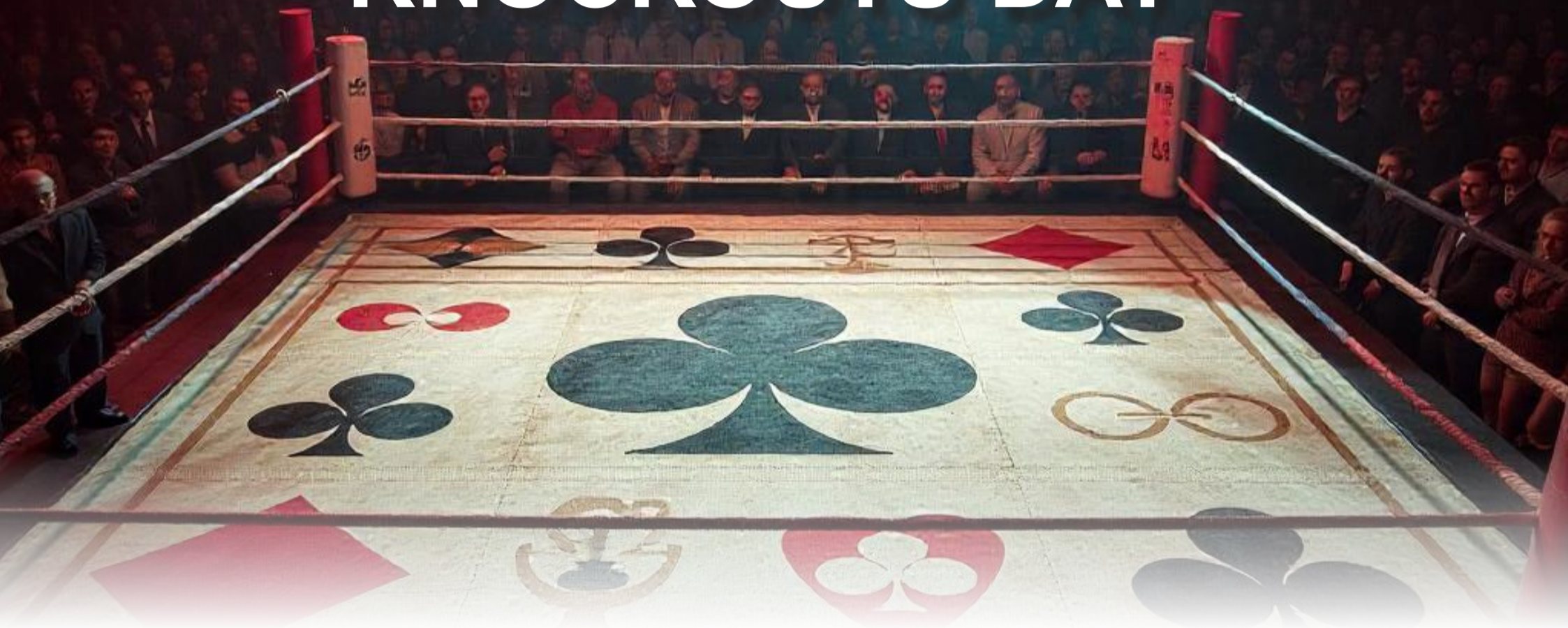




# ALT-OCBL GRAND FINAL BULLETIN

Issue N. 3. Thursday, 9 January, 2025

## KNOCKOUTS DAY



After 8 Rounds, we have the Semifinalists!  
Semifinal 1: **HARRIS** vs **GREENBERG**  
Semifinal 2: **SPRING** vs **EPSTEIN**

HARRIS:	Root, Harris, Igoe, Malhasyan, Gold, Trendafilov, Isporski, Tiholov, Gross, Ivanov, Rusinov, Bucknell, Kennedy
GREENBERG:	Greenberg, Tokay, Lucassen, Walker
SPRING:	Shourie, Wolpert, Thorpe, Sprinkhuizen, Mendes De Leon, Van De Paverd, Nijssen, Whibley, Brown, Wolpert
EPSTEIN:	Epstein, Zanasi, Silverman, Primavera

## RANKINGS AFTER ROUND 8

### ALT GROUP

1	HARRIS	105.08
2	EPSTEIN	100.19
3	SELIGMAN	95.22
4	NETBRIDGE	93.44
5	BC CRASH	75.32
6	SCOTTISH SELECT	68.09
7	SCOTTISH IMPS	58.98
8	MAGICIANS	52.68

### OCBL GROUP

1	SPRING	100.72
2	GREENBERG	98.55
3	PIONEERS	87.45
4	AVOCADO	84.39
5	NEW AMATEURS	82.02
6	COCONUT	72.64
7	RIPPEY	64.63
8	SCOTCH LOVERS	58.60

## USEFUL LINKS

### Results:

ALT Group: [https://bridgeresults.org/o/2024\\_alt\\_ocbl\\_grand\\_final/2024\\_alt\\_ocbl\\_grand\\_finalr.asp](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/>



# Rounds 4, 5, 6, 7

by Mark Horton

## Time on my Hands

The problem associated with attempting to write at a speed that matches the rate of play is that you leave yourself open to all manner of blunders. There are plenty of mechanical ones, including forgetting to type in a hand, misspelling a name, having the correct deal but the wrong bidding or play and so on.

With no time for reflection, you can easily misjudge your appraisal of the bidding or play. There is a deal from the third round on Tuesday where I think I missed something important, but you might already have spotted it.

With plenty of time to reflect, I'm hoping this report on Round 4 will be (mostly) error free.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

## Coconut v Pioneers

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Wang	Song	Shi
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

East led the ♥Q and switched to the ♠J, declarer taking dummy's ♠K and running the ♦10. East won and continued with the ♠5, declarer winning with the ♠10 and running the ♣J. West won and exited with the ♥8. Having won in dummy declarer played a diamond to the nine, cashed the ♦A and played a club. East took the ♣A and played two rounds of hearts forcing declarer to ruff and surrender the setting trick to West's ♠Q, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Han	Deng	Li
—	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
2♥	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	Dble	All Pass	

As a rule, it is safest to reopen when your opponents have stopped at a low level having revealed a fit. East's double did no damage, but when West made to bids with his modest collection North pounced (I mentioned earlier that Reese recommended doubling with three low trumps in certain situations).

The lead of the ♥4 was taken by the ♥A and South returned the ♥5 to dummy's ♥J. Declarer continued with a heart to the king and a diamond for the eight, jack and queen. Back came the ♦10 for the king and ace and North switched to the ♣J, South winning with the ♣K and playing two rounds of spades. North won and cashed the ♦9 for three down, -500 and an 11 IMP loss.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

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

## Epstein v Magicians

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Foça	Epstein	Görün	Silverman
—	—	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		
2♣	Strong		
2♦	Relay		
2♥	Kokish		
2♠	Relay		
3♦	Hearts and diamonds		

South led the ♥J and declarer won and played two more rounds of the suit, South winning as North followed with the ♥3, ♥5 and ♥10. When South switched to the ♠A declarer was assured of ten tricks, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Primavera	Sert	Ga	Kayabas
—	—	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	3♦*	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
2♣	Strong		
2♦	Relay		
2♥	Kokish		
2♠	Relay		
3♦	Hearts and diamonds		

North led the ♣J and having won in dummy declarer played the ♠K, South taking the ♠A and playing two rounds of clubs. Declarer won and ran the ♦10, two down, -100 and 11 IMPs away.

## Coconut v Pioneers

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Wang	Song	Shi
—	—	1♣*	Pass
1♦*	Pass	1♥*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♦*	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	All Pass		
1♣	16+		
1♦	0-7		
1♥	Relay to spades		
2♣	22+		
2♦	Waiting		
2♥	5+♥		

North led the ♣10 to dummy's ♣A and declarer played three rounds of hearts, South winning and returning the ♣7. When the ♣Q held declarer ran the ♦10, South winning and playing two rounds of clubs. North won, cashed the ♣J and switched to the ♠10 for three down, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Han	Deng	Li
—	—	1♥	1NT
All Pass			

West led the ♥6 and East played three rounds of the suit, Declarer winning with dummy's ♥10 and playing the ♣J. East won and switched to the ♦Q, following it with the ♦J. When South withheld the ♦K East cashed two hearts and then played the ♦A which meant the contract was four down, -400 for another 11 IMPs.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

## Epstein v Magicians

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Foça	Epstein	Görün	Silverman
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣*
Dble	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
2♣	3 card Drury		

West led the  $\diamond 6$  and when declarer played dummy's  $\diamond 10$  East won with the  $\diamond K$  and switched to the  $\clubsuit 9$ , declarer taking the  $\clubsuit A$  and playing a heart to the ace followed by a heart to the king and a heart. East won and continued with the  $\clubsuit 4$  and when declarer played the  $\clubsuit Q$  West won and switched to the  $\spadesuit K$ . That was followed by the  $\clubsuit J$  and the  $\spadesuit 4$  and declarer was forced to win with the by now unguarded  $\spadesuit A$ . There were two more tricks to lose, three down, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Primavera	Sert	Ga	Kayabas
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	2 $\clubsuit^*$
Dble	4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass	
2 $\clubsuit$	Drury		

East led the  $\clubsuit 9$  and declarer took dummy's  $\clubsuit A$ , ducked the  $\spadesuit J$  to West's  $\spadesuit Q$ , finessed the  $\diamond 10$  on West's return of the  $\diamond 2$  and ruffed the second round of clubs. Two rounds of spades, ruffing in dummy were followed by two rounds of diamonds and the  $\spadesuit 6$ , ruffed in dummy. Declarer unblocked the  $\heartsuit K$  and ruffed a club with the  $\heartsuit 9$ , +420 and another 11 IMPs.

Coconut v Pioneers

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Wang	Song	Shi
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	2 $\clubsuit^*$
Dble*	2 $\spadesuit$	Pass	2NT
Pass	3 $\clubsuit$	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
2 $\clubsuit$	3 $\heartsuit$ , limit raise		
Dble	Clubs		

West led the  $\spadesuit Q$  for the two, seven and eight and continued with the  $\spadesuit K$ , pinning the  $\spadesuit J$ . The  $\spadesuit 4$  saw declarer win with dummy's  $\spadesuit A$  and play the  $\heartsuit A$  followed by the  $\heartsuit 6$  for the jack and king, West discarding the  $\clubsuit 2$ . East won the next heart and switched to the  $\clubsuit 9$ , declarer taking the  $\clubsuit A$ , crossing to the  $\diamond A$  and cashing his hearts for two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Han	Deng	Li
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	2 $\clubsuit^*$
Dble	2 $\spadesuit$	Pass	2NT
Pass	3 $\diamond$	Pass	3 $\heartsuit$
Pass	4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass	
2 $\clubsuit$	Drury		

East led the  $\clubsuit 9$  and declarer took dummy's  $\clubsuit A$  and ducked a spade, West winning with the  $\spadesuit 10$  and switching to the  $\heartsuit 2$  for the six, queen and king. Two rounds of spades were followed by a diamond to the ten and East won with the  $\diamond K$ . When he continued with the  $\clubsuit 4$  declarer ruffed and played the  $\spadesuit 6$ , ruffing when East discarded the  $\diamond 3$ . A diamond to the queen was followed by two rounds of hearts and declarer had ten tricks, +420 and 11 IMPs.

Having won with the  $\diamond K$  East needs to switch to a low heart, removing dummy's remaining trump. Declarer can avoid this by winning the first round of diamonds with the  $\diamond A$  and then playing a spade.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

$\spadesuit$ A J 10 9 4	$\spadesuit$ K 7
$\heartsuit$ 5	$\heartsuit$ A Q J 7 6
$\diamond$ J 2	$\diamond$ 9 7 5
$\clubsuit$ 10 8 5 4 3	$\clubsuit$ K J 7
$\spadesuit$ Q 8 2	$\spadesuit$ 6 5 3
$\heartsuit$ K 10 8 4 3	$\heartsuit$ 9 2
$\diamond$ A K 6 3	$\diamond$ Q 10 8 4
$\clubsuit$ 2	$\clubsuit$ A Q 9 6

Epstein v Magicians

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Foça	Epstein	Görün	Silverman
—	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Pass
2 $\clubsuit^*$	Pass	2NT	Pass
3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	3 $\spadesuit$	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5 $\clubsuit^*$	Pass
5 $\heartsuit$	All Pass		
2 $\clubsuit$	Game forcing		
4NT	RKCB		
5 $\clubsuit$	1 keycard		

South led the  $\diamond 8$  and declarer won with dummy's  $\diamond A$ , drew trumps ending in dummy and played a club to the jack and queen. South exited with the  $\diamond 4$  and declarer could not avoid the loss of a spade and a diamond, one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Primavera	Sert	Ga	Kayabas
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 $\diamond^*$	Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass
3NT*	Pass	4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass
2 $\diamond$	Transfer		
3NT	Mild slam try		

Stopping at a safe level meant a swing was inevitable, declarer winning the lead of the  $\spadesuit 3$  with the  $\spadesuit Q$  and drawing trumps, +420 and 10 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

$\spadesuit$ 8 6 5	$\spadesuit$ K J 10 3 2
$\heartsuit$ A K 5	$\heartsuit$ 10 8 4 3 2
$\diamond$ A Q 3	$\diamond$ 9
$\clubsuit$ Q 6 5 4	$\clubsuit$ 9 8
$\spadesuit$ 9 7	$\spadesuit$ A Q 4
$\heartsuit$ 7	$\heartsuit$ Q J 9 6
$\diamond$ K J 10 8 7 5	$\diamond$ 6 4 2
$\clubsuit$ K J 7 2	$\clubsuit$ A 10 3

Epstein v Magicians

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Foça	Epstein	Görün	Silverman
—	—	—	1 $\clubsuit^*$
1 $\diamond$	3NT	All Pass	
1 $\clubsuit$	2+ $\clubsuit$		

East led the  $\spadesuit J$  and when dummy's  $\spadesuit Q$  held declarer played a heart to the ace, a club to the ace and a club to the queen. When that held she cashed three hearts, played a diamond to the queen and exited with a club, finishing with ten tricks, +430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Primavera	Sert	Ga	Kayabas
—	—	—	1 $\clubsuit^*$
1 $\diamond$	3NT	All Pass	

East led the  $\diamond 9$  and when it held he switched to the  $\spadesuit 10$  and followed it with the  $\spadesuit 2$ . Declarer elected to play dummy's  $\spadesuit A$ , and then cashed four hearts and two diamonds. Exiting with a spade saw win, cash a spade and play the  $\clubsuit 9$ , West's  $\clubsuit K$  taking the setting trick, one down, -50 and 10 IMPs away.

Coconut v Pioneers

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	Wang	Song	Shi
—	—	Pass	1 $\clubsuit$
2 $\diamond$	3 $\diamond^*$	Pass	3 $\heartsuit$
Pass	3 $\spadesuit$	Pass	4 $\clubsuit$
Pass	4 $\diamond^*$	Pass	4NT*
4NT	Minorwood		
4NT	2 keycards		

West led the  $\diamond K$  and declarer won and played a club for the eight, ten and jack, West continuing with the  $\diamond 10$ . Declarer ducked, won the next diamond and then played two rounds of clubs, West winning and cashing three diamonds for two down, -100.

As the cards lie, one way to get home is to win the second round of diamonds, finesse in spades and then cash four hearts. If West keeps the  $\clubsuit K$  guarded, declarer cashes the  $\spadesuit A$  and exits with a diamond, forcing West to lead away from the  $\clubsuit K$ .

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wang	Han	Deng	Li
—	—	Pass	1 $\clubsuit$
2 $\diamond$	3NT	All Pass	

East led the  $\spadesuit 10$  and declarer won with dummy's  $\spadesuit A$ , played a heart to the ace and a club for the ten and jack. West returned the  $\spadesuit 9$  and declarer won with dummy's  $\spadesuit Q$ , played a diamond to the ace, cashed three hearts and played a diamond. West won and exited with a diamond to the queen. A club to the ace and a club forced West to give the last trick to the  $\clubsuit Q$ , +430 and the fourth 11 IMP swing of the match, tying the scores at 22-22.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

$\spadesuit$ Q 5	$\spadesuit$ K 8 2
$\heartsuit$ A Q 8 3	$\heartsuit$ J 10 9 6
$\diamond$ J 3 2	$\diamond$ Q 8
$\clubsuit$ Q J 9 8	$\clubsuit$ 6 5 4 3
$\spadesuit$ 10 7 6 4	$\spadesuit$ A J 9 3
$\heartsuit$ 5 4 2	$\heartsuit$ K 7
$\diamond$ A 10 5	$\diamond$ K 9 7 6 4
$\clubsuit$ A K 2	$\clubsuit$ 10 7

Epstein v Magicians

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Foça	Epstein	Görün	Silverman
—	—	—	1 $\diamond$
Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the  $\heartsuit J$  and declarer won with the  $\heartsuit A$

and played the  $\diamond J$  for the queen king and ace, West returning the  $\heartsuit 4$  to dummy's  $\heartsuit K$ . The  $\clubsuit 10$  was taken by the  $\clubsuit K$  and West played a third heart, declarer winning (discarding the  $\spadesuit 3$ ) and playing a diamond to the nine. When that held (better for West to win, cash the  $\clubsuit A$  and exit with a diamond to endplay dummy for two down) she exited with a diamond, West winning as East discarded the  $\clubsuit 6$ . West exited with the  $\spadesuit 7$  for the queen, king and ace, and declarer cashed two diamonds and then played a club, +600.

If West cashes the  $\clubsuit A$  before playing a spade declarer will lose a trick to the  $\spadesuit 10$  at the end for one down.

The double dummy line is to win the opening lead with the  $\heartsuit K$  and play the  $\diamond 9$ ! Even if you were to think of that you must win East's heart return, cash another heart and then play a club. Remind me to send the deal to Hugh Darwin!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Primavera</i>	<i>Sert</i>	<i>Ga</i>	<i>Kayabas</i>
—	—	—	1 $\diamond$
Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	2 $\clubsuit^*$	Pass	2 $\diamond$
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2 $\clubsuit$  Fourth suit forcing

East led the  $\clubsuit 6$  and the defenders played three rounds of the suit, declarer winning and playing the  $\diamond 2$  for the eight, nine and ten. West switched to the  $\heartsuit 5$  and declarer won with dummy's  $\heartsuit K$ , played a heart to the ace and a diamond for the queen and king. West ducked, won the next diamond and exited with the  $\spadesuit 4$ , locking declarer in dummy and scoring the  $\spadesuit 10$  at the end for one down, -100 and 12 IMPs.

If declarer cashes the  $\clubsuit J$  and a third heart, discarding a diamond and a spade before playing a diamond there is no defence.

Having been down 25-0, Epstein now led 32-25.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

$\spadesuit$ Q 6 5 3		$\spadesuit$ K 10 7 4 2	
$\heartsuit$ 7 6 3		$\heartsuit$ A 9 8	
$\diamond$ 10		$\diamond$ J 4	
$\clubsuit$ A 6 5 4 2		$\clubsuit$ K 10 8	
$\spadesuit$ A 9		$\spadesuit$ K 10 7 4 2	
$\heartsuit$ Q J 10 2		$\heartsuit$ A 9 8	
$\diamond$ K 7 6 3		$\diamond$ J 4	
$\clubsuit$ Q J 7		$\clubsuit$ K 10 8	
$\spadesuit$ J 8		$\spadesuit$ K 10 7 4 2	
$\heartsuit$ K 5 4		$\heartsuit$ A 9 8	
$\diamond$ A Q 9 8 5 2		$\diamond$ J 4	
$\clubsuit$ 9 3		$\clubsuit$ K 10 8	

Epstein v Magicians

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Foça</i>	<i>Epstein</i>	<i>Görün</i>	<i>Silverman</i>
—	Pass	Pass	3 $\diamond$
Pass	Pass	3 $\spadesuit$	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the  $\clubsuit 2$  and declarer won with the  $\clubsuit Q$  and ran the  $\heartsuit Q$ , South winning and returning the  $\clubsuit 3$ . North won, but rather than clear the suit, switched to the  $\diamond 10$  (leading it at trick one would have ensured three down) for the jack, queen and king. Needing to find a trick, declarer played the top spades collecting South's  $\spadesuit J$  and played the  $\spadesuit 7$ , which led to +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Primavera</i>	<i>Sert</i>	<i>Ga</i>	<i>Kayabas</i>
—	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	3 $\diamond$
3NT	All Pass		

North led the  $\diamond 10$  for the jack queen and king, and when declarer ran the  $\heartsuit Q$  South won, cashed five diamonds and then played a club for three down, -300 and 14 IMPs that saw the Magicians win 39-33, 12.18-7.82 VP, which allowed Netbridge to overtake Epstein as the overnight leaders of the ALT Group.

Coconut v Pioneers

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Yang</i>	<i>Wang</i>	<i>Song</i>	<i>Shi</i>
—	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	2 $\diamond$
Dble*	Pass	2 $\spadesuit$	Pass
3 $\diamond^*$	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South led the  $\diamond 8$  (well done if you would have started with the ace or queen!) and declarer won with the  $\diamond J$ , played a club to the queen, a club to the king and the  $\heartsuit 9$ . When that held two rounds of hearts saw South win and exit with the  $\spadesuit 8$ . Declarer won with the  $\spadesuit 10$  and played a diamond, establishing a ninth trick, +600.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Wang</i>	<i>Han</i>	<i>Deng</i>	<i>Li</i>
—	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	3 $\diamond$
Dble*	Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	Pass
4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass		

South led the  $\clubsuit 9$  and North won with the  $\clubsuit A$  and returned the  $\clubsuit 2$ , declarer winning with dummy's  $\clubsuit Q$  and running the  $\heartsuit Q$ . South won, cashed the  $\diamond A$  and continued with the  $\diamond Q$ , North ruffing as declarer followed with dummy's  $\diamond 6$ . A club return allowed South to ruff for two down, -200 and 13 IMPs.

Pioneers won 38-24, 14.54-5.46 VP which took them into third place in the OCBL Group.

The Right Moves

In Round 5 I felt I was between a rock and a hard place. Should I focus on the battle for fourth place in the ALT Group, where Seligman faced Scottish Select, or concentrate on Netbridge v Harris, first against third. Maybe I can feature both to a certain extent.

On the opening deal EW held

$\spadesuit$  3 2  $\heartsuit$  Q 9 5 4  $\diamond$  10 7 4  $\clubsuit$  A 7 6 4

opposite

$\spadesuit$  A 10 7  $\heartsuit$  K 10 8 7 2  $\diamond$  K Q 3  $\clubsuit$  K 9.

The  $\heartsuit J$  was singleton and the  $\diamond A$  onside. To defeat 4 $\heartsuit$  South would have needed to lead a diamond from

$\spadesuit$  Q J 9 5  $\heartsuit$  A 6 3  $\diamond$  J 5  $\clubsuit$  J 10 8 5.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

$\spadesuit$ A Q J		$\spadesuit$ 10 6 5	
$\heartsuit$ 8 6 2		$\heartsuit$ K 7 3	
$\diamond$ K 7		$\diamond$ A 5 4 3	
$\clubsuit$ K 10 9 7 6		$\clubsuit$ A 8 5	
$\spadesuit$ 8 7 4 2		$\spadesuit$ 10 6 5	
$\heartsuit$ 4		$\heartsuit$ K 7 3	
$\diamond$ Q J 9 8 6 2		$\diamond$ A 5 4 3	
$\clubsuit$ Q 3		$\clubsuit$ A 8 5	
$\spadesuit$ K 9 3		$\spadesuit$ 10 6 5	
$\heartsuit$ A Q J 10 9 5		$\heartsuit$ K 7 3	
$\diamond$ 10		$\diamond$ A 5 4 3	
$\clubsuit$ J 4 2		$\clubsuit$ A 8 5	

Netbridge v Harris

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Bouwen</i>	<i>Malhasyan</i>	<i>v.denHoek</i>
—	—	1 $\diamond^*$	1 $\heartsuit$
Dble*	1NT	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$
Pass	3 $\heartsuit$	All Pass	
1 $\diamond$	1+ $\diamond$ , 10-15		

West led the  $\diamond Q$  and declarer ruffed the second round of the suit, went to dummy with the  $\spadesuit Q$  and ran the  $\heartsuit 8$ . After drawing trumps he eventually ran the  $\clubsuit J$  for eleven tricks, +200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mladenovic</i>	<i>Igoe</i>	<i>Pareznin</i>	<i>Harris</i>
—	—	Pass	1 $\heartsuit$
Pass	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass	2 $\heartsuit$
Pass	4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass	

A similar line of play saw the same number of tricks being taken, but the score was +650 and 12 IMPs for Harris.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

$\spadesuit$ 8 7 5 4		$\spadesuit$ Q	
$\heartsuit$ 6 2		$\heartsuit$ K Q J 3	
$\diamond$ —		$\diamond$ A J 10 9 4 2	
$\clubsuit$ K Q J 9 6 3 2		$\clubsuit$ 7 4	
$\spadesuit$ J 6 2		$\spadesuit$ A K 10 9 3	
$\heartsuit$ A 10 9 5 4		$\heartsuit$ 8 7	
$\diamond$ 6 5 3		$\diamond$ K Q 8 7	
$\clubsuit$ 10 8		$\clubsuit$ A 5	

Netbridge v Harris

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Isporski</i>	<i>Bouwen</i>	<i>Malhasyan</i>	<i>v.denHoek</i>
—	—	—	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	2NT*	3 $\diamond$	Dble*
Pass	4 $\spadesuit$	All Pass	
2NT	Game forcing, 4+ $\spadesuit$		
Dble	Penalty		

West led the  $\diamond 3$  and declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the top spades and then played the  $\diamond K$  discarding a heart. East won and switched to the  $\heartsuit K$ , West overtaking it, cashing the  $\spadesuit J$  and playing the  $\heartsuit 5$  for one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mladenovic</i>	<i>Igoe</i>	<i>Pareznin</i>	<i>Harris</i>
—	—	—	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	4 $\spadesuit$	All Pass	

West led the  $\diamond 5$  and declarer discarded the  $\heartsuit 2$  from dummy, East winning and playing two rounds of hearts. Declarer ruffed, played three rounds of spades and claimed the rest, +420 and another 10 IMPs.

Seligman v Scottish Select

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Seligman</i>	<i>Ferguson</i>	<i>Pszczola</i>	<i>McKinnon</i>
—	—	—	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	4 $\spadesuit$	All Pass	

West led the  $\clubsuit 10$  and declarer won, cashed the top spades and then played clubs, pitching a heart, +450.

Closed Room


West	North	East	South
Gordon	Starkowski	McGowan	Kwiecien
—	—	—	1♠
Pass	4♠	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

South led the ♠A and switched to the ♥7, declarer winning with dummy's ♥A and playing a diamond. South won with the nine and having seen partner pitch the ♣K, persisted with a second heart. Declarer won in hand with the ♥K (better to win in dummy) and cashed the ♦A, finishing four down, -1100 and a 12 IMP loss.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ 9 7 5 3  
♥ 10 8 6 3  
♦ K 9  
♣ K 7 6

♠ 4  
♥ Q J 9 4  
♦ Q J 10 8 3  
♣ A 10 5



♠ 8 6 2  
♥ K 2  
♦ 7 6 5 4 2  
♣ Q J 2

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

Seligman v Scottish Select

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	Ferguson	Pszczola	McKinnon
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Dble	2♠	3♦	4♠
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

South led the ♠K and continued with the ♠A forcing dummy to ruff. In with the ♦A South switched to the ♥A (a club is best) and continued with the ♥7, declarer claiming nine tricks, two down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gordon	Starkowski	McGowan	Kwiecien
—	Pass	Pass	1♣*
1♦	Pass	2♦	2♠*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1♣ 0+♣, 12-14 balanced or 4414, 15+ natural or 18+ any (except 20-21 balanced)

2♠ Strong, 5+♠

West led the ♦Q and declarer won, drew trumps and played a club to the king, claiming after discarding the ♥5 on the ♦K, +620 and 8 IMPs.

The only way to defeat 4♠ is to start with an impossible low club.

Suppose you have


♠ A J 8 3 ♥ J 3 2 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ A 8 5

at Love All and see West open 1♥, partner overcall 2♣ and East raise to 4♥. Do you think a double should show four spades?

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

♠ 10 9  
♥ A K Q 10 7  
♦ K 7 5 2  
♣ K 6



♠ 7 4 2  
♥ 9 8 6 5 4  
♦ A 9 8 4  
♣ Q

♠ A J 8 3  
♥ J 3 2  
♦ Q 6 3  
♣ A 8 5

Netbridge v Harris

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Isporski	Bouwen	Malhasyan	v.denHoek
1♥	2♣	4♥	5♣
All Pass			

5♣ had to go one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Mladenovic	Igoe	Pareznin	Harris
1♥	3♣	4♥	All Pass

North led the ♣J and South won and played two rounds of spades. The inevitable diamond loser meant one down, -50 and a 3 IMP swing.

Seligman v Scottish Select

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Seligman	Ferguson	Pszczola	McKinnon
1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass

East led the ♥9, but declarer could not avoid the loss of a club and two diamonds, one down, -100 and 11 IMPs away.

It was a big win for Seligman, 45-3, 19.44-0.56 VP and the jumped to the top of the leaderboard.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Gordon	Starkowski	McGowan	Kwiecien
1NT	Dble*	2♥	4♠
All Pass			

Dble 4♥/♠ and 5+♣/♦

West led the ♥A and declarer ruffed in dummy and played the ♣J for the queen and ace. He continued club and was assured of ten tricks, +420.

Harris had won 37-6, 18-20 VP and moved into second place.


The Time Machine

With three rounds to play four teams were clear in the ALT Group, but things were much closer in the OCBL. The match between Avocado and Scotch Lovers pitted fifth against seventh, both hoping for a big win.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ Q J 7  
♥ 6 3 2  
♦ Q 10 6 2  
♣ A 10 5

♠ 10  
♥ 10 7  
♦ A 9 8 7 3  
♣ K J 9 4 3



♠ 9 8 5 4  
♥ K Q J 9 8  
♦ 4  
♣ Q 8 6

♠ A K 6 3 2  
♥ A 5 4  
♦ K J 5  
♣ 7 2

Avacado v Scotch Lovers

Open Room

West	North	East	South
B Shenkin	Franceschetti	Spears	Setton
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
2NT*	3♠	4♣	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass
2NT	Minors		

West led the ♣4 and declarer took dummy's ♣A and drew trumps, West pitching two diamonds and a club. The ♦K took the next trick and when South continued with the ♦J West took the ♦A which allowed declarer to pitch a losing heart on a diamond, +590.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	D Shenkin	Bessis	McLaatchie
—	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	2♥	Pass
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Dble*	Pass	3♣	All Pass


2♣ Drury

South led the ♠K and switched to the ♣7, North taking the ♣A and returning the ♣5. Declarer won with dummy's ♣8 and played the ♥K. South won and declarer claimed nine tricks, +110 along with 12 IMPs.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A J 10 7  
♥ 8  
♦ 7 5 4  
♣ A K 8 4 3

♠ K 6  
♥ A Q J 10 6 4  
♦ K 10 3 2  
♣ 2



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

♠ Q 9 2  
♥ 3  
♦ Q 9 8  
♣ Q 10 9 7 6 5

Avacado v Scotch Lovers

Open Room

West	North	East	South
B Shenkin	Franceschetti	Spears	Setton
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	4♥	All Pass

North led the ♣A and switched to the ♥8, declarer winning with the ♥Q crossing to dummy with the ♥9 and playing a spade to the king and ace. North played the ♠J and continued with the ♠7, leaving declarer to negotiate the diamond suit. He ruffed, went to dummy with a heart, ruffed a spade and cashed the ♦K, one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	D Shenkin	Bessis	McLaatchie
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♥	Dble	4♣*	Pass
4♥	All Pass		


4♣ Splinter

The first four tricks were identical, but then North switched to the ♦5, +420 and 10 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

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



♠ A Q 10 7 6  
♥ Q 10 7 6 3  
♦ 10 9  
♣ 6

♠ 9 5 2  
♥ J 9 2  
♦ A J 8  
♣ J 9 8 4

**Avacado v Scotch Lovers**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>B Shenkin</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Spears</i>	<i>Setton</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass

South led the ♠2 and declarer took North's ♠J with the ♠A and played two rounds of hearts. With the ♦A onside there were ten tricks, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>D Shenkin</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>McLaatchie</i>
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥*	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

2♥ Encouraging

South led the ♣4 and North won with the ♣10 and continued with the ♣K, declarer ruffing and playing the ♦9 to the king followed by a heart to the queen. A heart to the ace was followed by five rounds of spades, South refusal to ruff the fourth round yielding an overtrick, +650 and 10 IMPs.

They were the only pair to bid game.

Roland Wald would have enjoyed this deal.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

**Avacado v Scotch Lovers**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>B Shenkin</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>	<i>Spears</i>	<i>Setton</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	Pass	1♥	4♣
Dble	All Pass		

With 3NT likely to go down on a spade lead, bidding 4♣ proved to be a winning decision, especially when it was doubled, +710.

5 pairs in this group tried 3NT – only one was successful.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lorenzini</i>	<i>D Shenkin</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>McLaatchie</i>
—	—	—	2♣
Pass	2♥*	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	4♣
Pass	Pass	4♦	Dble
All Pass			

2♣ Strong  
2♥ Negative

South led the ♣K and declarer ruffed, played the ♥9 for the king and ace and ran the ♥7 to South's ♥Q. He ruffed the club return and played the ♥J, South ruffing with the ♦K and switching to the ♠8. Declarer won with the ♠K and exited with the ♦8. When that collected the ♦A South played the ♣A, ensuring that his partner would score a trump trick, one down, -200 but an 11 IMP loss.

Avacado's 47-10 win translated into 18.84-1.16 VP and moved them up to fourth.

**Top Table**

Looking at the draw, the top two teams in the OCBL Group were due to meet in Round 7, Both Greenberg and Spring having lost only one match so far.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

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

**Greenberg v Spring**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M de Leon</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♦*	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
2♦	One major		
2♠	Pass or correct		

East led the ♥K and declarer won the third round of the suit, discarding a club from his hand and ran the ♦Q, East discarding the ♠6. The ♣Q was covered by the king and ace and declarer cashed his winners in the suit before playing two rounds of spades. That gave him nine tricks, +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lucassen</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>Walker</i>	<i>Shourie</i>
—	—	—	2♦*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3♦*	Pass	4♣*
Pass	5♦	All Pass	
2♦	Weak		
2NT	Asking, invite+		
3♣	Positive		
3♦	Asking for shortness		
4♣	Spade shortness		

West led the ♠10 and declarer took dummy's ♠A, played a heart to the queen and ace and ran the ♦Q, East discarding the ♠7. There was no way to avoid the loss of two diamonds and a heart, one down, -50 and a 10 IMP loss.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

**Greenberg v Spring**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Mde Leon</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♠*	All Pass		
2♣	♠+♣, 11-15, any 15-17, some 18+		
2♠	5-7, 2/3♠		

South led the ♦4 and the defenders played three rounds of the suit, declarer ruffing, playing a spade to the king and a spade to the jack and queen. He ruffed the diamond return, unblocked the ♥AK, went to dummy with a club and ruffed a heart. When South could overruff he was one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Lucassen</i>	<i>G Wolpert</i>	<i>Walker</i>	<i>Shourie</i>
Pass	Pass	1♣*	1♠
All Pass			
1♣	2+♣		

West led the ♥10 and East won with the ♥K, cashed the king and ace of clubs then took the ♥A and played the ♣3. Declarer ruffed with the ♠7, played a diamond to the queen and a spade for the jack, queen and king. Back on a diamond and declarer was booked for three down, -300 and 9 IMPs changed hands.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

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

**Greenberg v Spring**

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>M. de Leon</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Sprinkhuizen</i>	<i>Greenberg</i>
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣*	Pass	4♦*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥*
Pass	6♠	All Pass	
2♣	Game forcing, 1+♣		
4♣	'Extras'		
4♦	Control		
4NT	RKCB		
5♥	2 keycards		

West led the ♣4 and declarer took dummy's ♣A, ruffed a club, went to the ♦K, ruffed a club, played a spade to the king and ran the ♠J. West won and returned the ♥5 and East's ♥K was the setting trick, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lucassen	G Wolpert	Walker	Shourie
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♠	All Pass	

2♣ Artificial game force  
 3NT Non serious  
 4NT RKCB  
 5♥ 2 keycards

The early play was virtually identical, but having won a trick with the ♠Q West returned a club, East ruffing with the ♠7. Declarer overruffed but had to lose a heart, no swing.

The best line?

That's unclear, but if declarer had cashed a second club and then ruffed the third round, a spade to the jack delivers all the tricks and even if it loses to the ♠Q declarer has the rest.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

### Greenberg v Spring

Open Room

West	North	East	South
M de Leon	Tokay	Sprinkhuizen	Greenberg
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1♠	2♠*	4♥*
Dble*	4♠	5♥	5♠
Dble	All Pass		

2♠ Invitational, 3+♥  
 4♥ Spades  
 Dble 'I want to bid 5♥

East led the ♥K, switched to the ♦K and continued with the ♦9, declarer soon claiming for one down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lucassen	G Wolpert	Walker	Shourie
—	—	—	Pass
1♥	1♠	2NT*	4♠
5♦	Pass	5♥	5♠
Dble	All Pass		

2NT 4+♥, 10+

East led the ♦6 and West cashed his aces, no swing.

If it was available a jump to 4♣ would promise clubs and spades, but if you can find anyone who is not bidding 5♠ over 5♥ you are doing well. Notice that if you do defend 5♥ a club lead is essential.

Greenberg won 21-1, 15.97-4-03 to take a commanding lead in the group.



# Bridge

# NEWS

## Dates of 2025 Youth events announced

The European Bridge League and the World Bridge Federation have just announced the dates of the 2025 Youth Championships:



### World Youth Team Championships

12 - 17 July 2025



### European Youth Pairs Championships

18 - 23 July 2025

The venue for both events is not yet known, but EBL and WBF granted it will be announced soon.

## 2024 Small Federation Games Winners

The 2024 WBF Small Federations Online Open Teams concluded on 22 December 2024.

The winners are Ukraine:

Yuliy CHUMAK  
 Volodymyr DRAGAN  
 Petro KARLYKOV  
 Mykola NIESKOROMNYI  
 Borys SHUKHMEYSTER  
 Vitaly ZUBAN  
 Captain: Mykola Nieskoromnyi



Winners, from left: Volodymyr Dragan, Mykola Nieskoromnyi, Petro Karlykov, Vitaly Zuban, Boris Shukhmeyster. (Yuliy Chumak is not pictured as he was playing from another venue.)

The second-place team was Croatia:

Goran BOREVKOVIC  
 Karlo BRGULJAN  
 Goran CEKOL  
 Goran DRAZIC  
 Matko FERENCA  
 Filip KATUSIC  
 Ognjen STANICIC  
 Vedran ZORIC  
 Captain: Goran Cekol

and Egypt was third:

Moaz HAMMAM  
 Mohamed HESHMAT  
 Abdelrahman KHEDR  
 Nada WATTAR  
 Hani DAGHER  
 Ahmed Nayer ELSELEHDAR  
 Captain: Mohamed Heshmat

# 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](http://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