World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 127. Friday, 3 September, 2021

HOFFA'S BANDITS WON THE CUP!

M. Andresen

C. Bakke

T. Bakke

T. Charlsen

Team HOFFA'S BANDITS (M. Andresen, C. Bakke, T. Bakke, T. Charlsen, T. E. Grude, T. E. Hoftaniska, S.O. Hoyland, L.A. Johansen) won the OCBL September Cup!

In the Final, they faced team GUPTA (N. Gupta, Z. Mahmood, D. Korbel, S. De Wijs, B. Muller, H. Lall).

The match ended 46 - 27.1 for the Norwegian stars.

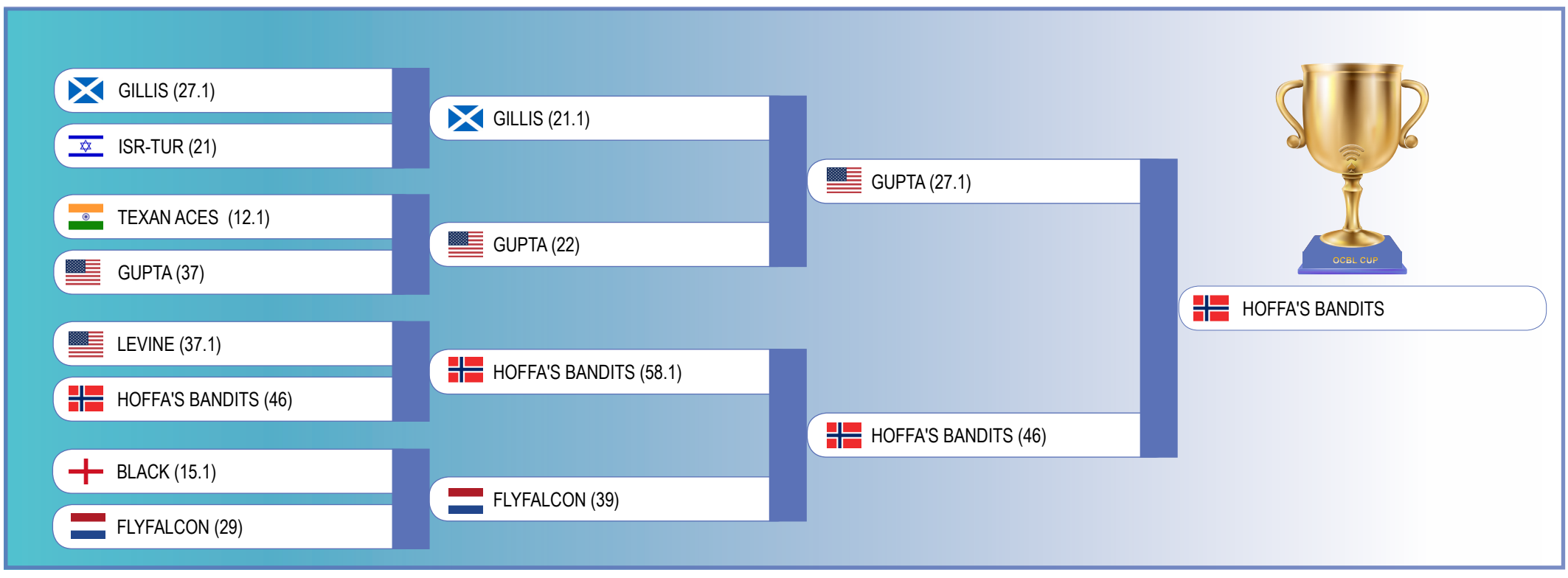
T. E. Grude

T. E. Hoftaniska

S.O. Hoyland

L.A. Johansen

The third place is shared between the opponents of Hoffa's Bandits and Gupta in the Semifinals:
Gillis (S. Gillis, M. Rimstedt, O. Rimstedt, O. Svendsen, E. Saelensminde) and Flyfalcon (A. Wilson, R. van Prooijen, L. Verhees, I. Gronkvist, M. Gronkvist, T. Sprinkhuizen, G. Mendes de Leon, V. Kiljan, L. Tijssen).



World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

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/

Rounds 8 & 9

by Brian Senior

Board 6 of Round Eight saw a range of different actions in both the auction and the play and defence.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

The first decision was East's – how many clubs to open?

The answer was three votes for 1♣, 11 for 3♣, eight for 4♣ and one for 5♣. Oh yes, and there was also one East who chose to pass! East later came in with 4♣ after South had opened 1NT and North responded 3♣, presumably showing shortage.

What about South's decision over a 3♣ opening? Five Souths passed, six overcalled 3NT, and nobody doubled.. And over a 4♣ opening? There were seven passes and one double. The double worked out very badly when North responded 4♡ and played there for down one, the five-two trump split being just too much to overcome. Where South passed, North had the classic shape for a take-out double, of course, whether the opening was 3♣ or 4♣. Nonetheless, there was one table at which 4♣ was passed out, as was the one 5♣ opening.

Three Clubs doubled and 4♣ doubled were always defeated, while 3NT by N/S was always made. The real interest in the play came when N/S found the four-four spade fit which was breaking five-zero.

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	*Meckstroth*	*Thomas*	*Garner*
–	–	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Garner received a club lead to the ace and a low diamond switch, which he ducked to Tommasini's king. Back came the two of spades, which was won by dummy's five as Thomas pitched a club. Garner led a heart to his ace and cashed the king of clubs, discarding a diamond from dummy. Next he cashed the king and queen of hearts before leading a diamond to the jack. Tommasini ruffed that and returned the nine of spades, but Garner won that with the king, carefully unblocking the jack from hand. He could now ruff dummy's last heart with the queen and lead the seven of spades to the eight, cash the ♠A, and lead a diamond to the ace; 10 tricks for +420.

West	North	East	South
Stornes	*Nowak*	*Saur*	*Rippey*
–	–	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Stornes led a club, Saur winning the ace and switching to a low diamond. Rippey rose with the ace, dropping the bare king, and led a low spade to the ace. Seeing the bad break, he continued with four rounds of hearts, ruffing low, pitched a diamond on the king of clubs, and led his last club, ruffed with the ten and over-ruffed. Rippey cashed the queen and jack of spades and had 10 tricks for +420.

West	North	East	South
C Rimstedt	*Plackett*	*Dwyer*	*Erichsen*
–	–	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Erichsen recevied a club lead to the ace and a low diamond switch, which he won with the ace. He ruffed his low club without first cashing the king, cashed the ace of spades, then led a diamond up, Dwyer winning the queen. The play record stops there, but Erichsen now had two minor-suit winners and would have been able to hold Celia to one ruff, coming to four spades in hand, three top heart, the ace of diamonds and a club ruff, plus one of the minor-suit winners; 10 tricks.

West	North	East	South
Rubenstein	*Zeitak*	*Z Grossack*	*Khutorsky*
–	–	4♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Khutorsky received the usual start of a club to the ace and low diamond switch. He rose with the ace and, like Erichsen, ruffed his remaining low club without cashing the king. The ace of spades was followed by a diamond, Grossack going up with the queen and returning a low diamond for Rubenstein to ruff. Rubenstein returned a heart now, but Khutorsky was in control now that West's trumps had been shortened to the same length as his own, and could simply cash out the rest of the tricks; +420.

We have seen four successful declarers and it seems that all roads lead to 10 tricks – not so, as witness this next table.

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Campos*	*Apteker*	*Rodrigues*
–	–	3♣	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Though Rodrigues overcalled 3NT, he still ended up in the spade game after Campos had asked about majors. As ever, the defence began with a club to the ace and a low diamond switch. Rodrigues ducked that to the bare king and back came the eight of hearts, which he won in hand with the ace. Rodrigues ruffed his low club, cashed the ace of spades, then played three rounds of hearts, ruffing the last one. Now, however, he was down to two trumps in each hand, and Fredin still had four of the suit. Rodrigues led the king of clubs next, and that was ruffed low and over-ruffed with the eight. A diamond to the ace was ruffed – a poor effort, that, as West could be counted out as 5-5-1-2 – and Fredin returned a trump. There was a diamond still to be lost so the contract was down one.

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Bakke*	*O Rimstedt*	*Charlsen*
–	–	1♣	1NT
Pass	2♣	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Rdbl	All Pass	

Facing a one-level opening and looking at five trumps plus a side-suit king, Mikael Rimstedt doubled the final contract. Bakke, who had a good hand facing a strong NT overcall, redoubled, so stakes were high. Mikael led a club to the ace and Ola switched to a diamond, but not a small card like everyone else, but the ten, a classic surround play of declarer's jack and dummy's nine. That tempted Charlsen to cover with the jack, losing to the king so, unlike other declarers who had played low at trick two, he did not have a diamond tenace over East's queen. Mikael switched to the two of spades, which Charlsen won with dummy's five. He tried to cash the ace of diamonds now but Mikael ruffed and returned a trump. Charlsen won cheaply again, crossed to hand with the ace of hearts, and cashed the king of clubs for a diamond discard. He played three rounds of hearts, ruffing the last one, ruffed his losing club, but was left with a diamond in each hand so an inescapable fourth loser, and was down one for –200.

Board 9 of Round Nine also featured a deal on which the same contract followed several different lines of play, this time in 3NT. Three No Trump was the final contract at 17 of our 24 tables, once doubled, It was successful on 11 occasions, but was defeated at the other six.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Smith	*Levin*	*Moses*	*J Jansma*
–	1♠	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Smith, not wishing to lead round to declarer's diamond holding, led his singleton jack of clubs. Jan Jansma won with the ace and cashed the king of hearts then a heart to the ten and queen. Smith returned a low spade and Jansma ducked, losing to the jack. Moses returned a diamond and Smith won the queen and played two more rounds of the suit. Jansma cashed the hearts then tried to split the clubs and, when they proved to be four-one, had only the ace of spades to come so was down one.

West	North	East	South
A Jansma	*Kennedy*	*Hop*	*Compton*
–	1NT	Pass	2◇
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Despite Kennedy's 3♠ bid, Hop found the lead of the jack of spades against 3NT. That went to the king and ace, and Kennedy played king of hearts then a heart to the ten and queen. He ducked Ada Jansma's low spade return to the nine, discarding a club from hand. Hop now found the interesting play of the queen of clubs, which Kennedy ducked. Declarer's earlier discard of a club meant that Hop could safely continue with a low club, which Kennedy won with dummy's king. He cashed the hearts, followed by the ace of clubs and ♠Q, but when he then led the jack of diamonds, Jansma had the rest; down one for –50.

West	North	East	South
Helness	*Hallberg*	*Helgemo*	*Hult*
–	1♠	Pass	2♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Helgemo led the four of clubs to the jack and ace, and Hallberg promptly played a club back at him, ducking when Helgemo produced the ten. Helgemo played a diamond through, Helness winning the queen and returning a low diamond to declarer's jack. Hallberg led a club to the queen and king followed by a heart to the king and a heart back to the jack and queen. Helness cashed two diamonds, and the contract was down one.

West	North	East	South
Baskan	*M Rimstedt*	*Tallicioglu*	*O Rimstedt*
–	1♠	Pass	2♡
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♢	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Baskan found an interesting lead, the ten of spades. Ola did well to put in the queen, but he then followed everyone's line in hearts of king then low to the jack and queen. Back came a low spade, and Ola ducked, losing to the jack and discarding a club from hand. Tallicioglu switched to a low club to the nine and jack, ducked by Ola, and Baskan played the king of spades to dummy's ace. A club to the king saw Ola in hand to cash the hearts but, when clubs failed to divide three-two and Baskan had the diamonds over the king, the contract was down one for –50.

As we have seen previously, when declarer is forced to find a discard on the second spade his potential third club trick vanishes and he cannot really afford to discard anything but a club.

West	North	East	South
Johansen	*V Prooijen*	*Grude*	*Verhees*
–	1♠	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The 2♢ response was a transfer to hearts, of course. Johansen led a diamond, Verhees putting up dummy's jack and winning the trick. He played king of hearts followed by a heart to the jack, and Johansen, seeing no other hope with the ♠AQ sitting over his king, played ace and another diamond. Verhees won the king of diamonds and cashed the hearts, then the clubs, at the end of which he knew that Grude had one remaining club winner but had discarded his fourth diamond. He could therefore be safely thrown in with a club to lead round to dummy's spade tenace for the overtrick; +430.

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Bakke*	*M De Leon*	*Charlsen*
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Sprinkhuizen led the four of spades and Charlsen put up dummy's ace, which didn't look like a great start to his search for nine tricks. At trick two he led dummy's low diamond and put in the nine. Sprinkhuizen ducked, when on the actual layout he might have done better to win the trick. Having started in unpromising fashion, Charlsen now found the inspired play of the ten of hearts, running it when Sprinkhuizen played low. A heart to the king was followed by the jack of diamonds, losing to Sprinkhuizen's queen. Sprinkhuizen could have cashed out now, but that would only have held the contract to nine tricks. In practice, he returned a low spade but Charlsen could see that he was wide open in diamonds so had little option but to hope that the ♠K was onside. He put up dummy's queen and, when he opened his eyes, found that the queen had held the trick. It needed only for hearts to behave as required and Charlsen had 10 tricks for +430.

West	North	East	South
Castner	*Mou*	*King*	*Han*
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Castner kicked off with the six of hearts, not exactly the most successful lead of his bridge career. That ran round to Han's jack, and Han led a heart back to the king then ducked a club to Castner's jack. Back came a low spade. Han put in the queen, led a club to the king, and laid down the ace of hearts. When the queen fell on his left, he had nine tricks for +400.

West	North	East	South
Cope	*De Wijs*	*Crouch*	*Mu ller*
–	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♡
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Crouch led the four of clubs to the jack and ace, and De Wijs played a second club, ducking Crouch's ten. With a third club trick in the bag for declarer, there is nothing the defence can do to beat the contract. However, it is safe to say that on this layout there is nothing worse they can do than to play to a heart, as did Crouch. That went to the jack, queen and king, and De Wijs led a club to the queen and king and cashed three hearts then the nine of clubs, before winning the last heart. Cope was down to two spades and two diamonds and, wanting to avoid a possible endplay, went up with the king when De Wijs now played a spade. De Wijs won the ace and queen of spades, but had then to lead a diamond and concede the last two tricks to Cope's ace and queen; +430.

And finally:

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	*Chechelashvili*	*Morath*	*Lo*
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Chchelashvili and Lo bid to the popular contract and Sylvan doubled, presumably on the basis that the auction had suggested that his opponents had nothing to spare and that dummy's long suit was breaking badly. Sylvan led the four of diamonds, Lo putting up dummy's jack. That held, of course, and he now played king and another heart to the jack and queen. Sylvan led the jack of clubs but found himself still on lead so now tried the king of spades in case declarer had a bare jack that needed to be pinned. But it was all very easy for Lo now, as he could win two spade tricks without risk, and had three hearts and two top clubs, so nine in all, for +550.

So we have seen all four suits selected as opening leads, with a spade the most challenging, as it sets up the possibility to lead a second spade later to squeeze declarer out of his fourth club and a possible third club winner.

Quarterfinals, Semifinals, Final

by Brian Senior

Quarterfinals

The quarter-finals, like the later knockout matches, are being played over one 16-board session. Top qualifiers, GILLIS, start with an 8.1 IMP carry-over against ISR-TUR, while LEVINE have a 6.1 IMP carry-over against HOFFA'S BANDITS, BLACK 3.1 IMPs against FLYFALCON, and TEXAN ACES just 1.1 IMPs against GUPTA. As usual in OCBL events, those point-ones mean that there cannot be a tie and therefore there can be no need for extra boards, which would mess up the schedule.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Gillis v ISR-TUR

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Zeitak*	*O Rimstedt*	*Khutorsky*
–	–	Pass	1♡
2♠	3♡	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Baskan	*Svendsen*	*Tallicioglu*	*Gillis*
–	–	Pass	1♡
2♠	3♡	4♠	5♡
All Pass			

When Ola saved in 4♠, Khutorsky was not willing to risk the five level in search of a vulnerable game bonus and doubled, settling for whatever was on offer on defence. Zeitak led a trump, Khutorsky winning the bare ace and switching to ace then queen of hearts. Zeitak knew which minor to switch to so overtook and played the queen of diamonds. That set up two extra defensive winners so the contract was down three for –500.

Gillis opened 1♡ and, when his partner could compete to 3♡, was willing to take the push to 5♡ over the opposing 4♠ save. The lead was a spade. Gillis won the ace, played ace and another heart, and ruffed dummy's second spade. Next he led the eight of diamonds to the ten and ducked a club. Tallicioglu won the ten and returned the ♣J, Gillis winning the ace. When he next played the king of diamonds, Baskan won the ace and got out with a diamond, and there was a club to lose at the end; down one for –100 and 12 IMPs to ISR-TUR.

Texan Aces v Gupta

West	North	East	South
Padhye	*De Wijs*	*Venkatesh*	*Muller*
–	–	Pass	1♣
2♠	Dble	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Lall	*Tolani*	*Gupta*	*Khare*
–	–	Pass	1♡
1♠	2♡	2♠	4♡
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Muller opened a strong club and De Wijs doubled the weak jump overcall to show a game-force. When the 4♠ raise came back to him, De Wijs doubled again, and Muller judged correctly to take the money. De Wijs led a trump, Muller winning the ace and underleading in hearts. De Wijs won the ♡9 and switched to the queen of diamonds, and the contract was down three for –500.

The auction was slower at the other table, courtesy of Lall's simple overcall, but it ended in the same contract of 4♠ doubled. Tolani led the king of hearts then switched to the queen of diamonds, and the defence had six tricks for down three and –500; no swing.

Levine v Hoffa's Bandits

West	North	East	South
Grude	*Wold*	*Hoftaniska*	*Levine*
–	–	Pass	1NT
2♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Helness	*Bakke*	*Helgemo*	*Charlsen*
–	–	Pass	1♡
1♠	3♡	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Helness made a simple overcall and Bakke a weakish jump raise in hearts. When Helgemo jumped to 4♠, Charlsen doubled and Bakke led the queen of diamonds, making it easy for the defence to take its six tricks; down three for –500.

Levine opened an off-centre 1NT and got punished for his enterprise when Grude overcalled 2♠ and he was unwilling to come back in. The diamond lead meant that 2♠ was down a trick, but –50 was worth 10 IMPs to HOFFA'S BANDITS.

Black v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Hallberg*	*Kiljan*	*Hult*
–	–	1NT	Dble
3♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Gold	*V Prooijen*	*Black*	*Wilson*
–	–	Pass	1♡
2♠	3♡	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Kiljan opened a mini-NT, 9-12, doubled by Hult. Tijssen pre-empted to 3♠ and Kiljan, with excellent support, raised that to game. Hult doubled again, and Hallberg had no reason not to leave it in. Hallberg led the queen of diamonds and the contract was down three for –500.

Wilson opened 1♡ and Van Prooijen admitted to heart support over the weak jump overcall. When Black raised to 4♠, Wilson doubled, ending the auction. Van Prooijen's diamond lead ensured that the defence would get all its tricks; down three for –500 and no swing.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Texan Aces v Gupta

West	North	East	South
Padhye	*De Wijs*	*Venkatesh*	*Muller*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	3♢	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♢
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Lall	*Tolani*	*Gupta*	*Khare*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Muller's 1♣ was strong and the 3♢ response showed precisely 2-2-5-4 with positive values. A series of relays elicited the information that De Wijs had four controls, with one or two of the top three cards in each of diamonds and clubs but not in spades, then that he had one or two of the AKQ in hearts and two of those cards in diamonds, and only one in clubs. Muller therefore knew his partner held the ace and queen of diamonds, but did he have ♡Q and ♣A or did he have the kings of each of those suits to bring him up to four controls? Muller bid 6♠ and that was the right thing to do, De Wijs claiming all 13 tricks after a trump lead for +1010.

The methods didn't show up particularly well here as there could have been 13 tricks facing ♡Q, ♢AQJxx, ♣A.

Khare/Tolani's two-over-one auction got to the small slam without Khare suffering the same doubts and, after Lall cashed the ace of clubs, Khare had the rest for +980 but 1 IMP to

Levine v Hoffa's Bandits

West	North	East	South
Grude	*Wold*	*Hoftaniska*	*Levine*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♢	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♢
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♢
Pass	5♡	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Helness	*Bakke*	*Helgemo*	*Charlsen*
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Charlsen opened with a strong and artificial 2♣. Bakke made two wiating bids and, when Charlsen committed to the spade game, asked for key cards then bid 6NT to protect his kings. After a heart lead he had all 13 tricks for +1020.

Levine opened 1♠ and rebid 3♠. After an exchange of cuebids, Wold took control but, when he asked for the queen of trumps, Levine couldn't believe that this was only a matter of Five or Six, given his own massive hand, and jumped to 7♠. Alas, the ace of clubs was both missing and on lead, and Grude wasted no time in cashing it; down one for –50 and 14 IMPs to HOFFA's BANDITS.

In the other two quarter-finals, all four N/S pairs bid smoothly up to 6♠, making with an overtrick for a flat board in both matches.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Gillis v ISR-TUR

West	North	East	South
Baskan	*Svendsen*	*Tallicioglu*	*Gillis*
–	–	1♠	2♡
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♡	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Zeitak*	*O Rimstedt*	*Khutorsky*
–	–	1♠	2♠
3♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Khutorsky made a two-suited overcall, showing hearts and a minor, and Mikael made a purely competitive raise to 3♠, no doubt fully intending to bid again at his next turn – you don't often pick up seven-card support for partner's five-card major. He must have been thrilled by the way the auction continued. Ola went on to game, and Khutorsky doubled to show his extras. There was definitely a case for Zeitak removing the double to 5♡ with his four-card support and zero defence, but he left it in, and found that there were just the two red aces to take; 11 tricks for +990.

Gillis began with a simple 2♡ overcall and Baskan raised straight to 4♠ with the West cards. Svendsen passed for now but, when Gillis doubled, judged correctly to bid 5♡. Tallicioglu doubled that to complete the auction. Gillis ruffed the spade lead, drew trumps, and lost two tricks in each minor; down two for –500 but 10 IMPs to GILLIS.

Texan Aces v Gupta

West	North	East	South
Padhye	*De Wijs*	*Venkatesh*	*Muller*
–	–	1♠	2♠
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♡	Dble	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Lall	*Tolani*	*Gupta*	*Khare*
–	–	1NT	2♡
4♡	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Venkatesh opened 1♠ and Muller made a two-suited overcall. When Padhye's jump to 4♠ came back round to him, Muller doubled to show his extras and De Wijs took it out into 5♡, doubled by Venkatesh. Padhye, however, had exceptional spade support, and didn't fancy defending. He removed to 5♠ and Muller doubled that, ending the auction. There were just the red aces to lose so that was +850.

Gupta opened 1NT and Khare overcalled 2♡, hearts and a minor. Lall jumped to 4♡, a transfer to spades, and Gupta's completion of the transfer completed the auction; 11 tricks for +650 but 5 IMPs to TEXAN ACES.

Levine v Hoffa's Bandits

West	North	East	South
Grude	*Wold*	*Hoftaniska*	*Levine*
–	–	1NT	2♢
4♢	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Helness	*Bakke*	*Helgemo*	*Charlsen*
–	–	1NT	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

Hoftaniska opened 1NT and Levine overcalled 2♢, showing diamonds and a major. Four Diamonds was not agreed but intended as showing spades, and Hoftaniska responded 4♠, doubled by Levine to show his extras, but things were not completely clear to Wold, who left it in; 11 tricks for +990.

Heldemo also opened 1NT, and that was doubled by Charlsen. However, when Helness jumped to 4♠, much to Helgemo's surprise and pleasure, that concluded the auction; +650 but 8 IMPs to HOFFA'S BANDITS.

Black v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Hallberg*	*Kiljan*	*Hult*
–	–	1♠	2♠
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	5♡	Pass	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Gold	*V Prooijen*	*Black*	*Wilson*
–	–	1NT	2♡
4♡	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Where we have seen both 4♠ and 5♠ being doubled in other matches, the two N/S pairs in this match showed good judgement in not doing so.

Kiljan opened 1♠ and Tijssen raised to 4♠ over Hult's two-suited overcall. Hult doubled when that came back to him and Hallberg took it out to 5♡. When that came round to Tijssen he took the push to 5♠, probably not being quite sure who was making what. If so, he would have been happy to find that his partner was quite cold for 11 tricks; +650.

Black opened 1NT and Wilson overcalled 2♡, hearts and a minor. When Gold jumped to 4♡ to transfer to spades, Black felt that his support was so exceptional that it was worth a jump to 5♠. That was that, and 11 tricks later Black too had +650 and a flat board.

Gupta did very well on this next board, bringing home a 3NT contract that was defeated in the other room.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Padhye	*De Wijs*	*Venkatesh*	*Muller*
Lall	*Tolani*	*Gupta*	*Khare*
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Muller led the three of spades, Muller winning the king and returning the eight to the queen and duck. Venkatesh cashed the king of hearts and De Wijs falsecarded with the jack. Venkatesh now switched his attention to diamonds, leading the ten to dummy's ace then back to the king and a third round to De Wijs's queen. A spade back allowed Muller to cash three of those for down one and –50.

Khare also led a low spade to the king then ducked his partner's spade return. Gupta led a club to the ace then played the ten of spades. Khare won that but now had to cash the two remaining spades or lose them forever. He chose to cash out. Gupta discarded his two small hearts then the ♢10, while Tolani pitched once from each minor and dummy two diamonds. Khare got out with a diamond to the eight, queen and king, so Gupta cashed the ace and king of hearts, seeing nothing good happen in that suit. He led his last diamond to the jack and ace, cashed the nine of diamonds, and there was a show-up squeeze against Tolani who, obliged to keep the queen of hearts, had to bare the ♣ Q. Gupta led dummy's small club and the queen popped up, so he won the king and had the ♣ J for the last trick; nine tricks for +400 and 10 IMPs to GUPTA.

And if Khare had not cashed the spade winners? Then Gupta could have set up two extra diamond winners while keeping Khare off lead, and would have made his contract via four diamonds, two clubs, two hearts and a spade; there was no escape.

A similar line was followed by three other declarers.

David Gold

Semifinals

The semi-finals were again played over one 16-board session. GILLIS, who had seen off ISR-TUR by 27.1-21, in other words after actually losing the match by 2 IMPs but being saved by the carry-over, would face GUPTA, who had beaten TEXAN ACES by 37-12.1. In the other semi-final, it was HOFFA'S BANDITS, winners of their quarter-final against LEVINE by 46-37.1, against FLYFALCON, who had beaten BLACK by 29-15.1. GILLIS and HOFFA'S BANDITS would each have the 0.1 IMP tie-breaker.

The semi-finals started with a bang:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Hoffa's Bandits v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*M De Leon*	*Andresen*	*V D Bos*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	2♢	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♡	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♢	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Bakke*	*Kiljan*	*Charlsen*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	3NT	Pass
7♢	All Pass		

Andresen opened 1♢, rebid a simple 2♢, then rebid 3♢, before admitting to heart tolerance. Hoftaniska asked him to pick a slam and he picked 6♢. There was just one trump loser; +920.

Kiljan also opened 1♢, but his rebid of 3NT showed a gambling type of hand, one that some would open with a gambling 3NT. To be fair, when we decide whether a suit is or is not solid, we tend to assume that partner has at least one card in it, not a void. Tijssen raised to 7♢, hoping the suit really was solid, and the four-two split meant down one for –50 and 14 IMPs to HOFFA'S BANDITS.

Gupta v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Saelensminde*	*Korbel*	*Gillis*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♡	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♡	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♡	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Gupta*	*O Rimstedt*	*Lall*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	3♢	Pass
7♢	All Pass		

Ola's 3♢ rebid showed a minimum opening but with a very good suit, and Mikael hoped that very good meant very, very good, and jumped to 7♢. Alas, there was a trump to be lost; down one for –50.

Korbel's 3♢ rebid was more traditional in style. Zia explored for a while then used Key-card for hearts and eventually bid 7NT on finding his partner with two. Zia won the spade lead, crossed to the king of hearts and tested the diamonds, then came to hand and played on hearts; down one for –50 and no swing.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Hoffa's Bandits v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*M De Leon*	*Andresen*	*V D Bos*
Pass	1♢	1♠	3♢
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Bakke*	*Kiljan*	*Charlsen*
Pass	1♢	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
All Pass			

Bakke and Charlsen had a free runto 2♢ and, as the opponent with both majors was weak, nobody was willing to balance. Bakke made an overtrick in 2♢, losing just one spade and three clubs; +110.

At the other table, Andresem soled the E/W competing problem by overcalling 1♠ on his chunky four-card suit. That got a pre-emptive diamond raise from Van Den Bos and a jump raise in spades from Hoftaniska. There were two hearts and a diamond to be lost in 4♠; +620 and 12 IMPs to HOFFA'S BANDITS.

Gupta v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Saelensminde*	*Korbel*	*Gillis*
Pass	1♢	Pass	1♡
Pass	3♡	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Gupta*	*O Rimstedt*	*Lall*
Pass	1♢	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♢	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Ola did not overcall with the East cards but, when Gupta's 2♢ rebid came round to him, Mikael balanced with the West hand. He chose a 2♠ overcall rather than a take-out double with his five-count, and Ola gave him plenty of leeway by only making a cuebid raise to the three level. When the ♣K proved to be onside, Mikael had 10 tricks for +170.

Gillis tried a three-card 1♡ response and that was raised to 3♡ by Saelensminde, all of which worked out just fine as it shut out any potential spade competition from the E/W pair. Zia led his singleton diamond. Gillis won in hand to lead a club to the king, losing to the ace. Korbel played the jack then ten of clubs to Zia's queen, and Zia now switched to the two of hearts for the queen and king. Gillis cashed the jack and ace of hearts then just played winning diamonds. He had to lose a trump and one spade so was down one for –100 but 2 IMPs to GILLIS.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Hoffa's Bandits v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*M De Leon*	*Andresen*	*V D Bos*
–	1♣	Pass	1♡
3♠	4♡	4♠	5♡
Pass	Pass	5♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Bakke*	*Kiljan*	*Charlsen*
–	1♣	Pass	1♢(i)
3♠	4♡	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

(i) Hearts

Both Wests overcalled 3♠ and both Norths bid 4♡, refusing to be shut out of the auction when they had support for partner. Both Wests saved in 4♠.

Charlsen now doubled and collected the five obvious tricks and +300.

Van Den Bos, despite his balanced hand, accepted the push to the five level and Andresen in turn went on to 5♠. Now Van Den Bos doubled, and there were the same five losers, of course, this time for –500 so 5 IMPs to FLYFALCON.

Gupta v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Saelensminde*	*Korbel*	*Gillis*
–	1♣	Pass	1♡
2♠	3♡	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Gupta*	*O Rimstedt*	*Lall*
–	1♣	Pass	1♡
3♠	4♡	All Pass	

Zia made a weak jump overcall, and Korbel raised him to game. Gillis, looking at a balanced hand, doubled to conclude the auction. There were five losers so that was down two for –300.

Mikael pre-empted a level higher than had Zia but Ola did not save over 4♡. Perhaps he feared that his vulnerable opponents were cold for slam and that if he showed spade support that would add momentum to an auction which he wanted to die down at game level. Mikael led his singleton club, which picked up that suit for Lall, who proceeded to cash the king and ace of hearts and, when the queen fell, a winning diamond finesse meant that he had 12 tricks for +680 and 9 IMPs to GUPTA.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Hoffa's Bandits v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*M De Leon*	*Andresen*	*V D Bos*
–	–	1♣	1♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Bakke*	*Kiljan*	*Charlsen*
–	–	1♣	1♡
1♠	Pass	2♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Souths overcalled 1♡.

Hoftaniska passed the West hand and, when 1♡ ran round to Andresen, he decided to take his chances on defence. Van Den Bos did moderately well to get out for down one in 1♡; six tricks for –50.

Tijssen bid 1♠ as West, showing values but denying four or more spades. Kiljan cuebid then, on finding his partner with a heart stopper, raised to 3NT. Tijssen won the heart lead and, with both black suits behaving in very friendly fashion, soon had 11 tricks for +660 and 12 IMPs to FLYFALCON.

In Gupta v Gillis, both Easts opened at the two level so getting to 3NT was a matter of routine; no swing at +630.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Hoffa's Bandits v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*M De Leon*	*Andresen*	*V D Bos*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	3◇	Pass	3♡
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Bakke*	*Kiljan*	*Charlsen*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	2♣	Pass	2◇
3♣	Dble	All Pass	

Mendes De Leon opened 2NT and Van Den Bos asked about majors. Hoftaniska doubled for the lead and Mendes De Leon left that round to his partner. They got back into Puppet mode now and Mendes De Leon became declarer in 4♠, as would have been the case without the double of 3♣. Andresen duly led a club, Mendes De Leon winning the jack with the ace and leading a club straight back. Hoftaniska won the queen and returned the two of hearts. Declarer hopped up with the ace and cashed the ace of spades, on which Hoftaniska dropped the ten. Mendes De Leon continued with his low heart, which ran to Hoftaniska's queen Back came a diamond. Mendes De Leon won the ace and continued with queen and a third diamond. Hoftaniska ruffed and returned a club and that promoted the trump queen into the setting trick; down one for –100.

If that wasn't bad enough for FLYFALCON, in the other room Bakke opened 2◇ and Charlsen responded with a waiting 2◇. Tijssen saw no harm in a lead-directing overcall of 3♣, but Bakke doubled and that ended the auction. Bakke cashed the ace of spades then switched to the ten of clubs round to Tijssen's king. Tijssen Played a spade, so Bakke won the king and cashed the ace of clubs before playing ace and another rheart. Tijssen could win that with the queen and draw the missing trump, but he was left with two diamonds and the third spade to lose so was down three for –800 and 14 IMPs to HOFFA'S BANDITS.

Gupta v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Saelensminde*	*Korbel*	*Gillis*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Dble	3◇	Pass	3♡
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Gupta*	*O Rimstedt*	*Lall*
–	–	–	Pass
3♣	3NT	All Pass	

Saelensminde opened 2NT and became declarer in 4♠ after a Puppet auction. Korbel led a club in response to Zia's lead-directing double, and Saelensminde ducked Zia's jack. Zia switched to a diamond. Saelensminde won the ace and cashed the top spades. The fall of the queen meant that he had 11 tricks for +650.

Ola Rimstedt

Mikael opened 3♣ on the West cards and Gupta overcalled 3NT and played there. He ducked the first club but won the continuation and cashed the top spades. The fall of the queen was good news, and the three-two diamond split meant that Gupta had an overtrick for +630 but 1 IMP to GILLIS.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Hoffa's Bandits v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*M De Leon*	*Andresen*	*V D Bos*
–	3♣	4♣	Pass
4♡	Pass	5♣	Dble
5◇	Pass	5♠	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6◇	Pass	7♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Bakke*	*Kiljan*	*Charlsen*
–	3♣	4♣	Pass
4♡	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♡	All Pass		

Kiljan showed the majors then his club void. This led to a very simple auction to the grand slam. Yes, it could also have led to playing in Six off the top two diamonds, but all was well on the actual deal; +2210.

Andresen went more slowly, but he eventually reached a position where he could bid the grand slam; +2210, and no swing.

Gupta v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Saelensminde*	*Korbel*	*Gillis*
–	3♣	4♣	Pass
4♡	Pass	5♣	Dble
5◇	Pass	5♠	Pass
6◇	Pass	7♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Gupta*	*O Rimstedt*	*Lall*
–	3♣	4◇	Pass
4♡	Pass	5♣	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
5◇	Pass	5♡	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♣	Pass
6◇	Pass	7♡	All Pass

In their different ways, both Eats showed a major two-suiter then went on when partner gave simple preference to hearts. A series of cuebids eventually reached a point where Ola and Korbel both felt confident enough that they could jump to 7♡, which was easy as the cards lay; flat at +2210.

Note that all four Norths opened with a pre-empt. How times have changed over the years. There was a time when anyone who opened this hand would be considered to be crazy. Now, it is just mainstream bridge.

HOFFA'S BANDITS beat FLYFALCON by 58.1-39, while GUPTA squeaked past GILLIS by 22-21.1. The final would be HOFFA'S BANDITS v GUPTA.

Final

So the final of the OCBL September Cup would be between HOFFA'S BANDITS and GUPTA, with GUPTA owning the 0.1 IMP tie-breaker going into the 16-board match.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Bakke*	*Korbel*	*Charlsen*
–	–	1♣	1♠
Dble	2NT	Pass	3♢
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*De Wijs*	*Andresen*	*Muller*
–	–	1♣	1♠
3♠	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Zia doubled the 1♠ overcall to get his hearts into the mix, and now Bakke jumped to 2nT to show a constructive four-card spade raise. Charlsen showed his second suit at a mild game try, and Zia jumped to 5♣, doubled by Charlsen on the way out. Charlsen cashed the ace of spades then played ace and another diamond. Korbel won that, drew trumps, and led a heart to his king. Charlsen didn't unblock, so when Korbel continued by playing king of spades for a heart pitch and ruffing the remaining spade, a heart exit now left Charlsen endplayed; down one for –100.

Hoftaniska made a splinter raise of 1♣ and De Wijs was bullied into showing his spade support at the four level. That ran round to Hoftaniska, who bid 5♣ and played there, no-one finding a double. Muller led a club. Andresen won and drew the remaining missing trump then played a diamond. Muller won the ace and cashed the ace of spades before exiting safely with a diamond to dummy. De Wijs went up with the ace on Andresen's heart play then returned a low heart. Andresen rose with the king, dropping the queen, and was down one for –50 but 2 IMPs to HOFFA'S BANDITS.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Bakke*	*Korbel*	*Charlsen*
–	–	–	1♣
1NT	3♡	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*De Wijs*	*Andresen*	*Muller*
–	–	–	Pass
1♢	3♡	Pass	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

Charlsen opened the shapely eight-count with 1♣ and Zia overcalled 1NT. Bakke's jump to 3♡ now bought the contract. He won the club lead with dummy's king, cashed the ace of spades for a diamond pitch, and ruffed a spade in hand and a diamond in dummy. A second spade ruff was followed by the ten of diamonds. Zia won the ♢J and cashed the ♢9 before giving his partner a club ruff. The nine of spades went to the ♡Q and ♡K, after which Bakke had to come to one more trick so was down two for –100.

Muller, for whom a 1♣ opening would have been artificial, passed as dealer, and saw his partner make a pre-emptive overcall of 3♡ over Hoftaniska's 1♢ opening. That was passed back to Hoftaniska, who tried 3NT. Now Muller competed with 4♣ and, when that was left round to Andresen, he bid 4♠, which suited Muller very well. He doubled, and that was that. Muller led his singleton heart to the queen, king and ace. Andresen led the three of spades to the four and king, getting the bad news. He continued with the seven of hearts, De Wijs winning the jack and returning ace and another club. Andresen ruffed and played a diamond, which Muller ruffed. He played the king of clubs, ruffed in dummy, and Andresen played a diamond, which Muller ruffed. Muller played another winning club, which Andresen ruffed in hand to play the ten of hearts. Muller discarded a club, and now Andresen played the nine of spades towards dummy's jack. Muller won the ace and played back a club, forcing Andresen to ruff with his last trump and so promoting Muller's ♠10 into another winner. The contract was down three for –800 and 14 IMPs to GUPTA.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Bakke*	*Korbel*	*Charlsen*
–	2♣	3♣	Dble
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*De Wijs*	*Andresen*	*Muller*
–	1♣	3♣	Pass
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Bakke opened 2♣, strong and artificial and Charlsen doubled the 3♣ overcall to show values. When Zia raised to 5♣, Bakke doubled for penalty, ending the auction. Charlsen led his trump, Korbel winning in hand to lead a heart to the queen and king. Bakke cashed the ace of clubs then switched to the king of spades to dummy's ace. However, when he now won the jack of hearts with the ace, he tried a diamond instead of a spade, and the spade loser went away on the hearts; down one for –100.

De Wijs opened a strong club and Andresen overcalled 3♣. That shut Muller out but, when Hoftaniska raised to 5♣ and that came back to him, he doubled and, holding a balanced hand, De Wijs was happy to defend. Muller led the queen of spades, immediately setting up the fourth defensive winner. Andresen won the ace and played the queen of clubs, ducked by De Wijs, who wasn't going to be suckered into crashing his partner's bare king. When the ♣Q scored, Andresen played ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond, then played the ten of clubs to De Wijs's ace. There were two hearts and a spade to be lost now; down two for –300 and 5 IMPs to GUPTA.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gupta	*Bakke*	*Korbel*	*Charlsen*
–	1♡	1♠	Dble
2NT	3♣	3♢	3♠
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	Pass	5♠	6♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*De Wijs*	*Andresen*	*Muller*
–	1♡	1♠	3♣
4♣	5♣	5♢	Pass
5♡	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Charlsen was happy to play in 5♣, not fancying the slam, until Korbel competed with 5♠. Now it wasn't clear that this could be beaten, so Charlsen took the push to 6♣, more as a save than with any great expectation of being able to make slam. Korbel doubled 6♣, and that ended the auction. Charlsen had judged the deal exactly right, as there were two top losers in 6♣, but 5♠ was cold the other way, making 6♣ a good save. Still better – Korbel tried to cash the ace of spades, and now 6♣ was making. Bakke ruffed, played a round of trumps, then cashed the ace of hearts, came to hand with a spade ruff, and pitched a diamond on the king of hearts. There was just one diamond to be lost now; 12 tricks for +1090.

At the other table, Muller jumped to 3♣, to play, over the 1♠ overcall. Hoftansika cuebid to show his good spade raise and De Wijs supported the clubs. Now Andresen had a big hand and made a slam try. Hoftaniska liked his honours in partner's two suits enough that he didn't want to just sign off in 5♠, so he tried 5♡, but that just looked like a cuebid to Andrsen, who bid the small slam. Muller cashed the ace of hearts and switched to a club. De Wijs won that and returned a low heart, which Andresen ruffed with the ten. He drew two round sof trumps then carelessly ruffed a heart low so was down two for –200 but 13 IMPs to HOFFA'S BANDITS, who led by 2 IMPs with seven boards to play.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gupta	*Bakke*	*Korbel*	*Charlsen*
2♡	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*De Wijs*	*Andresen*	*Muller*
Pass	Pass	1♠	2NT
3♠	4♢	Pass	5♢
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Gupta opened 2♡ on the ten-high suit and there were two passes to Charlsen, who would have liked to have a way to show a minor two-suiter but, of course, didn't have one. He overcalled 3♣ and Bakke bid 3NT, ending the auction. Korbel led the queen of hearts to dummy's bare ace. Bakke led a diamond to the queen and Korbel took his ace and led a low spade to his partner's king. Gupta returned the ten of spades to the queen and ace, and Korbel continued with a low spade. Bakke won the seven of spades and led a club to the king, which was ducked. But now he could just cash out, two hearts, another spade, and four diamonds, for a total of 10 tricks for +630, an excellent result.

Hoftaniska did not open the weak two bid so Andresen got to open in third seat and Muller could show both his suits with a 2NT overcall. Hoftaniska showed his spade support and De Wijs showed diamond support. When Muller went on to 5♢ on the strength of his eleventh minor-suit card, Andresen doubled. Andresen cashed the ace of spades and continued with a second spade, om which De Wijs discarded a club. Hoftaniska won the king of spades and switched to the ten of hearts to the queen and ace. De Wijs led a diamond to his queen, ducked by Andresen, and led a club to the queen and ace. The ten of spades return was won by dummy's queen and the jack of hearts cashed for a club discard. De Wijs continued with the king of hearts for another club discard, and Andresen discarded clubs on both hearts. De Wijs could not find a legitimate way to pick up Andresen's ten of diamonds. Instead, he tried ruffing a spade with the ♢8 then the ♣K with the jack. Had Andresen over-ruffed he would have been endplayed – declarer can ruff a spade in dummy with the five and over-ruff with the seven to be in the right hand to lead through East's diamond holding at trick 12. But Andresen correctly discarded on the club ruff. De Wijs led the seven of diamonds and Andresen, who had been watching the pips carefully, covered with the ten, and De Wijs had to lead from dummy's ♢nine-five into Andresen's ten-six. That was down three for –800 and the combination of two great results was worth 16 IMPs to HOFFA'S BANDITS, whose lead was up to 38-20.

GUPTA made partscores at both tables on Board 13 to close to 27-38.

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gupta	*Bakke*	*Korbel*	*Charlsen*
–	–	–	1♡
2♢	2NT	3♢	3♡
Pass	4♡	4♠	Pass
5♢	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Hoftaniska	*De Wijs*	*Andresen*	*Muller*
–	–	–	1♡
2♢	4♡	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Had Gupta realised just how long his partner's spades were, 4♠ would have been down only one, and possibly undoubled. However, the sure fit was in diamonds, which Korbel had supported before introducing his spades, so Gupta went back to the security of his six-card suit. After a top club lead and trump switch, he was able to establish the spades and was down two, losing a second club, a heart and a spade; –300.

The direct raise to 4♡ meant that Andresen didn't have room to both show diamond support and the long spades so, as one might expect, he decided on the spades, as would most of us. De Wijs doubled 4♠ but, sure enough, this was only one down for –100 and 5 IMPs to HOFFA'S BANDITS. They led by 45-27 going into the final board and that meant that the match, and the OCBL September Cup, was over. C Bakke, T Charlsen, T E Hoftaniska and M Andresen, with help earlier in the event from T Bakke, T E Grude, S O Hoyland, and L A Johansen, were OCBL September Cup champions after winning the final by 46-27 IMPs.

RESULTS

QUARTERFINALS

Gillis (+8.1) 19 IMPs TOTAL: 27.1 — 21 IMPs TOTAL: 21 **ISR-TUR**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: O. Svendsen	E: Rimstedt O.	E: S. Tatlicioglu	N: A. Zeitak
S: S. Gillis	W: Rimstedt M.	W: B. Baskan	S: N. Khutorsky

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=99676-1630591171

Texan Aces (+1.1) 11 IMPs TOTAL: 12.1 — 37 IMPs TOTAL: 37 **Gupta**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: R. Tolani	E: G. Venkatesh	E: N. Gupta	N: S. De Wijs
S: A. Khare	W: A. Padhye	W: H. Lall	S: B. Muller

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=99680-1630591175

Levine (+6.1) 31 IMPs TOTAL: 37.1 — 46 IMPs TOTAL: 46 **Hoffa's bandits**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: J. Meckstroth	E: G. Helgemo	E: T.E. Hoftaniska	N: C. Bakke
S: S. Garner	W: T. Helness	W: T. E. Grude	S: T. Charlsen

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=99674-1630591162

Black (+3.1) 12 IMPs TOTAL: 15.1 — 29 IMPs TOTAL: 29 **Flyfalcon**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: rerack	E: A. Black	E: V. Kiljan	N: Van Prooijen R.
S: S. Hult	W: D. Gold	W: L. Tijssen	S: Verhees L.

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=99688-1630591233

SEMIFINALS

Gillis (+0.1) 21 IMPs TOTAL: 21.1 — 22 IMPs TOTAL: 22 **Gupta**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: E. Saelensminde	E: O. Rimstedt	E: D. Korbel	N: S. De Wijs
S: S. Gillis	W: M. Rimstedt	W: Zia Mahmood	S: B. Muller

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=568-1630600172

Hoffa's bandits 58 IMPs TOTAL: 58.1 — 39 IMPs TOTAL: 39 **Flyfalcon**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: C. Bakke	E: T. E. Grude	E: V. Kiljan	N: G. M. De Leon
S: T. Charlsen	W: T. E. Hoftaniska	W: L. Tijssen	S: T. Sprinkhuizen

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=565-1630600158

FINAL

Gupta (+0.1) 27 IMPs TOTAL: 27.1 — 46 IMPs TOTAL: 46 **Hoffa's bandits**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: S. De Wijs	E: D. Korbel	E: T. E. Grude	N: C. Bakke
S: B. Muller	W: N. Gupta	W: T. E. Hoftaniska	S: T. Charlsen

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=1412-1630609165

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE

6 - 30 September, 2021

Registered Teams

The OCBL September Cup will take place from 6 to 30 September, 2021.

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

SKALMAN
Ahlesved K. (kruska)
Warne N. (nikwar2)
Elmroth G. (Turnip1)
Eliasson P. (PGEliasson)
Fallenius B. (Bf88)
Nilsland M. (Nilsland)
Karlsson T. (Charlie99)
Sandin A. (stridsvagn)

FLYFALCON
Wilson A. (flyfalcon)
Van Prooijen R. (riccovp)
Verhees L. (loukie)
Gronkvist I. (Halko)
Gronkvist M. (Mike_G)
Sprinkhuizen T. (thibos)
Mendes De Leon G. (guymdl)
Kiljan V. (Vkill)
Tijssen L. (luctijs)

SENIOR BALL
Fox Ji. (mmbridge)
Helms J. (lt70)
Chambers N. (neilc)
Graves A. (algraves)

FRENCH JUNIORS
Bellicaud L. (lbellicaud)
Guth R. (robinblood)
Bedouet P. (pi420)
Vallet E. (rasko179)
Grosset C. (cRi cRi)

JUNIOR SQUAD
Guichet T. (Krati_Lyz)
Bonin L. (louisbonin)
Basler R. (raph98)
Dufrene M. (melic13131)
Lebatteux A. (voldenuit)

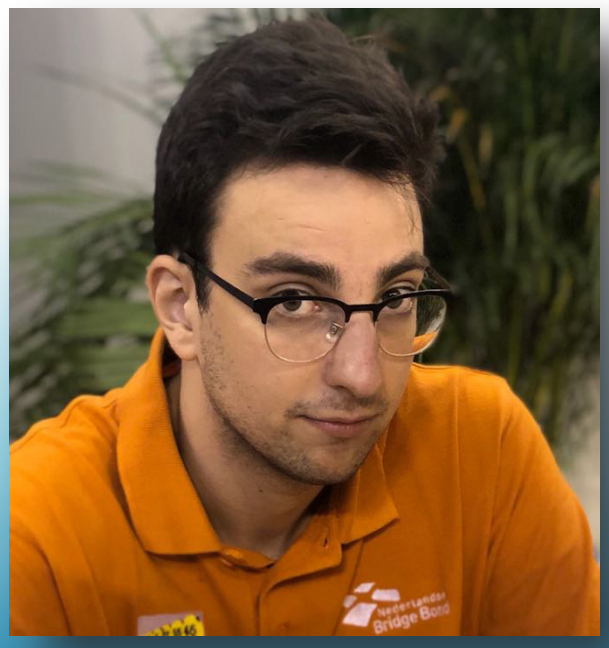
BLACK
Black A. (boggis)
Gold D. (dagold)
McIntosh A. (mcintosh)
Paske T. (thomas1000)
Hult S. (hultahult)
Hallberg G. (rerack)

FREDIN
Fredin P. (P_Fredin)
Sylvan J. (JoppeSyl)
Morath A. (andersm)
Clementsson S. (237425)
Clemmensson J. (jannec69)

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)

BRIDGE42
Macskásy G. (macsek)
Talyigás P. (taliga)
Czímer C. (csabi)
Szalka T. (szalkat)
Trenka P. (trp42)
Kemény M. (markk12)
Kemény G. (kemeny)

RÂTEAU BAVOIR
Boulin A. (tutur300)
Guillemin T. (theoguille)
Van Oosten S. (sibrand)
Thorpe S. (steffff)
Mauberquez E. (mauber)
Oursel C. (chris3108)



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

World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE

6 - 30 September 2021

Qualification + Knockout

Qualification:

9 Rounds x 16 Boards
Play every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
at 21.15 CEST - 15.15 EDT

KOs:

Quarterfinals: 20 Boards
Semifinals: 20 Boards
Final: 20 Boards

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG