Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 182. Thursday, 6 October, 2022

PEANUTS WON THE OCTOBER CUP!

Team PEANUTS (Lorenzini C., Setton H., Franceschetti P., Robert Q., Bessis T.) won the OCBL October Cup!

In the Final, they faced team SELIGMAN (Seligman M., Kwiecien M., Pszczola J., Starkowski W.).

The match ended 32-22 IMPs for Peanuts.

Team MCALLISTER (McAllister J., Root S., Kennedy S., Bucknell C.) placed 3rd by winning the 3rd place Final versus team Yellow Cup (65 to 44 IMPs).

H. Setton

T. Bessis

P. Franceschetti

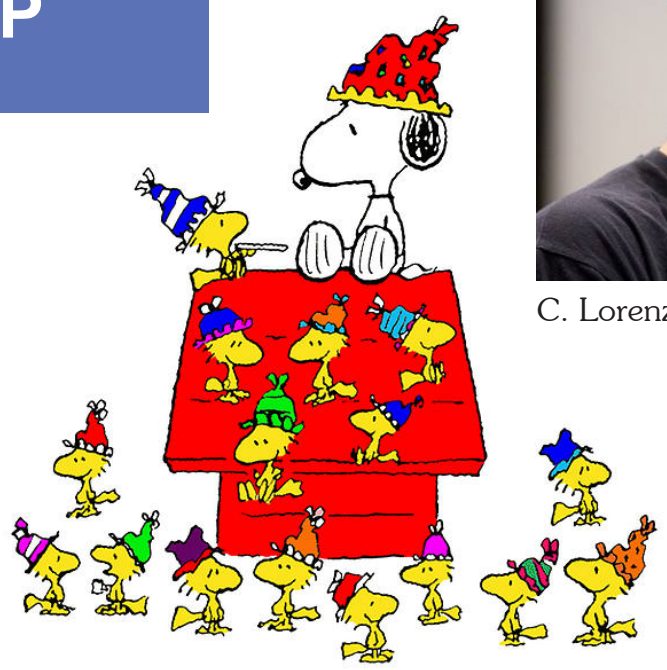
C. Lorenzini

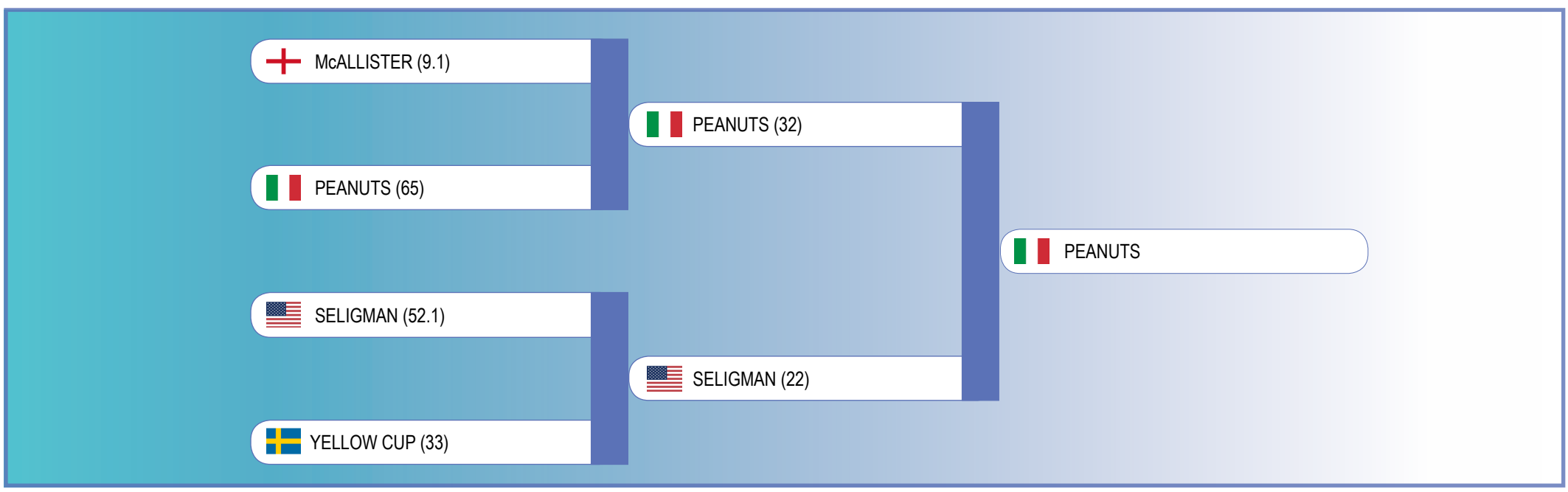
Q. Robert

October CUP

5th place Swiss

1		Harris	142.65
2		Greenberg	120.64
3		New Amateurs	118.96
4		Netbridge	106.09
5		Crocodile	88.08
6		Nadel	63.23





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

EUROPEAN WINTER GAMES 2023

The EBL announced that the European Winter Games will be organised by EBL in Tignes, in the French Alps near the Italian border from 23 to 29 April 2023.

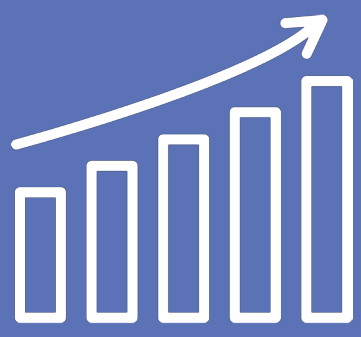
The venue will be Tignespace, a new convention centre in the town.

A detailed schedule will be announced shortly.

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 7 & 8, Semifinals and Final

by Brian Senior

Round 7

South had a powerful hand on Board 2 of Round 7, but how many tricks could be made depended on the opening lead.

Board2 . Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Crocodile v Yellow Cap

West	North	East	South
Nilsland	*Walker*	*Bern*	*Lucassen*
–	–	1♡	Dble
4♡	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Jansma	*Hallqvist*	*Lindeman*	*Johansson*
–	–	1♡	Dble
4♡	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♡	5♠
All Pass			

Both Lucassen and Johansson doubled then contented themselves with 4♠ on their 10-winner hands. Lucassen was allowed to play there, while Lindeman took the push to 5♡ against Johansson, who in turn went on to 5♠, ending the auction.

Both Wests led the singleton diamond to the queen and ace, so declarer could draw trumps and just give up one diamond trick; flat at +680.

Harris v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Malhasyan*	*Gu*	*Harris*
–	–	1♡	Dble
4♡	Pass	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	7♡	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Tiholov	*Chechelash.*	*M Gold*	*Lo*
–	–	1♡	Dble
4♡	Pass	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

The South hand needs so little help to make slam, so neither Lo nor Harris were willing to settle for a simple game bid at their second turn.

Lo jumped to 5♠ to invite slam if his partner had anything useful – he didn't. Tiholov led the king of hearts. Lo ruffed, cashed the ace of spades followed by the ace of diamonds, then drew three more rounds of trumps before playing a second diamond. That lost to the queen, and a heart return forced out Lo's last trump, so that the best he could do was to cash out for one down, unable to both establish and cash a second diamond trick; –100.

Harris blasted 6♠ at his second turn, and Gu was sufficiently worried that he would make this on black-suit tricks that he took the save in 7♡, which Harris doubled. Harris could have taken the first five tricks by cashing spades followed by two minor-suit aces, but he chose instead to cash the aces of clubs and diamonds followed by the ♣K. Gu ruffed, cashed the ace of hearts, then the king and queen of diamonds, discarding spades from the dummy. He gave up a spade, ruffed the club return, and cashed all the trumps before conceding a club at the end for down four and –800; 14 IMPs to HARRIS.

Seligman v McAllister

West	North	East	South
Bucknell	*Seligman*	*Kennedy*	*Pszczola*
–	–	1♡	Dble
4♡	Pass	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*McAllister*	*Kwiecien*	*Root*
–	–	1♡	Dble
4♡	Pass	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Pszczola doubled then rebid 4♠ and played there on a diamond lead; 12 tricks for +680.

Root doubled then jumped to 6♠ and also received a diamond lead, so that was also 12 tricks and +1430, meaning 13 IMPs to McAllister.

Six Souths rebid 4♠, two rebid 5♠, and two rebid 6♠. Of the nine Wests who had to find a lead against some number of spades, only Tiholov, on lead against slam, did not choose the singleton diamond.

Round 8

On Board 2 of Round 8, doubled partscores were played in four different denominations, including one match where the same team declared 1NT doubled at both tables. Did they make a profit or a loss? We shall see shortly.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

Nadel v Crocodile

West	North	East	South
Jansma	*v d Bos*	*Lindeman*	*Nadel*
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Essink	*Walker*	*Friesen*	*Lucassen*
–	–	1♠	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dble	All Pass		

Nadel passed over 1♠ but, when the 1NT response came back around, doubled, ending the auction. Van den Bos led the eight of diamonds to the four, ten and ace, and Jansma led a spade to the jack, which Nadel ducked, followed by the jack of diamonds to her queen. Nadel cashed the ace of spades then switched to the eight of clubs for the ten, jack and ace. Jansma cashed the king of spades, led a heart to his queen, then cashed three club winners before exiting with the nine of diamonds. Nadel won that but had come down to two hearts so now had to concede the last trick to dummy's king; nine tricks for +380.

Lucassen doubled the 1♠ opening and, when Essink's strength-showing redoubled came back round to him, ran to 1NT and, when Essink doubled, stood his ground. Essink led the king of clubs and, when that held the trick, continued with the queen to pin dummy's jack. Next, Essink switched to his spade, Friesen erring by playing low and so allowing declarer's nine to win the trick. Lucassen played the king of diamonds to Essink's ace and Essink returned his low club to Friesen's ace. Friesen switched to the four of hearts to his partner's queen, allowing Essink to cash the fourth club before reverting to heart, the ten forcing the ace. Lucassen could cash the queen and ten of diamonds and ace of spades, but that was all. He was down two for –500, so 3 IMPs to NADEL, and no, the team which declared 1NT doubled at both tables did not make a profit by doing so.

Peanuts v Greenberg

West	North	East	South
Serdar	*Franceschetti*	*Ekinci*	*Robert*
–	–	1NT	Dble
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Tokay*	*Bessis*	*Greenberg*
–	–	1♠	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	2♣
Dble	All Pass		

Bessis opened 1♠, doubled by Greenberg, who then ran to 2♣ when 1♠ redoubled came back to him. Lorenzini doubled 2♣ and that was that. Lorenzini led his spade to the ten and ace, and Greenberg played the queen of diamonds. That held the trick, Bessis following with the jack to show his doubleton, and Greenberg continued with the ♢K. Lorenzini won the ace and gave Bessis a ruff, and Bessis returned the four of

hearts to the five and queen. Lorenzini played his fourth diamond, Greenberg discarding a heart from dummy as Bessis ruffed. King and another spade saw Lorenzini's turn to collect a defensive ruff, and he then switched to a heart for the jack, king and ace. Greenberg played a club to Bessis's ace and a low spade return was ruffed and over-ruffed. Lorenzini cashed two more trumps and Greenberg had the last trick with a long trump, so was down four for –1100.

Ekinci opened with a weak NT and Robert doubled. Franceschetti transferred to spades and, when Robert completed the transfer, Serdar doubled for take-out and Ekinci was very happy to leave it in. Serdar led the king of clubs then switched to his trump for the three, ten and ace. Robert played the nine of spades back to Ekinci's jack, and Ekinci played ace and another club. Robert ruffed that in dummy and led a diamond to the queen, losing to the ace. Back came the fourth club, ruffed with the eight and over-ruffed with the king, and Ekinci returned a spade to dummy's queen. A diamond was led to the jack and king, and Robert tried the ♢10. Ekinci ruffed that and returned a low heart, and the defence had two of those to defeat the contract by two tricks; –500 but 12 IMPs to PEANUTS.

New Amateurs v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
V d Hoek	*Chechelashvili*		*Bouwen Lo*
–	–	1♠	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	2♣
Dble	2♢	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Falk	*Bremer*	*Gu*	*Verhoef*
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Verhoef stayed out of trouble with the South cards by passing twice and defending 1NT undoubled. Bremer led a diamond and Falk came to eight tricks for +120.

Lo doubled the 1♠ opening then ran to 2♣ when van den Hoek's redoubled came round to him. When that was doubled, Chechelashvili guessed to try to improve things by running to 2♢, which was also doubled. Bouwen led the jack of diamonds to the king and ace, and van den Hoek switched to the king of clubs followed by his singleton spade. That went to the ten and ace, and Chechelashvili played a club. Bouwen won the ace and returned a diamond to dummy's queen, and Chechelashvili took a club ruff then got out with a spade. Bouwen won that with the jack and returned the four of hearts to his partner's queen. Van den Hoek cashed the queen of clubs then switched back to hearts, the ten forcing the ace. Chechelashvili exited with dummy's last heart, Bouwen winning the king and leading a spade. There was one more trump trick for each side, so the contract was down three for –800 and 12 IMPs to NETBRIDGE.

Seligman v Harris

West	North	East	South
Tiholov	*Starkowski*	*Trendafilov*	*Kwiecien*
–	–	1♠	Dble
Rdbl	Pass	Pass	1NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl
Pass	2♣	Dble	2♢
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Malhasyan*	*Pszczola*	*Harris*
–	–	1♠	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Harris passed twice with the South cards, leaving his opponents to play peacefully in 1NT, where Seligman made no fewer than 10 tricks after a heart lead; +180.

Kwiecien doubled 1♠, ran from 1♠ redoubled to 1NT, then redoubled to get Starkowski to pick a trump suit.. However, he didn't like the confidence of Trendafilov's double of 2♣ and ran to 2♢, presumably offering a choice of red suits. Two Diamonds doubled ended the auction, and Tiholov led the king of clubs then switched to the three of diamonds to the jack and king. Kwiecien played a club, so Tiholov, not knowing if his partner had a second trump to lead, went in with the queen to play ace and another diamond. That put paid to any club ruffs in the dummy, but at the cost of a trump trick. Kwiecien won the third diamond and cashed the last round of the suit, before getting out with a club. Trendafilov won the ace and returned his low heart. Tiholov won the queen, cashed the ten of clubs, and exited with his spade. Trendafilov had discarded three spades, so that went to the jack and ace, and Kwiecien led the nine of spades straight back. Trendafilov won the king but had then to lead from ♡K10 and Kwiecien had the last two tricks so was down only two for –500 and 8 IMPs to HARRIS.

In the remaining match, both Souths stayed silent, so both Wests played in 1NT, making eight and nine tricks respectively.

Of the nine Souths who saw a 1♠ opening on their right, four doubled, while five passed. Only one South passed over 1♠ but then doubled 1NT.

Before we leave the qualifying stage of the tournament, may I congratulate Filip Asplund-Sivelind, of the Swedish Team YELLOW CAP, on heading the Butler Rankings. No, I don't normally bother to mention the Butlers but, you see, we don't usually see them headed by a 13-year old. Well done, Filip.

The Semi-finals

Set One

McALLISTER toped the qualifying rankings so would go into the 2 x 10-board semi-final against PEANUTS with an 8.1 IMP carry-over advantage. In the other semi-final, second-placed SELIGMAN would have a 4.1 IMP carry-over against YELLOW CAP.

This wild board saw plenty of action, as you might expect.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

McAllister v Peanuts

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*McAllister*	*Bessis*	*Root*
–	–	1♡	2NT
3♡	5♣	5♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Bucknell	*Franceschetti*	*Kennedy*	*Setton*
–	–	1♡	2NT
4♡	6♣	6♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Seligman v Yellow Cap

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Nordqvist*	*Pszczola*	*Johansson*
–	–	1♡	2NT
3♣	5♣	5♡	6♣
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	Eat	South
Wiberg	*Starkowski*	*Hansson*	*Kwiecien*
–	–	1♡	2NT
3♡	5♣	All Pass	

All four Souths showed the minor two-suiter with a 2NT overcall. The four Wests chose three different actions.

Wiberg showed a weak raise to 3♡ by bidding 3♡ directly, and Starkowski jumped to 5♣ on the North cards. Hansson did not save in 5♡, and Kwiecien did not guess to go on to 6♣. Starkowski had no difficulty in ruffing out the diamonds and claiming all 13 tricks for +640.

After an identical start, Bessis took the save in 5♡ and, after two passes, McAllister doubled, concluding the auction. Root led the ace of clubs, Bessis ruffing and conceding a spade. Root won the queen and played the king of clubs, which Bessis also ruffed. This time he played ace then jack of hearts, losing to the king. McAllister cashed the top spades, and the contract was down two for –300.

Seligman cuebid 3♣ to show a constructive 3♡ raise and Nordqvist jumped to 5♣ with the North hand. When Pszczola now bid 5♡, Johansson went on to 6♣, possibly not being certain whether he was bidding to make or as a save. Seligman doubled, but found that there were no tricks to be taken. Six Clubs doubled plus one was worth +1740 and 15 IMPs to YELLOW CAP.

Bucknell made a pre-emptive raise to 4♡ and that encouraged Franceschetti to jump to 6♣ and Kennedy to save in 6♡. Setton left that round to Franceschetti, who doubled. Kennedy ruffed the club lead and played ace and another heart. Franceschetti won the second heart and returned a third round, and Kennedy had to lose three spade tricks so was down three for –500 and 5 IMPs to PEANUTS.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

McAllister v Peanuts

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*McAllister*	*Bessis*	*Root*
2♣	Pass	2♢	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♢	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Bucknell	*Franceschetti*	*Kennedy*	*Setton*
2♣	Pass	2♢	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Lorenzini opened 2♣, strong and artificial, then rebid 2NT, 22-23. Bessis followed a Smolen sequence, then made a surprise pass of Lorenzini's 3♠. McAllister led his singleton diamond, Lorenzini winning the ace and playing the king of spades. McAllister won the ace and played ace and another heart. Lorenzini won and led his low spade, winning in dummy when McAllister played low. He next cashed the diamonds, and away went dummy's club loser, so there was just the queen of spades to be lost and that meant 10 tricks and +170.

Bucknell also showed 22-23 balanced, but Kennedy simply transferred to spades then passed the completion. Franceschetti cashed the ace of spades then switched to the diamond. Bucknell won that with the ace, cashed the king of spades, and continued with the king of diamonds. Franceschetti ruffed with the queen and returned a low heart to the ten and king. Dummy's club loser went away on the jack of diamonds, but there were two hearts to be lost, so the contract was just made for +140 but 1 IMP to PEANUTS.

Seligman v Yellow Cap

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Nordqvist*	*Pszczola*	*Johansson*
2♣	Dble	Pass	2♢
Dble	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♡	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	Eat	South
Wiberg	*Starkowski*	*Hansson*	*Kwiecien*
2NT	All Pass		

Wiberg opened 2NT and played there. Starkowski's club lead went to the jack and queen, and Wiberg played the king of spades, which Starkowski won to continue with the king of clubs. Wiberg ducked that but won the next club, perforce, and played the jack of spades, ducked, and a third spade. Starkowski won the ♠Q and cashed two club winners, Wiberg discarding two diamonds. Starkowski got out with the queen of diamonds, and could duck Wiberg's first heart play and come to two hearts at the end for down two and –100.

Seligman opened with a strong and artificial 2♣ and Nordqvist doubled. When Seligman made a take-out double at his next turn, Pszczola showed his spades then, when Seligman suggested 3NT, his hearts. Seligman gave preference back to spades and Nordqvist doubled. Johansson led the jack of clubs, Pszczola rising with dummy's ace and playing the king of spades. Nordqvist won the ace and played the queen of diamonds, won in dummy. Nordqvist defended safely to ensure the defeat of the contract, though there was no danger of it making. He won the next spade play and cashed the ace of hearts and king of clubs; down one for –100 and no swing, despite the very different contracts.

After 10 deals, PEANUTS led McAllister by 15-9.1, including carry-over, while Seligman led the other match by just 0.1 IMP, at 17.1-17.

Set Two

Both matches were very close going into the second and final 10-board session.

There were possible slams available on each of the next two deals; how many would get there?

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ A 3
♡ 6 5 4 3
♢ 7 5 4 2
♣ 10 9 7

♠ Q 10 9 7 2
♡ A 10
♢ 6 3
♣ A K 6 3

♠ K 5
♡ K 8 2
♢ A K Q J 10 8
♣ 5 2

♠ J 8 6 4
♡ Q J 9 7
♢ 9
♣ Q J 8 4

Peanuts v McAllister

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*McAllister*	*Bessis*	*Root*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♡	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Bucknell	*Franceschetti*	*Kennedy*	*Robert*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♢	Pass
4♡	Pass	4♡	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♢	All Pass

Bucknell did well to commit to diamonds facing Kennedy's invitational jump rebid but, after an exchange of cuebids, Kennedy signed-off in game and, lacking a spade control, Bucknell couldn't go on; 12 tricks for +420.

Bessis opened 1♢ then rebid 2♡, either a natural reverse or six diamonds, with 16+ HCP. Two No Trump asked, and 3NT showed the diamond hand, and Lorenzini didn't fancy a move. There were 12 tricks in 3NT when Lorenzini played the spades in natural fashion, so that was +490 and 2 IMPs to PEANUTS.

Seligman v Yellow Cap

West	North	East	South
Nilssom	*Pszczola*	*Heed*	*Seligman*
–	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♢	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Nordqvist*	*Kwiecien*	*Johansson*
–	–	1♢	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♢	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♡	Pass	6♢	All Pass

Nilsson and Heed stopped in 3NT when Nilsson bid 3NT at her second turn and that, of course, ended the auction. Twelve tricks meant +490, but that proved not to be good enough.

Starkowski was happy to go past 3NT, liking his top cards and potential heart ruff. He cuebid first clubs then hearts, and that persuaded Kwiecien to ask for key-cards then bid the cold slam. Well bid for +920 and 10 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ A J 2
♡ A J 7 4
♢ A 7 5 2
♣ J 5

♠ 9 8
♡ K 9 8 5 2
♢ 9 8
♣ Q 10 9 6

♠ Q 10 6 5 4
♡ Q 10 6
♢ Q 10 3
♣ 8 7

♠ K 7 3
♡ 3
♢ K J 6 4
♣ A K 4 3 2

Seligman v Yellow Cap

West	North	East	South
Nilsson	*Pszczola*	*Heed*	*Seligman*
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Nordqvist*	*Kwiecien*	*Johansson*
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Seligman/Pszczola didn't even mention diamonds on their way to 3NT, so Seligman got a diamond lead to the queen and king. He cashed the king of clubs, crossed to the ace of diamonds, and ran the jack of clubs, losing to the queen. Back came the nine of spades. Seligman won in hand with the king and played ace and another club, establishing his fifth club and bringing his total to 10; +430.

And neither did Nordqvist/Johansson mention diamonds as they too had a simple auction to 3NT. Johansson's 1♣ opening didn't promise clubs, and Starkowski led the ten of clubs. Johansson put up dummy's jack and played on clubs to set up a long card, so made four club tricks and 11 in all, so 1 IMP to YELLOW CAP.

Peanuts v McAllister

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*McAllister*	*Bessis*	*Root*
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Bucknell	*Franceschetti*	*Kennedy*	*Robert*
–	–	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♢	Pass	3♢
Pass	4♢	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♡
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

Root and McAllister had the same simple auction to 3NT, diamonds not being mentioned. As clubs did not have to be natural, Lorenzini led the six of clubs and Root put up the jack, after which he could set up a long club and come to 11 tricks for +460.

Robert opened 1♣ and rebid 2♣, not liking the off-shape 1NT favoured by the other players in his seat. He showed four diamonds at his third turn and Franceschetti liked his aces enough facing a shapely hand that he set diamonds as trumps then, when Robert was willing to cuebid, asked for key-cards and bid the diamond slam on finding his partner with two. Slam was far from secure, unlike the previous deal, but Kennedy's spade lead round to the jack did declarer no harm. Franceschetti took the diamond finesse at trick two and, when the jack held the trick, continued with a low club towards his jack. Bucknell won the queen and returned a spade, but Franceschetti had an easy time from here, winning the spade, drawing trumps, and unblocking the club; 12 tricks for +920 and 10 IMPs to PEANUTS.

So SELIGMAN got to the first slam, and PEANUTS to the second. Those two swings helped the two teams to what turned out to be very easy wins, as the second halves of the two semi-finals were both very one-sided. PEANUTS won by 65-9.1 IMPs, after a 55-0 second-half whitewash, while SELIGMAN won by 52.1-33 IMPs, and these two teams would meet in the final.

The Final

And so to the final, 2 x 10-board sessions to, decide the winners of the OCBL October Cup, which would feature PEANUTS and SELIGMAN.

Set One

First blood went to SELIGMAN for 3♡+1 for +170 and 2♠-1 for –50 on Board 2 for +3 IMPs.
There was a cold slam om Board 4:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Pszczola*	*Bessis*	*Seligman*
Pass	1♢	Pass	1♡
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Franceschetti*	*Kwiecien*	*Setton*
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♢	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♢	Pass	5♡
All Pass			

Setton went through a Smolen sequence. Having already upgraded to a strong NT opener, Franceschetti was not inclined to cuebid on the way to 4♡. However, on finding heart support, Setton asked for key-cards, but the one key-card response didn't really tell her what she needed to know and she then signed off in 5♡.

Seligman used game-forcing checkback then just jumped to game on finding heart support. Could he, perhaps have made one try below game by bidding 3♡ instead of 4♡?

Both declarers made 12 tricks easily enough so there was no swing at +680.

On Board 6, the East players had a weak two opening and trumps split badly so that 2♠ was down two at both tables for another flat board. There was a medium-sized swing on Board 7.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Pszczola*	*Bessis*	*Seligman*
–	–	–	1♡
Pass	2♢	Pass	3♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Franceschetti*	*Kwiecien*	*Setton*
–	–	–	1♡
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

Setton opened 1♡ and, playing 2-over-1 GF, Franschetti had to respond 1NT. A club lead held him to eight tricks when Starkowski won the first heart and returned a club to clear the suit for his partner; +120.

Pszczola could respond 2♢ to the 1♡ opener and followed through with 3NT over the diamond raise. Had they got it played the other way up, Lorenzini would presumably have led a spade, giving the ninth trick, but played by North the lead was the queen of clubs.

Pszczola won the ace of clubs and led a heart to the queen and ace. A club back established three club winners for Bessis to cash when he came in with the king of hearts, so that was down one for –100 and 6 IMPs to PEANUTS, who led by 6-3.

Isn't this a standard book hand where declarer ducks the first club to protect against clubs being five-two and the top hearts being split? Well, I suppose that clubs could be four-three and West have both spade honours, when a spade switch at trick two could beat an otherwise making contract?

SELIGMAN picked up an overtrick IMP on Board 8 for 1NT+3 against 1NT+2. Then:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Pszczola*	*Bessis*	*Seligman*
–	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♡	3♣	4♣	5♣
5♢	Pass	5♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Franceschetti*	*Kwiecien*	*Setton*
–	Pass	1♠	2♣
2♡	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

When Pszczola competed with 3♣, Seligman went on to 5♣ over the opposing 4♡ and Lorenzini took the push to 5♡ with his shapely hand, bidding 5♢ on the way, which was described as, 'not sure if that's natural or Last Train for hearts'. Lorenzini ruffed the club lead and gave up a diamond. Pszczola won that and played a trump, Lorenzini winning in hand, ruffing a diamond, ruffing a club, and ruffing another diamond. He ruffed a third club back to hand, drew trumps and played spades from the top, so making 11 tricks for +650.

Franceschetti did not raise clubs at the other table, so Kwiecien made a simple heart raise and Starkowski went on to game, where he too made 11 tricks after a club lead; no swing.

The final board of the set saw the respective Souths playing in 3NT-3 and 2NT-2, with a flat 21 facing a flat 4 HCP. The cards lay badly, though declarer had every suit at least double-stopped. That gave SELIGMAN 3 IMPs and a 7-6 half-time lead.

Set Two

There were 10 boards to play and almost nothing in it, with SELIGMAN ahead by a single IMP.
The set began with a possible slam.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Pszczola*	*Bessis*	*Seligman*
–	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♢
Dble	3♣	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♢	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Franceschetti*	*Kwiecien*	*Robert*
–	1♡	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♢
Pass	6♢	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

Pszczola opened 1♡ and rebid 1NT, 11-14. Seligman used GF checkback, Lorenzini taking the opportunity to double the artificial bid, and Pszczola showed his four-card club suit. Seligman agreed hearts then went on with a club cuebid when Pszczola signed off in game. Now Pszczola showed the necessary diamond control and Seilgman bid the small slam. Bessis led a diamond, as requested, and Lorenzini won the ace and continued with a second diamond. Pszczola won the ♢K, drew trumps, and had 12 tricks for +980.

Robert started with an artificial game-force of 2♣, then set hearts as trumps, and used key-card after Franceschetti's sign-off. Finding that there was a key-card missing, he checked for the trump queen then bid 6♡ when Franceschetti showed that card plus the king of diamonds. Again, the defence led two rounds of diamonds, and Franceschetti soon had 12 tricks for +980 and a flat board.

Some blood was spilled on Board 3.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Pszczola*	*Bessis*	*Seligman*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Dble	Pass
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Franceschetti*	*Kwiecien*	*Robert*
–	–	–	1♢
Pass	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Dble	Rdbl
All Pass			

Both Souths opened 1♢ then rebid 1♠ over the 1♡ response, and both Norths used fourth-suit-forcing, doubled by East. There the paths diverged, as Seligman passed as South and Pszczola jumped to 3NT, while Robert redoubled and Franceschetti elected to play there, presumably expecting a little more than king to three in clubs.

Bessis led the queen of clubs against 3NT. Pszczola won the ace and led a heart to dummy's jack, losing to the queen. The clubs were cleared, Pszczola ducking the club return then winning the continuation, and on that third club Lorenzini discarded the queen of diamonds. Lorenzini was defending against an impending endplay, but when Pszczola continued with a heart to the king followed by the king of diamonds and a diamond to the jack and ace, he had given up his diamond trick and was still about to be endplayed. Pszczola won the ♢A, cashed the ♢10, and cashed the ace and ten of hearts. The fifth heart threw Lorenzini in and he had to give the last trick to dummy's king of spades for the game-going trick; +400.

If the play and defence in 3NT was interesting, the play of 2♣ redoubled was just miserable, at least for Franceschetti. Kwiecien led the queen of clubs, Franceschetti winning dummy's king and playing the ♡K followed by the ♡J to the queen, ace and ruff. Kwiecien played the jack of clubs, won by declarer's ace, and Franceschetti ruffed a low heart as Kwiecien discarded a diamond, then cashed the ace of diamonds before exiting with his last club to Kwiecien's ten. Kwiecien returned a low spade to his partner's ace, and the ten of spades return was covered all round and resulted in Kwiecien having three spade winners established plus the sole remaining trump. He had the last four tricks so the contract was down two for –600 and 14 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

After an overtrick IMP to SELIGMAN in 3NT, along came another slam deal.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Pszczola*	*Bessis*	*Seligman*
–	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	4♢	Dble
5♢	Pass	Pass	5♡
Dble	5♠	Pass	6♢
Pass	6♠	6NT	Dble
7♢	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Franceschetti*	*Kwiecien*	*Robert*
–	1♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

What a contrast there was between the two auctions.

Franceschetti opened 1♠, Robert made a Bergen invitational raise, and Franceschetti blasted the small slam, giving Kwiecien a blind lead. Kwiecien opted for his singleton club, not that it mattered, and Franceschetti soon had all 13 tricks for +1460.

Pszczola opened with a strong and artificial 2♣ and spades were soon agreed. When Pszczola started to cuebid, Bessis suddenly wandered into his opponents' auction with a four-level overcall on king-ten to five. Seligman's double showed a diamond control, Lorenzini took a level of bidding away from his opponents by bidding 5♢, and Pscszola left that round to Seligman to see if he could make another cuebid. Indeed, Seligman was willing to make two more cuebids, first in hearts, and then to confirm that the diamond control was first-round. When Pszczola settled for 6♠, Bessis emerged with a strange-looking 6NT call, which Seligman doubled. Lorenzini ran to 7♢, and Pszczola doubled that. N/S were cold for the grand slam, but the confusion sowed by the E/W bidding had taken them into murky waters and, amongst other things, taken the option of using key-card away from them, and they had settled for an inadequate penalty.

Seligman led a low trump to the queen and king, won Bessis's trump return, and played a third round. That left Bessis with only one spade ruff in the dummy, but also only one heart loser. He had eight tricks so was down five for –1100 but +8 IMPs to PEANUTS

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Pszczola*	*Bessis*	*Seligman*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♡	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Franceschetti*	*Kwiecien*	*Robert*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Lorenzini opened 1♣, supported spades, then showed his heart fragment in response to the 2NT asking bid. Bessis set trumps but, after a series of cuebids, settled for game. Seligman led the jack of hearts to the queen and king, and Pszczola continued with his remaining heart to the eight, ten and ace. Bessis led dummy's diamond, Pszczola rising with the ace and returning a trump. Bessis won in hand and ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of clubs, came to hand with a trump and ruffed another diamond with the ♠10. Finally, he ruffed a a club back to hand, drew the missing trumps and claimed the rest; 11 tricks for +650.

Spades were again agreed at the other table, but then Kwiecien made a club splinter, Starkowski cuebid in return, Kwiecien signed off, and Starkowski liked his hand enough to make one more try, over which Kwiecien again signed off. Robert led a low club, Kwiecien rising with dummy's ace and pitching a heart from hand. He led a diamond up and Franceschetti ducked smoothly, Kwiecien putting in the jack and losing to the queen. Back came a heart to the queen and king, and now Franceschetti returned a trump. Kwiecien won that in hand and ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club, and ruffed another diamond. He cashed the ace of hearts then ruffed a club and took another diamond ruff. His last three cards were two boss trumps and the winning ♢K, but he was in dummy, and could only get back to hand via a ruff, and that meant that Franceschetti won the last trick with a trump for down one and –100, so 13 IMPs to PEANUTS.

It was 27-22 to PEANUTS and the final deal was a flat partscore. It follows that SELIGMAN needed a swing on the penultimate board.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Pszczola*	*Bessis*	*Seligman*
–	1♠	Dble	Pass
2♢	3♣	Pass	3♠
Dble	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Franceschetti*	*Kwiecien*	*Robert*
–	1♠	Dble	Rdbl
3♢	All Pass		

Starkowski's semi-pre-emptive jump to 3♢ stole the pot at our first table. Franceschetti led the king of clubs, Starkowski winning dummy's ace and pitching a heart from hand. He ruffed a club, crossed to the ace of spades, and ruffed another club. The king of spades took care of one of dummy's heart losers, and next a spade was ruffed with the eight, Robert discarding a heart. Another club ruff was g-followed by a spade ruff with the nine, and again Robert discarded. Starkowski ruffed the last club then ruffed a spade with the king. Robert over-ruffed this time, but the queen of diamonds was Starkowski's tenth trick for +130.

Seligman did not redouble in the other room, so Lorenzini could only respond 2♢ to the double as 3♢ would have been a stronger bid than his hand justified. That gave Pszczola the opportunity to introduce his second suit. He would have survived in 3♣, undoubled, but Seligman gave false preference to spades, and only when Lorenzini's penalty double came back to him did Seligman switch his allegiance back to clubs. Bessis had no trouble in finding a double of 4♢, to complete the auction.

Bessis led a diamond, Pszczola winning the ace and discarding a spade from hand. He ruffed a diamond, the played the king of clubs, Bessis winning the ace and playing the ace of spades followed by the eight of hearts. Pszczola won the ♡A then cashed the king and queen, ruffed another diamond, then exited with a spade to the queen and king. He discarded on Lorenzini's diamond return, so Bessis had to ruff and lead into the ♣Q10 to give Pszczola his eighth trick, but that meant down two for –300 and 5 IMPs to PEANUTS, who had won the final by 32-22 IMPs. Congratulations to them.

Online
Contract
Bridge
League

OCBL HALLOWEEN CUP

25 - 27 October, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 Boards

Tueday, 25 October
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