	*Girollet*	*Moss*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	3♣	4♠	All Pass

Moss opened the South hand, 1♢ being Precision and promising only two diamonds. Three Clubs was at least 5-4 in the minors but less than invitational values, so was completely maximum for the bid. Girollet overcalled 4♠, and that was that.

Moss led ace and another diamond. Girollet won the ♢K and played ♠K then a spade to the ace. The four of hearts went to the nine, ten and jack, and Moss returned a club for the king, ace and ruff. Girollet cashed the queen of spades then led the king of hearts to the ace. Dummy's seven and Girollet's eight were both winners and that was +420and 11 IMPs to France Sud.

Fredin v Levine

West	North	East	South
Helness	*Sylvan*	*Helgemo*	*Morath*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♢	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Morath did not open as South but he did double the 4♠ overcall and Sylvan left it in. If only someone could keep their fingers away from that ace of diamonds. No, Morath made the same lead as everyone else, ace and another diamond, and Helgemo followed the winning line – ♠K, spade to ace, heart to nine-ten and jack, and in the fullness of time he pinned the queen and had 10 tricks for +590.

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Meckstroth*	*Apteker*	*Rodwell*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	3♣	4♠	All Pass

Rodwell opened a Precision 1♢ as South and Meckstroth jumped to 3♣, both minors, up to 10 HCP. Apteker bid 4♠ and played there.

And someone did keep their fingers away from the ace of diamonds! Rodwell led the five of clubs to the seven, nine and ruff. Apteker led a spade to the ace and a diamond to the king and ace. A diamond back to the nine and now the queen of diamonds back saw Apteker pitch a heart, and another heart on the fourth diamond as Rodwell ruffed. Rodwell could still get out safely with the jack of spades and declarer was left to lead hearts from hand to lose two more tricks; down three for –150 and 12 IMPs to Gupta.

Set Two

At the midway point in the quarter-finals the scores are:

Gupta	38.1 - 38	Gillis
Compton	11.1 - 16	Orca
Donner	21.1 - 35	France Sud
Fredin	1.1 - 47	Levine

Levine has one foot in the semi-finals, but the other three matches are still wide open, and even Levine can still be caught as we go into the second half of the matches.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Compton v Orca

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Goodman*	*Forrester*	*Compton*
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♡	Dble	4♠
All Pass			

Compton opened a strong and artificial 2♣ and Goodman responded with a double negative 2♡. With no prospect of slam facing 0-3 HCP, Compton just blasted 4♠ over Forrester's heart-showing double, where he made 11 tricks for +450.

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Plackett*	*Huang*	*Erichsen*
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Erichsen too opened 2♣. PLackett's 2♢ response was a waiting/negative bid and Huamg did not get involved on the East cards. Erichsen showed his spades and Plackett, with no second negative available to him, jumped to 4♠ to show a weaker hand than a raise to 3♠; +450 and no swing.

Donner v France Sud

West	North	East	South
Poizat	*Donner*	*Cabanes*	*S.Rimstedt*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♢	1♡	4♠
All Pass			

Rimstedt opened a strong club then, on seeing a 0-7 negative from Donner and knowing that she was getting a heart lead, jumped to game; +450.

West	North	East	South
Moss	*Guillaumin*	*Grue*	*Palau*
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♡	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Guillaumin showed 0-4 with no king, making it an easy decision to jump to 4♠; +450 and a flat board.

Fredin v Levine

West	North	East	South
Helness	*Wildavsky*	*Helgemo*	*Polowan*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	1NT	2♡	3♡
Dble	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Polowan opened 1♠. I suppose that he thought that he would be well placed if he survived this round, as was very likely, but I can't see how he ever hoped to convince his partner that he had a hand as powerful as this one. And to complete a pair of unusual actions, Wildavsky responded with a semi-forcing 1NT on his yarborough. Helgemo overcalled 2♡ rather than commit to the three level with a two-suited ovwercall, and Polowan first cuebid then raised himself to game. There had been sufficient opposition bidding that there was no temptation to do more, 1NT response or no 1NT response; +450.

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Meckstroth*	*Gottlieb*	*Rodwell*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♢	1♡	4♠
All Pass			

Rodwell opened a strong club and Meckstroth showed 0-7. When Gottlieb overcalled 1♡, Rodwell gave up on slam and jumped to 4♠, where he made 11 tricks for +450, and no swing.

Jeff Meckstroth

Gupta v Gillis

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	*Gillis*	*Muller*	*Saelensminde*
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♢	Dble	3♠
4♢	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Saelensminde opened 2♣ and Gillis made the negative/waiting 2♢ response. When Muller took the opportunity to double to show diamonds, Saelensminde jumped to 3♠then bid a fourth spade when de Wijs's 4♢ came round to him; +450.

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	*Madala*	*Lindqvist*	*Bilde*
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♢	Dble	3♠
4♢	4♠	5♢	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

We have seen some variety in the auction but so far no variety in the results. Our final table changes that as Lindqvist took the vulnerable against not save in 5♢. Perhaps it might even make? After all, Lindqvist might have doubled 2♢ with a worse hand than this.

But Madala led a spade, of course, and Bilde won and wasted no time in cashing two club winners. Then he reverted to spades, forcing dummy to ruff. Brogeland cashed the queen of diamonds, discovering the four-zero split, then played four rounds of hearts, ruffing, and could claim the rest; down one for –200 but 6 IMPs to Gillis.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Gupta v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	*Madala*	*Lindqvist*	*Bilde*
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Two Spades looks to be high enough, does it not, with three top trump losers, and where will the diamond loser go away?

Lindqvist led the jack of clubs and Madala won the ace and led a spade to the nine, ten and queen. Lindqvist, seeing that there was no future in clubs, tried a low diamond for the queen and ace and Madala played another spade. Lindqvist had to win the bare ace, of course, and avoided the fatal second diamond play, only to find that it didn't matter. He returned a heart so Madala won, cashed the king of clubs, then cashed the ♢K and the hearts. With everything eliminated, he played a third spade and Brogeland had to give a ruff and discard for the second overtrick; +170.

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	*Gillis*	*Muller*	*Saelensminde*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

After the same start as at the other table, Muller played a second diamond when in with the ♠A, so there was no need of an endplay; +170 and no swing.

Compton v Orca

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Goodman*	*Forrester*	*Compton*
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Plackett*	*Huang*	*Erichsen*
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both N/S pairs bid to the spade game and both played it from the South seat.

Crouch led a club. Compton won the ace and played a spade to nine, ten and queen. Forrester returned a heart, but Compton won the queen and played a second spade to the ace. Forrester got out with a heart but declarer was in control. He could cash all his winners then exit with a spade, and the ruff and discard again meant 10 tricks, but this time with a game bonus attached; +420.

Bathurst too led a club. When Erichsen won and led a spade, he put in the jack, losing to his partner's queen. Huang cashed the ace before getting out with a club but, once again, declarer could eliminate and throw in for 10 tricks and a flat board.

It looks as though the defence at least has a chance when they can see the North hand as dummy and declarer plays a trump from hand at trick two. The winning play is for East to win the ace rather than the queen, then return the queen. West overtakes, cashes the jack, and gets off play safely, leaving declarer to try the double diamond finesse as his best and, of course, unsuccessful, shot.

Donner v France Sud

West	North	East	South
Poizat	*Donner*	*Cabanes*	*S.Rimstedt*
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Donner used Stayman, only invited game but, on finding a fit, went on to 4♠. Club lead, spade to the queen, ace of spades, club exit – and the by now familiar elimination and endplay; +420.

West	North	East	South
Moss	*Guillaumin*	*Grue*	*Palau*
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

The French pair stopped in partscore, which is fine with me on this combination. After all, more often than not there will be four losers. Grue led a club and Guillaumin won and played a spade. Moss tried the king, but Grue overtook

and led a low diamond to the queen and ace. A heart to dummy, a spade to the ace, and a second diamond round to the king-ten; 10 tricks for +170 but 6 IMPs to Donner.

Fredin v Levine

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Meckstroth*	*Gottlieb*	*Rodwell*
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♡	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

One No Trump was 14-16 and 2NT asked for a five-card major. Three Cllubs said no five-card major, 3♡ showed four spades, and 3♠ set trumps in case partner had greater things in mind. He didn't, raising quietly to 4♠.

Fredin led the ten of hearts and Rodwell won on table to lead a spade, giving the defence a chance as Gottlieb rose with the ace. No, he returned a club, so Rodwell won and played a second spade from hand and Fredin could not find the play of the king. Tough, but I would have him on the list of players who might find it. Why would partner go up with the ace from ace-doubleton? And if partner has the bare ace, why would declarer not lead the second round from dummy, in case his holding was actually ♠AKJ?

West	North	East	South
Helness	*Wildavsky*	*Helgemo*	*Polowan*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Helgemo led a club, which Wildavsky wonon table and played a spade to the nine, ten and queen. Back came a diamond to the queen and ace. We have seen sveral times how to make the contract from here, but Wildavsky saw something different. He led a heart to the queen, cashed the ♡A, and played a third heart to the king. Presumably, that was intended to look as though he had begun with two low so that he could cash the third round even if West began with a doubleton. Well, we can see that this didn't work out well for Wildavsky, as Helgemo ruffed the third heart with the ace and, though he returned a diamond into the tenace, Helness had two more trump tricks to come for down one; –50 and 10 IMPs to Levine.

Chris Compton

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Gupta v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Brogeland	*Madala*	*Lindqvist*	*Bilde*
–	–	–	1NT
2♡	3♠	Pass	4♢
Pass	4♡	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♢	All Pass	

Two Hearts was a constructive overcall, 2♢ being available to show a weaker hand. Three Spades showed both minors and 4♠ was Key-card. Four No Trump showed one or four key-cards and 5♣ asked for the queen, 5♢ saying no. Brogeland led the queen of diamonds. Bilde won and cashed the other top diamond and had all 13 tricks for +640.

West	North	East	South
De Wijs	*Gillis*	*Muller*	*Saelensminde*
–	–	–	1NT
2♡	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♢	All Pass	

Muller's overcall showed one major and N/S seem to have had a system mix-up. Two No Trump asked partner to bid 3♣ and then Gillis seems to have bid on as though he had already shown clubs, while Saelensminde took him to just hold a competitive hand with diamonds. Gillis made only 12 tricks for +170 but 10 IMPs to Gupta.

Compton v Orca

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Goodman*	*Forrester*	*Compton*
–	–	–	1NT
2♡	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♢
All Pass			

Despite the disparity between his suit lengths and strengths, Goodman chose to transfer to diamonds before jumping in clubs. Compton guessed to bid the diamond slam now, figuring that his partner's clubs must be headed by ace-king for his second-round jump, and the even trump split meant that the slam rolled home with an overtrick; +1390.

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Plackett*	*Huang*	*Erichsen*
–	–	–	1NT
2♢	3♠	Pass	4♢
Pass	5♢	All Pass	

Plackett could show both minors and game values by jumping to 3♠ and Erichsen chose diamonds, of course. However, with such weak trumps, Plackett didn't fancy a slam hunt and quietly raised to game; +640 but 13 IMPs to Compton.

Donner v France Sud

West	North	East	South
Poizat	*Donner*	*Cabanes*	*S.Rimstedt*
–	–	–	1NT
2♢	Dble	2♡	Pass
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♢
Pass	5♢	All Pass	

Poizat showed one major, Donner showed values, and Cabanes bid a pass or correct 2♡. Donner cuebid to force to game then showed his clubs, but was happy to raise diamonds when Rimstedt bid them. Slam was never in the picture; +640.

West	North	East	South
Moss	*Guillaumin*	*Grue*	*Palau*
–	–	–	1NT
2♢	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♢	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Moss showed hearts, Guillaumin showed clubs, and then he followed through by bidding his second suit. However, Palau was not interested in the minors, not appreciating quite how long his partner's suits were, and signed off in 3NT, a decision which was respected by Guillaumin. There were 12 top tricks when both minors behaved; +690 and 2 IMPs to France Sud.

Fredin v Levine

West	North	East	South
Helness	*Wildavsky*	*Helgemo*	*Polowan*
–	–	–	1NT
2♢	Pass	2♡	Pass
Pass	3♡	Dble	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♢
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♢
All Pass			

Helness showed either hearts, or spades and a minor, and 2♡ was pass or correct. When that came round to Wildavsky, he cuebid but it seems that Polowan took this to be a transfer, else how to explain his jump to 4♠ on king to three? Wildavsky converted to clubs and Polowan to diamonds, but Wildavsky went back to clubs and only allowed his partner to play in diamonds when he bid them for a second time. The even trump split meant all 13 tricks after a heart lead; +1390.

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Meckstroth*	*Gottlieb*	*Rodwell*
–	–	–	1NT
2♡	3♡	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Fredin's 2♡ was a constructive overcall and Meckstroth's 3♡ showed a heart shortage. When Rodwell opted for 3NT, Meckstroth trusted him and that ended the auction. As we have seen elsewhere, there were 12 tricks to be cashed for +690 but 12 IMPs to Fredin – which proved to be too little and far too late..

When the smoke had cleared, it was USA 3 Europe 1. These were the final scores:

Gupta	97.1 – 70	Gillis
Compton	42.1 – 28	Orca
France Sud	63 – 38.1	Donner
Levine	100 – 25.1	Fredin

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Moss B. (brad)

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Amer S. (Samer026)
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Fritsche J. (joefri)
Reps K. (rops)
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Jokisch P. (jockel)

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