World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

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TEAM FREDIN WIN THE OCBL MAY CUP!

Peter Fredin

Alon Apteker

Johan Sylvan

Anders Morath

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Yesterday was a very intense day in the OCBL virtual Bridge arena.

The day started from the Quarterfinals, where De Botton faced Compton, Black faced Ferguson, Schwartz faced Gillis and Fredin faced Levine.
Compton, Black, Schwartz and Fredin advanced to the Semifinals.
A special mention to Ferguson, who lost their QF match by a mere 0.1 IMPs (which includes the 4.1 IMPs in their opponent's favour).

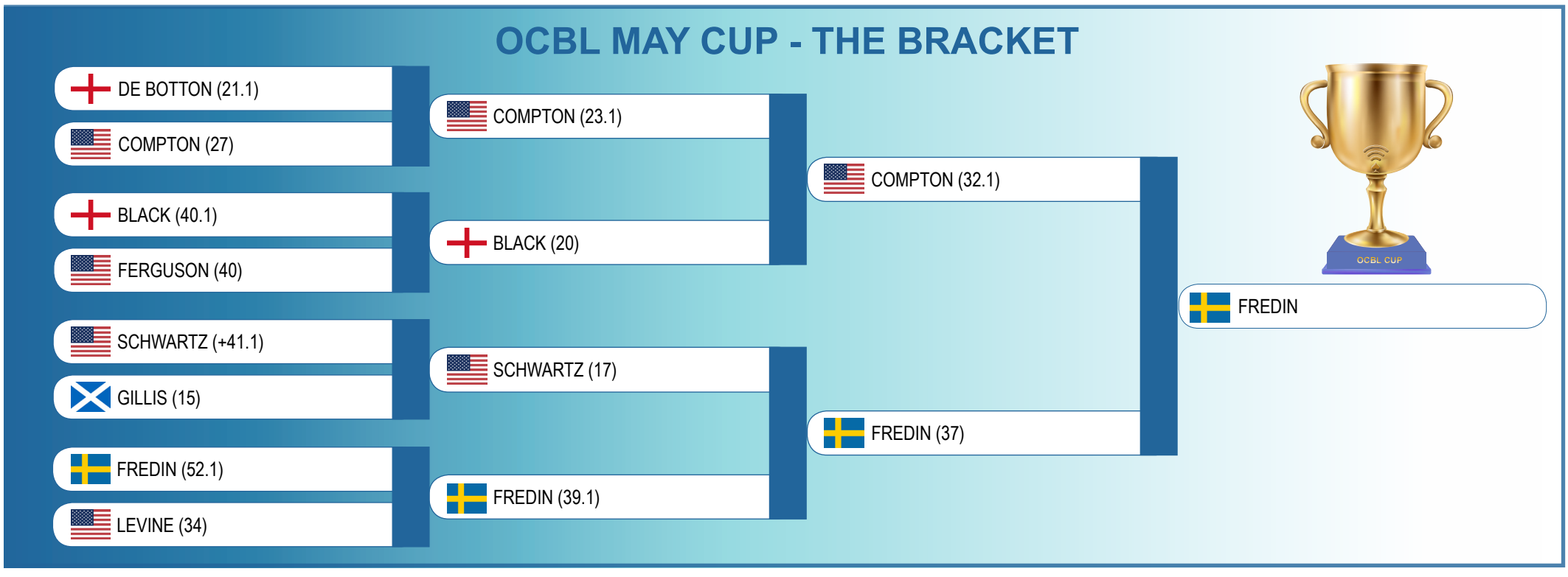
The Semifinals were: Compton vs Black and Schwartz vs Fredin.

Then, in the evening, the deciding match of the event was played: Compton vs Fredin.
The Sweden based team won the OCBL May Cup!

Congratulations to the winners P. Fredin, A. Apteker, J. Sylvan and A. Morath!
The silver medallists are C. Compton, J. Morgan, T. Moses, R. Smith.
The third place is shared between teams Black (A. Black, D. Gold, G. Hallberg, S. Hult, A. McIntosh, T. Paske) and Schwartz (E. Schwartz, K. Bathurst, A. Grossack, Z. Grossack, J. Hurd, L. Robinson).
Happy birthday to our bronze medallist Gunnar Hallberg!

Gunnar Hallberg

OCBL MAY CUP - THE BRACKET



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OCBL UPCOMING EVENTS

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

SUPER CUP
2 - 7 August, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 2 August	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Tuesday 3 August	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 4 August	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Thursday 5 August	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
KO:	Friday 6 August	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Saturday 7 August	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

SUPER CUP
30 August - 4 September, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 30 August	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Tuesday 31 August	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 1 September	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Thursday 2 September	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
KO:	Friday 3 September	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Saturday 4 September	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

SEPTEMBER CUP
27 September - 1 October, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 27 September	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Tuesday 28 September	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 29 September	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Thursday 30 September	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
KO:	Friday 1 October	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

The Thursday Murder Club

by Mark Horton

While I was trying to come up with a title for this report on the seventh round of the OCBL league I had to take a break for an editorial meeting to discuss the contents of the July/August issue of BeBRIDGE. One of the regular features involves a rather smart bridge playing policeman, Inspector Papo. That reminded me that the UK television series Endeavour (a prequel to Inspector Morse) contains a character called Inspector Thursday. That suggested using the word Thursday in the title (reflecting the fact that play took place on Thursday) and then I remembered that television presenter Richard Osman had written a novel - I wonder if you can guess what it's called?

That's enough preamble - here are the hightlights:

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

If NS reach 4♡ the defenders have to be very careful - and the best defence is not so easy to find.

Black v De Michelis

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Cima*	*Black*	*Failla*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	2♡*	Dble	3♡
All Pass			

2♡ 6♡, 9-12

East played two rounds of clubs and declarer ruffed and played the ♢3 for the six, jack and ace, West switching to the ♠5. Declarer won with dummy's queen, played a diamond to the king, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club and cashed his hearts, West scoring a trick at the end with his fourth trump, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	*M Rimstedt*	*Di Franco*	*O Rimstedt*
—	—	—	1NT*
Pass	4♡	Dble	All Pass

1NT 10-12

East led the ♣A and switched to the ♡2, declarer winning with the king and playing a diamond for the two, jack and ace. He took the trump return with the ace, East pitching the ♠2, played three more rounds of trumps which turned the screw against East, who was forced to part with a diamond. Declarer then played the ♠10 for the jack and queen. He cashed dummy's ♠A and played two rounds of diamonds, taking the last two tricks with the ♡6 and ♢7, +590 9 IMPs (and perhaps a beer!).

Koda v Skeidar

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Aaseng	*Hinze*	*Johansen*	*Enfield*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♡	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

South led the ♡Q and North overtook it with the king and switched to the ♣J. Declarer won with the ace and played the ♠K, South taking the ace and returning the ♣2. North ruffed and played the ♡A, but declarer ruffed, cashed the ♣K and played the ♠J. South won and tried the ♢J but declarer took dummy's ace (dropping the queen from his hand) cashed the ♣Q and then played the ♢9. North took the king which prevented the overtrick, +160.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ivatury	*Farstad*	*Henner*	*Andresen*
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

East started with the top clubs and declarer ruffed and played a spade to the queen followed by the ♢5 for the nine, king and two. When he continued with the ♢3 East contributed the six, West taking the ace and exiting with the ♣9. Declarer ruffed and could cross-ruff for ten tricks, +420 and 11 IMPs.

Giuseppe Failla

Andrew Black

Wilson v Slovakia

Open Room

West	North	East	South
M Grönkvist	*Kvocek*	*I Grönkvist*	*Vodicka*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♡	1♠	1NT
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♡
All Pass			

East led the top clubs and declarer ruffed and drew trumps before ducking a spade to East's jack. West won the diamond exit and returned the suit but declarer won with the king, cashed his last heart and then played a spade to the queen, cashed the ace and took the last trick with dummy's ♠7, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Velecky	*M de Leon*	*Lohay*	*Sprinkhuizen*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♡	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

East started with his top clubs and declarer ruffed and played the ♢3. East went up with the queen (a vital move) and played a third club (also essential). Declarer ruffed and played a diamond for the jack and ace and West continued with the ♣Q forcing declarer to ruff. Declarer ruffed a diamond, overtook the ♡Q and cashed the king, but when East discarded the contract had to go two down, -100 and 7 IMPs.

As you can see, East can come under pressure in the pointed suits. If declarer realises this (easier when East has bid) then if East does not rise with the ♢Q 11 tricks become possible.

As to the defence, if declarer takes an early spade finesse, then East can get in with a diamond and play a second spade breaking up the squeeze.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

	♠ K J 10 9 6 ♡ K J 8 5 ◇ J 3 ♣ J 2	
♠ 7 5 ♡ 9 ◇ AQ1097652 ♣ K 6		♠ A 8 ♡ A 7 6 4 ◇ 8 4 ♣ A Q 9 5 3
	♠ Q 4 3 2 ♡ Q 10 3 2 ◇ K ♣ 10 8 7 4	

You would like to reach 6◇, just requiring a modicum of luck if North happens to lead a spade.

Denmark v New Amateurs

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Konow	*Schwartz*	*Askgaard*	*Cole*
—	—	1NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3◇*	Pass
3♡*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4◇	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5◇*	Pass
6◇	All Pass		

1NT 15-17
3♣ Diamonds
3◇ Forced
3♡ Splinter
3♠ 'Punt'
4♣ Cue
4NT RKCB
5◇ 0/3 key cards

South led the ♡3 and a couple of tricks later declarer claimed, +1390.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Pettis	*Bensby*	*Lo*	*L L Madsen*
—	—	1NT	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♡*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♡*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
6◇	All Pass		

2NT 'Usually a transfer to diamonds'
3♣ 'Don't like diamonds'
3♡ 'Short hearts for diamond game'
3♠ Cue bid
4♡ RKCB
4♠ 3 key cards

North led the ♡8 and declarer claimed at trick two, no swing.

Brad Moss

Bourricot v Internazionale

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bedouet	*Lahrmann*	*Vallet*	*Verhaegen*
—	—	1♣	Pass
1◇	1♠	Dble	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♣	Pass
3◇	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♡*	Pass
5◇	Pass	6◇	All Pass

4♡ Cue

As usual the defence started with a heart and declarer quickly claimed.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Chechel.	*Boulin*	*Soliman*	*Bellicaud*
—	—	1NT	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3◇	Pass
4◇*	Pass	4♡*	Pass
6◇	All Pass		

2NT Diamonds
4◇ RKCB
4♡ 0/3 key cards

By now you will be able to guess which suit South led, a rapid push.

Black v De Michelis

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Cima*	*Black*	*Failla*
—	—	1NT*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♡*	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5◇	Pass	6♣	Pass
6◇	All Pass		

1NT (14)15-17
2NT Diamonds
3♣ 'No good in diamonds'
4♣ 'Something in clubs'
4NT 'Heart ace'

Here North led the ♠10 and declarer won with the ace and played a diamond, very happy to see the king appear, +1390.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Manno	*M Rimstedt*	*Di Franco*	*O Rimstedt*
—	—	1NT	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♡*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♡*	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣*	All Pass		

2NT 'Diamonds or both minors weak'
3♣ 'No diamond fit'
3♡ Short
4♡ 'Odd number of key cards and not minimum'
6♣ 'Transfer'

Eager to have his partner play the hand West refrained from bidding 6◇ over 5♣. South led the ♡3 and declarer won and played three rounds of clubs. When North discarded the ♠J the contract went up in smoke and declarer finished four down, -400 and unluckily 18 IMPs changed hands.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

EW are almost bound to reach 4♡. What's the best line?

Austromany v Donner

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	*Fritsche*	*Grue*	*Reps*
Pass	Pass	1◇*	Pass
1♡	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♡*	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

1◇ '3+◇ Precision still'
2NT '4♡ shortness somewhere'
3♣ Ask
3♡ 'Short spades'

North led the ♣8 and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a spade to the ace, ruffed a spade and continued with the ◇K. North ducked, won the next diamond and exited with a club, declarer winning with the king, ruffing a spade, discarding a club on the ◇Q and ruffing a club with the ♡J. Declarer ruffed a spade, cashed the ♡A and claimed 11 tricks when the queen appeared.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Jokisch	*S Rimstedt*	*Kasimir*	*C Rimstedt*
Pass	Pass	1◇*	Pass
1♡	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3◇*	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

1◇ 5◇ or some 4441
2NT '18-20 balanced 5◇ or invitational ♡ with shortness'
3♣ Relay
3◇ 'Invitational ♡, short ♠'

North led the ♡3 and South won with the queen and switched to the ♣J, declarer winning with the king and playing the ◇10. When it held a second diamond saw North take the ace and continue with the ♣Q. Declarer won with dummy's ace, pitched a club on the ◇K, crossed to the ♠A and ran the ♡9. South won with the king and exited with a diamond and declarer ruffed with the ♡10. There was no way to score more than nine tricks, -100 and an 11 IMP loss.

In some respects declarer was unlucky, although if North has four hearts to the king taking the heart finesse will not result in ten tricks. In that scenario after discarding a club declarer has to ruff a club, then cash the ♠A, ruff a spade and ruff a minor suit card. North can overruff, but declarer will be sure of taking the rest.

OCBL May Cup - The Knockouts

by Brian Senior

The Quarter-finals

The quarter-finals were played over one 16-board session. The higher ranked qualifier in each match had a small carry-over advantage which, apart from rewarding their better qualification, also avoided the possibility of a tie and extra boards. The winners of each qualifying group had an 8.1 IMP carry-over, the second-placed teams a 4.1 IMP advantage. Would any of those carry-overs prove to be decisive?

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

De Botton v Compton

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	*Compton*	*Malinowski*	*Morgan*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♡	1♠	3♣
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Padon*	*Moses*	*Townsend*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Malinowski overcalled with the East cards while Moses passed, but both Norths became declarer in 3NT.

Moses led the five pf spades to his partner's ace and back came a low spade. All Padon needed was for clubs not to be three-nil offside. He won the ♠K and led a club up, and Moses showed outdiscarding a heart. Padon won the ♣A and ♣K then gave up on the suit and played king and another heart to the jack and ace. A diamond went to the jack and king and that was all for declarer; down three for –150.

Malinowski too led a low spade, Bakhshi winning the ace and continuing with the queen. Compton won the king and led a club, winning the king when Malinowski pitched a heart. He ducked a club now so Bakhshi won his queen and returned a spade, Malinowski winning and cashing out for down two; –100 but 2 IMPs to COMPTON.

Black v Ferguson

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Black*	*V D Bos*	*Gold*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1◇	1NT	3♣
3♡	4♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Hult	*Snellers*	*Hallberg*	*De Boer*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♡	Dble	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Black responded with a 1◇ transfer to hearts and Van Den Bos overcalled 1NT, showing at least five spades and four diamonds. When Gold jumped to 3♣, Van Lankveld cuebid 3♡ to show an invitational spade raise, but the Dutch pair then permitted Black to play his club partscore. There were two aces and a club to be lost so 10 tricks for +130.

Hallberg doubled Snellers' 1♡ response to show interest in the other two suits but, when De Boer now jumped to 3♣, Hult went quietly with the West hand, and Snellers bid 3NT. Now, however, Hult came to life with a double, concluding the auction. Hallberg led the jack of spades, Hult letting this run to declarer's king. Snellers led a club up, winning the ace as Hallberg pitched a heart. When she continued with the king of clubs, Hallberg discarded a second heart. The hearts were two-two now and Snellers played king and a second round to the ace. When the jack and queen both fell together, she cashed three more heart tricks before leading a diamond up and was down only one for –100 but 1 IMP to FERGUSON.

Fredin v Levine

West	North	East	South
Levine	*Sylvan*	*Wold*	*Morath*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♡	1♠	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Meckstroth*	*Apteker*	*Rodwell*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3◇	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Wold overcalled 1♠ but Levine did not show support as West and Sylvan took a shot at 3NT. Wold led the ace of diamonds and continued with the queen to dummy's king. Sylvan played three rounds of clubs to Levine's queen and Levine returned a diamond. Wold took two of those then led a spade to his partner's ace for down one; –50.

Meckwell had an uncontested auction to 5♣. One Club was strong, 1♠ game-forcing with at least five hearts, and 2♠ showed long clubs in an unbalanced hand. Two relays discovered first that Rodwell was short in either spades or diamonds, then that the shortage was in spades. Meckstroth agreed clubs and Rodwell signed off in game. Fredin led ace and another spade, Rodwell taking a diamond pitch on the ♠K. He cashed the top club followed by the top hearts then, when there was no miracle in the latter suit, led a diamond towards his king. Apteker took his ace and there was the ♣Q to come; down one for –50 and a push board.

Schwartz v Gillis

West	North	East	South
F. Helness	*Z. Grossack*	*Gillis*	*Robinson*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♡	1♠	3♣
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Saelensminde*	*Hurd*	*Svendsen*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♡	Dble	3♣
3♠	3NT	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Gillis overcalled 1♠ and Fredrik Helness competed with 3♡ over Robinson's 3♣. Zack Grossack bid 3NT and was left to play there. Gillis led a spade, Helness winning the ace and returning a small spade to declarer's king. Grossack played a club and, on seeing Gillis pitch a low diamond, called for the jack. Helness won the ♣Q and played queen and another spade, so Gillis cashed out for down two; –100.

Hurd doubled to show interest in spades and diamonds, and Bathurst competed with 3♠ over 3♣. When Saelensminde now tried 3NT, Hurd went on to 4♠ and, when that got back to Saelensminde, he in turn went on with 5♣, doubled by Bathurst on the way out.

Bathurst led the five of diamonds to his partner's ace, and Hurd switched to a low heart, Svendsen winning in hand with the king and cashing a top club. He continued with a heart to the ace followed by the ♡10, and Hurd failed to cover. Away went the singleton spade and, though Bathurst could ruff, that was with his trump trick; 11 tricks for +550 and 12 IMPs to GILLIS.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Fredin v Levine

West	North	East	South
Levine	*Sylvan*	*Wold*	*Morath*
Pass	2NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Meckstroth*	*Apteker*	*Rodwell*
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♡
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3◇	Pass	4◇
Pass	4♡	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	Pass	5NT
Pass	6◇	All Pass	

Sylvan/Morath had the simplest of auctions to 6NT, while Meckwell had a complex auction to 6♢.

Meckstroth's 1♣ was strong, and the 1♡ response either GF with five or more spades, or 11-13 balanced. Two Clubs was natural, 2NT showed the 11-13 balanced type, and now diamonds were agreed. Four Hearts was Key-card, 5♣ showed two without the trump queen. Finally, 5♠ asked about club honours and 5NT said none. At the end of all that it seemed that 6♢ would be a better spot than 6NT.

Wold led a spade against 6NT. Sylvan won the ace, cashed one top club, then the ♡K. Next he crossed to the queen of spades to lead a second club, winning the king when Levine showed out. He took the popular line now of crossing the king of diamonds then ran the jack; down one for –50.

Apteker led the four of hearts against 6♢, Meckstroth winning the king. Meckstroth played on trumps immediately, leading low to the king then running the jack to Apteker's queen. This seems to have been essentially about playing for West to have on or other of the minor-suit lengths as, having won the heart return and drawn trumps, Meckstroth cashed one top club then cashed his major-suit winners and led a second club towards hand. When Fredin showed out, he had to concede down one; –50 and no swing.

Black v Ferguson

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Black*	*V D Bos*	*Gold*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Hult	*Snellers*	*Hallberg*	*De Boer*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	2NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Both Norths treated their hand as balanced, Black going through a Kokish sequence to get his range across, while Snellers could rebid 2NT at her second turn. Both Souths waited to hear partner's range then raised to 6NT.

Hallberg led a spade, which Snellers won in hand. She cashed one top club then crossed to the queen of spades to play a second club. Seeing Hult pitch a heart, Snellers cashed the king of hearts then led a diamond to the king then ran the ♢J to the queen. Hallberg cashed the ♣Q and that was down one for –50.

Van Den Bos also led a spade and Black too won in hand. He cashed one top club then crossed to dummy with a spade to lead the second club up. When Van Lankveld showed out, Black cashed the ♡K then led to the

♢K and cashed the ace and queen of hearts, discarding clubs from hand. Only then did he lead the jack of diamonds. Black put up the ace when the position became clear, but he could only cash the ♠K before having to concede the last three tricks to Van Den Bos; down two for –100 and 2 IMPs to FERGUSON.

De Botton v Compton

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	*Compton*	*Malinowski*	*Morgan*
2♢	Dble	Rdbl	3NT
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♢
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Padon*	*Moses*	*Townsend*
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Radon/Townsend had an uninterrupted auction to 6NT, Padon treating his hand as balanced. Moses led the eight of spades, Padon winning in hand and cashing one top club then the king of hearts before crossing to the queen of spades to lead a club towards his hand. When Smith discarded a heart, Padon won the second top club and led a diamond to the king then a second diamond. He lost to both minor-suit queens so was down one for –50.

Bakhshi's 2♢ opening was weak with one major. His opponents quickly took over the auction and sialed into 6NT. Malinowski led a heart, Compton winning the bare king and cashing the top clubs. The four-one split was bad news, but far from being fatal. Compton cashed out both majors, coming down to four diamonds and one club in each hand, Malinowski coming down to the same distribution. Compton now knew who had the diamond length so led a diamond to the ace, a low card back to his jack, then exited with a club and Malinowski could win the queen but was then obliged to lead into dummy's diamond tenace to give the twelfth trick; nicely played for +990 and 14 IMPs to COMPTON.

Schwartz v Gillis

West	North	East	South
F. Helness	*Z. Grossack*	*Gillis*	*Robinson*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
2♡	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Saelensminde*	*Hurd*	*Svendsen*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	2NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Saelensminde opened 2♣ and rebid 2NT, being raised straight to Six by Svendsen. Hurd led the seven of spades to the four, nine and king. Saelensminde cashed the ace and king of clubs, ready to claim unless… there were queen-ten to four offside. Bathurst's heart discard on the second club was bad news. Saelensmide knew where the long clubs were so played for the long diamonds to be in the other hand, leading low to the ♢K then a diamond back – and Bathurst showed out again. Hurd took the two minor-suit queens and that was down one for –50.

Grossack too opened 2♣ and Robinson responded 2♢, waiting. Helness overcalled 2♡, hoping to be able to disrupt his opponents' auction, but Grossack could pass then raise 2NT to 3NT, and Robinson had an easy raise to 6NT. The overcall may not have caused problems in the auction, but it had the effect of alerting Robinson to the possible bad breaks ahead.

Helness led the two of spades which, if an honest card, implied a second suit in which he held length. Robinson won dummy's ace and, like Saelensminde, cashed the top clubs. She cashed the king of hearts them crossed to the queen of spades and cashed the ♡A, seeing Gillis show out. Next she led the ten of diamonds to tempt a cover, going up with dummy's ace when the queen did not appear on her left. That had weakened her diamond position but when she continued with the ♢9 Gillis did not cover. Robinson ran the ♢9 then repeated the finesse and had 12 tricks for +990 and 14 IMPs to SCHWARTZ.

And if Gillis had covered the ♢9 with the queen? Declarer's diamonds were still good enough to win the king, cross to the king of spades, and take another diamond finesse.

Everyone who had an uncontested auction went down, getting diamonds wrong; the two Wests who got involved in the auction saw their opposing declarer get the diamonds right and make their slams. Could the unsuccessful declarers have cashed out their major-suit winners before taking the diamond guess? Yes, they could, but at the price of risking extra undertricks. However, East would follow to all three rounds of hearts, so all declarer would know would be that each defender had begun with six black-suit cards – he would still be on a guess.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

De Botton v Compton

West	North	East	South
Bakhshi	*Compton*	*Malinowski*	*Morgan*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♢	Pass	4♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Padon*	*Moses*	*Townsend*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
4♣	5♣	5♡	All Pass

Both Wests showed the two-suiter, though in rather differing fashions. Bakhshi showed it at the two level and saw Malinowski jump to game. Bakhshi might have bid on, but Malinowski is not known for being shy in the auction, especially when he is about to be declarer, and the five level did not look to be totally secure. Bakhshi passed and the slam had been missed; +680.

Smith jumped to 4♣ to show his big two-suiter and Padon saved in 5♣. Though Moses was willing to bid hearts at the five level, everyone was guessing with no room to make a non-committal call, and Smith left him there; +680 and no swing.

Did that decide the match. Well, sort of, though a flat board doesn't, in itself, decide anything. DE BOTTON lost the match by 6.9 IMPs, so you could say that the missed opportunity cost them.

Black v Ferguson

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Black*	*V D Bos*	*Gold*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♢	Pass	4♡	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♢	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Hult	*Snellers*	*Hallberg*	*De Boer*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♣	3♣	4♡	5♣
5♢	Pass	5♡	All Pass

Van Lankveld showed a major two-suiter then went on over Van Den Bos's leap to game, and bid the small slam at his next turn. With the ♢K onside, that was worth +1430.

Hult also showed the major two-suiter. Snellers supported her partner's clubs and that enabled De Boer to save in 5♣ over 4♡. That took away some cuebidding options from his opponents, though Hult did try 5♢ on the way to 5♡. Hallberg, however, knew that his ♣K was wasted, and felt that he had already done enough, so signed off in 5♡ and Hult accepted his decision; +680 but 13 IMPs to FERGUSON.

Did this swing cost BLACK the match? Well, in a sense, in that had the board been flat they would have won, but they lost by 0.1 IMP, so any over- or under-trick in the set could equally well have swung it one way or the other.

Fredin v Levine

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Meckstroth*	*Apteker*	*Rodwell*
–	Pass	Pass	2♣
3♣	5♣	Dble	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♡	All Pass

Unfortunately, Levine/Wold had a bidding misunderstanding and stopped in 5♢, which drifted four off for –400.

Meanwhile, Rodwell opened a Precision-style 2♣ on the South cards and Fredin cuebid to show the majors then cuebid again in response to Apteker's responsive double. Apteker responded 6♡, and that was that.

With spades only providing two discards, slam is successful because the king of diamonds is onside, which is with the odds as the finesse is through the opening bidder. Rodwell tried to cash the ace of clubs but that was ruffed and the ♣K now provided a parking place for West's small diamond. Apteker still needed the diamond finesse, however, and it was working so he scored up +1430 for an 18 IMP swing to FREDIN. Did this disaster cost LEVINE the match? No, they lost by 18.1 IMPs!

Schwartz v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Saelensminde*	*Hurd*	*Svendsen*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♣	Pass	4♡	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♢	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

This is clearly a tricky board, because Helness/Gillis also had a misunderstanding and stopped in 3♡, making 12 tricks for +230. Hurd/Bathurst, however, had no such problems.

Bathurst made a Michaels Cuebid and went on with a 5♣ cuebid when Hurd was able to jump to the heart game in response. I'm guessing that 5♢ was Last Train now, saying that Hurd didn't want to rule out slam by signing off in 5♡. Whatever it meant, it convinced Bathurst to jump to the small slam; +1430 and 15 IMPs to SCHWARTZ.

Did these 15 IMPs cost GILLIS the match? No, they lost by 26.1.

The Semifinals

Having knocked out an English team in the shape of De Botton in the quarter-final, USA's COMPTON now found themselves up against another English squad, though with a Swedish connection, in BLACK. The other semi-final was between Peter FREDIN's Swedish team, and a second American squad, SCHWARTZ.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Fredin v Schwartz

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Sylvan*	*Hurd*	*Morath*
1♣	Pass	1♠	Dble
Rdbl(i)	3NT	All Pass	

(i) Three spades

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Schwartz*	*Apteker*	*A.Grossack*
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♢(i)
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♢(ii)
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

(i) Hearts
(ii) GF Checkback

Schwartz was in 3NT after an uncontested auction and received the lead of the eight of hearts from Apteker – four, nine, jack. He led a club to the king and ace and back came the eight of clubs, on which Schwartz played the ten. He had nine cashing tricks at this point but seems to have assumed the opening lead to have been from shortage, because he set about trying to create a diamond winner. The two of diamonds went to he nine, jack and ace and back came the four of clubs. Schwartz won the queen as Apteker discarded a spade, and now crossed to the queen of spades to lead a diamond towards his queen. When Fredin played the seven, Schwartz could still have survived by playing low and dropping the ace on his left, but he put up the queen, losing to the king, Won the spade return and played a third round of diamonds. Fredin won the ♢10 and had two clubs to cash for down two and –200.

Adam Grossack

Kevin Bathurst

Bathurst had opened the West hand, leading to a different auction but identical contract. Hurd led a spade. Sylvan overtook dummy's queen with the ace to lead a low diamond from hand. When Hurd went in with the king, the suit could be played for two losers and Sylvan had an easy ride to 10 tricks for +630 and 13 IMPs to FREDIN.

Compton v Black

West	North	East	South
Hult	*Morgan*	*Hallberg*	*Compton*
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♡
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Moses	*McIntosh*	*Smith*	*Paske*
1♣	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Hult passed as dealer so his opponents had an uninterrupted sequence to 3NT, played by Morgan, North. The opening lead was a spade, which Morgan won in hand to lead a club to the king and ace. Back came a spade to the king. Morgan led a heart to the jack and was pleased to find that he had four heart winners. Having cashed them, he led a club to the ten and had nine tricks for +600.

Moses opened the West hand but Smith did not respond and Paske made a balancing 1NT overcall, raised to game by McIntosh. Moses led a low club round to Paske's king and Paske played a diamond to the queen and king, then ducked when Smith returned the nine of diamonds. That lost to the ten and Moses tried a spade. Paske was in control now. He won the spade in hand and cleared the diamonds, again won the spade return in hand, and led a club. Moses took his ace and Paske had the rest; nine tricks for +600 and no swing.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Fredin v Schwartz

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Sylvan*	*Hurd*	*Morath*
–	–	–	1♢
2♢	2♠	4♡	5♢
Pass	5♡	Pass	6♢
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Schwartz*	*Apteker*	*A.Grossack*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♢	Pass	4♣
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

Bathurst showed his major two-suiter with a Michaels Cuebid and Sylvan's 2♠ was a constructive diamond raise. Hurd's leap to 4♡ took away space that the Swedish pair really needed if they were to get to the excellent grand slam. Morath bid 5♢ and Sylvan cuebid 5♡, a clear grand slam try, but Morath felt that he had stretched already so wasn't going to risk getting too high by making any sort of co-operative noise. He signed off in 6♢ and that scored a quick +1390.

Fredin did not come in as West and Schwartz responded 2♡, an artificial GF diamond raise. Grossack bid clubs, bid them for a second time when Schwartz marked time with 3♢, and Schwartz leaped to the small slam somewhat prematurely, I think; +1390 and no swing.

While these two N/S pairs could be disappointed at stopping short of Seven, the N/Ss in the other semi-final both passed their bidding tests with flying colours.

Compton v Black

West	North	East	South
Hult	*Morgan*	*Hallberg*	*Compton*
–	–	–	1♢
1♡	2♡	3♡	4♣
Pass	4♡	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♡	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♢	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Moses	*McIntosh*	*Smith*	*Paske*
–	–	–	1♢
2♢	2♡	3♡	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♡
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♢	All Pass	

Hult made a simple overcall in the suit he wanted led should North become dealer, and Morgan showed a constructive diamond raise. When Compton was willing to bid out his shape over Hallberg's heart raise, Morgan took control. Four Hearts was Key-card for diamonds, 5♡ asked about kings, and 6♣ showed the king of that suit. That was all Morgan needed to know; +2140.

Moses made the two-suited overcall so McIntosh showed his constructive diamond raise and, when Paske too was willing to introduce clubs at the four level, asked for key cards then kings. Once again, the information that partner held the ♣K was all that McIntosh needed to hear; +2140 and an honourable flat board.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Fredin v Schwartz

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Z. Grossack*	*Apteker*	*Robinson*
–	Pass	Pass	2♡
Dble	3♡	4NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	*Sylvan*	*Hurd*	*Morath*
–	Pass	2♢	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Hurd opened the East hand with a weak 2♢ and Bathurst simply jumped to 3NT, where he made 12 tricks after a spade lead; +690.

Apteker passed the East cards and Robinson opened a weak two in third seat. Fredin doubled, Grossack raised pre-emptively to 3♡, and Apteker showed his shapely hand with a jump to 4NT, both minors. Looking at great controls, Fredin jumped to 6♢. With the minors lying as they were, there were 12 easy tricks for +1370 and 12 IMPs to FREDIN.

Compton v Black

West	North	East	South
Hult	*Morgan*	*Hallberg*	*Compton*
–	Pass	2♢	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Moses	*McIntosh*	*Smith*	*Paske*
–	Pass	Pass	1♡
Dble	3♡	4NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

Smith did not open the East hand but Paske did open as South, choosing 1♡. When Moses doubled and McIntosh raised to 3♡, Smith jumped to 4NT and Moses in turn jumped to 6♣; +1370.

Hallberg opened the weak 2♢ and Hult responded 3NT. That could have ended it, as we have seen already, but Hallberg liked his six-five shape enough to come again with 4♣, and now Hult jumped to the small slam; +1370 and a flat board.

Of course, slam is against the odds on this board, but none of the three pairs who bid and made it will care about that.

FREDIN defeated SCHWARTZ by 39-17, and had led by more than that at one point. The other semi-final was much closer throughout. After 11 boards the score was just 7-2 in favour of BLACK. Suddenly the match exploded into life, with three double-figure swings on consecutive boards, leaving COMPTON ahead by 23-20 with two boards to play. Those two boards proved to be flat, so COMPTON prevailed by 23-20 and would face FREDIN in the final.

The Final

So the final of the May Open OCBL Teams would be between FREDIN and COMPTON; Sweden, with one South African member, versus USA – 16 boards to decide the new champions.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

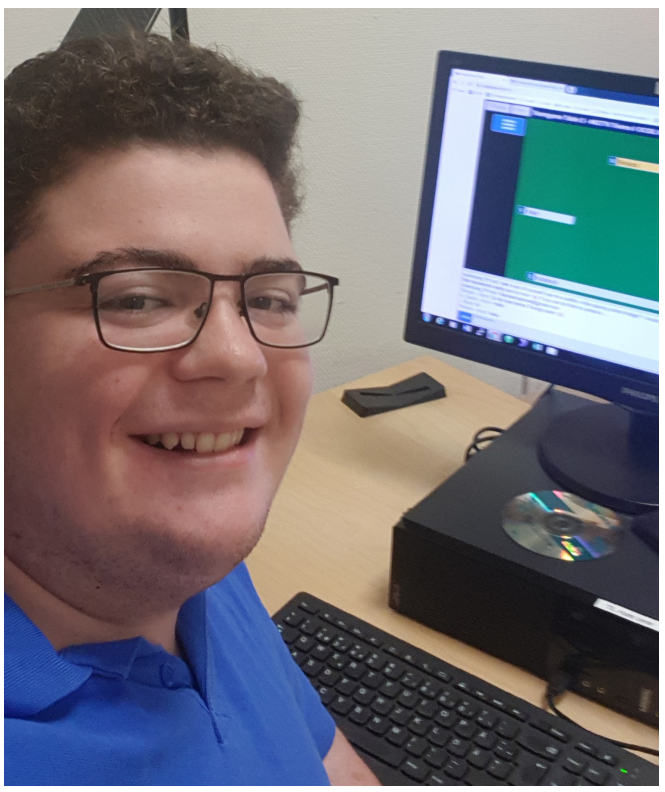
	♠ A ♡ A J 4 2 ♢ A K 10 8 5 ♣ J 6 4	
♠ K 9 8 7 4 2 ♡ – ♢ 7 4 ♣ A K Q 9 5		♠ J 5 ♡ K 10 9 7 5 3 ♢ 3 ♣ 8 7 3 2
	♠ Q 10 6 3 ♡ Q 8 6 ♢ Q J 9 6 2 ♣ 10	

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Fredin*	*Moses*	*Apteker*
–	–	3♡	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	*Morgan*	*Morath*	*Compton*
–	–	3♡	Pass
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Time was that people would have thought they were being quite daring to open the East hand with a weak two bid. Nowadays, Morath and Moses would have plenty of company in opening a level higher. Three Hearts ran round to Morgan, who overcalled 3NT. When that came round to Sylvan, he doubled to suggest that Morath try something other than his own heart suit.

Morath led the jack of spades and Morgan covered to tempt a cover. After some thought, Sylvan decided that he should indeed cover, and Morgan, perforce, won the ace. He then cashed five rounds of diamonds and continued with a low heart off the dummy without cashing the ten of spades. Sylvan discarded a club to keep the nine-eight of spades – he had to do this to be safe, in case declarer held the ♡A and ♠5. So Morgan



Simon Hult

put in the ♡J and Morath won the king. He led a club now and Sylvan had four of those to cash for down one; –200 – a lively start to the match.

In the other room Moses also opened 3♡ and Fredin overcalled 3NT. There was no double here, however. Moses led the eight of clubs, so Smith took the first five tricks and could then exit passively with a diamond, leaving Fredin to lose one more trick at the end; down two for –200 and a push board.

COMPTON drew first blood when they picked up 4 IMPs on Board 3, for making 2♢+3 in one room while the other room passed it out.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Fredin*	*Moses*	*Apteker*
1♣	Pass	1♡	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♢	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	*Morgan*	*Morath*	*Compton*
1♣	Pass	1♡	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♢	Pass	2♡	All Pass

Facing a weak NT type, Moses used GF Checkback and, with no eight-card major-suit fit, the partnership natural reached 3NT. A spade lead would have put the contract under pressure – play hearts from the top or lead low to the ten – but Fredin led the five of diamonds and, after three rounds of diamonds had been cashed, there was no temptation to finesse in hearts as the thirteenth diamond was Smith's ninth trick; +630.

Morath only used invitational checkback, 2♣ being a puppet to 2♢ then 2♡ showing five cards and invitational. Sylvan had a decent hand but only a doubleton heart so passed, and the friendly break meant 10 tricks for +170 but 10 IMPs to COMPTON.

Peter Fredin

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Fredin*	*Moses*	*Apteker*
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♣
2♠	3♣	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	*Morgan*	*Morath*	*Compton*
–	–	–	1♣
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♣
2♠	All Pass		

Everything was very peaceful in one room, where Sylvan bought it in 2♠. He ruffed the lead of the king of clubs and led a heart to the queen and ace. Back came a spade to dummy's ace. Sylvan led a diamond to his king then drew trumps before playing a second diamond. Sylvan could only make the king of hearts from here, so just making for +110.

The auction started in the same fashion in the other room, but then Fredin competed with 3♣ and Moses suggested that this contract might not be making. His double ended the auction and Smith led the king of spades to his bare ace. Moses switched to the two of clubs and, though Apteker could have won the trick with his six, he chose to win the king to ruff a spade. Next he played ace and another diamond, ruffing, followed by another spade ruff. A diamond exit to Smith's king saw Smith return a diamond, which Apteker ruffed. HE played ace and another heart next and waited for a lead into his remaining ace-jack of clubs; six clubs, two red aces, and one diamond ruff – nine tricks for +670 and 13 IMPs to FREDIN, levelling the match at 14-14 after seven boards.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Fredin*	*Moses*	*Apteker*
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	*Morgan*	*Morath*	*Compton*
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♢
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Moses raised to 2♠ and Smith went on to game, against which Fredin led the nine of spades round to declarer's queen. Smith tried a club to the king, losing to the ace, and back came a second trump. He won this in dummy to lead a diamond to the ten, jack and queen, and Fredin returned a low club, ruffed high by Smith. Who played ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond, followed by a heart to the king. That scored but there were two hearts to be lost for down one and –50.

Morgan led the four of diamonds to the king and ace. Sylvan led the seven of clubs to the nine, ten and queen, and Compton returned the ten of diamonds to the jack and queen. Morgan switched to the queen of hearts to Compton's ace and Compton switched to a trump for the nine and ten. Sylvan led the king of clubs to the ace and high ruff, then crossed to dummy with the eight of spades and was at the key point in the hand – should he lead a low club in hope of ruffing out the jack, or lead the eight in hope of pinning the six in the North hand. Sylvan got it right, calling for a low club, and the appearance of the jack meant that he had his tenth trick, ruffing a diamond to get to dummy and cashing the ♣8 for a heart discard; +420 and 10 IMPs to FREDIN, who had their lead back at 24-14.

COMPTON got 6 IMPs back when Compton and Morgan bid a thin 4♡ which was missed at the other table:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	*Morgan*	*Morath*	*Compton*
–	Pass	Pass	1♡
2♣	2NT(i)	Pass	3♢(ii)
3♡	4♡	All Pass	

(i) Invitational or better in hearts
(ii) Game try

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Fredin*	*Moses*	*Apteker*
–	Pass	Pass	1♡
2♣	2NT(i)	Pass	3♣(ii)
Dble	3♡	All Pass	

(i) Invitational or better with heart support
(ii) Any minimum

Compton made a wafer-thin game try while Apteker did not, and that led to Compton declaring a thin game. He ruffed the second club, drew trumps and led a low diamond towards the queen. Sylvan took his king and exited with the ♢J, but Compton could win the ace then queen of diamonds, and a spade finesse left Sylvan endplayed to give the contract; +420 against –170 in the other room; FREDIN by 24-20.

Board 10 was a flat game, +620 for both E/W pairs, then FREDIN gained an overtrick IMP in a heart partscore on Board 11. Board 12 was flat in 3NT+1 N/S, and on Board 13 FREDIN bought the contract at both tables. Fredin lost

Chris Compton

–100 in 2♠ down one, while Sylvan lost –100 in 3♣, for 5 IMPs to COMPTON, and the match was tied at 25 apiece with three boards to play.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ A
♡ K 3
♢ A Q 8 5 2
♣ A K 10 7 6

♠ 8 3
♡ A 9 7 6 5
♢ 9 6 4
♣ J 9 4

♠ 10 9 6 5 4 2
♡ 4 2
♢ K J 7 3
♣ 8

♠ K Q J 7
♡ Q J 10 8
♢ 10
♣ Q 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Fredin*	*Moses*	*Apteker*
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♢	Pass	1♡
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

All very straightforward, albeit not very successful, as the cold slam was missed; 12 tricks for +490.

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	*Morgan*	*Morath*	*Compton*
–	–	2♢(i)	Pass
Pass	Dble	3♢	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	3♠	Dble
All Pass			

(i) 5-9 with a six-card major

Knowing that his opponents held at least game values between them, Sylvan decided to sow some confusion by passing his partner's multi 2♢ opening, and action usually based on a long diamond suit. However, when Morgan doubled 2♢ and Morath raised, taken in by his partner's pass, Compton's responsive double put Sylvan in an awkward position – what if the double was left in? He judged, almost certainly wisely, to ask Morath to bid his major after all. Morath did so and Compton doubled again, this time for penalty, and ending the auction.

Compton led the queen of hearts, Morath winning dummy's ace and Morgan retaining his king. Morath led a diamond up and Morgan won the ace and cashed the ace of clubs. When Compton encouraged on this trick. Morgan continued with the ♣K, ruffed by Morath, who attempted to cash the king of diamonds. Compton's ruff did not fit in with Morath's master plan, but at least it was made with a trump trick. Compton returned the king of spades to his partner's ace and Morgan cashed the king of hearts before returning a low diamond for Compton to ruff. Compton cashed his last spade then played the queen of clubs, and Morath had to concede a diamond at the end; down four for –800 and 7 IMPs to COMPTON.

Was that a good or a bad result? Both 6♣ and 6NT were cold on the N/S cards, so +800 might mean –3 or –5 if either was bid.

There were two boards to go and it was COMPTON by 32-25.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 3 2
♡ K Q 7 6
♢ J 8 6
♣ 10 8 3

♠ K 6 5 3
♡ 10 8 2
♢ K 9 5 3
♣ K Q

♠ J 7 4
♡ J 5 4
♢ Q 4
♣ A J 9 6 4

♠ A 10 9
♡ A 9 3
♢ A 10 7 2
♣ 7 5 2

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Fredin*	*Moses*	*Apteker*
Sylvan	*Morgan*	*Morath*	*Compton*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Both Wests led a low spade to the two, jack and ace. Apteker led a spade straight back and had seven tricks for +90. Compton, knowing that a three-three heart split was odds against, crossed to dummy with a heart at trick two and led the jack of diamonds to the queen and ace. When he now cashed the hearts without having set up the second spade trick, the defence knew all they needed to know to prevent the seventh trick; down one for –100 and 5 IMPs to FREDIN; 30-32.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ Q 7
♡ 5
♢ A K Q J 8 6 3
♣ 10 6

♠ K J 3
♡ A J 9 6 2
♢ 9 5 2
♣ K Q

♠ 10 9 6 5 4 2
♡ 7
♢ 7 4
♣ 9 8 4

♠ A 8
♡ Q 10 3
♢ 10
♣ A J 7 5 3 2

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Fredin*	*Moses*	*Apteker*
1♡	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	*Morgan*	*Morath*	*Compton*
1NT	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	3♢	All Pass	

Smith opened 1♡ and Fredin overcalled 1NT, easily raised to game by Apteker. After a low heart lead, Apteker took 11 tricks for +460.

In the other room Sylvan upgraded the West hand to a 15-17 NT and Morgan passed as North, knowing that this was one contract he should be able to beat. However, when his opponents transferred to spades, Morgan now competed in his solid suit. Compton had 11 HCP, but only a singleton diamond, and the 1NT opening had been strong. He passed and the lead in the match changed for one last time, when there was no time for it to change back again. Morgan made no fewer than 12 tricks in 3♢ after a heart lead ducked to his king, a club to the jack and queen, and a low spade return to his queen; +170 but 7 IMPs to FREDIN, who had won by 37-32, courtesy of two swings on the final two boards of the match.

Congratulations to Peter Fredin, Alon Apteker, Johan Sylvan and Anders Morath.

Online Bridge NEWS

From the Bridge Base Online Website:

On May 25th, don't miss the free live conference on BBO with Marc Smith, co-author of the best-selling 25 conventions you should know. This live session, offered by our partner Bridge Eshop, will focus on: Planning the Play as Declarer – Establishing suits.

How to register? You just have to click on the link below, put the conference in your cart and validate it (no payment required).
Then create an account with your email address and password (or log in if you already have an account). That's it!

Registration:
https://www.bridge-eshop.com/en/144-register-now-for-the-free-conference-with-marc-smith?SubmitCurrency=1&id_currency=1&utm_source=b-bo&utm_medium=bbo&utm_campaign=conference

MORE ABOUT THE FREE CONFERENCE:
Theme: Planning the Play as Declarer – Establishing suits.
Date: May 25th, 2021.
Time: 1.30 pm (New York time) / 10.30 am (California time) / 6.30 pm (UK time) / 7.30 pm (French time).
Level: Intermediate.
Duration: 2 hours.
How to find the link of your zoom conference? The day of your purchase, you will receive an automatic email. It will contain a PDF file with the link to the conference (make sure you are logged in to your Bridge Eshop customer account to see the link). This link will also be available in your Customer Area in the 'Virtual Links Download' section.

OCBL MAY CUP - RESULTS

QUARTERFINALS

De Botton (+8.1)	13 IMPs TOTAL: 21.1		27 IMPs TOTAL: 27	Compton
OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		
N: D. Padon S: T. Townsend	E: D. Bakhshi W: A. Malinowski		E: Moses T. W: R. Smith	N: C. Compton S: J. Morgan
SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=93719-1621607633							
Ferguson	40 IMPs TOTAL: 40		36 IMPs TOTAL: 40.1	Black (+4.1)
OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		
N: J. Nadel S: B. Ferguson	E: B. Van Den Bos W: J. Van Lankveld		E: T. Paske W: A. Mcintosh	N: A. Black S: D. Gold
SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=93681-1621607438							
Schwartz (+4.1)	37 IMPs TOTAL: 41.1		15 IMPs TOTAL: 15	Gillis
OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		
N: E. Schwartz S: A. Grossack	E: Hurd J. W: K. Bathurst		E: S. Gillis W: F. Helness	N: E. Saelensminde S: O. Svendsen
SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=93690-1621607452							
Fredin (+8.1)	44 IMPs TOTAL: 52.1		34 IMPs TOTAL: 34	Levine
OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		
N: J. Sylvan S: A. Morath	E: P. Fredin W: A. Apteker		E: Helgemo G. W: Helness F.	N: J. Meckstroth S: E. Rodwell
SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=93736-1621607776							

SEMIFINALS

Compton (+0.1)	23 IMPs TOTAL: 23.1		20 IMPs TOTAL: 20	Black
OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		
N: J. Morgan S: C. Compton	E: T. Moses W: R. Smith		E: G. Hallberg W: S. Hult	N: A. Mcintosh S: T. Paske
SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=94869-1621616549							
Fredin (+0.1)	39 IMPs TOTAL: 39.1		17 IMPs TOTAL: 17	Schwartz
OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		
N: J. Sylvan S: A. Morath	E: A. Apteker W: P. Fredin		E: J. Hurd W: K. Bathurst	N: Z. Grossack S: L. Robinson
SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=94868-1621616547							

FINAL

Compton (+0.1)	32 IMPs TOTAL: 32.1		37 IMPs TOTAL: 37	Fredin
OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM		
N: J. Morgan S: C. Compton	E: T. Moses W: R. Smith		E: J. Sylvan W: A. Morath	N: P. Fredin S: A. Apteker
SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=96321-1621625529							

JUNE CUP

31 May - 4 June, 2021

Registered Teams

The OCBL June Cup will take place from 31 May to 4 June, 2021.

SKEIDAR
Andresen M. (Mime477)
Helgemo G. (micelle45)
Aaseng L. (Lasseaa)
Johansen T. (Brulle)
Kristoffersen C. (Stoffers)
Bogø K. (osvaill83)
Berg E. (eberg)
Farstad A. (Kha66)

APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS
Auken S. (jcmax)
Welland R. (roy)
Milner R. (reesem)
Lall H. (hemantlall)
Jagniewski R. (mlodybog)
Gawel W. (redds)

CALCIO & FOOTBALL
Bussink B. (bart3)
Grossack A. (nevereast)
Di Franco M. (M_DiFranco)
Manno A. (maqeda)

BLACK
Black A. (boggis)
Gold D. (dagold)
McIntosh A. (mcintosh)
Paske T. (thomas1000)
Hult S. (hultahult)
Hallberg G. (rerack)

COMPTON
Goodman A. (agoodman1)
Dwyer K. (kdwyer)
Huang S. (precisebri)
Moses T. (hottodstl)
Smith R. (ronsmithsf)
Compton C. (compton)

ZHAO
Zhao C. (zhaochen)
Liu J. (Liujing)
Loo C. (bridgeboy)
De Wijs S. (sm1)
Muller B. (beukertje)
Verhees L. (loukie)
Van Prooijen R. (riccovp)

DONNER
Donner G. (GDonnersc1)
Rimstedt C. (CillaR)
Rimstedt S. (sandria)
Grue J. (joegrue)
Moss B. (brad)
Michielsen M. (lady007)
Cullin Per Ola (poken)

FERGUSON
Nadel J. (juliejoy)
Van Den Bos B. (Berendbs)
Van Lankveld J. (ennaji)
De Boer W. (bukkum)
Snellers A. (asnellers)
Ferguson B. (bruceferg)

ORCA
Plackett R. (hoofie)
Erichsen E. (espene)
Crouch P. (pitiful)
Zorlu N. (begse)

GREENSPAN
Greenspan B. (BernieG)
Schenker F. (jbcoyle)
Kranyak K. (kranko2013)
Becker P. (badger49)

HARRIS
Root S. (AsNuttyAs)
Harris J. (Jdache)
Igoe N. (ibraves)
Malhasyan E. (master DJ)
Gold M. (marusab)
Trendafilov R. (rumen)
Isporski V. (smileyv)

SCORWAY
Levinson S. (sc0tsteve)
Shenkin B. (Barnets)
Diamond D. (Derekd)
Kvangraven N. (Nils123)
Saur O. (Saurdino)
Silverstone V. (Odysseus69)
Stornes H. (helsto)
Brekka G. (kaninen)

Book your seat at:
https://www.ocbl.org/registration/

World Bridge Tour
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OCBL CUP

Qualification + Knockout

JUNE CUP	JULY CUP	SEPTEMBER CUP
31 May - 4 June	12 - 16 July	27 September - 1 October

Qualification:

9 Rounds x 16 Boards	CEST	EDT
Monday	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
Tuesday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Wednesday	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
Thursday	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00

KOs:

Quarterfinals - Semifinals - Finals: 16 Boards each

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

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG