Online Contract Bridge League

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SCORWAY WON THE JUNE CUP!

Geir Brekka

Derek Diamond

Nils Kare Kvangraven

Stephen Levinson

Team **Scorway**, with Geir Brekka, Derek Diamond, Nils Kare Kvangraven, Stephen Levinson, Jan Arild Olsen, Oyvind Saur, Barnet Shenkin, Brian Spears won the OCBL June Cup!

In the Final, they faced team **New Amateurs** (Lo A., Chechelashvili D., Yang D., Falk A., Wang W., Kwok-Fei M., Loo C., and Tan G.).

The match ended 55 - 36 IMPs for Scorway.

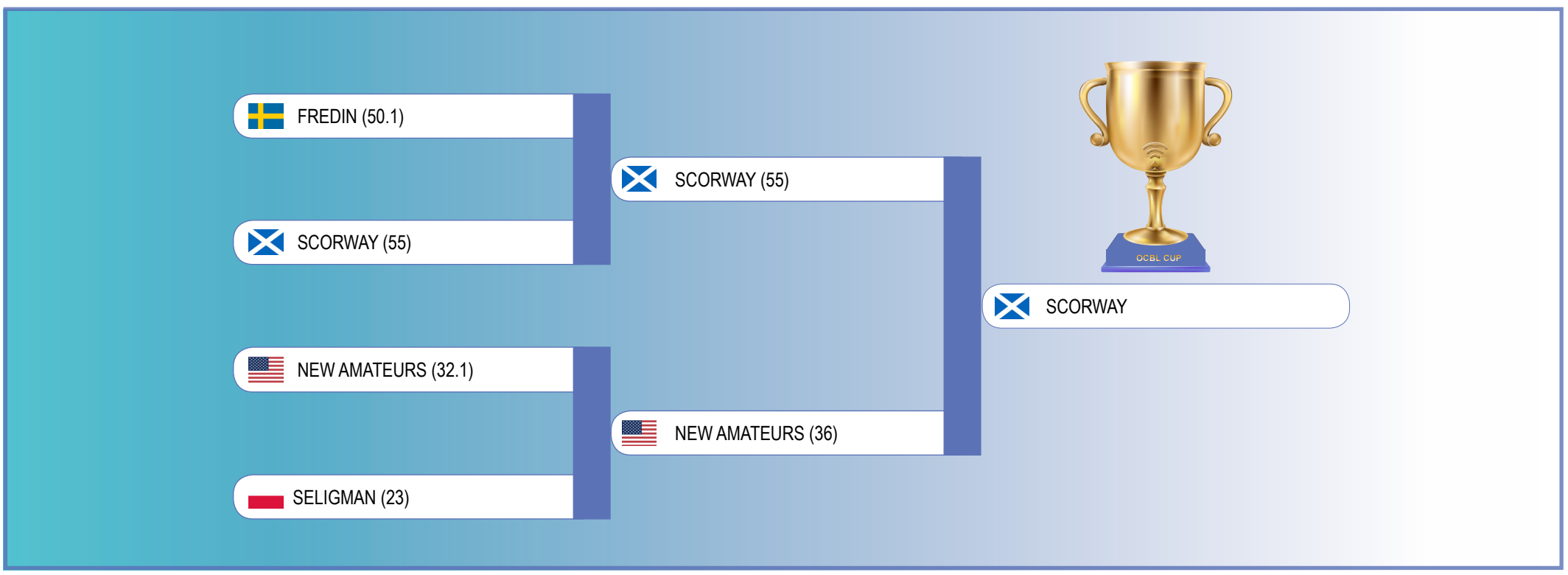
Seligman (Seligman M., Kwiecien M., Pszczola J., Starkowski W.) won the match for the 3rd place versus team Fredin (Fredin P., Apteker A., Hick H., Eber N.).

Jan Arild Olsen

Oyvind Saur

Barnet Shenkin

Brian Spears



Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

OCTOBER CUP
4 - 6 October, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 boards	CEST	EDT
Tuesday, 4 October R1 - R4	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Wednesday, 5 October R5 - R8	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Thursday, 6 October R9 - R12 & SF/F	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

HALLOWEEN CUP
25 - 27 October, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 boards	CEST	EDT
Tuesday, 25 October R1 - R4	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Wednesday, 26 October R5 - R8	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Thursday, 27 October 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/

ALT-OCBL 2022 POINTS SYSTEM

Online Contract Bridge League

CUMULATIVE RANKING

RANK	TEAM NAME	POINTS
1	Seligman	2670
2	(New) Amateurs	2650
3	Fredin	2620
4	Black	2340
5	Harris	2220
6	Scorway	2140
7	Uli	1740
8	Netbridge	1710
9	Apple	1220
10	Cantor	1090
11	Bridge24PL Mixed	1090
12	Rippey	1040
13	Danes	800
14	Donner	760
15	Nadel	760
16	Roiko	750
17	Jupiter	750
18	Flyfalcon	730
19	Moss	720
20	Macavity	710
21	Reynolds	660
22	ECF HOLDING	640
23	Jedi Knights	640
24	The Seniors	630
25	Lebowitz	620
26	Edmonds	560
27	Friends	500
28	Denmark	480
29	Vinita	460
30	Hok	450
31	Zhao	400
32	Practice	380
33	Orca	370
34	Israel Open	340
35	Goraco	330
36	Levine	320
37	Red Turtle	310

RANK	TEAM NAME	POINTS
38	Nederland CO	280
39	De Botton	270
40	Sweden	260
41	Pigot	250
42	Swedish Juniors	250
43	Dutch Juniors +	250
44	Tulips +	240
45	Magicians	240
46	Winter Soldiers	230
47	Smart Rabbit	220
48	Bridge Too Far	220
49	Romania	220
50	Multi	210
51	Russian Juniors +	210
52	Team Bici	210
53	Tilly	200
54	Moses	200
55	Mikadinho	190
56	Ukraine	190
57	Germany Juniors	180
58	Kruse's Cardcircus	180
59	Texan Aces	180
60	Daugava	170
61	Mass Ave	160
62	Greenspan	160
63	East-West	150
64	Walker	150
65	Latvia	150
66	Swiss Arabian	140
67	Quaranteam	120
68	Lorin	120
69	Sugi	110
70	England Juniors	110
71	Aliaga	110
72	Onstott	110
73	Spring Warriors	110

Rounds 6, 7 and 8

by Brian Senior

Round 6

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Chechelash.*	*Saur*	*Lo*
–	–	–	1♢
1♠	Dble	Rdbl	2♢
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♢
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Shenkin*	*Yang*	*Levinson*
–	–	–	1♢
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♢
All Pass			

Levinson was left to play peacefully in 2♢ when both his opponents took slightly cautious views in the auction. Falk led his singleton heart, Levinson winning the ace and cashing the ace of diamonds then leading a heart to his king. Falk ruffed that and played ace then queen of spades, Yang winning the king and returning a heart, which Falk ruffed with the ♢K. He played the jack of spades but Levinson was ruffing that and there was just a club to come for the defence; eight tricks for +90.

At the other table, Saur redoubled to show his strong spade doubleton and that made it easy for Brekka to compete to 2♠ over 2♢. Lo took the push to 3♢ and Brekka made a hungry double to conclude the auction. Brekka led his heart, Lo winning the ace and cashing the ace of diamonds. He played a low club off the dummy but Saur rose with the ace and gave his partner a heart ruff. Brekka played ace then queen of spades to his partner's king and was given a second heart ruff. That was the lot for the defenders, but the contract was already down one for –100 and 5 IMPs to SCORWAY.

Fredin v Swiss Arabian

West	North	East	South
Zanassi	*Fredin*	*Margiotta*	*Apteker*
–	–	–	1♢
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♢
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♢
Pass	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Eber	*Adam Ali*	*Fick*	*Camerini*
–	–	–	1♢
1♠	Dble	Rdbl	2♢
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♢
3♠	All Pass		

Fick redoubled, so Eber competed with 2♠ but then, where we saw Brekka double 3♢, Eber went on with a third spade, which ended the auction. Adam Ali cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to a trump. Eber won that and played three more rounds then led the ten of clubs and ran it, North not covering. He had three club tricks now, plus the ♢K and six trumps so 10 tricks in all for +170.

Margiotta did not redouble but Zanassi rebid his spades anyway. When Apteker took the push to 3♢, Margiotta now came to life with a competitive 3♠ and Zanassi was tempted into going on to game, where he was doubled. Fredin led a trump. Zanassi ran that to his hand, played a second spade to the king, then came back to hand with the king of clubs and cashed a third spade. He played the ten of clubs next, ducking Fredin's queen as Apteker threw a discouraging nine of diamonds. Fredin returned a low club and the blockage meant that Zanassi could get no benefit from the fact that he could finesse against the ♣J. Instead, he rose with the ace and led a diamond, ducking when Apteker put in the jack. The bare ace of diamonds fell on this trick and now Fredin returned a heart. Zanassi could ruff the second heart but had a diamond to lose at the end so was down one for –200 and 9 IMPs to FREDIN.

Flyfalcon v Danes

West	North	East	South
J V Norris	*V Prooijen*	*N M Norris*	*Wilson*
–	–	–	1♢
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♢
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♢
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Werdelin*	*Verhees*	*Aagaard*
–	–	–	1♢
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♢
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♢
Pass	Pass	3♠	All Pass

N M Norris did not get involved in the auction with the Eats cards. J V Norris overcalled then competed with 2♠ but, when Wilson bid diamonds for a third time, called it a day. West led a heart, Wilson winning the ace, cashing the ♢A, and playing a low club to the nine and ten. West played ace then queen of spades and East won and gave him a heart ruff. The king of diamonds was the setting trick; down one for –50.

The auction from the other table was identical up to the point where Verhees competed with 3♠ on the East hand and that bought the contract. Werdelin cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to a heart. Aagaard won the king and returned the nine of diamonds. Tijssen put in the ten and Werdelin ruffed. He returned a heart to the ace, but Tijssen ruffed that, crossed to the king of spades, and ruffed another heart. When he then cashed all the rest of the spades plus the king of diamonds, Werdelin was squeezed between hearts and clubs, and the ten of clubs was the tenth trick for +170 and 3 IMPs to FLYFALCON.

Harris v Lorin

West	North	East	South
Harris	*Nahmiyas*	*Malhasyan*	*Yilmaz*
–	–	–	1♢
1♠	Dble	Pass	2♢
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♢
Pass	Pass	3♠	4♢
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Kutuk	*Gross*	*Ekinci*	*Igoe*
–	–	–	1♢
1♠	Dble	2♠	3♢
4♠	All Pass		

Harris overcalled then repeated his suit and, when Yilmaz bid his diamonds for a third time, Malhasyan competed to 3♠, ending the auction. Yilmaz now bid diamonds for a fourth time and was lucky not to be doubled. Harris led his heart against 4♢, Yilmaz winning the ace, crossing to the ace of diamonds, and leading the jack of clubs. Malhasyan won the ace and gave his partner a heart ruff, and Harris played ace and queen of spades. The contract made the usual eight tricks so was down two for –100.

Ekinci added a new twist to proceedings when he raised directly to 2♠ over the negative double. And, why not; he would have done so with three small spades, so what is wrong with king doubleton and a side ace? Igoe freely rebid the diamonds, but Kutuk just bid the spade game and played there. Gross cashed the ace of diamonds and Igoe dropped the queen. Gross switched to a heart and Igoe won and tried to cash a second heart. Kutuk ruffed and played the king of diamonds, but that in turn was ruffed by Gross, who returned a spade. Kutuk won the king, ruffed a heart, then ruffed the diamond loser with the eight of spades. Another heart ruff established the fifth heart and now he drew the outstanding trumps, crossed to the ace of clubs, and took a club pitch on the long heart; 10 tricks for +620 and 11 IMPs to LORIN.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Fredin v Swiss Arabian

West	North	East	South
Eber	*Adam Ali*	*Fick*	*Camerini*
Pass	1♢	1♠	Dble
2♠	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Zanassi	*Fredin*	*Margiotta*	*Apteker*
Pass	1♢	4♠	All Pass

Fick made a simple 1♠ overcall then made a game try when Eber made a weak spade raise. Eber wasn't interested and Fick accepted his decision. However, it transpired that ace to three trumps and a doubleton heart was all that was required for game, with the heart ruff providing the tenth trick; +170.

The auction in the other room was short and to the point, as Margiotta simply overcalled 4♠ and played there for 10 painless tricks and +620; 10 IMPs to SWISS ARABIAN.

New Amateurs v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Shenkin*	*Yang*	*Levinson*
Pass	1♢	4♠	4NT
5♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Chechelash.*	*Saur*	*Lo*
Pass	1♢	4♠	All Pass

Both Easts overcalled 4♠, but with very different levels of success.

Saur was allowed to play in 4♠ and made the inevitable 10 tricks for +620.

Levinson bid 4NT with the South hand, suggesting at least two places to play. N/S cannot make anything at the five level, of course, but that was far from clear to Falk, who had one jack outside his partner's spades. He bid 5♠ and, after two passes, Levinson concluded the bidding with a double. Levinson led a diamond, Yang winning the ace and playing a heart. Back came a diamond so he gave up a second heart to set up his ruff in dummy. There was a club to be lost so the contract was down one for –200 and 13 IMPs to SCORWAY.

Flyfalcon v Danes

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Werdelin*	*Verhees*	*Aagaard*
Pass	1♢	4♠	4NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♡	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
J V Norris	*V Prooijen*	*N M Norris*	*Wilson*
Pass	1♢	1♠	Dble
2♠	3♡	3♠	4♡
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Norris overcalled at the one level, allowing Wilson to make a comfortable negative double. When West raised to 2♠, Norris merely competed to 3♠ over 3♡, sure that there would be further bidding from his opponents. Sure enough, Wilson raised to 4♡ and, when that came back to him, Norris 'saved' in 4♠ with every expectation of making his contract. Van Prooijen doubled and found that there was no defence; 10 tricks for +790. Nicely bid by East.

Verhees was a 4♠ overcaller but Aagaard competed with 4NT, showing at least two places to play, and Tijssen doubled. Presumably that invited partner to go on to 5♠ if he so desired, as the West hand is not exactly a treasure trove of defensive values. Werdelin left 4NT doubled round to his partner but then converted 5♣ to 5♡, presuming hearts to be one of the options once Aagaard didn't bid 5♢. Verhees doubled 5♡ and led the king of spades, Tijssen overtaking with the ace and returning a diamond. Two of those meant down one for –200 but 11 IMPs to DANES.

Yes, cashing the diamonds before leading a spade could result in down two, but might go wrong on another day.

Eight Easts overcalled 4♠, three overcalled at the one level, and one started with a double. Only Levinson and Aagaard were willing to commit to the five level over a 4♠ overcall with the South cards. Of the others, three doubled and conceded –790, while three passed and conceded –620.

Round 7

This 3NT looks pretty secure, doesn't it, and it made at seven of the eight tables where it was the contract, though the various declarers followed a variety of lines.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Swiss Arabian v Harris

West	North	East	South
M Gold	*Drijver*	*Tiholov*	*Verhaegen*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Zanassi	*Isporski*	*Marill*	*Trendafilov*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Dble	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Neither N/S got to 3NT in this match, which was good news for one of them but not the other.

Bob Drijver opened 1♠ then rebid an artificial 2♣. Verhaegen's 2♠ showed a minimum and Drijver judged to play the partscore, where he came to nine tricks after a heart lead to the ace and a trump switch.

At the other table, Zanassi decided to make a take-out double of spades to show his maximum pass. You will no doubt have your own opinion as to the soundness of this action, but this proved not to be the time for it, as Isporski redoubled and E/W had nowhere to go, ending up with Zanassi playing 2♣ doubled on the three-three fit. Isporski cashed the king of spades and switched to the two of diamonds, which went to the four, eight and king, establishing the rest of the diamond suit for the defence. Zanassi played a spade, Trendafilov winning the queen and returning the two of clubs to the eight, jack and ace. Zanassi led dummy's low diamond round to Isporski's ten and Isporski returned his remaining club for Trendafilov to win and play a third round. With trumps drawn, Zanassi could only cash the ace of hearts and concede the rest, so was down four for –800 and 12 IMPs to HARRIS.

Danes v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Olsen	*Werdelin*	*Kvangraven*	*Aagaard*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Dahl	*Shenkin*	*Berg*	*Levinson*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Werdelin rebid an artificial 2♣ and went on to 3NT on catching a club raise from Aagaard. Olsen led the four of hearts to dummy's jack and Aagaard played the jack of clubs. Kvangraven rose with the ace and returned a heart, ducked to dummy's king, and continued with two more rounds of clubs. When the clubs split evenly, Aagaard had established two extra winners for himself. Olsen cashed the ace of hearts then switched to a diamond, but Aagaard no longer needed the diamond finesse. He rose with the ace, crossed to the queen of spades, and cashed his club and heart winners, followed by the top spades; 10 tricks for +430.

Shenkin rebid a natural 2NT and was raised to game. Dahl led the four of hearts, Levinson winning the king and playing on spades, cashing all five when the jack appeared on the second round. Next, he played the jack of hearts to Dahl's ace and back came the queen of clubs. Levinson won the king and cashed the queen of hearts before getting out with a club to the ten, jack and ace (Dahl had discarded the ♣8 on the run of the spades). Berg returned a club so Levinson won that and had 11 tricks for +460 and 1 IMP to SCORWAY.

Seligman v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Chechelash.*	*Pszczola*	*Lo*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Starkowski*	*Yang*	*Kwiecien*
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♡
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Chechelashvili rebid an artificial 2♣ and passed the weak response of 2♠. On a heart to the ace and heart continuation, he made 10 tricks for +170.

The Poles had a Polish Club auction in which Starkowski confirmed the strong artificial variety with his 2♠ bid and Kwiecien became declarer in 3NT. Falk led the three of diamonds and Kwiecein played low from dummy, losing to the jack. Yang switched to the three of clubs, which Kwiecien ducked to Falk's queen and back came the ten of clubs to the jack and ace. Yang played a third club but Kwiecien won that and played on hearts, Falk ducking both the king and the jack. Kwiecien had the rest now for +430 and 6 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Flyfalcon v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Zomer	*V Prooijen*	*Bouwen*	*Wilson*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♢	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
I Gronkvist	*V D Hoek*	*M Gronkvist*	*T Drijver*
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Van Prooijen rebid a natural 2♢ then went on with 2NT over Wilson's simple spade preference. Wilson accepted the invitation and bid 3NT, against which Zomer led the eight of

hearts. Wilson played dummy's king, crossed to the queen of spades, and ran the nine of diamonds, losing to the jack. Back came a heart, which was ducked to dummy's jack. Wilson led the four of clubs to his king followed by the eight of diamonds to the queen. When that all passed off peacefully, he had 10 tricks for +430.

Van Den Hoek raised the 1NT response directly to game. Ida Gronkvist led the three of diamonds to the two, jack and eight, and Mikael Gronkvist switched to the six of clubs. Naturally enough, Tom Drijver played low from hand, losing to the queen. Now Ida saw no reason to waste the power of her ♣10 when the bare jack was in the dummy, so she returned the ♣8 to the jack and ace, and Mikael continued with the three of clubs – and Drijver had a problem. He got it wrong, or else there would be no story, putting in the nine and losing to the ten. Ida wasted no time in cashing the ace of hearts, and that was down one for –50 and 10 IMPs to FLYFALCON.

Round 8

Eleven N/S pairs bid and made 3NT, usually with overtricks, on this board from Round Eight. That leaves one exception.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Flyfalcon v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*M Gronkvist*	*Saur*	*I Gronkvist*
–	–	1♣	Dble
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Verhees	*Shenkin*	*Kiljan*	*Levinson*
–	–	1♣	Dble
Pass	1♡	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

When Levinson doubled the 1♣ opening, Verhees had nothing to say with the West cards as 1♣ had not promised genuine clubs. His opponents were able to have a controlled sequence to 3NT, against which Verhees led the nine of clubs to the five, three and ace. Levinson led the three of hearts to the ace, followed by the jack of diamonds to the queen and ace. The nine of diamonds lost to the king and back came a heart to the king. Levinson played ten and another diamond to set up the long card as a winner, and Kiljan returned a spade. Levinson put in the jack, and had three more spades and a diamond to cash, so 10 tricks in all for +630.

Saur's 1♣ opening did promise clubs, and Brekka took full advantage of that fact with a big pre-emptive raise to 4♣. That silenced Mikael for now, but Ida was still there with a second double. It's easy to say that Mikael, with his balanced hand and ♣Q, should have taken whatever money was on offer on defence – and that money would have been quite substantial – but the vulnerability made it tempting to bid, and surely his opponents had at least a nine-card fit? Mikael bid 4♡ and played there. Even Saur's lead of the jack of clubs round to the queen couldn't save Mikael. He played a low diamond at trick two, putting in the ten when Saur didn't split his honours. He continued with a low diamond to the jack and queen, Brekka discarding a spade, and Saur returned the king of clubs to dummy's ace. The ace of diamonds was ruffed and a club returned and ruffed with dummy's low heart. Mikael cashed the king of hearts, ruffed a diamond as Brekka pitched a second spade, then tried the ace and king of spades. The king was ruffed by Brekka, who returned a heart. Mikael won the ace but that was all, and he was down two for –200 and 13 IMPs to SCORWAY. I think we can give most of those IMPs to Brekka's bold bid rather than against N/S's judgement.

Board 3 was everyone's 3NT, usually played by South. Seven people made it, five were defeated.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Fredin v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Fredin*	*Pszczola*	*Apteker*
Eber	*Starkowski*	*Fick*	*Kwiecien*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

After a simple auction, Seligman led the jack of hearts against Apteker, who put up dummy's queen and ran the ten of diamonds to the jack. Seligman continued the heart attack, Apteker ducking the king but winning the next round. He led the king of diamonds to Pszczola's ace and Pszczola got out passively with a diamond. Apteker won the queen, cashed the diamonds, throwing two clubs and a spade from dummy, and took a spade finesse, the queen losing to the king. Back came the jack of clubs. Apteker won the ace, led the ♣10 to the queen and king, and led a spade up. When the jack proved to be offside, he was a trick short; –50.

Of course, had Apteker known the club position, he could have kept a third club in dummy and the ten would have been his ninth trick.

Eber too led the jack of hearts, but Kwiecien did not play dummy's queen. He won the ace and led a spade to the queen and king, and back came a heart, ducked to the queen. Kwiecien led the ten of diamonds to his king, crossed back to dummy with a club to the ace, and led a second diamond to the queen. Now, however, he abandoned diamonds, reading them as dividing four-two, and led a spade to the ten and jack. The defence promptly took two hearts and the ace of diamonds so Kwiecien was down one for –50 and no swing.

Friends v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Huber	*Wang*	*V d Starre*	*Huang*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Han	*V D Hoek*	*Mou*	*T Drijver*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Van Den Hoek raised the 1NT rebid to game, while Wang followed an invitational sequence, Huang going on to game.

Huber led the ten of hearts, Huang putting up dummy's queen and passing the ten of diamonds to the jack. Huber played the ten of hearts but, when that held the trick, switched to a spade to the ten and jack. Back came a heart. Huang won the ace and cleared the diamonds, and Van der Starre returned the jack of clubs. Huang won the ace and led a club back to his king. The appearance of the queen meant that dummy's ten was his ninth trick; +400.

Han led the six of clubs to the two, jack and king, and Tom Drijver led a club back to the eight and queen. He played low on Mou's low diamond return, losing to the jack, and Han continued with a second diamond to his partner's ace. Mou played a third diamond, so Drijver won the queen and tried a spade to the queen. That lost to the king and back came a heart, on which he rose with the ace. Drijver cashed the diamonds, discarding hearts from dummy, then led a spade to the ten. When that lost to the jack, the defence cashed two heart tricks before West had to concede the last trick to dummy's ♣A. The contract was down three for –150 and 11 IMPs to FRIENDS.

New Amateurs v Danes

West	North	East	South
Dahl	*Chechelash.*	*Berg*	*Lo*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Werdelin*	*Yang*	*Aagaard*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Lo was declarer as South after the popular auction, and Dahl led the ten of hearts, Lo playing low from dummy and winning the ace. He took a spade finesse, the ten losing to the jack, and back came a heart, ducked to dummy's queen. Lo led the ten of diamonds to his king, crossed to the ace of clubs, and led a second diamond to the queen. When the held the trick, Lo continued with a third diamond. Berg won the ace of diamonds and returned a heart, Dahl winning and cashing the thirteenth heart. Lo discarded a club from each hand on the heart, but the earlier fall of the ♣J had tipped him off as to where his ninth trick was most likely to come from. When Dahl next led the nine of spades, he rose with the ace and led a club to the queen and king, cashed the diamonds, and had the ten of clubs at the end; +400.

Aagaard's decision to rebid his diamonds saw Werdelin become declarer in the normal contract, and a low spade lead round to the nine and ten was an excellent start from his point of view. He led the five of diamonds to the queen and continued with the ♢K. Yang won the ace and returned the queen of clubs to dummy's king, and Werdelin cleared the diamonds. Falk won the jack and returned a spade, and Werdelin ducked this to Yang's eight. Yang led the jack of clubs, so Werdelin won the ace, cashed the ace of spades, then crossed to the ace of hearts to cash the diamonds. Falk was squeezed in front of Werdelin's ♡Q and ♣8 and came down to a singleton club, so the ten and eight of clubs won the last two tricks and Werdelin had an overtrick for +430 and 1 IMP to DANES.

Semifinals and Final

by Brian Senior

The Semi-finals

And then there were four. The semi-finals would be played over 2 x 10-board halves with a carry-over in favour of the higher-ranked teams in the qualifying stage. That meant that FREDIN would face SCORWAY with an 8.1 IMP advantage, while NEW AMATEURS would go into their match against SELIGMAN with a 4.1 IMP lead.

Set One

Board 2 was a tricky one for the N/S pairs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Loo*	*Pszczola*	*Tan*
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♢	1♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Mak	*Starkowski*	*W Wang*	*Kwiecien*
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♢	1♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Loo found himself in what looked to be the wrong partscore when Tan, entirely reasonably, gave preference by passing out 3♣. Pszczola led the five of hearts, Loo winning the ace and continuing with the ♡Q to the king. He ruffed a spade then played ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond, ruffed another spade, then another diamond. A third spade ruff was the eighth trick and the ace of clubs brought the total to nine for +110.

The auction in the other room was identical, and the lead was again a heart. Starkowski won the ♡A and played ace of diamonds then ruffed one, ruffed a spade, and ruffed another diamond. A second spade ruff was followed by the queen of hearts to the king, a diamond discard on the jack of hearts, then a spade off the dummy. Mak ruffed with the seven, but Starkowski over-ruffed and played a diamond winner and still had the ace of clubs to come so 10 tricks in all for +130 and 1 IMP to SELIGMAN.

That was nicely played by both declarers.

Fredin v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Kvangraven*	*Apteker*	*Levinson*
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♢	1♠	Pass
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Eber*	*Saur*	*Fick*
–	–	Pass	Pass
Pass	1♢	1♠	Dble
Rdbl	2♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

The two South players in this match took more optimistic decisions than those we have already looked at.

After the familiar start to the auction, Levinson took a shot at 3NT and played there. Fredin led a heart, Levinson rising with dummy's ace and leading a low diamond to his jack. Fredin won the king and tried a low club. Levinson went up with the ace, felling the bare king on his right, and tested the diamonds. When they broke evenly, he had five of those, a second club, and three more heart tricks, so 11 in all for a nice-looking +660.

Fick was the only South to make a negative double to get his hearts into the game. Brekka redoubled to show the strong spade doubleton, and Eber cuebid then jumped in his second suit when the bidding came back to him. That sounded to be forcing to Fick, as it was no doubt intended to do, but he could not have been thrilled to raise to 5♣ on his queen doubleton. Brekka resisted the temptation to double the final contract, and Saur led a low spade to the king his partner had promised in the auction. Eber ruffed the spade and cashed the ♡A then overtook the queen and led the jack of diamonds. When Brekka didn't cover, Eber ran the jack. Took a diamond pitch on the ten of hearts, then ruffed a spade. Ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff was followed by another low spade off the table. Brekka ruffed with the nine so Eber over-ruffed with the ten and ruffed a winning diamond with the queen. Eber led another spade next and Brekka ruffed with the seven. Eber over-ruffed with the eight and cashed the ace of clubs, making 12 tricks for +620 but 1 IMP to SCORWAY.

Coming to 12 tricks was somewhat remarkable, though Brekka could have ruffed that last spade with the jack instead of the seven. That would not necessarily have saved a trick, however, as Brekka was down to nothing but trumps, so would have to return one if Eber discarded his last diamond, and he could now still make 12 tricks by rising with the ace and dropping the bare king.

Board 6 was flat in both matches, but would not have been had the tables been switched around to give different match-ups.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Fredin v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Kvangraven*	*Apteker*	*Levinson*
Brekka	*Eber*	*Saur*	*Fick*
–	–	Pass	1♡
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

Kvangraven responded 1♠ then made an invitational jump to 3♡ at his second turn and Levinson accepted the invitation. Fredin led a diamond to the queen and ace and Apteker switched to the nine of hearts to the jack, queen and ace. Levinson played ace then ruffed a club, king then ruffed a diamond, and ruffed another club. Another diamond ruff was followed by the king of hearts then the king of spades. Fredin won the ♠A, cashed the ♡10, and led a spade. Dummy had the queen but had to concede the last trick, so down one for –50.

Playing the jack of hearts at trick two was the fatal error.

An identical auction saw Fick also at the helm in the heart game. Again the lead was a diamond to the queen and ace and again East switched to the nine of hearts at trick two. Fick did better by playing low from hand and winning dummy's ace. He played a spade to the king and ace, won the diamond return with the king, and played ace then ruffed a club. Fick cashed the queen of spades, ruffed a spade and ruffed a club. He ruffed a diamond then exited with his last club, but Brekka could discard his last diamond and Saur won and was on lead at trick 12 so the queen of hearts was the setting trick; down one for –50 and no swing.

New Amateurs v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Loo*	*Pszczola*	*Tan*
–	–	Pass	1♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Mak	*Starkowski*	*W Wang*	*Kwiecien*
–	–	Pass	1♡
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Loo raised the opening bid directly to game and that ended a very simple auction. Seligman led the three of clubs to the jack and ace and Tan took a club ruff then led a spade to the king and ace. Seligman returned a diamond to the king and ace and Pszczola returned the suit to the ten, jack and queen. Tan took a club pitch on the queen of spades, ruffed a spade and ruffed a club. He ruffed a diamond then his last club with the ace of hearts. Down to ♡KJ6, he led a spade off the dummy and ruffed with the six. Seligman could over-ruff but was then endplayed to lead into the heart tenace at trick 12; 10 tricks for +420.

Starkowski responded 1♠ to the opening bid but jumped to 4♡ at his next turn. Mak led a diamond to the queen and ace and Wenfei Wang returned the nine of hearts to dummy's ace. Kwiecien led a spade to his king and Mak won the ace and played a diamond. Kwiecien

won the king and took a club discard on the queen of spades then ruffed a spade, played ace of clubs and ruffed a club, and ruffed a diamond. A club ruff was followed by a diamond ruff with the ♡J, and the ♡K was the tenth trick for +420 and no swing.

The clue as to which suit to ruff at the end came, of course, from the opening diamond lead.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Loo*	*Pszczola*	*Tan*
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Mak	*Starkowski*	*W Wang*	*Kwiecien*
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♢	3♢	Dble	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Both Wests led the jack of diamonds to declarer's ace.

Kwiecien led a spade at trick two, Mak winning the ace and returning a low heart to the nine and ace. Opening up the hearts proved to be fatal to the defence as Kwiecien could set up a discard for his club loser and had 10 tricks for +420.

Seligman too led the diamond. Tan won the ace and ruffed a diamond, then led a spade to the ten and ace. Seligman returned a club to the eight, jack and ace. Tan ruffed his last diamond, drew the outstanding trump, an dled a heart to the nine. When that lost to the ten he had a second heart loser and a club at the end so was down one for –50 and 10 IMPs to SELIGMAN, who trailed by 17-19.1 at the half.

Fredin v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Kvangraven*	*Apteker*	*Levinson*
Brekka	Eber	Saur	Fick
–	Pass	Pass	1♠
2♢	4♠	All Pass	

Identical auctions again saw both Souths declare the spade game.

Brekka led the seven of clubs to the eight, jack and ace and Fick immediately led a the seven of hearts to the nine. That lost to the ten and Saur returned a low heart to his partner's king. Brekka cashed the ace of spades then played a third heart, and though he was ruffing that, Fick was left with a club loser at the end; down one for –50.

Fredin also led a club to the eight, jack and ace, but Levinson played a spade at trick two. Fredin won the ace and returned a low heart. Apteker won the ace and continued with a low heart to the king, but now there was a discard for the club loser and Levinson was home with 10 tricks for +420 and 10 IMPs to SCORWAY.

However, the rest of the set had gone largely the way of FREDIN, and they led by 28.1-12 at the half.

Set Two

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Fredin v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Eber*	*Saur*	*Fick*
Fredin	*Kvangraven*	*Apteker*	*Levinson*
1♠	All Pass		

The two auctions were both short and sweet, leaving West in his opening bid of 1♠. The results at the two tables were dramatically different, however.

Kvangraven led the five of clubs to the ten, jack and ace. Fredin led a low diamond at trick two and Kvangraven shot up with the ace and played the king of clubs, forcing Fredin to ruff. He did so, then led the ten of diamonds to the jack, king and ruff. The queen of clubs forced declarer again, and he played the queen of diamonds, Levinson again ruffing and returning a heart. Fredin ducked this to Kvangraven's ten and Kvangraven continued with a second heart to the king and ace. Fredin played ace then queen of spades now, losing to the king. Kvangraven played a club, and Fredin could only make his spade trick so was down one for –100.

Eber led the ten of hearts, Brekka winning the queen and leading a low diamond. Eber grabbed his ace and played a second heart to the jack and ace, and Brekka led the jack of spades, which held the trick, followed by ace and a third spade. Eber made his king, but the heart loser went on the fifth diamond, and Brekka came to 11 tricks – five more than were made in the other room – for +200 and 7 IMPs to SCORWAY.

New Amateurs v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Chechelash.*	*Pszczola*	*Lo*
Falk	*Starkowski*	*Yang*	*Kwiecien*
1♠	All Pass		

Starkowski led the ten of hearts against 1♠, Falk winning the queen and playing ace then queen of spades. Starkowski won the ♠K and returned his remaining heart, so Falk won and cashed the jack of spades then led a low diamond. Starkowski played the nine, so the king scored and Falk played a second diamond to the queen and ace, won the club return, and knocked out the jack of diamonds, coming to 10 tricks for +170.

Chechelashvili also led the ten of hearts to declarer's queen. Seligman cashed the ace of clubs then played ace and a third heart. Lo won the heart and returned a diamond to the nine and king. Seligman ruffed a club then led the ten of diamonds to the jack. Lo ruffed his partner's winner to lead a heart through to the jack and king of spades. Chechelashvili played a club, forcing Seligman to ruff. Seligman played the queen of diamonds to the ace and, again, Lo ruffed to push a heart through. Seligman ruffed with the queen and cashed the ace of spades, conceding the last trick to the ♠8, making eight tricks for +110 but 2 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

Fredin v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Eber*	*Saur*	*Fick*
Fredin	*Kvangraven*	*Apteker*	*Levinson*
–	1NT	2♣	3NT
All Pass			

Both Norths opened 1NT, both Easts overcalled 2♣ to show both majors, and both Souths jumped to 3NT.

Apteker led the four of spades round to declarer's queen. Kvangraven played the jack of hearts, establishing a second heart trick while retaining control of the suit. Apteker won the king and played ace and another spade, but Kvangraven had nine tricks – two spades, two hearts, and five clubs, for +600.

Saur led the ten of spades and Eber won the queen and led a diamond to the jack and king. A spade back allowed Saur to clear the suit, and Eber could still have made the contract had he cashed all the clubs then thrown Saur in with the diamond to lead into the heart tenace at the end. But Eber didn't see it and instead played a second diamond, which set up his ninth trick but, alas, allowed Saur in to cash two spades and beat the contract by a trick; –100 and 12 IMPs to SCORWAY.

New Amateurs v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Chechelash.*	*Pszczola*	*Lo*
–	1NT	Dble	2♣
Pass	2♢	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Starkowski*	*Yang*	*Kwiecien*
–	1NT	2♣	3NT
All Pass			

Yang overcalled 2♣ to show both majors and Kwiecien raised to 3NT. Yang led the seven of spades round to Starkowski's king and declarer played the jack of hearts. Yang won the king and continued with the ten of spades but, as we have seen, declarer had nine tricks for +600.

Pszczola doubled 1NT to show either one minor or both majors, so Lo used Stayman then jumped to 3NT. Pszczola led the ten of spades, Chechelashvili putting up dummy's jack and, when it held, taking the heart finesse. That lost, as expected, but when Pszczola cleared the spades Chechelashvili had nine tricks for +600 and no swing.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

Fredin v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Eber*	*Saur*	*Fick*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♠	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Kvangraven*	*Apteker*	*Levinson*
–	–	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Levinson opened an aggressive pre-empt and Kvangraven converted to 3NT. He ducked the heart lead, won the continuation, and ran the ten of clubs, which held the trick. The jack of clubs was won by the ace and Fredin led the seven of diamonds through. Kvangraven won the ace and led a spade to the queen. Had the ace been on his left, the contract would have rolled in, but the queen lost to the ace and Fredin returned a spade. Kvangraven ducked that, won the heart switch and played king and another diamond. Fredin won and knocked out the king of spades and had the last two tricks with the queen of diamonds and nine of spades; down three for –150.

Fick did not open the South hand, but he did use Lebensohl to compete when Saur competed with 2♠ over 1NT. Eber bid 3NT rather than the requested 3♣, which could not have thrilled Fick, who was looking at just one king. Well, perhaps Eber would be able to run the club suit? Saur led the queen of hearts, Eber winning the king and playing the jack of clubs, which held the trick. Brekka won the next club, perforce, and returned his remaining heart. Eber won the ace and played three rounds of diamonds. Brekka won the nine and queen but had then to lead spades, and that meant that dummy's club winners were resurrected. Miraculously, it seemed, Eber had come to nine tricks in what had looked to be a hopeless contract; +400 and 11 IMPs to FREDIN.

Brekka could have beaten 3NT. He would have to keep the queen and two of diamonds after the ace and king had been cashed. Now he can win the queen and exit with the two, which costs a diamond trick but leaves declarer to play spades himself, and there is no spade entry to the dummy. That would have been a fine defence to find to go with the fine declarer play.

New Amateurs v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Chechelash.*	*Pszczola*	*Lo*
–	–	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Starkowski*	*Yang*	*Kwiecien*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♠	2NT
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Lo opened 3♣ and Chechelashvili converted to 3NT. He won the heart lead with the ace and ran the ten then jack of clubs, the latter losing to the ace. Seligman returned his heart and Chechelashvili ducked, losing to the ten. Pszczola cleared the hearts and declarer played three rounds of diamonds. Seligman won two of those and the ace of spades so the contract was one down for –50.

Kwiecien did not open the South hand but he used Lebensohl to compete in clubs and Starkowski made a disciplined conversion to 3♣, where he played. Starkowski won the heart lead and ran the jack of clubs, Falk winning the ace and returning his remaining heart. Starkowski won the king and ran the ten of clubs, then led a spade to the queen and ace. He won the diamond return with the ace and played two more rounds of diamonds to get to dummy to draw the missing trump. Both defenders came down to a singleton spade on the run of the trumps as Starkowski played out a classic double squeeze, and the two of spades won trick 13, meaning that Starkowski had made 11 in all for +150 and 5 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Chechelash.*	*Pszczola*	*Lo*
–	–	Pass	2♣
Pass	2◇	Pass	2NT
Pass	3◇	Pass	4♣
Pass	4◇	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Starkowski*	*Yang*	*Kwiecien*
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	2◇
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♡
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♡
All Pass			

Lo's 2♣ was strong and artificial, the 2◇ response negative/waiting, and 2NT just short of game-forcing. Three Diamonds was a transfer, and 4♣ and 4◇ were cuebids. Four Spades asked for key-cards, 4NT showed one, and Lo had to sign off in 5♡, where he made 12 tricks for +680.

Kwiecien opened a Polish club and Starkowski showed a natural positive. Two Diamonds was a strong relay, 2♠ showed 7-10 with five hearts, and 2NT was another relay. Three Clubs was natural, 3♡ asked again, and 3♠ showed 2-5-2-4. Kwiecien asked for key-cards but found that two were missing so settled for 5♡, where Starkowski made 12 easy tricks courtesy of the trump finesse; +680.

Fredin v Scorway

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Eber*	*Saur*	*Fick*
–	–	Pass	2♣
Pass	2◇	Pass	2NT
Pass	3◇	Pass	4♡
Pass	5◇	Pass	5♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Kvangraven*	*Apteker*	*Levinson*
–	–	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♡	Pass	2NT
Pass	3◇	Pass	6♡
Dble	All Pass		

Fick opened a strong and artificial 2♣ and the 2◇ response was negative/waiting. The 2NT rebid was just short of a game-force and 3◇ a transfer to hearts. When Fick broke the transfer, Eber judged his hand to be worth a slam try so he showed the diamond control. Fick, however, was not interested and signed off in 5♡ – he had already broken the transfer, remember, so didn't like his hand all that much. The winning heart finesse meant that Fick had an overtrick for +680.

Levinson's opening bid was also strong and artificial, and the 2♡ response showed three controls. When Kvangraven now transferred to hearts, Levinson just blasted the slam. Fredin doubled but found that the ace of hearts was not where he wanted it to be. Kvangraven had the same 12 tricks as everyone else, but they were worth +1660 here and 14 IMPs to SCORWAY.

Both semi-finals were close. SCORWAY snatched victory over FREDIN by bidding the slam on the last board, the margin being just 4.9 IMPs. NEW AMATEURS meanwhile won the second set and came through by 9.1 IMPs. It would be SCORWAY v NEW AMATEURS in the 20-board final.

The Final

So the final of the OCBL June Cup would be contested by SCORWAY and NEW AMATEURS, 2 x 10-board segments to decide the new champions.

Set One

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

	♠ A 6 5 3 ♡ K 7 5 4 ◇ J 7 4 ♣ K 6	
♠ 7 ♡ 10 8 2 ◇ Q 10 9 5 2 ♣ J 10 9 3		♠ J 8 ♡ A J 9 3 ◇ 6 3 ♣ Q 8 74 2
	♠ K Q 10 9 4 2 ♡ Q 6 ◇ A K 8 ♣ A 5	

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Kvangraven*	*Yang*	*Olsen*
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	3◇	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4◇
Pass	4♡	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5◇	Pass	6♠

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Chechelash.*	*Saur*	*Lo*
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Chechelashvili's 2NT response was invitational plus with spades and 3♡ denied a shortage. Four Spades now showed that the hand was only invitational, and Lo settled for game, making 11 tricks after a club lead for +650.

Kvangraven's 3♢ was specifically invitational in spades, and 3NT a non-serious slam try. After three cuebids, Yang doubled 4♡ and Olsen passed it round to Kvangraven to see what sort of control his partner held. The 4♠ sign-off showed only second-round control, but that meant that the queen of hearts was working very well opposite the king, so Olsen asked for key-cards then bid the small slam. Falk led the two of hearts to the four, jack and queen. Olsen cashed the king and queen of spades and the ace and king of clubs, then he led a low heart off the table. Yang got that right after some thought, playing low, so Falk won the eight and returned the ♡10. There was no pressure in the endgame, and Falk came to the queen of diamonds to beat the slam; –100 and 13 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Kvangraven*	*Yang*	*Olsen*
–	–	–	1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Chechelashv.*	*Saur*	*Lo*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	3♡	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Olsen opened 1♣, reversed into diamonds over the transfer response, then showed some spade support in response to fourth-suit-forcing, and Kvangraven jumped to the spade game. Falk led the six of spades, Olsen putting in the eight and Yang playing low. Olsen led dummy's club at trick two, putting in the jack and losing to the queen. Back came a diamond, which he ran to the ten. Olsen cashed the ace of spades then ruffed a club and, after some thought, cashed the ace and king of diamonds. Fearing a four-two trump split, he continued by taking the heart finesse, planning a club ruff if the heart scored. However, the ♡Q lost to the king, and Falk cashed the king of spades then returned a heart to the ace. Declarer had to lose a heart at trick 13 and was down one for –50.

Lo made what I consider to be the practical opening bid of 1NT and Chechelashvili followed a Smolen sequence to game, Lo of course choosing to play in 3NT. Brekka's low diamond lead ran to the ten and Lo played ace and another spade, going up with the queen when Brekka played low. This is not, of course, a straight guess, as picking up jack doubleton offside gives four tricks while king doubleton only gives three. Lo continued with a third spade, splitting the suit, and Brekka won the spade and returned a heart round to the queen. Lo could cross to a diamond to cash the spades, unblock the diamond, and come to hand with the ace of hearts to cash the fourth diamond, so had 10 tricks for +430 and 10 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS, who led by 25 IMPs after just three deals.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Kvangraven*	*Yang*	*Olsen*
Pass	1♣	3♣	3♢
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Chechelash.*	*Saur*	*Lo*
Pass	1♣	1♠	Dble
2♣	2♡	4♠	5♡
Dble	All Pass		

Chechelashvili opened 1♣ as North and Saur made an unusual type of 1♠ overcall, with five small spades but a stronger and longer club suit. Lo made a negative double, also not a typical example of the call, and Brekka made an immaculate cuebid raise. When Chechelashvili showed hearts, Saur knew that his opponents had a big fit so jumped to 4♠, fully expecting that he might see 5♡ on his left. Sure enough, Lo could hardly not bid on with his shapely hand, and Brekka was happy to double to complete a spirited auction. Chechelashvili, with so much of his strength in spades, must have feared that 5♡ would not be a lot of fun, but he need not have worried. Saur led the two of spades to the king and ace, and Chechelashvili led his diamond up. Saur won the ace and led a low club, which Chechelashvili ruffed in dummy. He played the queen of hearts to the king and ace, and a second heart to the ten and jack. Back came a club, forcing dummy for a second time. Chechelashvili accepted the force and started running winning diamonds through Brekka, who could ruff in whenever he felt like it but to no avail. Chechelashvili could over-ruff and lead his last heart to dummy's nine and that drew Brekka's last trump so declarer could cash the rest of the diamonds. Chechelashvili had 11 tricks for +650.

In the other room, Yang could make a natural 3♣ overcall of the potentially short club, and spades never got a mention. Olsen showed diamonds then hearts and Kvangraven was delighted to put dummy down in 4♡, against which Falk led the seven of clubs. Olsen ruffed that and led the queen of hearts to the king and ace, then led the diamond. Yang won the ace and returned a club, so Olsen had to ruff again, but now he started to run the diamonds. Once again, the power of a long running side suit was illustrated. Falk ruffed the fourth diamond low and was over-ruffed. Olsen played ace of spades and ruffed a spade, then led another winning diamond, and Falk was powerless to make more than the one trump trick; 11 tricks for +450 but 5 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Kvangraven*	*Yang*	*Olsen*
–	–	1♠	2♠
Pass	3♣	Dble	Pass
5♢	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Chechelash.*	*Saur*	*Lo*
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Saur opened 1♠ and rebid 2NT, GF, then chose to play the spade game. Lo led his singleton diamond, Saur putting in dummy's nine, which held the trick. He played a spade and Chechelashvili rose with the ace to give his partner a diamond ruff, but that was all for the defence when Lo returned a heart and Saur could draw trumps and get rid of the club loser on the diamonds; 11 tricks for +650.

Olsen's thin Michaels Cuebid led to a somewhat different auction at the other table. Falk passed over 2♠ and Kvangraven responded 3♣, pass or correct. When Yang doubled that for take-out, Falk jumped to 5♢, ending the auction. Five Diamonds was not nearly so comfortable a spot as 4♠. Kvangraven led a heart, which Falk won in hand to run the nine of diamonds and, when that held the trick, continue with a low diamond to the ten. When Olsen showed out, Falk switched his attention to spades, leading the king off the dummy. Kvangraven won the ace and returned a club, and Olsen won the ace and promptly continued with the queen to force dummy to ruff with the ace and establish a trick for North's queen. The ♢Q was the setting trick so the contract was one down for –100 and 13 badly-needed IMPs to SCORWAY, who had been held to a single overtrick IMP up to that point.

NEW AMATEURS still led by 30-14 at the midpoint in the match.

Set Two

After three deals of the second half, NEW AMATEURS had added a single overtrick IMP to their lead.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Kvangraven*	*Yang*	*Olsen*
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Chechelash.*	*Saur*	*Lo*
Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

Kvangraven opened 1♣, showed his spades over the transfer response, then judged to play in 2♣ rather than leave 1NT. Yang led the four of hearts. Kvangraven put up the ace and played three rounds of spades, ruffing the third. He ruffed a heart then ruffed the last spade with the ten and was over-ruffed by the queen. A low heart came back, which Kvangraven ruffed. He led a diamond to the jack and king, and now Falk led the king of hearts. Kvangraven ruffed with the jack but Yang discarded a diamond, won the next diamond play, and could cash three club tricks for down one and –100.

Chechelashvili opened an off-shape 11-13 NT and that ran round to Brekka, who doubled, just showing a maximum for his initial pass. Lo, who had passed a hand with which most players would have transferred to hearts, now redoubled, and left his partner to play in 2♣ when he rescued himself there. Saur led the four of hearts, Chechelashvili rising with the ace and playing the queen of hearts to the king and ruff. He played ace, king, then ruffed a third spade, and pitched the last spade on the jack of hearts, ruffed by Saur, who cashed the ace and king of clubs then played the jack of spades. Chechelashvili ruffed and played a diamond and had to lose two of those but had his contract for +90 and 5 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ K 2
♡ 8 7
♢ A J 6 5
♣ A K 9 7 6

♠ Q J 8 5 4
♡ K J
♢ K 10 7
♣ 10 8 4

♠ A 10 9 3
♡ A 10 5 4 3 2
♢ Q 8
♣ 2

♠ 7 6
♡ Q 9 6
♢ 9 4 3 2
♣ Q J 5 3

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Kvangraven*	*Yang*	*Olsen*
–	–	1♡	Pass
1♠	1NT	2♠	Dble
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Chechelash.*	*Saur*	*Lo*
–	–	1♡	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2NT
3♠	All Pass		

Chechelashvili doubled twice with the North cards and Lo bid 2NT, two places to play. Brekka competed to 3♠, and that ended the auction. Chechelashvili's heart lead was not what the defence required – not that anything else would have beaten the contract either. The heart ran round to Brekka's jack and he ran the queen of spades, played a second spade to the king and ace, then cashed the king of hearts. A third spade to dummy enabled him to cash four more heart winners, and he came to 12 tricks in all for +230, and may have been concerned at having missed a playable vulnerable game. Not to worry, teammates were producing a remarkable result at the other table.

Kvangraven overcalled 1NT rather than double. When Olsen made a take-out double of 2♠ and Falk raised that to 3♠, Kvangraven bid 3NT. Was that an attempt to play there with his minimum overcall, or more likely suggesting that his partner might like to pick a minor? Whatever the intention, 3NT became the final contract, and Yang led the nine of spades to the jack and king, bringing Kvangraven's total up to seven tricks. With precious little hope for his contract, Kvangraven cashed all five club winners, discarding a diamond from dummy, then exited with his remaining spade. Falk won the ♠Q and returned his last spade for Yang to take the ten and ace. Now Yang switched to the eight of diamonds and Kvangraven ducked Falk's king. Sure enough, Falk, who had come down to king-ten doubleton, continued with the ten of diamonds. Kvangraven put up the ace, and had two more diamonds to cash, having voided himself of hearts while East was cashing the spades. Somehow, Kvangraven had managed to make nine tricks and his contract for +400 and 12 IMPs to SCORWAY. Maybe the match was still alive after all.

The next board confirmed that the match was far from over.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A J 9 4
♡ A 8 7 2
♢ 8
♣ K J 7 2

♠ 10 8
♡ K 10 4
♢ J 10 3
♣ A 9 6 5 3

♠ Q 2
♡ J 6 3
♢ A K Q 7 6
♣ 10 8 4

♠ K 7 6 5 3
♡ Q 9 5
♢ 9 5 4 2
♣ Q

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Kvangraven*	*Yang*	*Olsen*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♢	1♡
2♢	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Chechelash.*	*Saur*	*Lo*
–	–	–	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♢	1♠
2♢	2♠	All Pass	

Chechelashvili made a simple spade raise and that ended the auction. Saur overtook his partner's jack of diamonds lead with the ace and continued with a low diamond to the ten and ruff. These pyrotechnics achieved nothing. Lo led a club to the queen and ace and back came a club. He won the king, discarding a heart loser from hand, and took a second heart discard on the jack of clubs. Ace and another heart for a ruff, a diamond ruff, and now Lo cashed the ace of spades before leading the last club off the dummy. Saur ruffed in with the queen, forcing an over-ruff with the king, and now the last diamond was ruffed with the jack. Brekka made the ten of spades, but Lo had 10 tricks for +170.

It wasn't enough. In the other room, Kvangraven gave a jump raise in spades and Olsen went on to game. Yang cashed the ace of diamonds then switched to the three of hearts to the five, ten and duck. Falk switched back to diamonds, but Kvangraven could ruff that and play a club to the queen and ace. He rose with the ace on the heart return, cashed the ace of spades, then took a heart discard on the king of clubs. A spade to the queen and king, a diamond ruff, and the last diamond went away on the jack of clubs for 10 tricks, +620, and 10 IMPs to SCORWAY, who were in the lead for the first time in the match.

On Board 9, SCORWAY picked up 6 more IMPs for 1NT+2 against 3♢-2, and there was one last chance on the final board, where a borderline slam would fail. If SCORWAY bid it and went down…

This was the final deal:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A K J 8 6 5 4 2
♡ A J 9 4
♢ –
♣ 4

♠ 10 7
♡ –
♢ A Q J 9 3 2
♣ Q J 7 3 2

♠ 9
♡ K Q 8 6 5 2
♢ 10 8 4
♣ 10 9 6

♠ Q 3
♡ 10 7 3
♢ K 7 6 5
♣ A K 8 5

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Kvangraven*	*Yang*	*Olsen*
–	–	2♡	Pass
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Chechelash.*	*Saur*	*Lo*
–	–	2♢	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Yang opened a natural weak two bid and, when that reached Kvangraven, he leaped to 4♠ and played there. Yang ledt the king of hearts but Falk did not ruff so Kvangraven won the ace, drew trumps, and gave up a heart, making 12 tricks for +680.

Saur opened a multi and that offered Brekka the option of passing it out and making his own long suit trumps – except, of course, that Chechelashvili too overcalled 4♠. Lo, however, asked for key-cards and Chechelashvili just bid the small slam, doubled by Brekka. Saur too led the king of hearts, but Brekka did ruff and returned his remaining trump. There was one discard on the second club, but nowhere to park the other heart loser, so the contract was one down for –200 and 13 IMPs to SCORWAY.

The wild final deal had indeed produced a major swing, but that swing had merely increased the margin of victory rather than swung the match around. SCORWAY won the final by 55-36, so congratulations to them, and commiserations to NEW AMATEURS, who were level with two boards to play.

OCBL JUNE CUP

Semifinals

Fredin (+8.1)	50.1 IMPs	55 IMPs	Scorway
New Amat. (+4.1)	32.1 IMPs	23 IMPs	Seligman

Final

Scorway	55 IMPs	36 IMPs	New Amateurs

3rd place playoff

Fredin	32 IMPs	63 IMPs	Seligman

Swiss, Round 1

Flyfalcon	4.03 VPs 9 IMPs	15.97 VPs 29 IMPs	Danes
Harris	9.61 VPs 22 IMPs	10.39 VPs 23 IMPs	Texan Aces
Lorin	4.03 VPs 10 IMPs	15.97 VPs 30 IMPs	Friends
Swiss Arabian	15.05 VPs 31 IMPs	4.95 VPs 15 IMPs	Netbridge

Swiss, Round 2

Danes	14.28 VPs 24 IMPs	5.72 VPs 11 IMPs	Harris
Flyfalcon	14.8 VPs 45 IMPs	5.2 VPs 30 IMPs	Friends
Texan Aces	15.75 VPs 35 IMPs	4.25 VPs 16 IMPs	Swiss Arabian
Lorin	4.71 VPs 14 IMPs	15.29 VPs 31 IMPs	Netbridge

Swiss, Round 3

Danes	2.49 VPs 5 IMPs	17.51 VPs 33 IMPs	Texan Aces
Flyfalcon	16.39 VPs 23 IMPs	3.61 VPs 1 IMPs	Harris
Friends	18.71 VPs 44 IMPs	1.29 VPs 8 IMPs	Netbridge
Swiss Arabian	9.23 VPs 7 IMPs	10.77 VPs 9 IMPs	Lorin

Swiss, Round 4

Flyfalcon	0.9 VPs 6 IMPs	19.1 VPs 45 IMPs	Texan Aces
Danes	7.17 VPs 30 IMPs	12.83 VPs 38 IMPs	Lorin
Friends	0.9 VPs 10 IMPs	19.1 VPs 49 IMPs	Swiss Arabian
Harris	11.85 VPs 24 IMPs	8.15 VPs 19 IMPs	Netbridge

Online
Contract
Bridge
League

OCBL
MON - TUE SWISS

11 - 12 July, 2022

OCBL SWISS

SWISS

10 Rounds x 8 Boards

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG