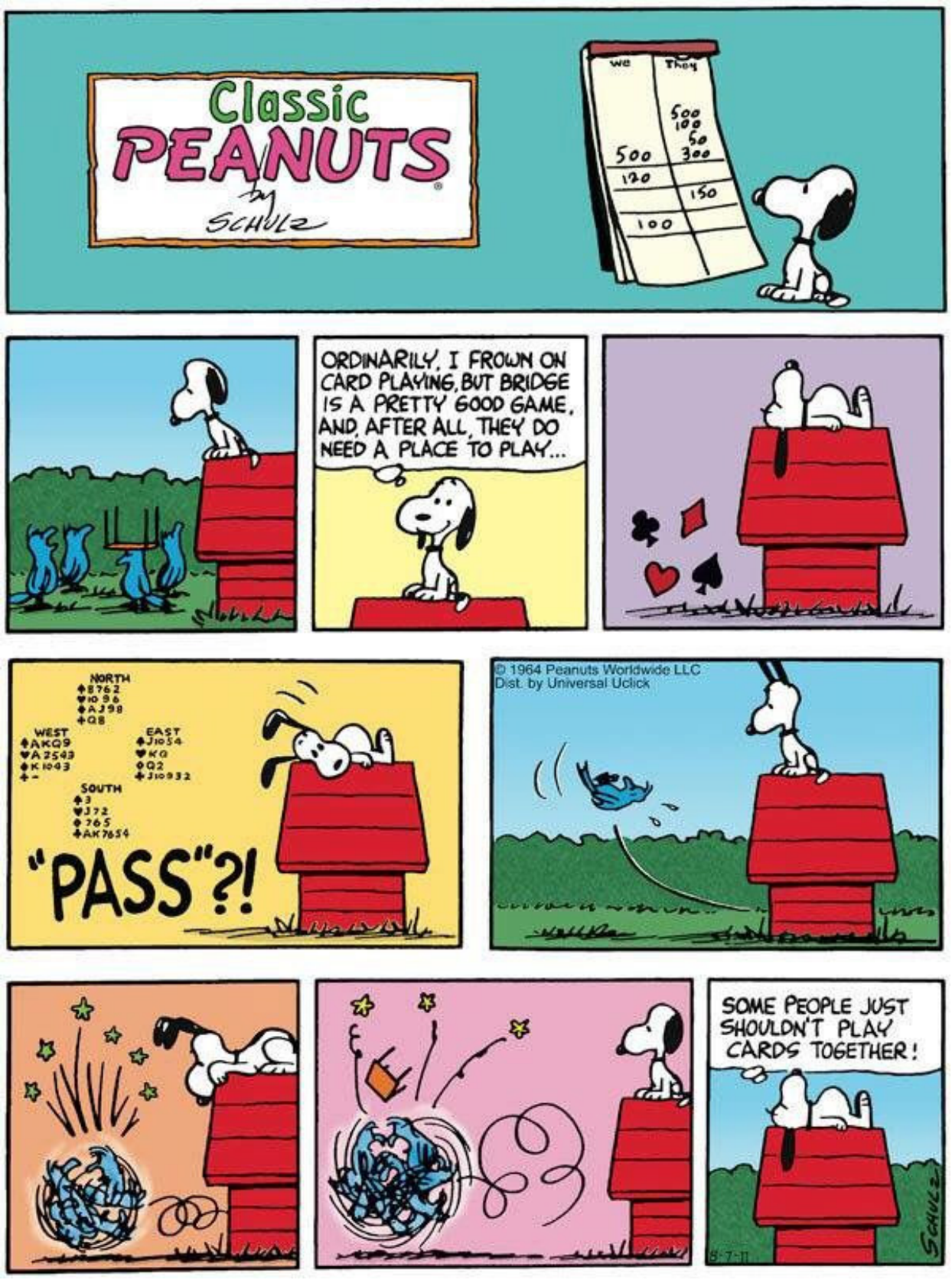
Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 169. Thursday, 12 May, 2022

PEANUTS STILL ON TOP



After three more rounds, team Peanuts (Lorenzini C., Setton H., Franceschetti P., Bessis T., Robert Q.) are still leading the ranking (91.88 VP).

They are followed by team Danes (Werdelin S., Lauge Pedersen S., Aagaard T., Norris J., Norris M., Dahl F., Berg T.) and New Amateurs (Lo A., Jiang Gu, Yang D., Chechelashvili D., Wang W., Kwok-Fei M., Weinstein J., Chou C., Sheng M., Baseggio F., Tan G.).

Today, three more rounds will be played. Top eight teams will enter the KO stage. In the Quarterfinals, parings will be as follows: #1 vs #8, #2 vs #7 #3 vs #6 and #4 vs #5.

MAY CUP

Ranking after Round 9

1	Peanuts	91.88
2	Danes	82.5
3	New Amateurs	77.44
4	Nadel	73.21
5	Uli	69.77
6	Scorway	61.1
7	Seligman	60.06
8	Harris	56.09
9	Fredin	53.02
10	Black	39.63
11	Netbridge	37.91
12	Spring Warriors	17.39

SCHEDULE TODAY

All the tables will be closed to kibitzers, but the matches will be broacast on Vugraph.
The show will be delayed by 15 minutes.

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

Harris	VS	Scorway
Netbridge	VS	Spring Warriors
New Amateurs	VS	Danes
Black	VS	Seligman
Peanuts	VS	Nadel
Fredin	VS	Uli

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

Harris	VS	Black
Spring Warriors	VS	Seligman
New Amateurs	VS	Fredin
Peanuts	VS	Scorway
Danes	VS	Uli
Netbridge	VS	Nadel

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

Uli	VS	Peanuts
Seligman	VS	Scorway
Harris	VS	New Amateurs
Fredin	VS	Netbridge
Danes	VS	Nadel
Spring Warriors	VS	Black

OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE CUP
7 - 9 June, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 boards

	CEST	EDT
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

	CEST	EDT
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 - 15 September, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 boards

	CEST	EDT
Tuesday, 13 September R1 - R4	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Wednesday, 14 September R5 - R8	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Thursday, 15 September R9 - R12 & SF/F	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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

Bridge NEWS

WOMENS' and SENIORS' NATIONAL PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIPS: REGISTRATION DATE EXTENDED

From the EBL website:

REGISTRATION DATE EXTENDED TO 29th MAY.

The only formal National Pairs Championships for Women and Seniors in the EBL's event schedule will be held in Madeira in June, just prior to the corresponding National Teams Championships. Titles, medals and master points will be awarded as usual.

Each NBO may nominate as many pairs as they wish and the EBL is pleased to announce that the deadline for entry (**http://db.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/22Madeira/microsite/Participants.asp**) and payment has been extended to 29th May.

To prepare the event properly, the Championships Committee needs to know the number of participants by that date. Any entries received later than that date either through the website or at the venue will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances if technically and logistically convenient for the smooth running of the events.

NEW PODCAST EPISODE: ZACH GROSSACK HAS HIS ACT TOGETHER

From BridgeWinners.com:

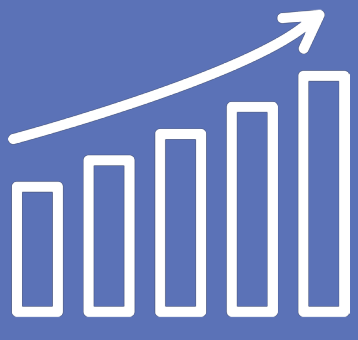
In this week's episode of SORRY, PARTNER, American champion Zach Grossack joins us to talk about paying attention and not paying attention -- to the table, to his partner, and to his temperament. Plus, he shares his top tip for developing players. But first, we kibitz!

Available FOR FREE on sorrypartner.com and on these links: Apple podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, or wherever you like to listen.

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

1000 IMPs in May

by Mark Horton

If you were schooled in England there is a decent chance you will have become entranced by the game of cricket. I have occasionally penned articles which include subtle references to the game, and in the yet unpublished Best of Bridge Magazine, I included an article written by the legendary Albert Benjamin in which (amongst other things) he was able to report that 'bad light stopped play'.

Cricket is replete with records, one of the most sacred being the scoring of 1000 runs before the end of May. Such are the vagaries of the English weather that this feat has been achieved only nine times since the immortal W.G.Grace became the first man to reach the milestone on 30 May 1895. Graham Hick was the last man to get there a mere 34 years ago.

However, this season there are more county matches than usual, and several batsmen are in sight of the target, especially Yorkshire's Harry Brook, who has already amassed 635 runs from just four matches.

That got me thinking about trying to institute something similar in bridge. Could a pair play enough matches between the 1-31 May to amass 1000 positive IMPs?

Round 4

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Peanuts v Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Black	*Franceschetti*	*Gold*	*Setton*
—	—	1♣*	1♡
2♡*	3♢	4♢	Dble
Rdbl*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣, 2♣/5♢ possible
2♠ Spades, invitational, 6+
Rdbl First round control

South cashed the ♡AK and switched to the ♣9, North taking the ace and returning the four, South's ruff representing the setting trick, +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*McIntosh*	*Bessis*	*Paske*
—	—	1♣	1♡
2♠	4♢*	4♠	5♢
Pass	Pass	5♠	All Pass

4♢ Spade fit with diamonds

North led the ♡4 and South cashed the king and ace and switched to the ♢6, declarer claiming ten tricks, -50.

Uli v Scorway

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Kandolu*	*Saur*	*Zanasi*
—	—	1♣*	1♡
1♠	2♣*	3♠*	4♢
4♠	5♢	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

1♣ 4+♣
2♣ Heart support
3♠ Invitational

North led the ♡4 and the defenders scored two hearts, the ♣A and a ruff, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kazmucha	*Shenkin*	*Primavera*	*Levinson*
—	—	1♣*	1♡
2♢*	3♣*	4♠	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
2♢ 10+, 5+♠
3♣ Game try in hearts

South led the ♡A and when North followed with the jack he switched to the ♢6. Declarer won with dummy's ace, drew trumps and knocked out the ♣A. When North tried to cash the ♢K declarer had an overtrick, +450 and 13 IMPs.

One deal proves nothing, but it feels better if North can get across both his heart support and his diamonds.

No one else made 4♠, but two EW pairs made 5♢doubled, both collecting 12 IMPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Peanuts v Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Black	*Franceschetti*	*Gold*	*Setton*
—	Pass	1♡	1NT
2♡	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

East led the ♡K and declarer won and returned the jack, East winning and exiting with the ♡8. Declarer won in dummy pitching a club and played a spade to the queen. When the king did not fall under the ace, he had to lose three more tricks, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*McIntosh*	*Bessis*	*Paske*
—	Pass	1♡	1NT
2♠*	3♡*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

2♠ Clubs
3♡ Invitational+ in spades

West led the ♢8 and when declarer played dummy's five East followed with the three, so the ten took the trick. Declarer crossed to dummy with the ♣A and played a spade to the queen, followed by the ace. He had to lose four tricks now, -100.

There is a winning line – at trick three declarer must play a high spade from dummy, East covering and declarer winning with the queen. He can then play two rounds of diamonds and will eventually get back to dummy to take a second spade finesse.

Taking the double spade finesse would also have worked in the Open room.

No-one else went beyond 3♠, although one pair reached 3NT. Because the clubs are 6-1 there is a way to make 3NT – I'll leave you to find it!

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Peanuts v Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Black	*Franceschetti*	*Gold*	*Setton*
—	—	1♢*	1♡
1NT	Dble	2♢	Pass
Pass	2♡	Pass	Pass
3♢	3♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

1♢ Usually unbalanced

West led the ♢9 and East won with the king and switched to the ♠Q. Declarer took dummy's ace, came to hand with the ♣J, ruffed a diamond and played dummy's top clubs pitching two spades as East ruffed the fourth round of the suit. Declarer ruffed the diamond exit in dummy and ran the ♡9, losing only to the ♡KQ, +730.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*McIntosh*	*Bessis*	*Paske*
—	—	1♢	1♡
1NT	2♢*	Dble	Pass*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♡
All Pass			

2♢ Good raise
Pass Worst hand

West led the ♢3 and East won and switched to the ♠Q. Declarer took dummy's ace, came to hand with a club, ruffed a diamond, returned with a second club and ruffed his last diamond. He then played winning clubs discarding spades as East ruffed in with the ♡3. West had two trump tricks to come, +140 but an 11 IMP loss.

Uli v Scorway

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Kandolu*	*Saur*	*Zanasi*
—	—	1♢*	1♡
1NT	Dble	2♢	Pass
Pass	3♢*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♢ 4+♢
3♢ Cue

West led the ♢3 and East won with the king and returned the five, declarer winning with the queen, unblocking the ♣J10, crossing to dummy with the ♠A and cashing three more clubs. The ♡A was his eighth trick, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Kazmucha	*Shenkin*	*Primavera*	*Levinson*
—	—	1♢*	1♡
1NT	Dble	2♢	Pass
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

West led the ♢8 and East won with the king and switched to the ♡3, West winning with the queen and returning the four. Declarer won with the eight, ruffed the ♢Q, played a club to the ten, cashed the ♡A, overtook the ♣J and played the ♣KQ pitching a diamond and a spade. West could ruff, but that was the last trick for the defence as there was still an entry in dummy to the last club, +620 and 12 IMPs.

Its not easy to see, but if West refrains from playing a second heart the defence must prevail. As an illustration suppose West calmly returns a diamond. Declarer ruffs, comes to hand with a club, ruffs a diamond and then plays winning clubs pitching a spade. Now West is ruffing with a small heart and will still score the ♡K.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Peanuts v Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Black	*Franceschetti*	*Gold*	*Setton*
—	—	1♡	1♠
2NT*	4♠	Pass	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

2NT 4+♡ game forcing

South led the ♠A, continued with the king and switched to the ♢7 North's king meaning -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*McIntosh*	*Bessis*	*Paske*
—	—	1♡	2♡*
2NT*	4NT*	Pass	5♣
6♡	6♠	Dble	All Pass

2♡ Spades and a minor
2NT Game forcing, 4+♡
4NT Pick a minor

East led the ♢3 for the nine, 10 and king and declarer now ran the ♠5, West winning with the queen and returning the three. With two clubs and two diamonds to lose declarer was four tricks short of his target, -800 and a 14 IMP swing.

Three pairs managed to stop in 5♡, all going the inevitable one down. One pair reached the dizzy heights of 7♡, but escaped a double. Two pairs saved in spades, one at the five-level, the other in 6♠, paying -100 and -300 respectively.

Round 5

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Nadel

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chechelash.	*van den Berg*	*Yang*	*vandenBos*
—	1♣*	Pass	1♢*
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣
1♢ Walsh, natural or no major

East led the ♡2 for the jack, queen and king and declarer played a club to the king and advanced the ♢Q. When it held, he tried a low diamond, winning with the nine. He cashed the ♢A and played a spade but East took the ace and played two rounds of hearts. West cashing out for -50.

Perhaps you are thinking declarer could have made the contract by playing a club to dummy's nine? He could, but not, as my au pair pointed out, if East puts in the ♣J!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
van Lankveld	*Gu*	*Nadel*	*Lo*
—	1♣*	Pass	1♡*
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♡*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♢
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♢
Pass	4♡	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣
1♡ 4+♠
2♡ Artificial game force, denies four hearts

East led the ♣2 and declarer won with the ten and played a spade to the king followed by the ♢8 to the nine. When that held he played another spade and East went up with the ace, cashed the ♡A and exited with the ♣3. Declarer won with dummy's king, drew trumps, ran the ♢Q and claimed 11 tricks, +450 and 11 IMPs.

In the match between Danes and Black both teams reached 3NT and East led the ♡2/♡3 for the jack, queen and king. When declarer played a club both defenders missed (as would the world and his dog) the play of the jack and naturally declarer put in the king and played diamonds. Having taken three tricks in the suit declarer played a spade and East took the ace and played hearts. One went with the ♡A followed by the eight, the other, fatally with the ♡3, blocking the suit, which is how the Danes gained 10 IMPs.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Spring Warriors v Peanuts

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Rubenstein*	*Bessis*	*Tebha*
—	—	—	Pass
1♢	1♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♢J and West won with the king and switched to the ♡3 for the five and nine, East continuing with the ♢8. West won and returned the ♢7, East ruffing and switching to the ♠K followed by the two. Declarer ruffed the third spade with the ♡8 and East overruffed and switched to the ♣4, West taking the ace and playing the ♠A, ruffed and overruffed by East. The defenders were ahead 9-0 and when East exited with his remaining heart West score the ♣Q at the end, -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Z Grossack	*Franceschetti*	*McNay*	*Setton*
—	—	—	Pass
1♢	1♡	1NT	Pass
2♡*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♡*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♢	All Pass

North led the ♡A and switched to the ♠6. Declarer took South's jack with the queen, went to dummy with the ♠K and ran the ♢J. North won and exited with a diamond and had to score the ♣K, -200 and 14 IMPs.

One North did not overcall 1♡ over 1♢, a second not having the opportunity because his partner opened 2♠! The remaining ten pairs were split, with five passes and five 1NT bids.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Nadel

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Chechelash.	*van den Berg*	*Yang*	*vandenBos*
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣*	3♡	3♠	4♡
4♠	5♡	Pass	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

Declarer ruffed the heart lead in dummy, cashed the ♠K, came to hand with a spade and played the ♢Q. When that held, he continued with the jack, overtaking it with dummy's king. The ♣J was covered by the king and ace and declarer ruffed a heart and played a club to the ten. When that lost to the jack South cashed the ♢A and then played the ♡Q which meant two down, -200.

With dummy's diamonds on view, it was not difficult for South to withhold the ace which meant declarer had to guess the club position.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
van Lankveld	*Gu*	*Nadel*	*Lo*
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣*	3♡	Dble*	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

North led the ♡A and declarer ruffed and played a diamond to the queen, South taking the ace and retuning a heart. Declarer ruffed, played a club to the queen, drew trumps, and claimed 12 tricks, +230 and 10 IMPs.

Black v Danes

Open Room

West	North	East	South
J Norris	*Hallberg*	*M Norris*	*Hult*
—	—	1NT*	Pass
Pass	4♡	Dble*	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

1NT 15-17
Dble Takeout

North led the ♡A and declarer ruffed and played the ♢8 to dummy's queen, South taking the ace and switching to the ♠2. Declarer won with the nine, ruffed a heart with the ♠K, drew trumps and ran the diamonds. He did not take the club finesse, so +990.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Werdelin*	*McIntosh*	*Pedersen*
—	—	1NT	Pass
2♣*	3♡	3♠	5♡
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♡8 and declarer won with dummy's ten and played the ♠6, East winning with the nine and switching to the ♢Q. Declarer ducked, won the next diamond, ruffed a diamond with the ♡K, went to dummy with the ♡Q and played a club to the king, East taking two tricks in the suit for -300 but a 12 IMP gain.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Black v Danes

Open Room

West	North	East	South
J Norris	*Hallberg*	*M Norris*	*Hult*
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT*	Pass	3NT
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

1NT Forcing for one round

West led the ♡K and continued with the four, declarer ruffing and playing a club to the three, seven and ten. At this point East needs to be careful. If he exits with anything other than a club declarer can play to reach this ending:

	♠ — ♡ J ♢ — ♣ A 2	
♠ — ♡ Q ♢ — ♣ K J		♠ — ♡ — ♢ Q ♣ Q 6
	♠ 7 ♡ — ♢ 9 ♣ 9	

When declarer cashes the ♠7 West is forced to part with a heart, and having performed it's duty the ♡J departs from dummy. East is also forced to throw a club and trick thirteen will go to the humble ♣2.

Well done to East, who continued with the ♣5, breaking up the impending double squeeze, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Werdelin*	*McIntosh*	*Pedersen*
—	—	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

After ruffing the second heart declarer drew trumps before running the ♣9 and here too East returned a club after winning to prevent an overtrick, still losing 10 IMPs to the +420.

Alon Apteker ruffed the second heart, cashed the ♠A and then went to dummy's ♠9 to play a club for the six, nine and jack. When West switched to the ♢J he brought off the double squeeze for an IMP.

In the match between Nadel and New Amateurs Berend van de Bos executed the double squeeze for +450. In the other room Ai-Tai Lo was in 5♠. He got a club lead, ducked to East's queen and back came a heart, West winning with the queen. When West played a second heart declarer executed the squeeze to flatten the board.

Round 6

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Fredin v Peanuts

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Livgård*	*Bessis*	*Aa*
—	—	—	1NT*
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	2♢	Dble*	All Pass

1NT 9-12
Dble Takeout

East led the ♠A and switched to the ♣K, declarer winning with dummy's ace and playing two rounds of diamonds, West winning with the jack, cashing the ♣Q and continuing with the six, East ruffing, cashing the ♠K and then playing hearts which meant declarer had just four tricks, -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Franceschetti*	*Apteker*	*Robert*
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♡	Dble	Rdbl*
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Rdble	3♡		

I thoroughly approve of North's decision to respond to 1♣, don't you?

He led the ♣7 for the king and ace, won the club return with the ten and exited with the eight. Declarer won with the queen, played a spade to the ace, cashed the king, and took his hearts before playing a diamond which left him two down, -200 and 14 IMPs changed hands.

Thomas Bessis

Look at those club spots. If declarer plays dummy's nine at trick one and wins with the queen, he can knock out the ♢A for nine tricks. What's more he can afford to cash dummy's top spades first, making even if the clubs are not blocked as long as the ♠ is doubleton.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Danes v Seligman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dahl	*Starkowski*	*Berg*	*Kwiecen*
Pass	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♢*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♢*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♣ Strong, any
2♢ Relay
2NT 20-22
3♣ Asking
3♢ At least one major
3♠ 4♡

South led the ♢3 for the two, king and ace. Declarer played a spade to the ace followed by a spade to the nine and jack. With spades breaking he was assured of nine tricks, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Werdelin*	*Pszczola*	*Pedersen*
Pass	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♢*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

2NT 20-21
3♣ Puppet
3♢ One or two majors

South led the ♡J and declarer won with the king and played a diamond to the queen and king. North returned the ♣4 and declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♢A and ducked a spade, South winning with the eight and returning the ♣Q. Declarer won and cashed his winners which got him up to eight tricks, -100 and a 12 IMP loss.

7 players led the ♡J, four went with a diamond, either the ten or the three and one South started with the ♣Q. 5 declarer's made 3NT.

It's a fascinating contract, with many possible twists and turns, most of them involving the play in the diamond suit. What can be said for certain is that if South leads a heart and declarer immediately tries a diamond to the queen he should always go down.

I suggest that you take a look at the various lines of play and defence – I could easily have written about what happened at all 12 tables.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Danes v Seligman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Dahl	*Starkowski*	*Berg*	*Kwiecen*
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♡*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♢
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♡*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♢*
Pass	7♣	All Pass	

2♣ Game forcing natural or relay
2♡ 4♡
2♠ Natural 3+♠ game forcing
3♢ Short diamonds
3♠ Natural
4♡ Cue bid
4NT RKCB
5♢ 0/3 keycards

Knowing that South was short in diamonds North could place him with at least 3 clubs. He could also see that South's fifth spade would be able to take care of his losing heart.

Declarer won the trump lead with the ten, crossed to the ♢A, came to hand with a club, ruffed a diamond, came to hand with a spade, drew the last trump and claimed, +1440.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Werdelin*	*Pszczola*	*Pedersen*
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♢*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♢
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

2NT Game forcing, spade support
3♣ Minimum
3♢ Asking for shortage
3♠ Singleton diamond
4NT RKCB
5♢ 0/3 keycards
5NT Grand slam try
6♠ No extras

West led the ♡J and +980 meant the loss of 10 IMPs.

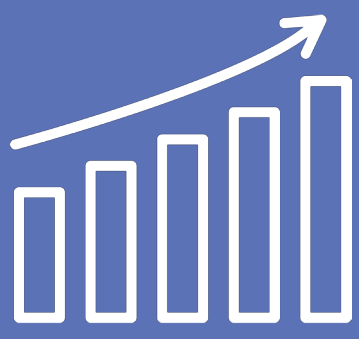
Although a number of players responded 2♣, no-one got beyond 6♠, five pairs stopping in game.

Wlodzimierz Starkowski

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 MAY CUP

ROUND 4

Peanuts	13.72 VPs 31 IMPs	6.28 VPs 18 IMPs	Black
Uli	17.19 VPs 48 IMPs	2.81 VPs 17 IMPs	Scorway
Fredin	4.15 VPs 4 IMPs	15.85 VPs 27 IMPs	Harris
Nadel	18.98 VPs 54 IMPs	1.02 VPs 9 IMPs	Spring Warriors
Seligman	5.81 VPs 14 IMPs	14.19 VPs 29 IMPs	New Amateurs
Netbridge	3.12 VPs 7 IMPs	16.88 VPs 36 IMPs	Danes

ROUND 5

Black	2.81 VPs 18 IMPs	17.19 VPs 49 IMPs	Danes
Spring Warriors	4.34 VPs 21 IMPs	15.66 VPs 43 IMPs	Peanuts
Seligman	12.16 VPs 35 IMPs	7.84 VPs 28 IMPs	Fredin
Harris	4.34 VPs 15 IMPs	15.66 VPs 37 IMPs	Uli
Netbridge	3.79 VPs 12 IMPs	16.21 VPs 37 IMPs	Scorway
Nadel	2.81 VPs 18 IMPs	17.19 VPs 49 IMPs	New Amateurs

ROUND 6

Spring Warriors	1.71 VPs 17 IMPs	18.29 VPs 56 IMPs	Scorway
Harris	8.42 VPs 10 IMPs	11.58 VPs 15 IMPs	Nadel
Seligman	7.03 VPs 17 IMPs	12.97 VPs 27 IMPs	Danes
Fredin	3.79 VPs 1 IMPs	16.21 VPs 26 IMPs	Peanuts
Netbridge	6.77 VPs 31 IMPs	13.23 VPs 42 IMPs	New Amateurs
Uli	3.97 VPs 19 IMPs	16.03 VPs 43 IMPs	Black

OCBL MAY CUP
BUTLER RANKING

1	T. Aagaard	Danes	2.64	14
2	W. Wang	New Amateurs	2.04	28
	M. Kwok-Fei	New Amateurs	2.04	28
4	D. Kazmucha	Uli	2	14
5	Q. Robert	Peanuts	1.89	28
6	W. De Boer	Nadel	1.86	28
	G. Tan	New Amateurs	1.86	14
	C. Loo	New Amateurs	1.86	14
	A. Snellers	Nadel	1.86	28
10	O. Kandolu	Uli	1.75	28
11	G. Zanasi	Uli	1.62	42
12	M. Sheng	New Amateurs	1.5	14
13	P. Coppens	Nadel	1.39	28
14	B. Van Den Bos	Nadel	1.1	84
15	J. Norris	Danes	1.09	56
	M. Norris	Danes	1.09	56
17	R. Van den Bergh	Nadel	1	28
18	T. Bessis	Peanuts	0.98	84
	C. Lorenzini	Peanuts	0.98	84
20	J. Olsen	Scorway	0.93	56
	N. Kvangraven	Scorway	0.93	56
	F. Primavera	Uli	0.93	70
23	P. Franceschetti	Peanuts	0.89	84
24	M. la Haye	Netbridge	0.76	42
	N. Verhoeve	Netbridge	0.76	42
26	G. Olivieri	Uli	0.66	56
27	S. Werdelin	Danes	0.6	70
28	M. Kwiecien	Seligman	0.48	84
	W. Starkowski	Seligman	0.48	84
30	H. Setton	Peanuts	0.39	56
31	V. Isporski	Harris	0.31	42
32	Gu Jiang	New Amateurs	0.2	56
33	T. Berg	Danes	0.19	42
	F. Dahl	Danes	0.19	42
35	A. Apteker	Fredin	0.13	84
	P. Fredin	Fredin	0.13	84
37	R. Trendafilov	Harris	0.13	70
38	O. Saur	Scorway	0.13	56
	G. Brekka	Scorway	0.13	56
40	J. Van Lankveld	Nadel	0.12	84
41	S. Lauge Pedersen	Danes	0.09	56
42	D. Chechelashvili	New Amateurs	0.07	42
43	N. Igoe	Harris	-0.05	42
44	T. Tiholov	Harris	-0.14	28
	S. Root	Harris	-0.14	56
46	D. Yang	New Amateurs	-0.16	56
47	M. Verhaegen	Uli	-0.26	42
48	A. Black	Black	-0.3	56
	D. Gold	Black	-0.3	56
50	A. Lo	New Amateurs	-0.36	56
51	A. Livgard	Fredin	-0.43	42
	S. Gross	Harris	-0.43	14
	T. Aa	Fredin	-0.43	42
54	J. Pszczola	Seligman	-0.48	84
	M. Seligman	Seligman	-0.48	84
56	T. Paske	Black	-0.5	56
	A. McIntosh	Black	-0.5	56
58	E. Malhasyan	Harris	-0.52	42
	J. Harris	Harris	-0.52	42
60	J. Sylvan	Fredin	-0.55	42
	M. Gustawsson	Fredin	-0.55	42
62	J. Van Den Hoek	Netbridge	-0.64	56
	A. Bremer	Netbridge	-0.64	56
64	F. Baseggio	New Amateurs	-0.71	14
65	S. Hult	Black	-0.76	42
	G. Hallberg	Black	-0.76	42
67	J. Weinstein	New Amateurs	-0.86	14
68	E. McNay	Spring Warriors	-0.91	56
	Z. Grossack	Spring Warriors	-0.91	56
70	G. Botta	Spring Warriors	-0.93	28
	D. Marker	Spring Warriors	-0.93	28
72	M. Zomer	Netbridge	-1.02	56
	K. Bouwen	Netbridge	-1.02	56
74	S. Levinson	Scorway	-1.07	56
	Bob Drijver	Uli	-1.07	28
	B. Shenkin	Scorway	-1.07	56
77	J. Nadel	Nadel	-1.48	56
78	C. Parker	Spring Warriors	-1.61	28
	A. Grossack	Spring Warriors	-1.61	28
80	W. Schuster	Uli	-1.64	28
	U. Schuster	Uli	-1.64	28
82	O. de Haas	Netbridge	-1.93	14
	M. Been	Netbridge	-1.93	14
84	A. Tebha	Spring Warriors	-2.13	56
	S. Rubenstein	Spring Warriors	-2.13	56
86	O. Rimstedt	Black	-2.64	14
	M. Rimstedt	Black	-2.64	14

Online
Contract
Bridge
League

OCBL JUNE CUP

7 - 9 June, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 Boards

Tuesday, 7 June
R1 - R4
CEST 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30
EDT 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Wednesday, 8 June
R5 - R8
CEST 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30
EDT 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Thursday, 9 June
R9 - R12, SF/F
CEST 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30
EDT 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG