World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

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KNOCKOUTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER CUP
RANKING AFTER QUALIFICATION

1	Texan Aces	123.03
2	Seligman	118.21
3	Fredin	107.74
4	Apple	100.42
5	Sweden Juniors	98.49
6	Orca	95.41
7	Multi	93.71
8	Harris	91.97
9	ECF Holding	88.47
10	Sugi	87.46
11	Gillis	75.19
12	Netbridge	72.11
13	New Amateurs	67.54
14	Bauer's Reindeers	40.25

The qualified teams:

Texan Aces
Venkatesh G., Padhye A., Tolani R., Khare A., Hsieh D., Chen L., Castner K., King P., Tommasini S., Green B.

Seligman
Lesniewski M., Seligman M., Kwiecien M., Starkowski W., Bizon P., Blat M.

Fredin
Fredin P., Gottlieb G., Sylvan J., Petersson J., Gustawsson M., Becklen J., Fallenius B., Apteker A.,

Apple
Setton H., Franceschetti P., Brink S., Drijver Bas, Robert Q.

Sweden Juniors
Abragi A., Asplund Sivelind F., Lichtenstein I., Hjort Warlenius H., Gustafsson K., Bern T.

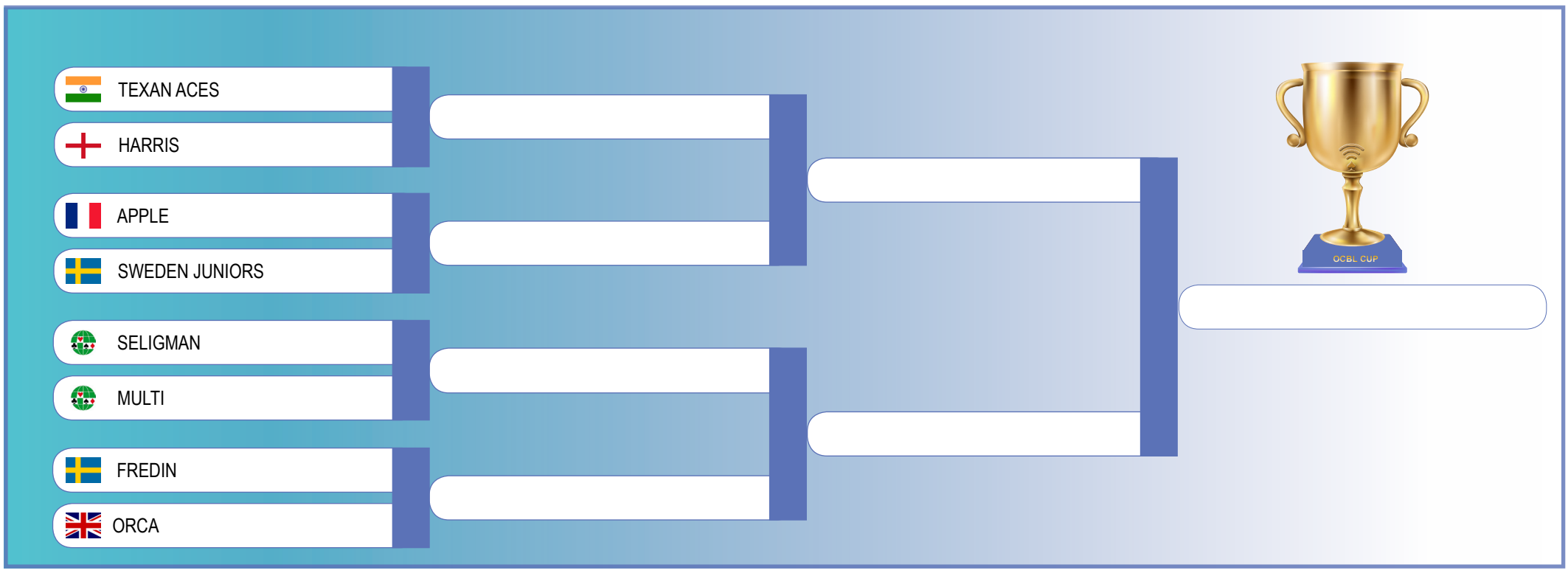
Orca
Plackett R., Erichsen E., Crouch P., Forrester T., Allfrey A., Robson A.

Multi
Barel M., Katz P., Liran I., Walker R., Lucassen T., Aagaard T., Schultz S.,
Londberg Bilde B., Bilde L., Rasmussen R.

Harris
Root S., Harris J., Igoe N., Malhasyan E., Gold M., Trendafilov R., Isporski V., Tiholov T., Gross S.

We wish to thank all the teams who did not qualify for being part of this event!

Please check out the info on our newest event (WED-THU Swiss) at page 2.



All the tables will be open to kibitzers

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 5, 6 and 7

by Brian Senior

Round 5

Board 7 was a borderline slam and, if you were in it, it was all about how to play the trump suit.

Board 7. Dealer .South. All Vul.

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

ECF Holding v Multi

West	North	East	South
Aagard	*Thoresen*	*Schultz*	*Eide*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♢	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♢
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Hegge	*Barel*	*Ovesen*	*Kat*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	2♢
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♢	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

Thoresen's 2♠ was an artificial game force. He continued by agreeing diamonds and, when Eide could show spade control, asked for key cards and bid the small slam. Aagard led a low club. Eide won in hand and led the jack of diamonds, running it when Aagard followed with the three. That is the right percentage play in the suit and it duly brought the contract home for +1370.

Barel's choice of forcing bid at his second turn was the semi-natural 3♣. He next set trumps and took control when Katz admitted to a spade control. Hegge led a club and Katz won and took the diamond finesse; 12 tricks for +1370 and no swing.

Orca v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Plackett*	*Apteker*	*Erichsen*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	2♢
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♢	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Sylvan*	*Forrester*	*Gustavsson*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♢	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♢	All Pass	

For FREDIN, Sylvan and Gustavsson stopped safely in game. Two Hearts was a good old-fashioned strong jump shift and 4♣ was a cuebid – presumably 3♠ would have not been so clearcut, looking like a NT probe. It seems that they were not quite on the same wavelength regarding this, as South's spade control got lost in the wash somehow. Gustavsson won the spade lead and led a diamond to the king, losing two trump tricks but having the rest; +600.

Plackett did not have a strong jump shift at his disposal even if he had wanted one. He started with a simple 1♡ response then followed up with an artificial game force. When Erichsen admitted to a spade control, Plackett took control and bid the slightly sub-oar small slam. Fredin led the three of diamonds. One has to have sympathy with Erichsen for going up with the king, playing for the lead to have been from ace to three with bare queen offside. Of course, on the actual lay-out the contract was now one down for –100 and 12 IMPs to FREDIN instead of 13 the other way had the slam been made.

Seligman v Apple

West	North	East	South
Setton	*Seligman*	*Franceschetti*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	2♢
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*B Drijver*	*Kwiecien*	*Brink*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♢	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♢
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

Seligman started off with 1♡ then invented a club suit but then didn't go on over Lesniewski's 3NT. Lesniewski won the spade lead and led the jack of diamonds to the queen and king, and soon had 12 tricks for +690.

Drijver responded 1♡ then bid an artificial 2♠, agreed diamonds, then made a club cuebid. Brink marked time with 4♢ and Drijver took control then bid the small slam. Starkowski led the three of diamonds. We have seen one declarer get the trumps wrong after this lead, and I think Brink did very well to stick to the raw odds in the suit by playing low from dummy. When his six won the first trick, he quickly played a second round and had his slam; +1370 and 12 IMPs to APPLE.

Round 6

Unlike the quiet Round 5, Round 6 was a high-scoring affair with a lot of slam decisions and one or two interesting play decisions to be made.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Seligman v Sugi

West	North	East	South
Christian	*Seligman*	*Nando*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	1♢	1♠
Pass	1NT	2♢	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Yan*	*Kwiecien*	*Luo*
–	–	1♢	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Norths became declarer in 3NT.

Nando led the six of hearts against Seligman, who won the ace, cashed the jack, and played the ten of clubs from dummy, opening up his communications if the queen was taken, while greatly increasing his chance of avoiding a club loser altogether if it was ducked – a nice play. Christian won the club queen and returned a diamond to the king and jack. Mando played ace and another spade, and Seligman could win the queen, come to the jack of clubs, and cash his heart winners followed by the clubs; nine tricks for +600.

Kwiecien led a low diamond to dummy's bare jack. Yan cashed the ace of clubs then led a spade to the king and ace. Kwiecien cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to his remaining spade, which went to the eight and jack. Starkowski returned a heart, which Yan won with the ace. He led a low club off the dummy and that lost to the queen, Yan could win the heart return and had nine tricks in all – four clubs, three hearts (having to overtake the jack), one spade and one diamond; +600 and a flat board.

Sweden Juniors v ECF Holding

West	North	East	South
Hegge	*Warlenius*	*Ovesen*	*Lichtenstein*
–	–	1♢	2♢
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Sivelind	*Lie*	*Abragi*	*Fasting*
–	–	1♢	1♠
2♡	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Dble	All Pass

Lichtenstein could overcall 2♢ to show spades and another, and 2NT asked for the seond suit, after which Warlenius bid the NT game. Ovesen led a low diamond to dummy's jack. Warlenius went for a simple line. He cashed one top club then played ace and jack of hearts, overtaking the jack. He cashed the third heart winner then ran the jack of clubs, losing to the doubleton queen. That left Hegge with two hearts to cash before playing a spade to his partner's ace, and Ovesen had two diamonds also; down two for –200.

Fasting had to start with a simple overcall and now Sivelind made a wafter-thin non-forcing 2♡ bid with the West cards. That came back to bite him when his partner, presumably expecting a little more for the bid, doubled 3NT. Abragi led a low diamond to the jack, and Lie led a spade to the king and ace. Abragi cashed both top diamonds then got out with a spade, Lie covering with dummy's eight. Sivelind had to switch to a heart now. Lie won the ace and cashed the ace of clubs then the queen of spades. He overtook the ♡J, cashed the ♢Q and third heart winner, and, with a perfect count on the hand (East still had the ten of diamonds) led his remaining low club to the king at trick 12, bringing down the queen. The ten of clubs was the ninth trick; +750 and 14 IMPs to ECF HOLDING.

Urca v Harris

West	North	East	South
Harris	*Plackett*	*Malhasyan*	*Erichsen*
Crouch	*Root*	*Forrester*	*Igoe*
–	–	1♢	1♠
Pass	1NT	2♢	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Identical auctions saw the North players at the helm in 3NT.

Forrester tried a sneaky sox of spades, hoping to see his partner win and push a diamond through – an interesting idea, but this proved not to be the right time for it, asn the spade lost to declarer's bare king. Root played a club to the ten and queen and back came a diamond to the king and jack. Forrester got out with a club. Root won the jack and cashed the rest of the clubs, Crouch throwing hearts. That meant that Root could cash the ♡A then overtake the jack and take four heart tricks, bringing his total to nine for +600.

Malhasyan led the eight of diamonds to the bare jack. Plackett played clubs from the top, dropping the queen. After three rounds of clubs, he led the king of spades from hand and Malhasyan won the ace and cashed the ace of diamonds before switching to the six of spades. Plackett won the queen, cashed the two remaining club winners, and that squeezed Harris in the majors so that declarer could overtake the second heart and still have four winners in the suit; 11 tricks for +660 and 2 IMPs to ORCA.

Apple v Texan Aces

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	*B Drijver*	*Green*	*Brink*
–	–	1♢	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
Dble	Rdbl	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Hsieh*	*Franceschetti*	*Chen*
–	–	1♢	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Chen overcalled 1♠ then jumped to 3♣ at his next turn and Hsieh converted to 3NT, against which Franceschetti cashed the king of diamonds then switched to ace and another spade. Hsieh won the queen, cashed the king of clubs, then played ace of hearts and overtook the jack with the king. Going all out, he next cashed the ♡Q, pitching a spade from dummy, then ran the jack of clubs. That lost to the queen and Robert was left with nothing but major-suit winners; down four for –400.

Tommasini made a gambling double of 3NT, hoping that awkward breaks would beat the hand if his partner found a safe spade lead. Drijver, typically, upped the ante with a redouble, and that was that. Green cashed a top diamond before switching to ace and another spade. Drijver won the queen and, expecting Tommasini to have a high card outside spades for his double, given that the spades were known to be only jack high, played off the ace and king of clubs. When the queen fell he cashed the rest of the clubs and Tommasini unguarded the heart so that Drijver could overtake the jack and claim 10 tricks for a slightly unusual way of chalking up +1400 and a massive 18 IMPs to APPLE.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Bauer's Reindeers

West	North	East	South
Casanova	*Chechelashvili*	*Bauer*	*Lo*
–	–	Pass	1♣
Dble	1♠	2♢	Dble
3♢	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Gu	*Hubert*	*Baseggio*	*Boyd*
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♢	1♠	4♢	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

When Lo could make a support double, Chechelashvili jumped to the spade game, against which Bauer led the queen of diamonds. Chechelashvili won the ace and led a spade to the queen and ace. He ruffed the diamond return and led the nine of spades to his ten, cashed the king of spades, and his heart losers went away on the clubs; 12 tricks for +480.

Gu's decision to overcall rather than double meant that Baseggio could make a pre-emptive raise to the four level, cutting Boyd out of the auction. Hubert, however, had little option but to close his eyes and bid 4♠, hoping for a little something in the way of support in the dummy. Baseggio led the queen of diamonds and Hubert must have been pretty happy with the dummy he had bought. He won the ace of diamonds and led a spade to the queen and ace. Back came a low heart and he put up the queen. That was covered by the king and ace and Hubert proceeded to get the spades wrong, leading to his king. When Gu was able to ruff the second club and return a heart, Baseggio had two of those to cash for down one and –50; 11 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

That was rather sloppy play from Hubert. If he plays low on the heart switch, wins the ace and takes the spade finesse, his contract is assured, at worst losing a second spade and one heart.

Apple v Texan Aces

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	*B Drijver*	*Green*	*Brink*
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♢	2♢	4♢	4♡
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Hsieh*	*Franceschetti*	*Chen*
–	–	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♢	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♢
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Chen opened a Precision 2♣ and 2♢ asked. Three Clubs showed six clubs with a shortage somewhere and 3♠ was natural. Four Diamonds now showed three-card spade support and diamond shortage, and Hsieh settled for the spade game. He won the diamond lead, ruffed his diamond loser, then played the queen of spades. Robert ducked, which solved the problem in that suit, and a second spade play soon resulted in 12 tricks for +480.

Brink's 1♣ could have been a doubleton and 2♢ was at least invitational with six or more spades. Green's 4♢ pre-empt did not inconvenience Brink in the slightest. His 4♡ was a spade slam try, and Drijver checked on key cards then bid the small slam. Tommasini led a low diamond to dummy's ace. Brink led a spade to the queen and ace, ruffed the diamond return, and led the nine of spades. After some thought, he went up with the king and was down one for –50 and 11 IMPs to TEXAN ACES.

Seligman v Sugi

West	North	East	South
Christian	*Seligman*	*Nando*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Yan*	*Kwiecien*	*Luo*
–	–	Pass	1♣
1♢	1♠	4♢	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♢	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Given a free run, Seligman and Lesniewski stopped in game. Nando led the queen of diamonds. Seligman won the ace, ruffed his remaining diamond, and played the queen of spades. Christian won the ace and returned the seven of hearts to the queen, king and ace. A spade misguess, Christian ruffed the second club, and down went the cold game – oops!

Starkowski overcalled at the other table, and that permitted Kwiecien to make a pre-emptive raise to 4♢. Luo passed over that but, when Yan could bid 4♠ all by himself, used key-card and bid the small slam. Kwiecien led the queen of diamonds, Yan winning the ace and leading a spade to the queen and ace. Back came a heart to the queen, king and ace. Yan played the nine of spades with a lot of IMPs hinging on his next card from hand. Expecting a shapely hand on his left for the big pre-emptive raise, he ran the nine and had 12 tricks for +980 and 14 IMPs to SUGI.

That was a bit of overkill with two huge results on the same board.

Six Spades was bid four times, with Yan the only successful declarer. Four Spades went down twice and 5♠ once. The other seven N/S pairs bid and made game, usually with overtricks.

Round 7

APPLE leads the way going into the third and final day of qualifying, with TEXAN ACES in hot pursuit, along with SELIGMAN. With eight out of 14 to qualify, a slightly below average score should make the cut, meaning that perhaps only the bottom two teams would need a huge day to make it to the knock-outs, so it's all to play for on Wednesday.

Board 1 was a very thin game for E/W. not automatic to bid – as we shall see – and not automatic to make either.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Apple v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Svendsen	*B Drijver*	*Saelensminde*	*Brink*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	2♡	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Setton	*Gillis*	*Franceschetti*	*F Helness*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♢	Dble	Pass
2♡	All Pass		

Franceschetti did not open the East hand so Helness got to open as South. He bid 1♣ and Gillis responded 1♢. With a maximum pass and four-four in the majors, Franceschetti doubled that and, after a pass from Helness, Setton jumped to 2♡, where she played. Gillis led a club to the king and ace, and Setton ruffed a club at trick two, came to hand with the king of diamonds and ruffed another club. A heart to the ace was followed by a third club ruff, this time with the queen. Setton cashed the two aces and still had to come to a heart trick; nine tricks for +140.

Saelensminde did open the East 10-count and Brink, lacking one of the majors, passed. The heart fit was found and now Brink doubled for take-out, Svendsen redoubling to show his extra values. Did he think that set up a force, or was he giving Saelensminde a lot of leeway when he next passed over Brink's 2♠? Anyway, 2♠ ended the auction and Svendsen led the four of diamonds to his partner's ace. Saelensminde switched to a low heart but Brink got that right, putting in the jack and losing to the ace. Svendsen cashed the ace of diamonds then played ace and another club, which Saelensminde ruffed. He got off play with a diamond to dummy's ten, Brink having unblocked on the first two rounds of the suit, and Brink could now lead a low spade through the ace and, on winning the king, duck a spade on the way back. The ace didn't fall, but was the only loser Brink had from this point so he had six tricks for –100 but 1 IMP to APPLE.

Bauer's Reindeers v Orca

West	North	East	South
Allfrey	*Bauer*	*Robson*	*Casanova*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Benner	*Plackett*	*DelMonte*	*Erichsen*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♡	All Pass		

Robson did not open the East hand but, like others before him, doubled when Casanova's 1♣ opening came round to him. Allfrye jumped to 2♡ in response and Robson in turn jumped to game. The lead was a club to the jack and ace. Allfrey ran the jack of spades to Casanova's king and she returned a club to force dummy to ruff. Allfrey played ace and another spade now, pitching a diamond and losing to the queen. He won the diamond return in hand, played a diamond to the ace, and ruffed a diamond. Next he led a heart to the queen and king. A spade back was ruffed by Bauer, who returned a club. Allfrey ruffed in dummya nd led the last heart to his ace, dropping the ten, so was down one for –50.

By contrast, after the same start to the auction, DelMonte didn't even invite game facing the jump to 2♡. Benner won the diamond lead in hand and passed the jack of spades to the king. She won the clkub return in hand and took a second spade finesse then cashed the ♠A pitching a club, and played the ten of spades, pitching a diamond. Plackett ruffed the fourth spade and returned a diamond to dummy's ace. Benner ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, and ruffed the thirteenth diamond low and was over-ruffed. The ten of hearts was ducked to the jack and ace, nd the last club ruffed. There was the king of hearts to be lost, so plus one for +140 and 5 IMPs to BAUER'S REINDEERS.

Texan Aces v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	*Tolani*	*Becklen*	*Khare*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
1♡	Pass	2♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Padhye	*Fredin*	*Venkatesh*	*Gottlieb*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
1♡	2♣	2♡	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♡	All Pass

Becklen passed as East but balanced with a double when Khare's 1♣ came round to him. Facing a passed partner, Fallenius responded with a quiet 1♡ but, when Becklen now raised, confirming that he held four cards in the suit, Fallenius went on to the heart game. The lead was a club to the jack and ace. Fallenius ruffed a club and led a low spade off the table. Khare went in with the king and returned a diamond to the four, eight and ace. Fallenius cashed the ace of spades and continued with the nine, discarding a diamond from hand. That lost to the queen, and back came a diamond to the king. Fallenius cashed the ace of hearts, ruffed a club and ruffed a diamond, then ruffed his last club with the queen of hearts, but he had to lose the last two tricks to the ten and king of hearts so was down one for –50.

Venkatesh passed the Eats hand so Gottlieb opened 1♣ as South, and that ran round to Venkatesh, who doubled. Like Fallenius, Padhye responded with a simple 1♡, but then made a game try when Venkatesh competed over Fredin's 2♣. Venkatesh accepted the game try so Padhye was declarer in the thin heart game. Fredin led the three of hearts to the five, jack and ace, and Padhye immediately took a spade finesse, running the jack. That lost to the king and Gottlieb returned the queen of diamonds. Padhye won in hand and took a second spade finesse them, when the nine scored, ducked a heart to bring down the bare king. He won the club return with the ace, crossed to the ace of diamonds and cashed the ace of spades. When the queen appeared, he drew the outstanding trump and cashed the ♠10, A diamond ruff established the thirteenth card in that suit and Padhye had an overtrick; +450 and 11 IMPs to TEXAN ACES.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Bauer's Reindeers v Orca

West	North	East	South
Allfrey	*Bauer*	*Robson*	*Casanova*
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♡	Dble	Pass	Pass
2♢	Pass	3♢	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Benner	*Plackett*	*DelMonte*	*Erichsen*
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♠	Dble	1NT	Dble
All Pass			

Modern bidding has many upsides, but one of the downs is that the club suit is sometimes lost in the wash, and on this deal it was the other minor, diamonds, which was lost at one table – and it proved to be an expensive loss.

Both Easts opened the ropey 11-count. Benner responded 1♠, bypassing diamonds in the popular Walsh style and, when Plackett doubled, DelMonte rebid 1NT and Erichsen doubled that. Perhaos she should have rescued her partner into 2♢, but she probably thought that DelMonte was not a man who needed to be rescued. While that may often be correct, on this occasion it was not. Erichsen led the queen of clubs, quickly establishing four defensive club winners. Having won the king of clubs, DelMonte could have settled for down two but, when the diamonds proved to be three-one, he cleared the suit in hope that the defence would not be able to work out what was going on in the majors. No, Plackett won the third diamond and played ace and another club, discarded spades on Erichsen's winning clubs, and had four heart tricks to come for down three and –500.

Allfrey responded with a 1♡ transfer to

spades and Bauer doubled. Robson's pass denied three spades and when 1♡ doubled came back round to Allfrey he ran to the hoped for safety of his longer suit. Robson was sufficiently pleased with that that he raised to 3♢ and that silenced everyone. Bauer cashed the ace of hearts, collected an encouraging card from Casanova and continued with a low heart to the queen. Casanova cashed a third heart then switched to a club. Bauer won that and continued with a second club to dummy's king. From here she could sit back and wait for her trump trick; down one for –50 but 10 IMPs to ORCA.

Sweden Juniors v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Zomer	*Gustafsson*	*Bouwen*	*Bern*
–	–	Pass	Pass
2♢	Dble	4♢	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Abragi	*v d Hoek*	*Sivelind*	*Rentes*
–	–	1♢	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♢	All Pass

Van Den Hoek never quite found a comfortable time to get involved on the North cards. Sivelind opened 1♢, rebid 1NT, and did as instructed when he completed the 2♣ puppet to 2♢, and that was that. Rentes led the queen of clubs, Van Den Hoek winning the ace and underleading in hearts to get partner in to lead a trump. That worked, up to a point, in that Rentes did win the ♡Q and switch to his trump, but that went to the jack and king and Abragi cashed the ace of diamonds then led a spade to the ace, played king of clubs for a heart pitch and ruffed a club, then led a spade to the king and ruffed a spade, then another club. Abragi came to nine tricks for a nice +110.

Nice, perhaps, but nearly enough, due to the action at the other table. Zomer opened a weak 2♢ in third seat and Gustafsson doubled for take-out. When Bouwen raised the pre-empt by two levels, Bern made a responsive double and Gustafsson, with a balanced hand and likely trump trick, left it in. That was all fine and, as we have seen, a diamond contract can be held to eight tricks easily enough. But Gustafsson didn't like to lead either of his unsupported aces so chose instead the two of spades, won by dummy's jack. Zomer cashed the ace of spades then cashed the king and ace of diamonds. Next he discarded two of dummy's hearts on the king and ten of spades, Gustafsson ruffing the ten. From here there was just one heart and one club to be lost; 10 tricks for +510 and 9 IMPs to NETBRIDGE.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

As can be seen, N/S are cold for 6♢ or 6♡, and also for 6NT if it is played by South. But South has all the controls and North has two queen-high long suits and no ace or king. That isn't an easy combination to bid to slam with any confidence, as the filed discovered.

Apple v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Svendsen	*B Drijver*	*Saelensminde*	*Brink*
–	3♡	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Setton	*Gillis*	*Franceschetti*	*F Helness*
–	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Opening the North hand with a pre-empt didn't work. Helness simply raised to game, while Brink made a try but Drijver wasn't interested; flat at +480.

Texan Aces v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	*Tolani*	*Becklen*	*Khare*
–	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♢	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♢	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Padhye	*Fredin*	*Venkatesh*	*Gottlieb*
–	2♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

If opening 3♡ didn't work, it was unlikely that opening a level lower, implying less playing strength, would do so. Sure enough, Gottlieb just raised Fredin's weak two to game; +480.

Tolani passed as dealer and Khare opened 2NT in third seat. Tolani showed hearts, then diamonds, but with no known eight-card fit Khare just gave preference to the major and Tolani passed; +480 and a flat board.

Sugi v Harris

West	North	East	South
Harris	*Nurkunyil*	*Malhasyan*	*Sugiharto*
–	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♢	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Lucky	*Tiholov*	*Nando*	*Trendafilov*
–	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♢	Pass	6♢
All Pass			

In this match both Norths opened with a weak two bid and both Souths responded with a 2NT asking bid. When Nurkunyil showed his diamonds at the three level, Sugiharto settled for 3NT, where he made all 13 tricks after a spade lead; +520.

Tiholov jumped to 4♢ over 2NT, showing an extremely shapely two-suiter, and now Trendafilov could judge the value of his control-rich hand and jumped to the diamond slam. Nicely done for +920 and 9 IMPs to HARRIS.

Sweden Juniors v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Zomer	*Gustafsson*	*Bouwen*	*Bern*
–	4♡	Pass	6♡
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Abragi	*v d Hoek*	*Sivelind*	*Rentes*
–	2♢	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Van Den Hoek opened with a multi then showed a weak hand with hearts, and Rentes settled for the heart game; +480.

Gustafsson found a different opening bid with the North cards – 4♡! Bern blasted Six, unsure whether it could be cold for Seven facing the right hand or was even Six too high? Zomer guessed that his opponents were too high and doubled, but his guess was wrong and, despite Bouwen finding the spade lead, Gustafsson, like everyone else, had 12 tricks. That was worth +1210 and 12 IMPs to SWEDEN JUNIORS.

Everyone else played in 4♡. Gustfasson's 4♡ did the trick, as did Tiholov's jump to 4♢ facing the 2NT enquiry, so well done to both of them.

Altogether, there were six weak 2♡ openers and two multis, four 3♡ openers, one 4♡, and one pass.

OCBL
WED - THU SWISS

We are happy to introduce a new event which is thought to entertain VIP players inbetween face-to-face tournaments.
The pandemic is not over, but an increasing number of tournaments and championships are held.
This event will be played on Wednesday and Thursday (two days only) in a Swiss format.
For further information, please check page 2.

OCBL DECEMBER CUP - RESULTS

ROUND 7

Apple	12.16 VPs 30 IMPs	7.84 VPs 23 IMPs	Gillis
Texan Aces	13.48 VPs 28 IMPs	6.52 VPs 16 IMPs	Fredin
Seligman	9.03 VPs 21 IMPs	10.97 VPs 24 IMPs	ECF Holding
Sugi	6.28 VPs 26 IMPs	13.72 VPs 39 IMPs	Harris
Sweden Juniors	17.91 VPs 53 IMPs	2.09 VPs 17 IMPs	Netbridge
New Amateurs	0.72 VPs 1 IMPs	19.28 VPs 49 IMPs	Multi
Orca	20 VPs 71 IMPs	0 VPs 14 IMPs	Bauer's Reindeers

ROUND 8

Apple	9.34 VPs 30 IMPs	10.66 VPs 32 IMPs	ECF Holding
Texan Aces	17.77 VPs 53 IMPs	2.23 VPs 18 IMPs	Sweden Juniors
Seligman	14.85 VPs 28 IMPs	5.15 VPs 10 IMPs	Harris
Sugi	14.85 VPs 47 IMPs	5.15 VPs 29 IMPs	Bauer's Reindeers
Gillis	1.13 VPs 4 IMPs	18.87 VPs 48 IMPs	Multi
Fredin	18.98 VPs 60 IMPs	1.02 VPs 15 IMPs	New Amateurs
Orca	9.03 VPs 21 IMPs	10.97 VPs 24 IMPs	Netbridge

ROUND 9

Texan Aces	15.26 VPs 39 IMPs	4.74 VPs 19 IMPs	Multi
Apple	0 VPs 19 IMPs	20 VPs 82 IMPs	Fredin
Seligman	18.41 VPs 52 IMPs	1.59 VPs 12 IMPs	Gillis
Sugi	0 VPs 14 IMPs	20 VPs 73 IMPs	Orca
ECF Holding	2.37 VPs 1 IMPs	17.63 VPs 35 IMPs	Netbridge
Harris	11.58 VPs 45 IMPs	8.42 VPs 40 IMPs	New Amateurs
Sweden Juniors	18.76 VPs 74 IMPs	1.24 VPs 31 IMPs	Bauer's Reindeers

OCBL DECEMBER CUP - RESULTS

BUTLER RANKING

1	T. Andersson, (skalman)	Fredin	1.75	28
2	L. Chen, (lc chen)	Texan Aces	1.65	84
	D. Hsieh, (hsiehdh)	Texan Aces	1.65	84
4	M. Been, (bendezz)	Netbridge	1.64	28
	O. de Haas, (olliebol)	Netbridge	1.64	28
6	H. HEGGE, (hagz)	ECF Holding	1.31	42
7	A. Robson, (arobson)	Orca	1.21	70
8	A. Apteker, (alonap)	Fredin	1.04	70
9	A. Allfrey, (allfrey)	Orca	0.98	42
10	G. Venkatesh, (texanace)	Texan Aces	0.9	42
	A. Padhye, (oqonil)	Texan Aces	0.9	42
	J. Becklen, (Janb)	Fredin	0.9	42
13	M. Blat, (Blama1)	Seligman	0.86	14
	P. Bizon, (Taub)	Seligman	0.86	14
	M. Gustawsson, (Lagom)	Fredin	0.86	42
16	B. Londberg Bilde, (lionberg)	Multi	0.7	56
17	W. Starkowski, (wstarkowsk)	Seligman	0.66	112
	M. Kwiecien, (michal1)	Seligman	0.66	112
19	O. Svendsen, (Pirrum)	Gillis	0.66	126
	E. Saelensminde, (skaal1)	Gillis	0.66	126
21	L.A. Johanssen, (larsarthur)	ECF Holding	0.63	56
22	J. Sylvan, (JoppeSyl)	Fredin	0.6	84
23	A. Abragi, (AAbragi)	Sweden Juniors	0.58	112
24	P. Fredin, (P_Fredin)	Fredin	0.56	126
25	T. Aagaard, (thorvald)	Multi	0.5	70
	S. Schultz, (schultz112)	Multi	0.5	70
27	F. Asplund Sivelind, (Filip AS)	Sweden Juniors	0.49	98
28	T. Bern, (Xtober)	Sweden Juniors	0.48	56
	K. Gustafsson, (Klaragust)	Sweden Juniors	0.48	56
30	H. Sugiharto, (sugi)	Sugi	0.46	84
	A. Nurkunyil, (nurkunyil)	Sugi	0.46	84
32	R. Plackett, (hoofie)	Orca	0.42	98
33	T. Tiholov, (polborta)	Harris	0.4	84
	R. Trendafilov, (rumen)	Harris	0.4	84
35	H. Setton, (Ldase)	Apple	0.39	84
	T. Lucassen, (Lucassen)	Multi	0.39	56
	R. Walker, (Rob)	Multi	0.39	56
38	S. Brink, (Sjoertbr)	Apple	0.33	126
	Bas Drijver, (BasDr)	Apple	0.33	126
	J. Petersson, (motvillige)	Fredin	0.33	42
41	Tom Drijver, (tdrijverrr)	Netbridge	0.29	56
	A. Kusmin Satoto, (toing)	Sugi	0.29	14
	S. Høyland, (sioslo)	ECF Holding	0.29	14
44	E. Eide, (bloodaxe)	ECF Holding	0.21	56
45	M. Lesniewski, (lesniak)	Seligman	0.21	126
	M. Seligman, (mseligman)	Seligman	0.21	126
47	A. Lo, (aitail)	New Amateurs	0.2	56
48	M. Reza, (jakskal)	Sugi	0.14	42
	G. Elwindra, (gabrialsew)	Sugi	0.14	42
	J. Ovesen, (jo-arne)	ECF Holding	0.14	70
51	L. Bilde, (Bilde)	Multi	0.07	70
52	W. Yan, (wy7199)	Sugi	0.05	42
	A. Falk, (Allan Falk)	New Amateurs	0.05	42
	J. LUO, (mossby3)	Sugi	0.05	42
55	A. Farstad, (Kha66)	ECF Holding	0	14
56	K. Bouwen, (kebosporto)	Netbridge	-0.04	84
	J. Harris, (Jdache)	Harris	-0.04	84
58	E. Erichsen, (espene)	Orca	-0.04	70
59	G. Gottlieb, (Garybrook)	Fredin	-0.05	56
60	T. Lie, (Terjel)	ECF Holding	-0.08	112
61	P. Crouch, (pitiful)	Orca	-0.13	112
	M. Barel, (mich-b)	Multi	-0.13	56
	P. Katz, (paz_k)	Multi	-0.13	56
	T. Forrester, (Anthonyf)	Orca	-0.13	112
65	B. Green, (benjy)	Texan Aces	-0.14	84
	S. Tommasini, (Stefanot)	Texan Aces	-0.14	84
	E. Malhasyan, (master DJ)	Harris	-0.14	98
68	Gu Jiang, (Jiang_Gu)	New Amateurs	-0.16	112
69	D. Chechelashvili, (Dato)	New Amateurs	-0.19	98
70	I. Lichtenstein, (Ivarlicht)	Sweden Juniors	-0.26	98
71	N. Igoe, (ibraves)	Harris	-0.26	70
72	P. Franceschetti, (gewd)	Apple	-0.26	126
73	S. Root, (AsNuttyAs)	Harris	-0.35	84
74	G. Jacobs, (georgej)	Bauer's Reindeers	-0.45	42
75	H. Hjort Warlenius, (Hwarlenius)	Sweden Juniors	-0.5	84
76	S. Thoresen, (sivt)	ECF Holding	-0.53	70
77	F. Baseggio, (baseggio)	New Amateurs	-0.58	84
78	E. Fasting, (mehe)	ECF Holding	-0.63	70
79	K. Lucky, (leonhart)	Sugi	-0.64	42
80	M. Zomer, (mczo)	Netbridge	-0.68	28
81	M. Van der Starre, (martin001)	Netbridge	-0.75	56
	M. Huber, (marijnhu)	Netbridge	-0.75	56
83	M. la Haye, (martenha)	Netbridge	-0.79	28
	N. Verhoeve, (slin55)	Netbridge	-0.79	28
	B. Fallenius, (Bf88)	Fredin	-0.79	14
86	M. Fernando Christian, (elang)	Sugi	-0.88	42
87	T. Bauer, (Marintlc)	Bauer's Reindeers	-0.9	98
88	F. Nando, (tj3n)	Sugi	-0.97	70
89	a. Khare, (ajay_khare)	Texan Aces	-1.05	42
	R. Tolani, (suketbombi)	Texan Aces	-1.05	42
91	D. Yang, (hyang)	New Amateurs	-1.06	112
92	A. Casanova, (Cricket75)	Bauer's Reindeers	-1.23	56
93	I. Delmonte, (ishd)	Bauer's Reindeers	-1.26	98
	D. Benner, (dlbfsa)	Bauer's Reindeers	-1.26	98
95	F. Helness, (Fredrik101)	Gillis	-1.33	126
	S. Gillis, (Rayas78)	Gillis	-1.33	126
97	J. Van Den Hoek, (janonline)	Netbridge	-1.38	56
	K. Rentes, (7slaper)	Netbridge	-1.38	56
99	P. Boyd Bowman, (pjbb)	Bauer's Reindeers	-1.46	56
	O. Hubert, (ohubert)	Bauer's Reindeers	-1.46	56
101	Q. Robert, (ptit)	Apple	-1.57	42