



ALT-OCBL GRAND FINAL BULLETIN

Issue N. 4. Friday, 30 December, 2022

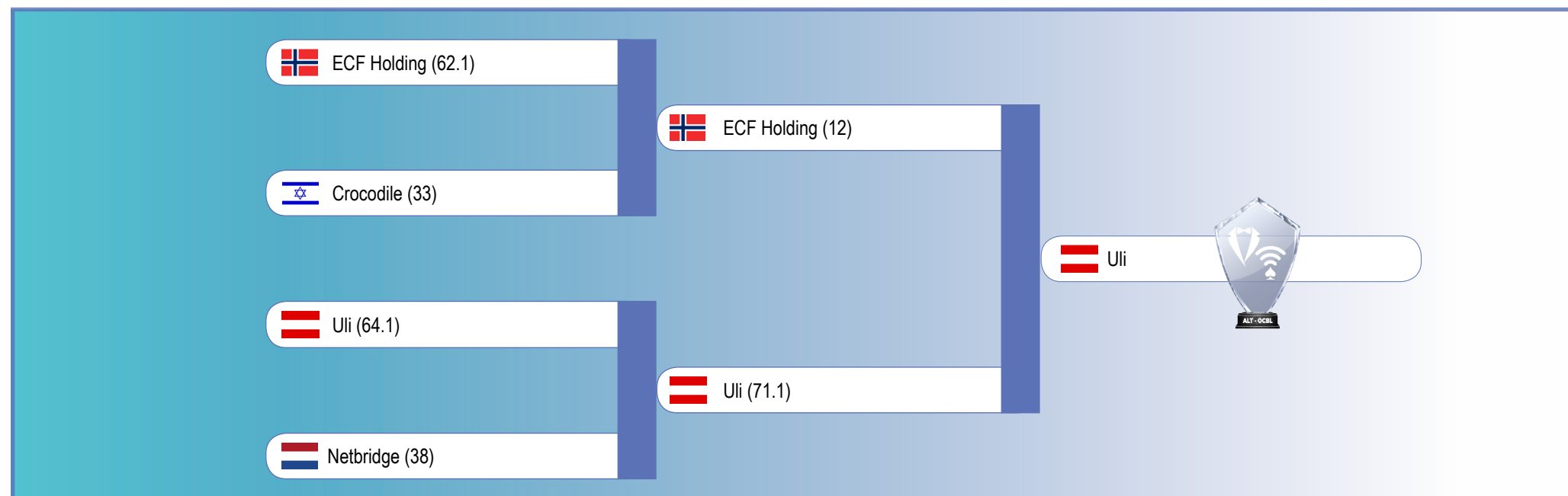
ULI WIN THE GRAND FINAL!



Team **ULI**, with Primavera F., Schuster U., Schuster W., Olivieri G., Arrigoni G., Zanasi G., Margiotta S., Carletti A., won the ALT- OCBL Grand Final! In the Final, they faced team **ECF Holding**, with Lie T., Fasting E., Ovesen J., Høyland S., Thoresen S., Evenstad N., Eide E., Farstad A., Evenstad S., Bogen H. The match ended 71.1 - 12 for Uli.

The match for the 3rd place was played between the opponents of ULI and ECF Holding in the Semifinals: teams Crocodile (Barel M., Katz P., Liran I., Perlmutter A., Bareket I., Lengy A., Saada N., Marina B., Coldea I., Zack Y., Pachtmann R., Moraru D., Teodorescu C.) and NetBridge (Van Den Hoek J., Bouwen K., Bremer A., Verhoef N., Huber M., Van der Starre M., la Haye M., Verhoeve N., Zomer M., Gaillard V., Been M., de Haas O., Gast H., van Roosmalen B.). The final for the 3rd place ended 42.1 - 25 in Crocodile's favour.

We wish to thank all the teams who played for being part of this event. We wish you Happy New Year's Eve and a great 2023!



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



The Big Four

by Mark Horton

At this time of year, one accumulates a lot of additional refuse, especially of the glass and paper variety. Driving back after making a deposit at our local refuse centre, Radio 4 revealed that it would be broadcasting Lucy Worsley’s Agatha Christie: A Very Elusive Woman in the run up to the New Year. I am pretty sure that the so-called Queen of Crime stayed at the hotel in Harrogate that for many years was a venue for the Northern Heat of the EBU’s Spring Foursomes during her famous disappearance in December 1926. Having given you a clue as to the source of my title it’s time to see how events unfolded on the last day of the Grand Final.

As winners of the qualifying competitions Uli and ECF Holding would enjoy a carryover of 4.1 VP.

Semi-final Session 1

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

ECF Holding v Crocodile

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moraru	Lie	Teodorescu	Fasting
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♠	All Pass		

- 2♣ Game forcing, no five-card major, possibly short clubs
2♥ 15-16
4♣ Cue
4♥ Cue

Appreciating that EW were almost certainly missing a diamond control North led the ♦3 and the defenders played three rounds of the suit, South ruffing with the ♠10. Declarer overruffed and cashed the dummy’s top spades, one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Barel	Thoresen	Katz
—	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♥2 and declarer took 12 tricks, +480 and 11 IMPs.

Uli v Netbridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Been	Schuster	de Haas	Primavera
—	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

- 1♦ 5+♦ or 4441
4♣ Splinter
4NT RKCB
5NT Even number of keycards and a void

When North led the ♥2 declarer won in dummy, drew trumps and cashed the top clubs. When the jack fell there were 12 tricks, +980.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Margiotta	V Roosmalen	Zanasi	Gast
—	1NT*	Dble	3♣*
Pass	Pass	Dble*	All Pass

- 1NT ‘9-11, it looks like NT a little bit’
3♣ ‘To play’
Dble Takeout

West led the ♥4 and the defenders quickly took the first eight tricks, West subsequently scoring the ♣10 for five down, -1100 and 3 IMPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

ECF Holding v Crocodile

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moraru	Lie	Teodorescu	Fasting
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

East led the ♥K and declarer won in dummy, cashed the top spades discarding a heart and then played a club, soon claiming, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Barel	Thoresen	Katz
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

When West led the ♦6 declarer had no trouble securing nine tricks for a flat board.

It is easy to say that when the opponents don’t look for a major suit fit you should consider leading one, but if East had opened the bidding would NS have found 5♣?

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ 10 4 2		♠ K		♠ Q	
♥ Q 8 5 4		♥ A J 10 7 6 3		♥ K 9	
♦ 9 6 5 3		♦ K Q		♦ A J 8 7 4 2	
♣ 8 5		♣ Q 10 6 3		♣ A K 4 2	
♠ A J 9 8 7 6 5 3		♥ 2		♦ 10	
♥ 2		♦ 10		♣ J 9 7	
♦ 10		♣ J 9 7			

ECF Holding v Crocodile

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moraru	Lie	Teodorescu	Fasting
—	Pass	1♦	3♠
4♥	Pass	4♠*	Dble
4NT*	Pass	5♦*	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

- 4♠ Cue
4NT ‘2nd round control in spades, RKCB’
5♦ 0/3 key cards

After a spade lead declarer had to lose two tricks, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Barel	Thoresen	Katz
—	Pass	1♦	3♠
4♥	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

It was the same story here, no swing.

Uli v Netbridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Been	Schuster	de Haas	Primavera
—	Pass	1♦*	3♠
4♥	All Pass		

- 1♦ 5+♦ or 4441

Declarer lost two tricks, +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Margiotta	V Roosmalen	Zanasi	Gast
—	Pass	1♦*	4♠
Dble*	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

- 1♦ 4+♦
4NT Clubs

There were 12 tricks, but +420 meant the loss of an IMP.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

<p> ♠ Q J 10 8 5 ♥ Q 4 2 ♦ J 3 ♣ J 6 3 </p>		<p> ♠ A 9 6 ♥ A K J 7 5 3 ♦ K 10 9 7 ♣ — </p>	
<p> ♠ 7 2 ♥ 10 8 6 ♦ A 8 6 5 ♣ Q 10 7 2 </p>		<p> ♠ K 4 3 ♥ 9 ♦ Q 4 2 ♣ A K 9 8 5 4 </p>	

ECF Holding v Crocodile

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moraru	Lie	Teodorescu	Fasting
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	4♥	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
1♥ 4+♠

South led the ♣A and declarer ruffed and ducked a spade. North won and switched to the ♦J and declarer took the king, cashed the top hearts and the ♠A, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club and ran the ♦10, claiming 11 tricks, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Barel	Thoresen	Katz
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dble*
Pass	2♠	3♥	All Pass

Missing the game cost 10 IMPs.

Uli v Netbridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Been	Schuster	de Haas	Primavera
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♠	2♥	Dble*
Pass	2♠	3♦	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣
Dble Support double

Declare ruffed the club lead and played two rounds of spades, finishing with 10 tricks, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Margiotta	V Roosmalen	Zanasi	Gast
—	—	—	1♣*
Pass	1♥*	Dble*	1♠*
Pass	2♠	2NT*	3♥*
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

1♣ 1+♣, not 5♠/♥/♦
1♥ Spades
Dble Hearts
2NT 6♥ + 4♦/♣
3♥ Short

West led the ♥6 and East won with the jack and continued with the ace, declarer ruffing and playing a diamond for the jack and king. East played two rounds of spades and declarer won and played the ♣A. When that was ruffed there was no way to avoid four down, -1100 and 10 IMPs.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

<p> ♠ 10 4 ♥ A K 9 7 6 ♦ J 6 ♣ Q 8 7 2 </p>		<p> ♠ K J 6 5 2 ♥ Q J 2 ♦ 10 9 7 ♣ 10 5 </p>	
<p> ♠ 8 7 ♥ 8 5 3 ♦ K Q 8 5 3 2 ♣ 9 3 </p>		<p> ♠ A Q 9 3 ♥ 10 4 ♦ A 4 ♣ A K J 6 4 </p>	

ECF Holding v Crocodile

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moraru	Lie	Teodorescu	Fasting
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♠*
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣
1♦ 4+♥
1♠ Natural

East led the ♦10 and declarer cashed out, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Barel	Thoresen	Katz
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl*
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

3♣ ‘Natural, good hand’
3♦ Asking

Rdbl First round control
3♠ Last Train

West led the ♦K and declarer won, played three rounds of hearts, ruffing high, drew the last trump and exited with a diamond, endplaying West, +920 and 11 IMPs.

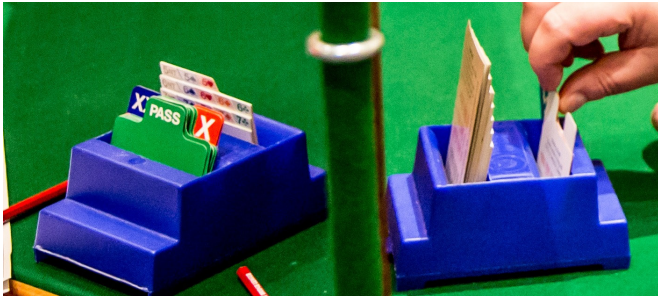
Uli v Netbridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Been	Schuster	de Haas	Primavera
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣
3♦ Forcing

West led the ♦K and declarer ducked, won the next diamond and cashed his winners, eventually securing a tenth trick with the spade queen after throwing East in with a heart, +430.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Margiotta	V Roosmalen	Zanasi	Gast
—	1♥	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

2♣ Artificial, asking
2♦ Any minimum
2♥ Asking
3♣ 4+♣
4♣ ‘Let’s play clubs’

West led the ♦K and declarer won, drew trumps and played three rounds of hearts. When they divided the strongest line is to cross to dummy and cash two hearts, discarding a diamond and a spade before taking the spade finesse for the overtrick. However, declarer preferred the perhaps more elegant move of exiting with a diamond, claiming as West won, +920 and 10 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

<p> ♠ 7 4 ♥ A 10 9 8 7 2 ♦ 9 2 ♣ K 8 4 </p>		<p> ♠ J 10 6 5 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ A J 8 5 ♣ 3 2 </p>	
<p> ♠ K 8 2 ♥ Q ♦ K 10 6 3 ♣ 10 9 7 6 5 </p>		<p> ♠ A Q 9 3 ♥ K 6 3 ♦ Q 7 4 ♣ A Q J </p>	

ECF Holding v Crocodile

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moraru	Lie	Teodorescu	Fasting
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	2♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣
2♦ 6+♥ game forcing or 6-9
2NT Asking, game forcing
3♦ 6-9

West led the ♥Q and declarer won with dummy’s ace and ran the ten, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Barel	Thoresen	Katz
—	—	Pass	1♣
Pass	2♥*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♥ 6+♥, 4-7
2NT Asking
3♣ Feature, not minimum

West led the ♦6 and the defenders cashed four tricks in the suit, East exiting with the ♠6. Declarer put up the ace, cashed the ♥K and was three down, -300, a dramatic 14 IMP swing.

Uli v Netbridge

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Been	Schuster	de Haas	Primavera
—	—	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

2NT 18-19 balanced
4♣ Hearts

West led the ♣10 and declarer won with the ace and cashed the ♥K after which there were only nine tricks, -100.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Margiotta	V Roosmalen	Zanasi	Gast
—	—	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♦*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	4♥*	All Pass	

1♣ 1+♣, not 5♦/♥/♠
1♦ Hearts
2NT 16-18 balanced
4♥ 8-10, 6+♥

East led the ♣3 and declarer won in dummy and cashed the ♥K, no swing.

These exciting deals saw Uli leading 38.1-14 while ECF Holding were ahead 36.1-21.

Semi-final Session 2

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A			
♥ Q			
♦ K 10 9 8 5 4 3			
♣ A J 9 2			
♠ Q 8 2		♠ K 10 9 7 6 5 4 3	
♥ K 8 6 5 4		♥ A 10	
♦ A J		♦ Q 6	
♣ Q 7 4		♣ 8	
♠ J			
♥ J 9 7 3 2			
♦ 7 2			
♣ K 10 6 5 3			

ECF Holding v Crocodile

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Moraru	Lie	Teodorescu	Fasting
—	1♦*	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦	Dble	Pass
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

South led the ♠7 and three tricks had to be lost, -100.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Barel	Thoresen	Katz
—	1♦	1♠	Dble*
2♦*	3♦*	4♠	5♦
Dble	Pass	5♠	All Pass

It was the same story here, so no swing.

Uli v Netbridge

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Been	Schuster	de Haas	Primavera
—	1♦	4♠	All Pass

South led the ♦7 but there were only three losers, +420.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Arrigoni	V Roosmalen	Olivieri	Gast
—	1♦	1♠	Dble*
2♥*	3♣	4♠	5♣
Dble	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

2♥ Good fit in spades
Dble Invitational to 5♠

South led the ♦7 and that was one down, -100 and 11 IMPs away.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

ECF Holding v Crocodile

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Moraru	Lie	Teodorescu	Fasting
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	2♠	3♣
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass
5♠	6♣	All Pass	

That was a missed opportunity for EW. West led the ♠A and declarer claimed, +920.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Barel	Thoresen	Katz
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	2♣*
Dble	3♠*	4♠	6♣
All Pass			

2♣ Inverted
3♠ Short

Having recently spent several days looking for good examples of bidding with inverter minors for an article in Bridgerama +, here was a great example, but just like London buses, a little too late.

Declarer claimed after the opening lead of the ♥Q, +920.

Uli v Netbridge

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Been	Schuster	de Haas	Primavera
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	2♠	3♣
4♠	6♣	All Pass	

That looks like a good example of an inverted Landy Slam try, you bid slam and hope partner can make it. Right he was, +920.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Arrigoni	V Roosmalen	Olivieri	Gast
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	1♠	2♠*
4♣*	6♣	All Pass	

1♣ 1+♣, non forcing
2♠ 8-11, 5+♣
4♣ Splinter

Well done by all four teams!

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ A 7 6 5			
♥ 10 6 4			
♦ A Q J 10			
♣ A K			
♠ K Q 4			♠ J 10 9 3 2
♥ A 5			♥ J 9
♦ 4			♦ 8 5 3 2
♣ Q J 9 8 7 4 3			♣ 10 6
♠ 8			
♥ K Q 8 7 3 2			
♦ K 9 7 6			
♣ 5 2			

ECF Holding v Crocodile

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Moraru	Lie	Teodorescu	Fasting
—	—	—	2♥*
3♣	4♣*	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

2♥ 8-11, 6♥
4♣ Cue
4♠ RKCB
5♣ 1 keycard
5♦ ♥Q?

West led the ♠K and declarer took dummy's ace and played a heart for the king and ace, claiming when the ♥J surfaced when a second heart was played from dummy, +1430.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Barel	Thoresen	Katz
—	—	—	2♦*
3♣	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2♦ Weak major
4♣ Asking which major
4♦ Hearts

A sound auction, but the result was the loss of 13 IMPs.

Uli v Netbridge

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Been	Schuster	de Haas	Primavera
—	—	—	2♦*
3♣	3NT	All Pass	

2♦ Weak in a major or strong balanced

East led the ♣10 and declarer won with the ace and played a heart for the king and ace, West switching to the ♠K. Declarer ducked that and the ♠Q so +630.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Arrigoni	V Roosmalen	Olivieri	Gast
—	—	—	3♥*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

3♥ 'Can be six cards'

It was six cards, but it was also +1430 and 13 IMPs.

Uli took the set 26-24 while ECF Holdings also collected 26 IMPs while holding their opponents to just 12. On to the final!



The Grand Finale

by Mark Horton

Final Session 1

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ Q 3		
♥ 10 3		
♦ A J 6		
♣ A K 10 9 7 4		
♠ 5		♠ A 10 6
♥ K J 8 4 2		♥ A Q 9 6 5
♦ 8 7 3 2		♦ K 9 5
♣ Q 8 6		♣ J 5
		♠ K J 9 8 7 4 2
		♥ 7
		♦ Q 10 4
		♣ 3 2

ECF Holding v Uli

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Schuster	Thoresen	Primavera
—	—	1♥	2♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

South led the ♠7 and declarer took the ace, drew trumps ending in dummy and played the ♣6, North taking the king. When he returned the ♠3 declarer ruffed in dummy and played another club, establishing the queen for a diamond discard and so finishing only one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Margiotta	Lie	Zanasi	Fasting
—	—	1♥	2♠
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

Declarer won the spade lead, ruffed a spade, came to hand with a heart and ruffed a spade with the ♥8. North overruffed, cashed the ♣K but then played two rounds of diamonds for three down, -500 and 9 IMPs.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

ECF Holding v Uli

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Schuster	Thoresen	Primavera
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♠*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

2NT 4+♥, game forcing

3♣ Slam interest relay

3♦ Relay

3♠ Short

West led the ♣9 and declarer played three rounds of the suit, ruffing with the ♥9 and then pitched the losing diamonds on spades, +480.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Margiotta	Lie	Zanasi	Fasting
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT*	Pass	4♠*
Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♣*	Pass	6♥
All Pass			

2NT Game forcing, hearts

4♠ No spades, positive hand

5NT 'All key cards'

6♣ '0'

Clearly something went wrong.

West started with two rounds of diamonds so that was two down and an 11 IMP loss.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ K 9		
♥ 10 8 4		
♦ K 6 5 4 3		
♣ 8 6 5		
♠ A Q 8 6 5		♠ 2
♥ A K Q 3		♥ J 9 7 5
♦ 2		♦ A J 10 9
♣ K 4 3		♣ A Q 9 7
		♠ J 10 7 4 3
		♥ 6 2
		♦ Q 8 7
		♣ J 10 2

ECF Holding v Uli

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Schuster	Thoresen	Primavera
—	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♥*	Pass
5NT*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

2♦ Artificial game force

4NT RKCB

5♥ 2 key cards

5NT Grand slam try

South led the ♣J and declarer won with the ace, played a spade to the ace and ruffed a spade. A trump to dummy was followed by another spade ruff and declarer unblocked the ♥J, played two rounds of diamonds, ruffing, drew trumps, cashed the ♠Q and then played clubs, +1010.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Margiotta	Lie	Zanasi	Fasting
—	Pass	1♦*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥*	Pass	3♥	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
5♠*	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♥	All Pass		

1♦ 4+♦

2♥ Fourth suit forcing

4NT RKCB

5♥ 2 key cards

5♠ Grand slam try

North led a trump, but declarer could still ruff two spades and could not be denied all the tricks, +1510 and another 11 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

♠ Q 10 9		
♥ A J 7		
♦ Q J 10 9 7 6		
♣ 2		
♠ 8 4 3		♠ A 7 2
♥ 8 6 5		♥ K 10 9
♦ K 4		♦ A 8 5 2
♣ J 9 5 4 3		♣ Q 8 6
		♠ K J 6 5
		♥ Q 4 3 2
		♦ 3
		♣ A K 10 7

ECF Holding v Uli

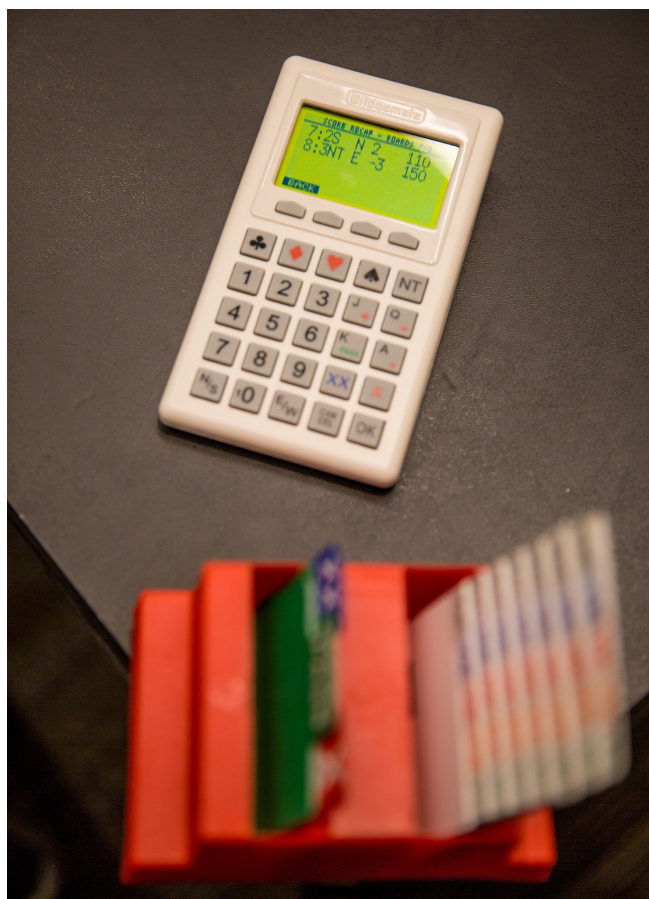
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Schuster	Thoresen	Primavera
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♦*	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣

2♣ Forces 2♦

2♦ 'Completed the transfer'



3♦ was a comfortable spot and declarer took ten tricks, +130.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Margiotta	Lie	Zanasi	Fasting
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠*	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

- 1♠ Transfer to 1NT, normally no major
- 2♦ Relay
- 3♦ Invitational

Looking at a singleton diamond perhaps 3NT was a tad optimistic.

West led the ♣5 for the queen and king and East won the first round of diamonds with the ace and returned the ♣8 for the ten and jack. When West switched to the ♠8 East took the ace and played another club, West winning with the nine and exiting with the three. When the heart finesse lost East exited with a diamond and West cashed out for three down, -300 and 10 more IMPs.

The final deal of the half might be considered amusing in so far as one pair bid to 5♥ which had three losers, while the other stopped in 3♥. The effect was to give Uli another 7 IMPs and a commanding lead.

Session 2

Trailing by 29.1 IMPs, ECF Holding were hoping for a lively set of deals. They would be hoping they could keep a clean sheet and that the offered a chance of swings.

On Board 3 both sides reached 1NT and defender on lead decided to lead from ♥Q1093. When the ♥10 was led declarer could see ♥A842 in dummy and held ♥J765 in hand. Going up with the ace caught the king and declarer could subsequently organize three heart tricks finishing with +120. In the replay North started with the ♥3 and when declarer played low from dummy South could win and switch to spades, which eventually resulted in one down, giving Uli 6 IMPs.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.			
♠ 7 6 5 4		♠ A K 10 9	
♥ A K J 9 5		♥ Q 10 2	
♦ A J 4		♦ —	
♣ 6		♣ A K Q J 8 4	
♠ Q		♠ J 8 3 2	
♥ 7 6 4 3		♥ 8	
♦ Q 10 7 6 2		♦ K 9 8 5 3	
♣ 9 5 2		♣ 10 7 3	

ECF Holding v Uli			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Schuster	Thoresen	Primavera
Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

South led the ♥8 and three rounds of the suit meant a speedy one down, -100.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Margiotta	Lie	Zanasi	Fasting
Pass	1♥	Dble	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥*	Dble	3NT	All Pass

South led the ♥8 and North cashed the ace and king. When South pitched the ♦3 North switched to the ♦4 and the defenders took three tricks in the suit to flatten the deal.

On the deal that followed history repeated itself, 1NT making with an overtrick in one room and going one down in the other for another 6 IMPs to Uli. (Only my membership of the David Bird anti 1NT reporting Party prevents me from revealing the full details, but in essence one defender held ♥A3 and when declarer played a heart towards the ♥Q105 it was essential to go up with the ace as partner held ♥KJ764 and playing low blocked the suit.)

Board 7. Dealer South. None Vul.			
♠ 8 7		♠ A J 10 4	
♥ 10 3		♥ A J 9	
♦ K 9 5		♦ 10 8 7 2	
♣ A K Q 9 5 4		♣ 8 3	
♠ K 9 5 3		♠ Q 6 2	
♥ Q 8 7 6 5 4 2		♥ K	
♦ 4 3		♦ A Q J 6	
♣ —		♣ J 10 7 8 2	

ECF Holding v Uli			
Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Ovesen	Schuster	Thoresen	Primavera
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♦*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

- 1♣ 2+♣
 - 2♣ Game force
 - 2♦ ‘Waiting with minimum hands’
- East led the ♦8 and declarer claimed 10 tricks, +630.
- I fear I would have been foolish enough to have taken some action with West’s hand, notwithstanding the dreadful heart pips.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Margiotta	Lie	Zanasi	Fasting
—	—	—	1♣*
1♥	2♠*	3♣*	3♥*
4♥	5♣	Dble	Pass
5♥	Dble	All Pass	

- 1♣ 2+♣
 - 2♠ Invitational in clubs
 - 3♣ Invitational in hearts
- North led the ♣A and declarer ruffed and played the ♥Q. When North followed with the three, declarer had brief chance for glory (it would have been no problem for the Rabbi or Zia – ‘if they don’t cover they don’t have it’) but when the finesse lost he was one down even though he got the spade right, -200 and 10 more IMPs went away.
- Like a ship’s captain, with Uli leading the set 25-I and only one deal remaining I noted the time, 20-25 and decided it was time for dinner. Although it had not been a close match we had seen some entertaining bridge!



Sponsors:



BUCHAREST - ROMANIA

Hotel CARO ★★★★★

www.hotelcaro.ro

Tournament Director: Răzvan Spiridonescu

Contact:

Bogdan Marina

Phone: 0040744557111

Email: Marina.bogdan@gmail.com

Viorel Miclescu

Phone: 0040722583453

Email: Vmiclescu@gmail.com

Florin Filip

Phone: 0040745130541

Email: florinfilip27@yahoo.com



March 23, 2023 - March 26, 2023

TOTAL PRIZES OVER 15000 EURO

First Place = 6000 EURO

Organizers:



Caro Cup

March 25, 2023 - March 26, 2023

TOTAL PRIZES OVER 5000 EURO

First Place = 1500 EURO

www.cupacontra.ro



TEAMS march 23 - 26 2023

Entry fees: 600 euro/team (4-6 players)



PAIRS march 25 - 26 2023

Entry fees: 50 euro/player

PRIZES

1 st PLACE - 6000 EURO + trophies

2 nd PLACE- 3600 EURO + trophies

3 rd PLACE- 2400 EURO + trophies

4 th PLACE - 1200 EURO + medals

5 th- 8 th PLACES 400 EURO +

free entry to CARO Cup, League A

PRIZES

1st PLACE Division A - 1500 EURO

50% of the pairs in League A, 20% of the pairs in League B, C, etc will be awarded prizes.

PROGRAM

March 25, 2023 - 2 sessions of 26 boards

March 26, 2023 - 1 session of 26 boards split in 3 divisions

PROGRAM

March 23, 2023 - 5 rounds of 10 boards

March 24, 2023 - 5 rounds of 10 boards

March 25, 2023 - QF 2 rounds of 10 boards

- SF 3 rounds of 10 boards

March 26, 2023 - Final , 3 rounds of 10 boards

- 3 rd place play off, 2 rounds of 10 boards

Prizes are guaranteed at a minimum of 25 teams

www.cupacontra.ro

Accommodation with breakfast / night

Euros	CARO Hotel ★★★★★
33	place in double room BUSINESS
43	place in double room PREMIUM
55	single room BUSINESS
75	single room PREMIUM

The price includes the gala-dinner on March 25, 2023 only for the CONTRA CUP participants.

www.hotelcaro.ro