World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 10. Wednesday, 13 January, 2021

The OPEN LEAGUE show has just begun

It is obviously too soon to talk about the rankings, since the OCBL OPEN LEAGUE qualification stage has just started and will last for 14 Rounds (11 Rounds to be played as a Round Robin and 3 more as a Swiss - for details check yesterday's OCBL Journal).

So let's talk about the show!
Hundreds of spectators were following the event, either watching the Bridge Base Online Vugraph or the World Bridge Tour twitch channel: https://m.twitch.tv/worldbridgetour/profile

On Twitch, the commentators were Christian Bakke, from Norway, and David Grainger, from USA. We thank them for their great work!
There is no play today - but the OCBL events will come back on Thursday, with the 2nd round of the Open League.

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE RANKINGS AFTER ROUND 1

GROUP A

1	Black	18.91
2	Moss	17.79
	Mikadinho	17.79
4	Goded	14.2
5	Goodman	12.3
6	Skeidar	10
	Turkish Delight	10
8	Aus 1	7.7
9	Bridge42	5.8
10	Skalman	2.21
	English Juniors	2.21
12	Ireland	1.09

GROUP B

1	Lebowitz	19.09
2	Salvo	15.61
3	Orca	15.45
4	Lupoveloce	14.94
5	Ferguson	14.76
6	France Sud	11.08
7	Bishel	8.92
8	Harris	5.24
9	Denmark	5.06
10	Fredin	4.55
11	Fasting	4.39
12	Sugi	0.91

GROUP C

1	Leslie	20
2	BridgeScanner	19.65
3	Palma	19.25
4	Alexander	18.01
5	Amateurs	10.28
6	Seligman	10
	Norwegian Amazones	10
8	De Michelis	9.72
9	McIceberg	1.99
10	De Botton	0.75
11	Amalgamated	0.35
12	Koeppel	0

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OCBL UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY OPEN TEAMS
18 - 22 January 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/januaryoteams/

OCBL FEBRUARY CUP
1 - 5 February 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/februarycup/

FEBRUARY OPEN TEAMS
15 - 19 February 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/februaryot/

MARCH OPEN TEAMS
8 - 11 March 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/marchot/

OCBL MARCH CUP
22 - 26 March 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/marchcup/

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE
30 March - 16 May 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/openleague2/

OCBL MIXED LEAGUE
27 March - 9 May 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/mixedleague2/

OCBL APRIL CUP
5 - 9 April 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/aprilcup/

APRIL OPEN TEAMS
19 - 23 April 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/aprilot/

OCBL MAY CUP
3 - 7 May 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/maycup/

MAY OPEN TEAMS
31 May - 4 June 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/mayot/

OCBL JUNE CUP
4 - 18 June 2021
Info: https://ocbl.org/junecup/

About the OCBL Events:

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE
Play 3 days a week:
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
at 21.30 CET (15.30 EST)
Qualification + Knockout

OCBL MIXED LEAGUE
Play 2 days a week:
Saturday and Sunday
at 17.00 CET (11.00 EST)
Qualification + Knockout

OCBL CUP
Play 5 days
Qualification + Knockout

OCBL OPEN TEAMS
Play 5 days (4 in March)
Qualification + Swiss A

A League of their Own

by **Mark Horton**

The OCBL Open League runs until the end of February, and the entries contain an exciting mix of established and rising stars. That was reflected in the opening round when the English Juniors faced Moss.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	*Clark*	*Lee*	*Panchagnula*
1♣	1♢	1♠	2♢
3♣	All Pass		

North led the ♢A and continued with the four, declarer ruffing, cashing the ♡A, ruffing a heart and playing a spade for the four, queen and ace. Declarer ruffed the diamond return, ruffed a heart, came to hand with a spade, crossed to dummy with a club and pitched a heart on the ♠K, +150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Singhal	*Muller*	*Kritsalis*	*de Wijs*
1♣*	1♢	1♡*	2♢
2♡*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
1♡ Spades
2♡ Natural, denies 3♠
2NT Should be weak
1♣ 1+♣, maybe 5♢
Dble 4+♠
3♣ Mixed raise

Filippos Kritsalis

East did well to reject the idea of playing in 3NT, but 4♣ would have given his side a chance of reaching the decent game.

South led the ♢7 and North won with the king and returned the four, declarer ruffing in dummy, cashing the ♡A, ruffing a heart, ruffing a diamond, ruffing a heart, crossing to the ♣A and ruffing another heart as North pitched a club. Declarer could muster no more than eight tricks, -200 and an 8 IMP loss.

8 pairs reached 5♣, the best result going to Manno and Di Franco, who were doubled for a 12 IMP pick up.

This was a model auction:

West	North	East	South
Gómez	*Kemény*	*Gonçalves*	*Trenka*
1♣	1♢	1♠	2♢
2♡	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

It was a game swing for team Goded.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moss	*Clark*	*Lee*	*Panchagnula*
—	—	Pass	1♣*
1♡	Dble*	3♣*	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1♣ 1+♣, maybe 5♢
Dble 4+♠
3♣ Mixed raise

West led the ♣K and that enabled declarer to draw trumps, and play on clubs for +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Singhal	*Muller*	*Kritsalis*	*de Wijs*
—	—	Pass	1♢*
1♡	Dble*	2♢*	3♡*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

1♢ 2+♢, 11-15
Dble 4/5♠
2♢ Good raise or any 15+
3♡ Good 3♠ bid

East led the ♡4 and declarer won perforce with dummy's ace, crossed to hand with the ♠K and played a club for the ten and king.

West accurately switched to diamonds, the seven being covered by the nine, ten and a second spade saw East pitch the ♢2.

Declarer played the ♣J and that was covered by the queen and ace and ruffed by West, who returned the ♢J.

Mikal Klukowski - pic: Monica Garneata

When that held he exited with his remaining spade and declarer won with the ace and played the ♣7, covered by the eight and nine.

Declarer could pitch diamond on a club, but East's ♣5 was the setting trick, -100 and 13 IMPs that gave the Juniors a half-time lead of 16-14.

For the record, if after the ♢J holds West exits with a heart rather than a trump, declarer will be two down.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	*Clark*	*Kalita*	*Panchagnula*
1♡	2♢	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Dble	Pass	Pass	5♢
Dble	All Pass		

Having bid 2NT South might have preferred 3♢ to 3NT, but one suspects he thought 3♣ promised a better hand.

Once 3NT was doubled retreating to 4♢ would have been the safest option - with careful play there will always be nine tricks, and West is not guaranteed to double.

East led the ♠2 and West took the ace and switched to the ♡K, declarer pitching a club on the ♡A, crossing to hand with a diamond and then playing a second round of the suit, West discarding the ♠8. No longer able to organise a spade ruff, declarer could not avoid three down, -800.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Singhal	*Muller*	*Kritsalis*	*de Wijs*
1♡	2♢	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♡K and declarer won with the ace and took six rounds of diamonds. It was not easy for the defenders to discard and declarer also scored a club at the end for only one down, -100 and 12 IMPs.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

♠ A K 7 6 4
♡ Q 9 5
♢ 6 3
♣ A 5 4

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

♠ Q 9 3
♡ J 3
♢ K Q 7 2
♣ K 10 8 3

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	*Clark*	*Kalita*	*Panchagnula*
—	1♠	Pass	3♢*
Pass	3♡*	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

3♢ 3♠,10-11
3♡ Counter try

East led the ♢9 for the king and ace and West continued with the ♢10, declarer winning with dummy's queen and playing a third diamond. West ruffed with the ♠8 and declarer overruffed with the ace, cashed the ♠K and played a spade to the queen. When West discarded the defenders were in complete control and the contract finished two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Singhal	*Muller*	*Kritsalis*	*de Wijs*
—	1♠	Pass	2♡*
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♡	Dble	All Pass	

2♡ 9-12, 3♠

West's late entry into the auction was harshly dealt with. He was soon two down,-500 and another 12 IMPs changed hands.

Board 19. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ Q J 9
♡ A Q 9 3 2
♢ J 9 6 4
♣ 6

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

♠ 6
♡ K J 8 4
♢ 5 3
♣ A J 7 5 4 2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	*Clark*	*Kalita*	*Panchagnula*
—	—	—	Pass
1♠	2♡	3♡*	4♡
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♡
Dble	All Pass		

3♡ Mixed or invitational

It would be nice to be able to bid 4♣ over 3♡ to show a fit non jump, leaving partner to decide upon any subsequent action.

East led the ♠8 and West won with the king and switched to the ♢K, East overtaking it and cashing the queen before switching back to spades. Declarer ruffed in dummy, cashed the ♣A, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade and then ruffed a club with the ♡3, East's overruff meaning the contract was two down, -300.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Singhal	*Muller*	*Kritsalis*	*de Wijs*
—	—	—	2♣*
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Dble	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

2♣ 6♣,(9)10-15

North led the ♣6 and South won with the ace and switched to the ♡4, which meant the contract was only one down, -200 and an 11 IMP swing that produced a score line of 59-17.

You can collect 500 if South gives North a club ruff. After cashing the ♡A North leads a heart to South's king and a third club promotes a trump trick for North's ♠QJ. Two pairs managed it, Gosney & Leibowitz and Poizat and Cabanes.

Pic: Jacek Kalita

YOUR REPORT ABOUT THE PANDEMIC

We have asked players from different countries to tell us how the pandemic is going on in their area:

- **How has CoViD-19 affected Bridge in their country;**
- **whether Bridge clubs are open or not;**
- **how their Bridge Federation is reacting;**
- **when they feel F2F Bridge will be played again.**

Thomas Gotard reports from Germany

"Germany was very lucky in the first period of the pandemic. Though we are located in the middle of Europe, the infections were relatively low. Most people were rational about their social contacts. Bridge Clubs were closed. In Summer most life - as well as many Bridge Clubs - tried to restart (semi-) normally. Most tried to enforce security measures, but large tournaments were forbidden. Since October/November the situation got worse, now we have similar infecion cases, as our neigbour countries (cases per x inhabitants). Bridgeclubs are closed.

The German Bridge Federation also has a committe for online Bridge (BBO-Germany), also headed by Marie Eggeling and Michael Pauly. Before the start of the pandemic we hosted five (small) tournaments a week, now they increased their program to kinda five large tournaments per day. There are special events, like training for newcommers, lessons by experts like our Mixed National Players Paul Grünke or Michael Gromöller. Last week we hosted a Mixed Teams tournament in BBO. At this moment we set up our BBO-League - 84 teams have signed in.

Bridge Clubs also use BBO as their platform for local tournaments with their members as substitute to their regular events. Some of those are using the new "Real Bridge" plattform, which has more value for social Bridge than BBO.

Last summer Marie and me played some F2F events in eastern Europe. The cases were on a low level, the events had concepts concerning the hygiene safety, we felt confortable. We hope such events will be coming back in spring. Greater events with 50+ teams will take longer time. Zofia, Marie and Paul of course hope, that the European Championships in Madeira will be such an event, since they are supposed to represent Poland / Germany in Madeira."

Coronavirus pic: courtesy of Telegram - Telegram.org

Online Bridge NEWS

ACBL cancels all F2F events till April 30, 2021

After the announcement that the 2021 Spring NABC (which was scheduled in St. Louis in March 2021) has been canceled, the ACBL sent a new letter to its members:

"Due to the ongoing risk posed by the surging coronavirus and the slow rollout of the vaccine, **the ACBL will not staff face-to-face bridge tournaments through April 30, 2021**.

This means all Sectionals and Regionals scheduled during this period have been canceled. Consistent with this decision, the ACBL is also canceling the sanctions for any remaining Non-Life Master Tournaments or other bridge tournaments through the end of April where ACBL Tournament Directors are not technically required.

We will contact you by March 1 if the moratorium will be extended past April 30.

Online events, including Regional-rated tournaments, will continue to be offered along with chances to win gold, silver, red and black masterpoints."

More details about the 2021 schedule of online events can be found at:
www.acbl.org/virtual.

And now?

The next Face-to-face international events that are still scheduled are:

2021 Cavendish Invitational
15-20 February, 2021 - Montecarlo, Monaco
2021 European National Teams and Women/Seniors Pairs Championships
12-22 June 2021 - Funchal, Madeira Island, Portugal

Bridge-themed Hamilton parody

Following the cancelation of the 2021 Spring NABC we thought about sharing this nice video produced by the ACBL a few months ago.

The very funny Bridge-themed Hamilton parody is available at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZvqKlR-uPM&fbclid

Send us your up-to-date pic, please!

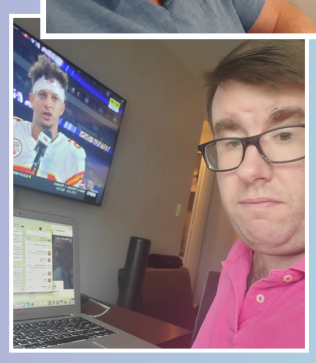
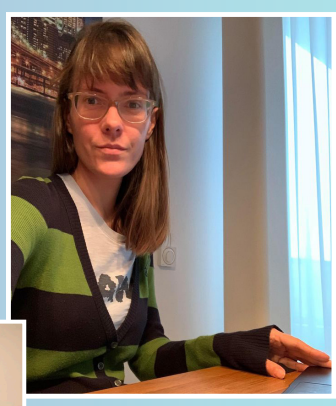
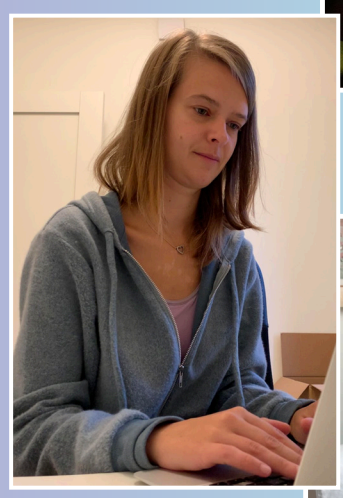
It has been a long time since many of us last met and we are doing our best to make your online Bridge experience as valuable as we can.

Obviously when producing Bridge articles it is necessary
to use photos from the archives, as the last international face-to-face Bridge event was held several months ago (the 2020 Winter Games in Monaco).

Since online play is at the moment our new 'present', we would like to represent it as it is!

So if you can please send us a picture (can be a selfie)
of yourself playing online Bridge.
Let your Bridge friends see you in the present!

You can send the pic to:
franceschannels@gmail.com

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE - RESULTS

ROUND 1

GROUP A

English Juniors	2.21 VPs / 17 IMPs	17.79 VPs / 59 IMPs	Moss	
OPEN ROOM N: Clark J. S: Panchagnula K.	CLOSED ROOM E: Singhal E. W: Kritsalis F.	OPEN ROOM E: Lee R. W: Moss S.	CLOSED ROOM N: Muller B. S: de Wijs S.	
SCORE:				
Goded	14.2 VPs / 65 IMPs	5.8 VPs / 47 IMPs	Bridge42	
OPEN ROOM N: Goded G. S: Sabaté J.	CLOSED ROOM E: Gómez R. W: Gonçalves P.	OPEN ROOM E: Szalka T. W: Czímer C.	CLOSED ROOM N: Kemény G. S: Trenka P.	
SCORE:				
Ireland	1.09 VPs / 11 IMPs	18.91 VPs / 64 IMPs	Black	
OPEN ROOM N: Fitzgibbon N. S: Mesbur A.	CLOSED ROOM E: Carroll J. W: Moran M.	OPEN ROOM E: McIntosh A. W: Paske T.	CLOSED ROOM N: Hallberg G. S: Hult S.	
SCORE:				
Goodman	12.3 VPs / 55 IMPs	7.7 VPs / 46 IMPs	Aus 1	
OPEN ROOM N: Dwyer K. S: Goodman A.	CLOSED ROOM E: Zolotow S. W: Tebha A.	OPEN ROOM E: Lyder D. W: Roche M.	CLOSED ROOM N: Gosney P. S: Leibowitz T.	
SCORE:				
Turkish Delight	10 VPs / 45 IMPs	10 VPs / 45 IMPs	Skeidar	
OPEN ROOM N: Ekinci O. S: Ultav E.	CLOSED ROOM E: Baskan B. W: Tatlicioglu S.	OPEN ROOM E: Aaseng L. W: Johansen T.	CLOSED ROOM N: Helgemo G. S: Andresen M.	
SCORE:				
Skalman	2.21 VPs / 30 IMPs	17.79 VPs / 72 IMPs	Mikadinho	
OPEN ROOM N: Selberg J. S: Petersson J.	CLOSED ROOM E: Bertheau P. W: Zagorin D.	OPEN ROOM E: Zamir A. W: Yekutieli A.	CLOSED ROOM N: Todd K. S: Lahrmann C.	
SCORE:				

GROUP B

Sugi	0.91 VPs / 27 IMPs	19.09 VPs / 82 IMPs	Lebowitz	
OPEN ROOM N: BeniJi S: Tobing R.	CLOSED ROOM E: Peihua Liu W: Kelvin N.	OPEN ROOM E: Madala A. W: Bilde D.	CLOSED ROOM N: Grossack A. S: Lebowitz L.	
SCORE:				
Denmark	5.06 VPs / 54 IMPs	14.94 VPs / 76 IMPs	Lupoveloce	
OPEN ROOM N: Graversen H. S: Caspersen H.	CLOSED ROOM E: Askgaard M. W: Konow K.	OPEN ROOM E: Reps K. W: Fritsche J.	CLOSED ROOM N: Guttmann D. S: Berger H.	
SCORE:				
Orca	15.45 VPs / 54 IMPs	4.55 VPs / 29 IMPs	Fredin	
OPEN ROOM N: Plackett R. S: Erichsen E.	CLOSED ROOM E: Helness F. W: Crouch P.	OPEN ROOM E: Fredin P. W: Apteker A.	CLOSED ROOM N: Sylvan J. S: Lagerman J.	
SCORE:				
Ferguson	14.76 VPs / 53 IMPs	5.24 VPs / 32 IMPs	Harris	
OPEN ROOM N: Snellers A. S: De Boer B.	CLOSED ROOM E: Van den Bos B. W: Van Lankveld J.	OPEN ROOM E: Trendafilov R. W: Isporski V.	CLOSED ROOM N: Root S. S: Gold M.	
SCORE:				
Fasting	4.39 VPs / 41 IMPs	15.61 VPs / 67 IMPs	Salvo	
OPEN ROOM N: Lie T. S: Fasting E.	CLOSED ROOM E: Thoresen S. W: Brandsnes F.	OPEN ROOM E: Kubaç N. W: Aslan B.	CLOSED ROOM N: Zorlu N. S: Uçar A.	
SCORE:				
France Sud	11.08 VPs / 43 IMPs	8.92 VPs / 39 IMPs	Bishel	
OPEN ROOM N: Guillaumin P.Y. S: Palau J.J.	CLOSED ROOM E: Mus M. W: Gautret E.	OPEN ROOM E: Assini J. W: Cymerman F.	CLOSED ROOM N: Schenker F. S: Greenspan B.	
SCORE:				

GROUP C

Palma	19.25 VPs / 81 IMPs	0.75 VPs / 24 IMPs	De Botton	
OPEN ROOM N: Ventin J.C. S: Fernandez C.	CLOSED ROOM E: Pont J. W: Chrueheras J.	OPEN ROOM E: J. Helness T. W: Hoftaniska T.E.	CLOSED ROOM N: Malinowski S: A. De Botton	
SCORE:				
Koeppel	0 VPs / 19 IMPs	20 VPs / 103 IMPs	Leslie	
OPEN ROOM N: Yilmaz G. S: Gur O.	CLOSED ROOM E: Greenberg T. W: Dobrescu R.	OPEN ROOM E: Bell M. W: Leslie T.	CLOSED ROOM N: Dyke K. S: Byrne M.	
SCORE:				
Seligman	10 VPs / 51 IMPs	10 VPs / 51 IMPs	Norw. Amazones	
OPEN ROOM N: Seligman M. S: Bakhshi D.	CLOSED ROOM E: Lindqvist E. W: Brogeland B.	OPEN ROOM E: Grude L. W: Øigarden B.	CLOSED ROOM N: Tove Vist G. S: Heskje T.	
SCORE:				
McIceberg	1.99 VPs / 31 IMPs	18.01 VPs / 75 IMPs	Alexander	
OPEN ROOM N: McAllister J. S: Rosenberg K.	CLOSED ROOM E: Eiriksson S. W: Snorrason G.	OPEN ROOM E: Bergdahl T. W: Andersson L.	CLOSED ROOM N: Sandin A. S: Karlsson T.	
SCORE:				
Amalgamated	0.35 VPs / 27 IMPs	19.65 VPs / 89 IMPs	Bridgescanner	
OPEN ROOM N: Seker D. S: Yilmaz O.	CLOSED ROOM E: Tasman U. W: Arigun C.	OPEN ROOM E: Araszkiewicz K. W: Kotorowicz K.	CLOSED ROOM N: Arlovich A. S: Vainikonis E.	
SCORE:				
De Michelis	9.72 VPs / 56 IMPs	10.28 VPs / 57 IMPs	Amateurs	
OPEN ROOM N: De Michelis L. S: Failla G.	CLOSED ROOM E: Di Franco M. W: Manno A.	OPEN ROOM E: Jiang Gu W: Sheng M.	CLOSED ROOM N: Harrison L. S: Ai-Tai Lo	
SCORE:				

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World Bridge Tour
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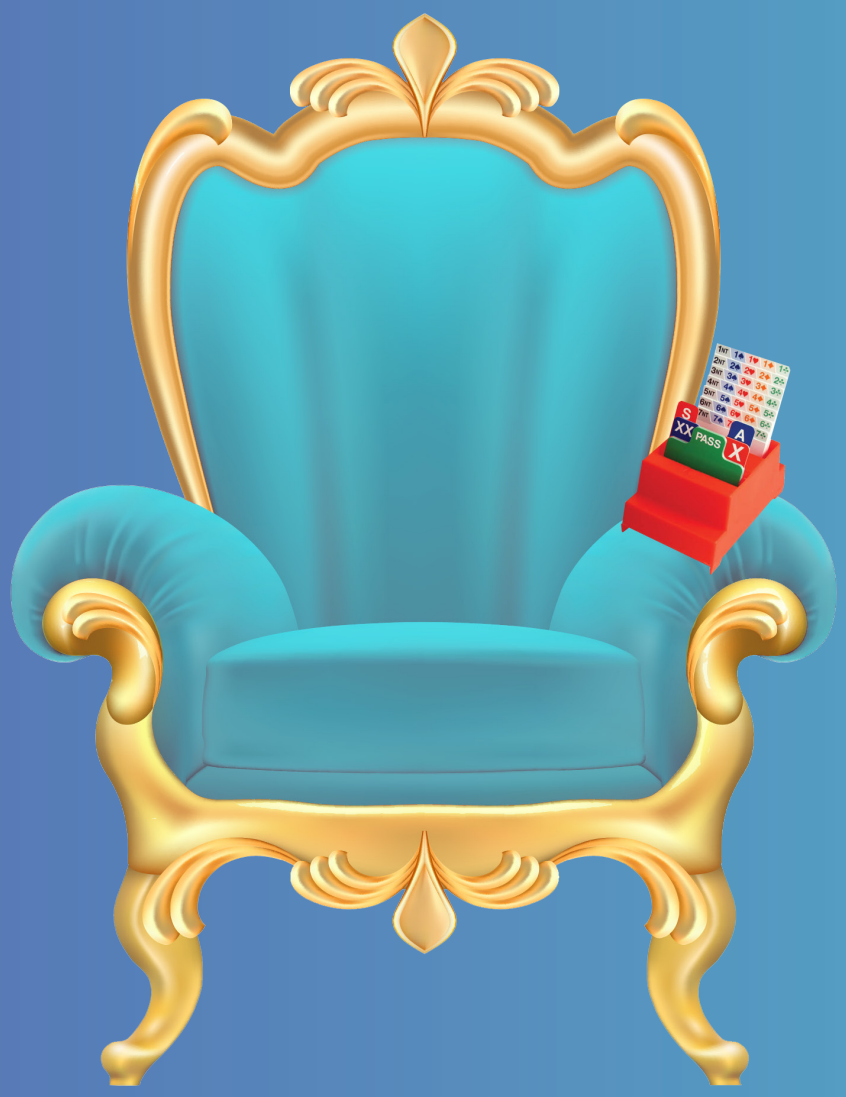
Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL OPEN TEAMS



Qualification + Swiss A

Upcoming OCBL Open Teams:

JANUARY OPEN TEAMS
18 - 22 January 2021

FEBRUARY OPEN TEAMS
15 - 19 February 2021

MARCH OPEN TEAMS
8 - 11 March 2021

APRIL OPEN TEAMS
19 - 23 April 2021

MAY OPEN TEAMS
31 May - 4 June 2021

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG