



# ALT-OCBL GRAND FINAL BULLETIN

Issue N. 3. Friday, 29 December, 2023

## TROPHY IS COMING



The Semifinalists are :

- **Seligman**  
(M. Seligman, J. Pszczola, M. Kwiecien, W. Starkowski)
- **Coconut**  
(Wang D., Deng X., Gu J., Huang N., Leung S.).
- **Pomodoro**  
(H. Setton, P. Franceschetti, C. Lorenzini, A. Versace, A. Sementa)
- **Uli**  
(W. Schuster, U. Schuster, G. Zanasi, G. Olivieri, F. Primavera, E. Romano, N. Silverman)

Seligman, who placed 1st at the end of the Qualification stage, will play the Semifinal vs #4 Uli. Coconut (#2) will face Pomodoro (#3).

The remaining teams will play 4 more rounds of Swiss-.

### Ranking After Round 8

	1	Seligman	105.39
	2	Coconut	104.98
	3	Pomodoro	97.43
	4	Uli	86.95
	5	Greenberg	84.58
	6	Netbridge	76.34
	7	Harris	74.36
	8	Pioneers	73.21
	9	Ukraine	72.69
	10	Internazionale	42.07

### RESULTS:

<https://ocbl.org/2023-alt-ocbl-grand-final/#results>

[https://bridgeresults.org/o/2023\\_alt\\_ocbl\\_grand\\_final/2023\\_alt\\_ocbl\\_grand\\_finalr.asp](https://bridgeresults.org/o/2023_alt_ocbl_grand_final/2023_alt_ocbl_grand_finalr.asp)

### LINE-UPS:

<https://alt.bridgelineup.org/>

### BULLETINS:

<https://ocbl.org/ocbl-journal>

SELIGMAN

ULI

COCONUT

POMODORO





# Rounds 3, 4 & 5

by Mark Horton

## Rounds 3 & 4: Remains of the Day

Having fired off two rapid reports on Wednesday I was able to take a little more time reviewing the deals from rounds 3 & 4.

Board 1 Dealer North. None Vul.

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

### Coconut v Uli

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Romano	Deng	Zanasi	Wang
—	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

- 2♣ 'Same as 1NT forcing'
- 3♣ Game forcing, any side suit

South might have preferred a temporising 3♠ and North might have taken another bid over 4♠.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gu	Primavera	Huang	Schuster
—	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

- 2♣ Game forcing
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 keycard
- 5♦ ♠Q?
- 6♣ ♠Q+♣K

South had all the right cards, especially the queens in spades and diamonds. +980 was worth 11 IMPs.

### Seligman v Pomodoro

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Pszczola	Sementa	Seligman
—	1♠	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	5NT*	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

- 3♣ Three card limit raise or more
- 5NT Pick a slam

East led the ♠2, granting declarer a temporary reprieve, but there was no miracle in the club suit and heart had to be lost, -50.

If you had the misfortune to reach 7♦, you would be in the game unless East finds a major suit lead – I'm sure you can see how you can arrive at 13 tricks.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	Franceschetti	Kwiecien	Setton
—	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♥6 and declarer took the second round of the suit and played diamonds, claiming 12 tricks, +490 and 11 IMPs.

### Greenberg v Ukraine

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zuban	Tokay	Lukke	Greenberg
—	1♠	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

- 2NT Three card fit, limit raise
- 3♣ Asking
- 3♦ Minimum
- 3♥ Cue
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 keycard
- 5♦ ♠Q?
- 6♣ ♠Q+♣K

In this situation, 3♠ probably suggests a better hand (in context) than a fast arrival 4♠.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
T Edis	Dragan	E Edis	Shukhmayster
—	1♣*	Pass	1♦*
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣*
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

- 1♣ Polish ♣
- 1♦ 0-7 or 8-12, 3♠/♥
- 2♣ 5+♣
- 2♦ 17+, 4♠+4♦, not balanced
- 2♥ Fourth suit forcing
- 4♣ Cue

West led the ♥A and when the trumps behaved declarer claimed, +920 costing 2 IMPs.

### Harris v Netbridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Been	Isporski	de Hass	Trendafilov
—	1♠	Pass	2♥*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2♥ Good 2♠+ raise

An opportunity for Netbridge?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Harris	la Haye	Malhasyan	Verhoeve
—	1♠	Pass	2NT*
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

- 2NT 3+♠, 10-11 or 16+
- 4♣ Splinter, slam try

When South decided his hand was not worth 4♥ the possibility of a swing passed by.

### Pioneers v Internazionale

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sada	Yang	Schroeder	Song
—	1♣*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦*
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♦*	Pass	6♣*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

- 1♣ 16+
- 2♣ 8+, at least 5♣/♦, not 4♥/♠
- 3♦ 8-11, 3♠
- 4NT RKCB
- 5♣ 1 keycard
- 5♦ ♠Q?
- 6♣ ♠Q+♣K

A straightforward +980.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liu	Camerini	Han	Ives
—	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

1NT Forcing

I confess I would have been tempted to make another bid with North's hand – that's the trouble with being an optimist. +480 meant the loss of 11 IMPs.

Board 5 Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

This is a terrific deal for students of bidding theory. I'll confine myself to one comment – opening 4♠ with North's hand takes away a lot of space, which is usually a good idea.

**Coconut v Uli**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Romano	Deng	Zanasi	Wang
—	4♠	Pass	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣	All Pass

4NT Two places to play

Perhaps West should take another bid?

However, say you try 5♠ - can you see a route to 7♣?

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gu	Primavera	Huang	Schuster
—	4♠	Pass	Pass
4NT*	All Pass		

North led the ♠A and that was a rapid four down, -200 and a 12 IMP loss.

**Seligman v Pomodoro**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Pszczola	Sementa	Seligman
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
4♣*	4♠	5♣	All Pass

4♣ Clubs and Hearts

Personally, I think West might have a stronger hand for 4♣. With such magical cards in partner's suits I think East should do more. What that should be requires some partnership discussion.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Starkowski	Franceschetti	Kwicien	Setton
—	4♠	Pass	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣	All Pass

4NT 2 places to play

**Greenberg v Ukraine**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zuban	Tokay	Lukke	Greenberg
—	3NT*	Dble*	Pass
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♠*	Pass	6♣	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

3NT Solid major  
Dble Points  
5♠ Cue

That was well done, +1440.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
T Edis	Dragan	E Edis	Shukhmeyster
—	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠*	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
4♦*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	6♣*	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

1NT 12-15  
2♦ Transfer  
3♠ Cue  
Rdbl No values in spades  
4♦ Cue  
5♣ 1 or 4 keycards for hearts  
5♦ ♥Q?  
6♣ ♥Q+♣K

A tremendous push!

**Harris v Netbridge**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Been	Isporski	de Hass	Trendafilov
—	1♠	Pass	2♠
4♣*	4♠	5♣	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Harris	la Haye	Malhasyan	Verhoeve
—	1♠	Dble	3♦*
3♥	Pass	Pass	3♠
4♣	4♠	5♣	All Pass
3♦	Weak		

I'm not sure what to make of that.

East's double was not a thing of beauty, but opposite the West hand you would expect it to result in at least a small slam being reached. Perhaps West should start by bidding 3♠?

**Pioneers v Internazionale**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sada	Yang	Schroeder	Song
—	4♦*	Dble	4♠
5♥	All Pass		

4♦ 10-15, long spades

North led the ♦3 which ensures a trick for the defence, +680.

On a top spade lead declarer could reverse the dummy and take all 13.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Liu	Camerini	Han	Ives
—	4♠	Pass	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♣	All Pass		

4NT Two places to play

That was worth 10 IMPs.



Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

**Coconut v Uli**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Romano	Deng	Zanasi	Wang
—	Pass	1♠	2NT*
Dble	Pass	Pass	3♣
Dble*	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	3♥	Dble	Pass
Pass	3NT	Dble	All Pass

2NT Minors  
Dble Penalty

One question.

Do you think North's pass over the double of 2NT suggests that might be the best spot?

If you don't, then North should bid 2♣.

West led the ♠A and switched to the ♥5, East taking dummy's ♥10 with the king and returning the ♦2. Declarer won with the ♦K, played a heart to the jack, cashed the ♥A and exited with the ♥2. West won and played a spade, East taking dummy's queen with the ♠K and returning the ♦5. Declarer won with the ♦Q and exited with the ♦9, West taking the ♦J and exiting with the ♣4 for the five, queen and king. West's remaining clubs took the last three tricks, four down, -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gu	Primavera	Huang	Schuster
—	2♥*	2♠	Dble*
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
2NT	Dble	All Pass	

2♥ Hearts and another suit, 5-10  
Dble Takeout

North led the ♠Q and declarer won with the ♠A, played a heart to the king and ducked a heart to North's ten. Back came the ♦4 and South won with the ♦Q and switched to the ♣2, declarer taking North's jack with dummy's queen, cashing the ♦A and then playing the ♣8 for the nine and ten. When he cashed the ♣A North pitched a spade which meant the spade finesse resulted in 10 tricks, +1090 and 7 IMPs.

For the record, once declarer has played a heart at trick two, if North stoically plays spades at every opportunity declarer is likely to be held to eight tricks. (The best opening lead as the cards lie is anything except a spade honour, but declarer should still get home.)

**Seligman v Pomodoro**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Pszczola	Sementa	Seligman
—	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

1NT Semi forcing



East led the ♠7 and declarer took West's queen with the ♠A and played the ♠4, East going up with the ♠A, cashing the ♠K and switching to the ♠Q for the king, ace and five. Declarer won West's club exit, drew trumps and tried the ♠J (as it happens, a low spade saves a trick) West winning and playing the ♠10. Declarer ruffed and played the ♠Q but East won and returned the ♠4, taking the last two tricks with the ♠108 for two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Setton</i>
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT*	2♥	Pass	Pass
Dble*	All Pass		

1NT Forcing for 1 round  
Dble Points

Having resisted the temptation to open, North became a victim of what I propose to christen 'Oscar Wilde's Syndrome'.

East led the ♣Q, covered all round and West switched to the ♥3, which saw three rounds of trumps being played, declarer then playing a diamond. East took the ace and exited with a club and declarer won and correctly exited with a low spade. West won with the ♠A, cashed the ♥Q and played the ♣10, but declarer ruffed and played the ♠Q. He was assured of two spade tricks, still two down, -300 and a 5 IMP loss.

**Greenberg v Ukraine**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zuban</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Lukke</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>
—	Pass	1♠	2NT*
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

2NT Minors

East led the ♥K and declarer won, played the ♠4 to dummy's king, ruffed a diamond and exited with the ♥10. West won, cashed the ♠A and the ♣A and continued with the ♠J, East winning and returning the ♠7 for West to ruff. East ruffed the heart return and declarer overruffed and played the ♣9, claiming seven tricks, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T Edis</i>	<i>Dragan</i>	<i>E Edis</i>	<i>Shukhmeyster</i>
—	2♥*	All Pass	

2♥ 5♥ and another five-card suit

East led the ♠2 and West won and switched to the ♥3, declarer taking the ♥A and continuing with the ♠Q. When it held he tried the ♠J, covered, ruffed and overruffed by West who switched to the ♠8 (a low heart is best). East took the ace and two rounds of clubs saw declarer win with the ♣J and play the ♥J. East won, cashed the ♠10 and exited with the ♠8, West's ♥Q representing the second undertrick, -100 and a 5 IMP swing.

**Harris v Netbridge**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Been</i>	<i>Isporski</i>	<i>de Hass</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>
—	2♦*	Pass	2♥*
All Pass			

2♦ 54+♥+♠ or 20-22 balanced  
2♥ Pass or correct

West led the ♠3 and East won and switched to the ♣8, West taking the ace and playing two rounds of spades. Declarer played dummy's ♠J, ruffed East's ♠K, cashed the ♠KQ pitching spades and then threw a club on the ♠9. He continued with the ♣K, but elected to ruff it with dummy's ♥2 and had to go one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Harris</i>	<i>la Haye</i>	<i>Malhasyan</i>	<i>Verhoeve</i>
—	Pass	1♠	2NT*
All Pass			

2NT Minors

West led the ♠A and switched to the ♥5, East taking dummy's jack with the king and returning the ♠2. Declarer won with the ♠K, finessed in hearts, cashed the ♥A and then played the ♠Q, East winning and returning the ♠5. Declarer won with the ♠Q and exited with the ♠10. West won and could have ensured three down by switching to a low club. Cashing the ♣A and the ♥Q before the low club meant two down, -100 and a 2 IMP swing.

**Pioneers v Internazionale**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sada</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>Schroeder</i>	<i>Song</i>
—	Pass	1♠	2NT*
Dble	3♣	3♦	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

2NT Minors

South led the ♠K and declarer won and played two rounds of spades, North playing the ♠J on the second round. The ♥K lost to the ace and declarer won the return of the ♥J with dummy's queen, and played the ♥5, pitching a diamond when North followed with the ♥2. A low club to the queen lost to South's king and declarer won the club return with dummy's ace and played the ♣10, ruffed and overruffed by declarer who exited with a diamond and scored a spade at the end for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Liu</i>	<i>Camerini</i>	<i>Han</i>	<i>Ives</i>
—	1♠	Pass	1NT*
Pass	2♥	All Pass	

1NT Forcing

East led the ♣Q for the king and ace, won the heart switch with the king and returned the ♥7 for the eight, nine and ten. Declarer cashed the ♥A and played a diamond to the queen and a spade for the six, nine and ten. When East continued with the ♠A declarer ruffed and played the ♠Q but West won, cashed the ♥Q and exited with a club. Declarer won with the ♣J and played the ♠J but East ducked and took the last two tricks with the ♠K8 for two down, -100 and 5 IMPs.



Round 4 was not especially exciting.

Board 3 Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

**Coconut v Seligman**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Seligman</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Wang</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♦*	2♠*	Pass
2NT	3♥	3NT	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

2♦ Majors  
2♠ Limit+ diamond raise

West led the ♠K and switched to the ♠6, East winning, cashing the ♣A and then playing a spade, West playing two rounds of the suit to restrict declarer to eight tricks, two down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gu</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Schuster</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	2♦*	3♦	All Pass

North started with three rounds of hearts and declarer ruffed with dummy's ♠10, cashed the ♠A, drew trumps, ran the ♣J, repeated the finesse and claimed 10 tricks when South took the ♣K, +130 but a 5 IMP loss.

**Ukraine v Uli**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zanasi</i>	<i>Dragan</i>	<i>Romero</i>	<i>Shukhmeyster</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♠	2♣*	2♠
Pass	4♥	Dble	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

2♣ 'Double with no hearts'

East led the ♠3 and three rounds of the suit left declarer with eight tricks, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zuban</i>	<i>Primavera</i>	<i>Lukke</i>	<i>Schuster</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT*	2♣*	2NT*	Pass
3♣	3♥	Dble*	3♠
Pass	Pass	Dble*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

1NT 14-16  
2♣ Majors  
2NT Clubs, invitational+  
Dble Points  
Dble 'Balance to game'

North led the ♥A and switched to the ♠2, declarer winning with the ♠J and playing the ♠Q for the king and ace. When North discarded on the ♠J declarer played two rounds of clubs,

finishing with 10 tricks, +630 and 8 IMPs.

**Pomodoro v Harris**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Gold</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Tiholov</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1NT*	2♣*	3NT	All Pass
1NT	14-16		
2♣	Majors		

North started with three rounds of hearts and declarer won and played a club for the queen and king, finishing with 10 tricks, +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Isportski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	2♣*	Dble	2♠
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
1♣	Any 11-14 balanced		
2♣	Majors		

North led the ♠2 and declarer won with the jack, played a club for the queen and king, won the spade return and played the ♦7, claiming 11 tricks when the king appeared, +660 and an IMP.

**Internazionale v Greenberg**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T Edis</i>	<i>Camerini</i>	<i>E Edis</i>	<i>Schroeder</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	1♥	2♣	Pass
3NT	4♠	Dble	All Pass

East led the ♦A and continued with the ♦4, declarer ruffing and playing three rounds of hearts, ruffing in dummy. West took the next trick with the ♠K and played the ♦8, declarer discarding a club as East won with the ♦J and returned the ♣A. Declarer ruffed and played the ♥8, electing to ruff with dummy's ♠9. West overruffed and played the ♦Q, ruffed and overruffed by East which meant the contract was three down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ives</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Zoranovic</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦*	2♦	Dble*	2♠
Dble*	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
1♦	'3+♦, we play 5532'		
2♦	Majors		
Dble	Points		
Dble	'Uncharted territory'		

North found the challenging lead of the ♥8 and declarer won with the queen and ran the ♣J, South switching to the ♥3 which meant two down, -200 and a 12 IMP swing.

If West had guessed to lead a diamond at trick two he can cash four tricks in the suit. He then needs to play North to be 5-6-1-1, cross to the ♣A, come back to hand with a spade and exit with the ♥Q. Is it impossible? Perhaps, but South should have something for 2♠ and it's probably the ♣K.

**Netbridge v Pioneers**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fang</i>	<i>la Haye</i>	<i>Han</i>	<i>Verhoeve</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♦	3♦*	3♠*	4♠
Dble	All Pass		
3♦	Majors		
3♠	Limit raise in diamonds or better		

West led the ♦7 for the king and ace and East continued with two rounds of clubs. Declarer took the ♣K and played a spade, West winning with the king and returning the ♦6. Declarer ruffed in dummy, played three rounds of hearts ruffing and then, perhaps worried that West had started with four spades, ruffed a club and ruffed a heart, West's overruff ensuring at least two down (if West now exits with the ♦8 its three down) which was the result when West cashed the ♠A, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Been</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>de Haas</i>	<i>Song</i>
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	2♣*	2♠*	Pass
3NT	4♥	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		
1♣	2+♣		
2♣	Majors		
2♠	Invitational in clubs		

West started with three rounds of spades, two down, -300 and no swing.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

**Coconut v Seligman**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Seligman</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>Wang</i>
—	—	2♥	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♣10 for the five, queen and ace and declarer played a spade to the queen, West taking the king and switching to the ♥8, ducked to dummy's queen. When declarer continued with the ♥K East won and exited with the ♥10. Declarer cashed two clubs and when West pitched a second spade (having already discarded the ♠2) he exited with a spade and could not be denied nine tricks, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gu</i>	<i>Starkowski</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>	<i>Schuster</i>
—	—	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

West led the ♥8 and East won and returned the ♥3. Declarer won, played a diamond to dummy's king and a spade. When East discarded there were exactly eight tricks, West scoring four of his five trumps, +110 but a 10 IMP loss.

**Ukraine v Uli**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zanasi</i>	<i>Dragan</i>	<i>Romero</i>	<i>Shukhmeyster</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	Dble	2♦*	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

2♦ Transfer

North cashed the ♦KA and ♣K before switching to the ♥2, but it was too late, declarer winning, ruffing a club, discarding two clubs on the top spades and playing a winning diamond, +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Zuban</i>	<i>Primavera</i>	<i>Lukke</i>	<i>Schuster</i>
—	—	2♥	Pass
3♥	Dble	4♥	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

On a trump lead 4♥ doubled would be in tatters, but although my instinct is to double life is so much simpler for us 'paper tigers'.

As we have already seen the 5-0 trump break means there are only eight tricks, -500 and a 9 IMP loss.

**Pomodoro v Harris**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M Gold</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Tiholov</i>	<i>Lorenzini</i>
—	—	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

That was a comfortable +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Isportski</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Trendafilov</i>
—	—	2♥	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

West led the ♥8 and two rounds of the suit saw declarer win, cross to dummy with a diamond and play a spade for the queen and king. The diamond return to dummy's ace was followed by the ♥J, West ruffing as declarer pitched a club. That small mistake (declarer must discard a diamond) allowed West to exit with the ♣Q, and win the spade continuation. Now a diamond puts West one step ahead, but he exited with the ♠9 and declarer won and had only to play a club to be sure of eight tricks. However he ruffed a diamond and played the ♣K, allowing West to ruff and cash a diamond for one down, -100 and a 5 IMP swing.

**Internazionale v Greenberg**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T Edis</i>	<i>Camerini</i>	<i>E Edis</i>	<i>Schroeder</i>
—	—	2♥*	Pass
Pass	2NT	All Pass	
2♥	6♥ or 5♥+4♣/♦/♠		



East led the ♡9 to dummy's king and declarer played a club to dummy followed by a spade, easily acquiring the eight tricks he needed, +120.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Ives</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Zoranovic</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>
—	—	2♡	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	3♡*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

- 3♣ Asking for majors
- 3♦ At least one major
- 3♡ 4♠

Declarer played carefully for eight tricks, -500 and 12 IMPs away.

**Netbridge v Pioneers**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Fang</i>	<i>la Haye</i>	<i>Han</i>	<i>Verhoeve</i>
—	—	2♡	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

Declarer made a mistake we have seen before, discarding a club rather than a diamond on the third round of hearts and that was enough for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Been</i>	<i>Yang</i>	<i>de Haas</i>	<i>Song</i>
—	—	2♦*	Pass
2♡	2NT	Pass	3♣*
3♡	Pass	Pass	Dble*
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

- 2♦ Multi, weak major or strong
- 3♣ Stayman
- Dble Takeout

With possibly wasted values in hearts, the combination of the double and raise to game was optimistic. Declarer did the right thing, discarding a diamond on the third heart, still -500 and a 9 IMP loss.

**Round 5: Trading Places**

The famous chess Grandmaster and World Champion Mikhael Botvinnik maintained that the only time he looked at the table of results in a tournament was after it had finished. Although his name was usually to be found at the top, his point was that it was only after all the games had been played that it was of any significance.

Nevertheless, going into day two of the OCBL-ALT Grand Final, the teams hovering around the middle of the table could be forgiven for paying a lot of attention to the scoreboard as the results unfolded.



Here are some of the the deals that contributed significantly to the scores:

Board 1 Dealer North. None Vul.

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

**Coconut v Ukraine**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Trifonov</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Chumak</i>	<i>Wang</i>
—	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

North led the ♦K and declarer took dummy's ace, cashed the top clubs pitching a heart and played the ♠7. When South covered with the queen declarer won and continued with the ♠J for +420.

A heart lead is more testing, but declarer wins South's diamond switch in dummy, plays a spade to the jack, cashes the ♠A, goes to dummy with a club and plays the ♡K, ruffing South's ace. North wins the diamond exit, but cannot prevent a diamond being discarded on one of dummy's hearts.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Gu</i>	<i>Zuban</i>	<i>Huang</i>	<i>Lukke</i>
—	Pass	1♡	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	All Pass		

North led the ♣7 so a heart went away. When South followed to the ♠7 with the ♠4 declarer put in the ♠J and then played two rounds of diamonds, scoring 10 tricks, +170, but losing 6 IMPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

**Uli v Internazionale**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Sada</i>	<i>Primavera</i>	<i>Zoranovic</i>	<i>Schuster</i>
—	—	1♣	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ♣6 and East won with the king and returned the ♣5, declarer winning with the queen and exiting with the ♠6. West won and switched to the ♦2 and after some tooting and froing the contract went five down, -500.

As the Black Knight might have remarked, 'It's just a flesh wound'.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Romano</i>	<i>Kazmucha</i>	<i>Zanasi</i>	<i>Ives</i>
—	—	1♣	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

West led the ♡K and switched to the ♣6, East winning with the king, cashing the ♡A and then returning the ♣5. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♡J, overruffed East's ♠5 and exited with the ♠4. West won and now does best to return the ♠Q. That's not easy to see, and playing the ♡Q led to four down, -1100 and 12 IMPs away.

**Greenberg v Netbridge**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Vlam</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>v Roosmalen</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>
—	—	1♣*	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

- 1♣ 2+♣
- Rdbl SOS

East won the club lead with the king and switched to the ♦5, West winning with the ♦Q and returning the ♦2. East played two rounds of the suit and South won, cashed the ♣Q, ruffed a spade and took dummy's ♣A. That was his last trick, four down, -1100.

The same thing happened in the match between Coconut and Ukraine (in the replay South's 1♠ overcall was passed out, going four down).

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>T Edis</i>	<i>Bouwen</i>	<i>E Edis</i>	<i>vandenHoek</i>
—	—	1NT*	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♦*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

- 1NT 12-15
- 2♣ Stayman
- 3♠ Natural

South led the ♡10 and declarer won with the ♡A, played a spade to the jack and ran the ♦Q. South won and switched to the ♣Q, declarer winning, playing a spade to the eight and cashing his winners before exiting with a heart. North won but had to surrender a trick to the ♣J, +430 but a loss of 12 IMPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

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

**Coconut v Ukraine**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Trifonov</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Chumak</i>	<i>Wang</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♦*	All Pass		

- 2♦ Weak 54+ majors or 15+ 55 ♡/♠+♦

Oops!  
Declarer took 11 tricks, +150.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Gu	Zuban	Huang	Lukke
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Dble
6♥	All Pass		

1♣ 2+♣  
4NT RKCB  
5♣ 1 keycard

North led the ♣9, +980 and 13 IMPs.

### Harris v Seligman

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Seligman	Tiholov	Pszczola	M Gold
—	Pass	Pass	2♣*
2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠*	Dble
4NT*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

2♣ 6+♣, 10-15  
4♠ RKCB  
4NT 3 keycards

North's club lead meant +980.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Harris	Starkowski	Malhasyan	Kwiecien
—	Pass	Pass	2♣*
4♥*	All Pass		

2♣ Precision style  
4♥ Hearts and a minor

That meant the loss of 11 IMPs.

### Uli v Internazionale

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Sada	Primavera	Zoranovic	Schuster
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♥	1♠	4♥	All Pass

North led the ♣7 so +480.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Romano	Kazmucha	Zanasi	Ives
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
1♦	Pass	1♥	2♣
4♣*	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♠*	Dble	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♣*	Dble
6♥	All Pass		

4♣ Splinter  
4♠ RKCB  
4NT 1 keycard  
5♣ ♥Q?  
6♣ ♥Q+♣K

How delightful to see partner introduce hearts when you have ♥AK854!

South led the ♠2 so declarer took all the tricks, +1010 and 11 IMPs.

### Pioneers v Pomodoro

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Versace	Liu	Sementa	Han
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Dble
Rdbl*	3♠	4♣*	Pass
4♠*	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass

2NT Diamonds and Hearts  
3♣ Asking for range  
Rdbl Good hand  
4♣ Cue  
4♠ Cue

Declarer won the spade lead, drew trumps and played two rounds of diamonds, claiming when the king appeared, +1010.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Fang	Franceschetti	Yang	Setton
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
2NT*	Pass	3♣	Dble
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

2NT Red suits

That meant the loss of 11 IMPs.

### Greenberg v Netbridge

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Vlam	Tokay	v Roosmalen	Greenberg
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
2NT*	Pass	4♥	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♦*	Pass	6♥	All Pass

2NT ♥+♦, 5-5  
4NT RKCB  
5♣ 1 keycard  
5♦ ♥Q?

South led the ♣A, +980.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
T Edis	Bouwen	E Edis	vandenHoek
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣  
2NT Diamonds and a major  
3♣ Asking  
4♦ Longer diamonds, strong hand  
4♥ Pass or correct

South led the ♠2, +510 but a 10 IMP loss.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

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

### Coconut v Ukraine

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Trifonov	Deng	Chumak	Wang
—	1♦	Dble	1♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	4♦
All Pass			

Should South have found an alternative to 4♦?  
Should North have raised to game?

East led the ♣K and declarer won, went to dummy with a heart, picked up West's ♦K and claimed 12 tricks, +170.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Gu	Zuban	Huang	Lukke
—	1NT*	Dble*	2♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
3♠	All Pass		

1NT (10)11-13

Against a strong 1NT double would have shown East's hand. Against a weak 1NT double is for penalties.

Whatever, 3♠ made in comfort, +140 and 7 IMPs.

### Harris v Seligman

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Seligman	Tiholov	Pszczola	M Gold
—	1♦*	Dble	Rdbl*
2♠	Pass	3♠	Dble*
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1♦ 10-15, 0+♦  
Rdbl 4+♥  
Dble Takeout

East led the ♦8 and when dummy's jack held declarer drew trumps and claimed 11 tricks. +450.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Harris	Starkowski	Malhasyan	Kwiecien
—	1♣*	Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Dble	2♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	3♠	4♦
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1♣ Polish ♣

West led the ♠4 and East won with the ♠A and tried the ♦8, a rapid +450.

### Uli v Internazionale

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Sada	Primavera	Zoranovic	Schuster
—	1♦	Dble	1♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♠*
Dble	4♥	All Pass	

3♠ Looking for a stopper

West led the ♣J to dummy's ace and three rounds of hearts and the ♦J soon added up to 11 tricks, +450.



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Romano	Kazmucha	Zanasi	Ives
—	1♦	Dble	1♥
1♠	Dble*	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Dble Heart support

A spade lead and a club switch for the standard +450.

### Pioneers v Pomodoro

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Versace	Liu	Sementa	Han
—	1♦	Dble	1♥
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♦
All Pass			

East led the ♣K and when declarer ducked East took the ♠A, +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fang	Franceschetti	Yang	Setton
—	Pass	1♣	1♥
2♥*	3♣*	4♠	5♥
Pass*	Pass	Dble	All Pass

2♥ 6♠, less than invitational or game forcing

3♣ Fit

Pass Not forcing

West led the ♣J and declarer took dummy's ace, drew trumps and ran the ♦9, +650 and 11 IMPs.

### Greenberg v Netbridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Vlam	Tokay	v Roosmalen	Greenberg
—	Pass	1♣*	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Dble	Pass
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

1♣ 2+♣, non-forcing

2NT Hearts and Diamonds

3♣ Good hand

East led the ♣K, a regulation +450 being recorded.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
T Edis	Bouwen	E Edis	v den Hoek
—	1NT*	Dble*	Pass*
2♠	All Pass		

1NT 11-13

Dble Major +minor

Pass Forces redouble

Declarer had no problem taking 10 tricks, +140 and 11 IMPs.

Uli had a big win, 19.55-0.45 which moved them from eighth to fourth. Meanwhile Greenberg and Pioneers lost, which did Uli no harm.



## Bridge

# NEWS

## 2024 NABCs



## NEW

### Podcast Episode

Simon de Wijs Has a Vice-Like Grip on the Game

Listen to the new "Sorry, Partner" Podcast Episode at:

<https://sorrypartner.com/episodes>

## WBF Online Women's Teams

A worldwide Teams event on 16 to 18 February, 2024

Online on RealBridge

This is a national representative event. Any number of teams may enter, but all the players must be from the same nation.

It will be held over 3 calendar days.





# OCBL JANUARY CUP

16 - 18 January, 2024



12 Rounds x 10 Boards

Tuesday, 16 January

R1 - R4

CEST 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30

EDT 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Wednesday, 17 January

R5 - R8

CEST 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30

EDT 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Thursday, 18 January

R9 - R12, SF/F

CEST 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30

EDT 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

To follow:



**FEBRUARY CUP**

27 - 29 February, 2024

Info and pre-registration: [WWW.OCBL.ORG](http://WWW.OCBL.ORG)

# ALT INVITATIONAL



world class online bridge events

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2024

8 - 11 January 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>
12 - 15 February 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>
4 - 7 March 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>
8 - 11 April 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>
13 - 16 May 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>
10 - 13 June 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>
8 - 11 July 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>
12 - 15 August 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>
9 - 12 September 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>
7 - 10 October 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>
11 - 14 November 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>
16 - 19 December 2024	<b>Alt Event - TBA</b>