World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 74. Saturday, 10 April, 2021

DE BOTTON WON THE OCBL APRIL CUP!

Janet De Botton

David Bakhshi

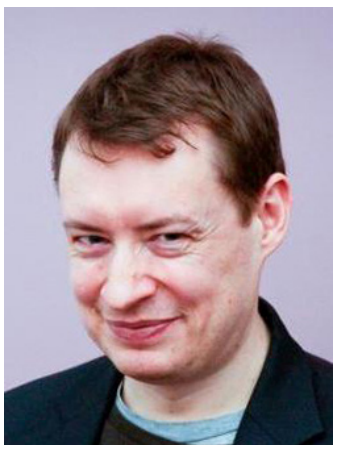
Thomas Charlsen

Tor Helness

Thor Erik Hoftaniska

Artur Malinowski

Dror Padon



Tom Townsend

Team De Botton, with Janet De Botton, David Bakhshi, Thomas Charlsen, Tor Helness, Thor Erik Hoftaniska, Artur Malinowski, Dror Padon and Tom Townsend won the OCBL April Cup!

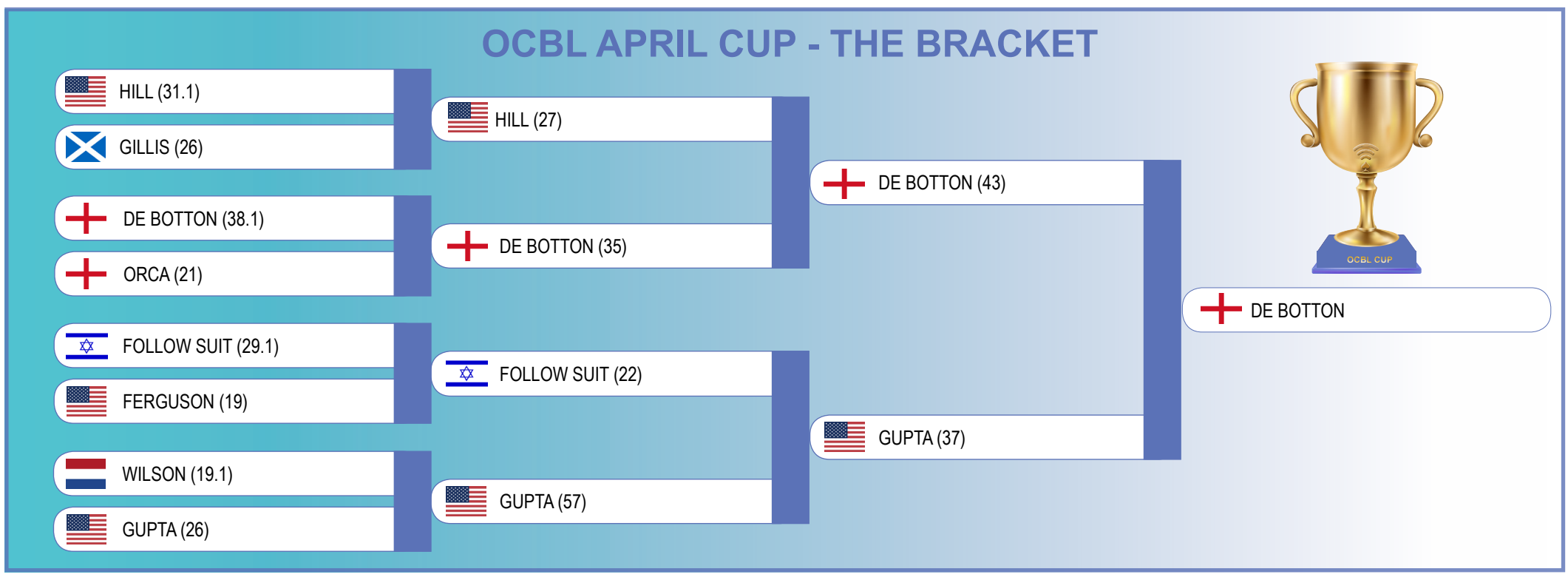
In the Final, they faced team Gupta, with Naren Gupta, Zia Mahmood, Bauke Muller, Simon de Wijs, Agustin Madala and Dennis Bilde.

