World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

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DECEMBER CUP

DECEMBER CUP
SCHEDULE TODAY

Round 1. 16.00 CET / 10.00 a.m. EDT

Orca	VS	New Amateurs
Fredin	VS	Sweden Juniors
Gillis	VS	Harris
Seligman	VS	Netbridge
Texan Aces	VS	ECF Holding
Bauer's Reindeers	VS	Multi
Apple	VS	Sugi

Round 2. 18.00 CET / 12.00 p.m. EDT

Round 3. 20.00 CET / 2.00 p.m. EDT

All the tables will be open to kibitzers

FLYFALCON won the OCTOBER CUP

Before talking about the OCBL December Cup, we need to congratulate team Flyfalcon (Wilson A., Van Prooijen R., Verhees L., Gronkvist I., Gronkvist M., Sprinkhuizen T., Mendes De Leon G., Kiljan V., Tijssen L.): they won the **OCBL October Cup**!
The Final was played much later than planned... on November 8. They faced team Moran (Hanlon T., Moran M., Carroll J., Garvey T., Mesbur A., Fitzgibbon N., Amoils L., Barton G.). The match ended 42.11 - 11 IMPs.

DECEMBER CUP

14 teams registered to the December Cup. The event is starting today and will include some of the very best players in the world! Check out the rosters on page 6.

October Cup: the Final

by Brian Senior

And so, after a two week wait, it was time for the final of the OCBL October Cup, featuring FLYFALCON and MORAN. The match would be played in two 8-board segments and FLYFALCON would own the 0.1 IMP carry-over advantage which would prevent any possibility of a tie and extra boards.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Amoils	*I Gronkvist*	*Hanlon*	*Wilson*
–	1♢	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♡	3♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♢	Pass	5♢
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Carroll*	*Kiljan*	*Moran*
–	1♢	3♣	Pass
4♣	Dble	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♢	All Pass	

Ida Gronkvist

Both Norths became declarer in 5♢ after East had come in with clubs.

Hanlon led king then another club, ruffed. Ida Gronkvist played a low heart at trick two, the queen losing to the king. Amoils returned a heart and Hanlon's ruff was the setting trick; down one for –50.

Kiljan led his singleton heart to the jack, king and ace. Carroll played a heart back but Kiljan ruffed, led a club to Tijssen's ace, and received a second ruff; also down one for –50 and no swing.

If declarer draws trumps before playing a heart to the queen, West must either win the king and return the suit, or duck the queen. Either of these breaks up a possible squeeze as it leaves dummy with no late entry. If West wins the ♡K and returns a black card, declarer can run the diamonds and squeeze West in the majors to allow the contract home.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Amoils	*I Gronkvist*	*Hanlon*	*Wilson*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Dble	Pass	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♣	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Carroll*	*Kiljan*	*Moran*
–	–	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♢
All Pass			

Wilson opened 1♢ in second seat and Amoils doubled. Amoils passed Hanlon's 1♠ response but, when Hanlon competed with 2♠, competed to 3♠ over what would have been a making 3♣. Hanlon lost the five obvious tricks in 3♠ so was down one for –50.

Kiljan opened what would usually, as here, be a five-card weak 2♠ as dealer. Moran passed over that but, when Tihssen made a pre-emptive raise to 3♠, Moran now doubled for take-out and corrected the 4♣ response to 4♢. I use the term corrected in its loosest possible sense, of course, as 4♣ would have been only down one, while 4♢ proved to be a trick worse despite the even trump break, Moran being down two for –200 and 6 IMPs to FLYFALCON.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Amoils	*I Gronkvist*	*Hanlon*	*Wilson*
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Carroll*	*Kiljan*	*Moran*
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	2♡	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	3♡
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

It's a matter of style whether to make a two-level overcall holding what is essentially a weak NT but, while the style will reap dividends on some hands, it will also concede a the odd penalty, as on this deal.

Gronkvist did not overcall. She watched her opponents bid to 2♠, against which she led the queen of clubs, which did Amoils no harm at all. He won the king and played the ten of spades. Gronkvist won the king and continued with the ten of clubs to Wilson's ace. Wilson continued with the nine of clubs to the jack and ruff, and Gronkvist now tried the ace of hearts. Amoils could ruff that, draw trumps, and had two established clubs to cash so had 10 tricks in all for +170, the diamond loser going away on the king of hearts.

Carroll overcalled 2♡ on the North cards. He looked to have survived when Tijssen reopened with 3♣ rather than a double, but Moran now competed to 3♡ and Kiljan doubled for penalties, ending the auction. Kiljan led the eight of clubs, Carroll rising with dummy's ace and playing the king of diamonds. Kiljan won the ace and led a club to his partner's king. Tijssen cashed the ace of spades and continued with the queen to the king and ruff. Endplayed, Kiljan returned a diamond round to the queen-ten, however, there was no way for Carroll to avoid the loss of two trump tricks and a spade, so he was down three for –500 and 8 IMPs to FLYFALCON.

On Board 8, both Easts made light lead-directing 1♢ openings. Wilson and Moran held:

♠ A 6
♡ J 10 9
♢ Q 8 6 4
♣ A K 10 9

Wilson passed and became dummy in 2♠ facing a 5-2-3-3 9-count; +140. Moran overcalled 1NT and was raised to game via a transfer sequence. He had no chance as the cards lay and was down one for –50 and 5 IMPs to FLYFALCON, who led by 21-0 at the midpoint of the match.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

	♠ Q 9 8 3 ♡ A 8 3 ♢ 6 4 ♣ Q 9 6 4	
♠ J 7 ♡ J 10 3 ♢ A K 10 8 3 2 ♣ A 3		♠ K 6 5 2 ♡ K Q 9 7 2 ♢ Q 7 ♣ 75
	♠ A 10 4 ♡ 54 ♢ J 9 5 ♣ K J 10 8 2	

West	North	East	South
Garvey	*M Gronkvist*	*Hanlon*	*Verhees*
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♢	Pass	1♡	Pass
2♢	Pass	4♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Fitzgibbon*	*Kiljan*	*Mesbur*
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♢	All Pass		

Tijssen opened a weak two bid in fourth seat and was left to play there for a safe +130. Of course, a fourth-seat pre-empt can be up to a sound minimum opening bid and Tijssen wanted to make it harder for his opponents to find a major-suit fit.

Garvey opened 1♢ in fourth seat and his 2♢ rebid showed 10-14 with diamonds with three-card heart support. Hanlon simply jumped to the heart game. Verhees led the jack of clubs. Hanlon won the ace and played the jack of hearts, which was ducked, and continued with the three of hearts, Mikael Gronkvist winning with the ace and returning a low spade. And now time seemed to stand still as Hanlon thought, and thought again. Eventually he put up the king, losing to the ace. Verhees cashed the king of clubs then returned a spade to his partner's queen and that was down one for –50 and 5 IMPs to FLYFALCON, whose lead grew to 26-0.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Garvey	*M Gronkvist*	*Hanlon*	*Verhees*
–	–	–	1♡
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♢
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♡	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Fitzgibbon*	*Kiljan*	*Mesbur*
–	–	–	1♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♢
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	7♡	All Pass	

Gronkvist responded 2♢, GF, then showed his heart fit over Verhees's 2♠ reverse. Three No Trump was a non-serious slam try and denied a spade control, which was to make Gronkvist's later decision very straightforward. He cuebid, caught a return cuebid from Verhees, then asked for key cards. The response was a good one so Gronkvist bid the small slam, knowing that Seven could not be better than a spade finesse; +1010.

Fitzgibbon agreed hearts immediately and Mesbur showed his second suit. Thee No Trump was a slam try which, in principle, denied a shortage. Four Diamonds now showed a void diamond and Fitzgibbon had heard enough. He asked for key cards then blasted the grand slam on finding his partner with two plus the trump queen. Fitzgibbon might have taken it more slowly had the match situation been different, but this was just what MORAN needed. The spade finesse was working and Mesbur had no option but to take it; +1510 and 11 IMPs to MORAN, who closed to 11-26.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Garvey	*M Gronkvist*	*Hanlon*	*Verhees*
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♢	Pass	3♢	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♢	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Fitzgibbon*	*Kiljan*	*Mesbur*
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♡	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Tijssen opened 2NT as dealer and Kiljan asked about majors, the response denying either a four- or five-carder. Kiljan jumped to 6NT. Fitzgibbon led a low club to the five, jack and ace. Tijssen crossed to the ten of clubs to lead the queen of diamonds to the king and ace. He crossed back to dummy by playing two rounds of spades, then cashed the rest of the spades, discarding diamonds from hand. Getting no strong clue from the discards, Tijssen next played a diamond towards his hand and had a second diamond trick and 12 in all; +1440.

Garvey opened a two-way clubs, strong or a weak NT type then showed the strong type by his rebid. He offered to play in 3NT when Hanlon showed diamond support and responded as if to Key-card when Hanlon now invited slam. But Hanlon didn't fancy going further so the borderline slam was missed; +600 when Garvey won the club lead and played two rounds of trumps, thereby losing to both the king and the jack. That meant 13 IMPs to HLYFALCON, whose lead was back up to 39-11.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Garvey	*M Gronkvist*	*Hanlon*	*Verhees*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Fitzgibbon*	*Kiljan*	*Mesbur*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1NT	2♢	All Pass	

Hanlon opened the east hand with 1♢ and Garvey's 3NT response left Gronkvist with a blind lead. He led the two of hearts to dummy's bare ace and Garvey just cashed his nine top tricks for +400.

Kiljam also opened 1♢, but Tijssen responded with a game-forcing relay of 1NT. Fitzgibbon decided to cuebid 2♢, presumably to show the majors, but Mesbur, looking at a diamond void, thought it might be natural so passed. Had Tijssen doubled, the Irish pair would no doubt have escaped from their somewhat delicate fit, but he passed, looking to collect a lot of 100s at the prevailing vulnerability. Kiljan led the three of diamonds. Tijssen won the queen, ace and king, dummy discarding two clubs and a heart, then switched to a heart for the jack and ace. Kiljan now tried the jack of clubs – why not at least draw the last trump first? Fitzgibbon covered with the queen and Tijssen ducked. Fitzgibbon discarded a heart, ruffed a club, and played three rounds of spades. The third spade was ruffed, and the defence had the rest; down four for –400 and just another dull flat boards, as they say.

FLYFALCON gained 3 IMPs for an extra undertrick in partscore on Board 7, making it 42-11, and the last board was a dull game for E/W. Congratulations to FLYFALCON, who had won the final quite comfortably by 42-11 IMPs so were the OCBL October Cup champions.

STARTING TODAY!

OCBL DECEMBER CUP

FORMAT

Qualification Phase

The qualifying stage will be played in the form of a Swiss.
This stage will consist of 126 boards played in 9 matches of 14 boards each.

Knockout Phase

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.

USEFUL LINKS

Line-Up
http://lineup.ocbl.org/event/14

Results
https://ocbl.org/2021-ocbl-december-cup/#results

BBO Links & Handrecords
https://ocbl.org/2021-ocbl-december-cup-records/

Journal
https://ocbl.org/ocbl-journal/

ROSTERS

APPLE
Setton H. (Ldase)
Franceschetti P. (gewd)
Brink S. (Sjoertbr)
Drijver Bas (BasDr)
Robert Q. (ptit)

BAUER'S REINDEERS
Bauer T. (Marintlc)
Jacobs G. (georgej)
Benner D. (dlbfsa)
Delmonte I. (ishd)

ECF HOLDING
Lie T. (Terjel)
Fasting E. (mehe)
Ovesen J. (jo-arne)
Høyland S. (sioslo)
Thoresen S. (sivt)
Johanssen L.A. (larsarthur)
Eide E. (bloodaxe)
Farstad A. (Kha66)
HEGGE H. (hagz)

FREDIN
Fredin P. (P_Fredin)
Gottlieb G. (Garybrook)
Sylvan J. (JoppeSyl)
Petersson J. (motvillige)
Gustawsson M. (Lagom)
Becklen J. (Janb)
Fallenius B. (Bf88)
Apteker A. (alonap)

GILLIS
Gillis S. (Rayas78)
Saelensminde E. (skaal1)
Svendsen O. (Pirrum)
Helness F. (Fredrik101)

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)

MULTI
Barel M. (mich-b)
Katz P. (paz_k)
Liran I. (inonli)
Walker R. (Rob)
Lucassen T. (Lucassen)
Aagaard T. (thorvald)
Schultz S. (schultz112)
Londberg Bilde B. (lionberg)
Bilde L. (Bilde)
Rasmussen R. (helle_r)

NETBRIDGE
Van Den Hoek J. (janonline)
Rentes K. (7slaper)
Bouwen K. (kebosporto)
Zomer M. (mczo)
Drijver Tom (tdrijverrr)
Verhoeve N. (slin55)
la Haye M. (martenha)
Van der Starre M. (martin001)
Huber M. (marijnhu)
Been M. (bendezz)
de Haas O. (olliebol)

NEW AMATEURS
Lo A. (aitail)
Chechelashvili D. (Dato)
Jiang Gu (Jiang_Gu)
Yang D. (hyang)
Baseggio F. (baseggio)
Falk A. (Allan Falk)

ORCA
Plackett R. (hoofie)
Erichsen E. (espene)
Crouch P. (pitiful)
Forrester T. (Anthonyf)
Allfrey A. (allfrey)
Robson A. (arobson)

SELIGMAN
Lesniewski M. (lesniak)
Seligman M. (mseligman)
Kwiecien M. (michal1)
Starkowski W. (wstarkowsk)
Bizon P. (Taub)
Blat M. (Blama1)

SUGI
Sugiharto H. (sugi)
Nurkunyil A. (nurkunyil)
Satoto A. (toing)
Lucky K. (leonhart)
Fernando Christian M. (elang)
Nando F. (tj3n)
Elwindra G. (gabrialsew)
Reza M. (jakskal)
Yan W. (wy7199)
Jianfeng L. (mossby3)

SWEDEN JUNIORS
Abragi A. (AAbragi)
Asplund Sivelind F. (Filip AS)
Lichtenstein I. (Ivarlicht)
Hjort Warlenius H. (Hwarlenius)
Gustafsson K. (Klaragust)
Bern T. (Xtober)

TEXAN ACES
Venkatesh G. (texanace)
Padhye A. (oqonil)
Tolani R. (suketbombi)
Khare a. (ajay_khare)
Hsieh D. (hsiehdh)
Chen L. (lc chen)
Castner K. (Jafra)
King P. (philking)
Tommasini S. (Stefanot)
Green B. (benjy)