ALT-OCBL GRAND FINAL BULLETIN

Issue N. 2. Wednesday, 28 December, 2022

IT'S NOW OR NEVER

Ranking after Round 4

Group OCBL

1	Friends	52.29
2	ECF Holding	51.35
3	Seligman	49.66
4	Netbridge	45.05
5	Scorway	42.19
6	Harris	31.85
7	Yellow Cap	31.71
8	Jupiter	24.9

Group ALT

1	Uli	66.82
2	Rippey	51.71
3	New Amateurs	47.29
4	Crocodile	44.86
5	Peanuts	37.74
6	Fredin	32.58
7	Cantor	31.70
8	Reynolds	16.30

SCHEDULE TODAY

All the tables will be closed to kibitzers, but the matches will be broacast on Vugraph. The show will be delayed by 30 minutes.

Round 5.	16:00 CET / 10:00 am EST
Round 6.	17:30 CET / 11:30 am EST
Round 7.	19:00 CET / 1:00 pm EST
Round 8.	20.30 CET / 2.30 p.m. EST

A bridge player's favourite Christmas gift

We are halfway in the qualification stage.

Four more rounds, and the top 2 teams from each group will advance to the Semifinals:

#1 ALT vs #2 OCBL
#1 OCBL vs #2 ALT

There will be no Swiss for the non-qualifiers.

Semifinals and Finals (1/2 and 3/4 place) will be played over two segments of 10 boards each.

There will be the following carryover:

- In the Semifinals, the winner of each group gets a carry-over of 4.1 IMP.
- In the Finals, the team that scored more points in the qualifying stage get a carry-over of 0.1 IMP as a tiebreaker.

At the moment, team Friends are leading the ranking in the OCBL group, with 52.29 VPs.

In the ALT group, the leaders are team Uli, with 66.82 VPs.

Would you like receiving the Journal by e-mail? Just drop your e-mail address here: **https://ocbl.org/journal/**

Up for the Cup!

by Mark Horton

Welcome to the ALT-OCBL Grand Final!

While post-Christmas celebrations continue in the run up to New Year's Eve, our on-line stalwarts are back to entertain you.

I'm hoping they play quickly so I can catch the tail end of the Premier League encounter between Manchester United and Nottingham Forest, and I will also be keeping an eye on the World Rapid Chess Championship taking place in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Round 1

OCBL Group

The carry over conditions meant that Seligman started with 4.00, Harris with 2.50, Netbridge with 2.00 and Scorway 0.50.

ALT Group

Here New Amateurs had 3.50, Fredin 3.00, Uli 1.50 and Peanuts 1.00.

Spoiler alert! It was an exciting set of deals.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Seligman v Friends

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sheng	*Pszczola*	*Wang*	*Seligman*
—	—	Pass	Pass
1NT*	Dble*	All Pass	

1NT 13+-16
Dble Majors or one minor

East's second pass was alerted as 'to redouble' but West was not interested.

North led the ♢A and switched to the ♡3, South winning with the ace and returning the two. North won with the ten, cashed the king and exited with the eight, South winning and playing the ♠9 to the jack and queen. South had played the ♡Q under the king and that might have been the reason why North now exited with a low spade which meant declarer was only one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Fang*	*Kwiecien*	*Yang*
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣*	Dble	Pass	1♡
2♣	3♡	4♣	4♡
All Pass			

1♣ Polish Club

West led the ♣K and switched to the ♢2, declarer taking dummy's king and playing two more rounds of the suit. East won and played a fourth diamond, declarer ruffing high, and playing a spade to the queen followed by the ace and another spade. He ruffed the club return in dummy, ruffed a spade with the ♡Q and played trumps for +620 and 11 IMPs.

In the OCBL Group five pairs bid 4♡.

In the ALT Group it was reached four times. The luckiest player was Cedric Lorenzini who played in 1NT, got a spade lead from North, who then ducked the ♢Q. It was still a loss of 2 IMPs against 2♡+2 in the other room.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Harris v Yellow Cap

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Warlenius	*Isporski*	*Abragi*	*Trendafilov*
—	—	—	1♡
1♠	4♡	All Pass	

Declarer ruffed the spade lead, gave up a club, won the club return and was soon claiming the rest, +480.

Closed Room

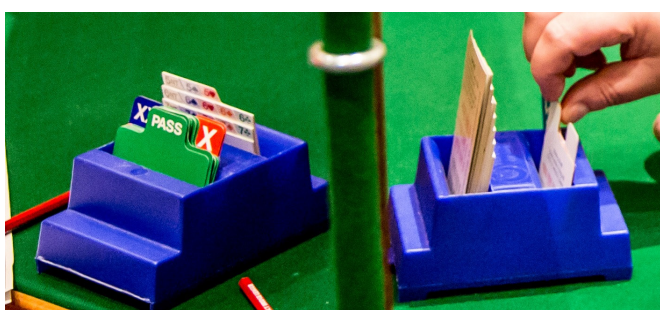
West	North	East	South
Gross	*Gustafsson*	*Root*	*Lichtenstein*
—	—	—	1♡
1♠	2NT*	3♠	4♠*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♡*
Pass	6♡	All Pass	

2NT Invitational +, 4+♠
4♠ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♡ 2 key cards

Declarer ruffed the spade lead, went to dummy with the ♡J, ruffed the ♠J, drew the outstanding trump and gave up a club, claiming the rest, +1430 and 11 IMPs.

No one else bid the slam in either group.

Barnet Shenkin and Brian Spears saved in 4♠ - only -800 which would have been fine if their teammates had bid the slam.



Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Seligman v Friends

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sheng	*Pszczola*	*Wang*	*Seligman*
Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass
3♣*	Dble*	3♠	All Pass

3♣ Mixed Raise

Once South had passed EW were able to steal some space which left South awkwardly placed on the next round.

The defenders scored two clubs, two diamonds and a heart for -200.

Closed Room

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

1♡ Spades

East started with the ace, king and four of spades and West took the nine with the queen and switched to the ♡K. Declarer won, cashed went to dummy with the ♣J, cashed the ♠J and the remaining clubs and played a diamond to the ace for +400 and 9 IMPs.

After a similar start where West overcalled 1♠ and East raised to 3♠ South continued with 4♣ and North raised to game, giving Bremer and Verhoef 10 IMPs against the 4♣ reached in the other room.

In the ALT Group only Ilan Bareket and Nathalie Saada reached game, their 3NT being worth 10 IMPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Scorway v ECF Holding

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Eide	*Levinson*	*Thoresen*	*Saur*
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Dble	3♣
3♢	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♢	Dble	All Pass	

North led his heart, scored a ruff and exited with the ♣Q. Declarer ruffed and played a diamond to the king and ace. The defenders had five tricks, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Shenkin	*Lie*	*Spears*	*Fasting*
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♡*	Pass	2♡
Pass	2♠*	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

1♡ 4+♠
2♠ Asking

I cannot tell you what South's 2NT promised, but North had no trouble pushing on the virtually laydown slam, +1370 and 13 IMPs.

Here is how Kamil Nowak and Mike Rippey managed it:

North	South
Pass	1♣
1♠	3♣
3♢	3NT
4♣*	4♡
4♠	6♣
Pass	

North noted that South might take 4♣ as key card. It was worth 13 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ 9 3 2
♡ 9 4
♢ 9 8 7 2
♣ A 8 7 5

♠ 10 7
♡ A K 10 8 3
♢ 5 4
♣ Q J 9 4

♠ A K Q
♡ 7 5
♢ A Q J 3
♣ K 10 6 3

♠ J 8 6 5 4
♡ Q J 6 2
♢ K 10 6
♣ 2

Uli v Peanuts

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Schuster*	*Robert*	*Primavera*
—	—	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

3♣ Asking

South led the ♠4 and declarer won with the ace, played a club for the queen and ace, won the spade return with the king, crossed to dummy with a club and took a losing diamond finesse, finishing with 10 tricks, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Arrigoni	*Franceschetti*	*Olivieri*	*Setton*
—	—	2NT*	Pass
3♢*	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢*	Pass
4♡	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♢*	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

2NT 18-19
3♢ Transfer
3♠ Texas to 3NT, not 4♠
4♢ Cue
4♡ Cue
4♠ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♢ 0/3 key cards

North led the ♢2 and declarer went up with dummy's ace and played three rounds of spades ditching a diamond. Declarer cashed the top hearts and then cross ruffed hearts and diamonds. North pitched diamonds so he could overruff the fourth diamond with the ♣A and exited with a club, but declarer had a high cross ruff to secure the last two tricks, +1370 and 12 IMPs.

6♣ was reached at two other tables, both declarers receiving a spade lead. When they continued with three rounds of hearts North could pitch a spade and declarer no longer had a route to 12 tricks.

Round 2

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ J 7 6 4
♡ 6
♢ 9 7 5
♣ A 8 5 4 3

♠ 2
♡ K J 10 9 7 3
♢ K 10 4
♣ Q J 9

♠ A 10 9 8 5
♡ A Q 8 2
♢ A 8 2
♣ 2

♠ K Q 3
♡ 5 4
♢ Q J 6 3
♣ K 10 7 6

Harris v Seligman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Isporski*	*Pszczola*	*Trendafilov*
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♡*	Pass	6♡	All Pass

3♡ Natural, invitational

North led the ♣A and switched to the ♢7 for the queen and king. Declarer ruffed a club, cashed the ♠A, ruffed a spade, played a heart to the eight and ruffed a spade. He had the entries to establish and enjoy a long spade, +980.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gross	*Starkowski*	*Root*	*Kwiecien*
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♡*	Pass	4♡	All Pass

3♡ Natural invite

Here East did not think his hand to be worth more than game and that meant the loss of 11 IMPs.

If you think 6♡ is too much (give West a doubleton spade) and Pass too little, then perhaps a cue bid of 4♣ is the way to go. Here partner can respond 4♢ when East is probably worth 4♠ which should lead to the slam.

Lorenzini and Robert followed this route, with East asking for key cards over 4♢ before bidding the slam.

Sam Punch and Stephen Peterkin bid 1♠-2♡-4♣*-4♢*-4♠*-4NT*5♡*-6♡ – a splinter, a couple of cue bids and RKCB doing the job.

Both pairs collected 11 IMPs for their teams.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 5
♡ A 9 7 4 2
♢ J 8
♣ K 10 8 6 3

♠ K Q 10 2
♡ Q 6
♢ Q 10 9 6 2
♣ 5 2

♠ 9 8 7 6 3
♡ K 10 8 3
♢ 5
♣ Q J 5

♠ A J 4
♡ J 5
♢ A K 7 4 3
♣ A 9 7

Harris v Seligman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Isporski*	*Pszczola*	*Trendafilov*
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♢*	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♢*
Pass	3♡*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1NT 15-17
2♢ Transfer
3♣ Game forcing, 5♡ + 4♣/♢
3♢ Asking
3♡ 0-2♠

West led the ♠Q and when East followed with the nine, declarer ducked which saw West continue with the ♠2. Declarer won with the jack and played three rounds of clubs, +600. As a former resident of Bath I think I know the name of this piece of play. How easy it is for West to switch to a heart or club at trick two I leave you to judge.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gross	*Starkowski*	*Root*	*Kwiecien*
Pass	2♡*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

2♡ Hearts plus any, weak
2NT Game forcing
3♠ Clubs

East led the ♢5 and declarer took dummy's ace, played a club to the king and a heart for the jack and queen. West returned the ♢10 and East ruffed and exited with the ♣Q, the defenders scoring two more tricks for -100 and 12 IMPs.

In the OCBL Group 5 pairs tried 3NT, four of them recording nine tricks. Phil King was the unlucky declarer – Ming Sheng led the ♠K and when his partner followed with the three he switched to the ♡Q – 'get out of that' as Eric Morecambe would have said.

The ALT Groupd saw 7 pairs in 3NT, but five of them were defeated, all the defenders switching to a heart at trick two.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Harris v Seligman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Isporski*	*Pszczola*	*Trendafilov*
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♢8 and North took the ace and switched to the ♡6, South winning with the queen and returning the two to North's ace. Declarer took the third round of the suit, cashed dummy's ♣AQ and played a spade for the queen and ace. When the ♡8 came back declarer won and claimed nine tricks, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gross	*Starkowski*	*Root*	*Kwiecien*
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♡2 and North won with the ace and returned the ♡7, South winning with the queen and switching to the ♢5, North putting in the nine. Declarer won with the queen, crossed to dummy with the ♣Q and played a spade for the queen and ace. Back came the ♠6 and when declarer put in dummy's eight North won and cashed the ♢A for -50 and 10 IMPs.

If Declarer was confident that North held the ♢A there is a case for playing the ♠K on the second round of the suit. As long as North has no more than two spades you don't need the jack to fall.

The other pair to bid 3NT made it easily when declarer was treated to three rounds of hearts and North won the first round of diamonds.

In the ALT Group 3 pairs bid 3NT, all of them getting a diamond lead from South. Two were successful. From a defensive point of view, if declarer crosses to dummy with a club to run the 10 North should rise with the ace to play a second diamond although in practice they will prevail as long as South is allowed to win with the queen and plays a second diamond.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Isporski*	*Pszczola*	*Trendafilov*
—	—	1♡	Dble
3♡	3♠	Pass	4♡*
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

4♡ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♣ 1 key card

With the ♢K being where declarer envisaged it might be 12 tricks rolled home, +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gross	*Starkowski*	*Root*	*Kwiecien*
—	—	1♡	Dble
3♡	3♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣*	Dble	6♠
All Pass			

In the OCBL Group four pairs stopped short, one pair having the misfortune to have a misunderstanding which led to them stopping in 2♠.

Four pairs missed it in the ALT, one of them surviving when their opponents also stopped short.

Round 3

This was the reporter's nightmare! The first match I logged onto was New Amateurs v Rippey. They were playing Board 9 and the score was 5-6 in favour of the latter.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

As you can see, NS can score 11 tricks in clubs, while EW can save a few IMPs by bidding 5♡. This was perhaps the most dramatic pair of results:

Netbridge v Yellow Cap

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nilsland	*Bouwen*	*Sivelind*	*Zomer*
—	Pass	1♡	2♣
2♠*	3♣	4♡	4♠*
5♡	Pass	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

2♠ Non forcing
4♠ Cue

There was no escaping the loss of two aces, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Huber	*Abragi*	*Van de Starre*	*Morath*
—	Pass	1♡	Dble
1♠	Pass	3♡	4♣
4♡	5♣	5♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

South led the ♢K and declarer took the ace and played two rounds of clubs, ruffing in dummy. When he cashed the ♡A South's discard meant he was two down, -300 and 9 IMPs the poorer.

Slightly oddly if declarer plays a spade at trick two he should emerge with an extra trick!

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Rippey

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Narkiewicz	*Falk*	*Buras*	*Chechelashvili*
Pass	1NT*	Dble*	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

When North unerringly led the ♣Q declarer won with dummy's ace, played a diamond to the ace and the ♠2. When North followed with the five declarer was back in the game and he continued with ♠Q, pitching a club. North won and played the ♣8, declarer ruffing and playing a heart to the king. That was followed by the ♠J for a diamond discard and now a cross-ruff would have seen declarer home. When he played a trump North could take the ace and queen and cash two diamonds for -200.

Having got past the ♠A the winning line (hard to see) is to cross ruff spades and diamonds. In the four-card ending declarer exits from dummy with a club and as the cards lie will score a trump trick from his remaining ♡J76.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	*Marcinowski*	*Wang*	*Rippey*
2♡	2NT	4♡	Dble
All Pass			

North led the ♣Q and declarer took dummy's ace and played the ♠K, North winning and exiting with the ♣8. South took the king and played back the ♣10, declarer ruffing and playing the ♡J. North put up the ace and switched to the ♢K, declarer winning and playing the ♡3. When North followed with the four declarer went up with dummy's king which meant he was one down, -200 and a flat board.

Having scored a club trick South needs to switch to a red suit – a diamond is simplest. If declarer wins, ruffs a diamond and pitches two diamond on the spades it is clear two trump tricks must be lost.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

	♠ 8 5 4 2 ♡ 9 5 2 ♢ J 5 3 ♣ A 10 8	
♠ A K 9 ♡ A Q 10 6 ♢ A 7 6 ♣ K Q2		♠ Q J 7 3 ♡ 8 7 4 ♢ 4 2 ♣ J 7 5 4
	♠ 10 6 ♡ K J 3 ♢ K Q 10 9 8 ♣ 9 6 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Narkiewicz	*Falk*	*Buras*	*Chechelash.*
—	Pass	Pass	2♢*
Dble	3♢	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♢ Weak, natural

North led the ♢K and switched to the ♡3, declarer putting in dummy's ten. When that held he played dummy's ♣K then drew trumps, played a heart to the queen and the ♣Q scoring 11 tricks, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	*Marcinowski*	*Wang*	*Rippey*
—	Pass	Pass	1♢
Dble	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♢*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♢3 and declarer ducked the queen, but took the ♢10 with the ace and played the ♣K. When North won and produced the ♢J South overtook it and cashed out for one down, -100 and a 13 IMP loss.

I suspect declarer had a blind spot, don't you?

Round 4

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Here we have classic example of what Bob Hamman would describe as a good slam – it makes!

Fredin v Reynolds

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hall	*Fredin*	*Howard*	*Apteker*
—	—	1♡	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♢*	Pass
4♡*	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5♡*	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

3♠ Game forcing
4♢ Cue agrees spades
4♡ Cue
5♣ Cue
5♡ Cue

That was very close, +480.

Given that East had cue bid in diamonds (and might have had a third spade?) I thught West might take a pot at 6♠, but the void in partner's main suit is a negative.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fick	*Kerr*	*Donde*	*Reynolds*
—	—	1♡	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♢*	Pass	2♡	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♢ Artificial game forcing

So, there was no swing.

ECF Holding v Jupiter

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Muller	*Lie*	*As'ad*	*Fasting*
—	—	1♡	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♢*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♢ Fourth suit forcing

A painless +480.

Here West might have argued that the jump to 3NT, suggesting extras and a diamond stopper improved his hand, but as always things look so easy on the screen.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bogen	*Nedev*	*Thoresen*	*King*
—	—	1♡	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♢*	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

2♢ 'Forcing'

That was worth 11 IMPs.

Four pairs in the ALT group bid 6♠ and it was the same story in the OCBL Group.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

ECF Holding v Jupiter

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Muller	*Lie*	*As'ad*	*Fasting*
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♡	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

North led the ♠10 and when declarer put in dummy's jack, 12 tricks had turned into 11, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bogen	*Nedev*	*Thoresen*	*King*
—	—	Pass	2♢*
2♡	5♢	5♡	Pass
6♡	All Pass		

2♢ Weak

North led the ♢J and declarer won with the ace, cashed the ♡A and played a second heart, -100 and 13 IMPs.

It was the only table where 6♡ was bid.

Although I co-authored a book on the Multi with Jan van Cleeff I have a lot of respect for the less mysterious weak two in diamonds.

Note that if North does not lead a diamond declarer should score 12 tricks.

Everyone in the ALT Group played in 4♡.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Seligman v Scorway

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shenkin	*Starkowski*	*Spears*	*Kwiecien*
1♢	1♡	Dble*	Rdbl
3♣	3♡	4♢	Pass
5♢	All Pass		

I can't resist telling you that Michal Kwiecien was urging Barnet Shenkin to hurry up – he was hungry. With the little hand approaching nine o'clock so was I – but in Poland it would be approaching 22.00!

North led the ♢9 and after due consideration declarer won in hand, went back to dummy with the queen, pitched a heart on the ♠A and ran the ♣8, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Levinson*	*Pszczola*	*Kvangraven*
1♢	1♡*	Dble	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♢	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♡6 and declarer ran for the hills, +400.

Is there a case for North to lead a spade?

It was the only table where 3NT was the final contract.

In the ALT Group 5♢ was the popular contract, although Fredin picked up 11 IMPs when he and Apteker were allowed to play in 3♡.

Bridge NEWS

While playing Online, don't miss the latest news about Live Bridge!

WBF LAUNCHING A WORLD TOUR

From the WBF website:

Already in 2019 the WBF took the decision to launch a yearly "World Bridge Tour", consisting of existing face-to-face international events, culminating in a Tour Final among the top ranked partnerships. Then Covid happened – ending most international face-to-face events.

As face-to-face events are getting back we will now finally launch the Tour, starting with a "dry-run" in the 2023 season, to fine-tune the ranking methods and classification of events. It would then go live as of the 2024 season.

More detailed information will follow but some key points are:

1. The ranking is of PARTNERSHIPS, not individuals, and a player can be ranked in several partnerships.
2. Some events will be pre-qualified by the Tour Organising Committee (such as the Transnationals at World and Zonal Championships and the main events at the NABCs).
3. Other event organisers can apply for their event to be included, and such applications are welcome already as of now. Applications should be sent by email to Jan Kamras – jankamras@gmail.com, with a copy to Arianna Testa – arianna.testa@worldbridgefed.com
4. A "sanctioning fee" will be required, depending on the category of the event, to support the costs of the Tour Final. No such fee will be charged for the 2023 "dry-run" season.
5. Both Pairs and Teams events will be included.
6. Participating events will be divided into 3 categories (similar to in Tennis) with different ranking point scales.
7. The ranking points are independent of WBF Master Points, but some WMPs will also be awarded in those events.
8. The current ranking will be continuously updated and published on the WBF website.
9. One or more sponsors will be sought, to allow participants in the Tour Final free room and board as well as some prize money and possibly a travel allowance. No entry fee will be charged.
10. The default requirements for an event to be included are:
    (1) they must be open to all members of a WBF affiliated NBO,
    (2) they must have a substantial international participation,
    (3) they must be of minimum 3 days length (or about 150+ boards) and
    (4) organisers must be able to furnish information on the number of boards or sessions played by a partnership in Team events.

Exceptions can be made at the sole discretion of the committee.

The WBF hopes that the Tour, and its continuously changing ranking, will add interest among the bridge community and assist event organisers in the promotion of their events, adding the status inherent in being a WBF World Tour event. Awarding WBF Master Points should also be attractive, especially for players not usually being able to play in WBF championships.

Our goal is that the Tour Final should become a truly great promotional event, consisting of the legitimately best performing partnerships of the season.

CALENDAR OF LIVE EVENTS

Jan 7-9
Asahi Shimbun Cup
Tokyo, Japan
jcbl.or.jp

Jan 9-18 8
1st International Bridge Festival
St. Moritz, Switzerland
bridgestmoritz.ch

Jan 10-22
Summer Festival of Bridge
Canberra, Australia
abf.com.au

Jan 26-29
Reykjavik Bridge Festival
Reykjavik , Iceland
reykjavikbridgefestival.com

Feb 1-7
EBU Overseas Festival
Kyrenia, Cyprus
ebu.co.uk

Feb 17-25
61st Gold Coast Congress
Broadbeach, Australia
qldbridge.com.au

Feb 20-26
Festival de Bridge
Biarritz, France
festival-bridge-biarritz.com

Mar 9-19
ACBL Spring Nationals
New Orleans, LA acbl.org

Mar 17-19
Fuengirola International Tournament
Costa del Sol, Spain
fuengirolabridge.com

Mar 23-26
Tasmanian Festival
Hobart, Tasmania, Australia abf.com.au

Mar 23-26
Torshaven Bridge Festival
Torshaven, Faroe Islands
bridge.fo/bridgefestival2023

ALT-OCBL GRAND FINAL

RESULTS

GROUP OCBL

ROUND 1

Seligman	1.03 VPs 7 IMPs	18.97 VPs 45 IMPs	Friends
Harris	12.51 VPs 31 IMPs	7.49 VPs 24 IMPs	Yellow Cap
Netbridge	11.14 VPs 19 IMPs	8.86 VPs 16 IMPs	Jupiter
Scorway	3.03 VPs 5 IMPs	16.97 VPs 30 IMPs	ECF Holding

ROUND 2

Harris	4.95 VPs 13 IMPs	15.05 VPs 29 IMPs	Seligman
Jupiter	10 VPs 19 IMPs	10 VPs 19 IMPs	Friends
Yellow Cap	7.17 VPs 10 IMPs	12.83 VPs 18 IMPs	Scorway
ECF Holding	10 VPs 13 IMPs	10 VPs 13 IMPs	Netbridge

ROUND 3

Seligman	18.44 VPs 40 IMPs	1.56 VPs 6 IMPs	Jupiter
Scorway	16.97 VPs 25 IMPs	3.03 VPs 0 IMPs	Harris
Friends	11.14 VPs 17 IMPs	8.86 VPs 14 IMPs	ECF Holding
Netbridge	10.77 VPs 34 IMPs	9.23 VPs 32 IMPs	Yellow Cap

ROUND 4

Scorway	8.86 VPs 6 IMPs	11.14 VPs 9 IMPs	Seligman
ECF Holding	15.52 VPs 36 IMPs	4.48 VPs 18 IMPs	Jupiter
Harris	8.86 VPs 12 IMPs	11.14 VPs 15 IMPs	Netbridge
Yellow Cap	7.82 VPs 19 IMPs	12.18 VPs 25 IMPs	Friends

GROUP ALT

ROUND 1

New Amateurs	14 VPs 23 IMPs	6 VPs 11 IMPs	Fredin
Uli	15.75 VPs 27 IMPs	4.25 VPs 8 IMPs	Peanuts
Cantor	8.86 VPs 23 IMPs	11.14 VPs 26 IMPs	Crocodile
Reynolds	3.03 VPs 11 IMPs	16.97 VPs 36 IMPs	Rippey

ROUND 2

Fredin	7.49 VPs 12 IMPs	12.51 VPs 19 IMPs	Uli
Crocodile	5.2 VPs 13 IMPs	14.8 VPs 28 IMPs	New Amateurs
Peanuts	13.14 VPs 24 IMPs	6.86 VPs 15 IMPs	Reynolds
Rippey	10.77 VPs 31 IMPs	9.23 VPs 29 IMPs	Cantor

ROUND 3

Crocodile	19.66 VPs 50 IMPs	0.34 VPs 6 IMPs	Fredin
Reynolds	2.16 VPs 7 IMPs	17.84 VPs 37 IMPs	Uli
New Amateurs	7.17 VPs 11 IMPs	12.83 VPs 19 IMPs	Rippey
Cantor	12.83 VPs 35 IMPs	7.17 VPs 27 IMPs	Peanuts

ROUND 4

Fredin	15.75 VPs 30 IMPs	4.25 VPs 11 IMPs	Reynolds
Rippey	11.14 VPs 9 IMPs	8.86 VPs 6 IMPs	Crocodile
Uli	19.22 VPs 40 IMPs	0.78 VPs 0 IMPs	Cantor
Peanuts	12.18 VPs 23 IMPs	7.82 VPs 17 IMPs	New Amateurs