World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 11. Thursday, 14 January, 2021

Schedule Today

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE

ROUND 2. 21.30 CET / 15.30 EST

GROUP A

English Juniors	VS	Ireland
Goodman	VS	Mikadinho
Skeidar	VS	Moss
Aus 1	VS	Bridge42
Black	VS	Skalman
Goded	VS	Turkish Delight

GROUP B

Sugi	VS	Orca
Ferguson	VS	Bishel
Salvo	VS	Lebowitz
Harris	VS	Lupoveloce
Fredin	VS	France Sud
Denmark	VS	Fasting

GROUP C

VUGRAPH	Palma	VS	Seligman
	McIceberg	VS	Amateurs
	BridgeScanner	VS	De Botton
	Alexander	VS	Leslie
	Norwegian Amazones	VS	De Michelis
	Koeppel	VS	Amalgamated

So far away, but still so near

Some weeks ago, the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in London organised an online top level tournament for World class Women players.
At the end of the prestigious competition, they held a prize-giving ceremony — obviously on Zoom.
All the players attended the virtual ceremony, connecting from their living rooms, kitchens, bedrooms, terraces... from every part of the world.
Some were waving small flags of their countries, some had their baby or grandchild on their knees.
In someone's background you could see a husband cooking dinner, somebody else was watching the show with their beloved pet. Everybody was smiling and applauding winners from their small Zoom square.
It was an amazing show of international friendship...
...And recalled us of some of those 'real' prize-giving ceremonies that sometimes we miss, maybe because we are tired or in a hurry to leave.
Despite being so far away... sometimes we may feel even nearer.

Anam Tebha was so kind to accept our request and send and up-to-date pic of herself while playing online Bridge

The OCBL JOURNAL in your MAILBOX

Would you like receiving the OCBL Daily Journal by e-mail for free?

Just drop your e-mail address here:
https://ocbl.org/journal/

Get your popcorn ready

Signe Buus Thomsen

Jakub Wojcieszek

Queen's Gambit? Who needs that?
Turn your Netflix off - we have a much better show ready for you: ***Queen's finesse***!

Signe Buus Thomsen and Jakub Wojcieszek will entertain the spectators of the OCBL Open League on the WBT twitch channel with live comments.

Do you know everything about Twitch?
Great, then just connect to: https://www.twitch.tv/worldbridgetour

Do you know nothing about Twitch?
Oh dear... are you still playing strong jump overcalls as well? :-)
All right, we'll get it sorted out soon. Just check **page 5**.

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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

The Labours of Hercules: the Lernaean Hydra

by **Mark Horton**

Hercules second task was to kill the nine-headed *Lernaean Hydra*, not unlike the problem of securing nine tricks in a contract of 3NT.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Dble	1◇	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♡3 and when South played the ten declarer ducked. When South continued with the ♡Q was tempted to win with dummy's ace, but with South marked with the ♡Q J 10, it was likely that North would hold most of the missing points, including the ◇K.

It was also clear that North had led from a four-card suit, so he was unlikely to have five spades which meant there was little chance of finding him with a singleton ◇K. Although it was counter-intuitive, declarer ducked for a second time and South persisted with a third heart. Declarer took North's king with dummy's ace and settled down to his clubs suit, pleased to see North follow to the first two rounds.

This was the five-card ending:

	♠ K 6 ♡ — ◇ A Q ♣ 2	
♠ J 10 4 ♡ — ◇ J 10 ♣ —		

When declarer cashed his last club, North, who had followed to three rounds of clubs and then pitched two spades, parted with the ♠Q. Declarer exited with the ♠6 and North won with ace and exited with a heart to South's jack, but declarer could discard the ◇Q and secure the last two tricks with the ♠K and ◇A.

Alain Levy - pic: Peter Hasenson

This was the full deal:

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

In the ending, North, down to
♠AQ ♡5 ◇K7
was squeezed.

If he throws a heart declarer has a choice of endplays, while parting with a diamond allows declarer to cash the ◇A.

If South switches to a spade at trick three, declarer plays the king and North is stuck. If he now exits with a heart declarer wins in dummy and then runs the clubs to squeeze North in similar fashion.

The winning defence is for South to switch to a spade at trick two!

North wins and must then go back to hearts. If declarer ducks South wins and now has a choice of winning moves - the simplest being to exit with a diamond.

In Round 7 of the OCBL Cup the only defender to switch to a spade at trick two was Alain Lévy, his partner, Frederic Volker winning with the queen and reverting to hearts which saw declarer win and try the diamond finesse, which resulted in two down and flattened the board when at the other table declarer missed the winning line of ducking the second heart.

Pictured is a marble satue of Hercules slaying the Lernaean Hydra, Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria.
It was the second of Hercules twelve labors.
The sculptor was Lorenzo Matielli. It is located with others at the Saint Michael`s Wing entrance gate of the Hofburg Palace.

Interview with Christian Lahrmann

by **Francesca Canali**

Christian Lahrmann, from Virum, Denmark, is playing the OCBL Open League.

In a video interview by Fernando Lema you said that your father taught you how to play Bridge when you were only 6 years old.
What did you think about Bridge at that time?
When I started playing bridge I just played for fun, and it one of the best things was that I could stay up late if I played bridge.
I also went to some junior camps with other children. That was a lot fun, where we mixed bridge with football or whatever it was, at that age everything was fun!

How did you become so fond of Bridge?
I liked seeing myself getting better at something and improve with a partner, and when I got the opportunity to travel around the world with the Danish junior team, who wouldn't do that.

Have you become a stronger player than your father?
Haha good question, yes I am. He is getting older, and I'm improving year after year.

You won a World title in 2015 (World Kids Pairs Championships).
What do you remember the most about that experience?
When did you realize that you had become a World Champion?
Can you tell us about your feelings and emotions?
When I am thinking back, I'm thinking about all the fun things we did, me and my partner, we went to the swimming pool, played some ball games there with some players from the other countries. It was a lot fun, but I went to the pool too much, so I got really sick there, but my winner instinct didn't want to give up, so I kept playing while I was sick, and I made a stupid revoke, but I had a good partner so I could afford to do it. After the tournament I was still very sick, so I stayed at the hotel 😔
When I got back to Denmark, me and my partner, got interviewed by the television, and a lot more, so then you really realized what you had just achieved.

Bridge players have watched you grow up… and now you are turning 18 years old in just few months!
Do you still feel like a child, do you already feel like an adult, or a mixture of both?
Hmm, first of all I really look forward to being 18 in April, but yes I still feel like a child, but I think I'm old enough to take care of myself.

Different countries have different laws… What will you be able to do in Denmark once you turn 18?
In Denmark you are allowed to do anything when you turn 18, you can buy all sort of alcohol, you can vote, but I don't care about that 😂
I got my driver license four months ago, but I'm only allowed to drive with myself when turning 18, so it's a very big day in Denmark.

How do you see yourself in 10 years? And in 20 years?
My biggest dream is to be professional bridge player, so hopefully I will be that in 10 years, and as well in 20 years. 😎

What could be done in your opinion in order to increase the interest of young people for Bridge?
In Denmark some schools have bridge on the schedule at school, I think that would work very well, but most important is that, the bridge teachers shouldn't be too old when teaching young players.

Which is your favourite Bridge champion? Have you ever played with him?
Who I like to partner the most will be Mikael Rimstedt from Sweden, because he is obviously a very good bridge player, and also a very nice person, so that's win win, I have played with him before but no serious tournaments.

How are you coping with pandemic, lockdowns…?
I just started in an online school 🤧 but I'm playing a lot of online bridge that's is nice, but I really miss playing live bridge.

Christian with Prince Henrik of Denmark

Christian with Mikael Gronkvist

Online Bridge NEWS

Watch Bridge like a Super Bowl final

Twitch is an American video live streaming service, primarily focused on video game live streaming, including broadcasts of e-sports competitions.
Content on the site can be viewed either live or via video on demand.

Connecting to Twitch is extremely easy: you just need to open your browser and connect to: https://www.twitch.tv/

The **World Bridge Tour (WBT) has its own Twitch channel**.
Top level players comment the matches of the World Bridge Tour tournaments and offer their knowledge and technical advice.

Everything is free!

You can enjoy the show by connecting to the WBT Twitch Channel around the starting time of the matches:

https://www.twitch.tv/worldbridgetour

Have you ever watched sports without sound? It's just not the same when you can't hear the announcers. So get your popcorn ready and try following Bridge on Twitch!

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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

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5 - 9 April 2021

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4 - 18 June 2021

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG