World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

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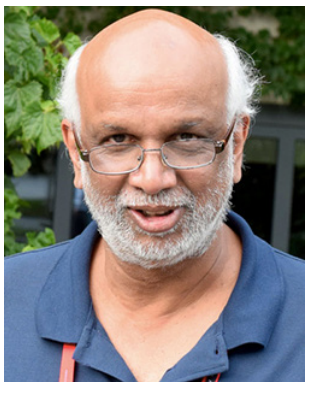
APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS WIN THE AUGUST CUP!

Reese Milner

Sabine Auken

Wojciech Gawel

Rafal Jagniewski


Hemant Lall

Roy Welland

Apres-Bridge Champs (Milner R., Auken S., Gawel W., Jagniewski R., Lall H., Welland R.) win the OCBL August Cup!

In the Final, they faced team **Black** (Black A., Gold D., McIntosh A., Paske T., Hult S., Hallberg G.).

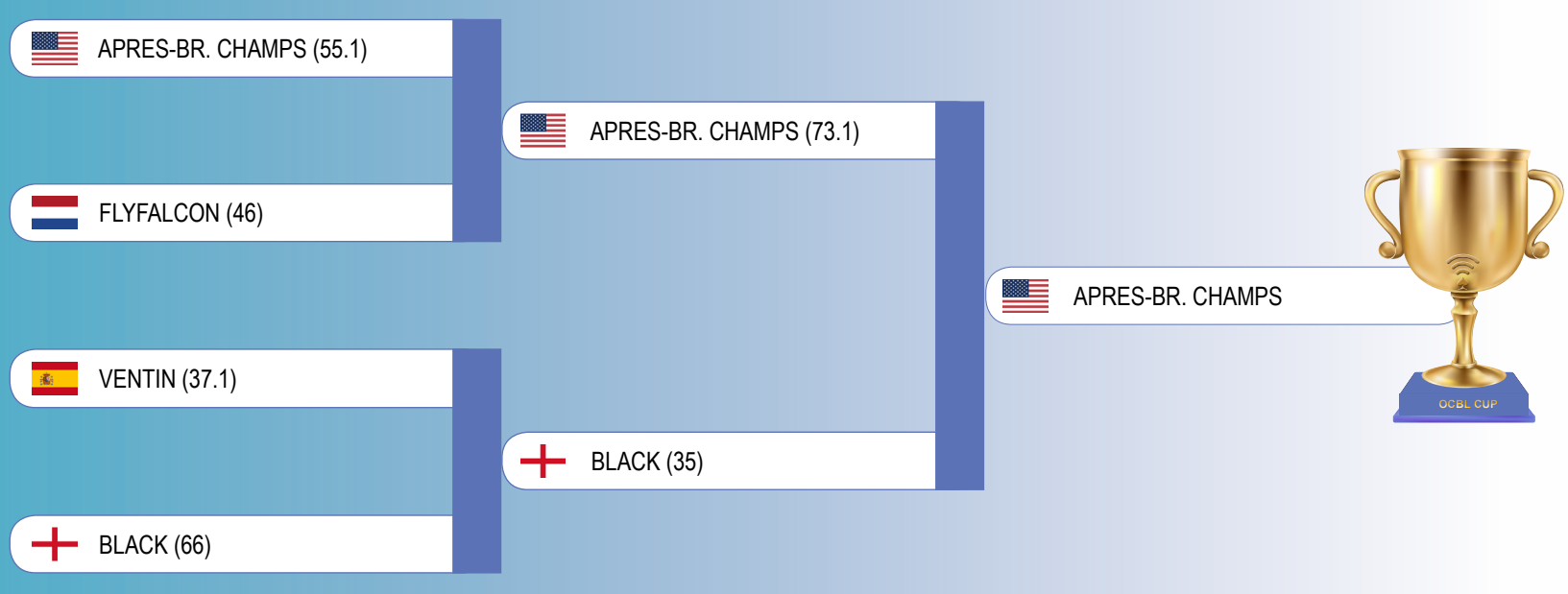
The third place is shared between the opponents of Apres-Bridge Champs and Black in the Semifinals:

Flyfalcon (Wilson A., Van Prooijen R., Verhees L., Gronkvist I., Gronkvist M., Sprinkhuizen T., Mendes De Leon G., Kiljan V., Tijssen L.) and

Ventin (Ventin J.C., Fernandez C., Palma A., Pacareu J., Wrang F., Nystrom F., Chrueheras J.).

We wish to thank all the players who took part to this event. We are looking forward to meeting you soon! The OCBL Calendar of upcoming events is posted on page 2.

OCBL AUGUST CUP - THE BRACKET



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OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER CUP
30 August - 2 September, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 30 August	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Tuesday 31 August	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Wednesday 1 September	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Thursday 2 September	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

OPEN LEAGUE
6 - 30 September, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at:		21.15	15.15
Qualification:	9 Rounds, 16 boards each		
KO:	3 Rounds, 20 boards each		

OCTOBER CUP
18 - 21 October, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 18 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Tuesday 19 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Wednesday 20 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Thursday 21 October	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

OPEN LEAGUE
25 October - 18 November, 2021

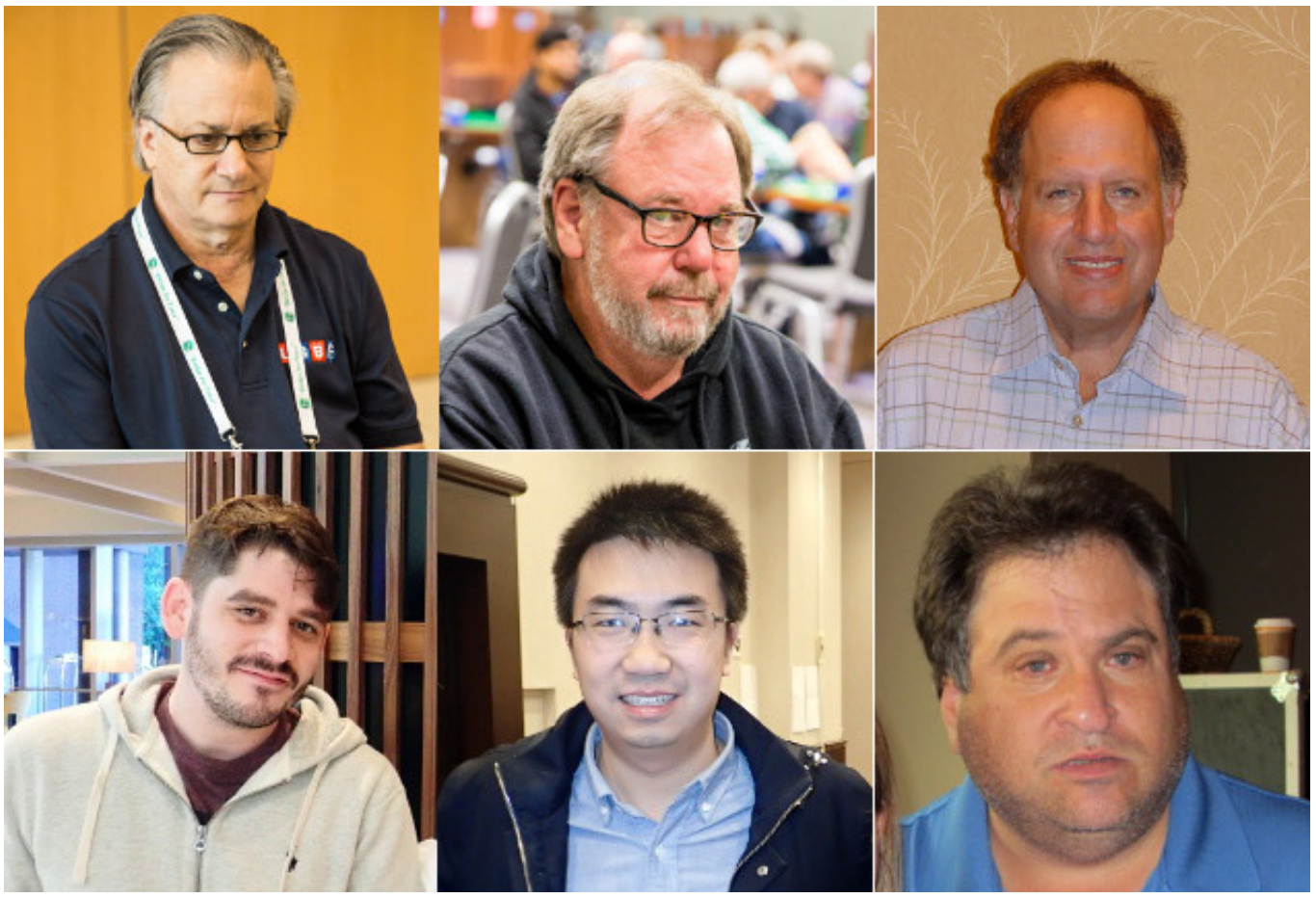
		CEST	EDT
Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at:		21.15	15.15
Qualification:	9 Rounds		
KO:	3 Rounds		

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

https://www.ocbl.org/registration/

Online Bridge
NEWS

GNT WINNERS



GNT Open Flight winners from District 9, clockwise from left:
Jeff Wolfson, Jeff Meckstroth, David Berkowitz, Gary Cohler, Shan Huang and Kevin Dwyer.

From the ACBL website:

Florida takes GNT Championship title
The Florida-based District 9 team captained by Jeff Wolfson won the Grand National Teams Championship Flight when they defeated the District 2 (Ontario) squad led by Jacob Freeman in Sunday's final, 149–90.

Playing for District 9 were Wolfson, David Berkowitz, Kevin Dwyer, Shan Huang, Gary Cohler and Jeff Meckstroth. District 9 is regularly a favorite in the contest, and several members of this year's winning team have multiple victories in the event. This is the 15th GNT Championship win for Meckstroth, the ninth for Berkowitz, the eighth for Cohler, and the second each for Wolfson and Dwyer. This is the first open NABC win for Huang, who previously had wins in the Canadian National Teams Championship (he moved to the U.S. in 2020).

Playing for District 2 were Freeman, Daniel Lavee, Bruce Zhu, Darren Wolpert, John Carruthers and Martin Kirr.

In the final, Florida jumped out to a 20-IMP lead in the first quarter, but the Canadians trimmed their opponents' lead to just 8 IMPs by halftime. Florida remained in control the rest of the match, however, increasing their lead to 26 IMPs in the third set. In the stretch, District 9 held the Canadians to just 4 IMPs, to win the match by 59.

Send us your up-to-date pic, please!

It has been a long time since many of us last met and we are doing our best to make your online Bridge experience as valuable as we can.

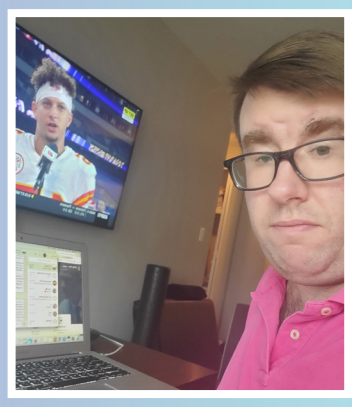
Obviously when producing Bridge articles it is necessary to use photos from the archives.

Since online play is at the moment a big part of our present, we would like to represent it as it is!

So if you can please send us a picture (can be a selfie) of yourself playing online Bridge.

Let your Bridge friends see you in the present!

You can send the pic to:
info@ocbl.org



Rounds 8 and 9

by Brian Senior

Round 8

We have a couple of wild distributional boards for your entertainment in Round 8, beginning with:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Rippey v Compton

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Nowak*	*Huang*	*Rippey*
–	–	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*Compton*	*Nawrocki*	*Goodman*
–	–	2♢	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Nawrocki opened a multi, so effectively a weak two bid, and Wiankowski responded 4♢, asking him to bid his major. He did so and Wiankowski passed. Goodman led the king of clubs to dummy's ace. Nawrocki led a low heart off the dummy and Compton went in with the ace, ruffed. Nawrocki could now draw trumps and take the ruffing heart finesse to get rid of his diamond losers; 13 tricks for +510.

Huang opened 3♠. Dwyer's 4♣ response agreed spades and Huang was happy to co-operate. Dwyer bid the small slam, against which the lead was again the king of clubs. Huang won the ace, drew trumps and led the queen of hearts to the ace and ruff. He could only establish one heart winner now so was left with a diamond loser; +980 and 10 IMPs to COMPTON.

Black v Gupta

West	North	East	South
Garner	*Black*	*A Gupta*	*Gold*
–	–	2♠	Pass
4♠	Dble	Pass	5♣
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Stamatov*	*McIntosh*	*Zia*
–	–	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
5♠	All Pass		

There was quite a contrast between the two East players in this match as McIntosh opened 4♠, while Ash Gupta contented himself with a weak two bid.

Four Spades ran round to North, Stamatov, who balanced with 4NT, any two-suiter. When Zia responded 5♣, Paske took the push to 5♠ – indeed, he must have been very close to bidding on at his previous turn. Five Spades completed the auction. McIntosh won the club lead and led a low heart from dummy. Stamatov went up with the ace, which was ruffed, and a later ruffing finesse provided the two heart winners required to avoid a diamond loser; +510.

Garner raised 2♠ to game and Black doubled, treating his hand as three- rather than two-suited. When Garner went on to 5♠, Black doubled. Gupta won the club lead, drew trumps and played the ♡Q; 12 tricks for +750 and 6 IMPs to GUPTA.

Ventin v Apres-Bridge Champs

West	North	East	South
Welland	*Ventin*	*Auken*	*Pacareu*
–	–	3♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Palma	*Jagniewski*	*Wrang*	*Gawel*
–	–	3♠	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

Auken opened 3♠ and Welland just blasted Six. Auken won the club lead and played the queen of hearts; 12 tricks and +980.

Wrang too opened 3♠, but Palma raised only to game. That collected second prize, when Jagniewski doubled and Gawel felt that he was too balanced to expect to make anything at the five level so passed. Gawel led the king of clubs to the ace and Wrang played the ♡Q at trick two; 12 tricks for +790 but 5 IMPs to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS.

Ferguson v Leslie

West	North	East	South
Byrne	*Nadel*	*Dyke*	*Ferguson*
–	–	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Bell*	*V D Bos*	*Norton*
–	–	3♠	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

Both Easts opened 3♠ and both Wests were content with a simple raise to game. Nadel let that go, but Bell doubled and Norton left it in.

Dyke won the club lead and played a low heart to the ace and ruff, then drew trumps and took the ruffing finesse for 13 tricks and +510.

Van Den Bos also won the club lead and led a low heart to the ace and ruff. However, he then crossruffed clubs and low hearts and left himself with a diamond loser; 12 tricks for +790 and 7 IMPs to FERGUSON.

Gillis v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Svendsen*	*M de Leon*	*Gillis*
–	–	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Kiljan*	*O Rimstedt*	*Tijssen*
–	–	2♠	Pass
2NT	Dble	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♡	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Mendes de Leon opened 3♠ and Sprinkhuizen raised to game. Svendsen went quietly and Gillis led the ineevitable club. Mendes de Leon played a low heart at trick two, ruffed out the ace, and later took the ruffing finesse; 13 tricks for +510.

Ola opened a weak two bid and Mikael enquired, leaving room for Kiljan to come in with the North hand at a somewhat less committal level than at other tables. The Rimstedts had a brief look at a possible slam but settled for game, against which Tijssen led the seven of diamonds, the only South not to lead a club honour. Ola won the ace of diamonds and played a low heart to the ace and ruff, drew trumps and took the ruffing finesse; 13 tricks for +510 and no swing.

All told, then , we had one 4♠ opener, six 3♠ openings, two natural weak two bids and one multi. When the auction had reached the four level when it came round to North, there were four doublers, one 4NT overcall, and five passers.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Rippey v Compton

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Nowak*	*Huang*	*Rippey*
–	–	1NT	Pass
4♡	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♢
Dble	5♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*Compton*	*Nawrocki*	*Goodman*
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♡	2♠	Dble	2NT
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Huang opened 1NT as dealer and Dwyer responded with a Texas 4♡, Huang doing as requested by converting to 4♠. Now Nowak overcalled 4NT to show a two-suiter and converted Rippey's 5♢ response to 5♡, showing that he actually held hearts and clubs. Dwyer had doubled 5♢ and now he doubled 5♡, ending the auction. Huang led out two top diamonds, Nowak ruffing the second and playing a heart to the ace and a second heart to Dwyer's king. Dwyer forced him with a third diamond, but Nowak could ruff, draw the outstanding trump, and knock out the ♣A; down one for –100.

Nawrocki too opened 1NT, but Wiankowski responded with a two-level transfer so Compton could show hearts and a minor via a 2♠ cuebid. Nawrocki doubled that and Goodman bid 2NT to ask for the minor. If partner had support for both minors, then Compton was very happy to bid 5♣ over Wiankowski's 4♠, and Wiankowski doubled to complete the auction. Again the defence started with two rounds of diamonds, so Compton ruffed the second one and played ace and another heart. Wiankowski won the king and forced Compton with a diamond. He led a club to the queen then back to the ten and jack, and the ace of clubs was his last loser; down one for –100 and no swing.

Black v Gupta

West	North	East	South
Garner	*Black*	*A Gupta*	*Gold*
–	–	1♢	Pass
1♠	2NT	Dble	3♣
4♣	5♣	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Stamatov*	*McIntosh*	*Zia*
–	–	1NT	Pass
4♢	4♡	Pass	Pass
4♠	5♣	5♠	Dble
All Pass			

Gupta opened 1♢, Garner responding 1♠. Black could jump to 2NT now to show the other two suits, and Gupta doubled. When Gold gave preference to clubs, Garner cuebid and Black went on to 5♣, doubled by Gupta. That was down one for –100.

McIntosh opened 1NT and Paske transferred at the four level. Stamatov ovecalled 4♡ then, when Paske bid 4♠, showed his second suit. With no heart wastage and only ace-doubleton in clubs, McIntosh took the push to 5♠ rather than settle for what rated to be an inadequate penalty, and Zia doubled, concluding the bidding. Zia cashed the ace of hearts and continued with a second round. Paske won the king and led a low spade to the jack and king, won the club return with the ace and led a spade to the nine and queen. A diamond to dummy enabled him to lead a third spade for a finesse against the ten and, having drawn trumps, Paske could cash the diamonds, getting rid of his club loser along the way; 11 tricks for +850 and 13 IMPs to BLACK.

South could, of course, have switched to a club at trick two, but that would not defeat the contract if declarer played for the trumps to be four-zero. He could win the ♣A and lead the three of spades to the nine and queen, and follow that with four rounds of diamonds for a club discard. Now the five of spades would restrict South to one trump trick.

Ventin v Apres-Bridge Champs

West	North	East	South
Welland	*Ventin*	*Auken*	*Pacareu*
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♡	3♡	Pass	Pass
4♠	5♣	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Palma	*Jagniewski*	*Wrang*	*Gawel*
–	–	1NT	Pass
4♢	4NT	Pass	5♢
Dble	5♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Welland transferred at the two level and Ventin judged to bid his hand one suit at a time rather than make a two-suited overcall. When he followed through with this plan and bid 5♣, Auken doubled to end the auction. She led two top diamonds, so Ventin ruffed and played ace and another heart. Welland won the king and returned a diamond, so Ventin ruffed and played the jack of clubs. Auken won the ace and played the ten of hearts and Ventin ruffed with the nine. Welland over-ruffed with the ten and that was down two for –300.

Palma transferred at the four level. Rather than bid 4♡ followed by 5♣ over 4♠, Jagniewski overcalled 4NT and converted his partner's 5♢ preference to 5♡, where he was doubled. He ruffed the second diamond and led a club to the queen and, when that held the trick, cashed the ace of hearts. Next, Jagniewski knocked out the ace of clubs and, when a spade came back to the ten and queen, led a low heart from hand, bringing down the king. He had the rest now so was down one for –100 but 5 IMPs to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS.

Ferguson v Leslie

West	North	East	South
Byrne	*Nadel*	*Dyke*	*Ferguson*
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Bell*	*V D Bos*	*Norton*
–	–	1NT	Pass
4♡	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Van Lankveld transferred at the four level so Bell overcalled 4♠, hearts and a minor. Norton asked which minor and Bell replied with 5♣, where he was doubled by Van Lankveld. Bell ruffed the second diamond and played two rounds of hearts, ruffed the club return, and led a club to the queen followed by a second club; down one for –100.

Byrne transferred at the two level and, remarkably, Nadel stayed silent throughout as Byrne followed up by offering a choice of games, Dyke opting for 4♠. Ferguson led a low club to the king and ace. Dyke led a spade to the queen, discovering the bad split, so continued with four rounds of diamonds to get rid of dummy's club loser. The fifth diamond was ruffed, but Dyke discarded the jack of hearts to avoid the guess in that suit, and just lost a second trump plus the ace of hearts; 10 tricks for +620 and 11 IMPs to LESLIE.

Gillis v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Svendsen*	*M de Leon*	*Gillis*
–	–	1NT	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Kiljan*	*O Rimstedt*	*Tijssen*
–	–	1NT	Pass
4♢	4♡	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Both Wests transferred at the four level, doing so via 4♢ rather than the Texas 4♡.

Svendsen passed over 4♢ then passed again when 4♠ came round to him. I don't think I could bring myself to pass throughout with a six-six hand. Gillis led a diamond, so Mendes de Leon won the jack and cashed the ace of spades. On seeing the four-zero trump split, he cashed the diamonds, discarding bot of dummy's hearts. There were two spade losers and one club; +620.

Kiljan overcalled 4♡ and Tijssen doubled Ola's completion of the transfer. Kiljan left that in, though there must have been some temptation to introduce his second suit. Tijssen cashed the ace of hearts and continued with a second heart to dummy's king. Ola led a low spade to the jack and king, won the club lead and led a spade to the nine and queen, followed by a diamond to hand to pick up the remaining spades. Dummy's club loser went away on the diamonds, so Ola had an overtrick for +990 and 9 IMPs to GILLIS. So much for Sprinkhuizen/Mendes de Leon's excellent result at the other table.

Round 9

Two slams were the highlights of the final round of qualifying. First:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Rippey v Black

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Peracrio*	*McIntosh*	*Cima*
–	Pass	Pass	1♡
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♢	Pass	3♡
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♡	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*Hallberg*	*Nawrocki*	*Hult*
–	Pass	Pass	1♡
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♡	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

You can get to the small slam via an artificial 2♣ rebid and a string of relays, or you can get to the same place via simple methods with a splinter rebid. Both declarers won the diamond lead and soon discovered that hearts were as kind as kind could be, so had all 13 tricks for a flat board at +1460.

Leslie v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Gillis	*Dyke*	*Svendsen*	*Byrne*
–	Pass	Pass	1♡
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	4♡	Pass	5♢
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Burgess	*M Rimstedt*	*Leslie*	*O Rimstedt*
–	1♢	Pass	1♡
Pass	1♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♡	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♠	Pass	7♢
Pass	7♠	All Pass	

Byrne rebid 4♣, splinter, and Gillis doubled, enabling him to redouble to show first-round control. After a couple of cuebids, Dyke jumped to 6♠ to conclude the auction; +1460.

Mikael opened the North hand then was willing to co-operate in a slam hunt over Ola's splinter. When Ola confirmed the club void, Mikael bid the spade slam but Ola was not through yet and went on to 7♢, converted back to spades by Mikael. The lead against 7♠ was the nine of spades, Mikael winning dummy's jack. He cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to the ace of diamonds, and played king then ruffed a heart. The fall of both heart honours meant that he had 13 easy tricks for +2210 and 13 IMPs to GILLIS.

Apres-Bridge Champs v Compton

West	North	East	South
Gawel	*Smith*	*Jagniewski*	*Moses*
–	Pass	Pass	1♡
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Lall*	*Huang*	*Milner*
–	1♢	Pass	1♡
Pass	1♠	Pass	5♣
Pass	5NT	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

And then there was the match of extremes.

Smith passed as dealer and Moses opened 1♡ then reversed into spades over Smith's 1NT response to 1♡. Smith just raised to game, and Moses respected the lack of a cuebid along the way and passed. Moses discarded a heart on the lead of the ace of clubs but ruffed the club continuation, crossed to the ace of hearts to take a second club ruff, and soon had 12 tricks for a sadly inadequate +680.

Lall opened the North hand and, when his rebid showed that he had spades, Milner used Exclusion Key-card then jumped to 7♠ upon finding his partner with two plus the trump queen. Lall ruffed the club lead. Came to the ace of hearts and took a second club ruff. He cashed the ace of spades, came to hand with the jack of diamonds, and ruffed a third club with dummy's last trump. Lall ruffed a heart, drew trumps, and had 13 tricks when they split three-two; +2210 and 17 IMPs to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS.

Hlaf the Norths opened 1♢, half passed. Altogether, there were three pairs in 7♠ and one in 7♢, four in 6♠ and one in 6♢, plus the one we have already seen in 4♠.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Flyfalcon v Ventin

West	North	East	South
Wrang	*V Prooijen*	*Nystrom*	*Wilson*
–	–	–	1♡
2♣	3♣	3♢	4♡
4NT	Pass	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Ventin*	*Kiljan*	*Pacareu*
–	–	–	1♡
2♣	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Van Prooijen cuebid to show a good heart raise and Nystrom introduced his diamond suit. When Wilson jumped to the heart game Wrang bid 4NT then passed when the 5♣ response was doubled. Van Prooijen tried to cash two top spades and must have been surprised to see the second one ruffed. Wrang led the queen of hearts at trick three, Wilson winning and cashing the second heart trick before cashing the ace of clubs. There was a second club trick to come so the contract was down three for –500.

Kiljan did not get involved with the East hand. Pacareu showed his spades, but that didn't excite Ventin, who signed off in 4♡. The even heart break meant that there were 12 tricks for +480 but 1 IMP to FLYFALCON.

Gupta v Ferguson

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Stamatov*	*V D Bos*	*Zia*
–	–	–	1♡
2♣	3♣	3♢	4♣
5♢	Dble	Pass	5♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
N Gupta	*Nadel*	*Korbel*	*Ferguson*
–	–	–	1♡
2♣	2♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Van Den Bos showed his diamonds over the good-raise cuebid on his right and Van Lankveld jumped to 5♢ over Zia's club cuebid. Stamatov didn't fancy slam with his weak hearts and two low diamonds so doubled and, though Zia wasn't interested in defending and pulled that to 5♡, there was no way that Stamatov was going to bid on to slam; +480.

Nadel did well when she bid her chunky spade suit rather than show heart support. That was all Ferguson needed to see and he asked for key-cards then bid the spade slam on finding that only one was missing. Nadel won the club lead with the bare ace and drew trumps. The slam looks to be an easy make with the ♡Q coming down, but Nadel had seen West overcall in clubs and judged that the uneven club split meant that hearts too might split unevenly. She played East for three hearts by leading the jack and running it, and when that lost to the queen was down one for –50 and 11 IMPs to GUPTA.

Leslie v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Gillis	Dyke	Svendsen	Byrne
–	–	–	1♡
2♣	2♠	3♣	4♣
5♣	Dble	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Burgess	*M Rimstedt*	*Leslie*	*O Rimstedt*
–	–	–	1♡
2♣	2♢	Dble	4♣
4♢	Pass	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Dyke bid 2♠ over the overcall and Byrne cuebid 4♣ after Svendsen's club raise. Though Dyke dounbled 5♣, Byrne was not interested in defending and jumped to 6♠. He won the diamond lead, drew trumps, and played hearts from the top; 12 tricks for +980.

Mikael bid 2♢, showing spades, over the overcall, and Leslie doubled to show diamonds. Ola splintered then, when Burgess's 4♢ came round to him, asked for key-cards. On finding his partner with two plus the trump queen, Ola bid the small slam. Ola won the club lead, played a spade to dummy and ruffed a club, a second spade to dummy and ruffed the last club, Only now did he play on hearts, cashing the ace and king, so had 12 tricks for +980 and a flat board.

Six pairs bid to the spade slam which, from South's perspective, could have been cold had partner held a slightly different heart holding. One stopped in 5♠, one each in 4♡ and 5♡ respectively, and there was the 5♣ doubled won three which we have seen. In most cases, the board was decided by North's first call – show spades and slam was usually reached, show heart support and it was not.

There was also a third, diamond, slam in the set, but one which could not be made and which was bid by four E/Ws, while the rest stopped safely in either the NT game or 5♢, producing swings in four of the five matches.

Semifinals and Final

by Brian Senior

Semifinals

So it would be APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS with an 8.1 IMP carry-over advantage against FLYFALCON, and VENTIN with a 4.1 IMP carry-over against BLACK. Two 12-board sets to decide who would reach the final of the OCBL August Cup.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Apres-Bridge Champs v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Verhees	*Auken*	*Kiljan*	*Welland*
–	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Lall	*V Prooijen*	*Milner*	*Wilson*
–	1♡	1♠	2♡
2NT	3♡	4♠	All Pass

Auken passed as dealer and her opponents quickly bid to the spade game. Welland led the nine of clubs. Kiljan covered with the ten and won Auken's jack with the ace. He led the queen of spades from hand and Welland played low. Auken won the ace and attempted to give her partner a club ruff, imagining that the ♠9 had been a signal asking for a ruff. Kiljan won the club and played a second round of spades, losing to the ♠K and ♢K; 10 tricks for +420.

Van Prooijen opened the North hand and collected a raise from Wilson. However, this did not affect the final contract. It did, however, affect the opening lead. Wilson led the eight of hearts, Milner winning the ace and playing three rounds of clubs for a heart pitch. Wilson ruffed an returned a heart. Milner ruffed with the queen then played the ♠J. Wilson won the king and played another heart, again ruffed high. Milner played the eight of spades to Van Prooijen's ace and had no option but to play low on the diamond return; down one for –50 and 10 IMPs to FLYFALCON.

Ventin v Black

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Ventin*	*Black*	*Palma*
–	1♡	1♠	2♡
2NT	3♢	Dble	4♢
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Wrang	*Hallberg*	*Nystrom*	*Hult*
–	2♡	2♠	3♡
4♡	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Ventin opened the North hand then, having seen a single raise from his partner, rebid 3♢ on the singleton. That persuaded Palma to lead the nine of diamonds against the final 4♠ contract. That proved to be fatal to the defence. Black won dummy's queen and played a spade, which Ventin won with the ace. He returned a club round to dummy's ten, and now Black played a second trump to Palma's king. Black had the rest now for +450.

Hallberg opened 2♡, hearts and a minor but, as usual, this had no effect on the final contract as E/W sailed into the spade game. The opening bid attracted a heart lead from Hult and, as we have seen previously, declarer's natural line was to rise with the ace and play three rounds of clubs for a heart pitch. But Hult ruffed and returned a heart. Nystrom ruffed and played a spade, but Hult could win the king and get out safely with a heart and just had to wait a few moments to come to the king of diamonds – the setting trick. Down one for –50 meant 11 IMPs to BLACK.

FLYFALCON picked up another 10 IMPs on Board 7, when Lall and Milner were the only one of the four E/W pairs to stay out of a borderline but making 4♡. It looked as though the set would unwind with nothing more of great note occurring, but:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Apres-Bridge Champs v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Verhees	*Auken*	*Kiljan*	*Welland*
1♡	Pass	2♢	Pass
2♡	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Lall	*V Prooijen*	*Milner*	*Wilson*
1♡	1♠	2♠	3♠
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	Pass	6♡	All Pass

Given an uncontested auction, Verhees/Kiljan had all the time in the world to explore the hand and stop safely in game. 3NT was a non-serious slam try, and Verhees had no reason to do other than sign-off in game, having opened with 10 HCP. Verhees won the club lead and cashed the king of hearts, discovering the four-nil split. He continued with a low heart to hand, ruffed a low club, and drew trumps. Next he played the jack of clubs from hand and Auken, who had discarded one club on the trumps, played low. The jack scored, the king dropped the queen, and Verhees cashed the ten. The diamond was offside but he had 11 tricks for +450.

Van Prooijen's light 1♠ overcall allowed his side to take some bidding space away from their opponents. With a concentrated five-five, Lall bid 4♣ at his second turn with the intention to make it easier for his partner to judge whether to bid on over an opposing 4♠. That did not happen, but Milner took 4♣ seriously and drove to slam, having excellent controls and knowing that he had very little wasted facing partner's spade shortage. Van Prooijen led a spade, Wilson winning the ace and switching to a trump round to dummy's six. Lall cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a spade, and led the nine of diamonds to the queen and king. Wilson again returned a trump. Lall won in hand and played the jack of clubs, running it when Van Prooijen played low. Next he ruffed a club with the king, cashed his remaining trumps, then the king of clubs. The queen fell so Lall could cash the ten and the ace of diamonds took the last trick; down one for –50 and 11 IMPs to FLYFALCON.

Ventin v Black

West	North	East	South
Wrang	*Hallberg*	*Nystrom*	*Hult*
1♡	1♠	2NT	3♠
4♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♢	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♡	All Pass

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

Here both Easts drove to slam.

Black showed a game-forcing raise then cuebid twice before rising to the small slam. Ventin led a spade, Palma winning the ace and switching to the eight of hearts, which Gold won with the nine in hand. He cashed the ace of clubs and came to hand with a spade ruff. Next, Gold threw a diamond on the king of clubs then ruffed a club low and was over-ruffed. He won Palma's trump return in dummy, took a spade ruff, and took the diamond finesse. That lost and back came another trump. With all the trumps gone, Gold could only cash the ace of diamonds so was down four for –200. The hand had just completely fallen apart on him.

Nystrom also made a game-forcing raise then asked for key-cards followed by the trump queen. Wrang said he had that plus the ♣K, and Nystrom signed off in 6♡, against which Hallberg led a spade. Hult won the ace and switched to a low heart round to dummy's six. Wrang cashed the ace of clubs, ruffed a spade, then played the ten of clubs and ran it. That held, so now he ruffed his low club with the king, drew trumps, and cashed the ♣K. The diamond finesse lost and Hult returned the ♠Q to his partner's king. Hallberg cashed the queen of clubs, and that was down three for –150 but a surprise 2 IMPs to VENTIN.

Midway through the semi-finals, FLYFALCON led APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS by 35-18.1, including carry-over, while BLACK led VENTIN by 28-9.1.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Ventin v Black

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Ventin*	*Black*	*Pacareu*
–	1NT	Pass	2♢
2♡	Dble	Pass	4♡
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Wrang	*McIntosh*	*Nystrom*	*Paske*
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Ventin opened 1NT and Pacareu transferred to hearts, allowing Gold to show his spades and a minor two-suiter. Ventin's doubled showed heart support and Pacareu jumped to the heart game, doubled by Black. Gold cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to the seven of spades for Black to ruff. Pacareu ruffed Black's diamond return and led a club to the jack and queen. Black returned another diamond and again Pacareu ruffed. He played a club to the king now but Gold ruffed and gave his partner a second spade ruff. Black returned a heart, which Pacareu won in dummy. He ruffed a spade and continued on crossruff lines but Black's annoying ten of trumps meant that the ace of spades could never becashed, so there was one more trick to come for the defence; down three for –500.

After all the action at our first table, everything was very peaceful in the other room, where McIntosh opened 1♠ and passed Paske's 1NT response. The 1♠ opening on his left was sufficient to discourage Wrang from getting involved, so that was that, and Paske came to an overtrick for +120 and 12 IMPs to BLACK.

Apres-Bridge Champs v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Jagniewski*	*M de Leon*	*Gawel*
–	1NT	Pass	2♢
2♡	Dble	4♢	4♡
5♢	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Welland	*Kiljan*	*Auken*	*Tijssen*
–	1♠	2♣	2♢
3♢	3♡	5♢	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Jagniewski opened 1NT and Gawel transferred to hearts. Sprinkhuizen took advantage of the opportunity to show a two-suiter, spades and a minor, and Jagniewski doubled to show heart support. Mendes de Leon jumped to 4♢, pass or correct, and Sprinkhuizen went on to 5♢ over Gawel's 4♡ and that was doubled by Jagniewski. Gawel led the queen of hearts and switched to his trump. Mendes de Leon won the ace and crossruffed the majors for the next four tricks before leading a club to the king and ace. He cashed the queen of clubs then led the ♣9 to the ten and ruff with the king of diamonds. The queen of spades came next, covered and ruffed, and declarer had to make the ten of spades at trick 13; down one for –100.

Kiljan opened 1♠ and Auken overcalled 2♣. Tijssen's 2♢ showed hearts and Welland introduced his own minor, raised to game by Auken when Kiljan admitted to heart support. Kiljan doubled the final contract and led ace and another heart, Welland ruffing. He took the club finesse, discarded a spade on the ace of clubs, then led the nine of clubs and, when Tijssen played low, ran it, discarding a second spade. Kiljan ruffed and returned a heart, so Welland ruffed, ruffed a spade, came back to hand with a top diamond, and led the queen of spades to the ace and ruff. Finally, Welland led dummy's last trump to his king, dropping the queen, cashed the jack of diamonds, and played ten then seven of spades. Kiljan won the last trick with the nine of spades so the contract was one down for –100 and a push board.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Ventin v Black

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Ventin*	*Black*	*Pacareu*
Wrang	*McIntosh*	*Nystrom*	*Paske*
–	–	1♡	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Nystrom opened 1♡ then jumped to 3♣, showing around 13-15 with at least five-five distribution, and Wrang raised that to game. Paske led his trump round to declarer's ten. Nystrom led the ten of hearts and, when Paske played low, ran it. That was a great start and Nystrom now continued with the jack of hearts to the queen, ruff and nine. He came back to hand with the ace of clubs and gave up a heart, leading the king to pin the eight. With hearts established and two aces in the dummy on which to get rid of his diamonds, Nystrom had 11 tricks for a promising looking +600.

Black and Gold had the identical auction at the other table and Pacareu too led his trump. Black won the ten and ruffed a low heart, led the nine of clubs to his king – see what suspicious people are today's experts, with neither willing to risk that South might have led the eight for queen-eight doubleton? The king of hearts lost to the ace and back came a spade to the jack, queen and ruff. Black played the jack of hearts now and that lost to the queen. A second spade was won by dummy's ten and Black cashed the ace of spades then ruffed a spade. He cashed the ace of clubs then tried the ten of hearts. That was ruffed, but dummy had the last two tricks with the ace of diamonds and a long spade; down one for –100 and 12 IMPs to VENTIN.

Apres-Bridge Champs v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Jagniewski*	*M de Leon*	*Gawel*
–	–	1♡	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♢	Pass	3♡	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Welland	*Kiljan*	*Auken*	*Tijssen*
–	–	1♡	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♢
Dble	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

Auken rebid 1NT, transfer to clubs, and Welland's simple acceptance of this showed that he had a limited hand, so Auken was willing to pass it out until Tijssen balanced with 2♢. Welland doubled that, which would have been a lot more fun for the defenders than for declarer had it been left in, but Aukn had extra distribution and showed it by taking out into 2♡. Welland converted that to 3♣ and was left to play there. Kiljan led the seven of diamonds to the queen, king and ace, and Welland discarded dummy's remaining diamond on the ace of spades. He now proceeded on a grand crossruff, making all eight clubs separately, and had an overtrick for +130.

Mendes de Leon made the jump rebid of 3♣ as seen in the other semi-final but, unlike the previous Wests, Sprinkhuizen was not willing to commit to clubs and tried FSF. When that got a heart rebid out of Mendes de Leon, he suggested 3NT, but Mendes de Leon really didn't see that being the right spot on his shapely hand and converted back to hearts, which concluded the auction. Gawel ld the jack of diamonds. Mendes de Leon rose with the ace took a diamond pitch on the ace of spades. Had he run the diamond lead to his queen, he might have had a chance to bring home his game. As it was, he continued with a club to the jack, followed by the king of hearts to South's ace. Gawel returned a spade, Mendes de Leon ruffing and playing the jack of hearts. That lost to the queen and back came the king of diamonds. Mendes de Leon ruffed, drew trumps and tried the clubs. When they proved to be four-two, h had to lose to the queen and there was also a spade to come; down two for –200 and 8 IMPs to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Ventin v Black

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Ventin*	*Black*	*Pacareu*
–	Pass	1♣	1♡
Dble	3♡	Pass	4♡
Dble	Pass	4♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	5♢	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Wrang	*McIntosh*	*Nystrom*	*Paske*
–	Pass	1♣	1♡
2♢	2♡	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Wrang and Nystrom brushed aside their opponents' heart bidding and soon reached the spade game, 2♢ having shown a game-force with five or more spades. Paske led a heart so Nystrom played three rounds of those for a club pitch from dummy. He continued with the ten, queen, and finally nine of spades, Paske winning the third round and leading a heart. Nystrom ruffed that, cashed the last trump, and picked up the diamonds for five tricks to emerge with 12 for +680.

Gold's double of 1♡ showed spades and his second double extra values. Pacareu led ace and another spade against 5♢ doubled and Ventin returned a low club to the queen and ace. A second spade ruff was followed by the king of clubs, and Black was down three for –800 and 16 IMPs to VENTIN.

Apres-Bridge Champs v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Jagniewski*	*M de Leon*	*Gawel*
–	Pass	1♣	1♡
Dble	2♡	Dble	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Welland	*Kiljan*	*Auken*	*Tijssen*
–	Pass	1♣	1♡
Dble	2♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Again, West's initial double showed spades at both tables.

Welland and Auken ended up in the wrong game, 3NT, and came out smelling of roses. Tijssen led a heart, which Auken won on table to lead a spade to her queen followed, when that was ducked, by the ten of spades. That too was ducked, Kiljan discarding the encouraging three of clubs. Auken switched her attention to diamonds now, leading low to the king then running the jack, and soon had 10 tricks for +630. Not bad with the clubs wide open.

Sprinkhuizen and Mendes de Leon ended up in the right game, 4♠, and not only went down, but were doubled for their pains. Jagniewski no doubt suspected that his partner might be ruffing something, but couldn't be certain what. He led a low club and Gawel won the jack. He promptly returned a low club, and now Jagniewski knew what to do and switched to a diamond. Gawel ruffed and, with the ace of spades still to come, that was down one for –200 and 13 IMPs to FLYFALCON.

BLACK had beaten VENTIN by 66-37.1 IMPs, while APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS had defeated FLYFALCON by 55.1-46 IMPs, turning the match around in the second half. The 24-board final would therefore be between BLACK and APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS.

Final

The final would be played, like the semi-finals, over 2 x 12-board segments. APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS, as the higher qualifiers from the round robin, would have the 0.1 IMP tie-breaker, should the match end level.

APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS led by 9-1 IMPs after five boards. Then came this deal:

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Lall*	*Hult*	*Milner*
–	–	1♣	3♡
3♠	5♡	5♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Gawel	*Black*	*Jagniewski*	*McIntosh*
–	–	1♣	2♡
3♡	4♡	4♠	All Pass

McIntosh made a 2♡ weak jump overcall but that didn't greatly inconvenience Gawel, who could cuebid 3♡ to show five or more spades, and now Jagniewski could bid 4♠ over Black's 4♡ raise. The jack of hearts went to the king and ace, and Black continued with a second heart, which Jagniewski ruffed. He drew trumps then played ace and another diamond, and lost two of those but had the rest of tricks; +620.

Milner overcalled 3♡ and Hallberg bid his spades. Now Lall made the pressure bid of 5♡, and caught Hult with spade support and heart shortage. Hult bid 5♠ and that was that. The good news was that Hallberg was playing it from the West seat, protecting the king of hearts from the opening lead. Lall cashed the ace of hearts and,seeing Milner's jack, switched to the four of diamonds to the ten and ace. Hallberg led the ten of clubs and ran it, losing to the queen. Milner cashed the queen of diamonds then got out with a heart to Hallberg's king. Hallberg drew two rounds of trumps then led a club to the ace, intending to ruff them out if the jack did not appear. When it did, he drew the last trump with the ten and cashed the clubs; down one for –100 and 12 IMPs to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS, who led by 21-1.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Lall*	*Hult*	*Milner*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	3♢
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Gawel	*Black*	*Jagniewski*	*McIntosh*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♢	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both N/Ss bid to 3NT.

Gawel led the two of clubs to his partner's queen, and McIntosh ducked. He put up the ace on the club continuation and led a low diamond to dummy's jack. The four-nil split was a bit of a blow to Plan A, so McIntosh got off play with a club to the jack and king. Gawel returned the nine of spades, middle from three in Polish style, and McIntosh won dummy's jack. He played two more rounds of spades, Gawel winning the king and leading the jack of hearts to the queen, king and nine. Jagniewski cashed the thirteenth club, and that was down one for –100.

Milner bid more strongly than had McIntosh, as he loved his long strong diamonds, however, the final contract was the same, just reached by a slightly different route. Hallberg too led the two of clubs and Milner ducked the queen. He put in the jack on the club return, losing to the king, and a third club cleared the suit. Milner cashed the king of diamonds, unblocking dummy's jack to allow for a later finesse. When Hult showed out he knew his fate. Milner took the spade finesse and, when the jack held, came to hand with the ace of diamonds, and led the six of hearts to the seven, eight and ten. Hult cashed the nine of clubs and Milner discarded dummy's small spade. Hult got out with a spade round to the nine and queen, and Milner cashed the two aces; down two for –200 and 3 IMPs to BLACK; 4-21.

On Board 9, Black opened 3♢ as dealer at favourable vulnerability holding:

♠ Q J
♡ 9 5
♢ Q J 10 8 6 3
♣ J 4 3

while Lall contented himself with a weak 2♢. Partner had a decent hand, but was void in diamonds, and there were six losers in all, so Black conceded –100 and Lall –50. That added 2 IMPs to the APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS lead, which was now 23-4.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Lall*	*Hult*	*Milner*
–	–	–	3♠
Pass	4♠	Dble	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♢	Pass
6♢	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Gawel	*Black*	*Jagniewski*	*McIntosh*
–	–	–	2♠
3♣	4♠	5NT	Pass
6♢	All Pass		

Milner opened a level higher than McIntosh, but it didn't make any difference to the final contract.

Hallberg passed over 3♠ and lall raised to game. However, that was not sufficient to shut out Hult, who doubled, and Hallberg responded 4NT, two or more places to play, then raised Hult's 5♢ response to 6♢.

Gawel bid 3♣ over the weak two bid and Black jumped to 4♠. Now Jagniewski drove to slam, asking his partner to pick a trump suit and, having already bid the clubs, Gawel now chose diamonds.

Both defenders on lead picked their partnership suit, a spade, to save the overtrick; flat at +920.

At half-time, the score was 23-4 in favour of APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS.

Powerful pre-emption may not have prevented E/W from reaching their cold slam on the last board, but it had a devastating effect at one table on this next one.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Lall*	*Hult*	*Milner*
3♣	Dble	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Gawel	*Black*	*Jagniewski*	*McIntosh*
3♣	Dble	5♣	Dble
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Hallberg opened 3♣ as dealer and Lall doubled. Hult made a gentle raise to 4♣ and Milner passed to see if his partner could come again. Sure enough, Lall made a second double and Milner bid 4♠ and was left to play there. Hallberg led his singleton diamond so got a ruff when Hult was in with the ace of spades, holding Milner to 10 tricks for +620.

Gawel too opened 3♣, but Jagniewski raised to 5♣ over the double. McIntosh doubled with the South cards and Black cuebid 6♣ to ask him to pick a trump suit. McIntosh picked spades, but they were too high. Should McIntosh not have made the responsive double, or should Black not have committed to slam? Maybe it's just a partnership matter and they will know the answer next time the situation comes up? Gawel led the queen of clubs, so there was no ruff at this table, but the contract was still, of course, down one, due to the two top trump losers; –100 and 12 IMPs to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS. They led by 35-4 with one more 12-board set to play.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Lall*	*Hult*	*Milner*
–	–	1♢	2♣
4♡	All Pass		

West	North	ERast	South
Gawel	*Black*	*Jagniewski*	*McIntosh*
–	–	1♣	1♠
4♡	4♠	5♡	All Pass

Jagniewski's 1♣ opening showed two or more clubs. N/S can make 4♠, courtesy of the double club finesse, and McIntosh's four-card 1♠ overcall made sure that they would get there. Equally, Gawel's jump to 4♡ made certain that his side would find the red save against 4♠. None of the three black-suit losers was going anywhere, so 5♡ was down one for –50.

Hemant Lall

Reese Milner

Hult's 1♢ opening meant that Milner had no reason to choose his four-card suit over the decent five-card club suit. He overcalled 2♣ and now Hallberg's jump to 4♡ silenced everyone. There were the same three losers, of course, but here that meant +420 and 10 IMPs to BLACK; 14-35.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Lall*	*Hult*	*Milner*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♡
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	ERast	South
Gawel	*Black*	*Jagniewski*	*McIntosh*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2♢	4♠	All Pass

Milner opened 1NT and Lall trsnferred to hearts. Hult waited to see how much bidding his opponents would do and, when Lall passed 2♡, he jumped to the spade dame. Milner led the king of diamonds. Hult won the ace and led a club up, Milner grabbing his ace and cashing the ace of hearts before getting out with a club. Hult won the ♣K and could take two diamond ruffs, while his fourth diamond had gone away on the club; 11 tricks for +650.

McIntosh also opened 1NT and Black made the transfer response, but Jagniewski didn't waste any time in overcalling 4♠. McIntosh led a trump. Jagniewski won that with dummy's six and led a diamond to his ace then ruffed a diamond. He led a heart to the jack and ace, and McIntosh cashed the ♢K and ♣A for down one and –100. That was worth 13 IMPs to BLACK, and suddenly, a match which could have been almost over had the first major swing gone in the opposite direction, was very much alive. APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS still led, but now by only 35-27.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ A 8 6 ♡ K Q 8 6 2 ♢ – ♣ K J 7 5 3	
♠ Q J 9 2 ♡ A J 10 48 ♢ 9 8 6 5 ♣ 6		♠ 7 5 4 ♡ 9 7 5 ♢ A K Q 7 2 ♣ 4 2
	♠ K 10 3 ♡ 3 ♢ J 10 4 3 ♣ A Q 10 9 8	

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Lall*	*Hult*	*Milner*
Pass	1♡	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Dble	5♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Gawel	*Black*	*Jagniewski*	*McIntosh*
Pass	1♡	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Black's 2♡ rebid showed clubs and McIntosh's 2♠ a maximum with club support. Perhaps, therefore, Black might have gone on. He saw things differently and just converted to 3♣, where he played, coming to 12 tricks without too much difficulty for +170.

The suggestion that Black might have done more on the North cards is given added weight by events at the other table. There, Lall rebid a natural 2♣ and Milner too could bid 2♠ to show a good club raise. Lall didn't even bother with a game try – he simply jumped to 5♣. He too made 12 tricks, this time for +520 and 10 IMPs back to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS, who led by 45-27. As soon as the pendulum swings in one direction, it swings back the other way once more.

Neither E/W bid the slam on two finesses on Board 5, so it was flat at +480, but we didn't have to wait long for another slam to come along.

Andrew Black

Simon Hult

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Lall*	*Hult*	*Milner*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♡	Pass
2♢	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♢	Pass	3♠	Pass

West	North	ERast	South
Gawel	*Black*	*Jagniewski*	*McIntosh*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♡	Pass
2♣	2NT	Dble	3♢
4♡	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♢	Pass	6♡	All Pass

Jagniewski opened 1♡ in fourth seat and Gawel used Drury. Black overcalled 2NT, both minors, but when that was doubled all McIntosh could do was show simple preference for diamonds. When Gawel now jumped to the heart game, Jagniewski cuebid and, when Gawel was willing to cuebid in turn, Hagniewski went on to the small slam. Six Hearts would have been cold on any lie of the hearts except queen to three with South. As that was the case, Jagniewski had to concede a heart and a club, so was down one for –100.

Hult and Hallberg had the auction to themselves. Hallberg passed at his first turn, then used four-card Drury. On finding his partner with a good hand, he cuebid twice, first the ace of diamonds, then the king of spades, and Hult jumped to the unlucky slam; down one for –100 and no swing. It was 46-27 to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS, with five boards to play. That lead went up by 2 IMPs when Lall and Milner passed out Board 8, on which Black and McIntosh were down one in 1NT for –50, making it 48-27. Board 9 was flat in 4♠-1 by E/W

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Lall*	*Hult*	*Milner*
–	–	1♠	1NT
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Gawel	*Black*	*Jagniewski*	*McIntosh*
–	–	1♠	1NT
2♠	2NT	Dble	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Black made an aggressive Lebensohl 2NT to compete the partscore, initially attempting to play in clubs but, when they got doubled, running to 3♡, which was also doubled. That ended the auction. Jagniewski led his trump, Black rising with dummy's ace and playing two more rounds of trumps. Gawel won the ♡Q, cashed the ace of clubs, and switched to a spade. Jagniewski won that and played king and another club for Gawel to ruff. There were the spade and diamond aces still to come, so Black was down three for –800.

There was no competition from North at the other table, where Hult made a club game try and Hallberg accepted, jumping to 4♠. Milner cashed the ace of hearts then switched to the queen of spades. Hult won the ace and crossed to the ace of clubs to lead a diamond to his jack, losing to the queen. Milner returned another spade to Hult's king. Hult cashed the ace of diamonds, needing the king to fall. It did not. He ruffed a club, ruffed a heart, and exited with a spade. Milner won that and cashed the king of diamonds before playing the ♡K. Hult ruffed that and played king then ten of clubs, losing the last trick to the ♣J. He was down two for –200 and 14 IMPs to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS. There were two boards still to play, but the match was over as a contest, as they now led by 62-27.

There were swings in each direction on the last two deals, and the final score was 73-35. Congratulations to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS, the winners of the OCBL August Cup.

OCBL AUGUST CUP - RESULTS

SEMIFINALS

Round 1

Apres-Br. C. (+8.1)	10 IMPs TOTAL: 18.1	35 IMPs TOTAL: 35	Flyfalcon
OPEN ROOM N: Auken S. S: Welland R.	CLOSED ROOM E: Milner R. W: Lall H.	OPEN ROOM E: Kiljan V. W: Verhees L.	CLOSED ROOM N: Van Proojen R. S: Wilson A.

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=37205-1628171960

Ventin (+4.1)	5 IMPs TOTAL: 9.1	28 IMPs TOTAL: 28	Black
OPEN ROOM N: Ventin J.C. S: Palma A.	CLOSED ROOM E: Nystrom F. W: Wrang F.	OPEN ROOM E: Black A. W: Gold D.	CLOSED ROOM N: Hallberg G. S: Hult S.

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=37211-1628172001

Round 2

Apres-Br. C. (+8.1)	37 IMPs TOTAL: 55.1	11 IMPs TOTAL: 46	Flyfalcon
OPEN ROOM N: Jagniewski R. S: Gawel W.	CLOSED ROOM E: Auken S. W: Welland R.	OPEN ROOM E: Mendes de Leon G. W: Sprinkhuizen T.	CLOSED ROOM N: Kiljan V. S: Tijssen L.

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=37749-1628178371

Ventin (+4.1)	28 IMPs TOTAL: 37.1	38 IMPs TOTAL: 66	Black
OPEN ROOM N: Ventin J. C. S: Pacareu J.	CLOSED ROOM E: Nystrom F. W: Wrang F.	OPEN ROOM E: Black A. W: Gold D.	CLOSED ROOM N: Mcintosh A. S: Paske T.

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=37750-1628178412

FINAL

Round 1

Apres-Br. C. (+0.1)	35 IMPs TOTAL: 35.1	4 IMPs TOTAL: 4	Black
OPEN ROOM N: Lall H. S: Milner R.	CLOSED ROOM E: Jagniewski R. W: Gawel W.	OPEN ROOM E: Hult S. W: Hallberg G.	CLOSED ROOM N: Black A. S: Mcintosh A.

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=38339-1628184821

Round 2

Apres-Br. C. (+0.1)	38 IMPs TOTAL: 73.1	31 IMPs TOTAL: 35	Black
OPEN ROOM N: Lall H. S: Milner R.	CLOSED ROOM E: Jagniewski R. W: Gawel W.	OPEN ROOM E: Hult S. W: Hallberg G.	CLOSED ROOM N: Black A. S: Mcintosh A.

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=39044-1628190905

SEPTEMBER CUP

30 August - 2 September, 2021

Registered Teams

The OCBL September Cup will take place from 30 August to 2 September, 2021

GILLIS
Gillis S. (Rayas78)
Brogeland B. (boye)
Svendsen O. (Pirrum)
Saelensminde E. (skaal1)
Lindqvist E. (stevieg)

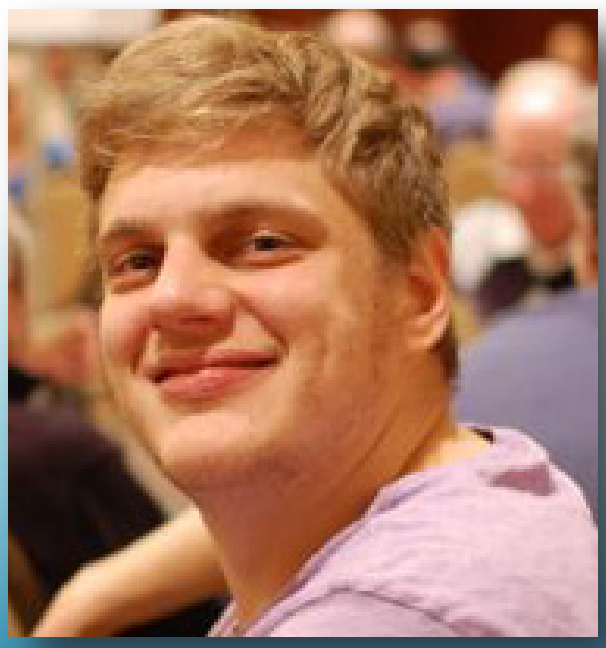
ORCA
Plackett R. (hoofie)
Erichsen E. (espene)
Crouch P. (pitiful)
Cope S. (Copeyj)

LEVINE
Levine M. (mikerl)
Wold E. (womoco)
Meckstroth J. (jjmeck)
Garner S. (garner)
Helgemo G. (micelle45)
Helness T. (Helstokk)
Morris B. (bobat3333)

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

PARKER
Rubenstein S. (stewr)
Parker C. (cmp56)
Grossack A. (nevereast)
Grossack Z. (germs345)
Demuy V. (Okvince)
Kranyak J. (jkrans)
Tebha A. (anamtebha)

ISR-TUR
Zeitak A. (avivz)
Khutorsky N. (nir khut)
Tatlicioglu S. (Sinantos)
Baskan B. (baskanb)



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