World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

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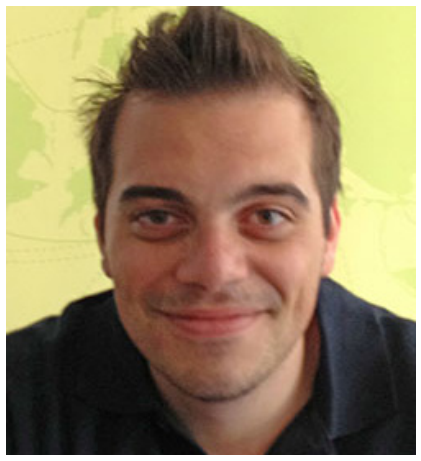
APPLE WON THE DECEMBER CUP

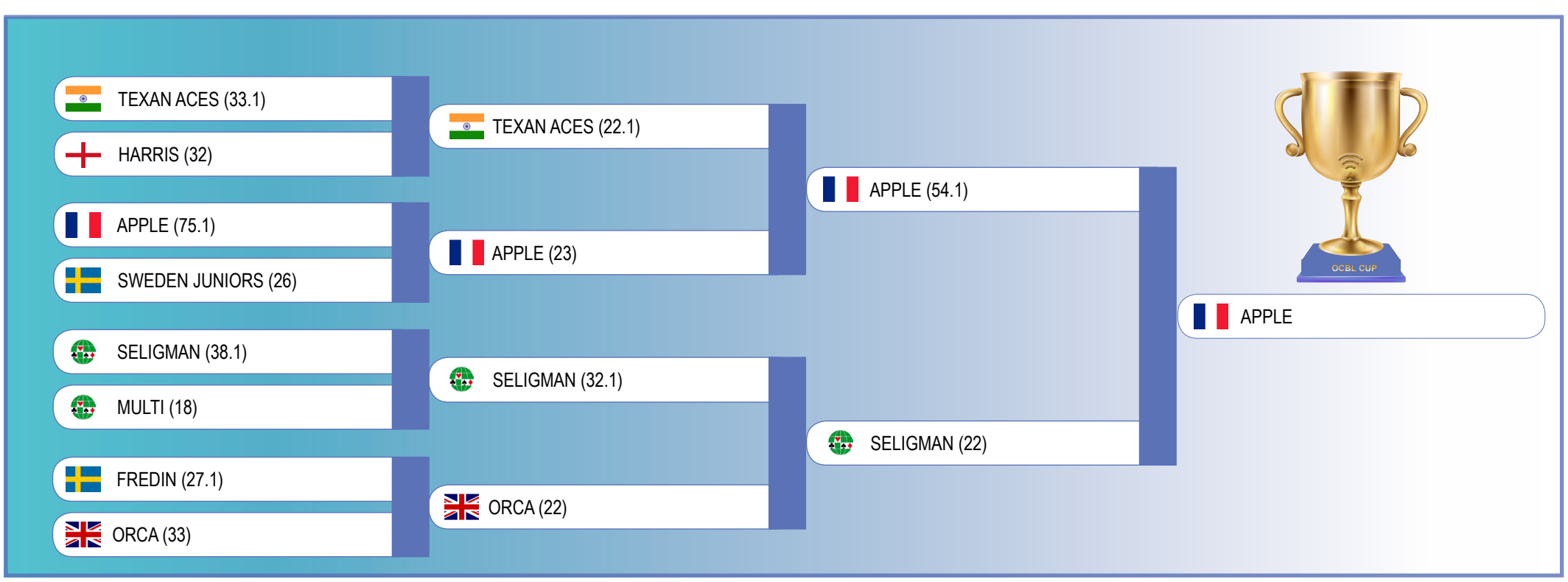


Apple (Setton H., Franceschetti P., Brink S., Drijver Bas, Robert Q.) won the OCBL December Cup!

In the final, they faced team **Seligman** (Lesniewski M., Seligman M., Kwiecien M., Starkowski W., Bizon P., Blat M.).
The match ednded 54.1 - 22.

The third place is shared between the opponents of Apple and Seligman in the Semifinals:
Orca (Plackett R., Erichsen E., Crouch P., Forrester T., Allfrey A., Robson A.)
Texan Aces (Venkatesh G., Padhye A., Tolani R., Khare A., Hsieh D., Chen L., Castner K., King P., Tommasini S., Green B.)

We wish to thank all the teams who took part to 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
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

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 8 & 9

by Brian Senior

Round 8

The first board of Round 8 was an unusual one in that all four players declared a doubled contract at at least one table, and there was a doubled contract in all five denominations. – quite a good effort with only 14 tables in play.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Sugi v Bauer's Reindeers

West	North	East	South
Benner	*Nando*	*DelMonte*	*Christian*
–	2♢	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Reza	*Jacobs*	*Elvindra*	*Bauer*
–	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♢	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Nando opened a multi with the North cards and Christian responded 2♠, showing a liking for hearts but not for spades. When that was passed round to DelMonte, he overcalled 2NT and was raised to game, doubled by Christian to conclude the auction. Christian led out three rounds of hearts, DelMonte winning dummy's queen and playing on diamonds. Nando won the second diamond and returned a spade. DelMonte had three spades, the ♡Q and four diamonds, so was down one for –100.

It could have been a lot worse – why not lead ace and then a low heart, when defensive communications are left open and the contract is down three? The other two tables at which 3NT was played also saw the contract go down only one on the same defence – I suppose it just never occurred to South that partner might have three hearts and a void club.

Jacobs opened a full-blooded 3♠ and Bauer raised that to game. Having had no good bid at his first turn, Elvindra could now overcall 4NT to show a two-suited hand, and Reza responded 5♢, doubled by Bauer. Jacobs led a suit-preference three of spades in search of a club ruff. Reza won the ace and played the nine of diamonds, which Jacobs won with the ace. He returned a heart to Bauer's king and Bauer played ace and another club, giving Jacobs his ruff. Jacobs returned a heart, but Reza could ruff that, draw the missing trump, and claim the rest; down two for –300 and 5 IMPs to BAUER'S REINDEERS.

Orca v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Huber	*Robson*	*v d Starre*	*Allfrey*
–	2♢	Dble	Rdbl
Pass	2♡	3♣	Pass
3♡	4♣	Pass	4♡
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*v d Hoek*	*Forrester*	*Rentes*
–	Pass	1♢	4♡
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Robson opened a multi and Allfrey's redouble demanded that he bid 2♡ so that Allfrey could play in his own suit. Robson duly did as requested and now van der Starre introduced his club suit and Huber asked for a heart stopper. Now Robson, with an excellent hand in support of hearts, cuebid 4♣ and Allfrey bid 4♡. When Huber bid 5♣ over that, Allfrey was waiting for him with a prompt double, ending the auction. Allfrey cashed the king of hearts then switched to his singleton spade, won by dummy's king. Declarer led the three of clubs to the nine and jack and now Allfrey played the ace of hearts – ruffed. Declarer played the king of diamonds to Robson's ace and Robson gave Allfrey a spade ruff. He returned a heart to dummy's queen, ruffed van Der Starre's diamond play, and continued the forcing attack with a fourth heart. That was ruffed in dummy and the ♣K played, and the trump ace was the defence's last trick; down four for –800.

Van Den Hoek did not open the North hand, leaving Forrester to open 1♢ as East. Rentes overcalled 4♡ and, when that came back to Forrester, he doubled, not worried about his lack of spade length. Crouch left that in and led a diamond, which Rentes won with dummy's ace. He ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond and ruffed another club. Out of diamonds, he next had to come off dummy instead with a spade, but Forrester could win the ace and push his trump through to prevent any further ruff in the dummy. Rentes won the ace of hearts and cashed the king, then played ace and another club. That meant two club losers and one heart; down one for –100 and 14 IMPs to ORCA.

Fredin v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Yang	*Andersson*	*Baseggio*	*Becklen*
–	2♢	3♢	3♡
3NT	4♠	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Chechelashvili*	*Gottlieb*	*Gu*
–	2♠	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
4♢	Dble	All Pass	

Chechelashvili opened with a weak two bid and Gottlieb overcalled 3♠, showing a minor two-suiter. When Fredin converted that to 3NT, Gu doubled and Fredin ran to 4♣ then, when that too was doubled, o run again, this time to 4. That too was doubled and this time that ended the auction. Chechelashvili led the four of hearts, Gu winning the king and switching to his spade. Fredin won the queen and played the king of diamonds, Chechelashbvili winning the ace and returning a spade. Fredin won the ace and drew trumps, then got the clubs right to bring home his contract for +510.

Andersson opened a multi and Baseggio overcalled in his stronger minor. Now Becklen competed with 3♡, but that looked like pass or correct to Andersson, who bid 4♠ over the opposing 3NT and was doubled. Baseggio led the king of diamonds, so Andersson won the ace and ruffed a diamond, then played ace of clubs, discarding his last diamond, and ruffed a club, followed by a spade. Baseggio won the queen and thought that a forcing game made the most sense. Andersson ruffed the diamond return and played a second trump to the ace. Back came another diamond, which Andersson ruffed. He crossed to the ace of hearts and ruffed a club, crossed to the king of hearts and played another club, and Gu could do nothing to prevent his making his last trump en passant to bring his total to 10 tricks for a wonderful +690 and 15 IMPs to Fredin.

Board 8. Dealer West .None Vul.

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

The popular spot on this deal was 4♠, played by North. Some declarers won the diamond lead and played in straightforward fashion. For example:

Ruff dummy's second diamond and cash the ace and king of spades then continue with ace and another heart. East won that, cashed the queen of spades, and got out safely with a diamond. Declarer had to lose a second heart and a club, so was down one for –50.

Or another declarer also ruffed the second diamond but cashed only one top trump before ducking a heart. That was a better shot but not good enough, as West won the ♡J and returned a heart, and now declarer ducked again so East won the king and was endplayed. However, he got out with a low club and declarer misguessed, putting in the ten. The jack forced the ace and he had a club and a spade to lose so was again down one for –50. Of course, East could have avoided the endplay by rising with the king on the first heart and returning a heart.

Nando, for Team SUGI, was one of the successful declarers. He won the diamond lead and ruffed a diamond, cashed one top spade, then played ace and another heart. East won the king and was endplayed. He gave up his trump trick so Nando lost only a club and a second

heart but no trump trick; 10 tricks for +420.

For GILLIS, Saelensmide played it the same way, but his East returned a club, putting him to a guess. Saelensminde got it right, putting up the queen, so avoided the club loser and had 10 tricks for +420.

So is the defence powerless against this line of play? No, as was shown by Kwiecien, for SELIGMAN. He sat East and his declarer started by winning the diamond lead and ruffing the second diamond then playing ♠A followed by ♡A – and Kwiecien unblocked the king! Nicely done, and now West was winning both defensive heart tricks so there was no endplay and the contract was down one for –50.

Round 9

Board 4 saw E/W cold for 6♢, while N/S had a cheap save in 6♠ doubled. Cheap, did I say, well, despite its having three top losers, 6♠ made on five of the six occasions on which it was played, and both declarers in 5♠ made all 13 tricks.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Harris v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Chechelashvili	*Root*	*Gu*	*Igoe*
3♢	Dble	6♢	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Harris	*Yang*	*Malhasyan*	*Baseggio*
2♢	Dble	2NT	Pass
3♡	Pass	5♢	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

I'm not sure that the West hand is an ideal example of any opening bid, but we saw two different choices by our two Wests in this match.

Harris opened with a weak 2♢ and Malhasyan ignored the double to ask for further information via a 2NT relay. When Harris showed a good opener with a heart feature, Malhasyan liked that enough to jump to game. E/W had missed a cold slam, so Yang's double was a modest compensation for what they had missed; 12 tricks for +950.

That was the second best of the 14 E/W results on the board, the best coming at the other table in the same match. There, Chechelashvili opened a level higher, Toot doubled, and Gu blasted 6♢. When that came around to Root he doubled again, and that concluded the auction, Igoe's seven-card spade suit never getting a mention. Six Diamonds doubled was cold, of course, for +1540 and 11 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

ECF Holding v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Been	*Ovesen*	*de Haas*	*Thoresen*
2♣	Dble	2♢	2♠
Pass	6♠	7♢	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Fasting	*Bouwen*	*Lie*	*T Drijver*
Pass	1♣	1♢	2♠
4♠	6♠	7♢	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Been opened 2♣, strong and artificial or a weak two in diamonds, and Ovesen doubled, assuming it to be the weak variety. De Haas bid a quiet 2♢ for now on the East cards but, when his opponents suddenly bid to 6♠, judged that it might be wise to save in 7♢, as his partner by now clearly had the weak two type. Thoresen doubled 7♢. He failed to find the club lead, but a heart proved to be good enough, as there was nowhere for the club loser to go; down one for –200.

Fasting did not open the West hand but must have been surprised to see his partner overcalling 1♢. He showed his big diamond fit and spade void with a jump to 4♠ and that convinced Lie to save in 7♢ over 6♠/ Again, the contract was doubled and down one for –200, so no swing.

You might think that misjudging and taking a phantom sacrifice would mean that E/W had achieved a poor score, but, other than the first match we looked at, only one other E/W pair went plus on the deal.

Seligman v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Svendsen	*Seligman*	*Saelensminde*	*Lesniewski*
Pass	1♣	1♢	2♠
5♢	5♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Helness*	*Kwiecien*	*Gillis*
Pass	1♣	1♢	1♠
5♢	6♢	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Neither East opened in this match, both Norths opening 1♣ and both Easts overcalling 1♢.

Lesniewski made a weak jump shift to 2♠ and Svendsen jumped to 5♢. Seligman's 5♠ now concluded the auction. Svendsen led the king of diamonds, and Lesniewski had all 13 tricks for +710.

Gillis bid a simple 1♠ and Starkowski too leaped to 5♢. Helness, however, was not willing to settle for 5♠ and cuebid 6♢, looking ofr a possible grand slam if partner had the ace of hearts. But that pinpointed the defence against 6♠, and Starkowski led ace and another heart for the defence to take the first three tricks for down two and –200; 14 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Perhaps Starkowski would have led the heart anyway had Helness simply bid 6♠?

Sugi v Orca

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Yan*	*Forrester*	*Luo*
3♢	Dble	5♢	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Christian	*Robson*	*Nando*	*Plackett*
3♢	Dble	5♢	5♠
Pass	6♠	Dble	All Pass

Both Wests opened 3♢, both Norths doubled, and both easts raised to 5♢.

Luo passed as South, but responded 5♠ to Yan's second double, and Yan raised to Six. Plackett bid 5♠ immediately and Robson raised to Six and Nando doubled.

Both Wests led the king of diamonds, so both declarers had 13 quick tricks. That was worth +1460 to Luo, but +1860 to Plackett and 9 IMPs to ORCA.

Texan Aces v Multi

West	North	East	South
B Bilde	*Hsieh*	*L Bilde*	*Chen*
1♢	2♣	3♣	Pass
3♢	3♠	5♢	5♠
6♢	Pass	Pass	6♠
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Tommasini	*Walker*	*Green*	*Lucassen*
Pass	1♣	1♢	2♡
4♠	Dble	4NT	Pass
5♠	Dble	6♢	Pass
Pass	6♠	Dble	All Pass

Bilde added a new opening choice to our collection when she opened 1♢. Hsieh started the North hand with a heavy 2♣ overcall – it was hard to imagine this being passed out when he was void in the suit opened on his right. At his next turn Hsieh introduced the spades, and that assured that Chen was never going to let his opponents play a contract. Chen competed to 5♠ over 5♢, then 6♠ over 6♢, and was doubled by West. East led the king of hearts, got what was presumably a length signal of the three, and switched to the ace of diamonds; 12 tricks for +1660.

Tommasini passed the West hand so Walker opened 1♣ and Green overcalled 1♢. Two Hearts was weak with spades and Tommasini showed his big diamond fir and spade void with a jump to 4♠. Walker doubled, and doubled again when West made a 5♠ response to key-card, When his opponents settled in 6♢, Walker bid 6♠ and Green doubled. Green too led the king of hearts, and he too switched to the ace of diamonds, so that was another +1660 and just another dull push.

So, how does the defence get it right against 6♠ doubled?

Firstly, of course, West can overtake the king of hearts and return the suit, costing his side the second undertrick. No doubt it did not occur to either Bilde or Tommasini that their partners would have a problem in continuing hearts at trick two, so why squander 200 aggregate points for the second undertrick against what might well be the normal contract?

But let's consider the situation from East's point of view, as Ben Green suggested to me after the match. West's bidding is consistent with his being either his actual shape, 0-3-6-4, or of being 0-5-5-3. In the latter case, the diamond switch is necessary. Meanwhile, what shape is East likely to be for his bidding? He is not 6-5 in the red suits as he would have started with a two-suited overcall, and he must have short clubs to justify the use of key-card, so he is most likely to be his actual shape. A deep-thinking West might be able to recognise his partner's potential problem and, knowing that a heart continuation must be correct, should make a false count signal with the ten (playing standard count). That gets a heart continuation without blowing a heart trick. It's not easy to do, because it is all too easy to relax at trick one and assume that partner will always continue hearts once the king scores, but the false signal does look right.

Quarterfinals, Semifinals and the Final

by Brian Senior

Quarterfinals

The quarter-finals would be played over one 16-board segment. As the top qualifiers, TEXAN ACES would face HARRIS with an 8.1 IMP carry-over advantage. APPLE had a 1.1 IMP carry-over against SWEDEN JUNIORS, SELIGMAN a 6.1 IMP advantage over MULTI, and FREDIN a 3.1 IMP advantage over ORCA.

There were game swings on Board 1 in two of the four matches.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Fredin v Orca

West	North	East	South
Plackett	*Sylvan*	*Erichsen*	*Gustawsson*
–	1♡	1♠	2♢
2♠	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Robson*	*Apteker*	*Allfrey*
–	1♡	1♠	2NT(i)
3♠	4♣	Pass	4♢
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

(i) Limit raise

Both Easts overcalled 1♠ and both wests competed to the three level. However, both E/W pairs were content to defend against the heart game.

Apteker led ace then queen of spades, Robson ruffing in dummy and playing the king of diamonds. Fredin won the ace and returned a trump, but Robson won cheaply in dummy, took a club discard on the queen of diamonds, and came to hand with the ace of clubs to ruff his remaining low spade. He had 11 tricks for +450.

Erichsen led the seven of clubs to the queen, king and ace. Sylvan led his singleton diamond to the king and ace, and Plackett cashed the ♣J then continued with the ten. Sylvan ruffed and played the king of spades, which Erichsen won with the ace. He returned a trump, but Sylvan could take two spade ruffs in the dummy and pitch his other spade loser on the queen of diamonds; 10 tricks for +420 but 1 IMP to ORCA.

Apple v Sweden Juniors

West	North	East	South
Gustafsson	*B Drijver*	*Bern*	*Brink*
–	1♡	1♠	4♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Setton	*Sivelind*	*Franceschetti*	*Abragi*
–	1♡	1♠	2♠
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Brink raised directly to game with the South hand, hoping to shut out West's potential spade support. That worled out just fine and 4♡ bought the contract. Bern led his heart to the ten and ace and Drijver led a diamond to the king. Gustafsson ducked so the king held. Drijver continued with the ten of diamonds, discarding the club loser when Gustafsson again played low. Bern won the jack played back a club to the ten and ace and Drijver crossed to dummy by leading the ♡9 to the queen, and played the queen of diamonds. When the ace appeared, he ruffed and crossed to the seven of hearts tpo cash the established diamonds; 11 tricks for +450.

Abragi raised to game via a 2♠ cuebid, and Franceschetti led a club to the queen, king and ace. Sivelind cashed the ace and king of hearts then led a diamond to the queen, which was ducked. A diamond ruff was followed by the nine of clubs. Setton won that and played back a heart to draw dummy's last trump, and declarer was left with nowhere to park the spade losers; down two for –100 and 11 IMPs to APPLE.

Texan Aces v Harris

West	North	East	South
Igoe	*Hsieh*	*Root*	*Chen*
–	1♡	1♠	4♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Padhye	*Tiholov*	*Venkatesh*	*Trendafilov*
–	1♡	1♠	2♢
2♠	3♡	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Chen raised straight to 4♡, against which Root led a club to queen, king and ace. Hsieh led a diamond to the king and ace, and Igoe played the jack then ten of clubs – ruffed. Hsieh led the eight of spades from hand, Root winning the jack and returning a low spade. Hsieh ran that to his king and cashed one top trump before taking a spade ruff with the queen and pitching the last spade loser on the ♢Q; 10 tricks for +420.

Trendafilov introduced his long diamond suit then raised to 4♡ via a cuebid to show a hand too good for a direct raise. Venkatesh led a club to queen, king and ace, and Tiholov led his diamond to the queen and ace. Padhye played two rounds of clubs, so Tiholov ruffed high and led a spade from hand. Venkatesh won the jack and returned his trump to declarer's eight. A spade ruff was followed by the king of diamonds, a diamond ruffed with the nine, and a spade ruff with the queen. When East was unable to over-ruff the next diamond, Tiholov had the rest; 10 tricks for +420 and no swing.

Seligman v Multi

West	North	East	South
Barel	*Seligman*	*Katz*	*Lesniewski*
–	1♡	1♠	2♡
2♠	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*B Bilde*	*Kwiecien*	*L Bilde*
–	1♡	1♠	2♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♢
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Bilde cuebid to show a constructive raise and the two then exchanged cuebids before stopping safely in game. Apteker cashed the ace of spades before switching to a club. That was covered all round, and declarer cashed the ace of hearts before leading a diamond to the king and ace. Starkowski cashed the ten of clubs then played a heart. Declarer won the nine, ruffed a spade, and pitched the last spade loser on the queen of diamonds; 10 tricks for +420.

Lesniewski was the only South to content himself with a quiet raise to 2♡. However, while Seligman's 3♡ would not normally be considered to be invitational, Lesniewski now revalued his hand and went on to game. Katz led her trump round to declarer's ace and Seligman led a diamond to the queen and ace. Back came a low club, and Seligman rose with the ace and crossed to the queen of hearts to take a club pitch on the king of diamonds. But from here there were four spade losers and only one trump in the dummy. Seligman had to lose three spade tricks so was down one for –50 and 10 IMPs to MULTI.

Board 6 produced a double-figure swing in all four matches.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Fredin v Orca

West	North	East	South
Plackett	*Sylvan*	*Erichsen*	*Gustawsson*
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Robson*	*Apteker*	*Allfrey*
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Dble	Rdbl	2NT	Dble
3♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Sylvan and Gustawsson bid smoothly to the spade game, against which Plackett led three rounds of diamonds. Gustawwson pitched a club on the third diamond, then led a heart to the king and ace. Plackett got out safely with a trump. Declarer won that, cashed the queen of hearts, then crossed to dummy and led a club to the ten. That lost to the jack and the jack of hearts meant down two for –100.

This proved not to be the time for Fredin to pre-balance, as his side was heavily outgunned and the opposition was eager to play for a penalty. The 2NT scramble failed to find the best trump suit, as they alighted in the four-three club fit when there was a four-four diamond fit available to them. Robson led a trump, Allfrey winning with the queen and switching to ace and ten of spades. Robson overtook and played a third round, ruffed by Fredin. He played three rounds of diamonds, Robson winning the queen and returning a club. Allfrey won the ace and played another club, bringing down the jack and king together. Fredin led the eight of hearts and, when Allfrey played low, put in the jack. That held, and Fredin had the ace of hearts to bring his total to six; down three for –500 and 12 IMPs to ORCA.

Apple v Sweden Juniors

West	North	East	South
Gustafsson	*B Drijver*	*Bern*	*Brink*
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Setton	*Sivelind*	*Franceschetti*	*Abragi*
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

SWEDEN JUNIORS stopped in the safe partscore and chalked up +170. APPLE were more adventurous and bid to the NT game.

Gustafsson led a club to the king and ace, and Brink crossed to the queen of spades to lead a heart to the king and ace. Gustafsson played three rounds of diamonds, Brink winning the queen, cashing the queen of hearts, then running the spades. Gustafsson found himself squeezed between hearts and clubs for the overtrick; +630 and 10 IMPs to APPLE.

Texan Aces v Harris

West	North	East	South
Igoe	*Hsieh*	*Root*	*Chen*
–	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♢	1♠	2♢	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Padhye	*Tiholov*	*Venkatesh*	*Trendafilov*
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♡
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Chen opened a trong club and the 1♠ response was game-forcing with at least five spades. Root led a diamond so Igoe took the king and ace and played a third round. Hsieh won the queen, throwing a club from dummy, and led a heart to the king, Igoe winning the ace and returning his low heart. Had Hsieh put up the ten, he would have been home, but he played low, not believing his opponent could have defended this way if holding the jack. The nine forced the queen and declarer cashed all the trumps, hoping that someone would come under pressure. He took the club finesse at the end but Root had kept all his three cards in the suit so came to the last trick for down one and –100.

Tiholov's 2♣ was Stayman and 2♠ a range enquiry. Three Clubs showed a maximum. Padhye led a club to the king and ace and Trendafilov crossed to the queen of spades to lead a heart to his king. Padhye ducked that so Trendafilov cashed all the spades, discarding a club and a heart from hand. Holding all the missing high cards, Padhye was crushed. A heart to the queen and ace came next, but all he could do was to cash the top diamonds and ♡J before having to lead round to declarer's club tenace at trick 12; nine tricks for +600 and 12 IMPs to HARRIS.

Seligman v Multi

West	North	East	South
Barel	*Seligman*	*Katz*	*Lesniewski*
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*B Bilde*	*Kwiecien*	*L Bilde*
–	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Both Souths opened 1NT and both Norths transferred. While Bilde was content to leave her partner in partscore, Seligman invited game and Lesniewski accepted.

Bilde made nine tricks for a safe +140. Lesniewski, in game, had a little more work to do.

Barel cashed the ace and king of diamonds and continued with a third round to dummy's queen, Lesniewski pitching a club from hand. He led a spade to the ace and a second spade to the king, followed by a heart to the king. Barel needed to duck that, but he won with the ace and returned a club to the king and ace. One chance is all that Lesniewski needs. He cashed the queen of hearts then rattled off the clubs, and Barel was squeezed between his two jacks; 10 tricks for +620 and 10 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

HARRIS beat TEXAN ACES over 16 boards by 32-25, but their hard-earned carry-over saved the ACES, who sneaked through by 33.1-32 overcall. APPLE coasted past the SWEDEN JUNIORS by 75.1-26 and would face TEXAN ACES in the semi-final, the ACES having the 0.1 IMP tiebreaker. SELIGMAN had beaten MULTI by 38.1-18, and would have the 0.1 IMP tiebreaker when they faced ORCA, 33-27.1 winners over FREDIN, in the other semi-final.

Tony Forrester

Semifinals

So it was APPLE v TEXAN ACES and ORCA v SELIGMAN over 16 boards to see who would make it through to the final of the December OCBL Cup. They looked like two pretty well balanced matches – whoever won there could be no big surprises.

The first half of the set was a quiet affair, with little opportunity for major swings. That all changed on Board 9:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

Seligman v Orca

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Seligman*	*Forrester*	*Lesniewski*
–	2♢	Pass	5♢
Dble	Pass	5♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Robson*	*Kwiecien*	*Allfrey*
–	2♣	Pass	3♢
Dble	4♢	4♠	5♢
5♠	All Pass		

Robson opened 2♣, either a weak two in diamonds or strong and artificial, Allfrey, bidding as though his partner had actually opened 2♢, jumped to 3♢ in response, and Robson raised to 4♢ over Starkowski's double. Kwiecien bid his longer major and Allfrey in turn went on to 5♢, taking away all the space for a sensible exploration of slam prospects. This slow pre-emption in stages worked well, as Starkowski bid 5♠ over 5♢ and Kwiecien passed it out. Allfrey led the three of hearts and Kwiecien couldn't take the risk that it was a singleton. He put up the ace, drew trumps, and gave up a heart; 11 tricks for +650.

Seligman opened a natural weak 2♢ and Lesniewski raised to Five. Crouch doubled then passed Forrester's 5♠ response. After a diamond lead and club switch, Forrester won and drew trumps then picked up hearts without loss; 12 tricks for +680 and 1 IMP to ORCA.

Texan Aces v Apple

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Hsieh*	*Franceschetti*	*Chen*
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♡	3♢	4♢	5♢
6♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Castner	*B Drijver*	*King*	*Brink*
–	3♢	Pass	4♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	5♢
5♡	Pass	6♡	All Pass

Hsieh did not open the North hand but made a weak jump overcall on the next round. Franceschetti had a near maximum for his initial pass and said so with a 4♢ cuebid. When Chen took all the bidding space away from Robert by bidding 5♢, Robert guessed to go high, jumping to 6♡. Hsieh led ace and another diamond to dummy's king.

That provided Robert with the extra entry to play hearts correctly for this combination, starting with the queen to pick up a three-nil split onside. Chen played low but Robert was not going to be put off making the normal play of running the queen and, when it held, could claim her slam for +1430.

Drijver opened the North hand with a pre-empt and Brink tried an imaginative jump to 4♠. Of course, when that got doubled and left in he had to run to the relative safety of his partner's long diamond suit. Castner now introduced his long suit and King judged correctly to raise. Drijver cashed the ace of diamonds then tried a low club. Castner won the ace and led the queen of hearts off the table and ran it when Brink played low; +1430 and no swing.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Seligman v Orca

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Seligman*	*Forrester*	*Lesniewski*
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♠	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Robson*	*Kwiecien*	*Allfrey*
Pass	Pass	1♣	1♠
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Starkowski bid 1NT over the 1♠ overcall and Kwiecien raised to game. Robson decided on a surprise attack, leading the two of hearts. Starkowski won the ace and led a diamond to the queen and king. Robson led a second low heart, Starkowski winning the king and cashing the ace of clubs then cashing the jack and ace of diamonds. Now came the critical play – a low club to the king. Exiting with the third club to Allfrey's queen now left him endplayed to give a spade trick to dummy, and the fourth club was the ninth trick – nicely done for +400.

Crouch did not bid over the 1♠ overcall. Forrester doubled and now Crouch admitted to a spade stopper, after which a careful exploration eventually ended with Crouch declaring 3NT. Seligman led the seven of spades to dummy's bare ace. Crouch tried a diamond to the queen, losing to the king, and back came a second spade. Lesniewski won the ♠Q and exited with a diamond. Crouch won with dummy's jack, cashed a top club, and came to hand with the ♢A. He took the club finesse and Lesniewski won the queen and returned a club. Crouch could cash his winners but eventually had to concede a heart and a diamond to Seligman; eight tricks, so down one for –50 and 10 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Texan Aces v Apple

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Hsieh*	*Franceschetti*	*Chen*
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♡	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Castner	*B Drijver*	*King*	*Brink*
Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both Easts opened 2NT on their 1-4-4-4 hands and both were soon in 3NT after their partners had looked for a major-suit fit and implied that they held four spades.

Brink led a spade anyway, but wisely chose a low one. Declarer being forced to win with the ace was very good news. King cashed the ace of clubs then took the diamond finesse, losing to the king. Drijver returned a spade and Brink put in the ten, losing to the jack. He had not bid the suit, of course, and wanted to convince King that he had led his partner's suit, not his own. It seems that King was not fooled, because he cashed the king of clubs next, and continued with the ace of hearts, ace of diamonds, jack of diamonds and king of hearts. Finally, he exited with a club, and Brink had the rest; down one for –50.

Knowing of dummy's four-card spade suit, Chen looked elsewhere for an opening lead and made the disastrous choice of a club. That ran round to the jack and Franceschetti took the losing diamond finesse but, in the process, established his ninth trick; +400 and 10 IMPs to APPLE.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Seligman v Orca

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

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

Forrester opened at the one level then rebid his suit, but the opposition bid to 4♡ without difficulty. After taking the two diamond tricks, Forrester switched to a trump, and there were two inevitable black losers; down one for –50.

Kwiecien also opened at the one level. Robson and Allfrey got to 4♡ more quickly when Robson bid 2♡ freely over 1♠. It made not the slightest difference that North was declarer at this table, as Kwiecien took his top diamonds and there was a club and a spade to come; down one for –50 and no swing.

Texan Aces v Apple

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Hsieh*	*Franceschetti*	*Chen*
–	–	4♢	Dble
5♢	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Castner	*B Drijver*	*King*	*Brink*
–	–	3♢	Dble
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Fraceschetti opened 4♢ and Robert raised to 5♢ over Chen's take-out double. Chen doubled again when 5♢ came round to him, and Hsieh left it in. Chen cashed the king of hearts, getting a count signal from partner, then switched to the nine of diamonds round to declarer's ten. Franceschetti led the nine of clubs from hand and Chen hopped up with the ace and returned the queen of diamonds. And that was that. Fraceschetti could win and cash a few trumps before playing on clubs. When the clubs came in he had 11 tricks for +550.

Had Chen ducked the club, declarer would not have been able to untangle 11 tricks.

King opened a level lower so Castner had no reason to get involved. Drijver responded 3♡ to the double and Brink raised to game. Castner led the jack of diamonds, King taking the king and ace then switching to a trump. Drijver won and drew the rest of the defensive trumps then played a spade and, when King showed out, had to go down one for –50 but 11 IMPs to APPLE.

SELIGMAN beat ORCA by 32.1-22 and would face APPLE in the final, where they would have the 0.1 IMP tiebreaker. APPLE had scraped through against TEXAN ACES by just 0.9 IMP, 23-22.1, 21 of their 23 IMPs coming on Boards 12 and 14 above.

The Final

And then there were two – APPLE and SELIGMAN. There would be 16 boards to decide who would be the December OCBL Cup winners, and if it was a tie SELIGMAN would claim the title.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

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

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Seligman*	*Franceschetti*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	2♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Starkowski's 1♣ opening was Polish, natural with long clubs, a weak NT type, or strong and artificial, and the 3♣ rebid showed 15+ with long clubs – a 2♡ rebid wasn't an option as that would have shown the strong artificial type. No matter, Kwiecien could introduce hearts to the auction, though he may have wished that he hadn't done so when 4♡ was doubled. Brink led the ace of diamonds and continued with a second diamond to the ten, jack and ruff.

Kwiecien led a heart to the king and ace and put in the ten on the low heart return. He led a club to the ace, came back to hand with a trump to the queen, and led the ten of clubs, ducking when Brink showed out. Drijver won the ♣Q, cashed the ♡J, and Kwiecien had the rest, down one for –100.

Franceschetti opened 2♡ with the East cards, weak with at least 4-4 in the majors, and Robert raised him to game. Lesniewski led his singleton club, so Franceschetti rose with the ace and led a diamond to the queen and ace. He put in the ten on the diamond return, so had to ruff Seligman's jack. Declarer led a heart to the king and ace, put in the ten on the heart return, and cashed the ♡Q before playing a club to the jack and queen. Seligman cashed the ♡J, and that was that; down one for –50 but 2 IMPs to APPLE.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*B Drijver*	*Kwiecien*	*Brink*
–	–	–	3♢
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Seligman*	*Franceschetti*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	–	2♢
2♠	Pass	3♢	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Brink opened a typical (for this partnership) 3♢ on the South cards and that shut everyone out. The contract drifted three off for –150.

Lesniewski opened a level lower, and that left room for Robert to overcall. Franceschetti forced to game and Robert showed his diamond stopper so was left to play in 3NT. Seligman led a low hart, which Robert ducked to Lesniewski's queen. Lesniewski returned the ♡10 to his partner's ace and Seligman continued with the nine to dummy's king. Robert played three rounds of spades. They divided evenly, but Seligman had the queen and an entry to his heart winners. The contract was therefore down one for –100 and 6 IMPs to SELIGMAN, who led by 7-2.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*B Drijver*	*Kwiecien*	*Brink*
1♢	1♡	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Seligman*	*Franceschetti*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	–	3♠
Pass	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Drijver overcalled 1♡ and Kwiecien jumped to 3♣, a natural game force. Starkowski had hearts well held so bid 3NT, which ended the auction. Hearts were indeed well held, but nobody had thought about the spade suit, and Drijver led the ace of spades. Six spades and the ace of hearts later, and Starkowski was down three for –300.

Seligman doubled the opening bid so his opponents were not so focused on hearts. Franceschetti redoubled to show strength, and Lesniewski jumped pre-emptively to 3♠. There was no danger of E/W getting to 3NT now. Robert passed it round to his partner who jumped to 5♣, where he just lost a heart – after a heart to the king and ace and a second heart the spade losers went away on the diamonds; +620 and 14 IMPs to APPLE, who led by 16-7.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*B Drijver*	*Kwiecien*	*Brink*
1♠	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♡	Pass	2♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Seligman*	*Franceschetti*	*Lesniewski*
1♠	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♡	3♣	3♠	4♣
All Pass			

Drijver stayed silent throughout despite his partner's double of 1NT, not liking his soft values in the majors, which might be more useful on defence than offence. He led the jack of clubs against 2♠ and Brink played low, allowing the bare king to score. That was the sixth defensive trick lost at trick one. Starkowski led a heart to the king and ace, won the spade return with the ace, and gave up a heart. Back came a club to the queen and ace, which he ruffed, and he next ruffed a heart. The even split meant that Starkowski could draw a round of trumps and just lose one spade and two diamonds, making eight tricks for +110.

Martin Seligman

Seligman competed with 3♣ over 2♡ and Franceschetti and Lesniewski in turn each competed further, Seligman eventually becoming declarer in 4♣. The heart position was always going to be as declarer needed it to be, but Franceschetti's lead of the king of hearts did not, as they say, exactly paralyse declarer. There were two spades and a trump to be lost, so Seligman scored +130 and his team gained 6 IMPs, to draw level at 16-16 at the midpoint in the match.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*B Drijver*	*Kwiecien*	*Brink*
–	1NT	Dble	3♡
Dble	Pass	3NT	Dble
5♢	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Seligman*	*Franceschetti*	*Lesniewski*
–	Pass	1♣	2♡
Dble	4♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Seligman raised Lesniewski's weak jump overcall to game and, when Robert made a second take-out double, it was normal for Franceschetti to leave it in with his balanced hand and heart values. Robert led the jack of spades to the queen and ace and back came a second spade to the seven, eight and king. Lesniewski led the two of hearts to his seven and exited with the spade loser. Robert played ace and another club and Franceschetti won that and switched to a diamond for the king and ace. There was a trump to lose from here, so Lesniewski was down three for –500.

Drijver opened a 9-12 NT, doubled by Kwiecien. Brink bid a pre-emptive 3♡ then doubled when his right-hand-opponent got to 3NT. Starkowski now jumped to 5♢, concluding the auction. The ten of hearts was led to the king, ace and ruff, and Starkowski laid down the ace of diamonds. The fall of the king was good news. Starkowski led the jack of spades to the queen and ace, and a second spade to the eight and king. There wa sjust a diamond to be lost now, the third club going away on the queen of hearts; 11 tricks for +600 and 3 IMPs to SELIGMAN, leading now by 19-16.

SELIGMAN picked up another 3 IMPs on the next boards for 5♢-1 against 3NT-2, to lead by 22-16. Then on Board 11 both N/S pairs bid to 6♡ where everything was fine except that the trump suit was ♡Q73 facing ♡K86542. One defender held ♡AJ9, so down the slam had to go; no swing. APPLE got 2 IMPs back on Board 12 for a couple of extra overtricks in a partscore to close to 18-22, then came a big swing:

Board 13. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A J 8
♡ 10 7 3
♢ K J 8 7
♣ 8 7 2

♠ K 10 6 5 2
♡ J 6 2
♢ 5 2
♣ A 5 4

♠ Q 9 7 4 3
♡ 5
♢ Q 9 3
♣ K Q 9 6

♠ –
♡ A K Q 9 8 4
♢ A 10 6 4
♣ J 10 3

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*B Drijver*	*Kwiecien*	*Brink*
–	Pass	Pass	1♡
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

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

Drijver used Drury and Kwiecien passed over that and didn't get a second chance. Brink jumped to 4♡ and played there on a diamond lead. That picked up the missing queen and a club went away on the ace of spades; 11 tricks for +650.

Seligman made a simple 2♡ overcall and Franceschetti doubled. Though Lesniewski too jumped to 4♡, the damage had already been done and Robert saved in 4♠, doubled by Seligman. With the spade length marked in the North hand, there were just two diamonds and one trick in each major to be lost. Robert was down only one for –200 but 10 IMPs to APPLE, who had regained the lead at 28-22.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ 10 5 3 2
♡ 8 5 2
♢ 6
♣ A Q 9 8 2

♠ K 8 6
♡ 4 3
♢ 10 9 4
♣ K J 7 6 4

♠ Q 7
♡ K Q J 10 9 6
♢ 8 5 3
♣ 5 3

♠ A J 9 4
♡ A 7
♢ A K Q J 7 2
♣ 10

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

West	North	East	South
Robert	*Seligman*	*Franceschetti*	*Lesniewski*
–	–	3♡	Dble
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♡
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Franceschetti opened the East hand with 3♡ and Lesniewski doubled then cuebid as a spade slam try at his next turn. When Seligman could only sign off in game, he called it a day. Seligman won the heart lead and played ace then jack of spades. He lost two spades and a heart, but had his contract; 10 tricks for +420.

Kwiecien opened a level lower, a multi 2♢, and Brink doubled then cuebid and eventually committed to slam. Drijver settled for 6♠, and Kwiecien led the king of hearts. Six Spades wasn't a great contract, to be fair, but it had the crucial merit of making. Drijver won the ace of hearts and took the club finesse to create a parking place for dummy's heart loser. The ♣Q scored and away went the heart on the ace. Drijver led a low spade to the nine and king, won the diamond return, and ruffed a diamond to get to hand to take a second spade finesse. When the ♠Q popped up, he won the ace, cashed the jack a,d had 12 tricks for +980 and 11 IMPs to APPLE.

That was the killing blow. APPLE picked up 5 IMPs on the next board when Robert/Franceschetti stopped in 1NT, making an overtrick, while a thin but playable 4♠ was down a trick at the other table. And finally, Robert and Franceschetti bid and made a thin game on the last board to pick up another 10 IMPs.

APPLE had scored 38 unanswered IMPs over the last five boards to turn a 6 IMP deficit into what looked like, but wasn't, an easy, 54-22, win. Congratulations to the December OCBL Cup winners – Team APPLE.

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.