

ALT-OCBL GRAND FINAL BULLETIN

Issue N. 2. Wednesday, 8 January, 2025

NETBRIDGE, GREENBERG ARE LEADING









After four rounds of intense competition, **NetBridge** (featuring Van Den Hoek, Bouwen, Stell, Bremer, Rojko, Parezanin, Mladenovic, Reynolds, van Roosmalen, Donk, and Vlam) is currently leading the ALT Group.

In the OCBL Group, **Greenberg** (comprising Greenberg, Tokay, Lucassen, and Walker) has emerged as the early frontrunner.

Today, the action continues with four more crucial rounds. The outcome of these matches will determine the four semifinalists who will advance to the thrilling ALT-OCBL Grand Final. Stay tuned for updates as the competition heats up!

RANKINGS AFTER ROUND 4

ALT GROUP		OCBL GROUP				
1	NETBRIDGE	60.85		1	GREENBERG	59.77
2	EPSTEIN	54.16		2	SPRING	53.23
3	HARRIS	53.78		3	PIONEERS	41.19
4	SELIGMAN	53.40		4	SCOTCH LOVERS	40.12
5	SCOTTISH SELECT	43.07		5	NEW AMATEURS	38.22
6	MAGICIANS	28.54		6	AVOCADO	36.82
7	BC CRASH	24.77		7	COCONUT	34.04
8	SCOTTISH IMPS	10.43		8	RIPPEY	25.61

USEFUL LINKS

Results:

ALT Group: https://bridgeresults.org/o/2024_alt_ocbl_grand_final/2024_alt_ocbl_grand_finalr.asp

OCBL Group: https://ocbl.org/2025-alt-ocbl-grand-final/#results

Line-Ups: http://lineup.ocbl.org/event/50

Bulletins: https://ocbl.org/ocbl-journal/



2025 WBF & EBL EVENTS



European Winter Transnational Championships

Prague, Czech Republic 14 - 20 February 2025



European Transnational Championships

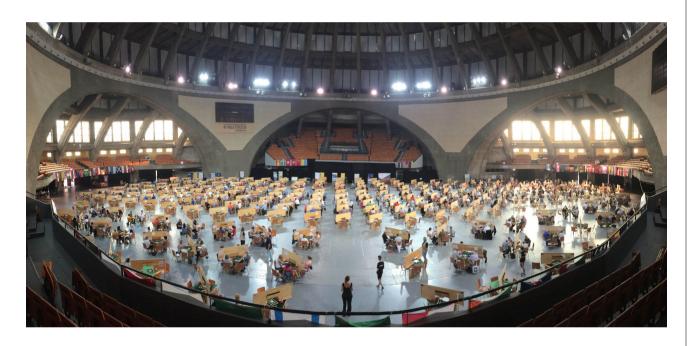
Poznan, Poland 21 June - 5 July 2025



World Bridge Teams Championships World Transnational Open Teams

Herning, Denmark

20 - 31 August 2025 with registration and Opening Ceremony on 19 August



2025 NABCs

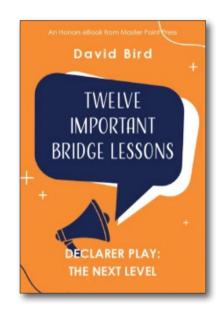






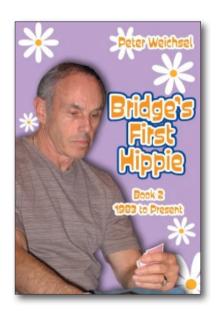
Latest Books from Master Point Press

Master Point Press, the Bridge Publisher, have recently released the Books below, also available as eBooks on eBooksbridge.com:



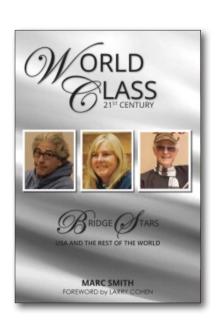
eBook:

https://ebooksbridge.com/twelve-important-bridge-lessons-on-declarer-play-next-level



eBook:

https://ebooksbridge.com/bridge-s-first-hippie-book-2



eBook:

https://ebooksbridge.com/world-class-21st-century-usa-rest-world



A Cunning Plan

If all goes according to plan, I intend to report on the first three rounds of the day in time for tomorrow's Bulletin, then write up a report on Round 4 on Wednesday morning, along with a catch up on anything significant that happened the previous day.

If you want to point me in the direction of something, email me at:

markhorton007@hotmail.com

Good luck everyone!

East's hand on the opening deal of the event was a modest:

♦K3 ♥AKQJ5 ♦A4 **♣**AK83.

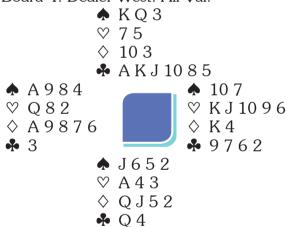
At the table I was watching North started with a Polish 24 and EW flirted with a slam before stopping in 5%, partner having

♦ J842 ♥ 10863 ♦ 9865 **♣** 4.

There were 11 tricks even though trumps were 4-0.

That was followed by a couple of relatively uninteresting part scores – the second, 2 • could have been defeated at both tables, but it was not easy.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



BC Crash v Seligman

Open Room

o pen mooni					
West	North	East	South		
Seligman	Helle	Pszczola	Hoogenkamp		
Pass	2♣*	Pass	$2 \diamondsuit^*$		
Dble All Pass	Rdbl	Pass	3NT		
2 ♣ 2♦	11-15 6- Relay	- ♣			
~ v	Liciay				

West led the \$4 and declarer won with dummy's $\bigstar K$ and returned the $\bigstar Q$, establishing a ninth trick, +600.

Not so easy for East to bid $2\heartsuit$ at any point!

Closed Ro	om		
West	North	East	South
De Wijs	Starkowski	Muller	Kwiecien
$1 \diamondsuit^*$	2 4	$2 \diamondsuit^*$	Dble
3♡*	Dble	Pass	4 ♣
All Pass			
	- 4		
$1 \diamondsuit$	2+\$		
$2 \diamondsuit$	Hearts		
3♡	Fit, not ma	aximum	

East led the ♥10 and the defenders had no trouble collecting four tricks, one down, -100 and 12 IMPs for BC Crash.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul. ♠ A 8 6 5 4 ♥ KJ6



Q43 \Diamond ♦ A 10 9 8 ♣ J86532

BC Crash v Seligman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	Helle	Pszczola	Hoogenk.
		1NT	3♣*
All Pass			

West led the $\heartsuit 10$ and declarer had to lose a heart, a club and a diamond, +130

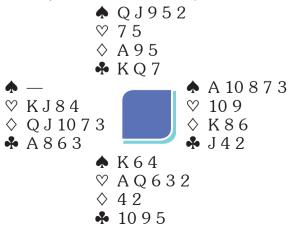
Closed Room South West North **East** Kwiecien De Wijs Starkowski Muller 1NT* Pass 2**%*** Pass **3♠*** All Pass 1NT 15-17 2**%** Stayman or invitational without $4\%/\spadesuit$ **3**

5

South led the \$5 and North took the \$A and returned the $\clubsuit 5$ to dummy's $\spadesuit 9$, South pitching the 46. A heart for the king and ace was followed by the *K and a club ruff, and a diamond for the king and ace. When South exited with the \$\displant 10\$ declarer claimed for one down, -100 to gain an IMP.

There is double dummy way to get an extra defensive trick – South must exit with the $\heartsuit 3$. North wins, cashes the $\triangle A$ and plays a heart, South winning and forcing declarer with a

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.



BC Crash v Seligman

Open Room

0 000			
West	North	East	South
Seligman	Helle	Pszczola	Hoogenk.
$1 \diamondsuit$	1 ^	Pass	$2 \diamondsuit^*$
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♡
Pass	4	Dble	All Pass

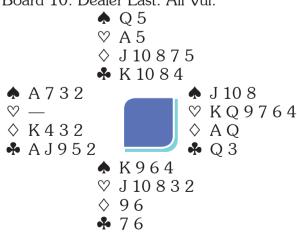
$2 \diamondsuit$ Good spade raise, $3 \spadesuit$

East led the ♥10 and declarer won with dummy's $\heartsuit A$ and returned the $\heartsuit 2$, West winning with the $\heartsuit J$ and switching to the $\diamondsuit Q$. Declarer won and played back a diamond East winning with the $\diamondsuit 8$ and switching to the $\clubsuit 2$. West took the A and now needs to play a heart to be sure of three down. He preferred the \\$3 and declarer won, ruffed a diamond and now needs to play a black suit. However he played a heart, ruffing with the AQ as East pitched the \clubsuit J. He could ruff the \clubsuit Q and exit with the \spadesuit 7, three down, -800.

Closed Room North South West **East** De Wijs Starkowski Muller Kwiecien **Pass** $1 \diamondsuit^*$ 1 Pass 2 All Pass $1 \diamondsuit$ $2+\diamondsuit$

Declarer took the heart lead with dummy's ♥ A and played a diamond, ducking West's $\Diamond Q$. Back came the 43 and declarer won with the \clubsuit K, cashed the \diamondsuit A, ruffed a diamond and played a club. When that got past West's 🕏 A declarer was out of danger, playing a spade to the king and exiting with a club. He had to score two more spades, +110 and a 14 IMP swing, to make the score 15-14 to BC Crash.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.



BC Crash v Seligman

Open Room						
West	North	East	South			
Seligman	Helle	Pszczola	Hoogenkamp			
		1 %	Pass			
2♣*	Pass	2 %	Pass			
2 ^	Pass	2NT	All Pass			
2♣ 2+♣, game forcing						

South led the $\Diamond 6$ and declarer won with the $\Diamond A$, ran the $\clubsuit Q$ and then played the $\heartsuit Q$, North winning and returning the \$7.Declarer won, cashed the ♥K and then played a club to the jack and king. North continued with the ♦ J (the Rueful Rabbit would have dropped the ♠Q onto the table) and declarer won in dummy and played two rounds of clubs, +120 and a somewhat fortunate gain of 6 IMPs, Seligman winning 20-15 IMPs.

Closed Ro	om				
West	North	East	South		
De Wijs	Starkowski	Muller	Kwiecien		
	_	1 %	Pass		
1 ♠ *	Pass	3♣	Pass		
3NT	All Pass				
3♣	Game forcing ask				
3 ♣	3622 or 2722				

North led the $\Diamond J$ and declarer won with dummy's $\Diamond A$ and played the ∇K pitching a diamond. North won and played the $\Diamond 7$ to dummy's $\Diamond Q$, declarer cashing the ∇Q throwing a spade and then ran the ♣Q, North winning with the ♣K and returning the $\Diamond 10$ to declarer's $\Diamond K$, When the clubs misbehaved there were only eight tricks, -100.

Seconds Away, Round 2

Would the Great Shuffler deliver a more demanding set of deals in the second round?

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul. **♠** A 5 4 ♥ KJ852 ♦ K 10 7 ♣ K Q ♠ 976 ♠ Q 10 8 ♦ J 6 ♦ Q 9 ♣ AJ874 **9** 9 6 5 ♠ KJ32 ♦ A85432 **4** 10 3 2

Harris v Scottish IMPs

Open I	Room
--------	------

West	North	East	South	
Нау	Tiholov	Robertson	M Gold	
_	_	_	Pass	
Pass	1NT	Pass	2 ♣ *	
Pass	2 %	Pass	3♣*	
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠*	
2 ♣ 3 ♣ 3 ♠	Stayman Puppet to $3\diamondsuit$ Short \heartsuit , $6+\diamondsuit$ and $4\spadesuit$ game forcing			

East led the $\clubsuit7$ and declarer won and tested the diamonds, +600.

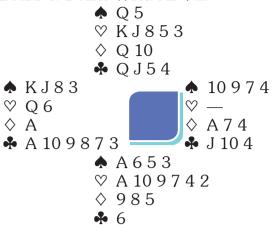
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Root	Forsyth	Malhasyan	Campbell
			Pass
Pass	1 %	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1NT	2 ♣	$2\diamondsuit$
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2NT
All Pass			

East led the $\Diamond J$ and declarer won with the ♦K, played a diamond to the ace, a diamond to the ten, a spade to the king and cashed three diamonds before playing a club to the queen and ace. The defenders had thrown a lot of hearts and when East cashed the $\heartsuit A$, declarer, down to $\spadesuit A$ \heartsuit KJ8 \clubsuit K had the rest, +210 but a 5 IMP loss.

This deal reminded me of a hand Terence Reese wrote about - I'm sure he would have been tempted to double 24 for penalties.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



Harris v Scottish IMPs

Open Room

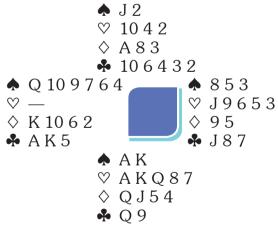
open noom					
West	North	East	South		
Hay	Tiholov	Robertson	M Gold		
1♣	$1 \heartsuit$	Dble*	4 %		
4 🖍	All Pass				

North led the ♥5 and declarer ruffed and played the $\spadesuit 10$, South rising with the $\spadesuit A$ and switching to the 46. Declarer took North's 4 J with dummy's **\Pi**K and played back the **\Pi**2, South ruffing and switching to the $\diamondsuit 5$. Declarer won, ruffed a club (North playing the ♣Q which did not matter) cashed the $\Diamond K$ and played a spade to the king for 11 tricks, +650.

Closed R	.oom		
West	North	East	South
Root	Forsyth	Malhasyan	Campbell
1♣*	1 %	Dble	$4 \clubsuit^*$
4	Pass	Pass	5♡
All Pass			
1	2+♣		
4	Splinter		

East led the \Diamond 6b and West won with the \Diamond A and made the unlucky switch to the $\clubsuit 3$ which meant declarer was only one down, -100, but an 11 IMP gain.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



Harris v Scottish IMPs

Open Room West North **East** South Tiholov Robertson Hay M Gold 1 ****** Pass 2 Pass Pass 3♡ 4%All Pass **Pass**

1**.** 16+

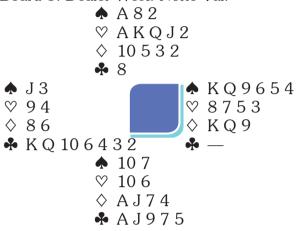
West led the **4**K, cashed the **4**A and exited with the \clubsuit 5. Declarer ruffed and cashed the \heartsuit A getting

the bad news. She unblocked the spades, played the $\Diamond Q$ for the king and ace, and the $\clubsuit 6$. When East discarded she pitched a diamond and played another club. East ruffed, but it was too late. Declarer overruffed, cashed the $\Diamond J$ and exited with a diamond. East had to ruff and lead into the \heartsuit K8, +420.

Closed Room					
West	North	East	South		
Root	Forsyth	Malhasyan	Campbell		
_	_	Pass	2NT*		
Pass	3NT	All Pass			
2NT	20-22				

West led the AQ and declarer won with the \blacktriangle A and cashed the \heartsuit A, West discarding the \clubsuit 5. Declarer went to dummy with the $\Diamond A$ and played the $\heartsuit 10$ for the jack and gueen, but there were only seven tricks, -100 and another 11 IMP loss.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



Harris v Scottish IMPs

Open Room

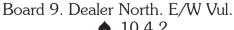
West	North	East	South
Нау	Tiholov	Robertson	M Gold
3♣	Dble	All Pass	

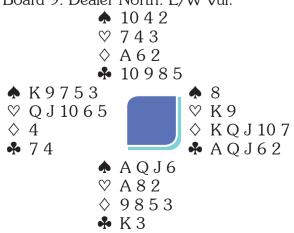
North played three rounds of hearts and declarer ruffed, played a diamond for the queen and ace, South exiting with the by now singleton $\spadesuit 10$. North won and returned the \$\,\Delta\$8, South ruffing and exiting with the $\clubsuit5$ (a diamond ensures four down). Declarer missed the opportunity to put in the $\clubsuit 10$, winning with the $\clubsuit Q$, and played a diamond to the king and the **AK**. With a complete count South can discard on this trick, but ruffing with the 9 allowed declarer to win with the $\clubsuit 10$ and emerge with six tricks, -500.

Closed Room West North **East** South Root Forsyth Malhasyan Campbell **3♣** 3 %3NT **Pass** All Pass

West found the lead of the $\clubsuit 3$ and East won with the $\mathbf{A}Q$ and switched to the $\mathbf{Q}Q$. Declarer won and played back a diamond to the ten and queen and had ten tricks, +430 to lose only 2 IMPs.

Why West did not lead the $\clubsuit J$, we will never know.





Harris v Scottish IMPs

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hay	Tiholov	Robertson	M Gold
_	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$	Dble
1 ♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the \heartsuit 7 and South took dummy's \heartsuit K with the $\heartsuit A$ and returned the $\heartsuit 8$. Declarer could win, cash his hearts and then play on diamonds, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Root	Forsyth	Malhasyan	Campbell
_	Pass	$1 \diamondsuit$	Pass
1 ^	Pass	2♣	Pass
$2 \diamondsuit$	Pass	3♣	All Pass

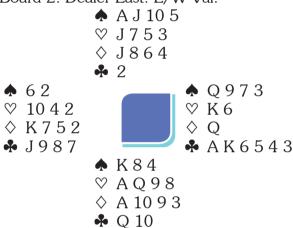
South led the $\Diamond 8$ and North won and switched to the $\clubsuit 5$, South taking the $\clubsuit Q$ with the $\clubsuit K$ and returning the \$3. Declarer won with the \clubsuit J, cashed the \clubsuit A and then played the \heartsuit K followed by the $\heartsuit 9$. When dummy's $\heartsuit 10$ held declarer pitched his spade on the ♥J and was home, +110 but a 10 IMP loss.

It was a decent win for Harris, 35-19, 15.05-4.95 VP.

Third Time's a Charm

What would the third session of the day deliver?

Board 2. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



Avacado v New Amateurs

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Roman	Francesche	etti Buchalter	Setton
		$1 \clubsuit^*$	Dble
Pass	1 ♠	2♣	Dble
3♣	4♡	All Pass	
1♣	2+�		

East led the AK and declarer ruffed, played a heart to the queen, cashed the $\heartsuit A$, drew the outstanding trump and played the $\lozenge 8$ for the gueen and ace. West won the third round of diamonds and declarer ruffed the club return in dummy, came to hand with a diamond and advanced the $\clubsuit J$, claiming the rest when it was covered, +650.

Closed 110	Closed Hoom				
West	North	East	South		
Lorenzini	Falk	Bessis	Lo		
		1	Dble		
Pass	2♣*	2 ^	$3 \otimes$		
4 .	4 %	5 %	All Pass		

2. Forcing to suit agreement

South led the $\heartsuit A$ and continued with the $\heartsuit 8$, declarer winning, cashing the A and exiting with the $\mathbf{A}Q$. South won, cashed the $\Diamond A$ and declarer claimed nine tricks, two down, -100 but an 11 IMP gain.

On Board 5 EW held

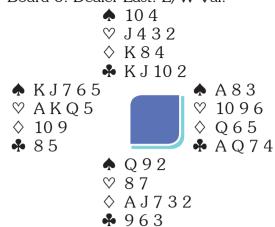
- **♠** AJ64 ♥J62 ♦A3 **♣**A1086 facing
- **♦** 108 ♥3 ♦ KQ75 **♣** QJ9753.

5♣ was on the club finesse. Would you have bid it after this sequence: 1NT-2♠*-2NT-3♣-(Dble)-Rdbl- $(3 \heartsuit)$ -3 \spadesuit -4 \clubsuit -?

In the other room the auction was 1NT-2♠*(Dble)-2NT*-3♣-All Pass.

Bessis went on to 5 – but the king was offside and 6 IMPs were lost. South's hand was **♦**KQ53 ♥AQ984 ♦1084 **♣**4.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.



Avacado v New Amateurs

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Roman	Franceschetti	Buchalter	Setton
	_	1♣*	Pass
$1 \heartsuit^*$	Pass	1♠*	Pass
2 \& *	Pass	2 ^	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass
1 ♣	2+♣		
$1 \heartsuit$	4+♠		
1 ♠	2-34, 11-13		
2\$	4+♡		
3NT	Pick a game	e	

East did well to bid $4 \spadesuit$, as a diamond lead would have given the defenders five tricks on

South led the ♣9 and declarer took North's ♣K, played a spade to the king, a spade to the ace and the top hearts, South ruffing and playing two rounds of diamonds, +620.

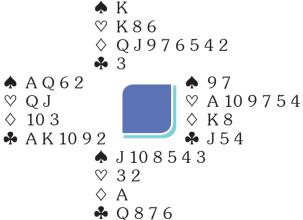
Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Falk	Bessis	Lo
		1	$2 \diamondsuit$
2 ^	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♦	Dble	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4	All Pass

It was easier here for East to prefer the spade game.

North led the $\Diamond 4$ and South won with the $\Diamond J$ and switched to the $\heartsuit 8$. Having won with the \heartsuit A declarer played a club to the gueen and then took two rounds of spades ending in dummy, +620 to flatten the board.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.



Avacado v New Amateurs

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Roman	Francesche	tti Buchalter	Setton
1NT	4♦	4 %	All Pass

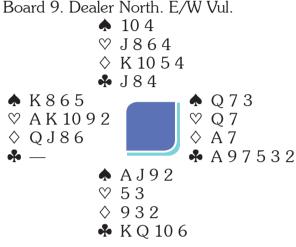
South led the $\Diamond A$ and switched to the $\spadesuit 3$, declarer taking dummy's A and playing the ♥Q to the ♥A and a second heart, North winning and returning the $\Diamond J$.

When South could not ruff declarer had the rest, +450.

Closed Ro	om		
West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Falk	Bessis	Lo
1♣	$4 \diamondsuit$	4♡	All Pass

South led the $\spadesuit J$ and when declarer put in dummy's AQ North won and switched to the ♦ Q. Declarer did not cover, but South won and returned the \$10, covered and ruffed, ruffed the diamond return and played the $\clubsuit 8$. If North had discarded his club the contract would have been two down, but he ruffed and declarer could overruff and cash the ♥A, finishing with nine tricks, -50 and an 11 IMP loss.

♠ 10 4



Avacado v New Amateurs

Open Room

Open Room	.1		
West	North	East	South
Roman	Franceschetti	Buchalter	Setton
_	Pass	1♣*	Pass
$1 \diamondsuit^*$	Pass	2 .	Pass
2 \Ω*	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
1 ♦	4+♡		
2\$	'Bid 2♡'		

South did well to lead the $\clubsuit 2$ for the five, ten and gueen and declarer played four rounds of hearts, North winning as South pitched the two and three of diamonds. The switch to the ♣8 saw South take declarer's ♣9 with the ♣10 but when she continued with the ♣K rather than the 46 declarer was in apposition to get home. However, he ducked, and South continued with the $\Diamond 9$ declarer playing dummy's $\Diamond Q$. If North covers there are only eight tricks, but he ducked and declarer could cash his winners ending in hand play a spade at trick 12, establishing the $\bigstar K$ as the game going trick, +600.

Closed Room

Closed 110	OIII		
West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	Falk	Bessis	Lo
	Pass	1	Pass
$1 \heartsuit$	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
$2 \diamondsuit^*$	Pass	$2 \heartsuit^*$	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass
2\$	Forcing		
2 %	2/3♥ no	n forcing	
2NT	Forcing		
3♣	2♡		

North led the $\spadesuit 10$ and declarer won with the \blacktriangle K, ran the \lozenge Q and played a spade to dummy's ♠7, South winning, cashing two more spades and exiting with a diamond. Having won with dummy's $\Diamond A$ declarer tried the hearts, but the 4-2 split meant he was two down, -200 for a loss of 13 IMPs.

It was a good win for New Amateurs, 38-12, 17.16-2.84 VP.



OCBL JANUARY CUP

13 - 15 January, 2025



12 Rounds x 10 Boards

Monday, 13 January

R1 - R4

CET 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30 EST 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Tuesday, 14 January

R5 - R8

CET 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30 EST 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Wednesday, 15 January

R9 - R12, SF/F

CET 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30

EST 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

To follow:



OCBL FEBRUARY CUP 10 - 12 February, 2025

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG

ALT INVITATIONAL



world class online bridge events

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2025

20 - 23 January 2025

24 - 27 February 2025

(24)25 - 27(28) March 2025

21 - 24 April 2025

12 - 15 May 2025

16 - 19 June 2025

7 - 10 July 2025

11 - 14 August 2025

8 - 11 September 2025

6 - 9 October 2025

3 - 6 November 2025

(8)9 - 11(12) Dec 2025