Online Contract Bridge League

# OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 184. Thursday, 27 October, 2022

# SEMIFINALS

*Happy National Beer Day!*

Qualification stage is over.
After 8 Rounds, teams SELIGMAN, PEANUTS, BLACK and ECF HOLDING qualified for the Semifinals!

The Semifinal matches will be:

### SELIGMAN vs ECF HOLDING

SELIGMAN: Seligman M. (mseligman), Kwiecien M. (michal1), Pszczola J. (pikolo), Starkowski W. (wstarkowsk)

ECF HOLDING: Lie T. (Terjel), Fasting E. (mehe), Ovesen J. (jo-arne), Høyland S. (sioslo), Thoresen S. (sivt), Eide E. (bloodaxe), Evenstad S. (StianAS), Evenstad N. (NicolaiHE)

### PEANUTS vs BLACK

PEANUTS: Lorenzini C. (pierced), Setton H. (Ldase), Franceschetti P. (gewd), Robert Q. (ptit), Bessis T. (malpaluche)

BLACK: Black A. (boggis), McIntosh A. (mcintosh), Gold D. (dagold), Paske T. (thomas1000), Hult S. (hultahult), Hallberg G. (rerack)

## HALLOWEEN CUP

**Ranking after Round 8**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Seligman | 114.05 |
| 2 | Peanuts | 109.44 |
| 3 | Black | 108.61 |
| 4 | ECF Holding | 80.41 |
| 5 | Fredin | 76.94 |
| 6 | Scorway | 75.48 |
| 7 | Yellow Cap | 72.42 |
| 8 | Friends | 70.94 |
| 9 | Greenberg | 67.93 |
| 10 | New Amateurs | 67.75 |
| 11 | Harris | 61.84 |
| 12 | Netbridge | 54.19 |

## SCHEDULE TODAY

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

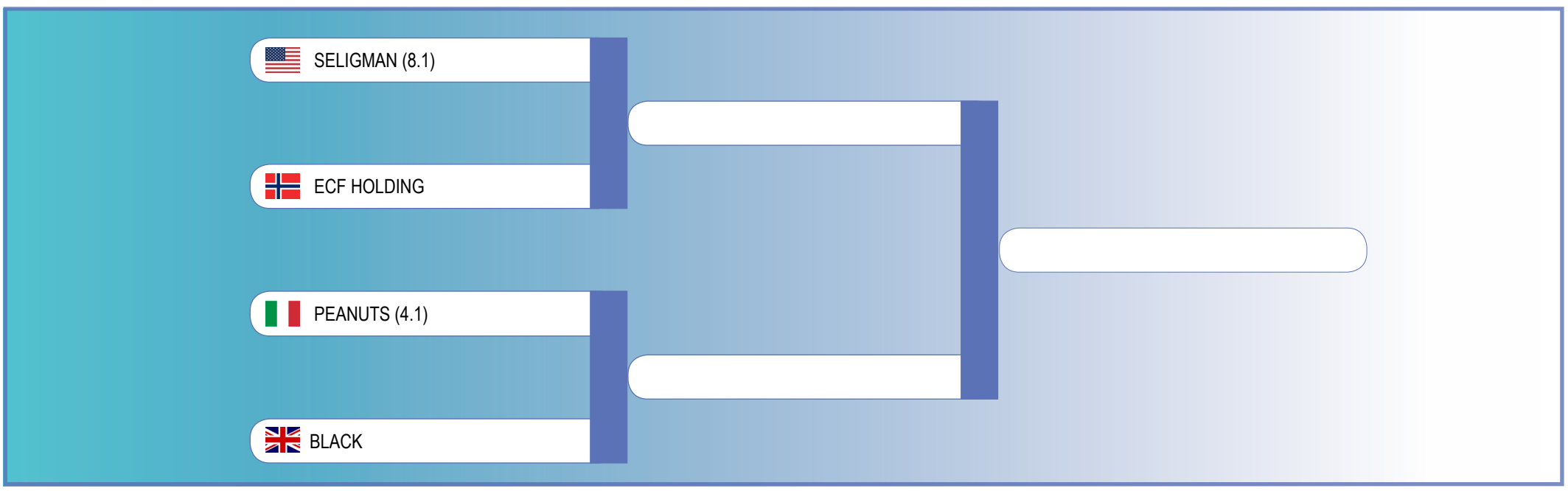
**Round 9 / SF1.** 16.00 CEST / 10.00 a.m. EDT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Seligman | VS | ECF Holding |
| Peanuts | VS | Black |
| Fredin | VS | Scorway |
| Yellow Cap | VS | Friends |
| Greenberg | VS | New Amateurs |
| Harris | VS | Netbridge |

**Round 10 / SF2.** 17.30 CEST / 11.30 a.m. EDT

**Round 11 / F1.** 19.00 CEST / 1.00 p.m. EDT

**Round 12 / F2.** 20.30 CEST / 2.30 p.m. EDT



Online Contract Bridge League

# OCBL
# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 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 - 15 December, 2022

*12 Rounds x 10 boards*

| | CEST | EDT |
|---|---|---|
| Tuesday, 13 December R1 - R4 | 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30 | 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30 |
| Wednesday, 14 December R5 - R8 | 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30 | 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30 |
| Thursday, 15 December 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/**

# Rounds 3, 4, 5 & 6

by Brian Senior

## Round 3

N/S have four top losers on this deal from Round Three plus, if playing in spades, the possibility of conceding heart ruffs, yet five of the seven pairs in 4♠ made it, along with one of the three in 4♡. So, how did this come about?

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ K 9 6 4<br>♡ A 10 8<br>♢ K J 9<br>♣ J 4 3 | |
| ♠ A 10 5<br>♡ 6<br>♢ 10 8 7 5 4<br>♣ K 9 8 6 | | ♠ 8 3<br>♡ 9 7 5 2<br>♢ A 6 2<br>♣ A 10 7 5 |
| | ♠ Q J 7 2<br>♡ K Q J 4 3<br>♢ Q 3<br>♣ Q 2 | |

### Fredin v Netbridge

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Gaillard* | *Fredin* | *v d Hoek* | *Apteker* |
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♡ |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♢ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Eber* | *v d Starre* | *Fick* | *Huber* |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Apteker responded 1♡ to Fredin's 1♣ opening, then followed through with game-forcing checkback and went on to the spade game one finding the four-four spade fit. Van den Hoek led the three of spades and Gaillard put in the ten. Fredin won the king and played a spade back to the queen and ace. It was now or never for Gaillard and, when he returned his singleton heart, that proved to be never. Fredin won the heart return with the ace, cashed the jack of spades, then took two club ruffs on the heart winners before knocking out the ace of diamonds; 10 tricks for +420.

Van der Starre opened 1NT with the North cards and Huber used Stayman so that again 4♠ was played from the North seat. Fick chose to underlead one of his aces, opting for the two of diamonds. Van der Starre won the queen of diamonds and led a spade to the king followed by a second spade to the queen and ace. When Eber returned his singleton heart, Van der Starre played as we have already seen at the other table, winning, drawing the outstanding trump, then cashing the hearts and taking club discards; 10 tricks for +420 and no swing.

### Yellow Cap v Friends

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Sheng* | *M Gronkvist* | *Wang* | *Ahlesved* |
| Pass | 1♢ | Pass | 1♡ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Nilsland* | *Fang* | *A-Sivelind* | *Yang* |
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♢ |
| Pass | 1♡ | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Gronkvist opened 1♢, rebid 1♠, and was raised to game. Wang led the three of spades, Sheng winning the ace and switching to his singleton heart. Gronkvist won, drew trumps, and took club discards on the hearts; +420.

Yang started with a transfer response to the 1♣ opening, then showed his second suit when Fang denied four-card heart support. When Fang now supported spades, Yang raised himself to game. Played from the South seat, things were very different as the heart singleton was on lead. Sure enough, Nilsland led the singleton. Yang won in hand with the jack and led a spade, which Nilsland ducked. The king won and this time Nilsland won the ace and, having seen his partner play upwards in spades, returned the eight of clubs. Asplund-Sivelind didn't read Nilsland's plays as looking for a ruff, so won the ace of clubs and continued with a second club. Nilsland won the ♣K and led a third club. Yang could take a diamond discard from hand on the ♣J and, after drawing trumps, led the nine of diamonds off the dummy, but Asplund-Sivelind grabbed his ace so the contract was down one for –50 and 10 IMPs to YELLOW CAP.

### Peanuts v Seligman

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Starkowski* | *Franceschetti* | *Kwiecien* | *Setton* |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1♡ |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 4♡ |
| All Pass | | | |

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

Selgman responded 1♡ then used GF Checkback and raised to game on finding the spade fit. We have seen a diamond underlead, and now we see a club underlead, Bessis choosing the five of clubs. Pszczola played low from dummy and the danger of the underlead was shown when Lorenzini put in th eight. Pszczola scooped in the jack and led a spade to the queen, which was ducked, followed by a second spade. Lorenzini won this one and returned the eight of diamonds. Bessis won the ace of diamonds, cashed the ace of clubs, then switched back to diamonds. Pszczola won that and drew the missing trump; 10 tricks for +420.

Fraceschetti didn't open the North hand. He used Drury at his next turn and Setton made a slightly optimistic jump to 4♡ – she needed to be in game to have any chance of not losing on the board, of course, though she could not know that. Starkowski led the eight of diamonds, Kwiecien winning the ace and switching to ace and another club. Starkowski won the king and had the ace of spades to come for down one, –50, and 10 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

### New Amateurs v Harris

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Igoe* | *Cole* | *Gross* | *Lo* |
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♡ |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♢ |
| Pass | 2♡ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Falk* | *Tiholov* | *Chechelash.* | *Root* |
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♡ |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♢ |
| Pass | 2♡ | Pass | 4♡ |
| All Pass | | | |

Both Souths responded 1♡, used GF Checkback, then jumped to game – but different games.

Gross led a club against 3NT and the contract should now have been beaten. Igoe put in the eight, so Cole won the jack and led a spade to the queen. Igoe won the ace and returned the four of diamonds. Gross won the ace and cashed the ace of clubs, but couldn't read the position so switched back to diamonds, and Cole had the rest for +430.

Having discovered the five-three fit, Root chose to play in 4♡, against which Falk led the four of diamonds. Root put in the jack, trying to look like a man who did not have the queen. It's an old trick but no less effective for its age. Chechelashvili won the ace of diamonds and returned a diamond, so Root could win with the queen, draw two rounds of trumps, then take a club pitch on the king of diamonds. When that passed off peacefully, he drew the remaining trumps before knocking out the ace of spades, and had 10 tricks for +420 and a flat board.

### Black v ECF Holding

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Ovesen* | *Gold* | *Thoresen* | *Black* |
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♢ |
| Pass | 1♡ | Pass | 2♢ |
| Pass | 2♡ | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Bertheau* | *Lie* | *McIntosh* | *Fasting* |
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♢ |
| Pass | 1♡ | Pass | 4♡ |
| All Pass | | | |

Black made a transfer response then used GF Checkback before jumping to 3NT to offer a choice of games, and Gold opted to leave his partner in 3NT. Ovesen led a diamond to the nine and ace, and Black overtook the diamond return with dummy's king to lead a spade to the jack. That lost to the ace and a third diamond came back. That cleared the diamonds, but by now Black had 10 tricks for +430.

Fasting too started with a transfer response but, when Lie showed three-card heart support, simply jumped to 4♡. McIntosh led the eight of spades, which Bertheau ducked to declarer's

nine. Lie drew four rounds of trumps, throwing a spade from dummy, then played a spade to the king, which was ducked, followed by a diamond to the queen followed by a second diamond. McIntosh won that and played ace and another club, and Bertheau won the ♣K and cashed the ace of spades for down one and –50; 10 IMPs to BLACK.

### Greenberg v Scorway

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Levinson* | *Tokay* | *Shenkin* | *Greenberg* |
| Pass | 1♣ | Pass | 1♡ |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♢ |
| Pass | 2♡ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Vallet* | *Saur* | *Bedouet* | *Kvangraven* |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2NT |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ |
| All Pass | | | |

Greenberg went slowly with the South hand but eventually Tokay became declarer in 4♠. Shenkin led the three of spades to Levinson's ace and, as we have seen before, this was the last chance for the defence, who had to cash out if they were to beat the contract. But Levinson made the popular switch to the singleton heart, which would of course be the winner on most occasions that partner held the ace, and Tokay could win, draw trumps, and take the usual club discards on the hearts; +420.

Saur could open a four-card major and the 2NT response was invitational-plus with spade support. Saur singed off in 3♠ but Kvangraven went on to game. Nobody had bid hearts at this table and so, four low hearts looked a more attractive lead than one of the ace-high suits. Bedouet led the seven of hearts, which Saur won in hand with the ten. He played a spade to the jack and ace, and Vallet returned the nine of clubs, in principle denying interest in clubs and strongly suggesting that he wanted a heart continuation. Bedouet duly got the message, and returned a heart. Vallet ruffed, returned a diamond to the ace, and collected a second ruff. The king of clubs was the sixth defensive trick and, on a deal where so many had struggled to defeat the N/S game, Vallet and Bedouet had taken it three down for –150 and 11 IMPs to GREENBERG.

## Round 4

Perhaps the most interesting deal in Round Four was the first one – Board One.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ K J 9<br>♡ 6 5<br>♢ A K 10 8 5<br>♣ Q 5 2 | |
| ♠ Q 7 4 3 2<br>♡ 4 2<br>♢ 4<br>♣ A J 10 9 7 | | ♠ A 10 5<br>♡ K J 9<br>♢ J 3 2<br>♣ K 8 6 3 |
| | ♠ 8 6<br>♡ A Q 10 8 7 3<br>♢ Q 9 7 6<br>♣ 4 | |

Four N/S pairs reached a diamond contract, two making 3♢+2, one making 4♢+1, and one making 5♢ doubled. There was also one pair who stopped in 3♡ and made exactly for +140, which leaves us with the seven tables at which the heart game was played.

### New Amateurs v Scorway

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Falk* | *Shenkin* | *Chechelash.* | *Levinson* |
| – | 1NT | Pass | 4♢ |
| Pass | 4♡ | All Pass | |

Shenkin opened 1NT and Levinson used Texas to put his partner at the helm in 4♡. Given a blind lead, Chechelashvili chose the six of clubs to his partner's ace, and Falk switched to his singleton diamond. Shenkin won the ace and led a heart to the queen, cashed the ace of hearts, then played a third round. Chechelashvili won the third heart and returned a diamond, so Shenkin claimed 10 tricks, five in each red suit. Chechelashvili, of course, was powerless to threaten the contract at the point where he won the defensive heart trick. That was worth 7 IMPS to SCORWAY, comparing with 4♢+1 at the other table.

### Fredin v Harris

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Eber* | *Tiholov* | *Fick* | *Root* |
| – | 1NT | Pass | 4♣ |
| Dble | Pass | Pass | 4♡ |
| All Pass | | | |

Tiholov opened 1NT and Root used a two-under transfer to put his partner into the heart game. Eber could double 4♣ for the lead, but now Tiholov passed and Root played the contract himself after all. Eber led his diamond. Root won the ace and led a heart to the queen followed by two more rounds of hearts. Fick won the third heart and played king and another club, but that wasn't good enough. Root could ruff the second club and cash out his 10 tricks for +420 and 7 IMPs to HARRIS, comparing with 3♢+2 from the other table.

### ECF Holding v Greenberg

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Ovesen* | *Tokay* | *Thoresen* | *Greenberg* |
| – | 1♢ | Pass | 1♡ |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♢ | Pass | 2♡ |
| 2♠ | 3NT | Pass | 4♡ |
| All Pass | | | |

Greenberg followed an invitational checkback sequence to 2♡, and now Ovesen competed with 2♠. Tokay accepted the invitation, liking his spade holding, by jumping to 3NT, but Greenberg converted to 4♡, understandably enough. Greenberg won the diamond lead in hand and played ace and another heart, hoping to drop doubleton king offside in the hand that had bid. That might have worked on another day, but not today. Thoresen scooped in the ♡J and returned a diamond. Greenberg won that and played more diamonds, with Thoresen ruffing the fourth round and returning a low club. Ovesen won the ace and switched to a low spade, and Greenberg got that wrong by putting up the king. He lost two spade tricks now and was down two for –100 and 6 IMPs to ECF HOLDING, the result at the other table being 3♢+2.

### Friends v Netbridge

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Gaillard* | *Fang* | *V d Hoek* | *Yang* |
| – | 1♢ | Pass | 1♡ |
| Pass | 1NT | Pass | 4♡ |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Sheng* | *V d Starre* | *Huang* | *Huber* |
| – | 1♢ | Pass | 1♡ |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | 3♡ |
| Pass | 4♡ | All Pass | |

Both Souths became declarer in 4♡, but with the difference that Sheng had overcalled 1♠ with the West cards, while Gaillard had not.

Gaillard led his singleton diamond. Yang won the ace and led a heart to the ten but, when that held the trick, had no quick entry back to dummy to take a second finesse, so continued with ace and a third heart. Van den Hoek won the heart and returned the six of clubs to his partner's ace. It was essential that Gaillard switch to a spade now to put declarer to a guess, but Gaillard couldn't read the club distribution and continued with the jack of clubs. Yang ruffed and cashed the diamonds so had 10 tricks for +420.

Sheng too led his singleton diamond. Huber won dummy's ace and led a heart to the nine and queen but now Huber led a diamond towards the dummy and Sheng could ruff. He returned the jack of clubs, which held the trick, followed by the ace of clubs, which was ruffed. Huber cashed the ace of hearts then played on diamonds, and Huang waited until the fourth round then ruffed and cashed the ace of spades; down one for –50 and 10 IMPs to FRIENDS.

### Yellow Cap v Peanuts

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Lorenzini* | *Sivelind* | *Bessis* | *Nilsland* |
| Pass | 1♢ | Pass | 1♡ |
| 1♠ | 1NT | 2♡ | 3♡ |
| 3♠ | Pass | Pass | 4♢ |
| Pass | 4♡ | All Pass | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Warlenius* | *Franceschetti* | *Wiberg* | *Robert* |
| – | 1♢ | Dble | 1♡ |
| 3♠ | Pass | Pass | 4♡ |
| All Pass | | | |

Lorenzini overcalled 1♠ and Bessis cuebid to show a constructive spade raise. However, all that Lorenzini's competitive 3♠ continuation did was to make it easier for his opponents to get to the heart game. Lorenzini led his singleton and Nilsland won in dummy to lead a heart to the queen, then cash the ace. Next, he led a spade up and, when Lorenzini played low, put up the king. The 1♠ overcall had paid off by suggesting that West was the more likely defender to hold the ♠A. Nilsland was down one for –50.

Wiberg found a take-out double of the 1♢ opening and that enabled Warlenius to jump to 3♠ with the shapely West hand. Robert went on to 4♡ and played there. Warlenius made the popular diamond lead, Robert winning the ace and leading a heart to the queen, cashing the ♡A, then cashing two rounds of diamonds before playing a third heart. Wiberg won that and returned a low club, and Warlenius did his best by switching to a low spade. Here, however, there was no real guess, as Wiberg had doubled the 1♢ opening and Warleius already turned up with the ace of clubs. Robert put in the jack and, when that forced the ace, had 10 tricks and his contract; +420 and 10 IMPs to PEANUTS.

Seven pairs played in 4♡, four successfully, three unsuccessfully.

## Round 5

So, at the midpoint in the qualifying Swiss, BLACK led the way with 61.19 VPs, followed by SELIGMAN, on 54.6, PEANUTS, on 50.99, and NEW AMATEURS, on 50.11. These four had an 8 VP lead over the rest of the field.

Board 1. Dealer North. NoneN/S Vul.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ Q 9 7<br>♡ 6 5<br>♢ J 9 7 6 4<br>♣ A K 6 | |
| ♠ A 10 8 2<br>♡ J 9 3<br>♢ 5 2<br>♣ 9 5 4 3 | | ♠ K J 6 5 4 3<br>♡ K Q<br>♢ A Q<br>♣ Q J 8 |
| | ♠ –<br>♡ A 10 8 7 4 2<br>♢ K 10 8 3<br>♣ 10 7 2 | |

### Yellow Cap v ECF Holding

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Eide* | *Sivelind* | *Thoresen* | *Nilsland* |
| *Bern* | *Lie* | *Wiberg* | *Fasting* |
| – | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♠ | All Pass |

Both Souths passed over the 1♠ opening and both Wests made a pre-emptive raise to 3♠. Pre-emptive, perhaps, but neither East was willing to risk missing a playable game so both went on to game.

Nilsland led the two of clubs, third and fifth, and Sivelind won the king and continued with the ace before switching to a heart. Thoresen played the king, losing to the ace, and Nilsland continued with a second heart to declarer's queen. A successful trump play would bring the contract home now, with the ♢Q going away on the jack of hearts, but Thoresen guessed to start with the king, so had to lose to the ♠Q and was down one for –50.

Fasting too led the two of clubs and Lie won the king then cashed the ace. He then switched to a diamond, which would have beaten the hand had he done it atrick earlier. Confident that clubs were three-three, Wiberg went up with the ace of diamonds, then led a low spade to the ace, picked up the spades, then cashed the queen of clubs before crossing to dummy's ♠10 to take a diamond discard on the thirteenth club; 10 tricks for +420 and 10 IMPs to YELLOW CAP.

### Blackv Peanuts

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Lorenzini* | *Hallberg* | *Bessis* | *Hult* |
| *Black* | *Franceschetti* | *McIntosh* | *Setton* |
| – | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♠ | Pass | 4♠ | All Pass |

In this match, South again remained silent, while both Wests made a simple raise to 2♠ and East went on to game.Hult led the two of clubs to Hallberg's king and Bessis falsecarded, dropping the jack. Whether this fooled Hallberg is very doubtful, but the important thing was that he switched to a diamond. With neither the ♡J nor the thirteenth club established for a discard, Bessis was obliged to rely on the diamond finesse and, when that lost, Hult cashed the ace of hearts then switched to a club to cash Hallberg's ace. Bessis won the diamond switch now and played the king of spades, so was down two for –100.

Setton led ace and another heart, giving McIntosh a chance. He won the second heart and laid down the king of spades and now, though he had a discard for the diamond, there were two clubs and a spade to be lost so down one for –50 but 2 IMPs to BLACK.

### Greenberg v Friends

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Sheng* | *Tokay* | *Huang* | *Greenberg* |
| – | Pass | 1♠ | 2♡ |
| 3♠ | Dble | 4♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Dble | Pass | 5♡ |
| All Pass | | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Vallet* | *Mou* | *Bedouet* | *Han* |
| – | Pass | 1♠ | 2♡ |
| 2♠ | Pass | 4♠ | All Pass |

This match saw both Souths come in with a 2♡ overcall.

Vallet raised to 2♠ and, after a pass from Mou, Bedouet raised himself to 4♠. Han led ace and another heart, Bedouet winning the second round. Bedouet cashed the king of spades at trick three, and had to go down one for –50. Presumably he thought that he would be short of dummy entries to play clubs effectively if he played for North to have all three missing trumps, though that was clearly a serious danger with hearts looking to be six-two.

Sheng made a pre-emptive spade raise and Tokay doubled with the North cards then doubled again when Huang's 4♠ came around to him. Greenberg took that out to 5♡ when he might have chosen to bid diamonds, I suppose. Huang showed great respect for his opponents bidding when he resisted the temptation to double the final contract. Greenberg ruffed the spade lead and crossed to dummy with a top club to lead the jack of diamonds to the queen and king, after which he played a second diamond. Huang won that and played a club to set up a fourth defensive trick and the contract was down two, losing two trumps and one in each minor; –100 and 4 IMPs to FRIENDS.

Altogether, 10 Easts declared 4♠, the odd tables out being the 5♡-2 we have already seen, and one where E/W stopped in 3♠, making an overtrick. Five declarers made 4♠, five were unsuccessful. Five Souths led a club, four led out two rounds of hearts, and one led a diamond. Of the five tables at which a club was led, only Hallberg found the killing diamond switch at trick two.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ A K 6<br>♡ A K 10 3<br>♢ A J<br>♣ A 8 3 2 | |
| ♠ 8 7 4 3<br>♡ Q 9 7<br>♢ K 9 2<br>♣ K 9 5 | | ♠ J 10 5 2<br>♡ J 6 5 2<br>♢ 10 8 5<br>♣ 6 4 |
| | ♠ Q 9<br>♡ 8 4<br>♢ Q 7 6 4 3<br>♣ Q J 10 7 | |

Nine N/S pairs played in 3NT, making either 11 or 12 tricks, and one had a small hiccup and stopped in 2NT. Just two pairs reached 6♣, and those two were both in the same match.

### Harris v Netbridge

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Zomer* | *Isporski* | *Bouwen* | *Trendafilov* |
| – | 2♣ | Pass | 2♢ |
| Pass | 2♡ | Pass | 2♠ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 4NT |
| Pass | 6♣ | All Pass | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Gross* | *La Haye* | *Root* | *Verhoeve* |
| – | 2♣ | Pass | 2♢ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♠ |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 5♣ |
| Pass | 6♣ | All Pass | |

Isporski/Trendafilov went through Kokish to show a balanced hand just short of a game force and Trendafilov now bid 3♠ to show both minors with some willingness to consider slam. Isporski showed his clubs then jumped to slam at his next turn. Bouwen led the five of hearts to the queen and ace and Isporski crossed to the queen of spades to lead the queen of clubs and, when that scored, the jack and finally the seven of clubs to the king and ace. He played ace and jack of diamonds next and had 12 tricks for +920.

La Heaye opened 2♣ and rebid 2NT to show the same just short of game range. Verhoeve too showed interest in the minors. La Haye showed his clubs, Verhoeve raised quietly to game, having nothing to cuebid, and Lay Haye went on to the small slam. Root also led the five of hearts to the queen and ace and La Haye crossed to the queen of spades. He too led the queen of clubs and ran it, followed by the jack. When that too held the trick, La Haye took the diamond finesse and, when the ♢J held the trick, cashed the two minor-suit aces, Root discarding a heart, then played king of hearts and ruffed one. The even heart split meant that La Haye had all 13 tricks for +940 and 1 IMP to NETBRIDGE.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ 10 8 4 2<br>♡ 9 8 6 4 3 2<br>♢ K<br>♣ J 5 | |
| ♠ Q 3<br>♡ 7<br>♢ A Q 10 9 2<br>♣ A K Q 8 7 | | ♠ A J 7 6<br>♡ K J<br>♢ J 7 6 5<br>♣ 4 3 2 |
| | ♠ K 9 5<br>♡ A Q 10 5<br>♢ 8 4 3<br>♣ 10 9 6 | |

Nine E/W pairs had a free run to 5♢, one to 6♢, and two to 3NT, the NT game being declared by East, the diamond contracts by West.

One declarer in 3NT received the lead of the five of hearts to the seven, eight and jack. Declarer cashed all five clubs, discarding a spade and a diamond from hand, then led the queen of spades off the dummy. When North played low without a flicker, declarer went up with the ace then led the jack of diamonds and ran it. That lost to the bare king, and there were three hearts to be lost plus the king of spades; down one for –100.

Thoresen 3NT received a club lead, won it and cashed a second club to check the split. Next, she laid down the ace of diamonds, and the fall of the king meant that she had 11 tricks for +660 and 13 IMPs to ECF HOLDING, the result at the other table being 6♢-2.

Thoresen played the hand well, not risking the diamond finesse as that would have been into the danger hand and risked a heart lead through the king-jack. The first declarer missed an important point. The evidence of trick one was that South held both the ace and queen of hearts. That being the case, South could not really have both the missing kings, having failed to open the bidding. In other words, when the queen was led off dummy and North didn't cover, the logic that South probably held the king so it was correct to spurn the spade finesse and rely on the diamond finesse didn't really hold water.

The fact that South had not opened the bidding was the key to success in 5♢, against which the lead was always a heart to the jack and queen. Whether South tried to cash the ace of hearts at trick two or switched to a club, the ♡A was also marked in the South hand. Declarer won trick two and ran the queen of spades, losing to the king. Winning the return, seven declarers laid down the ace of diamonds and brought home their game, while two overlooked the inference from the auction and took the diamond finesse, so were down one.

## Round 6

There were some lively boards in Round Six, including this one:

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ K<br>♡ –<br>♢ A 8 7 6 5 4 3<br>♣ Q J 8 7 5 | |
| ♠ A J 9 2<br>♡ A Q 9 5 2<br>♢ Q 10<br>♣ 9 2 | | ♠ Q 8 5 3<br>♡ J 10 8 4<br>♢ J 9<br>♣ A 10 4 |
| | ♠ 10 7 6 4<br>♡ K 7 6 3<br>♢ K 2<br>♣ K 6 3 | |

### Seligman v ECF Holding

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Eide* | *Starkowski* | *Thoresen* | *Kwiecien* |
| – | – | – | Pass |
| 1♡ | 4♢ | 4♡ | 5♢ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | All Pass |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Seligman* | *Lie* | *Pszczola* | *Fasting* |
| – | – | – | Pass |
| 1♡ | 2♢ | 2♡ | Pass |
| Pass | 3♣ | 3♡ | Pass |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 5♣ |
| All Pass | | | |

Starkowski made a pre-emptive 4♢ overcall and that convinced Kwiecien that he should save in 5♢ over 4♡, despite holding king to four hearts. Thorsen doubled 5♢ to complete the auction, but the two-two diamond split meant that there were just the two black aces to be lost; 11 tricks for +550.

Lie started with a simple overcall then bid his second suit twice, and this ell-controlled auction saw Fasting raise to the club game. The slower auction had suggested that 5♣ was bid to make, so there was no double here. Again, the favourable breaks meant that there were 11 easy tricks, this time for +400 so 4 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

### Greenberg v Harris

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Gross* | *Tokay* | *Root* | *Greenberg* |
| – | – | – | Pass |
| 1♡ | 5♢ | All Pass | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Vallet* | *Isporski* | *Bedouet* | *Trendafilov* |
| – | – | – | Pass |
| 1♡ | 2NT | 3♡ | 4♣ |
| Pass | 5♣ | Dble | All Pass |

Tokay pre-empted one level higher than we have seen so far and 5♢ bought the contract. As usual, there were 11 tricks for +400.

Isporski opted to show both his suits immediately and, when that collected a free 4♣ bid from Trendafilov, his extra distribution made it easy for Isporski to go on to game. Bedouet doubled 5♣ but found thathe couldn't beat it; 11 tricks for +550 and 4 IMPs to HARRIS.

### Scorway v Netbridge

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Huber* | *Spears* | *V d Starre* | *Levinson* |
| – | – | – | Pass |
| 1♡ | 5NT | Dble | 7♣ |
| Pass | Pass | Dble | All Pass |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Saur* | *La Haye* | *Olsen* | *Verhoeve* |
| – | – | – | 1NT |
| 2♣ | 3♣ | Pass | 3♢ |
| Pass | 5♣ | All Pass | |

The Scots were on different wavelengths here when Spears made the biggest leap of all with the North hand and Levinson, looking at the two minor-suit kings, took 5NT to be a constructive bid and leapt to 7♣, where he was doubled, of course, for down two and –300.

Verhoeve's mini-NT opening with the South cards led to a quite different auction. Saur overcalled 2♣, majors, and La Haye bid 3♣, invitational-plus with diamonds. When Verhoeve completed the transfer, La Haye jumped to 5♣ to offer a choice of trump suits, and Verhoeve chose clubs, so passed. That was the usual +400 and 12 IMPs to NETBRIDGE.

South passed and West opened 1♡ at 11 tables. There was one 2♢ overcall, three 2NT bids, one 4♢ bid, three 4NT bids, two 5♢ bids, and one 5NT bid.

That was followed by another lively deal:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠ A J 8 7 5 3 2<br>♡ 10 9 5<br>♢ A<br>♣ K 10 | |
| ♠ K 10 9 4<br>♡ 8 4 3<br>♢ Q 6<br>♣ Q 7 6 2 | | ♠ Q 6<br>♡ Q J 7 2<br>♢ K 8 7 5 4 3 2<br>♣ – |
| | ♠ –<br>♡ A K 6<br>♢ J 10 9<br>♣ A J 9 8 5 4 3 | |

### Black v Friends

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Sheng* | *McIntosh* | *Huang* | *Black* |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Hult* | *Mou* | *Hallberg* | *Han* |
| Pass | 1♠ | 2♢ | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♣ |
| Pass | 4♢ | Pass | 5♣ |
| All Pass | | | |

McIntosh bid spades, spades, and more spades, and became declarer in the spade game. Huang led the two of hearts. McIntosh rose with the ace and came to hand with the ace of diamonds to play ace and another spade. Huang won the ♠Q and led the queen of hearts to dummy's king. McIntosh crossed to the king of clubs to play a third spade but there were two more of those to be lost plus a heart, so he was down one for –100.

Five other players declared 4♠, three getting the lead of the queen of hearts, after which there was no heart loser, and two a diamond, which preserved a crucial entry to dummy to set up an extra club winner for a heart discard, again leading to no heart loser.

The 2♢ overcall obliged Han's first club bid to be at the three level and, when he followed through with a second club bid, Mou was worth a cuebid on the way to game. However, Han now signed off in 5♣ and the good slam was missed; +620 and 12 IMPs to FRIENDS.

### Seligman v ECF Holding

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Eide* | *Starkowski* | *Thoresen* | *Kwiecien* |
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♣ |
| Pass | 2♠ | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | 4♣ | Pass | 4♡ |
| Pass | 4♠ | Pass | 5♣ |
| Pass | 6♣ | All Pass | |

| West | North | East | South |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Seligman* | *Lie* | *Pszczola* | *Fasting* |
| Pass | 1♠ | 2♢ | 3♣ |
| Pass | 3♠ | Pass | 4♣ |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | |

Lie bid spades, spades, and more spades, and was left to play in 4♠. He was one of those to get the queen of hearts lead, so just lost three trump tricks; +620.

Starkowski also bid spades, spades, and more spades, but his third spade bid was not a jump, so there was room for Kwiecien to bid 3NT over 3♠ and for Starkowski to show his club support over that. An exchange of cuebids was followed by a sign-off from Kwiecien, who didn't have a diamond control, but Starkowski, who did, went on to the club slam. Eide led the queen of diamonds to dummy's bare ace. Kwiecien led a heart to the ace and ruffed a diamond, a heart to the king and ruffed his last diamond. The ace of spades took care of the heart loser, and declarer's club spots were good enough to hold him to just one trump loser despite the four-zero split; +1370 and 13 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

One other pairs reached the club slam but declarer had a blind spot and went down after a diamond lead, taking only one diamond ruff before cashing the ♣K and leaving a club loser and a red-suit loser, for down one.

Six Clubs can be beaten, but it takes a low trump lead to do so, as West still has a trump winner and now declarer has no choice but to take only one diamond ruff.

# OCBL HALLOWEEN CUP

## RESULTS

### ROUND 5

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Black | 11.85 VPs 6 IMPs | 8.15 VPs 1 IMPs | Peanuts | |
| Seligman | 14.54 VPs 17 IMPs | 5.46 VPs 3 IMPs | New Amateurs | |
| ECF Holding | 14.28 VPs 24 IMPs | 5.72 VPs 11 IMPs | Yellow Cap | |
| Greenberg | 8.86 VPs 13 IMPs | 11.14 VPs 16 IMPs | Friends | |
| Scorway | 10.77 VPs 19 IMPs | 9.23 VPs 17 IMPs | Fredin | |
| Harris | 16.97 VPs 32 IMPs | 3.03 VPs 7 IMPs | Netbridge | |

### ROUND 6

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Black | 5.72 VPs 11 IMPs | 14.28 VPs 24 IMPs | Friends | |
| Seligman | 19.86 VPs 48 IMPs | 0.14 VPs 2 IMPs | ECF Holding | |
| Peanuts | 18.3 VPs 40 IMPs | 1.7 VPs 7 IMPs | New Amateurs | |
| Greenberg | 8.86 VPs 5 IMPs | 11.14 VPs 8 IMPs | Harris | |
| Yellow Cap | 5.46 VPs 22 IMPs | 14.54 VPs 36 IMPs | Fredin | |
| Scorway | 11.5 VPs 37 IMPs | 8.5 VPs 33 IMPs | Netbridge | |

### ROUND 7

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seligman | 15.05 VPs 27 IMPs | 4.95 VPs 11 IMPs | Friends | |
| Black | 14.8 VPs 17 IMPs | 5.2 VPs 2 IMPs | Greenberg | |
| Peanuts | 14 VPs 25 IMPs | 6 VPs 13 IMPs | ECF Holding | |
| New Amateurs | 4.48 VPs 0 IMPs | 15.52 VPs 18 IMPs | Fredin | |
| Scorway | 14.8 VPs 22 IMPs | 5.2 VPs 7 IMPs | Harris | |
| Yellow Cap | 6.86 VPs 16 IMPs | 13.14 VPs 25 IMPs | Netbridge | |

### ROUND 8

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Seligman | 10 VPs 21 IMPs | 10 VPs 21 IMPs | Fredin | |
| Black | 15.05 VPs 33 IMPs | 4.95 VPs 17 IMPs | Scorway | |
| Peanuts | 18 VPs 53 IMPs | 2 VPs 22 IMPs | Harris | |
| Friends | 2 VPs 3 IMPs | 18 VPs 34 IMPs | ECF Holding | |
| New Amateurs | 6 VPs 19 IMPs | 14 VPs 31 IMPs | Yellow Cap | |
| Greenberg | 6.28 VPs 15 IMPs | 13.72 VPs 26 IMPs | Netbridge | |

## 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 - 15 December, 2022

*12 Rounds x 10 boards*

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

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## 21 - 22 November, 2022

OCBL SWISS

## SWISS

**10 Rounds x 8 Boards**

| MONDAY | | | | | TUESDAY | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Round 1: | 16.00 | CET | 10.00 | EDT | Round 6: | 16.00 | CET | 10.00 | EDT |
| Round 2: | 17.15 | CET | 11.15 | EDT | Round 7: | 17.15 | CET | 11.15 | EDT |
| Round 3: | 18.30 | CET | 12.30 | EDT | Round 8: | 18.30 | CET | 12.30 | EDT |
| Round 4: | 19.45 | CET | 13.45 | EDT | Round 9: | 19.45 | CET | 13.45 | EDT |
| Round 5: | 21.00 | CET | 15.00 | EDT | Round 10: | 21.00 | CET | 15.00 | EDT |

**Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG**