Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 189. Thursday, 15 December, 2022

SEMIFINALS!

It's time for Semifinals.
Team Seligman are facing team Schaltz, and team Yellow Cap are facing team Greenberg in the last chapter of the OCBL December Cup.
The remaining teams are playing a four round Swiss.

The Semifinalists:

SELIGMAN
Rodwell E. (bumportant)
Kwiecien M. (michal1)
Starkowski W. (wstarkowsk)
Seligman M. (mseligman)

SCHALTZ
Schaltz P. (PS_DK)
Schaltz D. (DS_DK)
Schaltz M. (m schaltz)
Christiansen S. (sac)
Sejr Nicolajsen J. (dentistdk)
Rasmussen H. (helle_r)
Bilde L. (Bilde)
Verhaegen M. (Marcel_ve)
Lund Madsen C. (christinas)
Lipman L. (laural)
Aagaard T. (thorvald)
Schultz S. (schultz112)

GREENBERG
Greenberg T. (Ted Greenb)
Tokay M. (tokay1975)
Vallet E. (rasko179)
Bedouet P. (pi420)

YELLOW CAP
Nilsland M. (Nilsland)
Abragi A. (AAbragi)
Nilsson A. (Andrea lo)
Andersson A. (ockra)
Hansson E. (HansEri1)
Wiberg E. (frejerik)
Asplund Sivelind F. (Filip AS)
Gustafsson K. (Klaragust)
Hallqvist L. (louiseha)
Nordqvist M. (Matteonord)
Nilsmark T. (tnilsmark)
Heed M. (Maya Lo)
Johansson Y. (yljo)
Mann C. (castor01)

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 CET / 10.00 a.m. EST

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

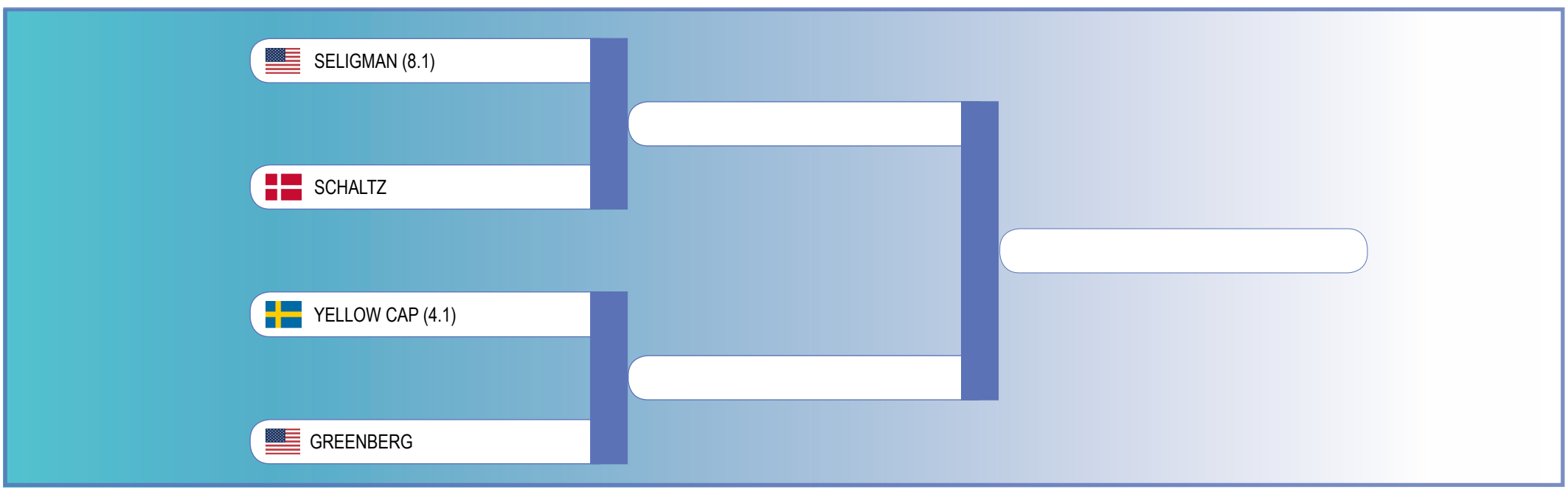
Round 10 / SF2. 17.30 CET / 11.30 a.m. EST

Round 11 / F1. 19.00 CET / 1.00 p.m. EST

Round 12 / F2. 20.30 CET / 2.30 p.m. EST

December Cup
Ranking after Round 8

1	Seligman	109.5
2	Yellow Cap	94.92
3	Greenberg	94.41
4	Schaltz	89.32
5	New Amateurs	82.22
6	Peanuts	79.61
7	Fredin	75.99
8	Netbridge	63.61
9	Harris	62.39
10	Scotland	48.03



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

2022 FALL NABC - Phoenix, Arizona

ACBL President Joann Glasson presents the Reisinger trophy to team captain Pierre Zimmermann and his teammates (from left): Sjoert Brink, Michal Klukowski, Fernando Piedra, Sebastiaan Drijver and Piotr Gawrys.

Winners of the Mixed Swiss Teams: Marion Michielsen, Per-Ola Cullin, cpt Joan Brody, Janice Seamon-Molson and Joel Wooldridge

Winners of the Soloway Knockout Teams (from left): Simon Cope, Kevin Rosenberg, Ishmael Del'Monte and Finn Kolesnik

First place in the Keohane North American Swiss Teams: Nikos Delimpaltadakis, Kiki Ward-Platt, cpt Franck Multon, Giacomo Percario, Vassilis Vroustis and Giovanni Donati

Winners of the Mitchell Open BAM: Jovanka Smederevac, John McAllister, Alexander Wernle and Sveinn Eriksson

Winners of the Blue Ribbon Pairs: Michal Klukowski and Jacek Kalita

Winners of the Whitehead Women's Pairs: Brenda Bryant and Pamela Nisbet

Super Senior Pairs champs Bruce Ferguson and Brenda Keller

Winners of the Nail Life Master Pairs: Kevin Dwyer and Shan Huang

Rounds 3, 4, 5 & 6

by Brian Senior

Round 3

Most of the field got to the excellent slam on Board 3.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Seligman v Greenberg

West	North	East	South
Vallet	*Starkowski*	*Bedouet*	*Kwiecien*
–	–	–	Pass
2♢	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♡	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Tokay*	*Rodwell*	*Greenberg*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♡	2♡	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Seligman opened 1♣ and Rodwell cuebid to show a constructive club bid. When Seligman jumped to 3NT, he didn't have to have quite as much as this and Rodwell did not consider it safe to bid on; +720 after a heart lead.

Vallet opened 2♢, 18-20 balanced, and 2♠ was initially a transfer to 2NT, after which Bedouet showed clubs then, after an exchange of cuebids, signed off in 5♣, raised to Six by Vallet. After a spade lead to the jack, king and ace, there was just a heart to be lost; +1370 and 12 IMPs to GREENBERG.

Nerw Amateurs v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
T Drijver	*Cole*	*Bouwen*	*A Lo*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♡	2♡	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Falk	*v d Hoek*	*Chechelash.*	*Gaillard*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Tom Drijver opened 1♣ and the NETBRIDGE auction followed the same lines as we saw from Seligman/Rodwell, with Drijver declaring 3NT and making 12 tricks for +690 after a passive diamond lead.

Van den Hoek did not overcall with the North cards, so Chechelashvili made an inverted club raise then raised Falk's forcing 2NT rebid to game. When Falk now bid an invitational 4NT, Chechelashvili had enough in hand to jump to the club slam; +1390 after a diamond lead and the ♠J not being covered, so 12 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

Yellow Cap v Peanuts

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Heed*	*Robert*	*Nilsson*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♢	Pass	6♣	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Nilsmark	*Franceschetti*	*Andersson*	*Setton*
–	–	–	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♢	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♡	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♢	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Lorenzini opened 1♣, rebid a two-range 2NT over the game-forcing inverted raise, then showed 18+ by going on over the raise to 3NT. Robert checked on key cards and the response saw them committed to the cold slam; +1370 after a trump lead.

Nilsmark opened a strong and artificial 2♣ then rebid 2NT, and Andersson's jump to 4♡ was a club slam try. On getting co-operation from Nilsmark, Andersson asked for key cards and bid the slam; +1370 after a diamond lead, so no swing.

Fredin v Harris

West	North	East	South
M Gold	*Westman*	*Root*	*Ek*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Dble
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Gross*	*Lahrmann*	*Igoe*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	1♡	2♡	Pass
4NT	Pass	6♣	All Pass

Marusa Gold opened 1♣ then rebid the two-range 2NT over Root's game-forcing inverted raise. When Root simply raised that to game, Gold showed the strong variety and genuine clubs by going on with a 4♣ slam try. Root cuebid, so she asked for key cards, made a grand slam try, then settled in 6NT. Theoretically, this was played the wrong way up as, switch the N/S hands around and a heart lead beats it. As the cards lie, however, 6NT is cold and duly made after a spade lead; +1440.

Fredin opened 1♣ but rebid 4NT over the 2♡ cuebid, and Lahrmann jumped to the cold 6♣; +1370 after a diamond lead, but 2 IMPs to HARRIS.

Schaltz v Scotland

West	North	East	South
Punch	*L-Madsen*	*Peterkin*	*Lipman*
Rasmussen	*Smith*	*L Bilde*	*Bennett*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	2♡	3NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Six No Trump is cold if played by East, so both E/W pairs reached the top spot in our final match, and via identical auctions. Both Norths made weak jump overcalls, and both Easts jumped to 3NT rather than show their club suit. That was enough to see the respective Wests raise to the NT slam, flat at +1440 after a heart lead from Bennett, but a spade lead from Lipman which offered a chance for all 13, which was not taken.

Of the eight Norths who were faced with a 1♣ opening on their right, three passed, three overcalled 1♡, and two overcalled 2♡.

Round 4

Round Four ended with a choice of games, with the fate of both those games being in doubt, though one might argue that one should have always been made, the other always defeated.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Greenberg v Yellow Cap

West	North	East	South
Nilsmark	*Tokay*	*Andersson*	*Greenberg*
–	–	2♢	Pass
2♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Vallet	*Wiberg*	*Bedouet*	*Nilsland*
–	–	1♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Andersson's 2♢ followed by 2NT over the 2♡ relay showed roughly what he'd got, and Nilsmark raised directly to game. Greenberg found the killing lead, the four of spades, to the three, king and ten, and Tokay returned the ♠6 to the queen and ace. Greenberg correctly continued with the nine to declarer's jack, and Andersson rattled off five heart winners. Tokay had two easy diamond pitches but then erred by discarding a winning spade, and now Andersson could afford to play a club, winning the king when Greenberg played low. Now Andersson ran for home, cashing his top diamonds, and had nine tricks for +600.

Bedouet's 1♣ opening covered a number of hands, including 22-23 balanced, and the 3♣

response was a Mixed Raise. Three No Trump was the obvious conclusion, and Nilsland too led a spade. The first three tricks were idntical to the other room, but then Bedouet tried to sneak a club through. Nilsland knew the spade position so grabbed his ace and played the fourth spade so Wiberg overtook and cashed the fifth spade for down one; –100 and 12 IMPs to YELLOW CAP.

Peanuts v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Westman	*Lorenzini*	*Ek*	*Setton*
–	–	1♣	Pass
1♢	Pass	1♡	Pass
2♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♢	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Thizy	*Fredin*	*Robert*	*Lahrmann*
–	–	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Robert opened 2NT and Thizy raised that to game. Lahrmann led a spade, correctly unblocked the nine on the third round, and grabbed his ace when Robert tried a club at trick four; down one for –100.

Ek opened a strong club then rebid 1♡ over the negative response. The heart fit was soon found and Ek declared the heart game, against which Setton led a trump. Ek won the eight of hearts and played the ten of spades, which ran to Lorenzini's king. He returned a diamond, so Ek won that and cashed two more trumps before playing on clubs, eventually losing to the two black aces; 10 tricks for +620 and 12 IMPs to FREDIN.

Schaltz v New Amateurs

West	North	East	South
Falk	*L-Madsen*	*Chechelash.*	*Lipman*
–	–	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Rasmussen	*Cole*	*L Bilde*	*A Lo*
–	–	1♡	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Chechelashvili opened 2NT and was raised to game by Falk. Lipman led a spade then unblocked the nine on the third round of the suit. Chechelashvili won the third spade and cashed the hearts, but Lund-Madsen made no mistake, discarding a diamond, her singleton club, then a second diamond. When Chechelashvili next played a club, Lipman took her ace and returned a spade for down one and –100.

Lone Bilde opened 1♡ and raised the 1NT response to game. Rasmussen converted that to 4♡ his combination having shown a poor heart raise. Andrea Lo led a low heart to the jack and ace, and Bilde played the queen of spades. That made it that much easier for Lo to win the ace than had the lead of the ten at an earlier table. Bilde won the second heart lead, drew the outstanding trump, and played on clubs. When Lo ducked twice, there were only two club tricks, but 10 in all for +620 and 12 IMPs to SCHALTZ.

Netbridge v Seligman

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*v d Hoek*	*Rodwell*	*Gaillard*
–	–	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
T Drijver	*Starkowski*	*Bouwen*	*Kwiecien*
–	–	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Rodwell opened 2NT and was raised to game by Seligman. Gaillard's passive heart lead was not what this layout required. Rodwell won and played on clubs and, when two of those were ducked, cashed the hearts then played a spade, and had 10 tricks for +630.

Bouwen too opened 2NT, but Drijver used Puppet and found the five-three heart fit, so Bouwen declared the heart game. After a heart lead to the jack and queen, Bouwen simple drew trumps then played on clubs, finally coming to a spade for his tenth trick – simples. Plus 620 meant a flat board.

Harris v Scotland

West	North	East	South
Punch	*Gross*	*Peterkin*	*Igoe*
–	–	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Root	*Smith*	*M Gold*	*Bennett*
–	–	2♣	Pass
2♢	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

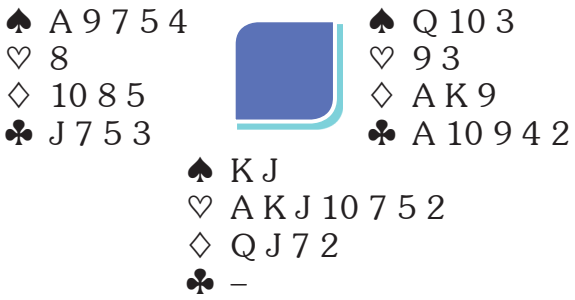
Gold opened 2♣, rebid 2NT, and was raised to game by Root. Three rounds of spades saw Gold try a club at trick four, but Bennett rose with the ace and continued with his fourth spade, and that was one down for –100.

Peterkin opened 2NT and Punch asked about majors. Finding her partner with five hearts, she raised to game. Igoe led the ten of diamonds round to declarer's ace. Peterkin played the queen of spades, Igoe winning the ace and continuing with the nine of diamonds to the king. Peterkin ruffed a spade then played the jack of clubs, but Igoe won that and returned the two of clubs. Gross ruffed and returned a low diamond, and that was ruffed with the eight and over-ruffed. A second club ruff resulted in down two for –200 and 3 IMPs to HARRIS.

Round 5

And so to day two, with SCHALTZ leading from SELIGMAN, YELLOW CAP, and GREENBERG, with the other six teams all below average.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



Fredin v Greenberg

West	North	East	South
Becklen	*Tokay*	*Benett*	*Greenberg*
–	–	1♣	1♡
1♠	2♡	2♠	4♡
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♡
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Vallet	*Fredin*	*Bedouet*	*Clementsson*
–	–	1♣	Dble
1♡	Pass	1♠	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Clementsson started the South hand with a double, and Vallet bid 1♡ to show spades. Fredin did not bid at this stage, so Bedouet completed the transfer to show three-card support and Clementsson jumped to 3♡, not quite forcing, but highly invitational, and Fredin had plenty with which to go on to game. Vallet led the five of diamonds, Bedouet winning the king and switching to a low spade. Knowing that both top diamonds were on his right, Clementsson put in the jack and, when that forced the ace, had overcome the only obstacle on the hand and was home with 10 tricks for +620.

Would Clementsson have got it right had Bedouet won trick one with the ace then returned a low spade? We will never know.

In the other room, Greenberg started with a simple overcall, Becklen bid his spades, and Tokay had enough to raise to 2♡. Benett in turn raised to 2♠ and Greenberg jumped to the heart game. Now Becklen took one look at the vulnerability and took the save in 4♠. That would have been close to making, but Greenberg took the push to 5♡, where he was doubled. He was a shade unlucky – had Tokay held a top diamond instead of the useless club strength, not only might 5♡ have been making, but the better club fit would have meant that the E/W 4♠ would also have had better prospects. Becklen led ace and another spade, so there was no spade guess. There were, however, two unavoidable diamond losers, so Greenberg was down one for –200 and 13 IMPs to FREDIN

Scotland v Peanuts

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Smith*	*Bessis*	*Bennett*
–	–	1♣	4♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Hansson	*v d Hoek*	*Nilsland*	*Bremer*
Peterkin	*Franceschetti*	*Valentine*	*Setton*
–	–	1NT	4♡
4♠	All Pass		

Bessis opened 1♣ and Bennett made what many would describe as the practical bid of 4♡. That shut out Lornezini, who led a club to the king, ace, and low diamond! I think we can assume that to have been a misclick. Bessis cashed the top diamonds then switched to a low spade and Bennett got that wrong by putting up the king so was down two for –200.

Valentine opened a weak NT and Setton also jumped to 4♡. Peterkin's 4♠ was one of those calls that is described differently according to its result – fine/excellent/inspired when it works, wild/crazy etc when it doesn't. Four Spades ended the auction and Franceschetti led the four of hearts, Setton winning the king and continuing with the ace, which Peterkin ruffed. He led a low spade to the ten and jack, and back came the queen of diamonds to dummy's ace. A spade to the king and ace came next, followed by a low spade to the queen then the ace of clubs. There were two clubs and a diamond to be lost now so the contract was down two for –100 and 7 IMPs to PEANUTS. But if Peterkin had unblocked the ♠Q to allow the nine to be a later entry to hand, and had then taken a club finesse before drawing the third trump…

Yellow Cap v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Been	*Warlenius*	*de Haas*	*Nordqvist*
Hansson	*v d Hoek*	*Nilsland*	*Bremer*
–	–	1♣	4♡
All Pass			

In this match, both Souths overcalled 4♡ and were left to play there.

Been led a club to the king, ace and ruff. Nordqvist played ace of hearts and a heart to the queen, took a spade pitch on the queen of clubs, then led a diamond up. He had just two diamonds and a spade to lose so that was +620.

Hansson too led a club for the queen and ace. Bremer ruffed and played ace of hearts and a heart to the queen, but then played a diamond without first taking a spade pitch. Nilsland took the diamond and returned a low spade, and Bremer got it wrong, putting up the king, so losing two spades to go with two diamonds, and was down one for –100 and 12 IMPs to YELLOW CAP.

If East was balanced and had the ♢K as well as the ♣A, he couldn't have the ace of spades as well, as he would then have opened a strong NT.

Five pairs made 4♡, three were defeated, and there was one each of 4♠-2 by West and 5♡ doubled down one by South. Six Souths overcalled 4♡, two doubled a 1♣ opening, and one overcalled 1♡. There was also a 3♡ overcall of a 1NT opening.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

Fredin v Greenberg

West	North	East	South
Becklen	*Tokay*	*Benett*	*Greenberg*
–	–	–	1♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♢	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♡	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Vallet	*Fredin*	*Bedouet*	*Clementsson*
–	–	–	1♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♡	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

Clementsson and Fredin sailed into the small slam. Two No Trump was invitational or better with heart support, 3♠ showed diamond shortage, and 3NT denied a shortage. Clementsson asked about key cards then raised to Six on finding his partner with two. A spade lead meant all 13 tricks for +1010.

Greenberg and Tokay also got them easily enough. Again, 2NT was an invitational or better raise, with 3♣ being a game-force. Three Diamonds confirmed a fourth trump, 3♠ showed a spade control, and 3NT also a spade feature. Tokay had to sign-off at his next turn, but Greenberg could ask for key-cards then bid the slam. A diamond lead meant that there was no overtrick, and +980 meant 1 IMP to FREDIN.

Altogether, eight pairs bid the slam. The two who missed it were in the same match – funny how often that sort of thing seems to happen.

Scotland v Peanuts

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Smith*	*Bessis*	*Bennett*
–	–	–	1♡
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Peterkin	*Franceschetti*	*Valentine*	*Setton*
–	–	–	1♡
1♠	4♡	4♠	5♡
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Smith made a four-card limit raise of Bennett's potentially four-card 1♡ opening, and Bennett made a slam try. However, when Smith couldn't cuebid, Bennett called it a day in 4♡, where he made all 13 tricks after a spade lead; +510.

What was I saying about the outcome deciding how a bid is described? Peterkin made an overcall which would not have even occurred to most players before at least their fifth or sixth pint of the evening – and at adverse vulnerability. Was it a success or not? Franceschetti simply raised 1♡ to game, and Valentine bid 4♠. That was going to be a bloody affair, but Setton went on in front of Franceschetti. Had that been that, we could have said that the 1♠ overcall had been a success, as who knows whether N/S would have reached slam if left unmolested, but Valentine thought that he had bid 4♠ to make and that 5♡ had been a sacrifice. He doubled, giving N/S another chance for a big score via a redouble. However, even when they settled for playing in 5♡ only doubled, the opening spade lead meant all 13 tricks for +850 and 8 IMPs to PEANUTS.

Board 7. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Fredin v Greenberg

West	North	East	South
Vallet	*Fredin*	*Bedouet*	*Clementsson*
–	–	–	1♡
2♡	2NT	4♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♡
Pass	Pass	6♠	Dble
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Becklen	*Tokay*	*Benett*	*Greenberg*
–	–	–	1♡
1♠	3♢	Dble	4♡
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♡	Pass	Pass
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

Becklen made a simple 1♠ overcall, and Tokay's jump to 3♢ showed heart support with an unspecified shortage but a maximum of four controls (A=2, K=1). Benett's double of 3♢ was, perhaps, just a bluff call to discourage his opponents from bidding to a high level, and he followed through by saving in 4♠ when 4♡ came around. That gave his opponents one more chance to bid their cold slam, but they had already given up on slam so, having taken the push to 5♡, were then content to take whatever penalty was their due when Becklen went on to 5♠. Tokay cashed the ace and king of diamonds then switched to the jack of hearts. Becklen ruffed that, drew trumps while eliminating the red suits, then got clubs wrong by running the ten, so losing to both queen and ace for down two and –500.

Having done the elimination, a club to the king followed by a second club would have saved the trick. Becklen should have known where the ♣A was, as it would have given Tokay five controls and he had said that he held at most four, but could Greenberg have held ♣AQx?

Vallet started with a two-suited overcall, 2♡ being specifically the black suits. Two No Trump showed an invitational or better hand with heart support, and Bedouet's jump to 4♠ was the simple approach to his hand, taking away bidding space from his opponents. Clementsson took the bull by the horns and, with little space for alternative approaches, asked for key-cards then bid the small slam. Despite the duplication in spades, he would have bought gold dust in the form of dummy's diamond side-suit, but Bedouet saved in 6♠ and Clementsson had to double, completing a spirited auction. Clementsson led a top heart, which was ruffed, and Bedouet led the jack of diamonds from hand.

Double dummy, Fredin had to allow Clementsson to win this to push a club through, enabling the defence to untangle their two club winners were declarer about to get the suit right. In practice, Fredin won the ♢K and led a low diamond back to Clementsson's queen. It was too late now, but Clementsson played a third diamond anyway, so Bedouet was able to do the elimination before leading the ♣10 from hand. However, it didn't matter because Bedouet ran the club, losing to the queen, so was down three for –800 and 7 IMPs to FREDIN.

Altogether, five E/Ws played in either 5♠ doubled or 6♠ doubled, and all got the clubs wrong so were held to nine tricks. Disappointing for me – I had hoped that one declarer would get them right.

Yellow Cap v Netbridge

West	North	East	South
Been	*Warlenius*	*de Haas*	*Nordqvist*
–	–	–	1♡
2NT	3♣	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♡	Pass	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Hansson	*v d Hoek*	*Nilsland*	*Bremer*
–	–	–	1♡
2♡	4♡	4♠	5♡
Pass	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Both Wests, in their different ways, showed their two-suiters, and both Norths showed heart raises.

At one table East, who could have passed out 5♡, took the save in 5♠ and South, Bremer, left the decision round to his partner. Van den Hoek opted to double, and they collected +500.

At the other table, it was West who found the 5♠ save. He too could have passed out 5♡, of

course, and certainly had less reason to bid on than had East. Been lived to regret giving his opponents one more chance to bid their cold slam, as Warlenius, North, left the decision round to his partner, and Nordqvist duly went on to slam for +1430 and 14 IMPs to YELLOW CAP.

Round 6

Round Six was a relatively low-scoring round, with no match seeing as many as 40 IMPs between the two teams. Nonetheless, there were a couple of deals worthy of a brief mention.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Yellow Cap

West	North	East	South
Johansson	*Kolesnik*	*Hallqvist*	*A-T Lo*
Pass	1♡	1♠	2♡
2♠	4♡	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Falk	*M Lo*	*Chechelash.*	*A Lo*
Pass	1♡	2♠	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

Kolesnik opened 1♡ and Hallqvist's simple overcall allowed A-T Lo to make a simple heart raise. Johansson in turn raised to 2♠, and Kolesnik jumped to the heart game. Hallqvist led the ace of spades, after which it was a simple matter to ruff a spade and cash out 12 tricks for +680 – not a bad dummy, thought Kolesnik.

Maya Lo also opened 1♡, but Chechelashvili made a jump overcall, and that was just too much for Andrea Lo, who passed the South hand. Falk raised to 3♠ and now Maya was in an awkward position, with the wrong shortage for a double, and with 4♣ looking very committal. She passed so 3♠ became the final contract. Andrea led a heart, so Maya took two of those then played ace and another club. Chechelashvili ruffed the third club and led the queen of diamonds to dummy's king. Alas, that was ruffed and, though he could later get to dummy with a heart ruff to take the spade finesse, that was for down one and –100, but 11 IMPs to NEW AMATEURS.

Netbridge v Fredin

West	North	East	South
Becklen	*v Roosmalen*	*Benett*	*Gast*
Pass	1♡	1♠	2♢
2♠	4♡	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Been	*Fredin*	*de Haas*	*Clementsson*
Pass	1♡	2♠	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

Benett made a simple overcall and Gast bid 2♢ to show 6-8 with three-card heart support. When Becklen raised to 2♠, van Roosmalen jumped to the heart game. Van Roosmalen ruffed the diamond lead and led the eight of spades from hand, losing to the queen. Becklen led a heart through to the jack and queen, and declarer drew a second round of trumps then started on the clubs. Essentially, he swapped a defensive club ruff for a spade ruff in dummy, and came to 10 tricks for +620.

De Haas made a good decision when he jumped to 2♠ over Fredin's 1♡, but Clementsson made a better one, when he refused to be shut out and competed with 3♡, which Fredin, of course, raised to game. Fredin too received a diamond lead, which he ruffed. He led the king of spades from hand, won the jack of hearts return with dummy's queen, and led the king of clubs and overtook it. Next, he ruffed a spade, and led dummy's low club to his jack to take a second spade ruff. When he next played the queen of clubs, it was ruffed, but he had the rest, so 11 tricks for +650 and 1 IMP to FREDIN.

An interesting line of play which I'm betting, before I look at the other matches, was not duplicated at any other table.

Peanuts v Harris

West	North	East	South
Igoe	*Franceschetti*	*Root*	*Setton*
Pass	1♡	1♠	2♡
2♠	4♡	4♠	5♡
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Tiholov*	*Bessis*	*Trendafilov*
Pass	1♡	1♠	2♡
2♠	3♣	3♠	4♡
All Pass			

After both sides had found their fit, Franceschetti jumped to the heart game, only to see Root save in 4♠. That would probably have been –500, a modest save against a making 4♡, but Setton went on to 5♡, which ended the auction. Root cashed the ace of spades then switched to a club round to the ten and jack, after which taking a spade ruff and making the rest was a matter of routine; +680.

Both sides duly found their fit at the other table also, but now Tiholov introduced his second suit rather than jump to 4♡. Was that a game try, or was it to help Trendafilov to judge over a possible 4♠ from the opposition? Well, Bessis bid only a competitive 3♠, and the 3♣ bid suited Trendafilov very well, so he bid 4♡ and that concluded the bidding. Bessi led a diamond, so Tiholov ruffed and led the ten of spades from hand, Lorenzini winning the queen and returning a second diamond. Tiholov again ruffed, then ruffed a spade and played on hearts, praying for a three-two split. When the hearts duly obliged, he had 11 tricks for +650 but 1 I<MP to PEANUTS.

Eight N/S pairs made 4♡, six of them with one or two overtricks, and we have seen the two 'odd' contracts of 5♡+1 and 3♠-1. Three Easts overcalled 2♠, the rest 1♠. Tiholov was not the only North to introduce the clubs at his second turn, the other being Smith, for SCOTLAND. Five players who had that option preferred to just bid 4♡.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Peanuts v Harris

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

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Tiholov*	*Bessis*	*Trendafilov*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♢	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Setton opened 1♠, rebid the suit, then cuebid clubs and, when that produced a heart cuebid from Franceschetti, she took control, bidding the small slam on finding her partner with two key-cards. There was nothing to the play, and Setton just gave up a diamond and claimed 12 tricks for +1430.

Trendafilov opened 1♠ and the 2NT response was invitational-plus with four-card support. Three Clubs was an artificial game-force, 3♢ asked, and 4♣ showed short hearts. That did not encourage Tiholov, half of whose hand was in hearts, so he signed off in game and Trendafilov, of course, accepted his decision; +680 but 13 IMPs to PEANUTS.

Seligman v Schaltz

West	North	East	South
Seligman	*Nicolajsen*	*Rodwell*	*Christiansen*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♢
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♡	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♡	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

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

Nicolajsen's 2NT response was GF with four spades and 3NT showed extras with heart shortage. After an exchange of cuebids, Christiansen asked for key-cards, then showed all the key-catrds and asked partner if he would like to bid Seven or to show kings. Six Hearts duly showed the king, but was not the one Christiansen was looking for, so he signed off in Six. This was a good advertisement for showing specific kings rather than simply how many responder holds – 6♢ instead of 6♡, and

Christiansen would have been very interested; +1430.

Starkowski responded 2♣, either natural or with a fit, and his 2♠ rebid confirmed the latter. Now 3NT showed 6-1-4-2 and, after a couple of cuebids it was North, Starkowski, who asked about key-cards then invited Seven; +1430 and no swing.

Scotland v Greenberg

West	North	East	South
Peterkin	*Tokay*	*Valentine*	*Greenberg*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♡	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♡	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♢	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Vallet	*Smith*	*Bedouet*	*Bennett*
–	–	–	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

The Scots fell short of slam when Bennett opened 1♠, then showed heart shortage over Smith's GF 2NT response. That discouraged Smith, who jumped to game, his weakest option, and Bennett could hardly bid on with such limited high-card strength, even if he had nice controls. He slopped a trick somewhere, but that was of no consequence once he was not in slam, so scored only +650.

Tokay responded with a GF 2♣ then showed both genuine spade support and slam interest with a trump-setting jump to 3♠. After an exchange of cuebids, Greenberg took control, asking firstly for key-cards then for kings. Six Diamonds presumably just showed one king, and that wasn't enough for Greenberg, who signed off in 6♠; +1430 and 13 IMPs to GREENBERG.

Four pairs bid the slam, and six missed it. We have seen all the successful auctions.

OCBL DECEMBER CUP

RESULTS

ROUND 1

Schaltz	1.29 VPs 0 IMPs	18.71 VPs 36 IMPs	Harris
Seligman	8.86 VPs 35 IMPs	11.14 VPs 38 IMPs	New Amateurs
Scotland	6.86 VPs 13 IMPs	13.14 VPs 22 IMPs	Peanuts
Yellow Cap	19.66 VPs 53 IMPs	0.34 VPs 9 IMPs	Netbridge
Fredin	19.33 VPs 48 IMPs	0.67 VPs 7 IMPs	Greenberg

ROUND 2

Schaltz	7.17 VPs 5 IMPs	12.83 VPs 13 IMPs	Seligman
Peanuts	16.97 VPs 26 IMPs	3.03 VPs 1 IMPs	Harris
New Amateurs	14.8 VPs 25 IMPs	5.2 VPs 10 IMPs	Yellow Cap
Greenberg	14.8 VPs 26 IMPs	5.2 VPs 11 IMPs	Scotland
Netbridge	11.85 VPs 21 IMPs	8.15 VPs 16 IMPs	Fredin

ROUND 3

Schaltz	10.39 VPs 19 IMPs	9.61 VPs 18 IMPs	Peanuts
Yellow Cap	4.95 VPs 18 IMPs	15.05 VPs 34 IMPs	Seligman
Harris	0.24 VPs 8 IMPs	19.76 VPs 53 IMPs	Greenberg
Fredin	15.05 VPs 41 IMPs	4.95 VPs 25 IMPs	New Amateurs
Scotland	7.49 VPs 29 IMPs	12.51 VPs 36 IMPs	Netbridge

ROUND 4

Schaltz	7.17 VPs 17 IMPs	12.83 VPs 25 IMPs	Yellow Cap
Greenberg	14 VPs 31 IMPs	6 VPs 19 IMPs	Peanuts
Seligman	16.18 VPs 33 IMPs	3.82 VPs 12 IMPs	Fredin
Netbridge	10.39 VPs 21 IMPs	9.61 VPs 20 IMPs	Harris
New Amateurs	15.05 VPs 25 IMPs	4.95 VPs 9 IMPs	Scotland

ALT - OCBL GRAND FINAL

27 - 29 December, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 boards

	CET	EDT
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