The match ended 43-37 for the England based team.

The third place is shared between the opponents of De Botton and Gupta in the Semifinals: teams Follow Suit (M. Barel, I. Bareket, A. Braunstein, D. Israeli, A. Lengy, Z. Shahar, D. Tal, N. Tal, A. Warszawski, Y. Zack) and Hill (J. Hill, K. Dwyer, S. Huang, M. Michielsen, C. Rimstedt, M. Rimstedt, O. Rimstedt).

Today there is no play.
The OCBL events will come back tomorrow with the second stage of the qualification of the OCBL Open League.

OCBL APRIL CUP - THE BRACKET



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OCBL UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN LEAGUE

10 May - 6 June, 2021

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

MAY CUP

17 - 21 May, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 17 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Tuesday 18 May	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 19 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Thursday 20 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
KO:	Friday 21 May	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

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

SUPER CUP

28 June - 3 July, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 28 June	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Tuesday 29 June	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 30 June	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Thursday 1 July	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
KO:	Friday 2 July	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Saturday 3 July	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

JULY CUP

12 - 16 July, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 12 July	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Tuesday 13 July	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 14 July	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Thursday 15 July	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
KO:	Friday 16 July	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

And the Winner is....

by Mark Horton

Quarterfinals

Friday was judgement day for the eight teams still standing in the OCBL April Cup.

If the play in the knockout rounds could match that of the previous four days a treat was in store. We start our coverage with the quarterfinals:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

I selected this deal for a number of reasons. First like one I wrote about earlier, it is a 20-20 deal where one side can take 10 tricks. Second, at the table I happened to be at it was unusual in the sense that any one of the first three players might have opened but in practice it was South, fourth in hand who got the ball into play with his 9 count.

de Botton v Orca

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Plackett	*Hoftaniska*	*Erichsen*	*T Helness*
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♢K and continued with the three, declarer ruffing, cashing two rounds of hearts ending in dummy, ruffing a diamond, crossing to dummy with the ♣A, ruffing a diamond and exiting with a club. East won with the queen and exited with a spade,+620.

For the benefit of any 'sea lawyers' I should mention that student's of the intra finesse will have noted the position in the club suit. So theoretically this 20-20 deal offers 11 tricks to one side.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	*Crouch*	*Townsend*	*Zorlu*
1♢	Pass	1♡	1♠
Dbl*	4♠	5♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Dble 3♡

South led the ♣5 and North won with the ace and returned the nine. Declarer won with the queen, played the ♢J to the king, pitched a spade on the ♣K and continued with a heart. South won with the king and switched to the ♠J, but the bird had flown, declarer being only one down, -200 and 9 IMPs the richer.

It might have been a different story is South had guessed to lead his diamond.

Hill v Gillis

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Saelensminde	*Dwyer*	*Gillis*	*Huang*
1♢	Pass	1♡	1♠
Dble*	4♠	All Pass	

Dble 'Support'

West led the ♡5 and declarer won with the king, cashed the ♠A, played the ♠8 to dummy's ten, drew the outstanding trump and played ace and another club, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Lindqvist*	*O Rimstedt*	*Brogeland*
1♣*	Pass	2♢*	Pass
2♡*	Pass	Pass	2♠
3♡	3♠	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣
2♢ 6+♡/♠, 8-10
2♡ Pass or correct, non-forcing

Declarer won the heart lead in dummy, played three rounds of spades finessing against West, and then played the ♣8 for the queen, four and six. He took the heart exit with the king and advanced the ♣J, a beautiful 11 tricks, but a loss of 9 IMPs.

Follow Suit v Ferguson

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lankveld	*Braunstein*	*van den Bos*	*Shahar*
1♣*	Pass	1♡	1♠
Dble*	2♡*	4♡	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣, could have longer diamonds if balanced
Dble 3♡
2♡ ♠ support

West led the ♡5 and declarer won in dummy and played two rounds of clubs, East winning and exiting with the ace and another diamond, ruffed by declarer, who cleared the clubs, won the heart return, drew trumps via the finesse and claimed,+790.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	*de Boer*	*Bareket*	*Snellers*
1♣*	Pass	2♢*	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♡	3♠	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣
2♢ One major, 5-8

Declarer went down the intra finesse route, but having played a club for the ten, jack and king, he ducked a club to East's queen, so +170 and a 12 IMP swing.

Wilson v Gupta

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	*M Grönkivst*	*Gupta*	*I Grönkivst*
Pass	1♢	2♡	2♠
3♡	3♠	All Pass	

Declarer took ten tricks, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*de Wijs*	*Kiljan*	*Muller*
1♣	Pass	2♡*	2♠
3♡	4♠	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣, can have 5♢
2♡ Natural, invitational

Declarer won the heart lead in hand, played three rounds of spades finessing, and two rounds of clubs, +620 and 10 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

A marginal 4♠ for EW - the first issue being the matter of bidding it. If you manage that the 4-1 trump break is awkward and it looks all too easy to lose one's way.

de Botton v Orca

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Plackett	*Hoftaniska*	*Erichsen*	*T Helness*
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♢*	Pass	1♡*	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♠	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣, can have 5♢
1♢ 4+♡
1♡ 11-13, 2/3 ♡
1NT 44♡♠, non-forcing

South led the ♠5 and declarer won with the ace, played a diamond to the queen and a diamond for the ten and jack, South exiting with the ♣9. Declarer won the second round of the suit with dummy's ace, cashed the ♠K and played a heart for the king and ace, South switching to the ♠9. Declarer won in hand and cashed two hearts, but South scored his last trump at the end, +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	*Crouch*	*Townsend*	*Zorlu*
—	—	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♢*	Pass	2♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♢ Game forcing

South led the ♠3 for the queen and ace and declarer played a diamond to the queen and cashed the ♠K before playing a diamond for the nine and jack. South exited with the ♣9 and declarer won the second round of the suit and played heart to the king. When it held he played a second heart to dummy's queen and a third heart to South's ace. When South got off play with the ♠9 there were only 9 tricks, one down representing a loss of 6 IMPs.

The eagle eyed will have spotted that if declarer wins the first club and then plays on hearts he cannot be prevented from securing ten tricks.

Declarer having ducked a club, South does best to win the first heart and play a spade, otherwise declarer might guess to ruff a diamond, after which ten tricks are possible.

Hill v Gillis

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Saelensminde	*Dwyer*	*Gillis*	*Huang*
—	—	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Dble	2♡	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♣ 'Asks 2♢'

South led the ♣5 and North won with the jack and continued with the king, declarer taking dummy's ace and continuing with the ♢Q, South winning and exiting with a club. Declarer ruffed and cashed the ♠A. When the queen appeared he played the ♡K followed by the jack, South winning and exiting with the ♠9. Declarer won with the jack, cashed the ♢K,drew trumps and took the last two tricks with dummy's ♡Q8, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Lindqvist*	*O Rimstedt*	*Brogeland*
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♡	Pass	1NT	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
1NT 12-14, can have 4♠

South led the ♣8 and declarer took the second round and played on hearts, South taking the ace and exiting with a heart. Declarer cashed two more tricks in the suit (North had already played the nine and ten) and continued with the ♢Q at which point the defenders cashed their tricks, +90 but a loss of 11 IMPs.

Follow Suit v Ferguson

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lankveld	*Braunstein*	*van den Bos*	*Shahar*
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♡	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♢*	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣
2♣ 'To play in 2♢ or any invite'
2♢ 'Waiting'
2NT 'Invitational with 4♡'

South led the ♠8 for the ten, queen and ace and declarer continued with the ♡K South taking the ace and switching to the ♢J. That saw declarer finish with 11 tricks, +210.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lengy	*de Boer*	*Bareket*	*Snellers*
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♢*	Pass	1♡*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♡*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
1♢ 4+♡
1♡ 3♡
3♡ 'Ask'

North led the ♣K and declarer won the second round and played a spade for the queen and ace followed by the ♢10 to dummy's queen and a diamond to the eight and jack. South exited with a club and declarer ruffed and ruffed a diamond. A heart to the king saw South duck and if declarer continues hearts ten tricks should be made, but he played the ♢K. South found the killing defence of discarding a heart and now declarer was a trick short, -100 and a 7 IMP loss.

