World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

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THE BRIDGE

The Bridge between qualification and knockouts will be crossed tonight.

The top-8 teams from the qualifying stage will advance to the Quarterfinals stage:

#1 vs #8	#2 vs #7
#3 vs #6	#4 vs #5

Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final will be played over one segment of 16 boards each.
There will be the following carry over:

- In the Quarterfinal no. 1 – 4 get a carry-over of 8.1 – 6.1 – 3.1 – 1.1 IMP.
- In the Semifinals and the Final no. 1 – 2 get a carry-over of 0.1 IMP as a tiebreaker.

After 6 rounds, team Black (Black A., Gold D., McIntosh A., Paske T., Hult S., Hallberg G.) are leading (89.19 VPs).
They are followed by team Seligman (Seligman M., Lesniewski M., Kwiecien M., Starkowski W., Kalita J., Nowosadzki M.) (82.47 VPs) and by team New Amateurs (Lo A., Chechelashvili D., Jiang Gu, Baseggio F., Falk A., Yang D., Lusky J., Kolesnik A.)

OCTOBER CUP
RANKING AFTER ROUND 6

1	Black	89.19
2	Seligman	82.47
3	New Amateurs	74.88
	Rippey	74.88
5	Northern Lights	69.43
6	Fredin	66.8
7	Goodman	61.1
8	Harris	55.12
9	Amoils	53.19
10	Sam	51.23
11	Flyfalcon	47.55
12	Scorway	47.29
13	Friends	38.64
14	Netbridge	28.23

NOVEMBER CUP
SCHEDULE TODAY

Round 7. 16.00 CET / 11.00 a.m. EDT

Black	VS	Northern Lights
Seligman	VS	New Amateurs
Rippey	VS	Fredin
Goodman	VS	Harris
Amoils	VS	Netbridge
Sam	VS	Scorway
Flyfalcon	VS	Friends

Round 8. 18.00 CET / 1.00 p.m. EDT

Round 9. 20.00 CET / 3.00 p.m. EDT

All the tables will be open to kibitzers

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OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER CUP

20 - 23 December, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 20 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Tuesday 21 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Wednesday 22 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Thursday 23 December	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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

Bridge NEWS

USBC WINNERS

From Bridgewinners:

Here are the teams that will represent the United States at the World Championships inSalsomaggiore, Italy from March 27 to April 7, 2022.

BERMUDA BOWL:
USA1: Nick Nickell-Ralph Katz, Eric Greco-Geoff Hampson, Bobby Levin-Steve Weinstein, NPC Jill Levin
USA2: Warren Spector-Gavin Wolpert, Kevin Bathurst-John Hurd, Vince Demuy*-John Kranyak

VENICE CUP:
USA1: Pam Wittes-Shawn Quinn, Emma Kolesnik-Amber Lin, Cheri Bjerkan*-Rozanne Pollack*
USA2: Lynn Baker-Karen McCallum, Jill Meyers-Kerri Sanborn, Janice Molson-Sandra Rimstedt*

WORLD MIXED TEAMS:
USA1: Andrew Rosenthal-Debbie Rosenberg, Dana Berkowitz-Eldad Ginossar, Migry zur Campanile-Chris Willenken
USA2: Linda Lewis-Paul Lewis, Disa Eythorsdottir-Mark Itabashi, Ljudmila Kamenova-Ron Smith

D'ORSI SENIOR BOWL:
USA1: Mike Levine-Eddie Wold, Mark Lair-Mike Passell, Jeff Meckstroth, NPC Bob Morris
USA2: Bart Bramley-Kit Woolsey, Dan Morse-Pratap Rajadhyaksha

*Players who have been added to qualified teams
and approved by the Credentials Committee

The two Senior Bowl teams will have to augment to 6 players on each team.

USBF

Rounds 2, 3 and 4

by Brian Senior

Round 2

Three deals stood out in Round Two – one featuring a pre-empt by the side to whom the deal belonged, one where the problem was to overcome an opposing pre-empt, and one a constructive auction.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Sam v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
M Gronkvist	*Nadel*	*I Gronkvist*	*Ferguson*
–	–	–	1♣
3♡	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*V Prooijen*	*Bakkeren*	*Wilson*
–	–	–	1♣
3♡	All Pass		

Both Wests overcalled 3♡. Nadel bid a very aggressive 3♠ with the North cards and was raised to game, being fortunate not to be doubled. Van Lankveld, meanwhile, was left to play peacefully in 3♡. Bakkeren must have been close to raising but perhaps feared that the likely club lead through his king doubleton would not be good news for his side.

Van Prooijen duly led the nine of clubs against 3♡ and Wilson ducked it to Van Lankveld's queen. A diamond to the queen and ace established a discard for the third club, so Van Lankveld just lost three aces; +170.

Ida Gronkvist led the king of hearts against 4♠, Mikael overtaking and cashing a second heart before switching to his singleton diamond. That went to the ten and ace and Nadel played ace then jack of clubs. Ida won the king and played king, queen, and a fourth diamond, which Nadel ruffed with the queen then under-ruffed in hand. She led the ♠8 to her nine, ducked, and continued with the ace and jack of spades. That lost to the king and declarer ruffed the diamond return but had to concede the last trick to the five of spades; down four for –400 and 6 IMPs to FLYFALCON.

Friends v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Saur	*Mou*	*Brekka*	*Han*
–	–	–	1♣
4♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Yan	*Shenkin*	*Xu*	*Levinson*
–	–	–	1♣
3♡	All Pass		

Yan overcalled 3♡ and played there for +170. Saur overcalled 4♡ and played there for +620 and 10 IMPs to SCORWAY.

Harris v Amoils

West	North	East	South
Amoils	*Root*	*Hanlon*	*Igoe*
–	–	–	1♣
3♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
M Gold	*Zamir*	*Tiholov*	*Toledano*
–	–	–	2♣
2♡	2♠	3NT	All Pass

Amoils overcalled 3♡ and played there, being allowed to make 11 tricks for +200.

Toledano opened 2♣, Precision-style, so Marusa Gold overcalled 2♡ and now, when Zamir competed with 2♠, Tiholov just blasted 3NT, where Gold allowed him to play. Toledano led the jack of clubs, Tiholov winning the king and playing a club straight back towards the queen. Toledano won the ace of clubs and tried a desperation low diamond switch. Tiholov won that and had seven hearts and a second club to come; 10 tricks for +630 and 10 IMPs to HARRIS.

Only two Wests overcalled 4♡, the other 11 contenting themselves with 3♡ over a 1♣ opening. None of the 11 Easts went on to game.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Sam v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
M Gronkvist	*Nadel*	*I Gronkvist*	*Ferguson*
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♢	2NT	3♢
3NT	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*V Prooijen*	*Bakkeren*	*Wilson*
–	3♢	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Nadel did not open the North hand as dealer and, though she came in with a simple overcall at her next turn, the combination of this and Ferguson's simple raise did little to inconvenience the opposition. The Gronkvists explored slam then stopped safely in 4♠, where Mikael made 11 tricks for +650.

Van Prooijen opened 3♢ and that went round to Van Lankveld, who doubled for take-out. When Bakkeren responded 4♢, asking his partner to pick a trump suit, Van Lankveld chose hearts in case Bakkeren's two places to play were hearts and clubs. The four-one trump split was not sufficient to threaten the contract due to E/W's sheer weight of high cards, but there was no overtrick – Van Lankveld won the spade lead, and played three rounds of trumps, losing two clubs and a heart; +620 but 1 IMP to FLYFALCON.

Fredin v Black

West	North	East	South
Hult	*Bosenberg*	*Hallberg*	*Eber*
–	3♢	Pass	3NT
Dble	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Black*	*Apteker*	*Gold*
–	3♢	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	4♢	Pass
5♢	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Bosenberg opened 3♢ and Eber tried a steal, responding 3NT. However, Hult was far too strong to believe that to hav ebeen bid to make and doubled for take-out. When Hallberg responded with a 4♢ cuebid Hult, like Van Lankveld, responded 4♡ to cater to partner having hearts and clubs. Bosenberg led a diamond to the jack, duck, and ace. Hult cashed the ace of hearts then crossed to dummy with a spade to run the ten of hearts. He drew all the trumps then cashed out the spades so had 10 tricks for +620.

Black also opened 3♢ but Gold didn't try anything clever with the South cards. Fredin doubled but, when Apteker responded with the 4♢ cuebid, drove to slam by first cuebidding himself then raising the 5♠ response to Six. Gold led a low diamond to dummy's bare ace. Apteker drew trumps then tried a club to the king. That lost to the ace and the queen was cashed. Apteker ruffed the next club, ruffed his diamond loser, then cashed a top heart. When the queen appeared, he crossed to hand with a trump and finessed against the ♡J; down one for –100 and 12 IMPs to BLACK.

Friends v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Saur	*Mou*	*Brekka*	*Han*
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♠	3♢	4♢	5♢
6♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Yan	*Shenkin*	*Xu*	*Levinson*
–	3♢	Pass	4♢
Dble	5♣	Dble	5♢
Dble	All Pass		

Mou passed as dealer but made a weak jump overcall at his next turn. That saw Han save in 5♢ and saur just jump to the spade slam. Mou led the ten of diamonds and Han covered

dummy's jack, thinking that his partner might have underled the ace. The ♢K lost to the ace but, fortunately for the defence, all that trick one had done was to create a useless discard for declarer. Saur Drew trumps, took a heart pitch on the diamond, then led the ten of hearts to the ace and queen. He continued with king and a third heart and a club through saw the contract down two for –200.

Shenkin opened 3♢ and Levinson raised pre-emptively to 4♢. When Yan now doubled, Shenkin liked his seven-four shape so reassessed the value of his hand in light of the diamond support, and bid 5♣, both an advance sacrifice and lead-directing. That was doubled, as was levinson's correction back to diamonds. Xu cashed the king of spades then switched to the ten of hearts to Yan's king. Yan cashed the ace of diamonds, saving Shenkin one guess, then got out with a spade. Shenkin ruffed, led a diamond to the king, and followed that up with the jack of clubs to the king and ace. A diamond to dummy allowed Shenkin to lead a second club to his nine and he was down only one for –100 and 7 IMPs to FRIENDS.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Fredin v Black

West	North	East	South
Hult	*Bosenberg*	*Hallberg*	*Eber*
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♢	2♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Black*	*Apteker*	*Gold*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♢	Pass	2♢
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

There was a strange pair of contracts in this match. Firstly, Eber opened a strong and artificial 2♣ on the South cards and Bosenberg responded 2♢, waiting/negative. When Hallberg overcalled 2♡, Eber's pass was surely forcing, but Bosenberg passed it out.

Eber cashed the ace then queen of clubs followed by the king then ace of diamonds. He continued with a third diamond, which Bosenberg ruffed, and back came a spade to the nine and ace. Judging that Eber had to have all the missing high cards, and that one finesse would not pick up the king even if was onside, Hallberg led a heart to the ace, dropping the king. A second heart to the ten was followed by the nine of clubs, ruffed and over-ruffed and, after drawing trumps, Hallberg had a diamond to cash so was down one for –50.

Gold opened 1♣, potentially short, and 1♢ showed hearts. Two Diamonds was a natural reverse and 2NT Lebensohl. Gold had too much to follow the Lebensohl protocol so raised that to 3NT, ending the auction. The five-three spades fot was never explored at all. Apteker led a spade, Fredin ducking dummy's jack and also Black's continuation with the king. Now Black switched his attention to clubs, requiring only an even split for his contract. When the suit did not oblige, he played a fourth round anyway, but now the defence came into its own, winning the club, the ace of spades, then five heart tricks. That was down three for –150 and 5 IMPs to FREDIN.

Rippey v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Nowak*	*Lusky*	*Rippey*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	Pass	1♡	2♢
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*Baseggio*	*Nawrocki*	*Lo*
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♢	2♡	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

Rippey opened 1♣ and Nowak passed. Rippey showed his reversing values with 2♢ but then respected Nowak's simple preference to 3♣. Falk led the ten of hearts, Lusky winning the ace and switcing to a trump. Rippey won the ace of clubs and played ace then ruffed a diamond, followed by a spade to the king and ace. He ruffed the heart return, cashed the king and queen of clubs, then played on spades, the diamond loser going away on the fourth round; 10 tricks for +130.

Lo opened with a strong and artificial 2♣ then showed his clubs. When Baseggio responded 3♠ to that, Lo asked for key cards, only to be left to play in 4NT when Baseggio read the situation differently. The defence took four hearts tricks then switched to a diamond. Lo won that and played the king of spades and Wiankowski grabbed his ace so the contract was just two down for –100 and 6 IMPs to RIPPEY.

Netbridge v Northern Lights

West	North	East	South
Bussink	*V D Hoek*	*Thuillez*	*Bremer*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	Pass	1♡	2♢
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
T Drijver	*M Rimstedt*	*Bouwen*	*O Rimstedt*
–	–	–	2♣
Pass	2♢	2♡	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Ola opened 2♣, Bremer 1♣, but both soon found themselves putting down dummy in 4♠.

Thuillez led the jack of clubs against Van Den Hoek, who won the ace and played the king of hearts. Thuillez won the ace and played a second club. Van Den Hoek won the king and ruffed a club with the ten. A heart ruff was followed by the king of spades, which Bussink won with the ace. He returned the ten of clubs for his partner to ruff, and the heart return forced Van Den Hoek to ruff with dummy's last trump. Van Den Hoek played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing, cashed the queen of spades, but had to concede the five of spades to the seven at trick 13 so was down one for –50.

Bouwen led a diamond against Mikael, who won the ace and played the king of hearts to the ace. Bouwen returned a club, Mikael winning the ace and cashing the king before playing the king of spades. Drijver won the ♠A and returned a diamond to the queen and king. Mikael cashed the jack of spades then ruffed a club, crossed back to the nine of spades, and cashed two club winners, coming to 10 tricks in all, four in each black suit and two diamonds; +420 and 10 IMPs to NORTHERN LIGHTS.

Ten of the 14 N/S pairs got to the spade game, with half making it, and half being defeated.

Round 3

Round Three was a quiet affair. The first deal was perhaps the most interesting.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Sam v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Yang	*nadel*	*Gu*	*Ferguson*
–	Pass	1♢	2♣
3♢	3♡	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Falk*	*Bakkeren*	*Lusky*
–	Pass	1♢	Dble
4♢	4♡	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Both Souths chose to play in their own long suit rather than partner's hearts.

Yang led two rounds of diamonds so Ferguson ruffed, crossed to the king of hearts, and ran the ten of clubs; 11 tricks for +400.

Van Lankveld cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to his singleton heart. Lusky put up the king and took the club finesse and he too had 11 tricks for +400 and a flat board.

Not so interesting, you say, but this was the only match in which 5♣ was played.

Amoils v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Zamir*	*Saur*	*Toledano*
–	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♢	Dble	4♡
5♢	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Amoils	*Kvangraven*	*Hanlon*	*Stornes*
–	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

In this match both Norths opened with a weak two bid, which certainly looks normal to me when non-vulnerable. Both Souths asked the question and, presumably, both Norths showed a minimum. South, however, went on to game. However, there was an important difference: Kvangraven and Stornes had had th auction entirely to themselves so were left to play in 4♡, while Saur had made a lead-directing double of 3♢ and now Brekka saved in 5♢, doubled by Toledano.

Zamir led the ten of clubs against 5♢ doubled, Toledano winning the ace and queen then cashing the ace of hearts and the two top spades. That was all, but the defence had taken the first five tricks for down three and –500. That would be just a couple of IMPs if 4♡ could be made at the other table, but if 4♡ went down 5♢ doubled would prove to be an expensive phantom sacrifice. Hanlon led the king of diamonds against 4♡, and continued with a second diamond. Kvangraven ruffed, cashed the ace of hearts, and found himself trapped in dummy. He played ace and another club, losing to the king, and there were two trumps to come; down one for –50 and 11 IMPs to AMOILS.

Seligman v Northern Lights

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Seligman*	*Bussink*	*Lesniewski*
–	2♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*M Rimstedt*	*Kwiecien*	*Eriksson*
–	2♡	Dble	2NT
3♢	Pass	Pass	4♢
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Again, both Norths opened 2♡, and both were soon in the heart game.

Kwiecien led two rounds of diamonds so Mikael found himself in exactly the same situation as we just saw for Kvangraven. He ruffed the second diamond and played ace and another club, and the two trump losers meant down one for –50.

Bussink also led a diamond, but at trick two he switched to a spade. Seligman won the ace and could play ace of hearts and a second heart to his king. He continued by taking the club finesse and had only to concede two trump tricks; 10 tricks for +420 and 10 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Ten Norths played in 4♡, with four being allowed to make their contracts, while the other six were defeated. Or, to put that another way, four Easts didn't see the problem that a second round of diamonds would cause with declarer's communications.

Black Senior and Junior

Round 4

And so we move on to day two, with SELIGMAN holding a narrow lead over BLACK at the top of the overnight standings, and with the two teams meeting in the first match of the day.

SELIGMAN v BLACK kicked off with an exchange of significant swings on the first two boards of the match.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Seligman v Black

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Seligman*	*McIntosh*	*Lesniewski*
–	2♢	2♠	3♢
3♠	Pass	4♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Black*	*Kwiecien*	*Gold*
–	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♠	Dble	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

Seligman opened with a weak two bid and McIntosh overcalled. Lesniewski's gentle competitive 3♢ sucked Hallberg in and McIntosh had a little in hand so went on to game. Now Lesniewski doubled and led the ace of spades followed by the ace of diamonds before playing his remaining spade. McIntosh won in dummy, ruffed a diamond, led a club to the queen, then a club back to the ten, king and ace. Lesniewski got out with the jack of clubs and, left to open up hearts himself, McIntosh had to lose two more tricks so was down two for –300.

It is instinctive to support partner with trump length, but I think Hallberg should not have bid 3♠. Partner is marked with short diamonds so, with extras, will surely come again, which will be the time to admit to spade support. If partner doesn't have some extras, maybe E/W don't own the board.

Black did not open the North hand so Kwiecien opened 1♠ as East and Gold doubled. When Black made a responsive double of the pre-emptive spade raise, Gold jumped to the club game. Gold won the spade lead and ruffed his remaining spade then led the ten of clubs to the jack and queen. Starkowski returned a diamond, so Gold won the ace and played ace then nine of clubs, losing to the king. Kwiecien cashed the ace of hearts and that was that; down one for –50 and 8 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Rippey v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
I Gronkvist	*Nowak*	*M Gronkvist*	*Rippey*
–	Pass	2♠	Dble
4♠	5♢	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*Kiljan*	*Nawrocki*	*Tijssen*
–	3♢	3♠	3NT
All Pass			

Nowak passed as dealer but, when Rippey doubled the weak two bid for take-out, was willing to be pushed to bid 5♢ over the 4♠ raise. Nowak won the spade lead with the ace and drew trumps in four rounds then ran the ten of clubs to the queen. He ruffed the spade return and led his remaining club to the jack. AS he had discarded two clubs while drawing trumps, this provided only three club winners, but Nowak could set up a heart trick after cashing the clubs, so had 11 tricks for +400.

Kiljan opened the North hand with 3♢ and Tijssen bid 3NT over Nawrocki's spade overcall. Tijssen ducked the spade lead, won the continuation, and cashed all six diamonds. Nawrocki defended accurately, discarding two hearts then baring the king of clubs and relying on his partner to guard that suit. Tijssen played a club next to the king and ace, but there was no ninth trick; down one for –50 and 10 IMPs to RIPPEY.

Amoils v Northern Lights

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Kolesnik*	*Bussink*	*DelMonte*
–	3♢	3♠	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Amoils	*M Rimstedt*	*Carroll*	*Eriksson*
–	3♢	3♠	5♢
All Pass			

Both Norths opened 3♢ and both Easts overcalled 3♠. The two Souths, however, chose different games, DelMonte 3NT, Eriksson 5♢.

Mikael won the spade lead in 5♢, drew trumps, pitching a club and a spade from dummy, then took a club finesse. That lost to the queen, and back came a heart. Bussink won the ♡A and returned a spade, which Mikael ruffed. He led the ten of clubs to the ace and ruffed a club, and the fall of the king meant that he had the rest; +400.

Mikael Rimstedt

Ola led a spade against 3NT, Carroll playing the king and DelMonte winning the ace. He cashed six rounds of diamonds, discarding four clubs from hand, including the nine and jack. Bussink, meanwhile, pitched three spades and a club, so DelMonte could afford ro give up the lead to establish his ninth trick and did so, leading a heart off the dummy. Bussink won the ace and played back the king of clubs, so DelMonte had a club and two hearts and 10 tricks in all for +430 and 1 IMP to AMOILS.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Seligman v Black

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Seligman*	*McIntosh*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♠	Dble	Pass	2NT
3♠	4♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Black*	*Kwiecien*	*Gold*
–	–	1♠	Pass
3♡	Dble	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4◇
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Hallberg made a simple raise and Seligman doubled for take-out. The 2NT response was Lebensohl and now Hallberg came again with 3♠ in hope of shutting out his opponents' fit. Seligman was unwilling to be shut out and competed in his five=card club suit, where he was left to play. Seligman won the spade lead, pitching his diamond loser, and led a low club to the jack. A heart to the jack scored so he continued with the queen, losing to the ace. McIntosh returned a spade, which Seligman ruffed in hand. He led a low heart now, ruffed and over-ruffed, won the club return, and had to lose just one more trump; 10 tricks for +130.

Starkowski showed a Mixed Raise, Black doubling, take-out of spades. When Kwiecien's 3♠ sign-off came back to him, Black doubled again and Gold responded 4◇. That didn't appeal to Black, who converted to 4♡, implying a second suit of clubs. Four Hearts ended the auction and Kwiecien led the king of spades. Black ducked in dummy and ruffed in hand then led a heart to the jack followed by a club to the queen and ace. A second heart lost to the ace and Kwiecien returned the queen of spades to dummy's ace. The nine of clubs was ducked, Kwiecien ruffing and returning his last trump. Black won that and gave up a club; 10 tricks for +620 and 10 IMPs to BLACK.

Rippey v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
I Gronkvist	*Nowak*	*M Gronkvist*	*Rippey*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1◇	1♡	1♠
3♡	4♠	5♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*Kiljan*	*Nawrocki*	*Tijssen*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1◇	1♡	Dble
3◇	Dble	4♡	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♡	Dble
All Pass			

Ida made a pre-emptive heart raise, Wiankowski a Mixed Raise, but both Easts, knowing that they had an 11-card fit, went on to 5♡ over 4♠ and played there doubled. Both Souths led the singleton diamond and both declarers won in hand and drew two rounds of trumps. They lost two spades and one club for a flat board at down one and –200.

Amoils v Northern Lights

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Kolesnik*	*Bussink*	*DelMonte*
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♠	2NT	Pass	3♣
3♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Amoils	*M Rimstedt*	*Carroll*	*Eriksson*
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♠	4♣	Pass	5♣
Dble	All Pass		

Ola made a simple spade raise and Kolesnik overcalled 2NT, showing a two-suiter. DelMonte responded 3♣ to that and now Ola bid again, competing to 3♠, and that bought the contract. DelMonte led the queen of hearts, which Bussink won with the ace. Bussink played the jack of spades but DelMonte won the ace, cashed the jack of hearts, and switched to a club for the king and ace. Kolesnik cashed the king and ace of diamonds then played the king of hearts. DelMonte discarded a diamond on this trick as Bussink ruffed in the dummy. Bussink discarded the ten of hearts on the queen of clubs then played on trumps and was down two for –100.

Amoils too made a simple spade raise but now Mikael could jump to 4♣ to show a heart/club two-suiter, and Eriksson was happy to raise to game looking at an ace, two heart honours, and three-card club support. Amoils, however, liked his trump holding and doubled. Mikael won the spade lead with the ace, discarding his diamond loser from hand. He led a club to the jack and, when that held, a heart to the queen and a second club to the king and ace. A second heart lost to the ace and back came a diamond. Mikael won the ace and ruffed a heart with the nine. Amoils discarded a spade but it made no difference. Mikael crossed to hand with a diamond and played the ten of clubs, driving out the queen. He could ruff the return and draw the outstanding trump then cash two heart winners and had 11 tricks and his contract; +750 and 12 IMPs to NORTHERN LIGHTS.

The swings continued on Board 3 in SELIGMAN v BLACK.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Seligman v Black

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Seligman*	*McIntosh*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Black*	*Kwiecien*	*Gold*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2◇	Pass	2NT	All Pass

If the same team contracts for seven tricks in NT at one table and eight tricks in NT at the other, one or both of its declarers is likely to struggle – and so it proved.

When McIntosh made a penalty double of 1NT, Hallberg left it in with the West hand and led the five of spades. McIntosh won the ace then continued with the king and jack, which Hallberg overtook. He cashed the fourth spade, McIntosh discarding a heart, while declarer had pitched one card in each minor. McIntosh played three rounds of hearts to declarer's queen. Lesniewski played ace then ten of clubs, running it to the queen, and had the rest; down one for –100.

Kwiecien also doubled 1NT but this would usually have been a four-card major and longer minor, hence the 2◇ response, asking which major. Two No Trump showed that Kwiecien actually had a strong balanced hand, but the heart fit was lost. Gold cashed the ace of diamonds, got a discouraging signal from Black, and switched to the seven of clubs. Black won the king and returned the two of clubs, and the defence took its four club winners then Black switched back to diamonds and there were three more winners there. The contract was down three for –300 and 9 IMPs to BLACK.

Amoils v Northern Lights

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Kolesnik*	*Bussink*	*DelMonte*
–	–	–	1NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Amoils	*M Rimstedt*	*Carroll*	*Eriksson*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♠	1NT	All Pass

DelMonte opened 1NT and was left to ♠lay there. Ola led a heart, Bussink winning the king and continuing with a low heart. This was DelMonte's one chance to make the contract, but he got it wrong by putting in the ten and losing to the jack. The defence cashed out the hearts then the spades, and DElMonte came down to the ace-king of diamonds and three clubs. Ola gout out with a diamond and DelMonte, with no reason to imagine that Bussink was quite as strong as this, proceeded to get the clubs wrong; down three for –150.

Eriksson opened 1♣ with the South cards. Mikael scraped up a 1♠ response and Carroll overcalled 1NT, where he played. Eriksson led the six of spades to the eight, three and ace, and Carroll tried for his contract by playing three rounds of hearts. However, that had given both defenders an opportunity to express their opinion about a continuation of the spade attack, and Mikael an opportunity to also deny interest in diamonds. Eriksson therefore knew, upon winning the third heart, to return a low club. The defence took four of those, ending in the North hand, followed by four diamonds, and the contract was down three for –300 and 10 IMPs to NORTHERN LIGHTS.

New Amateurs v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Bosenberg	*Baseggio*	*Eber*	*Lo*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Yang	*Fredin*	*Gu*	*Apteker*
–	–	–	1NT
All Pass			

Apteker was left to play peacefully in 1NT, against which Yang led the five of spades. Gu won the king and ace and continued with the jack, which Yang overtook to cash the ten. Apteker meanwhile discarded two low clubs from hand, while Gu signalled for a heart. Yang duly did as requested, switching to a low heart, and Gu won the king and ace then played a third round to Apteker's queen. Apteker cashed the ace and king of clubs in hope of dropping a doubleton queen and, when that did not materialise, took the diamond finesse. When that was successful and the suit divided evenly, he had seven tricks for +90.

Lo too opened 1NT but he was doubled by Eber. Bosenberg led the five of spades, Eber winning the king. Now, however, Eber switched to a low heart. When Lo got that wrong by putting in the ten, he was fated to be down at least two, but something strange happened. Bosenberg returned the two of hearts and Eber won the king and ace. Rather than cash the fourth heart, however, Eber switched to a low diamond. Lo won the ace, led a club to the king, and a club back to the ten. Ace and a fourth club to the jack saw Eber discard a diamond, so that the queen hopped up when Lo next led the suit off the dummy. He had four diamond tricks in all and that meant an overtrick; eight tricks for +280 and 5 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Seligman v Black

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Seligman*	*McIntosh*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♢	1♡	1♠
3♡	4♠	5♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Black*	*Kwiecien*	*Gold*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♢	1♡	Dble
2♢	Dble	4♡	4♠
All Pass			

Hallberg made a pre-emptive heart raise and, looking at two extra cards in the suit, McIntosh went on to 5♡ over 4♠, in case one or other contract was making. Lesniewski led his singleton diamond against 5♡. McIntosh won in hand and cashed the ace of hearts then led his remaining diamond without cashing the second trump. That cost him a diamond ruff and a second undertrick; down two for –200.

Starkowski showed a good raise to 2♡ and now Kwiecien judged to defend 4♠. Gold won the trump lead and ruffed a heart, drew trumps, then took the club finesse. That lost, and there was one loser in each red suit, but that was all; 10 tricks for +620 and 9 IMPs to BLACK.

Amoils v Northern Lights

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Kolesnik*	*Bussink*	*DelMonte*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♢	1♡	Dble
3♡	Dble	4♡	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Amoils	*M Rimstedt*	*Carroll*	*Eriksson*
–	–	–	2♠
Pass	2NT	3♡	Pass
4♡	4♠	5♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

DelMonte passed as dealer then doubled to show spades and went on to 4♠ at his next turn after Kolesnik had made n extra-value double of the pre-emptive heart raise. Bussink wisely took the push to 5♡ and was allowed to play there undoubled. The lead was the singleton diamond, Bussink winning in hand and drawing trumps so just losing two spades and one club; –100.

Eriksson could open 2♠ to show five spades and a four-card or longer minor, and Mikael responded with a 2NT enquiry. Carroll's 3♡ overcall cut out Eriksson's rebid but it didn't matter as Mikael bid 4♠ anyway over the opposing 4♡. Carroll too went on to 5♡, but Mikael doubled on the way out and the usual lead and play led to the usual down one for –200 and 3 IMPs to NORTHERN LIGHTS.

Scorway v Harris

West	North	East	South
Harris	*Kvangraven*	*Malhasyan*	*Levinson*
–	–	–	2♠
Pass	4♠	5♡	Pass
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Isporski*	*Saur*	*Trendafilov*
–	–	–	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Levinson opened a weak 2♠ and was raised to game by Shenkin. When Malhasyan now overcalled 5♡, Shenkin took the push to 5♠. Levinson ruffed the heart lead on table and played the queen of diamonds. That was won by Harris, West, who returned a club. Levinson won the ace and led the jack of diamonds to the ace and ruff. He ruffed his remaining heart low, cashed the ace of spades, and played a winning diamond. When that was ruffed, Levinson had to over-ruff and cash the king of spades. He knew his fate when Malhasyan showed out on this trick. Levinson played a club to the king, then ruffed the ace of hearts return as Harris failed to unblock his king. When Harris ruffed Levinson's next club play, he could therefore cash only one heart winner before having to give the last trick to dummy's diamonds; down two for –200.

Levinson erred badly when he played the third diamond off the table. Had he instead knocked out the king of clubs, he could have ruffed the return, drawn trumps, and cashed the established clubs, making 11 tricks.

Trendafilov also opened with a weak two bid and Isporski raised to game. I have no doubt that Saur's pass with the East cards could often be the winning action (or inaction), but it would be more than I could manage to stay silent with a seven-card suit and fair values. Brekka led the jack of hearts so Trendafilov played simply, ruffing, drawing trumps, and giving up a club; 10 tricks for +620 and 13 IMPs to HARRIS.

OCBL NOVEMBER CUP - RESULTS

ROUND 4

Seligman	7.69 VPs 29 IMPs	12.31 VPs 36 IMPs	Black
Rippey	12.9 VPs 26 IMPs	7.1 VPs 17 IMPs	Flyfalcon
New Amateurs	7.1 VPs 26 IMPs	12.9 VPs 35 IMPs	Fredin
Amoils	6.03 VPs 17 IMPs	13.97 VPs 30 IMPs	Northern Lights
Scorway	4.63 VPs 18 IMPs	15.37 VPs 37 IMPs	Harris
Goodman	17.56 VPs 49 IMPs	2.44 VPs 18 IMPs	Sam
Netbridge	0.87 VPs 3 IMPs	19.13 VPs 46 IMPs	Friends

ROUND 5

Black	11.38 VPs 26 IMPs	8.62 VPs 22 IMPs	Rippey
Seligman	18 VPs 40 IMPs	2 VPs 6 IMPs	Flyfalcon
Fredin	4.42 VPs 15 IMPs	15.58 VPs 35 IMPs	Goodman
Harris	11.7 VPs 16 IMPs	8.3 VPs 11 IMPs	Northern Lights
New Amateurs	16.18 VPs 40 IMPs	3.82 VPs 17 IMPs	Amoils
Scorway	12.9 VPs 30 IMPs	7.1 VPs 21 IMPs	Netbridge
Friends	5.54 VPs 12 IMPs	14.46 VPs 27 IMPs	Sam

ROUND 6

Seligman	8.95 VPs 10 IMPs	11.05 VPs 13 IMPs	Rippey
Black	17.71 VPs 43 IMPs	2.29 VPs 11 IMPs	Goodman
New Amateurs	18.41 VPs 63 IMPs	1.59 VPs 26 IMPs	Harris
Northern Lights	19.83 VPs 57 IMPs	0.17 VPs 7 IMPs	Flyfalcon
Fredin	17.71 VPs 38 IMPs	2.29 VPs 6 IMPs	Scorway
Sam	12.01 VPs 15 IMPs	7.99 VPs 9 IMPs	Netbridge
Amoils	15.79 VPs 37 IMPs	4.21 VPs 16 IMPs	Friends

OCBL NOVEMBER CUP - RESULTS

BUTLER RANKING

1	L. Verhees, (loukie)	Flyfalcon	2.83	12
2	M. Rimstedt, (Mikaelrim)	Northern Lights	1.28	72
3	P. Wiankowski, (vifon_e)	Rippey	1.17	72
	P. Nawrocki, (nawrot)	Rippey	1.17	72
	M. Eriksson, (Magnus_E)	Northern Lights	1.17	48
6	A. Falk, (Allan Falk)	New Amateurs	1.04	48
	J. Lusky, (pachyderms)	New Amateurs	1.04	48
8	D. Yang, (hyang)	New Amateurs	1.02	48
	Gu Jiang, (Jiang_Gu)	New Amateurs	1.02	48
10	A. Zamir, (zamir1)	Amoils	0.97	36
	O. Toledano, (orentol)	Amoils	0.97	36
12	S. Hult, (hultahult)	Black	0.92	60
13	G. Hallberg, (rerack)	Black	0.89	72
14	A. Black, (boggis)	Black	0.85	72
	D. Gold, (dagold)	Black	0.85	72
16	M. Seligman, (mseligman)	Seligman	0.76	72
	M. Lesniewski, (lesniak)	Seligman	0.76	72
18	A. McIntosh, (mcintosh)	Black	0.75	12
19	W. Starkowski, (wstarkowsk)	Seligman	0.74	72
	M. Kwiecien, (michal1)	Seligman	0.74	72
21	T. Bakkeren, (Tbak)	Sam	0.68	72
	J. Van Lankveld, (ennaji)	Sam	0.68	72
23	T. Yang, (tcyang)	Friends	0.5	24
24	N. Eber, (eebs)	Fredin	0.45	60
	C. Bosenberg, (bosie1)	Fredin	0.45	60
26	T. Sprinkhuizen, (thibos)	Flyfalcon	0.42	24
27	J. Harris, (Jdache)	Harris	0.33	36
	E. Malhasyan, (master DJ)	Harris	0.33	36
29	O. Rimstedt, (olarim)	Northern Lights	0.18	72
30	J. Stansby, (jumpshift)	Rippey	0.17	24
	L. Stansby, (lew2)	Rippey	0.17	24
32	K. Dwyer, (kdwyer)	Goodman	0.1	72
	A. Goodman, (agoodman1)	Goodman	0.1	72
34	P. Fredin, (P_Fredin)	Fredin	0.01	72
	A. Apteker, (alonap)	Fredin	0.01	72
36	M. Rippey, (radiators)	Rippey	0	48
	I. Gronkvist, (Halko)	Flyfalcon	0	48
	M. Gronkvist, (Mike_G)	Flyfalcon	0	48
	K. Nowak, (kamiln)	Rippey	0	48
40	G. Brekka, (kaninen)	Scorway	-0.04	72
	O. Saur, (Saurdino)	Scorway	-0.04	72
42	M. Gold, (marusab)	Harris	-0.06	36
	T. Tiholov, (polborta)	Harris	-0.06	36
44	V. Isporski, (smileyv)	Harris	-0.08	36
	R. Trendafilov, (rumen)	Harris	-0.08	36
46	J. Van Den Hoek, (janonline)	Netbridge	-0.15	48
	A. Bremer, (arisbreem)	Netbridge	-0.15	48
48	J. Sylvan, (JoppeSyl)	Fredin	-0.25	12
	M. Gustawsson, (Lagom)	Fredin	-0.25	12
50	C. Compton, (compton)	Goodman	-0.29	72
	S. Kennedy, (Kenprop)	Goodman	-0.29	72
52	L. Tijssen, (luctijs)	Flyfalcon	-0.33	12
	V. Kiljan, (Vkill)	Flyfalcon	-0.33	12
54	T. Hanlon, (kinder1)	Amoils	-0.35	48
55	Y. Han, (ynh)	Friends	-0.38	48
56	F. Kolesnik, (fkolesnik)	Amoils	-0.5	48
	I. Xin, (jq_sos)	Friends	-0.5	24
	I. Delmonte, (ishd)	Amoils	-0.5	48
59	B. Bussink, (bart3)	Northern Lights	-0.51	72
60	S. Levinson, (sc0tsteve)	Scorway	-0.53	60
61	M. Sheng, (Kainsheng)	Friends	-0.54	48
62	W. Huang, (wshuang)	Friends	-0.58	24
	M. Thuillez, (Thildou)	Northern Lights	-0.58	24
64	L. Amoils, (amoils)	Amoils	-0.63	60
65	N. Kvangraven, (Nils123)	Scorway	-0.67	48
	A. Lo, (aitail)	New Amateurs	-0.67	48
	F. Baseggio, (baseggio)	New Amateurs	-0.67	48
68	M. Huber , (marijnhu)	Netbridge	-0.75	12
	M. van der Starre , (martin001)	Netbridge	-0.75	12
70	W. Yan, (wy7199)	Friends	-0.79	48
	E. Xu, (edward3048)	Friends	-0.79	48
72	S. Root, (AsNuttyAs)	Harris	-0.81	36
	N. Igoe, (ibraves)	Harris	-0.81	36
74	B. Shenkin, (Barnets)	Scorway	-0.96	24
75	A. Wilson, (flyfalcon)	Flyfalcon	-1.13	60
	R. Van Prooijen, (riccovp)	Flyfalcon	-1.13	60
77	W. Mou, (wmou)	Friends	-1.25	24
78	B. Keller, (brenkell)	Sam	-1.29	24
79	B. Ferguson, (bruceferg)	Sam	-1.32	72
80	J. Nadel, (juliejoy)	Sam	-1.33	48
81	K. Bouwen, (kebosporto)	Netbridge	-1.6	48
	Tom Drijver, (tdrijverrr)	Netbridge	-1.6	48
83	J. Carroll, (coppers)	Amoils	-1.75	12
84	Bob Drijver, (bobdrijver)	Netbridge	-1.78	36
	M. Verhaegen, (Marcel_ve)	Netbridge	-1.78	36
86	H. Stornes, (helsto)	Scorway	-1.92	12
87	G. Mendes de Leon, (guymdl)	Flyfalcon	-2	12

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