ALT-OCBL GRAND FINAL BULLETIN

Issue N. 3. Thursday, 29 December, 2022

AND NOW THE KNOCKOUTS

Ranking after Round 8

Group OCBL

1		ECF Holding	97.53
2		Netbridge	95.92
3		Seligman	93.29
4		Friends	85.72
5		Yellow Cap	74.44
6		Scorway	68.56
7		Harris	67.49
8		Jupiter	66.05

Group ALT

1		Uli	115.98
2		Crocodile	97.95
3		New Amateurs	94.82
4		Rippey	89.99
5		Cantor	80.10
6		Fredin	71.45
7		Peanuts	61.04
8		Reynolds	37.67

It's time for Knockouts for the four Semifinalists of the ALT-OCBL Grand Final.

The Semifinalists are:

ULI
Primavera F. (Fulldire), Schuster U. (chrispe1), Schuster W. (Schustmozz), Olivieri G. (ollina), Arrigoni G. (Gorilla3), Zanasi G. (Zanna9), Margiotta S. (saverio), Carletti A. (ale1304)

CROCODILE
Barel M. (mich-b), Katz P. (paz_k), Liran I. (inonli), Perlmutter A. (arikp111), Bareket I. (bareket), Lengy A. (lengy), Saada N. (natsa), Marina B. (dromikete), Coldea I. (ionutcld), Zack Y. (yanivz), Pachtmann R. (ronpa), Moraru D. (danmo), Teodorescu C. (leroumain)

ECF HOLDING
Lie T. (Terjel), Fasting E. (mehe), Ovesen J. (jo-arne), Høyland S. (sioslo), Thoresen S. (sivt), Evenstad N. (NicolaiHE), Eide E. (bloodaxe), Farstad A. (Kha66), Evenstad S. (StianAS), Bogen H. (haakonbog)

NETBRIDGE
Van Den Hoek J. (janonline), Bouwen K. (kebosporto), Bremer A. (arisbreem), Verhoef N. (nicotest), Huber M. (marijnhu), Van der Starre M. (martin001), la Haye M. (martenha), Verhoeve N. (slin55), Zomer M. (mczo), Gaillard V. (Vincent80), Been M. (bendezz), de Haas O. (olliebol), Gast H. (hester02), van Roosmalen B. (basvanr)

Today the Semifinals and the Final will be played.

We wish to thank all the teams who did not qualify for being part of this event.

We wish you Happy New Year's Eve and a great 2023!

SCHEDULE TODAY

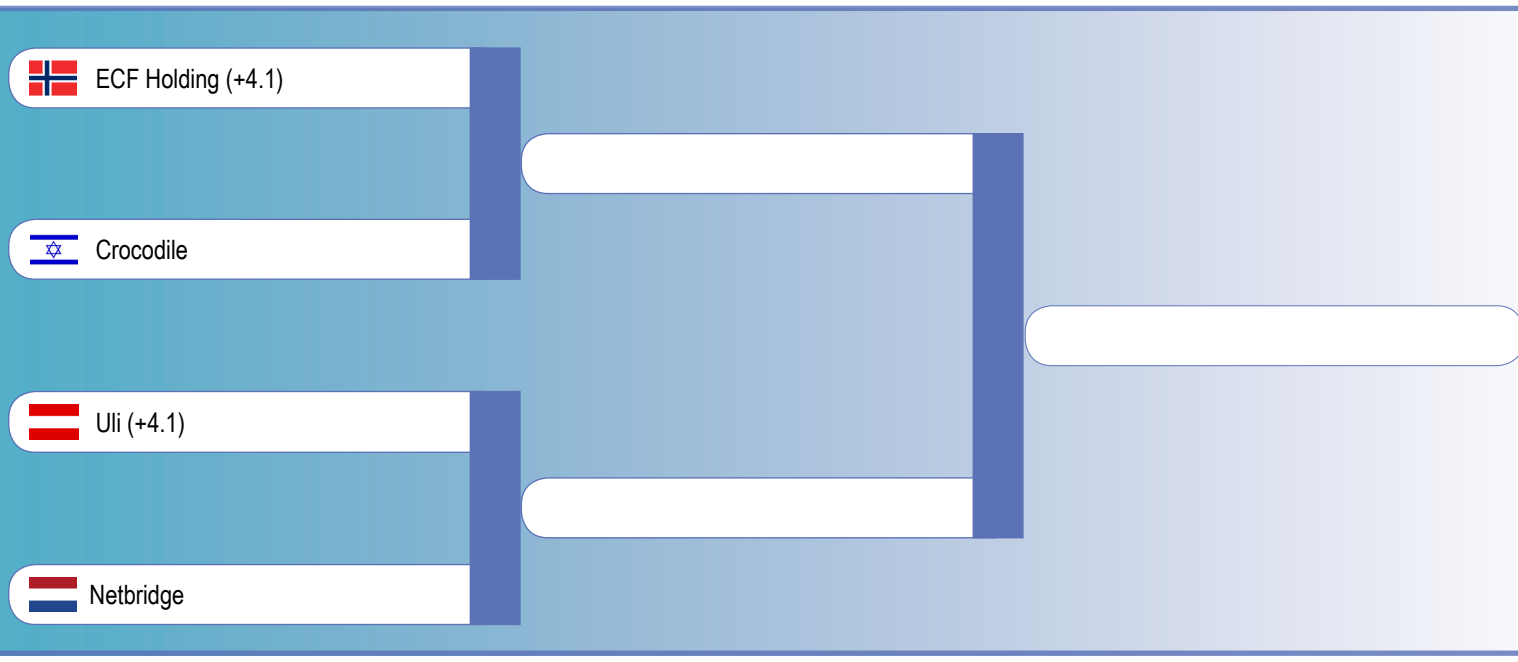
All the tables will be closed to kibitzers, but the matches will be broacast on Vugraph. The show will be delayed by 30 minutes.

Semifinal 1/2. 16:00 CET / 10:00 am EST

Semifinal 2/2. 17:30 CET / 11:30 am EST

Final 1/2. 19:00 CET / 1:00 pm EST

Final 2/2. 20.30 CET / 2.30 p.m. EST



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Now or Never

by Mark Horton

For the teams contesting the ALT-OCBL Grand Final day 2 would see 12 teams leave the competition. In the ALT Group Uli had a fantastic opening day, winning all their matches to establish a commanding lead, making them heavy favourites to advance to the semifinal. In the OCBL Group things were much tighter. Table topping Friends were unbeaten, but the pack was close behind with all to play for.

Round 5

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Seligman v ECF Holding

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	*Pszczola*	*Thoresen*	*Seligman*
—	—	1♡	Dble
3♣*	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♡	Dble	All Pass	

South led the ♣10 and North took the ace and switched to the ♠6. South took the queen and ace but then went back to clubs and declarer finished three down, -500.

He could have saved a trick by ruffing the second club and ruffing a spade, setting up the jack – not an easy play to find.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Heiberg-E*	*Kwiecien*	*S Evenstad*
—	—	1♡	Dble
3◇*	5♣	Dble	All Pass

East led the ♡4 and West won with the nine and returned the ten. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ◇A, went to dummy with a spade and played a club, claiming nine tricks, two down, -500 and a 14 IMP loss.

New Amateurs v Uli

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Carletti	*Falk*	*Zanasi*	*Chechelash.*
—	—	1♡	Pass
3◇*	4♣	4♡	Dble
All Pass			

3◇ 4♡+, 7-10 with singleton

South led the ♣10 and North took the ace and switched to the ◇3, declarer going up with the ace and playing two rounds of hearts. When North discarded declarer played a diamond to the queen and South won, cashed the ♡Q and then played two rounds of spades for two down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mak	*Schuster*	*Wang*	*Primavera*
—	—	1♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

South led a club as before but here North switched to a spade at trick two and the defenders played three rounds of the suit, establishing dummy's jack. Declarer ruffed, went to dummy with the ♡A to pitch a diamond on the ♠J, took the ♡K, eliminated the clubs and threw South in with a heart, forcing a lead into the diamond tenace, one down, -50 and 6 IMPs.

In the OCBL Group the contract ranged from 3NT (down 2) to 5♡ doubled.

Everyone in the ALT Group played in hearts, the range being between 2♡ and 4♡ doubled.

Kamil Nowak made 3♡ doubled when the defenders played three rounds of spades after taking the ♣A.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Friends v Harris

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Root	*Fang*	*Gross*	*Yang*
Pass	1◇*	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2◇*	Pass	2♠*
All Pass			

1◇ 4+ diamonds, could be balanced
2♣ XYZ, >2◇ or invitational
2♠ 5+♠ invitational

West led the ♡2 for the queen and ace and East returned the jack to dummy's king. Declarer ran the ♠10 to West's king and after cashing the ◇A West switched to the ♡10, East ruffing, cashing the ◇K and following it with the ◇4 promoting a trump for West, one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sheng	*Isporski*	*Wang*	*Trendafilov*
	1◇*	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1◇ 4+◇
2♣ Checkback
2NT Maximum, not 3♠, may have 4♡

East led the ♠3 and when dummy's ten held declarer played a spade to the queen, West taking the king and switching to the ♡5 for the king and ace. Declarer took the ♡J with the queen and with clubs 3-3 he had nine tricks, +600 and 12 IMPs.

If East somehow finds a diamond lead West wins and switches to a heart putting the defenders one step ahead.

If South is the declarer a heart lead should be fatal.

5 pairs tried 3NT in the OCBL Group, only one of them was defeated (North had opened 1♣ and East overcalled 1◇ and led the suit, West – Starkowski - switching to a heart.)

4 ALT pairs were in 3NT, Randy Howard and Bill Hall being the only pair to defeat it via a diamond lead and a heart switch.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Rippey v Fredin

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Marcinowski*	*Apteker*	*Rippey*
	Pass	1◇	Pass
1♠	Pass	2◇	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♡*	Pass
6♡	Pass	6♠	All Pass

3♠ Forcing
4♡ Cue

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Narkiewicz	*Donde*	*Nowak*	*Stephens*
	Pass	1◇	Pass
1♠	Pass	2◇	Pass
2♡*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♡*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Dble
5◇*	Pass	6♣*	Pass
7♠	Pass	7NT	All Pass

2♡ Relay
4♡ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♣ 1/4 key card
5◇ ♠Q?
6♣ ♠Q+ ◇K or two others

That was worth 11 IMPs – the Polish pair were the only ones to bid a grand slam in the ALT Group.

New Amateurs v Uli

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Carletti	*Falk*	*Zanasi*	*Chechelash.*
—	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♢	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♡	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Dble
5♡*	Pass	6♠	All Pass

3♣ Game forcing
4♡ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♣ 1 key card
5♡ ♠Q?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mak	*Schuster*	*Wang*	*Primavera*
—	Pass	1♢*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♢	Pass
2♡*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1♢ 2+♢
2♡ Forcing

That was a surprise. It meant the loss of 11 IMPs.

3 pairs bid 7♠ in the OCBL Group while three stopped in game. Gustafsson found the threatening diamond lead, but with the suit 3-3 declarer could not be denied and 14 IMPs changed hands.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ K 10 8
♡ 6 5
♢ A K Q J 8 7 2
♣ 2

♠ J 9 5 4 3
♡ K J 8
♢ 9 6
♣ 10 3

♠ A 7 2
♡ 10 9 7
♢ 5 4 3
♣ 8 7 5 4

♠ 6
♡ A Q 4 3 2
♢ 10
♣ A K Q J 9 6

Rippey v Fredin

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Marcinowski*	*Apteker*	*Rippey*
		Pass	1♡
1♠	2♢*	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

East led the ♣5 so that was +1390.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Narkiewicz	*Donde*	*Nowak*	*Stephens*
		Pass	1♣*
1♠	2♣*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♢	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♢	Pass	4♡
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♡*
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

1♣ 11-13 balanced or 17+ any
2♣ Diamonds
3♣ 17+, 5+♣

East led the ♡9 so declarer took all the tricks and a couple of IMPs.

3 pairs stopped in game in the OCBL Group, one in the ALT.

Round 6

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A 7 3
♡ A K J 2
♢ K 6 2
♣ A K J

♠ K J 6 4
♡ 10 9 6
♢ Q J 9 5
♣ 5 2

♠ Q 5 2
♡ Q 8 7 4 3
♢ 3
♣ 9 8 4 3

♠ 10 9 8
♡ 5
♢ A 10 8 7 4
♣ Q 10 7 6

Uli v Crocodile

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moraru	*Schuster*	*Teodorescu*	*Primavera*
—	2♣*	Pass	2♢*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♢*	Pass	4NT*
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

2♣ Only forcing bid
2♢ Waiting
2NT 23/24
3♣ Modified Puppet
3♢ 1/2 four-card majors
4NT Quantitative

When East led the ♡4 declarer must have been optimistic, but when the diamonds did not behave there were only ten tricks, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Margiotta	*Barel*	*Zanasi*	*Katz*
—	2♣*	Pass	2♢*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♢*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♣ Strong
2♢ K+
3♣ Puppet
3♢ 1 or 2 four-card majors

Here the opening lead was the ♡3 and those same ten tricks added up to +630 and 11 IMPs.

Only one other pair bid a slam, Levinson and Shenkin trying 6♢ which finished four down and cost 12 IMPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 4 2
♡ K 8 3
♢ J 6
♣ 10 9 6 5 4 3

♠ Q J 8 3
♡ Q J 9 4 2
♢ —
♣ A J 7 2

♠ A K 10 7 6
♡ 10 7 6
♢ Q 8 7
♣ Q 8

♠ 9 5
♡ A 5
♢ A K 10 9 5 4 3 2
♣ K

Netbridge v Seligman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*La Haye*	*Pszczola*	*Verhoeve*
—	Pass	Pass	5♢
All Pass			

West led the ♣A and switched to the ♡Q. Declare had to lose two spades, and also lost a diamond when he took the second trick with dummy's king, two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Been	*Starkowski*	*de Haas*	*Kwiecien*
—	Pass	1♠	3♠*
4♣*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

3♠ Looking for a spade stopper
4♣ Spade fit

South led the ♢A and declarer was soon claiming 10 tricks, having allowed the defenders to score a heart ruff, +420 being worth 6 IMPs.

Uli v Crocodile

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moraru	*Schuster*	*Teodorescu*	*Primavera*
—	Pass	1♠	2♢
2NT*	Pass	4♠	5♢
5♠	All Pass		

When South led the ♢A an opportunity had been missed. However, having ruffed in dummy and cashed the ♠Q declarer played the ♡2 for the ten and ace. South played back the ♡5 for the jack, king and seven but North misread the situation and returned the ♣6, +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Margiotta	*Barel*	*Zanasi*	*Katz*
—	Pass	1♠	4♢
Dble*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led the ♢K and declarer ruffed, cashed the ♠Q and then played the ♡Q. Here the defenders took their heart ruff to gain an IMP.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ Q 6 3
♡ 10 5
♢ 10 6 2
♣ K Q 10 7 4

♠ A K 9
♡ Q J 9 8 3 2
♢ 7 4
♣ A 3

♠ 8 7 5 2
♡ 7 6
♢ A Q J 9 8 5
♣ J

♠ J 10 4
♡ A K 4
♢ K 3
♣ 9 8 6 5 2

Netbridge v Seligman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*La Haye*	*Pszczola*	*Verhoeve*
—	—	—	Pass
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♡	All Pass		

North led the ♣K and declarer won, ruffed a club and played a heart, finishing with 10 tricks, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Been	*Starkowski*	*de Haas*	*Kwiecien*
—	—	—	1♣*
1♡	2♣*	2♢	3♣
3♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
2♣ Non-forcing

When North led the ♣K declarer won, ruffed a club and played a heart. South won and switched to the ♠J, but declarer could organise the drawing of trumps and played for spades to be 3-3, dummy's eight taking care of a diamond.

Two pairs bid 4♡ in the OCBL Group, four in the ALT. Needless to say, no-one found a one of the leads that would have defeated 4♡.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Netbridge v Seligman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*La Haye*	*Pszczola*	*Verhoeve*
—	1♣	1♠	Dble*
Pass	2♡	Pass	2♠*
Dble	3♣	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

East led the ♠8 and when dummy's queen held declarer was soon claiming +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Been	*Starkowski*	*de Haas*	*Kwiecien*
—	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♡*	Pass	3♢*
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

1NT (14)15-17
2♡ Without 4♠
3♢ Agrees hearts

East led the ♣9 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a heart for the jack and ace, +480.

Jupiter v Yellow Cap

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	*Gustafsson*	*Thoresen*	*Nilsland*
—	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♠*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

3♠ Slam try for hearts
3NT Non-serious

East led the ♢10 and declarer was soon inscribing +980 onto the digital scorecard.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ekenberg	*Evenstad*	*Abragi*	*A Evenstad*
—	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♡*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	4♡*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♢*
Pass	6♡	All Pass	

3♡ Slam invite
3♠ Asks shortness
4♡ No shortage, no extras
4NT RKCB
5♢ 0-3 key cards

It was an honorable push – they were the only two pairs to bid the slam in either group!

Round 7

Netbridge's win over Seligman in the previous round had taken them to the top of the table in the OCBL Group, and it looked as if the two semifinal berths rested between those two and Friends.

Although ULi had lost in the previous round they still enjoyed a healthy lead in the ALT Group. In the penultimate round they faced second placed Rippey.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Rippey v Uli

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Margiotta	*Marcinowski*	*Zanasi*	*Rippey*
—	—	1♣	1♢
Pass	3NT		

East led the ♠8 for the jack, queen and king and when declarer did not divine the diamond position he had no hope of nine tricks, eventually finishing with seven, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Narkiewicz	*Schuster*	*Nowak*	*Primavera*
—	—	1♣*	1♢
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♢
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣
2♣ Forcing

East led the ♡4 for the jack and queen, but here too declarer did not pick up the diamonds, eventually going two down to flatten the board.

They were the only teams to bid 3NT in the ALT Group.

Harris v ECF Holding

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Harris	*Heiberg-E*	*Malhasyan*	*S Evenstad*
—	—	1♢*	Pass
Pass	1NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♢ 4+♢
1NT 12-14

East led the ♡4 for the jack and queen and declarer cashed the ♢K and followed it with a diamond to dummy's nine, easily recording nine tricks and +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	*Gross*	*Thoresen*	*Root*
—	—	1♢	Pass
Pass	1NT*	All Pass	

1NT 11-14

East led the ♠6 for the jack, queen and ace and declarer cashed the ♢K and continued with a diamond to the ten. When she cashed three more diamonds West pitched hearts so that was an easy +150, but a 10 IMP loss.

Whose evaluation do you agree with?

3 pairs tried 3NT in the OCBL Group, two of them collecting nine tricks.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Friends v Netbridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gast	*Mou*	*V Roosmalen*	*Han*
—	—	Pass	1♢*
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♣
All Pass			

1♢ 1+♢, 11-15
2♠ Both minors, up to invitational

West led the ♠5 for the jack and queen and declarer ruffed a heart and played a club for the jack and queen, easily recording 11 tricks, +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sheng	*V den Hoek*	*Huang*	*Gaillard*
—	—	Pass	1♣*
1♡	2♢	3♢*	Dble*
3♡	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			

1♣ 1+♣
3♢ Heart support, good hand
Dble 'I hope ♢A or ♢K'

West led the ♡A and declarer ruffed in dummy and played a club for the jack and king. When West switched to the ♠5 declarer took East's jack with the queen, ruffed a heart and cashed the ♣Q. There were no further problems, +400 and 6 IMPs.

3 pairs reached 5♣ in the OCBL Group, but six of the ALT pairs got there.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Friends v Netbridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gast	*Mou*	*V Roosmalen*	*Han*
—	—	—	Pass
1♢*	1♠	Dble*	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♢	All Pass

Declarer took North's spade lead with the ace, ruffed a spade and played a heart to the king. When a club to the king held declarer ruffed a club, ruffed a spade and ruffed a club with the ♢Q, North overruffing and exiting with a heart. Declarer took dummy's ace, ruffed a club high, and played the ♡10 which was now high, South having pitched the queen on the fourth round of spades. South ruffed with the ♢8 and exited with a club, declarer ruffing with the ♢7 for ten tricks, +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sheng	*V den Hoek*	*Huang*	*Gaillard*
—	—	—	Pass
1♢	1♠	Dble*	2♠
3♢	Pass	4♢	Pass
5♢	Dble	All Pass	

North led the ♠4 for the queen and ace and when declarer played the ♣5 North took the ace and switched to the ♡8, declarer winning with the ten and playing the ♢K. North took that and exited with the ♣3 for the nine, ten and a ruff. Declarer ruffed a spade, played a heart to the king and ruffed a spade. When declarer pitched a spade on the ♣K North ruffed and exited with a heart, locking declarer in dummy and ensuring a trick for the ♢J for two down, -500 and a 12 IMP swing . A dentist would have cashed the ♡A before playing the ♣K, saving a trick.

It proved to a low scoring round in the ALT Group, which suited Uli who were almost certain to advance. Rippey would need a win while hoping that Uli could defeat Crocodile by a big margin.

Things were tighter in the OCBL Group, with third placed Friends needing a helping hand.

Round 8

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ A 10 9 8 6 3
♡ 9 8 4
♢ 6 5
♣ A 8

♠ Q 7 5
♡ A Q 5 3
♢ A 7 4 3
♣ K 4

♠ K J 4
♡ J 6
♢ K J 2
♣ Q J 9 7 6

♠ 2
♡ K 10 7 2
♢ Q 10 9 8
♣ 10 5 3 2

Friends v Seligman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sheng	*Starkowski*	*Huang*	*Kwiecien*
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♡	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♢10 and declarer won with the jack and played a club for the king and ace, North returning the ♢6. Declarer won with dummy's ace, cashed the top clubs and then played a spade to the queen. When that held he played a heart for the jack and king, won the diamond return and played the ♠K, ensuring nine tricks, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Mou*	*Pszczola*	*Han*
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♡	1♠	Pass	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♠10 and declarer won with the queen and played the ♣K, North winning and playing the ♠A followed by the nine, trying to look like a man with an entry in hearts. Declarer won in dummy, played a diamond for the ten and ace and then tried a diamond to the jack, South winning and switching to the ♡7. Declarer went up with the ace and played a diamond to the king, establishing the seven as South had pitched a diamond. When declarer continued with the top clubs he had to go one down and lost 10 IMPs.

It was a challenging defence and the only occasion on which the contract was defeated.

In the ALT Group everyone was in 3NT and they all made it.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

♠ Q 10 4 2
♡ Q 7 6
♢ 3
♣ K Q J 10 9

♠ K J
♡ A 4 3
♢ K Q J 10 7 5 4
♣ 6

♠ A 9 7 6
♡ K J 10 2
♢ A 9
♣ 7 5 3

♠ 8 5 3
♡ 9 8 5
♢ 8 6 2
♣ A 8 4 2

Friends v Seligman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sheng	*Starkowski*	*Huang*	*Kwiecien*
		1♣*	Pass
1♢	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♢*	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♡*	Pass
6♢	All Pass		

1♣ 3+♣
2♢ Artificial game force
4♠ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♡ 2 key cards

North led the ♣K and continued with the queen, declarer ruffing, crossing to the ♢A and ruffing a club high. After drawing trumps declarer played the ♠A followed by the jack, North covering with the queen. Declarer won in dummy, ruffed a spade to reach this position:

♠ 10
♡ Q 7 6
♢ —
♣ —

♠ —
♡ A 4 3
♢ 10
♣ —

♠ 9
♡ K J 10
♢ —
♣ —

♠ —
♡ 9 8 5
♢ —
♣ A

If declarer cashes the ♢10 North must part with a heart, but declarer still has to guess if the squeeze has operated. In practice he didn't cash the last trump, playing a heart to the king and running the jack to go one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Mou*	*Pszczola*	*Han*
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♡	1♠	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♢6 and when declarer took seven rounds of the suit North parted with all his hearts, +720 and 13 IMPs that ended Friends hopes.

Uli v Crocodile

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zack	*Schuster*	*Pachtmann*	*Primavera*
—	—	1♣*	Pass
2♣*	Dble	Pass	Pass
3♢	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♣	Pass	6♢	All Pass

1♣ 2♣+
2♣ Game forcing with diamonds
3♠ Values

Declarer ruffed the second club and reached a similar ending to the one outlined above. He did cash the last trump, pitching the ♠9 when North discarded a heart and then cashed the ♡A, +1370.

Johan Bennet made it the same way.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Margiotta	*Liran*	*Zanasi*	*Perlmutter*
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♢*	Pass	1♡	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣
1♢ 3+♢

North led the ♣K and continued with the nine, South overtaking and returning a club, -100 and 16 massive IMPs.

Netbridge v ECF Holding

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	*V den Hoek*	*Thoresen*	*Gaillard*
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♢	Pass	1♡	Pass
2♢*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♢	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♢ Artificial game force

South found the lead of the ♣4 and the defenders cashed out for one down.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gast	*Heiberg-E*	*V Roosmalen*	*S Evenstad*
—	—	1♣*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♢*	Pass
2♡*	Pass	3♡	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♢	Pass	4NT	All Pass

1♣ 1+♣, non forcing
2♣ 6♢, 4-7 or game forcing
2♢ Non forcing relay, maximum 17
2♡ Values
3♠ Cue

South led the ♠3 and declarer finished with 12 tricks, +690 and 13 IMPs.

With only two deals remaining it looked like Seligman would be joining Netbridge in the semi-final.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Netbridge v ECF Holding

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	*V den Hoek*	*Thoresen*	*Gaillard*
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
1♡	Dble*	Pass	1♠
2♢	4♠	5♢	Dble
All Pass			

1♣ 1+♣
Dble Spades

North led the ♣3 for the queen and ace and played a diamond to the ace getting the bad news. It was impossible to avoid the loss of three tricks, one down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gast	*Heiberg-E*	*V Roosmalen*	*S Evenstad*
—	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

East led the ♡3 for the dummy's queen and declarer cashed the ♠A and played a heart for the king and ace, ruffed a heart, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, cashed the ♠Q, ruffed a diamond and claimed, +420 and 9 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Netbridge v ECF Holding

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	*V den Hoek*	*Thoresen*	*Gaillard*
—	—	1♣*	Dble
Pass	2♣*	3♣	3♡
All Pass			

2♣ Forcing

The defence started with two rounds of clubs, declarer ruffing in dummy and playing a heart for the king and ace followed by three rounds of diamonds, easily making nine tricks, +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gast	*Heiberg-E*	*V Roosmalen*	*S Evenstad*
—	—	1♣*	1♡
Dble*	2♣*	3♣	3♢*
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

1♣ 1+♣, non forcing
Dble 4♠
2♣ Good raise
3♢ Last Train

A club tot he ace was followed by the ♠8, declarer taking West's queen with dummy's ace and playing a heat to the ace. A club ruff was followed by a second heart and the defenders could take only two trumps, +620 and 10 IMPs that meant ECF Holding overtook Netbridge at the last gasp the latter having enough to stay ahead of Seligman.

In the ALT Group, although Crocodile lost to Uli, they joined their opponents in the semi-final as Rippey were defeated by New Amateurs.

Bridge NEWS

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

WBF PRESIDENT(S)

From the WBF website:

After twelve years in office, Gianarrigo Rona (pictured right) is stepping down as President, with Jan Kamras (left) taking up the challenge of the Presidency from 1st January.

Gianarrigo was elected President in 2009, taking over from the tour de force that was the Presidency of José Damiani. He has led the WBF through 12 years, travelling extensively to develop excellent relationships with the member NBOs, building a strong financial foundation, embracing new technology and working closely with his colleagues to organise some truly memorable Championships.

Gianarrigo has also had to face many challenges during his time in office, including the pandemic and its devastating impact not only for bridge but for people everywhere. He has had to contend with cheating scandals and, of course, the war in Ukraine. Through it all he has been supported, not only by his colleagues on the Executive Council, the WBF Committees and his appointed staff, but also by his delightful wife, Cippi.

It is unsurprising that he has been unanimously elected as President Emeritus, an office which he will take up on 1st January. We wish him time for relaxation with his family as he hands the baton to his successor, the new WBF President Jan Kamras.

Jan Kamras is no stranger to a Presidency, having been President of the EBL for four years from 2018.

Jan is greatly looking forward to the new challenge and leading the WBF onward with fresh ideas and exciting, interesting plans for the future, in close collaboration with the members of the Executive Council and the new Committees.

His plans will include a more focused approach to development and promotion of bridge, especially among the youth, by encouraging and supporting, financially and otherwise, local and regional projects in the NBOs and the Zones.

Among other things, Jan also intends to continue the active fight against cheating, increase efficiency and transparency in the organisation, update and modernise the WBF Statutes and other regulations, institute measures making it more attractive for NBOs to host WBF Championships and, at the same time, ensure that the WBF remains relevant in the eyes of the players.

The WBF would like to express its appreciation to the many bridge players who support the organisation and without whom our efforts are worthless. We look forward to working with you in the coming months as we face the future together in 2023.

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 5

Seligman	20 VPs 54 IMPs	0 VPs 0 IMPs	ECF Holding
Netbridge	18.58 VPs 43 IMPs	1.42 VPs 8 IMPs	Scorway
Jupiter	12.51 VPs 19 IMPs	7.49 VPs 12 IMPs	Yellow Cap
Friends	6.86 VPs 16 IMPs	13.14 VPs 25 IMPs	Harris

ROUND 6

Netbridge	15.52 VPs 24 IMPs	4.48 VPs 6 IMPs	Seligman
Yellow Cap	7.82 VPs 14 IMPs	12.18 VPs 20 IMPs	ECF Holding
Scorway	9.23 VPs 14 IMPs	10.77 VPs 16 IMPs	Friends
Harris	14 VPs 18 IMPs	6 VPs 6 IMPs	Jupiter

ROUND 7

Seligman	VPs IMPs	VPs IMPs	Yellow Cap
Friends	VPs IMPs	VPs IMPs	Netbridge
ECF Holding	VPs IMPs	VPs IMPs	Harris
Jupiter	VPs IMPs	VPs IMPs	Scorway

ROUND 8

Netbridge	6 VPs 27 IMPs	14 VPs 39 IMPs	ECF Holding
Seligman	13.43 VPs 32 IMPs	6.57 VPs 22 IMPs	Friends
Scorway	6.86 VPs 11 IMPs	13.14 VPs 20 IMPs	Yellow Cap
Harris	8.5 VPs 16 IMPs	11.5 VPs 20 IMPs	Jupiter

GROUP ALT

ROUND 5

Rippey	18.71 VPs 40 IMPs	1.29 VPs 4 IMPs	Fredin
Cantor	12.18 VPs 37 IMPs	7.82 VPs 31 IMPs	Reynolds
Crocodile	18.15 VPs 44 IMPs	1.85 VPs 12 IMPs	Peanuts
New Amateurs	7.17 VPs 19 IMPs	12.83 VPs 27 IMPs	Uli

ROUND 6

Fredin	9.61 VPs 13 IMPs	10.39 VPs 14 IMPs	Cantor
Peanuts	11.85 VPs 13 IMPs	8.15 VPs 8 IMPs	Rippey
Reynolds	3.61 VPs 11 IMPs	16.39 VPs 33 IMPs	New Amateurs
Uli	6.86 VPs 5 IMPs	13.14 VPs 14 IMPs	Crocodile

ROUND 7

Peanuts	6.57 VPs 12 IMPs	13.43 VPs 22 IMPs	Fredin
New Amateurs	11.14 VPs 14 IMPs	8.86 VPs 11 IMPs	Cantor
Rippey	4.25 VPs 7 IMPs	15.75 VPs 26 IMPs	Uli
Crocodile	15.52 VPs 26 IMPs	4.48 VPs 8 IMPs	Reynolds

ROUND 8

Uli	13.72 VPs 34 IMPs	6.28 VPs 23 IMPs	Crocodile
Rippey	7.17 VPs 21 IMPs	12.83 VPs 29 IMPs	New Amateurs
Cantor	16.97 VPs 39 IMPs	3.03 VPs 14 IMPs	Peanuts
Fredin	14.54 VPs 26 IMPs	5.46 VPs 12 IMPs	Reynolds

BUTLER RANKINGS

GROUP OCBL

1	M. Been,	20	2.65
	O. de Haas,	20	2.65
3	T. Yang,	30	1.07
4	J. Fang,	40	0.85
5	A. Bremer,	30	0.73
	N. Verhoef,	30	0.73
7	T. Lie,	40	0.73
	E. Fasting,	40	0.73
9	B. Spears,	40	0.7
10	S. Ekenberg,	20	0.65
11	E. Eide,	20	0.55
12	M. Huber,	20	0.4
	M. Van der Starre,	20	0.4
	M. la Haye,	20	0.4
	N. Verhoeve,	20	0.4
16	M. Seligman,	80	0.38
	J. Pszczola,	80	0.38
	G. Brekka,	40	0.38
	J. Olsen,	40	0.38
20	M. Kwiecien,	80	0.35
	W. Starkowski,	80	0.35
	G. Wang,	20	0.35
	N. Evenstad,	40	0.35
	S. Evenstad,	40	0.35
25	A. Morath,	50	0.34
26	H. Bogen,	20	0.3
27	V. Gaillard,	20	0.25
28	S. Thoresen,	80	0.24
29	W. Mou,	50	0.16
	R. Trendafilov,	50	0.16
	V. Isporski,	50	0.16
32	Y. Han,	40	0.15
33	A. Abragi,	70	0.11
34	A. Mayo,	50	0.06
35	E. Hansson,	20	0.05
	J. Ovesen,	40	0.05
37	T. Tiholov,	10	0
38	M. Sheng,	80	-0.13
39	A. Andersson,	10	-0.2
	F. Asplund Sivelind,	10	-0.2
41	D. Muller,	50	-0.22
42	J. Van Den Hoek,	30	-0.23
43	M. Zomer,	20	-0.25
	N. Kvangraven,	20	-0.25
45	W. Huang,	60	-0.28
46	B. Nedev,	80	-0.35
	P. King,	80	-0.35
	T. Mathews,	20	-0.35
49	K. Gustafsson,	40	-0.38
50	I. Lichtenstein,	20	-0.4
51	S. Gross,	50	-0.44
52	S. Root,	60	-0.47
53	K. Bouwen,	30	-0.57
54	T. Asad,	40	-0.57
55	B. Shenkin,	80	-0.6
	N. Igoe,	10	-0.6
	O. Saur,	20	-0.6
58	M. Nilsland,	40	-0.83
59	B. van Roosmalen,	20	-1.05
	H. Hjort Warlenius,	20	-1.05
	H. Gast,	20	-1.05
62	J. Harris,	50	-1.14
63	S. Levinson,	80	-1.16
64	T. Nilsmark,	20	-1.3
65	E. Malhasyan,	40	-1.43

GROUP ALT

1	Bogdan Marina	20	2.064
=	Ionut Coldea	20	2.064
3	Gabriella Olivieri	40	1.704
=	Gianna Arrigoni	40	1.704
5	Fredrik Jarlvik	40	1.093
=	Johan Bennet	40	1.093
7	Saverio Margiotta	40	0.993
8	Nathalie Saada	10	0.986
9	Gabriele Zanasi	50	0.937
10	Michael Barel	40	0.911
=	Paz Katz	40	0.911
12	Kwok-Fai Mak	20	0.736
=	Wei-Fei Wang	20	0.736
14	Alessandro Carletti	10	0.714
15	David Chechelashvili	70	0.68
=	Allan Falk	70	0.68
17	Inon Liran	30	0.586
=	Arik Perlmutter	30	0.586
19	Ilan Bareket	20	0.536
20	Michael Rippey	80	0.395
21	Kamil Nowak	60	0.369
22	Federico Primavera	70	0.351
=	Walter Schuster	70	0.351
24	Piotr Marcinowski	60	0.198
25	Samantha Punch	50	0.163
=	Stephen Peterkin	50	0.163
27	Jan Clemmensson	40	0.111
28	Krzysztof Buras	40	0.107
29	Assaf Lengy	10	0.086
30	Grzegorz Narkiewicz	80	0.084
31	Leif Nygaard	30	-0.152
32	Dan Moraru	30	-0.257
=	Cornel Teodorescu	30	-0.257
34	Cédric Lorenzini	80	-0.277
=	Quentin Robert	80	-0.277
36	David Yang	70	-0.286
=	Jui Wang	70	-0.286
38	Peter Fredin	80	-0.293
39	Yaniv Zack	20	-0.386
=	Ron Pachtman	20	-0.386
41	Henrik Kruse Petersen	60	-0.476
42	Hennie Fick	40	-0.504
43	Bernard Donde	80	-0.536
44	John Jones	20	-0.55
=	Mark Bartusek	20	-0.55
46	Rob Stephens	40	-0.568
47	Tom Reynolds	50	-0.677
=	Lance Kerr	50	-0.677
49	Alon Apteker	40	-0.696
50	Bill Hall	40	-0.739
=	Randy Howard	40	-0.739
52	Pierre Franceschetti	80	-0.784
=	Hilda Setton	80	-0.784
54	Stig Werdelin	30	-0.8
55	Hank Youngerman	30	-1.567
56	Alan Douglas	40	-1.611
57	Karen Allison	30	-1.752
58	Paddy Murphy	10	-2.643
=	Mark Roderick	10	-2.643