Wilson v Gupta

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	*M Grönkivst*	*Gupta*	*I Grönkivst*
—	—	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	1NT	All Pass

South led the ♠8 and declarer won with the ace and played on hearts, South taking the second round and continuing with the ♢A followed by the seven which meant declarer made four overtricks, +210.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*de Wijs*	*Kiljan*	*Muller*
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♡	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♢*	Pass	2♡*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
1NT Can have 4♠
2♢ Forces 2♡
2NT Invite 4♡4♠

South led the ♠5 and declarer won with the ace, played a diamond to the queen, cashed the ♠K and played a diamond to the ten and jack. South exited with a club and declarer won the second round and played a heart to the king. When it held he continued with a heart to dummy's queen and a third heart, South winning and exiting with a spade which as we have seen before, leaves declarer a trick short and meant a gain of 7 IMPs.

As we saw, 4♠ is a tricky contract - it will repay careful study.

Semifinals

The Semifinals started with a series of dramatic deals:

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Hill v de Botton

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	*C Rimstedt*	*Padon*	*Michielsen*
—	—	3♢	Pass
4♢	Dble	All Pass	

South led the ♠Q, cashed the ♢A and the ♠J and switched to the ♣7. North won, cashed the ♠K and then played a winning spade. Declarer ruffed with the ♢9 and South pitched a heart. Declarer could score only four trump tricks, -1400.

I recall John Armstrong making a similar raise with a singleton king at the World Championships in Yokohama, but that was after South had already doubled so a double by North would be responsive - an important subtlety.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Hoftaniska*	*M Rimstedt*	*T Helness*
—	—	3♢	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Being one level lower meant the penalty was only -1100, a 7 IMP swing.

Gupta v Follow Suit

Open Room

West	North	East	South
D Tal	*Madala*	*N Tal*	*Bilde*
—	—	Pass	1♢
2NT*	Dble	Pass	Pass
3♣	Dble	Pass	Pass
3♡	Dble	All Pass	

2NT ♡+♣

North led the ♠K and when South followed with the queen he cashed the ace and switched to the ♢8. South won with the ace and returned the four and when declarer ruffed with the ♡6 North overruffed with the eight. A spade to the jack saw declarer ruff and play a club but North took the ace and king and played a third club, ruffed and overruffed by South who played a diamond.

There was nothing declarer could do as the defenders cross-ruffed their way to seven down and -1700.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	*Braunstein*	*Muller*	*Shahar*
—	—	Pass	1♢*
2NT*	Dble	Pass	Pass
Rdbl	Pass	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

1♢ 4+♢
2NT ♡+♣

South led the ♣2 and North cashed the king and ace, took the top spades and then played a diamond, South taking the ace and playing the ♠J. There was nothing declarer could add to his three trump tricks, -1400 but a gain of 7 IMPs.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A 10 8
♡ A J 10 9 8 7
♢ K 3
♣ J 8

♠ Q 7 2
♡ 4 3
♢ 9 5 4
♣ K Q 10 6 3

♠ J 9 6 5 3
♡ 5
♢ Q J 2
♣ 9 5 4 2

♠ K 4
♡ K Q 6 2
♢ A 10 8 7 6
♣ A 7

This type of deal can be awkward as it is never easy to diagnose a 'perfect' fit.

Hill v de Botton

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	*C Rimstedt*	*Padon*	*Michielsen*
—	—	—	1NT*
Pass	2♢*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♢*	Pass	3♡*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♢*	Dble	4NT*
Pass	5♠*	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♡	All Pass	

1NT 15-17
2♢ Transfer
3♣ 4 card support, maximum
3♢ Retransfer
3♡ Forced
3♠ No shortness
3NT 'I think serious'
4♢ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♠ 2 key cards +♡Q

With diamonds providing an extra trick declarer was +1010.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Hoftaniska*	*M Rimstedt*	*T Helness*
—	—	—	1NT
Pass	2♢	Pass	3♡
Pass	3NT*	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♢	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♡	All Pass	

3NT 'Slam try'

No swing.

Gupta v Follow Suit

Open Room

West	Nùorth	East	South
D Tal	*Madala*	*N Tal*	*Bilde*
—	—	—	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♣
Dble	7♡	All Pass	

2NT 16+, 3+♡
3♣ Asking
3NT 2452
4♠ RKCB
5♣ 3 key cards

That was a majestic +1510.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	*Braunstein*	*Muller*	*Shahar*
—	—	—	1♢*
Pass	1♡	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

1♢ 4+♢

That meant 14 IMPs changed hands.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ J 4
♡ 8 2
♢ Q 10 9 8 7
♣ J 10 9 3

♠ A 10 6 5 3
♡ A 7
♢ J 6 3 2
♣ 8 6

♠ K 9 8 2
♡ Q J 9
♢ A
♣ A K Q 4 2

♠ Q 7
♡ K 10 6 5 4 3
♢ K 5 4
♣ 7 5

Hill v de Botton

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Charlsen	*C Rimstedt*	*Padon*	*Michielsen*
Pass	Pass	1♣*	1♡
Dble*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
Dble Spades

South led the ♢4 and it did not take long for declarer to claim all the tricks, +710.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Hoftaniska*	*M Rimstedt*	*T Helness*
Pass	Pass	1♣*	1♡
Dble*	Pass	2♡*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♡*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♢*	Pass
5♡*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣
Dble 4+♠
2♡ 3+♠, strong unbalanced hand
2NT 8-11, artificial game forcing
3♡ 4♠
3♠ Non-serious
4♣ ♣ cue, no ♡ cue
4NT RKCB
5♢ 3 key cards
5♡ ♠Q?
5♠ 'Nope'

As Sir Winston Churchill once said, 'Give us the tools and we will finish the job'. A heart lead was followed by two rounds of trumps and a claim, +1460 and 13 IMPs.

Gupta v Follow Suit

Open Room

West	North	East	South
D Tal	*Madala*	*N Tal*	*Bilde*
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♡
1♠	Pass	2♡*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♡*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♡*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

2♡ Game forcing
4♡ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♡ 2 key cards

North led the ♡8 and when dummy's queen held declarer played the ♠9 to the ace and a spade to the king, claiming all the tricks, +1460.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	*Braunstein*	*Muller*	*Shahar*
—	—	1♣*	2♡
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♢*	Pass
5♡*	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

1♣ 15+
3NT Non-serious
4♣ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♢ 0/3 key cards
5♡ Ask

The first three tricks were virtually identical, as was the result.

After that the deals calmed down. After six boards Hill had scored 27 IMPs without reply, but over the remaining ten they did not record a single point and de Botton collected 35 via a series of small swings to advance to the final.

In the other match the score after 6 boards was 24-10, but Gupta led 34-10 at the half and went on to win 57-22.

Mikael Rimstedt

Final

The final lived up to expectations, as the teams battled for sumpremacy.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	*Padon*	*Madala*	*Townsend*
—	—	1♣	2♡*
Dble	4♡	Pass	Pass
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

2♡ Intermediate

How would you define an 'intermediate jump overcall'. I think the standard answer would be 'a hand where you would open at the one-level and rebid two'.

South led the ♢A, but dummy's void meant he had to abandon any hopes of putting North in with a heart and switched to the ♠9. Declarer won with the king, ruffed the ♡J, cashed the ♠A, and played a club. North won and returned the ♢9, but declarer played the jack and claimed, +550.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	*de Wijs*	*Malinowski*	*Muller*
—	—	1♣	4♡
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ♣4 and having won with dummy's ace declarer played a heart for the jack and ace, cashed the ♢A and exited with a heart. East won, but had no good move. The best he could do was cash the ♠K and play a second spade, declarer claiming, +790 and 16 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	*Padon*	*Madala*	*Townsend*
1♠	Pass	2♡	3♣
3♠	Pass	4♡	All Pass

With an awkward hand to lead from South went with the ♢7 and when the queen held North continued with the king and South overtook it, cashed the ♣A and the ♢J and exited with a club. Declarer ruffed with dummy's ♡10 and pitched his ♣K on the ♢10 as North correctly refused to ruff. A Heart to the jack was followed by the ♡A and declarer conceded a trick to the ♡Q, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	*de Wijs*	*Malinowski*	*Muller*
1♠	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Dble
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

North led the ♣3 and South won with the queen and continued with the ace. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps and ran the ♡10. When it held he continued with a heart to the king, settling for ten tricks, +620 and 13 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	*Padon*	*Madala*	*Townsend*
—	1♣*	1♡	2♢
2NT*	3♢	3♡	4♢
4♡	Pass	Pass	5♢
Dble	All Pass		

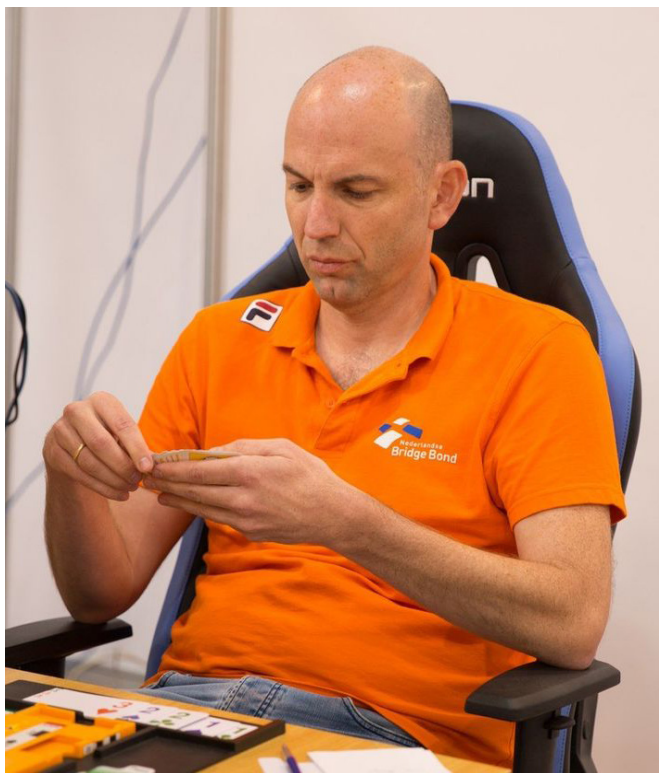
1♣ 2+♣
2NT 'Raise, limit+ 4♡'

West led the ♠K, cashed the ace and tried to cash the ♡A. South ruffed, drew trumps, cashed two top clubs and claimed, +550.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	*de Wijs*	*Malinowski*	*Muller*
—	1NT*	Pass	3NT*
Dble*	Pass	4♡	5♢
5♡	6♣	Dble	Pass
Pass	6♢	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

1NT 9-12
3NT 'To play'



Simon de Wijs

6♢ was one down, -50 and a 12 IMP swing. By pure chance, Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Phantom of the Opera' was playing while I typed this up.

Having scored 42 IMPs without reply, de Botton led 42-16.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	*Padon*	*Madala*	*Townsend*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
2NT*	3♢	5♣	All Pass

2♣ Stayman
2NT Minors
3♢ 'No agreement'

South led the ♡4, but the major suit aces were all they could take, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	*de Wijs*	*Malinowski*	*Muller*
—	—	—	Pass
2NT*	Dble	Pass	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

2NT '5/5+ minors PRE (5-10ish)'

The opening bid of 2NT to show both minors is discussed in The Mysterious Multi. It is also possible to play it as either 5-10 or 18+. Declarer took eleven tricks, +150 but 6 IMPs went away.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	*Padon*	*Madala*	*Townsend*
Pass	1♠	2♢	2♡
2♠*	Dble*	3♢	4♠
5♢	Dble	All Pass	

Dble 'I mean it like I bid 2♠'

South led the ♠9 and North won with the queen and switched to the ♡5, South winning with the queen, at which point declarer claimed eight tricks, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	*de Wijs*	*Malinowski*	*Muller*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♢*
Dble	2♡*	5♢	Pass*
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

1NT Artificial game force
2♣ Three-way
2♢ Ask
2♡ 5+♠, 4♣, short ♡
Pass 'Asks double'

East led the ♢10 and West won with the ace and switched to the ♠4. When the six held, declarer ruffed a diamond, cashed the ♣AQ and played a spade to the queen. When East could not ruff he ruffed a spade, cashed the ♡A and claimed, a tremendous result that delivered 13 IMPs. With four deals left the score was 42-35. Two flat boards followed.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bilde	*Padon*	*Madala*	*Townsend*
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	1NT	Dble	2♡
Pass	2♠	2NT	3♢
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

I cannot tell you why North never supported hearts - perhaps there was some confusion about the meaning of the 2♡ bid. I expect Tom Townsend will explain it in one of his Daily Telegraph columns.

West led the ♣9 and dummy's king was covered by the ace, declarer ruffing and exiting with the ♢J. Easy won with the king and returned the ♢9 but declarer put in the ten and ruffed a diamond as West pitched the ♡7.

David Bakhshi

Agustin Madala

A heart to the queen was followed by a spade to the queen and when East ducked declarer played a heart for the king and ace, West ruffing and exiting with a club. Declarer ruffed and exited with the ♠K. East could win, but the ♠J was the last defensive trick, +140.

With 4♡ almost certain to make, the door was suddenly ajar.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	*de Wijs*	*Malinowski*	*Muller*
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	Pass*	Dble	Pass
2♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dble*
Pass	3♡	All Pass	

Pass '0-9 (1NT would be relay)'
Dble 'Undiscussed'

An initial 1♣ from South would have been 15+. Had he elected to do that I'm sure 4♡ would have been reached.

East led the ♢K and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a spade for the queen and ace. East cashed the ♢Q and continued with the two, ruffed by West with the ♡7 and overruffed by declarer who played a heart to the jack, cashed the ace and established the spades for 11 tricks, +170 and 2 IMPs.

When the last deal proved to be an inconsequential part-score de Botton had won this thrilling encounter 43-37.

Know Your Suit Combinations

by Brian Senior

There is, of course, far more to good declarer play than merely knowing and following the odds with various suit combinations. Often, other aspects of the deal mean that declarer cannot afford to play a suit in isolation. Monday's Round 5 of the OCBL Open League 2 featured this deal, and a combination which I cannot remember ever having actually had to handle at the table.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

There were many different auctions, the most popular being 1♠ – 1NT – 4♠, but 32 out of 34 tables ended up with South declarer in 4♠, against which the most popular lead was a club to dummy's ace. Now, what is the correct way to tackle the trump suit?

Nineteen of our 32 declarers led dummy's seven to either the ten or the jack. That lost to the bare king and there were two more trump tricks to be lost. With East getting in and pushing a heart through to West's king, that usually led to the contract being defeated.

Six declarers simply laid down the ace, the fall of the king meaning that they had only two trumps losers so made their contract. Three of those who laid down the ace had received a diamond lead and now the threat of a defensive ruff made a finesse look too dangerous – lose two trump tricks to West and one diamond ruff to East, perhaps.

Four Wests led a heart and now it didn't matter how declarer tackled the trump suit as he had no outside loser so could afford to lose three trump tricks.

And then there were the seven declarers who know their suit combinations. After receiving a club lead, they led the seven of spades and ran it! That lost to the bare king but now there was only one more trump to be lost and the contract was home.

Assuming no defensive ruffs, the contract is always secure if trumps are three-two. When they are four-one, cashing the ace loses out to singleton six or four, leading to the jack or ten loses out to the singleton king or queen, while running the seven loses only to the singleton nine. In other words, running the seven fails only half as often as either of the other plays. It also has the benefit that you are still in the game should trumps split five-zero, where either of the other plays dooms you to defeat.

So, take a bow Cecilia Rimstedt, Ola Rimstedt, Hugh McGann, Michael Klukowski, Olle Wademark, Bob Cole and Gabriele Zansi, and thanks to Ovunc Yilmaz, who spotted the deal.

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QUALIFICATION
12 Rounds x 16 boards

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Monday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Tuesday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Wednesday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Thursday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

KOs
QuarterFinals, SemiFinals, Final: 32 boards each

	CEST	EDT
Friday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Saturday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

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