Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

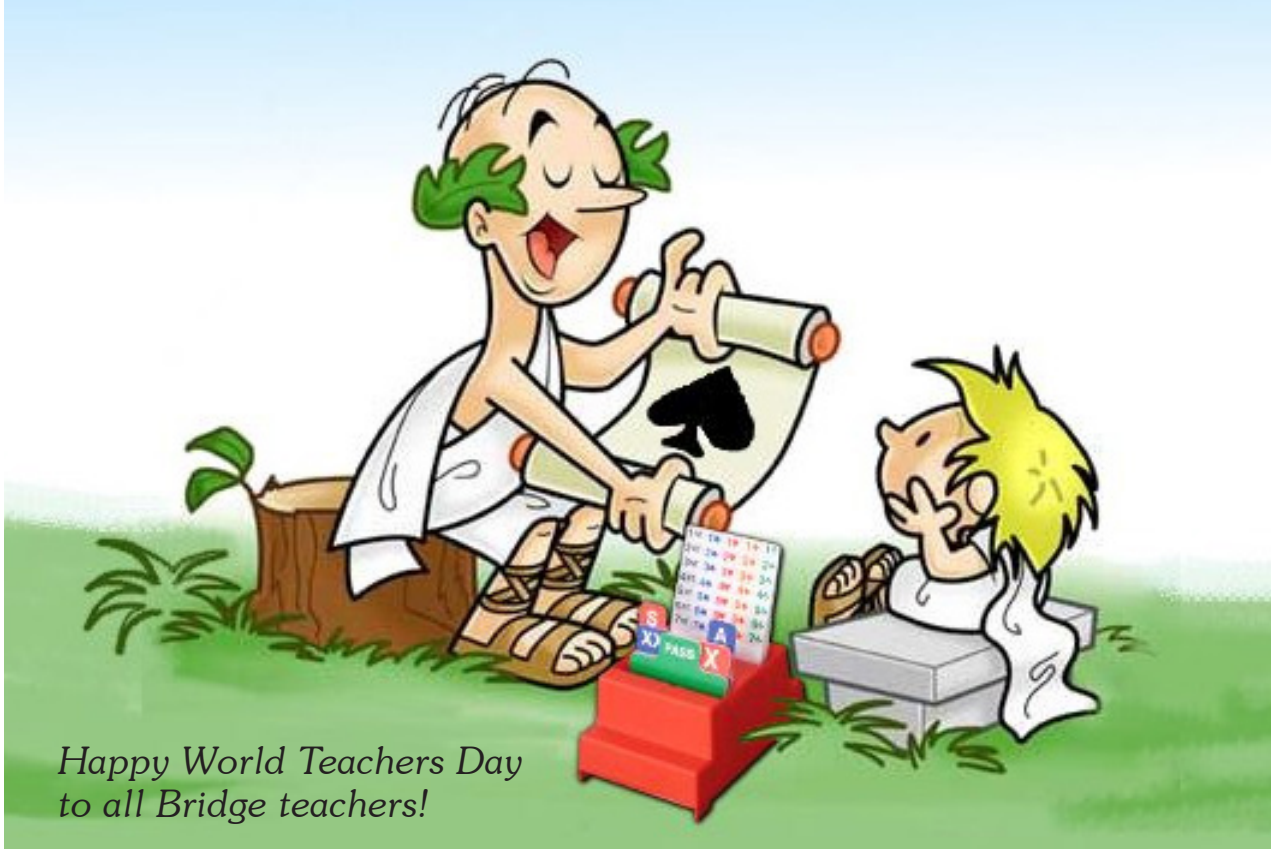
Issue N. 181. Wednesday, 5 October, 2022

THE SEMIFINALS

October CUP

Results after Round 8

1	McAllister	109.43
2	Seligman	105.06
3	Yellow Cap	97.7
4	Peanuts	88.16
5	Harris	85.02
6	Netbridge	78.48
7	Greenberg	76.42
8	New Amateurs	67.19
9	Nadel	47.87
10	Crocodile	44.67

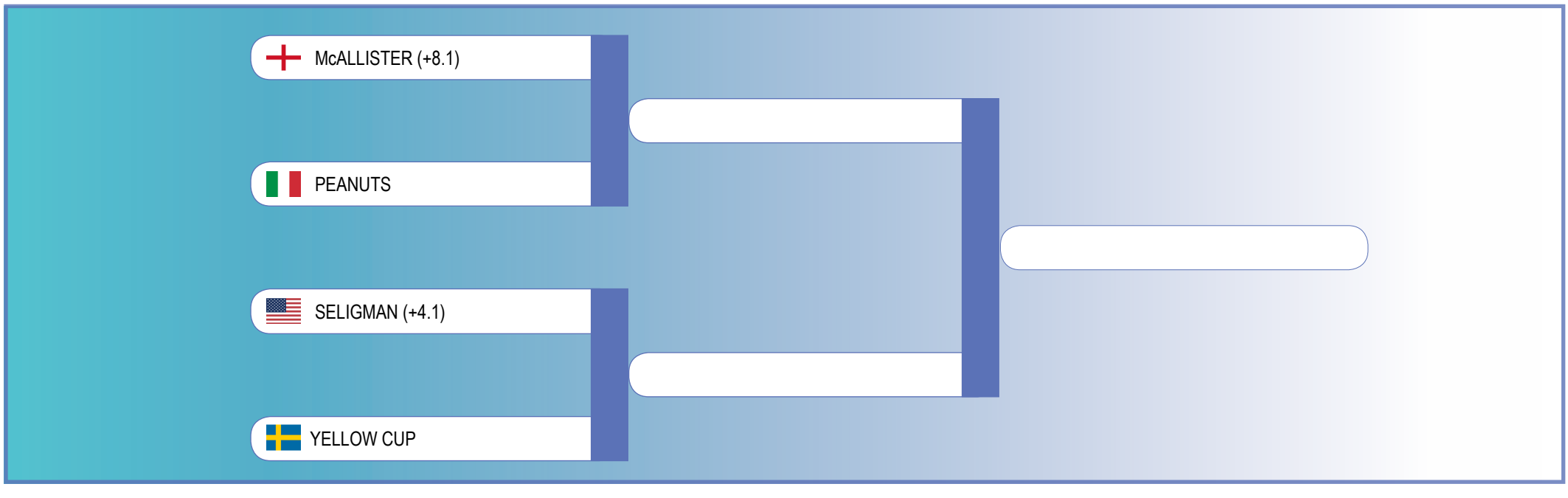


After 8 rounds, the following teams advanced to the Semifinals:

- Team MCALLISTER (McAllister J., Root S., Kennedy S., Bucknell C.)
- Team SELIGMAN (Seligman M., Kwiecien M., Pszczola J., Starkowski W.)
- Team YELLOW CAP (Nilsland M., Johansson L., Pyykkko Y., Gronkvist I., Ovelius E., Hallqvist L., Johansson Y., Bjork Heed M., Nilsson A., Asplund Sivelind F., Hansson E., Wiberg E., Nordqvist M., Johansson J., Bertheau M., Bern T.
- Team PEANUTS (Lorenzini C., Setton H., Franceschetti P., Robert Q., Bessis T.)

Today, team McALLISTER will face team PEANUTS, starting with an 8.1 IMPs carryover. Meanwhile, team SELIGMAN will face team YELLOW CUP, starting from a 4.1 IMPs carryover.

The remaining teams will play four more rounds.



Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

MON - TUE SWISS
21 - 22 November, 2022

10 Rounds x 8 boards

	CEST	EDT
Monday, 21 November	16.00 - 17.15 - 18.30 - 19.45 - 21.00	10.00 - 11.15 - 12.30 - 13.45 - 15.00
Tuesday, 22 November	16.00 - 17.15 - 18.30 - 19.45 - 21.00	10.00 - 11.15 - 12.30 - 13.45 - 15.00

DECEMBER CUP
13 - 16 December, 2022

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Tuesday 13 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
3 Rounds x 14 boards	Wednesday 14 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Thursday 15 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Friday 16 December	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/

Bridge NEWS

2023 EUROPEAN TRANSNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Transnational Championships will be organized in Strasbourg, France from June 3 until June 17, 2023.

The venue will be the Parc des Expositions.

More than 15 000 Bridge Players are expected to take part to the event, which will include the following European Transnational Championships:

Open Teams	Open Pairs
Women Teams	Women Pairs
Senior Teams	Senior Pairs
Mixed Teams	Mixed Pairs

Photo: FFB (Fédération Française de Bridge)

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

Rounds 5 & 6

by Brian Senior

Round 5

South found herself in an unusual position on this first deal.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Netbridge v Nadel

West	North	East	South
Goor	*v Roosmalen*	*Westerveld*	*Gast*
–	–	2♠	Pass
Pass	3♡	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
V d Hoek	*v d Bos*	*Bouwen*	*Nadel*
–	–	Pass	1♠
Dble	Rdbl	2♢	4♠
5♢	Dble	All Pass	

Taking one look at the favourable vulnerability, Westerveld opened with a weak two bid, and South must have had trouble believing what her eyes were telling her. Gast passed – what else could she do? Dreams of leaving in a take-out double were quickly dashed when van Roosmalen overcalled 3♡ in fourth seat and Gast passed it out. Westerveld led the king of clubs then switched to a diamond, and Goor won that and cashed the minor-suit aces then gave partner a club ruff. There was still a trump to come so that meant down two for –200.

Westerveld's weak two opening had kept his side out of trouble, trouble that was found by E/W at the other table, where Bouwen did not open the East hand. Here, Nadel got to open 1♠ in second seat and van den Hoek doubled for take-out. Van Den Bos redoubled to show strength, and it seems that a pass from East would now have shown a desire to defend 1♠ redoubled, because Bouwen took it out into his three-card diamond suit. Alas, when Nadel now jumped to 4♠, van den Hoek took the diamond bid seriously and bid 5♢, promptly doubled by van den Bos to conclude the auction. Nadel led the ace of spades, which was ruffed and over-ruffed, and van den Bos cashed the king of hearts then continued with the ace. Had that stood up, he would no doubt have continued with a third heart for his partner to ruff, but Nadel saw the position differently and ruffed her partner's ace to play another top spade through. Bouwen ruffed that with the ace, cashed the king of clubs, and went back to dummy with the ace of diamonds. He played ace of clubs and ruffed a club, then crossed back to dummy with the queen of hearts to take another club ruff, setting up the fifth club. There was just a trump to be lost so Bouwen had escaped for down two and –300, but 11 IMPs to NADEL.

Crocodile v Harris

West	North	East	South
Tiholov	*Barel*	*Igoe*	*Jansma*
–	–	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Liran	*Isporski*	*Poplilov*	*Trendafilov*
–	–	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♢(i)	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

(i) Hearts

After a pass from Igoe, Jansma opened 4♠, as would I, and Tiholov doubled. Igoe left it in, of course. Tiholov led the king of diamonds, followed by the ♢A, then switched to ace of clubs, costing a trick by crashing his partner's king. Igoe ruffed the club continuation and played back a diamond, and Jansma gave that trick back by ruffing high in case Tiholov had started with ace-king doubleton in diamonds. There was a trump trick to be lost now so the contract was down two for –500.

Trendafilov opened at the one level, Liran doubled, and Isporski transferred to hearts. Trendafilov showed a powerful spade suit, then allowed Isporski to declare 3NT. It doesn't look as though it should be too taxing to defeat 3NT, but Igoe started with the singleton king of clubs then switched to the nine of diamonds. Tiholov won the ♢A, cashed the ♣A, then cashed the ♢K and continued with another diamond. Isporski could win that in hand, cross to dummy with the jack of clubs, and cash the five top spades. Two hearts and the ♣Q made nine in all for +600 and 15 IMPs to HARRIS.

That was the only contract made in either direction. In the two matches which I am not covering, South declared 4♠ at all four tables, twice doubled, and down –100, –200, or –500.

If you think that was a big swing, wait until you see the swing in our next match.

Peanuts v Yellow Cap

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Pyykko*	*RobertJohansson*	
–	–	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♠
Dble	5♣	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Nilsson	*Franceschetti*	*Heed*	*Setton*
–	–	2♢	2♠
3♡	3NT	Pass	Pass
4♡	Dble	All Pass	

What fun!

Heed opened the East hand with a multi 2♢ and Setton overcalled 2♠. Nilsson assumed that partner's suit must be hearts, though having a spade void really should have been a warning signal. Nilsson got away with competing with 3♡ but, when 3NT came round, couldn't resist saving in 4♡, and now the axe fell, along with most of the ceiling and roof. Franceschetti led the queen of diamonds. Nilsson won that, unblocked the ♣K, and came back to hand with a diamond to play ace of clubs then ruff a club. A heart exit now would have seen her come to another trick as would, better, a spade and discard from hand. What did not produce another trick was ruffing a spade and being over-ruffed. The contract was down five for –1100.

Meanwhile, Robert opened 3♠ on a hand with which half the field didn't open at all, and that created havoc in the N/S ranks. Pyykko overcalled 4♡ after two passes, and when that came around to Lorenzini, West, he doubled. Johansson could not bear to put that spade suit down in the dummy, so tried 4♠. Whether Pyykko understood that as an attempt to play there, or took it to be the start of a wriggle into a minor, who knows? What we do know is that, when 4♠ was doubled, Pyykko ran to 5♣ and that too was doubled, ending the auction. Robert led a heart, so Pyykko won and played two more rounds, ruffing and establishing his long suit. He tried the ace of spades but that was ruffed on his right. Pyykko over-ruffed and ruffed a heart with the ♣10 to play another top spade. That too was ruffed and over-ruffed and another heart ruffed, this time with the jack. A third spade was ruffed and over-ruffed and finally the sixth heart was ruffed low by West. Lorenzini could now cash the ace and king of diamonds and give Robert a diamond ruff with the ♣K, after which the ♣A won the last trick for down three and –800. That was worth 18 IMPs to PEANUTS.

Five Easts opened the bidding, one with 2♠, three with 2♢, and one with 3♠. When East passed, Jansma was the only South to open 4♠, the rest preferring a one-level opening.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Crocodile v Harris

West	North	East	South
Tiholov	*Barel*	*Igoe*	*Jansma*
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Liran	*Isporski*	*Poplilov*	*Trendafilov*
5♣	Dble	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♡	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Both Wests opened 5♣ and both Norths doubled.

Jansma accepted whatever was on offer on defence and found that this was just down one for +100.

Trendafilov drove to slam, despite the fact that the ♣K was waste paper. Five No Trump showed two paces to play, Isporski chose 6♡ in case he was facing the red suits, and Trendafilov converted to 6♠. Seven Clubs would have been cheap, but Poplilov had hopes of beating the slam – just give North the ♠J – so left Trendafilov to get on with it. The spade finesse was onside, the heart offside, so there was just one loser and Trendafilov had 12 tricks for +980 and 13 IMPs to HARRIS.

Greenberg v McAllister

West	North	East	South
Bucknell	*Tokay*	*Kennedy*	*Greenberg*
5♣	Dble	Pass	5♢
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Ekinci	*McAllister*	*Serdar*	*Root*
5♣	Dble	All Pass	

Root left the double in and must have worried that the +100 this achieved might prove to in inadequate.He needn't have worried. Greenberg took it out into 5♢ and Tokay left it there when there must have been a strong temptation to correct to 5♡. Greenberg ruffed the club lead, cashed the king of diamonds, and tried a spade to the jack. That was ruffed and back came a heart. He took the finesse, losing to the king, so suffered a second spade ruff, and there was also a trump trick to be lost; down two for –100 and 5 IMPs to HARRIS.

Netbridge v Nadel

West	North	East	South
Goor	*v Roosmalen*	*Westerveld*	*Gast*
4♣	Dble	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
V d Hoek	*v d Bos*	*Bouwen*	*Nadel*
4♣	4♠	5♣	5♠
All Pass			

In this match both Wests opted for a 4♣ opening. Van den bos overcalled in his longer suit, while van Roosmalen preferred to double. Both Easts raised the ante to 5♣ and now, facing a double, Gast also doubled, and that was left in for +100. Facing a 4♠ overcall, Nadel bid 5♠ and that made with an overtrick for +480 and 9 IMPs to NADEL.

Peanuts v Yellow Cap

West	North	East	South
Nilsson	*Franceschetti*	*Heed*	*Setton*
4♣	4♠	5♣	5♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Pyykko*	*Robert*	*Johansson*
5♣	Dble	Pass	5♢
Pass	5♡	Pass	6♡
Dble	All Pass		

Nilsson's 4♣ opening led to an auction we have seen before and eneded with Franceschetti declaring 5♠ and making 12 easy tricks for +480.

Lorenzini's 5♣ opening saw Pyykko double and Johansson take it out into 5♢. Pyykko converted to hearts, but Johansson didn't get the intended message of a major two-suiter, seemingly just taking Pyykko for a big heart hand, hence the raise to 6♡. Lorenzini doubled that, looking for a spade ruff, but is still looking. Robert led a diamond, Pyykko winning dummy's ace and taking the trump finesse. Given a second chance, Robert led… a club. Pyykko ruffed, drew trumps, and picked up the spades for 12 tricks and +1210; 12 IMPs to YELLOW CAPS.

Seligman v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Loo	*Starkowski*	*Tan*	*Kwiecien*
4♣	5♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Yang*	*Pszczola*	*Gu*
5♣	6♣	Pass	7♣
Pass	7♡	Dble	7♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

I had been wondering if anyone would opt for a cuebid to get the two-suited nature of the North hand across. Of course, the cuebid does take the bidding up a level, and the spades are not that strong.

Loo opened 4♣ and Starkowski took the gamble by cuebidding, and must have been well pleased when that collected a jump to 6♠ from Kwiecien. There were no problems in the play so that was worth +980.

Seligman opened 5♣ and now Yang's decision to commit to the six level was a big position to take. Gu, with two aces and excellent support for two of the unbid suits, cuebid 7♣ in response, and that was the problem with Yang's own cuebid. Pszczola doubled 7♡ and doubled again when that was converted to 7♠. There was the king of hearts to be lost, so the contract was down one for –100 and 14 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

There were six 5♣ openings and four 4♢ openings. Four Clubs attracted two 4♠ overcalls, one take-out double, and one cuebid. Five Clubs attracted five doubles and one cuebid.

Round 6

Board 9 featured a cold slam for the E/W pairs, but most faced opposition bidding which took away the possibility of their having their ideal auction.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Crocodile

West	North	East	South
Jansma	*Pettis*	*Lindeman*	*Lo*
–	Pass	Pass	2♢
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Chechelash.	*Walker*	*Gu*	*Lucassen*
–	2♡	Pass	3♡
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♡	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♢	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

There were two passes to Lo, who opened with a weak 2♢, and Jansma doubled then splintered in support of his partner's 2♠ response. But Lindeman had no ace or king and cuebidding his shortage control would have meant going past game. He signed off and Jansma, who could have been facing a flat yarborough, accepted his decision; +680.

Walker could open the North hand with a weak two-suited 2♡ and Lucassen upped the ante to 3♡. Chechelashvili doubled then cuebid, and he was not willing to give up at the four level, asking for key cards and only signing off on getting a zero key-card response; +680 and no swing.

Greenberg v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Tokay*	*Pszczola*	*Greenberg*
–	2♡	Pass	3♡
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Serdar	*Starkowski*	*Ekinci*	*Kwiecien*
–	Pass	Pass	1♢
Dble	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♢	2♡	2NT	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Tokay was another who could open 2♡ to show a two-suiter, and Greemberg too raised pre-emptively to 3♡. Seligman doubled then asked about key-cards but he too signed off in 5♠ on finding that his partner did not have the missing ace; +680.

Kwiecien opened the South hand at the one level, leaving ample space for his opponents to explore. When Ekinci bid a free 2NT at his third turn, Serdar just blasted the small slam; +1430 and 13 IMPs to GREENBERG.

Nadel v Yellow Cap

West	North	East	South
Nilsland	*v d Bos*	*A-Sivelind*	*Nadel*
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	2♡	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Essink	*Hallqvist*	*Friesen*	*Johansson*
–	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♢	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♢	Dble
6♠	All Pass		

Nobody opened in front of Nilsland's big hand so he got to open with a strong and artificial 2♣. When van den Bos overcalled 2♡, Asplund-Sivelind bid 2NT freely then showed spade support at his next turn. When Nilsland went on with a club cuebid, Asplund-Sivelind jumped to slam; +1430.

Essink too was able to open with a strong and artificial 2♣. The 2♢ response was a negative/relay and 4♣ a splinter. That was all Essink needed to see and he checked for the missing key-card then settled for the small slam on finding that there was an ace missing; +1430 and no swing.

We have seen the three successful auctions which reached the small slam. Three pairs stopped in 4♠ and three if 5♠. The tenth table played 2♢ doubled by South when east passed the take-out double of a weak two opening, down three for –500 but +5 IMPs.

Five Norths opened 2♡, two Souths opened a weak 2♢, and one South opened 1♢. Only two E/Ws were allowed the opportunity to start with an artificial 2♣ opening. Given that opportunity, the Essink/Frisen auction looks pretty good to me, and it gets to the grand slam very easily if East has the missing ace, which then takes care of West's heart loser.

OCBL OCTOBER CUP

RESULTS

ROUND 5

Peanuts	12.83 VPs / 31 IMPs	7.17 VPs / 23 IMPs	Yellow Cap
Netbridge	3.82 VPs / 20 IMPs	16.18 VPs / 41 IMPs	Nadel
Harris	16.39 VPs / 33 IMPs	3.61 VPs / 11 IMPs	Crocodile
Greenberg	12.51 VPs / 13 IMPs	7.49 VPs / 6 IMPs	McAllister
Seligman	11.5 VPs / 22 IMPs	8.5 VPs / 18 IMPs	New Amateurs

ROUND 6

Peanuts	4.95 VPs / 7 IMPs	15.05 VPs / 23 IMPs	McAllister
Greenberg	5.72 VPs / 16 IMPs	14.28 VPs / 29 IMPs	Seligman
Nadel	0.78 VPs / 7 IMPs	19.22 VPs / 47 IMPs	Yellow Cap
Harris	7.82 VPs / 18 IMPs	12.18 VPs / 24 IMPs	Netbridge
New Amateurs	9.61 VPs / 31 IMPs	10.39 VPs / 32 IMPs	Crocodile

ROUND 7

Peanuts	11.14 VPs / 16 IMPs	8.86 VPs / 13 IMPs	Netbridge
Harris	6.86 VPs / 18 IMPs	13.14 VPs / 27 IMPs	New Amateurs
Seligman	3.03 VPs / 12 IMPs	16.97 VPs / 37 IMPs	McAllister
Nadel	1.03 VPs / 3 IMPs	18.97 VPs / 41 IMPs	Greenberg
Crocodile	6.86 VPs / 11 IMPs	13.14 VPs / 20 IMPs	Yellow Cap

ROUND 8

Peanuts	19.55 VPs / 57 IMPs	0.45 VPs / 14 IMPs	Greenberg
Nadel	13.43 VPs / 30 IMPs	6.57 VPs / 20 IMPs	Crocodile
New Amateurs	10 VPs / 20 IMPs	10 VPs / 20 IMPs	Netbridge
Seligman	13.43 VPs / 33 IMPs	6.57 VPs / 23 IMPs	Harris
Yellow Cap	11.85 VPs / 23 IMPs	8.15 VPs / 18 IMPs	McAllister

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12 Rounds x 10 Boards

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R1 - R4
CEST 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30
EDT 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Wednesday, 26 October
R5 - R8
CEST 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30
EDT 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Thursday, 27 October
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