World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 153. Wednesday, 22 December, 2021

QUARTERFINALS ARE COMING

DECEMBER CUP
RANKING AFTER ROUND3

1	Apple	78.92
2	Texan Aces	76.52
3	Seligman	75.92
4	Sugi	66.33
5	Gillis	64.63
6	ECF Holding	64.47
7	Fredin	62.24
8	Harris	61.52
9	Sweden Juniors	59.59
10	New Amateurs	57.38
11	Multi	50.82
12	Orca	46.38
13	Netbridge	41.42
14	Bauer's Reindeers	33.86

DECEMBER CUP
SCHEDULE TODAY

Round 7. 16.00 CET / 10.00 a.m. EDT

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

Round 8. 18.00 CET / 12.00 p.m. EDT

Round 9. 20.00 CET / 2.00 p.m. EDT

All the tables will be open to kibitzers

All the teams are knocking on Quarterfinals' door, but only 8 will be able to enter the Knockout stage.

At the moment, Apple are leading (78.92 VPs). They are followed by teams Texan Aces (76.52 VPs) and Seligman (75.92 VPs).

Today the last three rounds of the qualification stage will be played.

We wish to thank all the teams who will not qualify for being part of this event! Please check out the info on our newest event (WED-THU Swiss) at page 2.

World Bridge Tour
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Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL
WED - THU SWISS

12 - 13 January, 2022

OCBL

SWISS

10 Rounds x 8 Boards

WEDNESDAY

Round 1:	16.00	CET /	10.00	EST
Round 2:	17.15	CET /	11.15	EST
Round 3:	18.30	CET /	12.30	EST
Round 4:	19.45	CET /	13.45	EST
Round 5:	21.00	CET /	15.00	EST

THURSDAY

Round 6:	16.00	CET /	10.00	EST
Round 7:	17.15	CET /	11.15	EST
Round 8:	18.30	CET /	12.30	EST
Round 9:	19.45	CET /	13.45	EST
Round 10:	21.00	CET /	15.00	EST

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG

Rounds 2, 3 and 4

by Brian Senior

Round 2

Thirteen of our 14 tables played in a heart contract on the N/S cards on this deal. The nine pairs in partscore went plus easily enough, but four were in game.

There are four top losers, so on the face of it the contract should be defeated.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Thoresen	*Bhechelashvili*	*Eide*	*Lo*
–	–	Pass	1♡
Dble	2♡	3♣	4♡
All Pass			

Eide and Thoresen beat 4♡. No, not by Eide's 3♣ bid pointing Thoresen to the killing lead of ace and another club – he actually led ace and another heart. Nor did his partner's free bid encourage Thoresen to rise with the ace and play ace and another club when Lo led a diamond towards dummy at trick three. No, Thoresen played low and Lo put up the king, so there was no diamond loser. Lo continued with a club to his queen and Thoresen's ace, and Thoresen returned a diamond to the ten, queen and ruff. Lo exited with his remaining club, won by Eide, who sent a spade through, and Lo could not avoid the spade finesse – down one when the queen proved not to be where he needed it to be; –100.

West	North	East	South
Svendsen	*Robson*	*Saelensminde*	*Allfrey*
–	–	Pass	1♡
Dble	2♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Saelensminde did not give Svendsen the clue from a club bid, so Svendsen was on his own. He too led ace and another trump, and he too ducked declarer's diamond play, allowing dummy's king to win. Allfrey got off play with a club to the queen and ace, but Svendsen returned a club to his partner's king and now a spade switch saw Allfrey with an unavoidable loser in the suit; down one for –100.

Sugi v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Reza	*Sylvan*	*Elwindra*	*Petersson*
Fredin	*Nurkunyil*	*Apteker*	*Sugiharto*
–	–	Pass	1♡
Dble	2♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Neither East bid in this match so both Wests were left to their own devices.

Reza led the ace of clubs but could not read his partner's six and switched to ace and another diamond. Petersson put up the king, ditching his remaining club loser, then ruffed dummy's club. He played the king of hearts next, Reza winning the ace and getting out with his remaining heart. That left Petersson to play spades himself and the queen was the setting trick; down one for –100.

Fredin cashed the ace of hearts, hoping to have a better idea how to proceed once he had seen dummy. Looking at dummy's diamond and spade holdings, is not a spade switch very tempting? That is what Fredin played at trick two, and Sugiharto could scoop in the jack, draw the missing trumps, and play three more winning spades, discarding dummy's remaining club loser. A club ruff in dummy now provided the tenth trick; +620 and 12 IMPs to SUGI.

Only the combination of giving up trump control by cashing the ace, followed by a spade switch, lets the contract through – a spade at trick one is not fatal.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Netbridge v Bauer's Reindeers

West	North	East	South
Casanova	*Bouwen*	*Bauer*	*T Drijver*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1NT	Dble	Rdbl
2♡	Pass	3♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
V d Hoek	*Benner*	*Huber*	*DelMonte*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	Dble	4♣
4♠	5♣	Dble	All Pass

Bouwen's off-centre 1NT opening caused his opponents problems. Bauer doubled, the subsequent ayction suggesting that this showed a four-card major and longer minor. Tom Frijver redoubled to show one long suit and a desire to get out of 1NT doubled, and Casanove bid a pass or correct 2♡. Bauer invited game but Casanove declined the invitation, and 3♡ ended the auction. Bouwen led the ace of clubs then switched to his spade, won in dummy by Casanova, who played on hearts. Bouwen won and played a diamond, but Casanova had the rest; 11 tricks for +200.

Benner's more normal 1♣ opening led to a more normal auction. When DelMonte could make a big pre-emptive club raise, it was not too challenging for Benner to take the save in 5♣ doubled over 4♠. There was just one loser in each side suit, so Benner was down one for –100 but +3 IMPs to BAUER'S REINDEERS.

Sweden Juniors v Apple

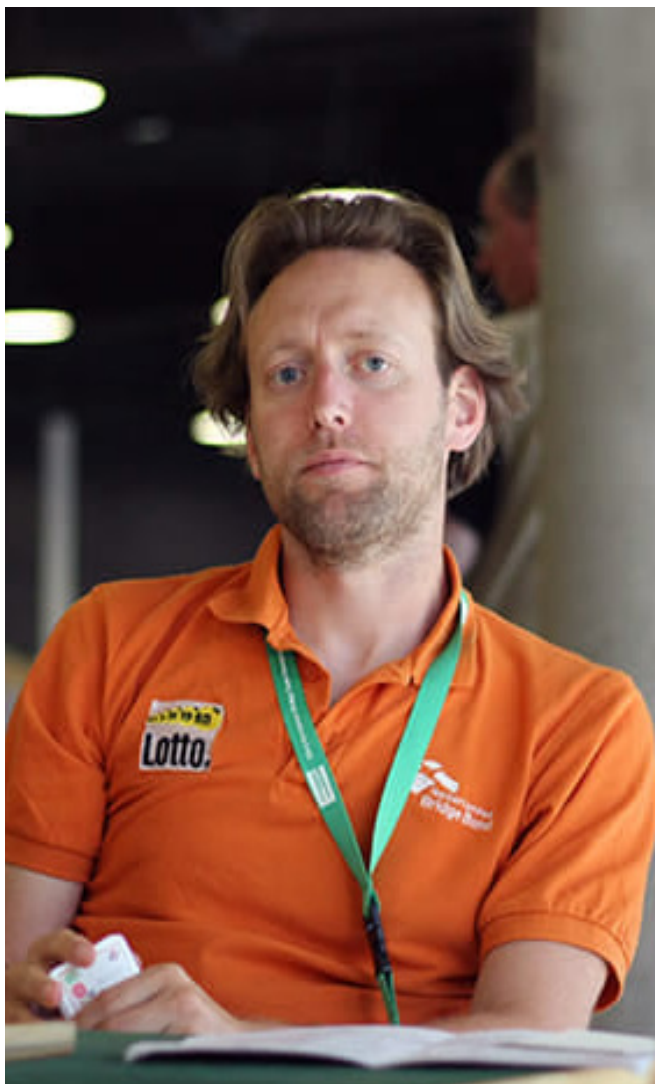
West	North	East	South
Setton	*Sivelind*	*Franceschetti*	*Abragi*
–	–	–	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
4♣	5♣	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Warlenius	*B Drijver*	*Lichtenstein*	*Brink*
–	–	–	3♣
Pass	5♣	Dble	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

Both Souths opened 3♣. Sivelind passed with the North cards and Franceschetti doubled. When Setton responded 4♠, Sivelind now took the save in 5♣. Franceschetti doubled again and Setton left it in; down one for –100.

Bas Drijver raised to 5♣ immediately. When Lichtenstein doubled that and Warlenius responded 5♠, Drijver had done his bidding for the board and Warlenius was allowed to play there. Drijver cashed the king of clubs then, having seen a suit-preference ♣4 from Brink, saw no future in a switch so continued with a second club to attack declarer's trump holding. Warlenius pitched a heart from dummy and ruffed in the long trump hand. He led a spade to the queen and ace, cashed the jack of spades, then led a heart to his jack while there was still a trump left in dummy to cater to a club return. Drijver ducked the heart, but now Warlenius could simply draw trumps and cash the diamonds for 11 tricks and +650; 11 IMPs to SWEDEN JUNIORS.

Note now much better the delayed 5♣ bid proved to be than the immediate raise.



Bas Drijver

Round 3

What would you bid on the South cards when East opens 1♡ in second seat on Board 1 of Round Three?

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Harris v ECF Holding

West	North	East	South
Hegge	*Root*	*Pvesen*	*Igoe*
–	Pass	1♡	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Harris	*Johanssen*	*Malhasyan*	*Lie*
–	Pass	1♡	2♠
All Pass			

Our first vote goes to Pass. That was Igoe's choice and left his opponents to have an uncontested auction to a normal heart game. There were two hearts and a club to be lost but that was all; +420.

Lie's choice was a weak jump overcall of 2♠, not being dissuaded by the weakness of the main suit. He did have six-four shape as compensation. Rather surprisingly, 2♠ scooped the pool. West looks to have a pretty normal negative double, but Harris judged otherwise. Two Spades drifted a couple off for –100 but 8 IMPs to ECF HOLDING.

Seligman v Orca

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Deligman*	*Forrester*	*Lesniewski*
–	Pass	1♡	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Robson*	*Kwiecien*	*Plackett*
–	Pass	1♡	2♠
Dble	All Pass		

Lesniewski is old school and wouldn't be seen dead pre-empting on a ten-high suit. He was quite happy, however, to make a simple overcall. That didn't inconvenience his opponents in the slightest, and Forrester was soon at the helm in the heart game, losing the usual three tricks; +420.

Plackett is a few years younger than Lesniewski and he was quite happy to overcall 2♠. Now he felt when it proceeded: Dble – Pass – Pass, back to him, only he can say, but he must have had mild concerns that he had picked the wrong time for his bid.

Starkowski led the queen of hearts, Plackett winning dummy's ace and leading a diamond to the king and ace. Starkowski played a second heart, so Plackett ruffed and and led a diamond to the queen – ruffed. Kwiecien tried the king of clubs, but Plackett could win that and play the ten of spades. Satrkowski correctly played low, so Kwiecien won the jack and led his remaining club to the nine and ten. Starkowski cashed the queen of clubs and played the fourth club, which Kwiecien ruffed with the queen. A heart through now allowed the defenders to make the king and ace of spades separately, and that was a nicely defended down three for –500 and 2 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Apple v Multi

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Walker*	*Franceschetti*	*Lucassen*
–	Pass	1♡	1♠
Dble	Pass	2♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Bilde	*Drijver*	*Rasmussen*	*Brink*
–	Pass	1♡	3♠
3NT	All Pass		

We have seen South pass, overcall 1♠ and overcall 2♠; now see Brink, leaping into the fray wielding his giant war-axe and roaring out his challenge: 'Nobody out-pre-empts me!' Three Spades said Brink, and Bilde was bullied into making a big decision. Three No Trump, said he, no doubt somewhat to the surprise of his partner, who would not have expected him to hold his own independent spade stopper(s). Rasmussen passed out 3NT – after all, there would be serious danger of conceding spade ruffs if he went back to his long heart suit. Drijver led his spade and nodded wisely to himself on sight of dummy's spade holding. Bilde won the king and played the queen of hearts, which Drijver ducked, followed by a second heart to the ten and king. With insufficient dummy entries to set up and cash the hearts, Bilde switched his attention elsewhere, playing dummy's king of clubs. Brink won the ace and returned a spade, so Bilde had to cash the rest of those or never see them again. Having done so, he led a club to his ten, and cashed the ♣Q and ♢A, and had nine tricks for +400 but 1 IMP to APPLE.

So what was the answer to my question? There was one passer, five favoured a simple 1♠ overcall, and seven opted for the 2♠ weak jump – and then there was Brink.

Six pairs bid and made 4♡, and two 3NT. That left six Souths playing in 2♠, doubled at five of the six tables. We have seen Starkowski and Kwiecien collecting +500 for down three, but only one of the other pairs took +300, the rest only +100, so perhaps we should just take a look at a typical less successful defence to illustrate how well Starkowski and Kwiecien did in collecting the maximum.

Jonathan Harris

At another table, West again led the queen of hearts. Declarer won the ace and played a spade, which East won with the ace. Back came the king of clubs. Declarer won the ace and played a second spade, won by West's king, and West returned a heart to the ten, jack and ruff. Declarer [redacted] the king of diamonds and West won th[redacted]nd played queen and another club. East had two trumps to come but that was all; down just the one for –100.

Round 4

TEXAN ACES led by 0-01 VPs from SELIGMAN at the end of day one, but those teams only averaged a little over 14 VPs per match, and everything was still very tight at the top.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Fredin v Multi

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	*Barel*	*Petersson*	*Katz*
–	–	1♢	2♠
Pass	3♠	Dble	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
L Bilde	*Fredin*	*B Bilde*	*Apteker*
–	–	1♢	1♠
1NT	2♠	3♣	Pass
3♠	Dble	5♣	All Pass

This deal saw a triumph for the weak jump overcall as Katz's 2♠ shut out Sylvan at his first turn and Barel's simple raise took further bidding space away from his opponents, putting them under serious pressure. When Petersson could double 3♠, Sylvan had excellent values and had to drive to game. The problem was that whatever he did was likely to be rather committal. As this was the last chance to get to 3NT, that is what he bid with his balanced hand, and Petersson respected his decision and passed. But the spade lead established the defence's winners, and even a successful club play would only have resulted in seven tricks, so Sylvan ducked twice, won the third spade, and played a diamond. A few seconds later he was down two for –100.

Apteker's simple overcall didn't work out nearly so well. Firstly, it left room for West, Lone Bilde, to bid 1NT, accurately describing the strength and general hand-type, and Fredin's raise to 2♠ left room for East, Bo Bilde, to introduce his second suit. Now West reassessed the value of her hand and appreciated that he minor-suit honours were all very good, as was the fact that her spade card was the ace, useful facing any spade holding. She cuebid 3♠ and East jumped to 5♣, ending the auction. The lead was a spade. Declarer won the ace and played king of clubs followed by a club to the jack, and had 12 tricks for +420 and 11 IMPs to MULTI.

Katz was the only South to opt for the weak jump overcall.

Texan Aces v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Tolani*	*Kwiecien*	*Khare*
–	–	1♢	1♠
1NT	3♠	Dble	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Padhye	*Seligman*	*Venkatesh*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	1♢	1♠
1NT	2♠	Dble	Pass
3♣	3♠	5♣	All Pass

Both Souths made only a simple 1♠ overcall, as one would expect, and both Wests bid 1NT. Seligman made a simple raise to 2♠ and Venkatesh doubled. However, when Padhye responded 3♣, Seligman now bid again, competing to 3♠, and Venkatesh jumped to the club game. Padhye ruffed the spade lead and played ace of clubs then ran the jack, losing to the queen but leaving himself with a club in dummy should Seligman continue the spade attack. But Seligman settled for a trump return and, having won that, Padhye knocked out the ace of diamonds and had 11 tricks for +400.

Tolani made an immediate three-level spade raise. When Kwiecien doubled, Starkowski jumped to 4NT, a well-thought out bid to ask partner to choose a minor-suit game. Kwiecien chose 5♣, against which the lead was the usual spade. Kwiecien won the ace, discarding a heart from hand, and cashed the ace of clubs then continued with the jack. When Tolani followed with the nine, Kwiecien rose with the king of clubs and played on diamonds, losing the ♢A and ♣Q; 11 tricks for +400 and no swing.

Orca v Apple

West	North	East	South
Setton	*Plackett*	*Franceschetti*	*Erichsen*
–	–	1♢	1♠
Pass	3♢	3♡	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♢	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*B Drijver*	*Forrester*	*Brink*
–	–	1♢	1♠
2♢	3♠	4♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Setton and Franceschetti missed game when Setton didn't bid over 1♠ at her first turn. Plackett took away bidding space with his Mixed Raise and now, though Franceschetti bid 3♡ and Setton tried 3NT, Franceschetti didn't believe that his partner could hold so much and took it out into 4♣, completing the picture of his hand. When Setton now bid only 4♢, Franceschetti passed. He won the spade lead in dummy, pitching a heart from hand, and played a trump. won the ace and returned a spade, but Franceschetti ruffed, drew trumps, and proceeded to get the clubs right. He had a heart to lose at the end, so had 11 tricks for +150.

Forrester's 1♢ opening would usually be unbalanced, so Crouch was happy to compete with 2♢ rather than bid 1NT with a non-positional spade stopper. Drijver's pre-emptive spade raise put Forrester under pressure but he was always going to bid again and tried 4♣, in case Crouch had only three-card diamond support. That worked out well, as Crouch raised to 5♣, and the English pair were in the best spot. Brink led the queen of hearts rather than the expected spade, and Forrester could see that a defensive heart trick would be established as soon as he lost the lead. Rather than try to guess trumps immediately, he played on diamonds. Brink ducked the first diamond, so Forrester played a second round. This time Brink won the ace and gave his partner a diamond ruff. Back came the jack of hearts to the ace. Forrester now knew that Brink had five red cards. Was he 5-2-3-3, or 6-2-3-2? Thinking that Brink might have overcalled 2♠ with the latter distribution, and that 5-4-2-2 was entirely consistent with Drijver's vulnerable against not pre-emptive raise, Forrester cashed the ace of clubs then ran the jack, losing to the queen, and was down one for –100. The +150 at the other table was therefore worth +6 IMPs to APPLE.

In all, six E/W pairs bid the club game, and four of them made it – all after a spade lead. The sixth pair went down. Abragi, for SWEDEN JUNIORS, also led the queen of hearts. Falk, for New Amateurs, won the ace and cashed the top clubs before playing on diamonds. Abragi won the second diamond and returned a second heart to establish his partner's jack. When partner, Sivelind, could ruff the next diamond, he had a heart to cash for down one.

Three pairs were down in 3NT and three in 5♢ after getting the clubs wrong. There was also a second pair in a diamond partscore – making +130.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Harris v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Rentes	*Tiholov*	*v d Hoek*	*Trendafilov*
1♢	1♠	2♠	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♢	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Harris	*La Haye*	*Malhasyan*	*Verhoeve*
1♢	2♢	5♢	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Tiholov made a simple overcall, not having the right two-suited overcall for this hand available to him. Van Den Hoek showed a good diamond raise and Trendafilov pre-empted with 4♠. Van Den Hoek made a try with 4NT when 4♠ came round to him, but whatever the 5♣ response meant was not what he wanted to hear and he signed off in 5♢, which made exactly for +600.

La Haye could start with a 2♢ cuebid to show both black suits so did so, and Malhasyan just blasted 5♢. Verhoeve had no idea who could make what, but did know that he had five-card spade support in a shapely hand. He bid 5♠, as would most of us, I would think, and Malhasyan was waiting to double that when it got back to him. There were five unavoidable losers so that was down three for –800 and 5 IMPs to HARRIS.

Texan Aces v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Tolani*	*Kwiecien*	*Khare*
1♢	1♠	2♠	3♠
Pass	4♣	5♢	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Padhye	*Seligman*	*Venkatesh*	*Lesniewski*
1♢	1♠	2♠	3♠
4♢	4♠	4NT	Pass
5♡	5♠	6♢	All Pass

Padhye opened the West hand and Seligman overcalled. The 2♠ cuebid showed five or more diamonds and 11+ HCP, and now Lesniewski made a gentle raise to 3♠ with the South cards. Padhye took the opportunity to confirm that he held real diamonds and Seligman went on to 4♠, thereby taking a spade cuebid out of Venkatesh's options. Venkatesh seems to have expected a little more for his partner's free 4♢ bid because he elected to ask for key cards. The two key card response had taken the E/W pair past the level at which they could make anything, but Seligman now offered them +800 on defence by competing to 5♠. No, Venkatesh thought two key cards was a good number and had already committed himself to bidding slam if that was what he was facing, so he went on to 6♢. Two rounds of clubs swiftly put paid to that, and Padhye was down one for –100.

Khare also raised only to 3♠ over RHO's fit-showing cuebid, and Tolani too the opportunity to introduce his second suit in case partner might be able to judge to go on to 5♠ over 5♢. Kwiecien jumped to 5♢ and, though Khare had extra spade length, he was bringing nothing else to the party in a spade contract so judged to defend. Right he was – 5♢ made exactly for +600 while, as we have seen, 5♠ would have cost –800; 12 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

There was only one pair in slam on the E/W cards. Five pairs played in 5♢, just making, while 5♠ doubled was down –800 on six occasions. The odd results were 4♠ doubled down –500, and 5♠ undoubled down –300.

This next deal looks to be a fairly routine 3NT by North, doomed by a heart lead unless declarer has second sight and plays on clubs rather than diamonds. In practice, there was a lot more variation than one might have expected.

Sjoert Brink

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Multi v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Sylvan	*Barel*	*Petersson*	*Katz*
L Bilde	*Fredin*	*B Bilde*	*Apteker*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both N/S pairs followed pretty routine auctions to 3NT, played by North, and both Easts led a low heart to the jack, king and small. Barel also ducked the heart continuation, but won the third round, perforce.

He pitched a club from dummy on the third heart and, having won the ace, led a diamond to the jack and queen then came back to hand with a spade to play a second diamond to the king and ace. He cleared the diamonds now but Petersson had the ten of diamonds, along with two winning hearts. There was also the ace of clubs to come, so Barel was down two for –100.

Fredin also ducked the second heart but suddenly he was given a reprieve when Bilde switched to a low club at trick three. Fredin played low from hand and won the trick with dummy's nine. He played a club back, Bilde winning the ace and only now, switching back to hearts. Fredin cashed his spades, then the king of clubs, and finally took the diamond finesse for his contract; nine tricks for +400 and 11 IMPs to FREDIN.

Harris v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Rentes	*Tiholov*	*v d Hoek*	*Trendafilov*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Dble	3NT	All Pass	

Dinko Trendafilov

Peter Fredin

West	North	East	South
Harris	*La Haye*	*Malhasyan*	*Verhoeve*
–	–	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Verhoeve found a winning bid when he opened a weak NT rather than 1♢, and reached 3NT after a Stayman sequence. That avoided the heart lead as it was natural for Harris to lead a low club, which ran to the nine. Verhoeve cashed the ace of spades before leading a club, Harris winning the ace and returning the suit. Verhoeve finessed, so had a third club trick. He played three rounds of diamonds, and came to 11 tricks for +460.

Trendafilov opened 1♢ then raised spades. Tiholov enquired, and 3♣ showed only three spades. Rentes doubled for the lead and Tiholov bid 3NT. Van Den Hoek led the eight of clubs to the ace and a falsecard jack from Tiholov. Rentes was not fooled and switched to the nine of hearts, ducked to the queen. A second heart was ducked but declarer had to win the third round, of course. Tiholov crossed to the jack of spades to take a club finesse, then cashed his black winners before taking the diamond finesse. When that held, he had nine tricks for +400 but 2 IMPs to NETBRIDGE.

Gillis v Bauer's Reindeers

West	North	East	South
DelMonte	*Saelensminde*	*Benner*	*Svendsen*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Gillis	*Jacobs*	*F Helness*	*Bauer*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Dble	3NT	All Pass	

Svendsen opened 1♢ and rebid 2♢. Saelensminde jumped to 3NT, and Benner led a heart. Saelensminde ducked until the third round, then took the diamond finesse and continued with two more rounds of diamonds and was down two for –100.

Bauer also opened 1♢ but chose the three-card spade raise rather than a diamond rebid. Jacobs asked with 2NT and 3♣ showed a minimum three-card spade raise. Gillis doubled for the lead and Jacobs concluded the auction with 3NT. Helness led a club, as requested, Gillis winning the ace and switching to the king of hearts – but it was too late. Jacobs ducked until the third round of hearts then, on winning the ace, took the diamond finesse, When that won, he took the club finesse then cashed out; nine tricks for +400 and 11 IMPs to BAUER'S REINDEERS.

Texan Aces v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Tolani*	*Kwiecien*	*Khare*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♢
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Padhye	*Seligman*	*Venkatesh*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lesniewski opened 1♢ and rebid 2♢, and Seligman bid 3NT, against which Venkatesh led a heart. Seligman won the third heart and played a diamond, and Venkatesh falsecarded with the king. That proved to be a very ill-timed effort because Seligman believed him and looked elsewhere for his extra tricks. Having won the ace of diamonds, Seligman led the six of clubs to his ten and, when that passed off peacefully, crossed to the jack of spades to lead a second club up. The nine held the trick so now he simply cashed out his nine winners; +400.

Khare opened 1♢ but opted for the spade raise at his next turn. Tolani asked for further information, Khare bidding 3♢, to show long diamonds with only three spades. Tolani now judged that 4♠ might be easier than 3NT, so that is what he bid. Kwiecien led a low heart to the jack, king and ace. Tolani took the diamond finesse then led the nine of clubs and Starkowski won the ace and played two rounds of hearts, forcing dummy to ruff. Tolani took the ruff and cashed the ace of diamonds, Kwiecien dropping the king. Tolani cashed the ace and jack of spades then led a club to his jack, cashed the king and queen of spades, then the ♣K, and had 10 tricks for +420 and 1 IMP to TEXAN ACES.

3NT was played by South twice and made aa tricks on each occasion after a club lead. It was played by North 11 times, making five times and being defeated six times. Seligman was the only one to make it after a heart lead. Twice it made after a club lead and twice when West won the heart lead but switched to clubs at trick two or three.

Erik Saelensminde

Bridge NEWS

WBF FACE-TO-FACE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The upcoming face-to-face Championships of the World Bridge Federation (WBF) are listed below:

- The 45th World 2021 Bridge Team Championships (Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup, d'Orsi Seniors Trophy, Wuhan Cup & World National Teams Trophy) will be held in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy from 27th March to 9th April. Click here to read the First Information Letter about the Championships.

- The 16th World Bridge Series (Rosenblum Cup, McConnell Cup, Rand Cup, Mixed Teams & Open. Women, Seniors, Mixed Pairs) will be held in Wroclaw, Poland from 19 August – 3 September 2022

- The 7th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championship will be held in August in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy. The Youth Committee is defining the dates that will be published next week, together with all the useful information.

Jingle Bells Bridge Style

The ACBL has published their seasonal greetings with a nice video: Jingle Bells - Bridge Style. You can enjoy the video at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DhHPRh01Ek

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

We are doing our best to make your online Bridge experience as valuable as we can.

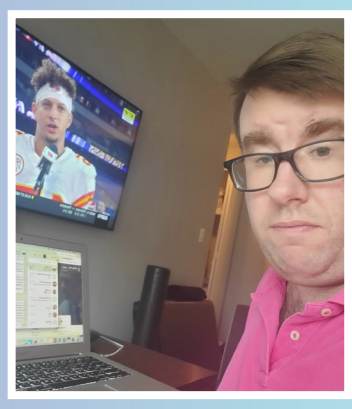
Obviously when producing Bridge articles it is necessary to use photos from the archives.

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

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

Let your Bridge friends see you in the present!

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



OCBL DECEMBER CUP - RESULTS

ROUND 4

Texan Aces	5.36 VPs 23 IMPs	14.64 VPs 40 IMPs	Seligman
Apple	16.38 VPs 41 IMPs	3.62 VPs 15 IMPs	Orca
Sugi	17.34 VPs 46 IMPs	2.66 VPs 14 IMPs	ECF Holding
Sweden Juniors	13.72 VPs 24 IMPs	6.28 VPs 11 IMPs	New Amateurs
Multi	7.84 VPs 27 IMPs	12.16 VPs 34 IMPs	Fredin
Gillis	17.63 VPs 54 IMPs	2.37 VPs 20 IMPs	Bauer's Reindeers
Harris	19.38 VPs 53 IMPs	0.62 VPs 4 IMPs	Netbridge

ROUND 5

Seligman	8.42 VPs 15 IMPs	11.58 VPs 20 IMPs	Apple
Sugi	2.37 VPs 13 IMPs	17.63 VPs 47 IMPs	Texan Aces
Gillis	10.66 VPs 23 IMPs	9.34 VPs 21 IMPs	Sweden Juniors
Orca	4.94 VPs 14 IMPs	15.06 VPs 33 IMPs	Fredin
ECF Holding	15.06 VPs 39 IMPs	4.94 VPs 20 IMPs	Multi
Harris	7.29 VPs 18 IMPs	12.71 VPs 27 IMPs	Bauer's Reindeers
New Amateurs	2.51 VPs 29 IMPs	17.49 VPs 62 IMPs	Netbridge

ROUND 6

Apple	9.67 VPs 39 IMPs	10.33 VPs 40 IMPs	Texan Aces
Seligman	9.67 VPs 42 IMPs	10.33 VPs 43 IMPs	Sugi
Gillis	10.66 VPs 41 IMPs	9.34 VPs 39 IMPs	Fredin
Sweden Juniors	7.29 VPs 49 IMPs	12.71 VPs 58 IMPs	ECF Holding
Orca	2.09 VPs 2 IMPs	17.91 VPs 38 IMPs	Harris
Multi	11.87 VPs 33 IMPs	8.13 VPs 27 IMPs	Netbridge
New Amateurs	20 VPs 73 IMPs	0 VPs 6 IMPs	Bauer's Reindeers

OCBL DECEMBER CUP - RESULTS

BUTLER RANKING

1	B. Londberg Bilde, (lionberg)	Multi	2.25	28
2	A. Padhye, (oqonil)	Texan Aces	1.5	28
	G. Venkatesh, (texanace)	Texan Aces	1.5	28
4	J. Ovesen, (jo-arne)	ECF Holding	1.31	42
	H. HEGGE, (hagz)	ECF Holding	1.31	42
6	D. Hsieh, (hsiehdh)	Texan Aces	1.25	56
	L. Chen, (lc chen)	Texan Aces	1.25	56
8	L.A. Johanssen, (larsarthur)	ECF Holding	1.18	28
9	E. Saelensminde, (skaal1)	Gillis	1.15	84
	O. Svendsen, (Pirrum)	Gillis	1.15	84
11	F. Baseggio, (baseggio)	New Amateurs	1	42
	G. Jacobs, (georgej)	Bauer's Reindeers	1	14
13	P. Bizon, (Taub)	Seligman	0.86	14
	M. Gustawsson, (Lagom)	Fredin	0.86	42
	M. Blat, (Blama1)	Seligman	0.86	14
16	Bas Drijver, (BasDr)	Apple	0.77	84
	S. Brink, (Sjoertbr)	Apple	0.77	84
18	L. Bilde, (Bilde)	Multi	0.69	42
19	J. Sylvan, (JoppeSyl)	Fredin	0.6	84
20	Tom Drijver, (tdrijverrr)	Netbridge	0.55	42
21	J. LUO, (mossby3)	Sugi	0.54	28
	W. Yan, (wy7199)	Sugi	0.54	28
23	H. Sugiharto, (sugi)	Sugi	0.53	70
	A. Nurkunyil, (nurkunyil)	Sugi	0.53	70
	F. Asplund Sivelind, (Filip AS)	Sweden Juniors	0.53	70
	A. Abragi, (AAbragi)	Sweden Juniors	0.53	70
27	H. Setton, (Ldase)	Apple	0.52	56
28	M. Reza, (jakskal)	Sugi	0.39	28
	G. Elwindra, (gabrialsew)	Sugi	0.39	28
	R. Trendafilov, (rumen)	Harris	0.39	56
	T. Tiholov, (polborta)	Harris	0.39	56
32	J. Petersson, (motvillige)	Fredin	0.33	42
33	K. Bouwen, (kebosporto)	Netbridge	0.32	56
34	M. Kwiecien, (michal1)	Seligman	0.3	70
	W. Starkowski, (wstarkowsk)	Seligman	0.3	70
36	A. Apteker, (alonap)	Fredin	0.29	56
	A. Kusmin Satoto, (toing)	Sugi	0.29	14
38	M. Seligman, (mseligman)	Seligman	0.26	84
	M. Lesniewski, (lesniak)	Seligman	0.26	84
40	P. Franceschetti, (gewd)	Apple	0.24	84
41	S. Thoresen, (sivt)	ECF Holding	0.21	56
	E. Eide, (bloodaxe)	ECF Holding	0.21	56
43	D. Chechelashvili, (Dato)	New Amateurs	0.2	56
	A. Lo, (aitail)	New Amateurs	0.2	56
45	Gu Jiang, (Jiang_Gu)	New Amateurs	0.17	70
46	T. Lucassen, (Lucassen)	Multi	0.1	42
	R. Walker, (Rob)	Multi	0.1	42
48	A. Falk, (Allan Falk)	New Amateurs	0.05	42
49	N. Igoe, (ibraves)	Harris	-0.12	42
50	S. Tommasini, (Stefanot)	Texan Aces	-0.13	56
	B. Green, (benjy)	Texan Aces	-0.13	56
52	T. Bern, (Xtober)	Sweden Juniors	-0.14	14
	A. Allfrey, (allfrey)	Orca	-0.14	14
	K. Gustafsson, (Klaragust)	Sweden Juniors	-0.14	14
55	T. Forrester, (Anthonyf)	Orca	-0.15	84
	P. Crouch, (pitiful)	Orca	-0.15	84
57	P. Fredin, (P_Fredin)	Fredin	-0.17	84
58	A. Robson, (arobson)	Orca	-0.18	28
59	M. Been, (bendezz)	Netbridge	-0.21	14
	O. de Haas, (olliebol)	Netbridge	-0.21	14
61	J. Harris, (Jdache)	Harris	-0.25	56
62	S. Root, (AsNuttyAs)	Harris	-0.29	56
63	T. Lie, (Terjel)	ECF Holding	-0.31	70
64	Q. Robert, (ptit)	Apple	-0.32	28
65	M. Barel, (mich-b)	Multi	-0.36	42
	E. Malhasyan, (master DJ)	Harris	-0.36	70
	K. Lucky, (leonhart)	Sugi	-0.36	28
	P. Katz, (paz_k)	Multi	-0.36	42
	M. Zomer, (mczo)	Netbridge	-0.36	14
70	D. Yang, (hyang)	New Amateurs	-0.4	70
71	H. Hjort Warlenius, (Hwarlenius)	Sweden Juniors	-0.5	84
	I. Lichtenstein, (Ivarlicht)	Sweden Juniors	-0.5	84
73	T. Bauer, (Marintlc)	Bauer's Reindeers	-0.52	56
74	R. Plackett, (hoofie)	Orca	-0.54	70
75	M. Fernando Christian, (elang)	Sugi	-0.57	14
76	M. Huber, (marijnhu)	Netbridge	-0.6	42
	M. Van der Starre, (martin001)	Netbridge	-0.6	42
78	E. Erichsen, (espene)	Orca	-0.63	56
79	N. Verhoeve, (slin55)	Netbridge	-0.79	28
	M. la Haye, (martenha)	Netbridge	-0.79	28
	F. Nando, (tj3n)	Sugi	-0.79	28
82	T. Aagaard, (thorvald)	Multi	-0.83	42
	S. Schultz, (schultz112)	Multi	-0.83	42
84	A. Casanova, (Cricket75)	Bauer's Reindeers	-1.02	42
85	S. Gillis, (Rayas78)	Gillis	-1.04	84
	F. Helness, (Fredrik101)	Gillis	-1.04	84
87	I. Delmonte, (ishd)	Bauer's Reindeers	-1.04	70
	D. Benner, (dlbfsa)	Bauer's Reindeers	-1.04	70
89	G. Gottlieb, (Garybrook)	Fredin	-1.07	28
90	E. Fasting, (mehe)	ECF Holding	-1.31	42
91	P. Boyd Bowman, (pjbb)	Bauer's Reindeers	-1.55	42
	O. Hubert, (ohubert)	Bauer's Reindeers	-1.55	42
93	R. Tolani, (suketbombi)	Texan Aces	-1.96	28
	a. Khare, (ajay_khare)	Texan Aces	-1.96	28
95	K. Rentes, (7slaper)	Netbridge	-2.39	28
	J. Van Den Hoek, (janonline)	Netbridge	-2.39	28
97	R. Rasmussen, (helle_r)	Multi	-2.43	14