Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

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LEVINE WIN THE MARCH TUE-THU SWISS!

Mike Levine

David Berkowitz

Geir Helgemo

Jeff Meckstroth

Bob Morris

Fredrik Nystrom

Eddie Wold

The March TUE-SWISS tournament was won by team Levine! (Levine M., Berkowitz D., Helgemo G., Meckstroth J., Morris B., Nystrom F., Wold E.).

Runners-up are team Fredin (Fredin P., Apteker A., Hick H., Eber N., Clemmensson J.).

Team Black placed third (Black A., Hallberg G., McIntosh A., Hult S., Crouch P., Cope S.).

This event awarded ALT-OCBL Points: check out the total ranking of the ALT and OCBL events at page 3!

OCBL SWISS

TUE-THU SWISS
FINAL RANKING

			ALT-OCBL POINTS AWARDED
1	Levine	152.71	320
2	Fredin	142.87	260
3	Black	138.22	220
4	Mikadinho	128.64	190
5	Ferguson	126.37	180
6	Scorway	125.4	170
7	Harris	122.19	160
8	Seligman	119.74	150
9	Denmark	110.1	140
10	Zhao	107.35	130
11	New Amateurs	93.85	120
12	Netbridge	72.56	110

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

TUE - WED SWISS
26 - 27 April, 2022

10 Rounds x 8 boards

	CET	EST
Tuesday, 26 April	16.00 - 17.15 - 18.30 - 19.45 - 21.00	10.00 - 11.15 - 12.30 - 13.45 - 15.00
Wednesday, 27 April	16.00 - 17.15 - 18.30 - 19.45 - 21.00	10.00 - 11.15 - 12.30 - 13.45 - 15.00

MAY CUP
10 - 13 May, 2022

		CET	EST
Qualification:	Tuesday 10 May	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
3 Rounds x 14 boards	Wednesday 11 May	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Thursday 12 May	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Friday 13 May	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00
3 Rounds x 16 boards			

JUNE CUP
7 - 9 June, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 boards

	CET	EST
Tuesday, 7 June R1 - R4	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Wednesday, 8 June R5 - R8	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Thursday, 9 June R9 - R12 & SF/F	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

MON - TUE SWISS
11 - 12 July, 2022

10 Rounds x 8 boards

	CET	EST
Monday, 11 July	16.00 - 17.15 - 18.30 - 19.45 - 21.00	10.00 - 11.15 - 12.30 - 13.45 - 15.00
Tuesday, 12 July	16.00 - 17.15 - 18.30 - 19.45 - 21.00	10.00 - 11.15 - 12.30 - 13.45 - 15.00

SEPTEMBER CUP
13 - 16 September, 2022

		CET	EST
Qualification:	Tuesday 13 September	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
3 Rounds x 14 boards	Wednesday 14 September	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Thursday 15 September	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Friday 16 September	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00
3 Rounds x 16 boards			

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

https://www.ocbl.org/registration/

ALT-OCBL 2022 POINTS SYSTEM

Online Contract Bridge League

We are pleased to announce the new

ALT-OCBL 2022 points system.

After each tournament of 2022 ALT and OCBL will assign ALT-OCBL points to the teams to form a **common ranking between the two organizations**.

The highest-ranked teams based on ALT-OCBL points will earn the right to play in the Grand Final,
details about this event will be revealed soon.

CUMULATIVE RANKING

RANK	TEAM NAME	POINTS
1	Black	1400
2	Fredin	1330
3	Harris	1180
4	Seligman	1020
5	Scorway	970
6	Netbridge	910
7	Donner	760
8	Moss	720
9	Rippey	680
10	New Amateurs	650
11	Roiko	630
12	Uli	630
13	Cantor	610
14	Edmonds	560
15	Amateurs	540
16	Apple	530
17	ECF HOLDING	530
18	Denmark	480
19	Hok	450
20	Ferguson	440
21	Bridge24PL Mixed	410
22	Zhao	400
23	Practice	380
24	Orca	370
25	Friends	350
26	Jedi Knights	350
27	Lebowitz	340
28	Jupiter	330
29	Levine	320
30	Red Turtle	310
31	Macavity	310
32	Nederland CO	280
33	De Botton	270
34	Flyfalcon	270
35	Vinita	260
36	Sweden	260
37	Swedish Juniors	250
38	Reynolds	250
39	Tulips +	240
40	Magicians	240
41	Winter Soldiers	230
42	The Seniors	230
43	Smart Rabbit	220
44	Bridge Too Far	220
45	Multi	210
46	Russian Juniors +	210
47	Tilly	200
48	Moses	200
49	Mikadinho	190
50	Germany Juniors	180
51	Kruse's Cardcircus	180
52	Daugava	170

Bridge NEWS

WBF Management Committee Decision

FROM THE WBF WEBSITE:

The WBF Management Committee, with all its members present, met via zoom on Wednesday 2 March to discuss how the war promoted by Russia with the support of Belarus is impacting the World 2021 Bridge Team Championship to be held in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy, from 27th March to 9th April 2022 and the wider Bridge Movement.

The WBF Management Committee unanimously expressed its concerns and sympathy for Ukrainian bridge players and citizens alike. It was also united in its strong condemnation of the governments of Russia and Belarus for the treacherous attack on Ukraine and the unacceptable invasion of its national territory.

In accordance with the resolution of the IOC, the Management Committee unanimously decided to not allow the Russian National Teams to participate in the World 2021 World Bridge Teams Championship to be held in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy. from 27th March to 9th April 2022.

The Committee was also united in stating that this resolution has to be seen as a consequence of the despicable invasion of Ukraine by Russia, expressing its great regret towards the Russian bridge players community and the athletes who cannot attend the event.

The March Monthly Mixed Teams Tournament was won by team TURNIPS (Pierre Franceschetti, Cedric Lorenzini, Hilda Setton, Anne Laure Tartarin).

They are followed by team ALPERT (Claire Alpert, Charle Hoyos, Janice Seamon-Molson, Alfredo Versace, Luisana Madueno) and by team SMART RABBIT (Ilan Bareket, Ronnie Barr, Ilan Cohen, Ron Pachtman, Nathalie Saada, Dana Tal, Noga Tal, Yaniv Zack).

EBL Statement

FROM THE EBL WEBSITE:

Dear friends

We have been watching in horror the outrageous, unprovoked, invasion by Russia with the support of Belarus of the independent and sovereign territory and people of the Ukraine. There exists absolutely no rational justification, except possibly in the mind of mr. putin, for this aggression, which the EBL condemns in the strongest possible terms.
Our thoughts and prayers are with the Ukrainian people, who are fighting back so bravely against what one would expect being impossible odds. Their resilience shows that motivation, and fighting for a just cause, can at least partly compensate for raw power.

The EBL has been contemplating how we can show our support in more tangible ways than merely comforting words and proclamations. We have no illusions of what real impact we can possibly have in the bigger scheme of things but want to do something relevant to the Ukrainian bridge community. In this spirit, the EBL Executive Committee has today unanimously decided as follows:

- *The EBL waives the 2022 Annual Dues for the Ukrainian Bridge Federation (“UFSB”).*
- *The UFSB can enter teams in all Categories at the European National Teams Championships (“ENTC”) on Madeira without paying the Entry Fee.*
- *The EBL will organise an online Solidarity Pairs event, possibly including a “Pro-Am” element, later this month with all proceeds going to the UFSB.*

The EBL EC also decided that, until further notice, no Russian or Belarussian participants will be invited to EBL events including, but not limited to, the ENTC on Madeira. We hope that those individual Russian bridge players affected, who may well be as outraged as the rest of us over what is happening, understand that this measure is not directed at them.

We hope and pray that sanity will ultimately prevail and this nightmare for the Ukrainian people, and really the whole civilized world, will soon end.

Lausanne March 3, 2022

Jan Kamras
EBL President

Rounds 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

by Brian Senior

Round 7

As we moved into the second half of the competition, BLACK led by nearly half a match from FREDIN, with SCORWAY and FERGUSON next in the rankings.

Board 5 of Round 7 saw contracts raging from the one- to the six-level.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Harris v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Huber	*Root*	*V d Starre*	*Igoe*
–	2♢	Pass	2♡
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♢	All Pass

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

Root's 2♢ opening was weak with both majors and 2♡ asked him to pass with longer hearts, bid 2♠ with longer spades, which he duly did. Huber now doubled for take-out and Van de Starre showed values by responding 3♢, but Huber didn't feel that he had enough to go on so the partnership languished in 3♢, where Van de Starre made all 13 tricks after the lead of the king of hearts; +190.

At the other table, the Bulgarian Precision auction also fell short of the top spot and they must have been pleased to pick up 6 IMPs for their 3NT+1 and +430.

Scorway v Levine

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	*Shenkin*	*Meckstroth*	*Levinson*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Spears	*Helgemo*	*Diamond*	*Nystrom*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both Norths passed as dealer but then overcalled at their next turn. While Diamond now responded to the take-out double by bidding 1NT with the East cards and was raised to game, Meckstroth looked at the vulnerability and sniffed blood and left the double in.

Diamond made 11 tricks in 3NT after a spade lead; +460.

Meckstroth led the king of diamonds and continued with the ten, which also held the trick. The queen of diamonds was ruffed and Shenkin led a low heart, Meckstroth discarding a club. Shenkin won the heart and played a club, Berkowitz winning the queen and playing the ten of spades to the jack and queen. Meckstroth returned a low spade to dummy's nine and Shenkin led a low heart, finessing against the jack. Meckstroth ruffed and cashed the ace of spades, then switched to a club. Shenkin came to three spades and three hearts so was down only one for –200 but 6 IMPs to SCORWAY.

Fredin v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Eber*	*Pszczola*	*Hick*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Starkowski*	*Apteker*	*Kwiecien*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Apteker played for penalties, passing over the 1♠ overcall then passing out Fredin's reopening double. Apteker led a club. Fredin won the queen a dn returned a heart for his partner to ruff. A club back to the king and a second heart ruff was followed by a diamond to the ace and third ruff, this time with the queen. Apteker cashed the king of diamonds and, though the next diamond was ruffed, still had the ace of trumps to come for a quick two down and –500.

Pszczola didn't get the opportunity to defend as Seligman reopened with a cuebid rather than a double. Pszczola therefore simply jumped to 3NT and played there, making 11 tricks after a spade lead for +460 but 1 IMP to FREDIN.

Mikadinho v Black

West	North	East	South
Cope	*Romano*	*Crouch*	*Zanasi*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	1♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Primavera	*McIntosh*	*Schuster*	*Black*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	1♠	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Crouch judged to play for the penalty from 1♠ doubled. He led the queen of diamonds followed by a low diamond to Cope's ace. Cope switched to the queen of clubs and continued with the ace then king. Romano ruffed and led a heart towards dummy, but Crouch ruffed that and played the king of diamonds, forcing declarer for a second time. Romano played the king of spades from hand, Crouch winning the ace and playing a diamond. Romano ruffed that in the dummy, discarding a heart from hand, and played a heart. Crouch ruffed that and still had the queen of spades for down two and –500.

Schuster preferred to just bid his own hand without worrying about a possible penalty. He opened 1♢ and rebid 2♣, and that got his side to the club fit, as Primavera forced to game then jumped in clubs. However, looking at four low trumps, Schuster was unwilling to co-operate in a slam hunt so just signed off in 5♣, where he made 12 tricks after a trump lead; +420 but 2 IMPs to BLACK.

New Amateurs v Denmark

West	North	East	South
Askgaard	*Gu*	*Konow*	*Lo*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	1♠	2♣	2♠
Dble	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Chechelash.	*Graversen*	*Yang*	*Caspersen*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	1♠	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In this match both Easts chose to rebid 2♣ rather then look for a penalty.

Chechelashvili responded to 2♣ with a cuebid then showed his club support but Yang, with strong spades and weak clubs, was not interested and went back to 3NT, where he made 11 tricks after a spade lead; +460.

Lo raised to 2♠, so there was a possibility of –800 had Konow passed out Askgaard's take-out double. But Konow bid 3♢ and followed through with 3NT at his next turn. Now Askgaard made a clear slam try and drove to the small slam. After a spade lead, Konow could arrange two heart ruffs so had all 13 tricks for +940 and 10 IMPs to DENMARK – well bid.

Ferguson v Zhao

West	North	East	South
B Drijver	*Nadel*	*Nab*	*Ferguson*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*De Wijs*	*V D Bos*	*Nuller*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	1♠	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Van Den Bos rebid 2♣ then bid 3NT after Van Lankveld's spade splinter. When Van Lankveld went on with a club slam try, Van Den Bos was concerned about his weak trumps and raised quietly to game. He made 12 tricks after a trump lead; +420.

Nadel was the only North not to overcall, so Nab was the one to bid spades, with the East hand. When he next raised the fourth-suit bid, he showed four clubs, so Bob Drijver could see that his partner was short in hearts, making the West hand look very good due to its lack of wasted values in the suit. When Nab was willing to co-operate with a diamond cuebid, Drijver bid 4♠, optional key-card for clubs. Four No Trump showed a minimum, but Drijver went on anyway, as his own top clubs explained his partner's lack of enthusiasm. The lead was a heart and Drijver could take sufficient heart ruffs that he had all 13 tricks without risking the spade finesse; +940 and 11 IMPs to ZHAO.

Round 8

Only one contract was made on Board 2 of Round 8. We will come to that later; in the meantime we can take a look at the various failing contracts.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Seligman v Harris

West	North	East	South
Isporski	*Starkowski*	*Trendafilov*	*Kwiecien*
–	–	1♣	1♢
Dble	Rdbl	3♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Tiholov*	*Pszczola*	*M Gold*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Dble	Pass
2♡	2NT	All Pass	

Trendafilov opened the East hand with a potentially short club, and Isporski doubled the 1♢ overcall to show hearts. Trendafilov's aggressive heart raise shut out his opponents and bought the contract. Kwiecien cashed the ace of spades then switched to the seven of diamonds for the jack and ace. The ♠Q was returned to the king and ruff, and Kwiecien switched back to diamonds, the ten to dummy's king and a spade discard from declarer. Trendafilov ruffed a diamond then played his last spade. Kwiecien ruffed and led a diamond, which Starkowski ruffed with the ace. A spade through promoted the queen of hearts so the contract was down two for –100.

Pszczola did not open the East hand so Gold got to open as South. Pszczola doubled Tiholov's 1♠ response to show the other two suits, and Seligman responded 2♡. Now Tiholov bid 2NT and was left to play there. Pszczola led the two of hearts to the seven, eight and ten. Tiholov led a low diamond to the ten and jack, won the heart return with the ace, and cashed the ace of diamonds. The news was not good in that suit so he switche dhis attention to clubs, running the jack to the bare queen. Seligman returned his low heart to Pszczola's king and Pszczola switched to a low spade to dummy's bare ace. Tiholov played a club to his ten and Pszczola won the ace and led his last heart to Seligman's jack. Seligman cashed the king of diamonds then led a spade to his partner's king, and the spade return left declarer to concede a second spade trick at the end. The contract was down three for –300 and 9 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Black v Ferguson

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Hallberg*	*V D Bos*	*Hult*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♢	Pass	1♡	Pass
2♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Black	*Nadel*	*McIntosh*	*Ferguson*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	All Pass	

FERGUSON had uncontested auctions at both tables.

Ferguson opened the South hand with 1♢ and rebid 1NT. He declined the game invitation and declared 2NT on the lead of a low heart to the ten and king. He won the heart return with the ace and played ace and another diamond, the eight losing to the nine. Black persevered with a third heart, so Ferguson won the queen and, short of dummy entries, laid down the king of clubs. The fall of the queen was good news and he continued with a club to the jack, which was ducked by McIntosh. Ferguson cashed the ace of spades then led another club up, losing to the nine then the ace. McIntosh was down to ♠K97 and dummy to ♠Q106. His low spade return endplayed dummy to concede the last two tricks and the contract was down one for –100.

Hult did not open the borderline South hand so Van Lankveld tried a light third seat opening at favourable vulnerability. When he next raised his partner's response, Van Den Bos made a game try, which Van Lankveld swiftly declined. Hult cashed the ace of spades and switched to a low diamond to the king and ace. Hallberg in turn switched to ace then ten of hearts, and Van Den Bos won the king and played ace of clubs and ruffed a club, followed by the jack of spades to the queen and king, Hult discarding a diamond. A second club ruff was followed by a spade, Hallberg winning the ten. He played his last club to Hult's king and Hult could cash the queen of hearts but declarer had a heart and a spade at the end; down two for –100 and 5 IMPs to BLACK.

Zhao v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Eber	*De Wijs*	*Hick*	*Muller*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Dble	Pass
2♡	Dble	3♡	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Verhees	*Fredin*	*V Prooijen*	*Clemmensson*
–	–	All Pass	

Clemmensson did not open the South hand and nobody else felt that they had an opening bid either so the board was passed out.

Muller, however, opened at the other table and Hick doubled the 1♠ response for take-out. When his opponents bid and supported hearts, De Wijs was awkwardly placed and guessed to bid 3NT, where he played. Hick's heart lead went to the seven, jack and ace, and De Wijs led a low diamond to the ten and jack. Back came a heart, his ten being allowed to hold the trick. De Wijs led the ten of clubs, running it to the bare queen, and Eber returned a heart to his partner's king. Hick switched to a low spade to the bare ace to establish his king, and De Wijs led a club to the jack and ace. Hick played a heart, Eber winning the eight and leading a spade through. When the ten forced the king, De Wijs had seven tricks so was down two for –200 and 5 IMPs to FREDIN.

Netbridge v Levine

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	*V D Hoek*	*Meckstroth*	*Bremer*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♣
2♡	3♡	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Huber	*Helgemo*	*V D Starre*	*Nystrom*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both Souths declared the poor NT game after showing both their suits.

Berkowitz led a heart to the ten and king and Meckstroth switched to a low spade to declarer's bare ace. Bremer led a diamond to the ace and a second diamond to the ten and jack and Berkowitz returned a spade to the ten and king. The seven of spades was played back to dummy's queen and Bremer cashed the ♡A then led a club to his king, dropping the bare queen. He continued with a club to the jack and ace and Meckstroth led the nine of spades to his partner's jack. That squeezed Bremer out of his last club as he had to keep a diamond guard, so that when Berkowitz now played a heart, he won the queen but had to lead into the ♢K9 at trick 12 to lose the last two tricks; down three for –300.

Huber too led a low heart to the ten and king, but Van de Starre continued hearts, declarer winning the ace and leading a low diamond to the ten and jack. Huber cleared the hearts, Nystrom winning the queen and leading a diamond to the ace, getting the bad news. He continued by leading the ♣Q then when Van de Starre played low changing his mind and putting up the king. That was a case of good news/bad news, as he had got the suit right but wasted the ten. Nystrom cashed the ace of spades then played a diamond. Huber won the nine, cashed the jack of hearts, then cashed the king of diamonds. A spade switch came next and Nystrom got that wrong, putting up the queen and losing to the king. Van de Starre cashed the ace of clubs and, as Nystrom had discarded two clubs from dummy to keep the spade guard, the nine of clubs was also a winner. The contract was down four for –400 and Nystrom might have been relieved to find that this was worth only 3 IMPs to NETBRIDGE.

Scorway v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Chechelash.	*Shenkin*	*Yang*	*Levinson*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Dble	2♣
2♡	3♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Spears	*Gu*	*Diamond*	*Lo*
–	–	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	1NT
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Levinson showed his second suit freely over the take-out double despite the implication that his right-hand-opponent held the suit. When Chechelashvili competed with 2♡, Shenkin in turn competed to 3♣, ending the auction. Chechelashvili led a low heart to the ten and king, and Yang continued with a second heart to the ace. Levinson ran the jack of clubs, losing to the bare queen, and back came a third heart, on which he pitched a diamond from dummy as he won the queen. Levinson cashed the ace of spades now before playing ace and another diamond. Chechelashvili won the second diamond and played the fourth heart. Levinson ruffed on table and discarded a diamond from hand. A spade ruff was followed by a diamond, ruffed with the ten and over-ruffed with the ace. Yang returned the king of spades, which Levinson ruffed. The queen of diamonds was covered by the king and ruffed then over-ruffed, and Levinson had the last trick with the king of clubs. He was down one for –100.

Lo and Gu had an uncontested auction to the same contract, but from the other side of the table. Gu's 1♡ response showed spades, and the 1NT rebid was 11-15 with five hearts and four or more clubs, hence the jump to 3♣. Diamond led a low trump, which was run to the bare queen, and Spears switched to a heart for the ten and king. Diamond continued with a second heart to the ace and Gu played the ten of clubs, ducked by Diamond, followed by a diamond to the ten and jack. A heart came back, so Gu won the queen and led a diamond to his ace. That was ruffed and Diamond cashed the ace of clubs before getting out with a spade to dummy's ace. Gu played a diamond, losing to the nine, and back came a spade. He got that right by putting in the ten and forcing the king, and the contract was down two for –200 and 3 IMPs to SCORWAY.

Denmark v Mikhadinho

West	North	East	South
Askgaard	*Romano*	*Konow*	*Zanasi*
–	–	2♢	Pass
2♡	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Primavera	*Graversen*	*Schuster*	*Caspersen*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♢	Pass	1♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	1NT
2♡	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Konow opened the East with 2♢, 10-15 three-suiter with short diamonds, and the 2♡ response was to play. Zanasi made a balancing double and Romano responded 3♣ and played there. Konow led his diamond, after which he was known to be precisely 4-4-1-4. That went to the seven, nine and ace, and Romano ran the jack of clubs at trick two, losing to the queen. Askgaard returned a low spade to the bare ace. Romano played the queen of diamonds to Askgaard's king and Askgaard continued with the jack and a fourth diamond, Romano discarding a spade from hand as Konow ruffed. Konow played ace and another club and there was still the king of hearts to come in the ending so the contract was down two for –200.

There were two passes to Primavera, who made a light opening in third seat. He did not raise the 1♡ raise immediately, but was willing to compete when his opponents balanced into 1NT. When Caspersen now competed with 3♣ on the South cards, Schuster made a penalty double and that concluded the auction. Primavera led a heart to the ten and king and Schuster switched to his diamond for the eight, nine and ace. Caspersen cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to the ace of spades, and took a diamond pitch on the queen of hearts. Now he gave up a diamond, leading the seven from hand and losing to the jack. Caspersen ruffed Primavera's low diamond return with the jack and Schuster over-ruffed with the ace. Back came a low club but, of course, the previous trick had pinpointed the position of the queen, so Caspersen went up with the king and that saw the queen fall on his left. Caspersen could now ruff a diamond with the ten and lead the seven of clubs off the dummy. Schuster could win the nine, but that was all. Caspersen had two trumps and the winning ten of diamonds for the last three tricks and had made his contract for +670 and 13 IMPs to DENMARK.

Ten failing contracts, and the only one that was doubled was also the only one that was made.

Two Easts opened the bidding. When the ten Easts passed, seven Souths opened while three passed. Two of the three Wests who saw two passes to them opened light.

Round 9

Going into the third and final day, BLACK still led the way from FREDIN, with LEVINE, MIKADINHO and SCORWAY close behind. With four matches to play, there was also still plenty of scope for the mid-ranked teams to get back into contention.

Board 1 saw South hold the strongest hand I can remember, in terms of high cards, in any of these online events.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

You would just want to be in slam on the N/S cards, courtesy of the major-suit tens, which mean that there are 12 tricks when the ♡A is short, spades are three-three, or the jack of spades comes down in two.

Does anyone have a system to show a flat 31-count? Let's take a look.

Scorway v Netbridge

North	South
Shenkin	*Levinson*
Pass	2♣
2♢	2♡
2♠	2NT
3♣	3♢
3♠	3NT
Pass	

Levinson went through a Kokish sequence to show 25+ but, when Shenkin then showed a four-card heart suit, just signed off in the safe and secure 3NT – 12 tricks for +490.

North	South
V d Hoek	*Bremer*
Pass	2♣
2♢	5NT
Pass	

An auction I have never seen before but not one that reached the making slam – 12 tricks for +490 and a push board.

Levine v Seligman

North	South
Meckstroth	*Berkowitz*
Pass	2♣
2♢	2♡
2♠	2NT
3NT	4NT
Pass	

Berkowitz went through Kokish then raised the 3NT sign-off to 4NT, but one queen was not nearly enough to tempt Meckstroth – 12 tricks for +490.

North	South
Seligman	*Pszczola*
Pass	2♣
2♡	3NT
Pass	

Seligman's 2♡ response showed a very weak hand so Pszczola just settled for 3NT – 12 tricks for +490 and no swing.

Black v Fredin

North	South
Hallberg	*Hult*
Pass	2♣
2♡	4NT
Pass	

Hallberg's 2♡ response was to play facing 20-21 balanced. The jump to 4NT therefore assumed that he was 0-4, but one queen was still not quite enough for Hallberg to go on – 12 tricks for +490.

North	South
Fredin	*Clemmensson*
Pass	2♢
2♡	2NT
3NT	5NT
6NT	Pass

Two Diamonds was a multi, 2♡ pass or correct, and 2NT a game-force. When Fredin signed off in 3NT, Clemmensson jumped to 5NT to invite slam and Fredin decided that one queen WAS just enough to accept the invitation – 12 tricks for +990 and 11 IMPs to FREDIN.

Ferguson v Denmark

North	South
Snellers	*De Boer*
Pass	2♢
2♡	2NT
3♣	3♢
3♠	6NT
Pass	

De Boer opened a multi and 2♡ was pass or correct. Two No Trump was GF and, when Snellers went through Puppet Stayman, showing four hearts, De Boer just guessed to

jump to 6NT – 12 tricks for +990.

North	South
Graversen	*Caspersen*
Pass	2♢
2♡	4NT
Pass	

Caspersen too opened with a multi and the 2♡ response was the usual pass or correct. Caspersen jumped to 4NT, which he guessed would show about 30 HCP, but Graversen didn't think that his one queen would be sufficient so passed – 12 tricks for +490 and 11 IMPs to FERGUSON.

Harris v Zhao

North	South
Isporski	*Trendafilov*
Pass	2♣
2♢	2♡
2♠	2NT
3NT	4NT
Pass	

Trendafilov went through Kokish then raised the 3NT sign-off to 4NT, but Isporski could not be tempted – 12 tricks for +490.

North	South
De Wijs	*Zhao*
Pass	1♣
1♢	1♡
1♠	2♣
2♢	2♡
2♠	2NT
3♣	3♢
3♡	3♠
4♣	6♣
Pass	

Zhao opened a strong club and his 1♡ rebid showed any 19+. One Spade was any 0-5, 2♣ any game-force, and 2♢ showed a balanced hand. Two Hearts asked and 2♠ showed either 4M333, or 4-4 in the red suits or 4-4 in the black suits. Two No Trump inquired again and 3♣ showed 4M333. Now 3♢ was described as asking for an honour, but the reply was described as shape-showing, 3-4-3-3. Three Spades asked yet again, and 4♣ was described as showing one or two top heart honours but no top spade. Obviously, someone had mixed up a relay, because Zhao now jumped to 6♣, and that ended the auction – 11 tricks for –50 and 11 IMPs to HARRIS.

Mikadinho v New Amateurs

North	South
H Wei	*Gu*
Pass	1♣
1♢	2♡
2♠	2NT
3NT	4NT
Pass	

Gu opened a strong club and his rebid was effectively the Precision version of Kokish. He went on with 4NT over the 3NT sign-off, but Wei was not interested – 12 tricks for +490.

North	South
Zanasi	*Romano*
Pass	2♣
2♢	2♡
2♠	2NT
3NT	6NT
Pass	

Romano used Kokish then just blasted the small slam – 12 tricks for +990 and 11 IMPs to MIKADINHO.

So eight pairs stopped in game, ranging from 3NT through 4NT up to 5NT; one pair had a bidding mix-up and got to slam but in the wrong denomination; and three pairs bid and made the NT slam. Of those two of the three Souths just punted Six and crossed their fingers for the sight of dummy. Clemmensson's strongly invitational jump to 5NT, accepted by Fredin, looks the most convincing of our 12 auctions, but don't forget that slam is far from being cold looking just at the N/S cards – would you really care if you missed it?

When your opponents step out of line, it is time to punish them to the maximum, and that is exactly what Wei and Gu did on this next deal:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Mikadinho v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Primavera	*Wei*	*Schuster*	*Gu*
–	–	–	2♢
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♢
Dble	3♠	Dble	Pass
4♣	Dble	4♢	Dble
All Pass			

In the other room, Zanasi/Romano for MIKADINHO had played peacefully in 2♠, making with an overtrick. There was nothing peaceful about the action in this room.

Gu opened a multi and 2NT was a strong inquiry. Three Diamonds showed a minimum weak two in spades. Primavera thought it would be safe enough to double for the lead, and Wei signed off in 3♠. Now, however, Schuster, thinking his partner might be stronger, made a penalty double. As the cards lie, 3♠ cannot be defeated so, in a sense, Primavera did the right thing when he ran to 4♣. However, now the doubling started, and Schuster gave preference to the first suit shown by his partner – diamonds – and played there doubled.

Gu led his singleton club to the queen and king, and Wei, not sure of the club position, switched to a low heart. Gu won the jack, cashed the ace, and played a third round to declarer's king. Schuster tried a diamond, running his six to Wei's ten. Now Wei played ace and another club for Gu to ruff, and there were still two more trumps to be lost. The contract was down five for –1400 and 15 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

It is worth pointing out that MIKADINHO picked up double-figure swings on Boards 1, 2 and 4, so this deal was not indicative of how the match was going.

Round 10

FREDIN's big win over BLACK in Round 9 saw them move into the lead while pushing BLACK down into fourth place. MIKADINHO were now second with LEVINE in third.

Board 3 produced big swings in a number of matches in Round 10.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Seligman v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*La Haye*	*Pszczola*	*Verhoeve*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♢
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♢
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Been	*Starkowski*	*de Haas*	*Kwiecien*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♢
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Verhoeve opened 1♠ then rebid the suit. When La Haye jumped to 3NT, hw next introduced his second suit and went on top 5♢ when La Haye suggested playing the spade game. Seligman led a club to the king and ace and Pszczola switched to a low heart. Verhoeve ruffed the heart, cashed the ace of diamonds, and ruffed another heart. A diamond to the nine was followed by the ♠Q and a second spade to the ace and ruff. Back came a diamond to dummy's king. Verhoeve ruffed a heart with the ♢Q, cashed the king of spades, then led a club to the queen and played a heart. Seligman had the last two tricks with the ♡Q and ♣10 so the contract was down two for –100.

Kwiecien opened 1♠ and rebid the suit. His next bid was a transfer to diamonds and he persisted with diamonds at his next turn. When Starkowski chose the spade game, Kwiecien accepted his decision and played there. Been led a club to the king and ace and de Haas switched to a heart. Kwiecien ruffed and led a spade to the queen and a second spade to the ace. There was no recovery, of course. He tried a diamond to the ace but that was ruffed and de Haas drew the remaining trumps. The contract drifted three down for –150 and 2 IMPs to NETBRIDGE .

Harris v Black

West	North	East	South
Hult	*Isporski*	*Hallberg*	*Trendafilov*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♢
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Root	*Crouch*	*Gross*	*Cope*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	3♢	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	5♢
All Pass			

Isporski's 2♣ response to the 1♠ opening was an artificial game-force. Two Diamonds showed a minimum, and 3♢ at least 10 cards in spades and diamonds. Three Hearts asked and 3NT showed at least 5-5 with short hearts. Isporski now called it a day. Hult tried the ace of hearts to get a look at dummy, a nice lead, and switched to the six of clubs to dummy's queen and an encouraging duck from Hallberg. Trendafilov cashed the ace of diamonds, discovering the four-nil split, so led a spade to his hand for a finesse of the nine of diamonds, cashed the king of diamonds, and overtook the ♠Q to get back to hand to cash the diamonds. He had nine tricks now – six diamonds, two spades and one club – for +400.

Coipe opened 1♢, rebid 1♠, then repeated the diamonds in response to FSF. He got to show the fifth spade next then, knowing that his partner had diamond support, judged that 5♢ would be a safer spot than 3NT. It might have been, had it not been for the four-nil trump split. Root led the ace of hearts, Cope ruffing and leading a diamond to the ace, getting the bad news. He continued with the queen and another spade to the nine and ace, and Root ruffed. A trump return was won in hand with the ten and a club led to the nine and jack. Gross played the king of hearts, which Cope ruffed, and he now led a club to the queen and ace. He pitched a spade on the heart return, so Root won the queen, and Cope now had the rest of the tricks; down two for –100 and 11 IMPs to HARRIS.

Zhao v Levine

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	*De Wijs*	*Meckstroth*	*Muller*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♢	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♡
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♢
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Verhees	*Helgemo*	*V Prooijen*	*Nystrom*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♡
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Muller opened 1♠ and De Wijs responded 1NT, GF relay. A series of relays discovered that Muller was at least 5-5 in spades and diamonds then that he was precisely 5-0-6-2, had three controls, then that these were in spades and diamonds. De Wijs closed proceedings with a raise to 6♢. Berkowitz led the six of clubs to the king and ace and Meckstroth switched to a heart, forcing Muller to ruff. Muller led a diamond to the ace then the queen and another spade to his ace. That was ruffed by Berkowitz, who returned a trump to dummy's nine. Muller ruffed a heart, ruffed a spade and ruffed another heart. Next he cashed the queen of diamonds and that squeezed Meckstroth down to a singleton club to keep the spade guard. The king of spades came next and that squeezed Berkowitz in front of dummy. When he too came down to a singleton club, a club to the queen saw the ♣9 win the last trick. That was a nicely executed squeeze – a pity that it was only to hold the contract to down one; –50.

Nystrom passed as dealer. Helgemo opened a 1NT and Nystrom transferred to spades then showed his diamonds. When Helgemo now bid 3NT, Nystrom accepted his decision and passed. Van Prooijen led a heart to his partner's queen and Verhees returned a low heart to the jack and king. Van Prooijen Continued with the ♡9 to the ace and Verhees switched to the ten of spades. Helgemo won the queen and cashed a top diamond, discovering the bad split. However, the defence had established two heart winners for declarer, who simply needed to set up a club as his ninth trick. Helgemo duly did so and had his contract; +400 and 10 IMPs to LEVINE.

New Amateurs v Ferguson

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Gu*	*V D Bos*	*Lo*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♢
Pass	4♢	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
J Weinstein	*Snellers*	*Yang*	*De Boer*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lo opened 1♠ then rebid 3♢ over the 2♡ response. A smooth auction soon saw him at the helm in the diamond slam. Van Lankveld led the ace of hearts, which Lo ruffed. He led a diamond to the ace, got the bad news, and played the king of clubs. Van Den Bos won the ace and returned a low heart, ruffed by Lo, who cashed the queen of clubs then played queen and another spade to his ace – ruffed. Lo ruffed the heart return, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart, and made his last two trumps separately. That still left one loser at the end so the contract was down two for –100.

De Boer opened 1♠ then rebid the suit, only showing the diamonds at his third turn. Snellers chose to play in 3NT, against which Yang led the two of clubs to the ten and king. Snellers cashed the ace of diamonds, saw the four-nil break, and led the two of spades to the ace, a diamond to the nine, cashed the ♢K, and overtook the ♠Q to get to the long diamonds; nine tricks for +400 and 11 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

Denmark v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Eber	*Graversen*	*Hick*	*Caspersen*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Konow	*Fredin*	*E Jepsen*	*Clemmensson*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♣	3♣
3♡	Dble	All Pass	

Caspersen opened 1♠ and rebid 2♠, and Graversen jumped to 3NT – the diamonds, a suit in which two pairs played slam, never got a mention. Hick led a club to the ten and king and Graversen followed the usual line to nine tricks for +400.

Clemmensson passed as dealer so Fredin got to open 1NT and Jepsen overcalled 2♣, both majors. Clemmensson transferred to diamonds and Konow innocently competed in hearts, promptly doubled by Fredin to conclude the auction. Fredin led the ace of diamonds, which Konow ruffed in the dummy. Konow led a spade towards his hand and Clemmensson rose with the king and returned a low spade, ruffed by Konow, who continued with a club to the queen and ace. Konow tried for another spade ruff in hand but that was over-ruffed and back came a small trump to his queen. He played a second club, but Fredin won the king and played another round of trumps. Konow won the ace, played a club to the jack, and cashed the king of hearts. Fredin could ruff the next club and the defence had the rest; down two for –500 and 3 IMPs to FREDIN.

Scorway v Mikadinho

West	North	East	South
Olivieri	*Shenkin*	*Arrigoni*	*Levinson*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Verhaegen*	*Saur*	*Zanasi*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♢
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♢
All Pass			

Levinson opened 1♠ and rebid 3♢, and Shenkin settled for 3NT. Arrigoni led a low club for the ten and king and Shenkin cashed a top diamond. He followed the by now familiar line of spade to the ace, diamond to the nine, cash the diamond, overtake the ♠Q, and had nine tricks for +400.

Zanasi did not open but then bid spades, diamonds, and more diamonds, not believing that 3NT would be the last making spot. The lead against 5♢ was a club to the king and ace, and Saur switched to a low heart, which Zanasi ruffed. He led a diamond to the ace, cashed the ♠Q, and played a second spade to the jack, ace and ruff. Brekka returned a diamond, which Zanasi won with dummy's nine. He followed Muller's line now, of ruffing a heart, ruffing a spade, and ruffing another heart. Cashing the last diamond now squeezed East and cashing the ♠K squeezed West. Once again, the nine of clubs won the last trick but here it really mattered because it was the game-going eleventh trick; +400 and no swing.

Round 11

Going into the penultimate round it was LEVINE by 1.71 VPs at the head of the rankings, from FREDIN then MIKADINHO. BLACK still lay in fourth place but were now 14.08 off the pace.

There was a good slam early in Round 11, but not everyone found a way to bid it.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Chechelashvili		*Eber*	*Yang Hick*
–	–	–	Pass
1♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♢	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Gu*	*Clemmensson*	*Lo*
1♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♡	All Pass

Yang's 2NT was invitational or better with heart support. Three Clubs showed a minimum, 3♢ asked, and 4♢ showed short spades. With spade wastage and facing a minimum hand, Yang was not interested in going further. However, the hands fit well enough together and 12 tricks proved to be quite straightforward; +680.

Clemmensson's 2NT was also invitational plus but Fredin showed an above minimum hand in response, 3NT showing 15+ with spade shortage. Clearly, the spade shortage resonated more with Clemmensson than did the 15♣, because he signed off in game when he had an easy diamond cuebid available to him had he wanted to make a non-committal slam try; 12 tricks, +680 and no swing.

Ferguson v Mikadinho

West	North	East	South
Primavera	*Nadel*	*Schuster*	*Ferguson*
–	–	–	Pass
1♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♢	Pass	4♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Verhaegen*	*V D Bos*	*Zanazi*
–	–	–	Pass
1♡	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Schuster's 2NT was a GF raise and 3♢ showed any 13-15 hand. Schuster wasn't interested so settled for game; +680.

The Dutch pair got a bit closer but still stopped in game. Two Clubs was a GF relay and 2♡ showed four or more clubs. Two Spades was a second relay, with the response showing exactly five-four in hearts and clubs. Three Hearts agreed hearts, 4♣ showed short spades, and 4♢ was Last Train. Van Lankveld didn't fancy it and signed off in game; +680 and no swing.

The board was also flat in game in ZHAO v NETBRIDGE.

Harris v Denmark

West	North	East	South
Askgaard	*Tiholov*	*Konow*	*M Gold*
–	–	–	Pass
1♡	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♢	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♡	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♢	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♢	Pass	6♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Gross	*Graversen*	*Root*	*Caspersen*
–	–	–	Pass
1♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Root's 2Nt was a GF heart raise, and 3NT showed short spades. Root cuebid his diamond control but Gross signed off; +680.

Konow started with a GF relay and Askgaard showed five hearts and a four-card or longer minor, and 13-15 HCP. Two Hearts was another relay and 2♠ showed exactly five-four in the two suits. Three Hearts set trumps, 3NT showed a good hand with a spade control, and 4♢ was a cuebid. Four No Trump was key-card, the response showing one or four. Askgaard checked on the queen of trumps and, holding that card, Konow bid the slam; +1430 and 13 IMPs to DENMARK.

Black v Levine

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Helgemo*	*Hult*	*Nystrom*
–	–	–	Pass
1♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♢	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	*McIntosh*	*Meckstroth*	*Black*
–	–	–	Pass
1♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♢	Pass	4♡	All Pass

Meckstroth's 2NT response was a GF raise and 3♢ showed some extras and a shortage somewhere. Meckstroth was unimpressed and jumped to game; +680.

Hult also showed a GF raise and 4♣ showed extras with short spades. Four Diamonds was a cuebid and Hallberg took control, asking first for key cards then for the queen of trumps. Hult said that he held both that card and the king of spades; +1430 and 13 IMPs to BLACK.

Scorway v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Kvangraven*	*Kwiecien*	*Arild*
–	–	–	Pass
1♡	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Seligman*	*Saur*	*Pszczola*
–	–	–	Pass
1♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♢	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♢	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

Kwiecien responded 3NT, heart support with a singleton diamond, and that was exactly what was required to make this a simple hand. Starkowski loved his two ace-kings, spade shortage and three low diamonds, so took control, asking for key cards then bidding the small slam on finding his partner with one; +1430.

Saur showed a GF raise and 3♣ showed extras with a club side-suit. Now Saur showed a singleton diamond and Brekka asked for key cards then bid the small slam; +1430 and no swing.

As these two pairs showed, the hand is so simple if East shows the diamond shortage. In all, four pairs got there, eight stopped in game.

Round 12

Going into the final round FREDIN had a narrow lead over LEVINE. With first playing second, third playing fourth, and so on down the field, the top two would battle it out for the OCBL March Tuesday to Thursday Swiss Championship, and we will concentrate on their match as one of these two is assured of being champions.

Board 1 was flat in 3♣ just making by East, but we didn't have to wait long for the first swing.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	*Eber*	*Meckstroth*	*Hick*
–	–	1♣	Dble
2NT	4♠	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Helgemo*	*Clemmensson*	*Nystrom*
–	–	1♣	Dble
2♣	4♠	All Pass	

Both Norths jumped to 4♠ in response to the take-out double, but Berkowitz's 2NTpre-emptive club raise saw Meckstroth save in 5♣ doubled, while Fredin's quiet raise to 2♣ did not encourage Clemmensson to take the same action.

There were two spades and two diamonds to be lost in 5♣ doubled, so the price of the save was down two for only –300. Clemmensson cashed the ace of hearts ten tried the ♣ A against 4♠, so Helgemo could ruff, draw trumps and claim 11 tricks for +650 and 8 IMPs to LEVINE.

Fredrik Nystrom

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	*Eber*	*Meckstroth*	*Hick*
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	3♢	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Helgemo*	*Clemmensson*	*Nystrom*
–	–	–	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♣
Dble	2♢	All Pass	

Both Wests opened 1NT. Eber overcalled 3♢ and played there, while Helgemo passed and saw his partner bid 2♣, Landy, showing the majors. When Fredin doubled that, Helgemo took the opportunity to show his diamond suit and was left to play quietly in 2♢.

Clemmensson led the jack of clubs against 2♢, Fredin winning and playing two more rounds of the suit. Clemmensson got a ruff, but Helgemo got rid of a potential heart loser. He rose with the ace on the heart return and led a diamond to his king and judged correcty that diamonds were four-two, so continued with the eight of diamonds. Fredin could return a club in hope of a trump promotion, but it was not to be. Helgemo ruffed high, drew the outstanding trump, nd gave up a spade, coming to eight tricks for +90.

Meckstroth had less information from the auction, but he too found the lead of the jack of clubs. Berkowitz too played three rounds of the suit to give his partner a ruff, and Eber pitched a heart. Eber won the heart switch with the ace and ran the queen of spades. Meckstroth ducked this smoothly so Eber repeated the finesse and now Meckstroth won and gave his partner a spade ruff. A club through promoted an extra diamond trick for the defence and the contract was down three for –150 and 6 more IMPs to LEVINE.

The teams exchanged overtrick IMPs on the next two deals, then came some hope for FREDIN.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	*Eber*	*Meckstroth*	*Hick*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♢	2♡	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Helgemo*	*Clemmensson*	*Nystrom*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♢	3♡	All Pass	

Eber overcalled 2♡ and, when that came round to Berkowitz, he bid 2NT, raised to game by Meckstroth. Eber led the jack of hearts to the queen and ace and the four of hearts continuation was ducked to his nine. Eber cleared the hearts and, when Berkowitz played ace then queen of clubs, won the king and cashed his three heart winners; down two for –200.

Helgemo pre-empted a level higher and bought the contract. Clemmensson cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to the ten of spades, Fredin winning and leading two more rounds of spades to give his partner a ruff. Clemmensson returned a club now, Fredin winning the ace and switching to a trump to the queen and ace. There was just the ♡K to lose from here so Helgemo was down two for –100 and 7 IMPs to FREDIN. LEVINE led by 16-8 with four boards to play.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	*Eber*	*Meckstroth*	*Hick*
1♣	1♠	Pass	2♢
3♣	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Helgemo*	*Clemmensson*	*Nystrom*
1NT	2♢	Pass	2♠
3♣	4♠	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Berkowitz opened 1♣ as dealer and Eber made a simple overcall but, when his partner could respond, jumped to the cold spade game. Meckstroth led a club. Berkowitz won that and cashed the ace of hearts before trying a second club. Eber ruffed, drew trumps, and led the ten of diamonds. When Meckstroth played low the ten won and the diamond loser eventually went away on the fourth heart; 11 tricks for +450.

Fredin opened 1NT and Helgemo overcalled 2♢, showing one major. Two Spades was pass or correct, showing interest facing hearts but not facing spades. But this show that he had some high cards was all Helgemo needed to see and he jumped to 4♠ over Fredin's 3♣. Clemmensson took the save in 5♣ and Helgemo doubled to conclude the auction. Helgemo led the king of spades against 5♣ doubled, Nystrom overtaking and continuing with the jack. Helgemo allowed that to hold so Nystrom switched to a heart. Fredin won the ace and got out with his remaining heart. Helgemo won that with the queen and played the king of hearts. Fredin ruffed, drew trumps and played ace and another diamond. Nystrom won the king and jack so the contract was down three for –500 and 2 IMPs to LEVINE.

Board 9. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	*Eber*	*Meckstroth*	*Hick*
–	Pass	1♢	4♣
Dble	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♢	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Helgemo*	*Clemmensson*	*Nystrom*
–	Pass	1♢	4♣
4♡	All Pass		

Both Souths overcalled with a pre-emptive 4♣. Fredin tried 4♡ on his strong four-card holding and played there. Berkowitz made a negative double then converted Meckstroth's 4♠ response to 5♢.

Helgemo led his singleton club against 4♡, Fredin winning the ace and returning a club. Helgemo ruffed with the nine in front of dummy and returned a low diamond in response to Nystrom's small club suit-preference signal. Nystrom ruffed and played a club so Helgemo ruffed with the jack and returned another diamond for his partner to ruff. Nystrom got off lead with the king of trumps and still had to come to the king of spades at the end; down two for –200.

Five Diamonds also looks to be pretty challenging, given the five-zero trump split. Hick led the jack of clubs, Meckstroth winning dummy's ace and taking the losing spade finesse. A club would have been the best return now, forcing declarer's hand, but Hick actually led a heart. Meckstroth put in the queen and, when that held, played the king of diamonds, discovering the bad break. He led a spade to the ace and, on seeing the fall of the ten, his low spade back to the nine. The jack of diamonds was covered by the queen and ace and Meckstroth cashed the jack of spades, led a diamond to the nine, and cashed the ace of hearts. The ten and eight of diamonds brought the total up to 11 for +600 and 13 IMPs to LEVINE.

The match score was 31-8 in favour of LEVINE, and their comfortable win meant that they were the new champions. Congratulations to them.

OCBL TUE-THU SWISS

ROUND 9

Scorway	8.86 VPs 31 IMPs	11.14 VPs 34 IMPs	Netbridge
Mikadinho	18.58 VPs 53 IMPs	1.42 VPs 18 IMPs	New Amateurs
Levine	15.52 VPs 18 IMPs	4.48 VPs 0 IMPs	Seligman
Ferguson	9.61 VPs 22 IMPs	10.39 VPs 23 IMPs	Denmark
Harris	13.72 VPs 36 IMPs	6.28 VPs 25 IMPs	Zhao
Fredin	16.39 VPs 31 IMPs	3.61 VPs 9 IMPs	Black

ROUND 10

Scorway	7.82 VPs 14 IMPs	12.18 VPs 20 IMPs	Mikadinho
Seligman	7.17 VPs 22 IMPs	12.83 VPs 30 IMPs	Netbridge
New Amateurs	1.56 VPs 10 IMPs	18.44 VPs 44 IMPs	Ferguson
Zhao	1.7 VPs 11 IMPs	18.3 VPs 44 IMPs	Levine
Denmark	7.49 VPs 12 IMPs	12.51 VPs 19 IMPs	Fredin
Black	6.57 VPs 23 IMPs	13.43 VPs 33 IMPs	Harris

ROUND 11

Scorway	6.28 VPs 6 IMPs	13.72 VPs 17 IMPs	Seligman
Ferguson	15.97 VPs 21 IMPs	4.03 VPs 1 IMPs	Mikadinho
Netbridge	3.82 VPs 0 IMPs	16.18 VPs 21 IMPs	Zhao
Fredin	15.05 VPs 17 IMPs	4.95 VPs 1 IMPs	New Amateurs
Levine	10 VPs 22 IMPs	10 VPs 22 IMPs	Black
Harris	10 VPs 18 IMPs	10 VPs 18 IMPs	Denmark

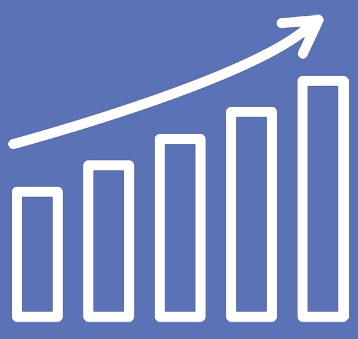
ROUND 12

Fredin	3.41 VPs 8 IMPs	16.59 VPs 31 IMPs	Levine
Mikadinho	3.82 VPs 8 IMPs	16.18 VPs 29 IMPs	Black
Ferguson	7.49 VPs 4 IMPs	12.51 VPs 11 IMPs	Scorway
Harris	9.61 VPs 23 IMPs	10.39 VPs 24 IMPs	Seligman
Zhao	4.71 VPs 8 IMPs	15.29 VPs 25 IMPs	Denmark
New Amateurs	15.29 VPs 28 IMPs	4.71 VPs 11 IMPs	Netbridge

STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE!

Who are the strongest defenders?

Who are the overall leaders?



Who should I be more afraid of?

Who is the top declarer?

The answers to your questions are here:

https://public.tableau.com/views/OCBL2022TopDeclarersandDefenders/Topdeclarersanddefenders?:language=en-US&publish=yes&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link%3AshowVizHome=no#2

OCBL TUE - THU SWISS

BUTLER RANKING

1	T. Verbeek, (timve)	Zhao	1.77
2	D. Molenaar, (dannymo)	Zhao	1.7
3	S. Gross, (sgross)	Harris	1.35
4	A. Black, (boggis)	Black	1.09
5	A. McIntosh, (mcintosh)	Black	1.06
6	M. Gold, (marusab)	Harris	1.02
	T. Tiholov, (polborta)	Harris	1.02
8	F. Nystrom, (F_Nystrom)	Levine	0.9
	G. Helgemo, (micelle45)	Levine	0.9
10	E. Romano, (Mno83)	Mikadinho	0.89
11	J. Meckstroth, (jjmeck)	Levine	0.83
	D. Berkowitz, (mikeyb)	Levine	0.83
13	M. Kwiecien, (michal1)	Seligman	0.7
	W. Starkowski, (wstarkowsk)	Seligman	0.7
15	P. Jepsen, (P_Jepsen)	Denmark	0.65
16	J. Van Lankveld, (ennaji)	Ferguson	0.6
	B. Van Den Bos, (Berendbs)	Ferguson	0.6
	H. Wei, (weihongji)	New Amateurs	0.6
19	J. Clemmensson, (jannec69)	Fredin	0.58
20	D. Diamond, (Derekd)	Scorway	0.56
	B. Spears, (Spears)	Scorway	0.56
22	W. De Boer, (bukkum)	Ferguson	0.53
	A. Snellers, (asnellers)	Ferguson	0.53
24	M. Askgaard, (askgaard)	Denmark	0.52
25	A. Buus-T, (babydollDK)	Denmark	0.5
	D.C. Bilde, (docibi)	Denmark	0.5
27	P. Fredin, (P_Fredin)	Fredin	0.48
28	S. Hult, (hultahult)	Black	0.42
	G. Hallberg, (rerack)	Black	0.42
30	A. Apteker, (alonap)	Fredin	0.41
31	Bob Drijver, (bobdrijver)	Zhao	0.37
	B. Nab, (bnab)	Zhao	0.37
33	S. Root, (AsNuttyAs)	Harris	0.36
34	G. Olivieri, (ollina)	Mikadinho	0.3
	G. Arrigoni, (gorilla3)	Mikadinho	0.3
36	H. Hick, (Hcbfick)	Fredin	0.28
	N. Eber, (eebs)	Fredin	0.28
38	M. Van der Starre, (martin001)	Netbridge	0.23
	M. Huber, (marijnhu)	Netbridge	0.23
40	K. Konow, (konow)	Denmark	0.19
41	S. Levinson, (sc0tsteve)	Scorway	0.17
	B. Shenkin, (Barnets)	Scorway	0.17
43	A. Lo, (aitail)	New Amateurs	0.14
44	G. Brekka, (kaninen)	Scorway	0.14
45	O. Saur, (Saurdino)	Scorway	0.14
46	C. Loo, (bridgeboy)	Zhao	0.13
	G. Tan, (Serapuff)	Zhao	0.13
48	W. Schuster, (Schustmozz)	Mikadinho	0.07
	F. Primavera, (Fulldire)	Mikadinho	0.07
50	H. Graversen, (HCDK)	Denmark	0.06
	H. Caspersen, (hcasp)	Denmark	0.06
52	G. Zanasi, (Zanna9)	Mikadinho	0.06
53	Gu Jiang, (Jiang_Gu)	New Amateurs	-0.05
54	M. Been, (bendezz)	Netbridge	-0.08
	O. de Haas, (olliebol)	Netbridge	-0.08
56	P. Crouch, (pitiful)	Black	-0.39
57	B. Muller, (beukertje)	Zhao	-0.39
58	C. Zhao, (zhaochen)	Zhao	-0.48
59	R. Trendafilov, (rumen)	Harris	-0.48
	V. Isporski, (smileyv)	Harris	-0.48
61	J. Nadel, (juliejoy)	Ferguson	-0.52
	B. Ferguson, (bruceferg)	Ferguson	-0.52
63	M. Levine, (mikerl)	Levine	-0.56
	E. Wold, (womoco)	Levine	-0.56
65	S. Cope, (Copeyj)	Black	-0.58
66	J. Van Den Hoek, (janonline)	Netbridge	-0.64
	A. Bremer, (arisbreem)	Netbridge	-0.64
68	M. Seligman, (mseligman)	Seligman	-0.68
	J. Pszczola, (pikolo)	Seligman	-0.68
70	Mak Kwok-fai, (Kfmak)	New Amateurs	-0.7
	W. Wang, (rosewwf)	New Amateurs	-0.7
72	D. Chechelashvili, (Dato)	New Amateurs	-0.76
73	N. Kvangraven, (Nils123)	Scorway	-0.92
74	D. Yang, (hyang)	New Amateurs	-0.95
75	N. Igoe, (ibraves)	Harris	-0.97
76	S. De Wijs, (sm1)	Zhao	-0.98
	R. Van Prooijen, (riccovp)	Zhao	-0.98
78	N. Verhoeve, (slin55)	Netbridge	-1.05
	M. la Haye, (martenha)	Netbridge	-1.05
80	M. Verhaegen, (Marcel_ve)	Mikadinho	-1.1
81	E. Jepsen, (emilos)	Denmark	-1.32
82	Tom Drijver, (tdrijverrr)	Netbridge	-1.4
83	J. Harris, (Jdache)	Harris	-1.6
	E. Malhasyan, (master DJ)	Harris	-1.6
85	J. Olsen, (Janaolsen)	Scorway	-1.63
86	K. Bouwen, (kebosporto)	Netbridge	-1.9
87	L. Verhees, (loukie)	Zhao	-2.05
88	M. Zomer, (mczo)	Netbridge	-2.4
89	D. Bilde, (ballebo-jr)	Denmark	-2.47
90	J. Weinstein, (jlw77)	New Amateurs	-2.6

Online
Contract
Bridge
League

OCBL
TUE - WED SWISS

26 - 27 April, 2022

OCBL SWISS

SWISS

10 Rounds x 8 Boards

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG