World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

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SELIGMAN WIN THE OCBL NOVEMBER CUP!

Martin Seligman

Marcin Lesniewski

Michal Kwiecien

Wlodzimierz Starkowski

Jacek Kalita

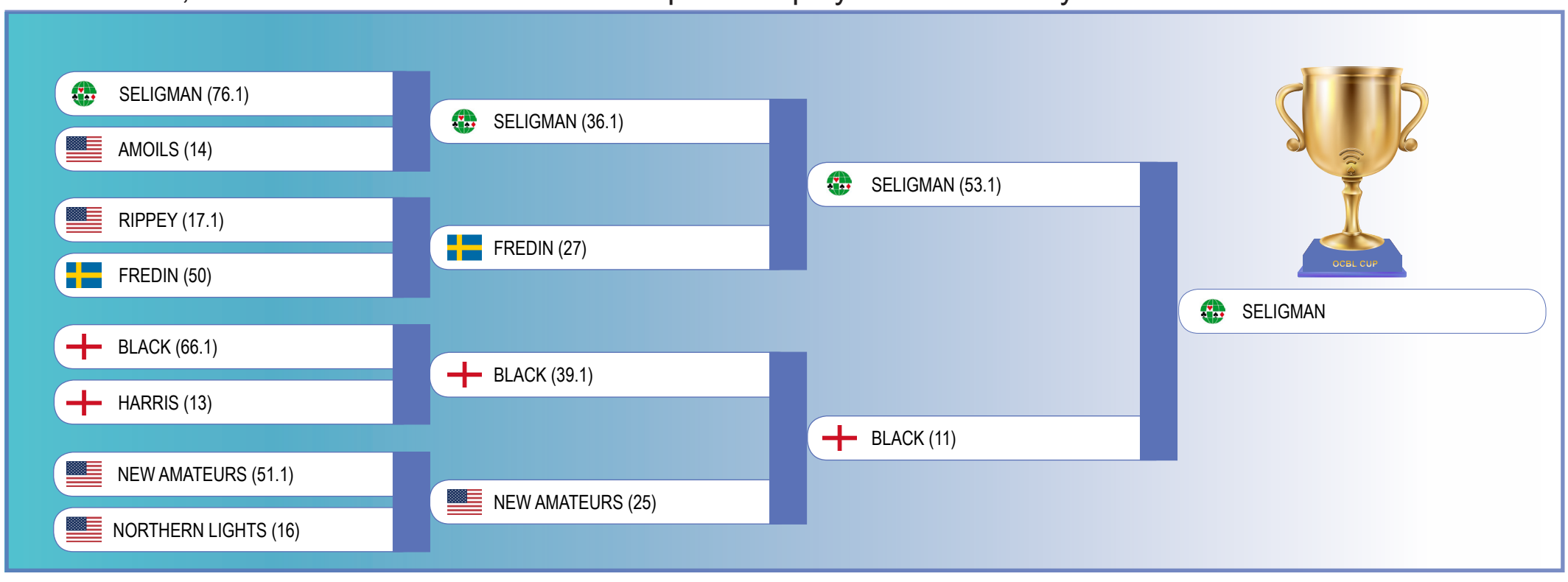
Michal Nowosadzki

Team **Seligman** (Seligman M., Lesniewski M., Kwiecien M., Starkowski W., Kalita J., Nowosadzki M.) won the OCBL November Cup!
In the final they faced team **Black** (Black A., Gold D., McIntosh A., Paske T., Hult S., Hallberg G.).
The match ended 53.1 - 11 IMPs for Seligman.

The third place is shared between the opponents of the Seligman and Black in the Semifinals:
Fredin (Fredin P., Apteker A., Gustawsson M., Sylvan J., Morath A., Eber N., Bosenberg C.) and
New Amateurs (Lo A., Chechelashvili D., Jiang Gu, Baseggio F., Falk A., Yang D., Lusky J., Kolesnik A.).

We wish to thank all the teams who took part to this event.
We are looking forward to welcome you to the next OCBL event: the OCBL December Cup, to be held from December 20 to December 23 on BBO. Registration are open: https://ocbl.org/registration/

Meanwhile, the final of the OCBL October Cup will be played next Monday.



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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/

OCBL NOVEMBER CUP - RESULTS

QUARTERFINALS

Seligman (+8.1) 68 IMPs TOTAL: 76.1 — 14 IMPs TOTAL: 14 **Amoils**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: M. Seligman	E: M. Kwiecien	E: T. Hanlon	N: A. Zamir
S: M. Lesniewski	W: W. Starkowski	W: L. Amoils	S: O. Toledano

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=82011-1636037997

Rippey (+1.1) 16 IMPs TOTAL: 17.1 — 50 IMPs TOTAL: 50 **Fredin**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: K. Nowak	E: P. Nawrocki	E: A. Apteker	N: N. Eber
S: M. Rippey	W: P. Wiankowski	W: P. Fredin	S: C. Bösenberg

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=82006-1636037982

Black (+6.1) 60 IMPs TOTAL: 66.1 — 13 IMPs TOTAL: 13 **Harris**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: A. Black	E: A. McIntosh	E: J. Harris	N: T. Tiholov
S: D. Gold	W: T. Paske	W: E. Malhasyan	S: S. Root

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=82004-1636037980

New Amateurs (+3.1) 48 IMPs TOTAL: 51.1 — 16 IMPs TOTAL: 16 **Northern Lights**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: F. Baseggio	E: J. Lusky	E: B. Bussink	N: M. Rimstedt
S: Ai-Tai Lo	W: A. Falk	W: O. Rimstedt	S: M. Eriksson

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=82013-1636038000

SEMIFINALS

Seligman (+0.1) 36 IMPs TOTAL: 36.1 — 27 IMPs TOTAL: 27 **Fredin**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: M. Seligman	E: M. Kwiecien	E: A. Apteker	N: N. Eber
S: M. Lesniewski	W: W. Starkowski	W: P. Fredin	S: C. Bösenberg

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=82689-1636046900

Black (+0.1) 39 IMPs TOTAL: 39.1 — 25 IMPs TOTAL: 25 **New Amateurs**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: G. Hallberg	E: A. Black	E: Ai-Tai Lo	N: D. Yang
S: S. Hult	W: D. Gold	W: F. Baseggio	S: Jiang Gu

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=82690-1636046906

FINAL

Seligman (+0.1) 53 IMPs TOTAL: 53.1 — 11 IMPs TOTAL: **Black**

OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM	OPEN ROOM	CLOSED ROOM
N: M. Seligman	E: M. Kwiecien	E: A. Black	N: G. Hallberg
S: M. Lesniewski	W: W. Starkowski	W: D. Gold	S: S. Hult

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=83593-1636055988

Rounds 8 & 9

by Brian Senior

Round 8

This borderline slam created major swings in a number of matches.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Harris v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Huber	*Tiholov*	*V D Starre*	*M Gold*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	2♢	Pass	3♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Isporski	*V D Hoek*	*Trendafilov*	*Bremer*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♢	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♢	Pass	3♢
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Marusa Gold opened 1♢ and Tiholov made an inverted raise. The 3♢ rebid showed a minimum and Tiholov settled for the NT game. After a club lead round to his jack, he played diamonds from the top so had 11 tricks for +460.

Bremer opened 1♣ and rebid 1NT. Two Diamonds was game-forcing and Bremer showed his diamond support. Van Den Hoek now drove to the NT slam. Isporski led a club, but here that was through the ace-jack so gave nothing away. The seven forced the king and Bremer too played diamonds from the top. He was down two for –100 and 11 IMPs to HARRIS.

New Amateurs v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Levinson	*Baseggio*	*Shenkin*	*Lo*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♡
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Yang	*Kvangraven*	*Gu*	*Brekka*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Lo and Baseggio followed an inverted raise sequence in which Baseggio probed and finally made an invitational raise to 4NT. Lo had a near minimum so declined the invitation. He won the club lead with the king and cashed the ace and king of diamonds; 10 tricks for +430.

Brekka opened 1NT, 11-13. Kvangraven used Stayman then an artificial game-force, the answer to which told him that Brekka was three-four in the majors. He now invited slam and Brekka accepted. Yang's club lead went to the jack, queen and king. Brekka had no reason to get the diamonds right so, like our previous declarers, cashed the ace and king. When the queen failed to put in an appearance, Brekka continued with a third diamond and Yang won that and returned the ten of clubs to dummy's ace. Brekka led the jack of hearts and ran it, losing to the queen. Yang played another club and, though Gu had discarded one on the diamonds, he still had two winners in the suit. When he cashed the clubs and switched to a spade, Brekka put in the queen and lost to the king. The hand had fallen apart on declarer, who was down four for –200 and 12 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

Seligman v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Seligman*	*Apteker*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	2♢	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♢
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Morath*	*Kwiecien*	*Sylvan*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♢	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Sylvan opened 1♣, rebid 1NT, and was raised to 3NT by Morath. After a spade lead to the jack and queen, Morath played diamonds from the top but had time to set up both the long diamonds and an extra heart trick, making 11 in all for +460.

Seligman started with an inverted raise then jumped to 4♡, key-card for diamonds. Lesniewski showed one key card then denied the queen of trumps, and Seligman put him in the diamond slam. Fredin led the five of spades, which did Lesniewski no harm at all. He won Apteker's jack with the queen and cashed the top diamonds. No joy there, but Lesniewski continued by playing three rounds of hearts, ruffing out the queen. A spade to the ace was followed by the winning ten of hearts for a spade discard, and Lesniewski had 12 tricks for +920 and 10 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Rippey v Northern Lights

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Nowak*	*Bussink*	*Rippey*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♢	Pass	4♡
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*M Rimstedt*	*Nawrocki*	*Eriksson*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♢	Pass	1NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♢
All Pass			

Nowak made an inverted raise, explored with 3♣, then used Key-card. On finding his partner with one key-card, he bid the diamond slam. Ola led the two of hearts, which presented Rippey with four heart tricks when he put in the jack. Like everyone else, Rippey played diamonds from the top, but he had two heart discards for dummy's losing spades, so 12 easy tricks for +920.

Eriksson opened a potentially short club then rebid 1NT and Mikael invited slam. Eriksson accepted, but chose diamonds rather than NT – a wise choice, as we have seen. Nawrocki led the six of hearts to the three, nine and jack. Mikael cashed the top diamonds then the ace of hearts, before eliminating the clubs and exiting with a diamond. As long as Wiankowski had at most three clubs, this would endplay him to give the contract even if the ♡Q was not coming down. Wiankowski returned the ♡ Q and Mikael had his slam; +920 and a flat board.

Four pairs bid and made 6♢ and we have seen two bid 6NT and go down. The rest all played in either 3NT or 4NT and made between ten and 12 tricks.

Round 9

Round 9 began with this lively deal.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Seligman v Sam

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Seligman*	*Bakkeren*	*Lesniewski*
–	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♣	2♡	2♠	3♡
3NT	4♡	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Nadel*	*Kwiecien*	*Ferguson*
–	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♣	2♡	2♠	Pass
2NT	3♡	3NT	All Pass

Both Norths rebid 2♡ on their shapely hands and both easts cuebid to show a constructive club raise. Now Lesniewski competed with 3♡, making it easy for Seligman to go on to 4♡ over

the opposing 3NT. Bakkern doubled 4♡, only to find that he couldn't beat it. He led the queen of clubs, which Seligman ruffed. Seligman conceded a spade, Van Lankveld winning the king and returning a heart, Seligman putting in the ten and losing to the queen. Back came a second heart, but Seligamn could win that and knock out the ace of diamonds, and the even diamond split meant that he had 10 tricks for +590.

Ferguson did not support hearts in the other room, and stayed silent after Nadel bid her hearts for a second time at the three level. Nadel led out the ace and king of hearts against 3NT. That should have defeated the contract but, unfortunately, she continued with the ten, and that blocked the suit so that the defence could not get at her fifth heart. After winning the fourth heart, Ferguson switched to a club, and Starkowski had the rest; +400 and 14 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Northern Lights v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Falk	*M Rimstedt*	*Lusky*	*Thuillez*
–	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♣	2♡	2♠	3♡
Pass	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	4♡	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Baseggio*	*Bussink*	*Lo*
–	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	4♡	Pass	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Mikael bid his hearts and caught a raise from Thuillez. However, he was willing to stop in partcsore until Lusky competed to 4♣, and only now went on to 4♡, where he was doubled. Mikael ruffed the club lead and gave up a spade. He ruffed the club return and played the king of diamonds and, when that was ducked, a second diamond to the ace. When he was forced for a third time with a club, Mikael accepted the force then cashed the ace and king of hearts. The even splits in both red suits meant that he had 11 tricks for +690.

Bussink created a different situation by upgrading the East hand to a 1NT overcall due to the excellent spade holding. Ola raised that to game but this was not sufficient to shut out Baseggio's hearts. When 4♡ came round to Ola he was far from confident of beating it and bid 5♣, which ended the auction. Baseggio cashed the top hearts then switched to a spade. Though Ola could take one diamond pitch on the third spade, that still left him with one late diamond loser and the contract was down one for –50 but 12 IMPs to NORTHERN LIGHTS.

Fredin v Friends

West	North	East	South
Yan	*Eber*	*Xu*	*Bosenberg*
–	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♣	2♡	2♠	3♡
Pass	4♡	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Mou*	*Apteker*	*Han*
–	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♣	2♡	2♠	3♡
3NT	All Pass		

Eber showed his heart suit, Xu showed a constructive club raise, and Bosenberg competed in hearts. Yan passed now but Eber went on to the heart game and Xu wisely went on to 5♣, which was doubled by Bosenberg. Eber took the top hearts then switched to a spade, and the late diamond loser meant that Yan was down one for –100.

After the same start as at the other table, Fredin bid 3NT on the West cards, something of a gamble in face of hearts being bid and supported by his opponents. Mou did not go on to 4♡, so Fredin's 3NT bought the contract. Mou cashed the ace and king of hearts then continued with a low heart to untangle the suit, and the defence had the first five tricks; down one for –50 but 2 IMPs to Fredin.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Fredin v Friends

West	North	East	South
Yan	*Eber*	*Xu*	*Bosenberg*
–	–	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Mou*	*Apteker*	*Han*
–	–	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Both E/W pairs bid to the spade game, but played it from opposite sides of the table.

Xu received the lead of the king of clubs to the two, jack and ace. He took the spade finesse at trick two, which looks premature to me, and the jack lost to the queen. Eber played back the six of clubs to his partner's queen, and Bosenberg continued with another club, ruffed by declarer. Xu led a heart to the jack and ace and a fourth club was ruffed with the nine and over-ruffed with the ten. The queen of hearts was won by the king but there was a heart to be lost at the end so the contract was down two for –200.

Mou led the jack of clubs and Fredin ducked, Han overtaking with the queen and returning a spade. Fredin won the ace, cashed the ace of clubs, and led a heart to the jack and ace. Back came a diamond. Fredin won the ace and led a spade to the king. The fall of the queen was good news, but there was still work to be done. Fredin ruffed a club then cashed the king of diamonds, discarding his last club. That was important, because had he tried to ruff the club in dummy it would have been over-ruffed and there would still have been a heart to lose at the end. Now, however, Fredin led a heart to his seven, losing to the nine but, crucially, to the hand that could not play a third round of trumps. Fredin ruffed the diamond return, cashed the king of hearts, and ruffed his last heart in dummy. The jack of spades was Fredin's tenth trick for a very well played +620 and 13 IMPs to FREDIN.

Eleven people declared 4♠, with Fredin the only one to find the winning line.

Quarterfinals, Semifinals, Final

by Brian Senior

Quarterfinals

SELIGMAN had topped the qualifying rankings and would go into their 16-board quarter-final against AMOILS with an 8.1 IMP carry-over advantage. BLACK had a 6.1 IMP carry-over against HARRIS, NEW AMATEURS a 3.1 IMP carry-over against NORTHERN LIGHTS, and RIPPEY 1.1 IMPS against FREDIN.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Black v Harris

West	North	East	South
Malhasyan	*Black*	*Harris*	*Gold*
–	–	–	Pass
1◇	2♠	5◇	Pass
6◇	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Tiholov*	*McIntosh*	*Root*
–	–	–	Pass
1◇	3♠	5◇	Pass
6◇	All Pass		

Black overcalled 2♠ and, when Harris jumped to 5◇, Malhasyan went on to the small slam. Black cashed the ace of spades then continued with the ten. Malhasyan covered with the jack, which scored. He ruffed dummy's last spade, drew trumps, and cashed the ace of clubs. Running the trumps now squeezed Gold to produce the twelfth trick; +1370.

Tiholov overcalled 3♠ and McIntosh jumped to 5◇. Paske raised to Six and Tiholov cahed the ace of spades then switched to the ten of hearts round to the ace-king-jack. That meant that Paske had 12 tricks without needing to find the squeeze. He simple ruffed two spades in hand and claimed 12 tricks for +1370 and no swing.

Fredin v Rippey

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Nowak*	*Apteker*	*Rippey*
–	–	–	Pass
1◇	2♠	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	5◇	Pass
6◇	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*Eber*	*Nawrocki*	*Bosenberg*
–	–	–	Pass
1◇	2♠	4◇	Pass
5◇	All Pass		

Nowak overcalled 2♠. Apteker cuebid 3♣, good diamond raise. That was all Fredin needed to see, and he cuebid then jumped to the diamond slam. Nowak led the ten of hearts. Fredin won the jack, drew trumps, and took two spade ruffs; +1370.

Eber also overcalled 2♠. Nawrocki jumped to 4◇, but that didn't sound so strong to Wiankowski, who simply raised himself to game. Again the lead was the ten of hearts so there were 12 easy tricks; +620 but 13 IMPs to FREDIN.

Amoils v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Amoils	*Seligman*	*Hanlon*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	–	Pass
1◇	2♠	3◇	4♠
Dble	Pass	5◇	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Zamir*	*Kwiecien*	*Toledano*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	6◇	All Pass

Seligman overcalled 2♠ and Hanlon competed with 3◇. When Lesniewski raised to 4♠, Amoils doubled to show his extras and Hanlon responded 5◇, ending the auction. Seligman cashed the ace of spades then switched to the jack of clubs to the queen, king and ace. Two spade ruffs brought the total to 12 tricks now; +620.

Zamir pre-empted a level higher, which was too much for Kwiecien, facing a possible weak NT type, who passed. However, when Toledano raised to 4♠ and Starkowski doubled, Kwicien reassessed his hand and jumped to 6◇. Lo led a spade to the king and ace and Zamir attempted to cash the queen of spades. That was ruffed and Kwiecien drew trumps, cashed the ◇J and ♣A, then ran the trumps. On the last trump, Lo discarded the king of clubs to keep his heart guard, so Kwiecien cashed the ♣Q and claimed 12 tricks; +1370 and 13 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

New Amateurs v Northern Lights

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Baseggio*	*Bussink*	*Lo*
–	–	–	2♡
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Falk	*M Rimstedt*	*Lusky*	*Eriksson*
–	–	–	2♡
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

Looking only at the two auctions in the fourth quarter-final you would have thought they were playing a different board.

Lo opened a weak 2♡ with the South cards and Ola overcalled 3NT and played there. Baseggio led the queen of spades, losing to the bare king. Ola cashed all the diamonds, coming down to four hearts and two clubs in hand. Lo also kept four hearts and two clubs. Ola took the heart finesse and played three more rounds of hearts. Lo won the fourth heart but had then to lead away from the king of clubs to give a twelefth trick; +690.

Eriksson also opened 2♡, in his case showing five hearts and a four-card or longer minor. Falk chose to pass, hoping for an opportunity to defend doubled. However, Mikael responded 2♠, constructive in principle, and Eriksson raised to 3♠. Now Falk could have doubled for take-out, but he judged that his side were unlikely to have anything on and passed. Three Spades became the final contract and drifted a couple off for –100 but a great result for N/S. NORTHERN LIGHTS picked up 11 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Black v Harris

West	North	East	South
Malhasyan	*Hallberg*	*Harris*	*Hult*
–	–	1♠	Pass
4♠	5♡	5♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Tiholov*	*McIntosh*	*Root*
–	–	1♠	Pass
4♠	5♡	Dble	All Pass

Both Wests raised to 4♠ and both Norths overcalled 5♡.

McIntosh doubled and led a spade. Tiholov ruffed the ace and laid down the ace of hearts. The fall of the king was good news and he continued by drawing the outstanding trumps then played the king of clubs. McIntosh won the ace, cashed the queen, and cashed the ace of diamonds, so the contract was down one for –200.

Harris took the push to 5♠ over 5♡. Hult led a heart to Hallberg's ace and Hallberg switched to the jack of diamonds. To have any chance of making his contract, Harris had to play the queen now, but he was sacred of conceding a ruff when trumps were splitting all along and went up with the ace. He played a spade, discovering that he had a loser in that suit, and the king of diamonds proved to be the setting trick; down one for –100 and 7 IMPs to BLACK.

New Amateurs v Northern Lights

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Baseggio*	*Bussink*	*Lo*
Falk	*M Rimstedt*	*Lusky*	*Eriksson*
–	–	1♠	Pass
4♠	5♡	Dble	All Pass

Both tables saw what we might refer to as

the 'normal' auction in this match, and it was a flat board at –200.

Amoils v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Kolesnik	*Seligman*	*DelMonte*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♡	3♡	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Zamir*	*Kwiecien*	*Toledano*
–	–	1♠	Pass
4♠	5♡	Dble	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

DelMonte opened with an off-centre 1NT and must have been charmed to see his partner transfer to spades. Seligman contented himself with a simple 3♡ overcall, and DelMonte jumped to 4, where he was left to play, making 11 tricks for +650.

Starkowski raised the 1♠ opening to game and Zamir overcalled 5♡. Kwiecien doubled that, but Starkowski over-ruled him due to his exceptional spade length, and bid 5♠. Looking a a sure trump trick, Toledano doubled, only to find that his partner's kings were bot finessable, and that there were only two defensive tricks to be had; just made for +850 and 5 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Fredin v Rippey

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Nowak*	*Apteker*	*Rippey*
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	4♡	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*Eber*	*Nawrocki*	*Bosenberg*
–	–	1♠	Pass
4♠	5♡	Dble	All Pass

Wiankowski raised to 4♠ and Eber overcalled 5♡. Nawrocki doubled that, ending the auction. He led a spade to the queen, ace and ruff, and Eber laid down the ace of hearts, getting the good news. He drew the remaining trumps then played the king of clubs. Nawrocki won the ace and tried a low diamond. That was won in dummy and a diamond discard taken on the king of spades. There was one trick in each minor to lose from here, so Eber was down one for –200.

Not for the first time in his bridge career, Fredin was the hero of this board. He tried a psychic 1NT response to 1♠. This was semi-forcing as per their methods, and the deal worked out perfectly for Fredin. Nowak overcalled 4♡ and Apteker had enough to double for take-out. That meant that Fredin's 4♠ did not expose his psyche, being merely a response to a take-out double. Nowak had made his bid when he overcalled 4♡, and had no reason to bid again. Apteker was therefore left to declarer 4♠, which he made exactly for +620 and 9 IMPs to FREDIN.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Black v Harris

West	North	East	South
Malhasyan	*Hallberg*	*Harris*	*Hult*
2♢	Pass	2♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Tiholov*	*McIntosh*	*Root*
1♢	Pass	1♠	Dble
2♢	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♢	Pass	6♢	All Pass

Malhasyan opened a weak two bid and Harris bid a constructive but non-forcing 2♠. Though Malhasyan held a maximum, he had no great spade fit and judged to pass. Harris, who might have just asked for key cards, found himself playing in partscore when slam was huge on the E/W cards. Harris played the hand with the attention worthy of such a partscore and made only 10 tricks for +170.

Paske opened at the one level then rebid his long suit. When McIntosh splintered in support of diamonds, Paske signed off in game, but McIntosh went on to slam anyway; +1370 and 15 IMPs to BLACK. This swing helped BLACK to a 53-5 IMP victory.

Fredin v Rippey

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Nowak*	*Apteker*	*Rippey*
Pass	Pass	1♠	2♡
3♢	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠	Pass	6♢	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*Eber*	*Nawrocki*	*Bosenberg*
3♢	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♢	All Pass

Fredin did not open the West hand. Apteker opened 1♠ in third seat and Rippey overcalled 2♡. Fredin showed his diamonds, and Apteker asked with 3♡, was told about spade tolerance, and blasted the small slam; +1370.

Wiankowski opened 3♢ and Nawrocki asked for key cards, found his partner with one, and bid the small slam; +1370 and no swing.

FREDIN won by 50-17.1.

New Amateurs v Northern Lights

West	North	East	South
O Rimstedt	*Baseggio*	*Bussink*	*Lo*
1♢	Pass	1♠	Dble
2♢	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♢	Pass	6♢	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Falk	*M Rimstedt*	*Lusky*	*Eriksson*
2♢	Pass	4♣	Dble
4♢	Pass	6♢	All Pass

Ola opened at the one level, rebid his suit, then signed off in game when Bussink splintered. Bussink, however, had been exploring in case there was a grand slam. He went on to 6♢ and that was an easy +1370.

Falk opened 2♢ and Lusky responded 4♣, modified key-card. The response showed one key-card plus the queen of trumps, and Lusky bid the small slam; +1370 and a flat board.

NEW AMATEURS won by 51.1-16.

Amoils v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Kolesnik	*Seligman*	*DelMonte*	*Lesniewski*
2♢	Pass	2♠	Dble
Pass	3♣	4♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Zamir*	*Kwiecien*	*Toledano*
1♢	Pass	1♠	2♡
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♢	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♢	Pass
5♢	Pass	6♢	Dble
All Pass			

Fredin v Rippey

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Nowak*	*Apteker*	*Rippey*
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	4♡	Dble	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*Eber*	*Nawrocki*	*Bosenberg*
–	–	1♠	Pass
4♠	5♡	Dble	All Pass

Wiankowski raised to 4♠ and Eber overcalled 5♡. Nawrocki doubled that, ending the auction. He led a spade to the queen, ace and ruff, and Eber laid down the ace of hearts, getting the good news. He drew the remaining trumps then played the king of clubs. Nawrocki won the ace and tried a low diamond. That was won in dummy and a diamond discard taken on the king of spades. There was one trick in each minor to lose from here, so Eber was down one for –200.

Fredin tried a psychic 1NT response to 1♠. This was semi-forcing as per their methods, and the deal worked out perfectly for Fredin. Nowak overcalled 4♡ and Apteker had enough to double for take-out. That meant that Fredin's 4♠ did not expose his psyche, being merely a response to a take-out double. Nowak had made his bid when he overcalled 4♡, and had no reason to bid again. Apteker was therefore left to declarer 4♠, which he made exactly for +620 and 9 IMPs to FREDIN.

Kolesnik opened 2♢ and DelMonte responded 2♠. That was presumably forcing as his next call was 4♣. Kolesnik now signed off in 4♠ and that ended the auction. Lesniewski led the king of clubs then switched to the three of hearts. DelMonte ducked the queen, won the heart continuation and ruffed his last heart. The eventrump split meant that he had the rest for +650.

Ola Rimstedt

Starkowski opened at the one level. Kwiecien responded 1♠, made a take-out double of the 2♡ overcall, then cuebid, set trumps, and finally raised Starkowski's 5♢ sign-off to Six. What there was about this auction to convince Toledano to double I have no idea, but there were the usual 12 quick tricks but for +1540 and 13 IMPs to SELIGMAN. They were through by 76.1-14.

All four quarter-finals were won by a very comfortable margin. We would hope for more excitement in the semi-finals.

Semifinals

The semi-finals would see SELIGMAN face FREDIN, and BLACK face NEW AMATEURS, with SELIGMAN and BLACK having the 0.1 IMP tie-breaker to avoid any possibility of extra boards being required.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Seligman v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Seligman*	*Apteker*	*Lesniewski*
–	Pass	Pass	3♣
Dble	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♡	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Eber*	*Kwiecien*	*Bosenberg*
–	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Both Souths opened 3♣ in third seat. Starkowski let that go with the West cards so Bosenberg played there. Fredin doubled 3♣ and got to 4♡, where he was doubled by Lesniewski.

Starkowski led the ace of diamonds against 3♣. Bosenberg ruffed and led a low heart to the ten and king. He won the club switch, took the spade finesse, and cashed the ace of spades and queen of hearts. A diamond ruff put him in hand to take a spade pitch on the ace of hearts, and now he could ruff his last spade and just concede one trump trick; 11 tricks for +150.

Seligman led a club against 4♡ doubled, Lesniewski winning the ace and returning a suit-preference two. Fredin had to win on table and, desperate to get trumps drawn, tried a low heart off the table to the jack and queen. Back came a diamond, ruffed by Lesniewski, and there were two spades and the ace of hearts to come, so the contract was down three for –500 and 8 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Black v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Baseggio	*Hallberg*	*Lo*	*Hult*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Dble	1♢	2♣	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Yang*	*McIntosh*	*Gu*
–	Pass	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

Gu opened 3♣ in third seat and was left to play there. Paske led a top diamond and Gu played as we saw from Boseneberg, also coming to 11 tricks for +150.

Hult opened a potentially short club then stayed silent as his opponents showed close to game values. They stopped in 2♠, played by Lo (East). Hult led ace then two of clubs to Lo's king. Lo ran the jack of spades, losing to the queen, and Hallberg returned the nine of diamonds for Hult to ruff. Hult cashed the ace of hearts then led a club. Hallberg ruffed with the ace and gave his partner a second diamond ruff to defeat the contract by a trick; –50 but 3 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

All four N/S pairs bid quickly to 3NT, played by South.

Paske led the seven of hearts against Gu, who won the queen with the ace and played ace then jack of diamonds. McIntosh ducked the king, falsecarding with the ten on the second round. Gu led a spade to the king followed by a low diamond. McIntosh won the eight and Paske, unfortunately, discarded his low spade. McIntosh returned the nine of hearts to declarer's jack, and Gu exited with king and a fourth heart, McIntosh discarding a spade. Paske led a low club to the ace and ten, and Gu played a spade to the queen and ace. Gu had only the ♣A from here so was a trick short; eight tricks for –50.

Baseggio led the three of spades to the four, jack and five. Lo continued with a low spade to the ace and king, and Baseggio led his third spade to Lo's queen. Lo played the fourth spade to declarer's ten. Hult played ace and jack of diamonds, and Lo won the king and returned a heart. Hult put in the jack, which held the trick. He cashed the king and ace of clubs, then the queen of diamonds. As Baseggio had discarded a diamond on the fourth spade, then a heart on the second diamond, the remaining hearts were now two-two and Hult therefore had nine tricks for +400 and 10 IMPs to BLACK.

Starkowski led the seven of hearts to the queen and ace. Bosenberg played ace then jack of diamonds, and Kwiecien ducked. Bosenberg next led a low club to the six and ten, won the heart return, and led a spade to the king. When that scored, he came to hand with the king of clubs, cashed the jack of hearts, and led his last club to dummy's nine. The ♣A was the ninth trick; +400.

Fredin led the nine of diamonds against Lesniewski, who won the jack and immediately ducked a club to Apteker's ten. Back came the nine of hearts. Lesniewski put in the jack and led a spade to the ace and, when that won, a second spade to the ten and ace. Fredin returned a diamond to the ace, and Lesniewski cashed the ace and king of hearts, then played king of clubs and a club to the nine. The ace of clubs made nine for +400 and a push board.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Black v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Hallberg*	*Lusky*	*Hult*
–	1♢	Pass	1♡
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Yang*	*Black*	*Gu*
–	1♢	Pass	1♡
Pass	2♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Having found the heart fit, Gu simply jumped to 4♡, while Hult used a 2♠ relay to discover that his partner had a maximum with four-card support.

Gold led the two of hearts, Black winning the ace and returning his remaining heart. Gu won in dummy and took the spade finesse, losing to the king. Gold returned his third heart, won in dummy. Gu cashed the jack of spades then ducked a diamond, Black going in with the king. Black returned his remaining diamond, having pitched one on the third round of trumps, so Gu won the now bare ace and took a club pitch on the ace of spades. He played a club to the ace and ruffed a diamond, but there was no good news there and he had to concede a black trick of his choice at the end; down one for –50.

Falk led the queen of diamonds, which Hult ducked. Falk switched to the queen of clubs, Hult winning on table and running the queen of spades. That lost to the king and Falk continued the club attack, leading the jack. Hult won his king and took a club discard on the ace of spades. He cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed the losing club, and ruffed a diamond in hand. The defence could only come to the ace of hearts from here so Hult was home with 10 tricks for +420 and 10 IMPs to BLACK. Gold's trump leads in the other room had been the killer.

Seligman v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Seligman*	*Apteker*	*Lesniewski*
–	1♢	Pass	1♡
Pass	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Eber*	*Kwiecien*	*Bosenberg*
–	1♢	Pass	1♡
Pass	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♡	All Pass	

Both Souths relayed and both Norths showed a minimum with four hearts. Lesniewski went on to game, Bosenberg settled for partscore.

Both sets of defenders led trumps and, held to only four trump tricks, both declarers came to nine tricks. That meant –50 for Lesniewski but +140 for Bosenberg, and 5 IMPs to FREDIN.

SELIGMAN needed a modest swing on the final board if they were to get through to the

final, while BL:ACK looked to be safe in the other match, short of a slam swing.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

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

Seligman v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Seligman*	*Apteker*	*Lesniewski*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Dble	3♡	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Eber*	*Kwiecien*	*Bosenberg*
Pass	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Fredin's brave lead-directing double duly attracted a low club lead from Apteker, the nine forcing the ace. Seligman thought for a long time before leading to trick two, then he cashed the king of diamonds and would have been pleased to see Fredin signalling with the ten, so that he could lead low to the nine. Seligman played a spade next and Fredin split his honours. When Seligman won the ace and continued with the jack, Fredin ducked, but was then forced to win the third spade. He returned a low club to Apteker's queen and a club back picked up two more club tricks. Finally, Fredin led a heart through, but Seligman could win the ace across to dummy with a diamond to cash the rest of the tricks; +400.

Eber opened 1♡ and rebid 2NT, raised to game by Bosenberg. Kwiecien led the seven of diamonds to the nine, ten and king. Eber led the jack of spades from hand, losing to the queen, and back came a diamond, won in hand with the jack. Eber played ace and another spade to the king, and Starkowski won the king and returned a low club. Eber won the ace, cashed the diamond and spade winners, then took the heart finesse for his contract. It lost, and the defence took three club winners; down two for –100 and 11 IMPs to SELIGMAN, who won by 9 IMPs, 36.1-27.

Black v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Hallberg*	*Lusky*	*Hult*
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♢
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Yang*	*Black*	*Gu*
Pass	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Yang's 2♣ rebid was either natural or any 17+ hand. Two Diamonds showed 7+ and 2♠ the 17+ type with three-card spade support. The artificial methods had got the normal contract played the unusual way up – would it matter? Gold led the five of clubs to the two and queen, and Black continued with a second club to dummy's ace. Gu played the jack of spades round to Gold's king and Gold returned a heart. Gu put in the queen, losing to the king, and Black's club return picked up two more club tricks for the defence. Gu won the heart exit, cashed the diamonds, then took the spade finesse. The finesse was successful, but that was for down one and –50.

Hallberg upgraded to treat the North hand as 20-21 balanced. Hult's 3♢ was Stayman and the 3♡ response could have been four or five cards. Lusky led the eight of diamonds against 3NT. Hallberg put in the nine, a poor start as he could no longer have two diamond entries to dummy without its costing a trick. The ten of diamonds forced the king, and Hallberg continued with the jack and a third round, on which Falk pitched a heart. He pitched another heart when Hallberg cashed the fourth diamond, and so did Hallberg. Those heart discards suggested that the ♡K was offside, so Hallberg instead played a low spade, putting in the jack when Falk did not split his honours. He then continued with ace and a third spade to Falk's king. Falk returned a heart to the nine and ten. Falk's hear carding looked pretty clear so that Lusky could read Hallberg for the ace and queen. He thought about it for a good while, but eventually switched to the three of clubs to the seven, nine and two. A heart back would now have let the contract home, but Falk continued with a low club to Hallberg's ace and the best he could do was to cash the ace of hearts for down one and a flat board. BLACK had won by 39.1-25 and would meet SELIGMAN in the 16-board final.

The only table at which 3NT was made was the one where Fredin had attracted what looked to be the best lead for the defence. It's a funny game sometimes.

Final

So we were down to only two teams still standing, and they had looked to be the strongest two teams throughout the week. SELIGMAN would go into the 16-board final with the 0.1 IMP tie-breaker advantage, having survived only with a game swing on the last board of their semi-final against FREDIN.

SELIGMAN was on the board first with an overtrick IMP on the first board. On Board 2, E/W had 12 opposite 11; Gold/Black played 2♠ on a four-three fit and awkward breaks defeated the contract by a trick for –50, while Starkowski/Kwiecien played 2NT, where declarer had some work to do but the bad breaks were not quite so serious. Kwiecien brought it home for +120 and 5 IMPs to SELIGMAN, who led by 6-0.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Seligman*	*Black*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♡	Dble	2♢
Pass	2♡	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Hallberg*	*Kwiecien*	*Hult*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♡	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass

Kwiecien overcalled 4♠ with the east cards and when that came back round to Hallberg he introduced his second suit and played there, doubled by Kwiecien, who led the king of spades to Hallberg's ace. Hallberg ducked a club at trick two, losing to the bare queen, and Kwiecien returned the jack of spades, which Hallberg ruffed in the dummy. He ran the jack of clubs followed by the nine of clubs to his ten. He cashed the ace of clubs then led a heart to dummy's ace. The four-zero split was a killer. Hallberg could lead a heart back to his ten then cash the king, but that was all; down three for –500 and 9 IMPs to SELIGMAN, whose lead grew to 15-0.

If Hallberg wanted to bid over 4♠, perhaps 4NT, suggesting a two-card disparity between his suit lengths, might have been a wiser choice – 5♣ sounded like a five-card suit.

Black felt that he was too good for an immediate 4♠ so started with a double. Two Diamonds showed a good 2♡ raise and Seligman converted back to 2♡. Now Black jumped to 4♠ and, when that came back to him, Seligman saved in 5♡, which Gold doubled. Black led the king of spades, Seligman winning the ace and leading his singleton diamond towards the king. Black won the ace and returned the queen of diamonds to dummy's king, Seligman discarding his spade loser. He ran the jack of clubs, losing to the bare queen, and back came the jack of spades. Seligman ruffed in the dummy, discarding a club from hand, then led a low club to his ten. He played a heart to the ace then finessed on the way back but had to lose one trump trick so was down one for –100.

SELIGMAN picked up another IMP on Board 5 for 3♠ just made for +140 and 4♣-1 for –100. That made it 16-0.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Seligman*	*Black*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♡	Dble	2♣
2♠	3♢	3♠	4♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Hallberg*	*Kwiecien*	*Hult*
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♡	Dble	Rdbl
2♠	3♢	3♠	4♡
All Pass			

Lesniewski's 2♣ response was Drury and Seligman made a game try, which Lesniewski accepted. Black led ace and another spade, forcing Seligman to ruff. He had 10 tricks in the red suits, had he but known it, but how could he know. Seligman cashed the king and queen of diamonds then played ace of hearts and a heart to the king. He ruffed a diamond then led a club to his king and Black's ace. Back came a spade, which Seligman ruffed with the ten. He played a winning diamond, ruffed by Gold, and back came another spade. That was ruffed with his last trump, and he cashed the queen of clubs but had to concede a trump at trick 13 so was down one for –50.

Hult preferred to start the South hand off with a redouble and, when Hallberg showed his second suit, that fitted Hult's hand very well so he bid 4♡ over the opposing 3♠, and that concluded the auction. Again, the defence started with two rounds of spades. Hallberg ruffed then thought for quite a log time before leading the seven of clubs from hand. Kwiecien also thought for some time before playing low, and the queen scored. Hallberg ruffed a spade then played the king of clubs to Kwiecien's ace. Kwiecien returned his trump, which ran to Hallberg's ten. He crossed to the king of diamonds and ruffed dummy's last spade, crossed again to the queen of diamonds, and ruffed a club with his last trump as Starkowski discarded his last diamond. But now Srakowski was left with nothing but trumps and, when Hallberg played the ace of diamonds and discarded dummy's last club, Starkowski had to ruff and lead back into dummy's ♡A9 to give two more tricks and the contract; +420 and 10 IMPs to BLACK, closing to 10-16, and nicely played by Hallberg, who found a line which did not require either red suit to divide kindly.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Seligman*	*Black*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	–	2♡
2♠	Pass	3♡	Dble
4♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Hallberg*	*Kwiecien*	*Hult*
–	–	–	2♡
2♠	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

Both teams missed a big chance on this deal, on which slam is excellent for E/W, requiring one or other black suit to behave as needed.

Starkowski/Kwecien looked at slam before stopping at the five level, while Gold/Black were never interested in greater things; a push at +710.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Seligman*	*Black*	*Lesniewski*
–	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♢	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Hallberg*	*Kwiecien*	*Hult*
–	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♡	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Black opened 1NT and Gold's response showed a three-suiter, short in hearts with four spades. Three NO Trump was the obvious conclusion. Lesniewski led the jack of spades, Black ducking, and the three of spades to the queen and king. Black led a heart towards the jack, but Lesniewski went in with the ace and returned the ten of spades. Black won the ace and led the three of clubs to the king and ace. A heart back went to Black's king and he led the ten of diamonds from hand. When Lesniewski showed out Black played low from dummy, a clear misclick and one of the perils of internet bridge. That cost the contract and Black was down one for –100.

Kwiecien also opened 1NT and a simple Stayman sequence saw him declaring 3NT, against which Hult led the four of hearts to dummy's bare jack. Kwiecien got diamonds right immediately by cashing the ace. He continued with the seven of diamonds to the eight, and the three of clubs to the king and ace. Hallberg returned a heart to the king, which Hult ducked, but all that did was to set him up for a possible endplay. Kwiecien led the ten of clubs to the queen and cashed two more diamonds, and Hult gave up his spade stopper so that Kwiecien had a third spade trick and 10 in all; +630 and 12 IMPs to SELIGMAN, whose lead was back out to 28-10.

Had Hult kept a third spade, he would have been thrown in with it to give a trick to the queen of hearts at the end.

There were 2 more IMPs to SELIGMAN on the next deal for 3NT+3 against 3NT+2, and they led by 30-10 with six deals to play.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Seligman*	*Black*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	–	2♢
Pass	Pass	4♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Hallberg*	*Kwiecien*	*Hult*
–	–	–	2♢
Pass	Pass	2♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♡	All Pass

Hult opened a weak 2♢ and that ran round to Kwiecien, who overcalled 2♡. When Starkowski responded 2Nt to that, Kwiecien jumped to the heart game. Hult led his spade. Hallberg put in the ten so Kwiecien won the king and led a heart to the ace, a diamond to the king, and drew trumps. He could play on spades now, conceding two tricks in the suit but establishing his own tenth trick in the process; +420.

Lesniewski also opened 2♢ but, when that came to Black je just blasted 4♡. Lesniewski too led his singleton, but Seligman rose with the ace and returned the ♠2. Lesniewski ruffed and returned a club as requested, so received a second ruff for down one and –50; 10 IMPs to SELIGMAN, and they led by 40-10.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Seligman*	*Black*	*Lesniewski*
–	1♢	Dble	1♡
3♣	3♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Hallberg*	*Kwiecien*	*Hult*
–	1♢	Dble	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Black doubled the opening bid and Gold jumped to 3♣ in response. That persuaded Seligman to support hearts a level higher than would have been the case had he had the option, and when that came back to Gold he doubled to show his extras. Black, with four good hearts, left it in. Gold led a top club and promptly switched to a trump on sight of dummy. Lesniewski ducked that to Black's queen, and Black reverted to clubs, ruffed in dummy. Lesniewski led a spade to his king then took the diamond finesse, losing to the king. A club back forced dummy again but now Lesniewski led another spade up and Black won the ace and returned a low trump to dummy's now bare ace. Lesniewski led a spade to his queen followed by a diamond to the ace and another diamond. Black misclicked again, ruffing with the nine, so Lesniewski could over-ruff and play the ten of spades to promote his last trump into an eighth winner; down one for –200.

At the other table, Hult did not respond in his weak four-card heart suit over the take-out double, and Starkowski just jumped to 3NT on the West hand. Halllberg led the seven of hearts, Sarkowski putting up dummy's king and playing a club to hand. He led a diamond to the king and, when that held the trick, continued with a second diamond to the ten and queen. Hallberg led another low heart so Starkowski played the queen and had nine tricks; +600 and 9 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

SELIGMAN led by 49-10 with three boards to play, and there was no coming back from that deficit for BLACK. The final score was 53-11 in favour of SELIGMAN. Congratulations to them and we hope to see you all once again for the OCBL December Cup, to be held shortly before Christmas from December 20th to 23rd.

World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL DECEMBER CUP

20 - 23 December, 2021

Qualification + Knockout

Qualification:

9 Rounds x 14 Boards	CET	EST
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

KOs:

Quarterfinals - Semifinals - Finals: 16 Boards each

	CEST	EST
Thursday 23 December	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG