Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 188. Wednesday, 14 December, 2022

LET IT SNOW!

The OCBL December Cup has started yesterday.

After 5 Rounds, team **Schaltz** (is leading the ranking (63.30 VPs). They are followed by **Seligman** (56.58 VPs) and **Yellow Cup** (52.28 VPs).

Meanwhile, ALT and OCBL are preparing the last event of year 2022!

Check the information about the ALT-OCBL Grand Final at page 2.

MON-TUE SWISS

Ranking after Round 5

1	Schaltz	63.3
2	Seligman	56.58
3	Yellow Cap	52.28
4	Greenberg	45.18
5	New Amateurs	36.28
6	Peanuts	33.89
7	Harris	30.8
8	Fredin	29.64
9	Netbridge	28.52
10	Scotland	23.53

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 5 . 16.00 CET / 10.00 a.m. EST

Schaltz	VS	Harris
Seligman	VS	New Amateurs
Scotland	VS	Peanuts
Yellow Cap	VS	Netbridge
Fredin	VS	Greenberg

Round 6. 17.30 CET / 11.30 a.m. EST

Schaltz	VS	Seligman
Peanuts	VS	Harris
New Amateurs	VS	Yellow Cap
Greenberg	VS	Scotland
Netbridge	VS	Fredin

Round 7. 19.00 CET / 1.00 p.m. EST

Schaltz	VS	Peanuts
Yellow Cap	VS	Seligman
Harris	VS	Greenberg
Fredin	VS	New Amateurs
Scotland	VS	Netbridge

Round 8. 20.30 CET / 2.30 p.m. EST

Schaltz	VS	Yellow Cap
Greenberg	VS	Peanuts
Seligman	VS	Fredin
Netbridge	VS	Harris
New Amateurs	VS	Scotland

ALT - OCBL GRAND FINAL

27 - 29 December, 2022

Reserved to the top 16 teams of the ALT OCBL Ranking

12 Rounds x 10 Boards

Tuesday, 27 December
R1 - R4
CET 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30
EST 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Wednesday, 28 December
R5 - R8
CET 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30
EST 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Thursday, 29 December
SF/F
CET 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30
EST 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG

Bridge NEWS

EUROPEAN WINTER GAMES 2023

SCHEDULE & PRIZE POOL

The European Winter Games will be organised by EBL in Tignes, in the French Alps near the Italian border on **21 to 27 April 2023**. The venue will still be Tignespace, a new convention centre in the town.

Schedule:

Date	Event
Friday April 21	Les Etincelles Cup (Swiss Qualification Rounds 1-5)
Saturday April 22	Les Etincelles Cup (Swiss Qualification Rounds 6-10)
Sunday April 23	Les Etincelles Cup (Round of 32) GCK Trophy (Qualification)
Monday April 24	Les Etincelles Cup (Round of 16) GCK Trophy (Qualification)
Tuesday April 25	Les Etincelles Cup (Quarterfinal) GCK Trophy (Semifinals A & B)
Wednesday April 26	Les Etincelles Cup (Semifinal) GCK Trophy (Semifinals A & B)
Thursday April 27	Les Etincelles Cup (Final) GCK Trophy (Final A & B)

Prize List:

LES ETINCELLES CUP

- EBL Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals
- Trophy
- EBL Masterpoints
- Cash Prizes
  Winner: 24.000 €
  Second: 12.000 €
  Third: 9.000 €
  Fourth: 6.000 €
  5th to 8th: 2.400 € each
  9th to 16th: 1.200 € each

GCK TROPHY

- EBL Masterpoints
- Cash Prizes
  Final A Winner: 6.000 €
  Second: 4.000 €
  Third: 2.000 €
  Final B
  Winner: 2.000 €
  Second: 1.000 €

Rounds 1 & 2

by Brian Senior

Round 1

The OCBL December Cup would see 10 teams battle it out for the final OCBL Cup of 2022. The teams would play 8 x 10-board matches over two days to decide which four would contest Thursday's semi-finals and final, each of which would comprise 2 x 10-board segments.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Netbridge v Greenberg

West	North	East	South
Vallet	*V Roosmalen*	*Bedouet*	*Gast*
–	3♣	Pass	3♢
Dble	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Zomer	*Tokay*	*Bouwen*	*Greenberg*
–	Pass	Pass	1♢
Dble	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

For NETBRIDGE, van Roosmalen opened 3♣ as dealer, and aggressive way to start the day. Had that been passed round to Vallet, West, he would have had an awkward call due to having the wrong shortage for a double but also being far from ideal for a 3NT overcall. However, Gast responded 3♢, a much better trump suit than her partner's, and that improved things considerably for Vallet, who now did have the right shortage for a take-out double. Bedouet responded with a jump to 4♠, and that was that. Bedouet won the diamond lead with the ace and led the queen of spades from hand. Gast won that and played a second diamond, but Bedouet could ruff that, cash the king of spades, and smile when the jack appeared on his left. A low club towards the ten established a third club winner. Van Roosmalen won the queen and returned a club, and Bedouet had 11 tricks for a comfortabel +450.

For GREENBERG, Tokay did not open the rather threadbare pre-empt, so there were two passes to Greenberg, who opened 1♢. That meant that Zomer had the perfect shape for a take-out double and, when Bouwen jumped to 2♠ in response, Zomer raised to game. Bouwen too won the diamond lead but then, with no clue as to the club layout, ran the ♣10 at trick two, losing to the queen. Tokay did not give his partner an immediate ruff, instead returning a low heart to the king and ace. As Tokay expected, Bouwen now attempted to take a heart discard on the clubs, only for the next club to be ruffed. There was the ♡Q to come, and the ♠A, so the contract was a quick one down for –50 and 11 IMPs to GREENBERG.

Had Tokay given his partner the ruff at trick three, declarer could then have won the heart return and played a third club to get rid of his heart loser. As that would hav ebeen ruffed with the trump ace, there would only have been three tricks for the defence and the contract would hav ebeen made, so well defended by Tokay.

In SCHALTZ v FREDIN, neither North opened the bidding and both Easts declared 4♠ after the normal diamond lead.

Aagaard, for SCHALTZ, won the diamond and ran the nine of hearts at trick two. Fredin won the queen and returned a diamond. Aaagaard ruffed in dummy and led a spade to the queen and ace, won the club return with the ace, and cashed the king of spades. He continued with ace and another heart, ruffing, then passed the ♣10 to the queen, and had the rest for +420.

For FREDIN, Bennet played on trumps at trick two and, after ruffing the diamond return, laid down the ♠K and, when the jack appeared, gave up a club so had an overtrick; +450 and 1 IMP to FREDIN.

In YELLOW CAP v SCOTLAND, Smith, for Scotland, opened 3♣ and that ran round to Abragi, who doubled. Gustafsson responded only 3♠ but Abragi raised him to game. Gustafsson wion the diamond lead, played the queen of spades, then ruffed the diamond return. Now he cashed the ace of clubs before leading a low club to the ten and ruff. He ruffed the diamond return, cashed the king of clubs for a heart discard, and ruffed the last club. There was still the ♠K to take care of the last diamond loser so the contract was made with an overtrick for +450.

For YELLOW CAP, Maya Lo passed as dealer and Valentine opened 2♠, spades and a minor. Andrea Lo overcalled 3♢, and O'Brien bid 4♠. Valentine won the diamond lead and ran the ten of clubs at trick two, losing to the queen. Maya did not see the danger of giving the immediate ruff, and returned a club. Andrea ruffed and played a diamond, but Valentine ruffed that and took a heart pitch on the ace of clubs, after which there was only the trump ace to be lost; +420 but 1 IMP to YELLOW CAP.

In NEW AMATEURS v PEANUTS, Wenfei Wang, for NEW AMATEURS, was another to open 2♠ in second seatSouth, Setton, overcalled 3♢ then doubled Mak's raise to 4♠ when it came back round to her. Setton led the usual diamond and Wang won and ran the ten of clubs to the queen. Franceschetti returned a club for Setton to ruff but, as we have seen, that wasn't good enough. Setton switched to a heart, but Wang won the ace and discarded her remaining heart on the ♣A; 10 tricks for +590.

In the other room, there were two passes to South, who opened 1♢ and soon found himself on lead to the spade game. Tan led the singleton club, so Bessis won the ace and crossed to hand with a diamond to lead the first spade towards dummy. Tan rose with the ace and forced dummy with a diamond. Bessis ruffed, cashed the king of spades, and led a low club towards his ten and had 11 tricks for +450 but 4 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

And finally, HARRIS v SELIGMAN. For HARRIS, Tiholov did not open the North hand, and Starkowski/Kwiecien soon got to 4♠, against which Trendafilov led a diamond. Kwiecien won the diamond and led a low spade. Trendafilov took his ace and played a diamond, so Kwiecien ruffed, cashed the king of spades, then played ace followed by a low club, and had 11 tricks for +450.

At the other table, Hintertan too passed as dealer and, after a 1♢ opening from Seligman in third seat, E/W stopped in 3♠, where Malhasyan made 11 tricks for +200 but 6 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Also in Match One were these two slam deals.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Peanuts

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Loo*	*Bessis*	*Tan*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♢	2♠	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Mak	*Franceschetti*	*Wang*	*Setton*
–	–	Pass	Pass
1♣	2♠	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Six Diamonds is a great contract but, after an initial pass from East, the natural 1♢ auction and the strong 1♣ auction both look quite normal, and end up in 3NT without anyone having done anything obviously wrong. The board was flat at +630.

Harris v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Harris	*Hintertan*	*Malhasyan*	*Seligman*
–	–	1♢	Pass
1♡	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
6♢	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	*Tiholov*	*Kwiecien*	*Trendafilov*
–	–	1♣	Pass
2♢	2♠	3♢	Pass
3♡	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Here both Easts opened the bidding.

Kwiecien's Polish club collected a game-forcing 2♢ response, but this didn't promise as much as would have an old-fashioned strong jump shift in natural systems, and Kwiecien was certainly not going to be the one to go beyond 3NT after

opening a flat 11-count. He too made 10 tricks for +630.

Malhasyan opened 1♢ and Harris started with a quiet 1♡. He then cuebid at his next turn and, when Malhasyan could bid 3NT, suggesting that Harris's spade honour might be useful after all, Harris just blasted the small slam; +1370 and 12 IMPs to HARRIS.

Schaltz v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Becklen	*L-Madsen*	*Benett*	*Lipman*
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♡	3♠	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Schultz	*Fredin*	*Aagaard*	*Lahrmann*
–	–	1♢	3♣
3♢	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♢	Pass
6♢	All Pass		

There were pre-empts from both North and South in this match.

In one room, Lahrmann overcalled 3♣ with the South cards, trading on the favourable vulnerability. Schaltz bid a forcing 3♢ then basically drove to slam; +1370.

Lipmann did not come in over 1♣ in the other room, but Lund-Madsen out-pre-empted all the other Norths by overcalling 3♠. That ran back to Becklen, who doubled, and Benett left it in. Benett led a heart, Becklen winning the king and switching to the king of spades then to the nine of clubs for the king and ace. Benett went back to hearts now, Becklen winning the ace and cashing the ace of diamonds then continuing with the ♢Q. That was ruffed in dummy, and there were just two spades to be lost now, the last diamond going away on the queen of clubs; down three for –500 and 13 IMPs to SCHALTZ.

Only the two pairs we have seen managed to get to the cold slam.

Abragi and Gustafsson did well to collect +800 against 2♠ doubled – coming to two tricks more than we saw at Lund-Madsen's table. Gustafsson led a heart, Abragi winning the king, cashing the ♠K and switching to a club for the king and ace. Gustafsson cashed the ace of spades then led a second heart and, after collecting his ruff, there were three diamonds to cash – nicely done.

There was one 5♢+1, the rest playing in 3NT for +630.

Board 7. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Harris v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Harris	*Hintertan*	*Malhasyan*	*Seligman*
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♢	Pass
6NT	Pass	7♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Staarkowski	*Tiholov*	*Kwiecien*	*Trendafilov*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

It's best not to dwell on the Harris/Malhasyan auction for too long – obviously a wheel fell off somewhere, and Harris drifted down three for –300.

Starkowski opened a Polish club, showed the strong variety with a spade suit, then signed off in 3NT on his near minimum. Kwiecien, with substantial extras, raised to 6NT.

Left to himself, declarer has to pick the right black suit on which to play if he is to succeed; a losing spade finesse leads to down one, while a losing club finesse still produces 12 tricks. I suppose that declarer plays on clubs because of the extra chance of ♣10-9 doubleton onside?

Anyway, Starkowski was put to the test immediately when Tiholov led the four of clubs. Starkowski put in the jack and, when that lost, could have put to a second test by a spade switch before he had been able to test the club break – but Trendafilov switched to a diamond. Starkowski could win that and try the clubs, with spades in reserve if clubs were not coming in. They were, of course, so he had 12 tricks for +1440 and 17 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

New Amateurs v Peanuts

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Loo*	*Bessis*	*Tan*
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♡	Pass	6♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Mak	*Franceschetti*	*Wang*	*Setton*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♡	Pass
4♠	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

Lorenzini's 3♡ rebid showed 16+ with six spades and Bessis now tried a natural 4♣. Lorenzini signed off in 4♠ but Bessis went on to slam via Key-card. The two trump losers meant that 6♠ was down one for –100.

Mak started with a strong club, showed rebiddable spades over the natural positive response, then co-operated with a diamond cuebid before signing off in game. Wang jumped to 5NT – pick a slam – with Mak choosing spades. Should he perhaps have opted for 6NT? Well, maybe, but clubs might need to be ruffed out, making 6♠ look the better choice. Mak too was down one for –100 and a flat board.

Schaltz v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Becklen	*L-Madsen*	*Benett*	*Lipman*
–	–	–	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♢	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♣	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Schultz	*Fredin*	*Aagaard*	*Lahrmann*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♢	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♢	Pass	5♡	Pass
5♠	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Becklen opened 1♠, made a forcing rebid of 3♠, then cuebid at his next turn. Benett asked for key cards then for the trump queen. When Becklen denied that card, Benett dashed Lund-Madsen's hopes by opting for 6♣ rather than 6♠. Benett won the diamond lead in dummy and took the losing club finesse. However, when he won the diamond continuation in hand and cashed the top clubs, the news was good, and he had 12 tricks for +1370.

Schultz opened a strong club, showed the spades, continued with 2NT, then the auction would appear to have become artificial. When Becklen became declarer in 6NT, Fredin doubled on the strength of his spade holding, but all that did was to confirm that Becklen would play on clubs rather than spades. He soon had 12 tricks for +1680 and 7 IMPs instead of the 2 IMPs he would have gained without the double.

Three pairs bid and made 6NT, once doubled, and two made 6♣. Six Spades failed three rimes, and 7♠ once. There was one pair who sopped in 3NT for +660.

Round 2

Board 4 of Round 2 saw all 10 West players declaring a heart game – two of them, alas, playing in 5♡, where there were three top losers.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

In SCHALTZ v NETBRIDGE, Zomer, for NETBRIDGE, was down two in 5♡ doubled for –500.

At the other table, Rasmussen was a level lower after the auction: 1♡ – (Pass) – 3♣ – (3♠) – 4♡. Van Roosmalen led the eight of spades to his partner's queen, and Gast switched to the jack of clubs. Rasmussen won the ace, cashed the queen and jack of hearts, then played ace and ruffed a diamond, bringing down the king, king then ruffed a club, and pitched a spade on the queen of diamonds. Continuing the crossruff soon resulted in 11 tricks for +650 and 15 IMPs to SCHALTZ.

In SCOTLAND v FREDIN, Fredin played in 5♡, down two for –200.

O'Brien was a level lower after the auction: 1♡ – (Pass) – 3♢ – (3♡) – 4♡. Ek's two-suited overcall was very revealing. Westman led the eight of spades, Ek taking three of those as Westman pitched a club. Now Ek switched to the queen of clubs. O'Brien won the ace and cashed the ace and queen of hearts before leading a

diamond to the ace then ruffing a diamond. The appearance of the king meant that O'Brien only needed one club ruff, so he drew a third round of trumps, cashed the ♢Q, and ruffed his last club in dummy; +620 and 13 IMPs to SCOTLAND.

In GREENBERG v NEW AMATEURS, Falk, for NEW AMATEURS, played 4♡ on the auction: 1♡ – (Pass) – 2NT – (Dble) – 4♡. The take-out double suggested where the bulk of the missing high cards could be found, but was less revealing as to South's distribution than a two-suited overcall. Tokay led a spade and Greenberg won the queen and cashed two more. Tokay discarded a club, and Greenberg duly switched to the ♣Q. Falk won the ace , cashed the queen and jack of hearts, then attempted to cash the ♣K. That was down one for –100. The lack of a two-suited overcall made this look a normal line of play after South had turned up with five strong spades.

Andrea Lo made the two-suited overcall of Bedouet's 2NT heart raise, and Vallet played in 4♡ on the usual spade lead. Lo cashed two more spades, Maya Lo discarding a club like everyone else, and Andrea switching to a club like everyone else. Vallet won the club and cashed the queen of hearts, then played ace and another diamond, and the fall of the king meant that his troubles were over; +620 and 12 IMPs to GREENBERG.

We move on to HARRIS v YELLOW CAP.

Harris played 4♡ after a two-suited overcall on his right. Three rounds of spades were followed by the inevitable club switch. Harris won, cashed the king and queen of hearts, then tried the second top club, conceding a ruff for down one and –100.

Nilsmark, also having seen a two-suited overcall, received the defence of three rounds of spades but, misreading the position totally, Tiholov ruffed his partner's third spade winner to lead a diamond through. Nilsmark won the ace and needed only to draw two rounds of trumps, after which he could take two club ruffs in comfort for +620 and 12 IMPs to YELLOW CAP.

In PEANUTS v SELIGMAN, Setton overcalled 3♠ over Kwiecien's 2NT heart raise, thereby concealing the two-suited nature of her hand. Franceschetti led a spade, Setton won and cashed two more, and Franceschetti discarded a diamond! Now Starkowski could win the switch of the ♣Q, cash the ace and queen of trumps, then play the other top club safely, after which two club ruffs brought his total to 10 for +620.

And lastly, Seligman made a take-out double of the 2NT heart raise, so he too had concealed the two-suited nature of his hand. Three rounds of spades saw Lair pitch a club and Seligman switch to the ♣Q. Expecting the ♢K to be offside for the double, Lorenzini played ace of diamonds then ruffed one, and would have had time therefore to ruff out king to three had this proved to be necessary. When the king fell doubleton, he could draw trumps and claim the rest for +620 and no swing.

Interestingly, none of the declarers who knew from the bidding that South was likely to five-five in the black suits judged the diamond finesse to be their best option. They presumably expected the vulnerable three-level overcall to be s strong hand.

It is rarely a wise move for both N/S and E/W to declare with the same trump suit, unless perhaps at the one level. There was plenty of action on Board7, and N/S did try 3♠ in one match, while E/W in another tried 4♠.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Scotland v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Smith*	*Lahrmann*	*Bennett*
–	–	–	Pass
1♢	1♡	Dble	3♡
Pass	4♡	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
O'Brien	*Westman*	*Valentine*	*Ek*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♡	Dble	3♡
Pass	4♡	5♣	Dble
All Pass			

Four Hearts is, of course, cold on the N/S cards, with just the three top red tricks to be lost. Valentine did very much the right thing, therefore, when he saved in 5♣, which was doubled for just one down and –200.

I don't know what was going through Lahrman's head when he bid 4♠. Was his argument that the negative double had shown exactly four spades, so that he couldn't possibly have a 4♠ bid based solely on spades. Therefore, said Humpty Dumpty, I must also have long clubs! Well, if so, it was too clever for Fredin, who has also been known to make a clever bid or two in his time – or perhaps Peter was happy to play 4♠ unless it got doubled? Anyway, there was no double, and 4♠ became the final contract. Lahrman got out for down two and –200, so the board was just another 'dull' push.

Peanuts v Seligman

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Lair*	*Bessis*	*Seligman*
–	–	–	Pass
1♢	1♡	Dble	3♡
Pass	4♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

There is more than one way to play a 2NT overcall of a minor-suit opening. The popular way is for it to show the two lowest unbid suits, as intended by Franceschetti, but there are those who play 2NT as showing the minors over a major-suit but the majors over a minor suit. It looks as though Setton is in the second camp. Three Spades was no fun, especially after declarer worked out that she was cold for 4♡. Three Spades was down three for –300.

Meanwhile, Lorenzini's 1♢ opening prevented any thought of a two-suited overcall, and Lair bid a simple 1♡ then went on to game facing a pre-emptive raise. Lorenzini doubled that on the way out, only to find that he had three top tricks and there were no more coming; +790 and 14 IMPs to SELIGMAN.

Schaktz v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Zomer	*L-Madsen*	*Bouwen*	*Lipman*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♡	Dble	3♡
Pass	4♡	5♣	Pass
Pass	5♡	Pass	Pass Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Rasmussen	*v Roosmalen*	*Bilde*	*Gast*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♡	Dble	3♣
Pass	4♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Gast showed a Mixed Raise with her jump to 3♣, and van Roosmalen went on to game, Rasmussen doubling but having only three tricks; +790.

Lipman made the pre-emptive heart raise and Lund-Madsen too went on to game. Now, however, Bouwen found the excellent save in 5♣. Even better – rather than settle for a dubious penalty, Lund-Madsen took the push to 5♡. From her perspective, facing a pre-emptive raise, she might be saving against a making 5♣. Not this time; Zomer doubled 5♡ and that was down one, just as 5♣ would have been. Minus 200 meant 14 IMPs to NETBRIDGE.

ALT - OCBL GRAND FINAL

27 - 29 December, 2022

	CET	EDT
12 Rounds x 10 boards		
Tuesday, 27 December R1 - R4	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Wednesday, 28 December R5 - R8	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Thursday, 29 December SF/F	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

OCBL DECEMBER CUP

RESULTS

ROUND 1

Schaltz	19.76 VPs 48 IMPs	0.24 VPs 3 IMPs	Fredin
Netbridge	7.49 VPs 32 IMPs	12.51 VPs 39 IMPs	Greenberg
Yellow Cap	14.54 VPs 28 IMPs	5.46 VPs 14 IMPs	Scotland
New Amateurs	16.39 VPs 31 IMPs	3.61 VPs 9 IMPs	Peanuts
Seligman	15.05 VPs 38 IMPs	4.95 VPs 22 IMPs	Harris

ROUND 2

Schaltz	10.39 VPs 16 IMPs	9.61 VPs 15 IMPs	Netbridge
Scotland	10 VPs 18 IMPs	10 VPs 18 IMPs	Fredin
Greenberg	13.14 VPs 30 IMPs	6.86 VPs 21 IMPs	New Amateurs
Harris	6.28 VPs 20 IMPs	13.72 VPs 31 IMPs	Yellow Cap
Peanuts	2 VPs 1 IMPs	18 VPs 32 IMPs	Seligman

ROUND 3

Schaltz	16.18 VPs 26 IMPs	3.82 VPs 5 IMPs	Scotland
New Amateurs	10 VPs 26 IMPs	10 VPs 26 IMPs	Netbridge
Fredin	16.18 VPs 33 IMPs	3.82 VPs 12 IMPs	Harris
Seligman	4.95 VPs 8 IMPs	15.05 VPs 24 IMPs	Greenberg
Yellow Cap	8.5 VPs 10 IMPs	11.5 VPs 14 IMPs	Peanuts

ROUND 4

Schaltz	16.97 VPs 30 IMPs	3.03 VPs 5 IMPs	New Amateurs
Harris	15.75 VPs 24 IMPs	4.25 VPs 5 IMPs	Scotland
Netbridge	1.42 VPs 9 IMPs	18.58 VPs 44 IMPs	Seligman
Peanuts	16.78 VPs 38 IMPs	3.22 VPs 14 IMPs	Fredin
Greenberg	4.48 VPs 8 IMPs	15.52 VPs 26 IMPs	Yellow Cap