World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 27. Saturday, 30 January, 2021

Schedule Today

OCBL MIXED LEAGUE

ROUND 7. 17.00 CET / 11.00 EST

Alpert	VS	Fan
Carmichael	VS	Pace e Salute
Cole	VS	Sugi
VUGRAPH Potter	VS	Munich
Sleepless in Seattle	VS	Medium Rare
Robinson	VS	Harris
Weekend Warriors	VS	Puzzles

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE

ROUND 9. 21.30 CET / 15.30 EST

GROUP A

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

GROUP B

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

GROUP C

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

During the 8th round of the OCBL Open League (last Thursday) there were some BBO-related technical issues.
We are sorry for the inconvenience and hope that the next round will be run smoothly.

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/

SUPER STAR JAMES HOLZHAUER TO COMMENT THE OCBL OPEN LEAGUE ON TWITCH TODAY

We have great news for Bridge lovers!
James Holzhauer (pictured above - pic: jeopardy.com) will be commenting the 9th Round of the OCBL Open League today.
The champion on the quiz show *Jeopardy!* is the third-highest-earning American game show contestant of all time. Holzhauer won $2,464,216 in his 33 appearances
You can enjoy the show by connecting to the World Bridge Tour Twitch Channel at 21.30 CET or 15.30 EST:
https://www.twitch.tv/worldbridgetour

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OCBL UPCOMING EVENTS

SUPER CUP

2 March - 9 March, 2021

		CET	EST
Qualification:	Tuesday 2 March	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 3 March	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Thursday 4 March	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Friday 5 March	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
KO:	Monday 8 March	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Tuesday 9 March	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

OPEN LEAGUE

29 March - 25 April, 2021

Play every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday at 21.30 CEST - 15.30 EDT

APRIL CUP

5 - 9 April, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 5 April	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Tuesday 6 April	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 7 April	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Thursday 8 April	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
KO:	Friday 9 April	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

MAY CUP

3 - 7 May, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 3 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Tuesday 4 May	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 5 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Thursday 6 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
KO:	Friday 7 May	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

OPEN LEAGUE

10 May - 6 June, 2021

Play every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday at 21.30 CEST - 15.30 EDT

JUNE CUP

31 May - 4 June, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 31 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Tuesday 1 June	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 2 June	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Thursday 3 June	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
KO:	Friday 4 June	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

The Labours of Hercules
The Stymphalian Birds

The Stymphalian Birds could be likened to a plague of locusts. Bridge players are always hungry for IMPs. How would you tackle this problem?

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♡	Pass
3♡	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	6♡	All Pass

South leads the ♢J, promising the ♢Q and the first trick is completed by the two, five (upside down count) and your ace.

How do you continue?

If you don't have trump loser then your prospects are good, but you will still need something good to happen in one of the black suits.

Declarer found a way to combine his chances.

At trick two he ruffed diamond, ruffed a club, ruffed a diamond and played a heart to the ace, both defenders following.

He ruffed a diamond, cashed the ♣A and ruffed a club, South contributing the queen.

He cashed the ♡K and when North discarded a spade declarer played a spade to the queen.

When it held, he could discard a spade on the ♣K, losing only to the ♡Q.

This was the full deal:

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

From Wikipedia:

The Stymphalian Birds are man-eating birds with beaks of bronze, sharp metallic feathers they could launch at their victims, and poisonous dung.

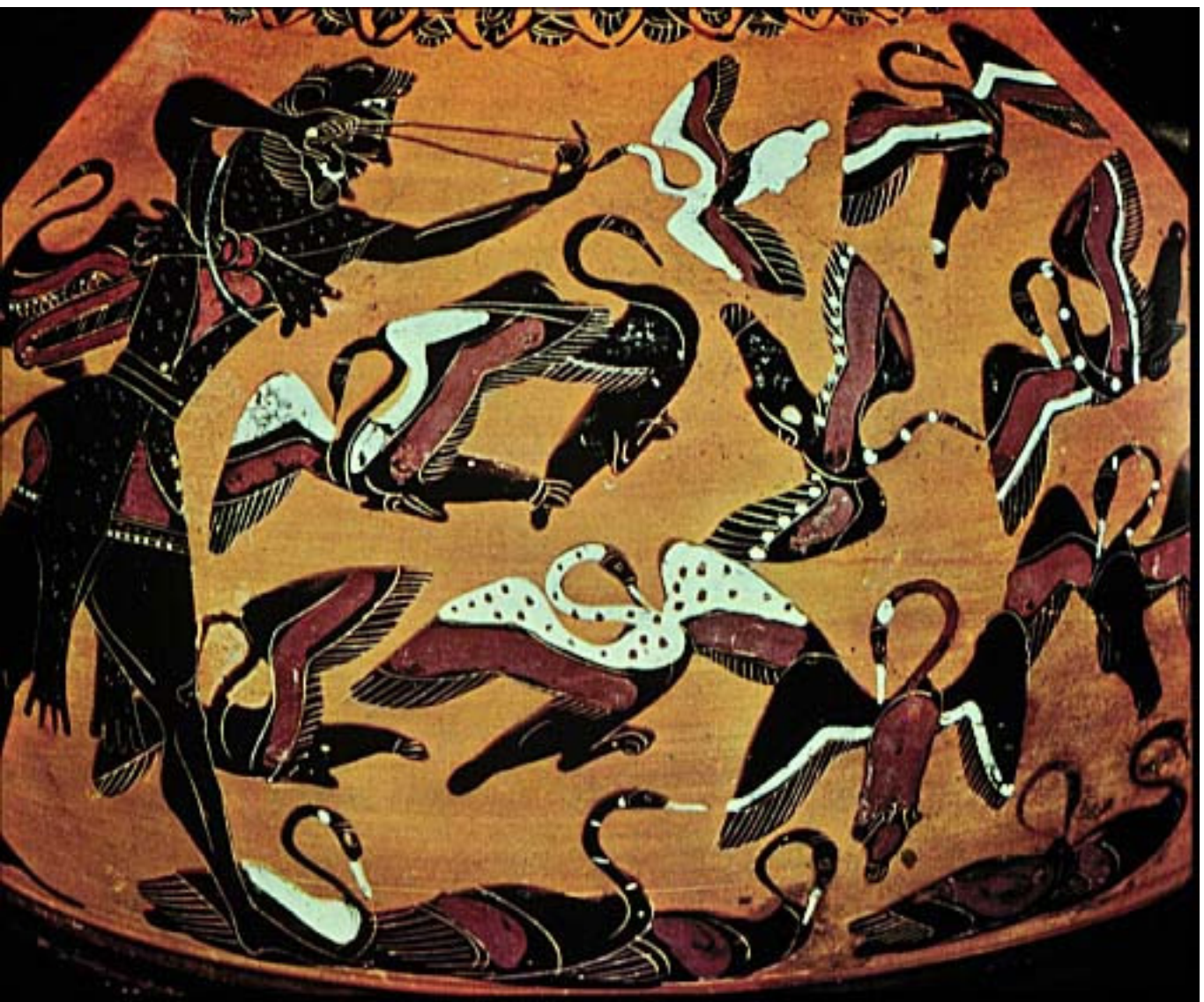
These birds were pets of Artemis, the goddess of the hunt; or had been brought up by Ares, the god of war.They migrated to a marsh in Arcadia to escape a pack of wolves. There they bred quickly and swarmed over the countryside, destroying crops, fruit trees, and townspeople.

The Stymphalian birds were defeated by Heracles (Hercules) in his sixth labour for Eurystheus.Heracles could not go into the marsh to reach the nests of the birds, as the ground would not support his weight. Athena, noticing the hero's plight, gave Heracles a rattle called krotala, which Hephaestus had made especially for the occasion. Heracles shook the krotala (similar to castanets) on a certain mountain that overhung the lake and thus frightening the birds into the air.Heracles then shot many of them with feathered arrows tipped with poisonous blood from the slain Hydra. The rest flew far away, never to plague Arcadia again. Heracles brought some of the slain birds to Eurystheus as proof of his success.

The surviving birds made a new home on an island of Aretias in the Euxine Sea. The Argonauts later encountered them there.

According to Mnaseas, they were not birds, but women and daughters of Stymphalus and Ornis, and were killed by Heracles because they did not receive him hospitably. In the temple of the Stymphalian Artemis, however, they were represented as birds, and behind the temple there were white marble statues of maidens with birds' feet.

(text taken from Wikipedia - License text CC BY-SA 3.0GFDL - and added here by Francesca Canali)



Herakles and the Stymphalian Birds
Attic Black Figured Amphora
6th c. BC, British Museum

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN McALLISTER

How would you describe yourself?
I love the challenge of playing bridge. It is, without a doubt, one of my favorite things to do, talk about, think about and study.

How did you start playing Bridge?
How has bridge changed your life
1. for the best
2. for the worst?
Our family liked to play cards. My parents and I still play hearts three handed after dinners. When I was 18 years old when my maternal grandfather died, and my mom's oldest sister came to stay with us. One night after dinner we agreed to play hearts. As I was explaining the house rules, she said, "this is stupid, we should be playing bridge." Though I initially protested, she was absolutely, 100% right!

1. Bridge has enriched my life and relationships in too many ways to count or list.
2. Sponsoring teams is expensive!

You are very committed to media and communication.
Do you think that Bridge has a media appeal?
If so, which format do you think would especially be successful in order to promote bridge among people who do not know it (yet)?
Absolutely! I always thought Justin Lall would be an excellent subject for a series or documentary. The challenge is showing the game without the audience's eyes glazing over. I think *The Queen's Gambit* does an excellent job with this and chess. We'll get there!

Can you tell us about your movie, Double Dummy? How did you have the idea, how was the movie produced, and which results in terms of marketing did it bring?
I played my first NABC in 2012 in Memphis. One night, I attended a brainstorming session loosely titled, "How do we get more young people interested in learning bridge?"
I ostensibly went for the free dinner and company. A light bulb went off that I could help be a part of the answer to this question.
Frankly, we haven't had the success with the film we intended, so we are recutting it with an eye towards focusing more on our team which did so well in the junior world championships.

Can you tell a funny "behind the scenes" story about Double Dummy?
I knew Gavin Wolpert from having hired him to play a sectional. When we had the idea to do a documentary, I wanted to know if there was ever a documentary made about bridge. So I called Gavin, who unbeknownst had been the star of a film called *In the Cards*.
It was like an Abbot and Costello routine, I said, "Has there ever been a documentary film made about bridge?"
Gavin would respond, "you're joking right?"
This went on for about five minutes.

TheSettingTrick podcast obviously has an enormous value for the Bridge community and is a true gem.
That's one of the best compliments I've gotten about the show, so thank you very much for saying so. It's motivating to know.

Do you think that not Bridge players are listening to them as well?
No. Friends get excited when I tell them I have a podcast and are impressed when I say we have published 30 episodes. Not one friend has come back to me afterwards and said they listened and really enjoyed it!
I think a lot of the conversations quickly turn off non players for lack of understanding about the intricacies of the game.

Can you tell us who are going to be the next guests?
Our next guest is Youth Bridge Association co-founder and our Setting Trick intern Michael Xu. We are doing a special where we interview all of the living youngest ever ACBL Life Masters, inspired by 8 year old Andrew Chen having bested the record in May. We have already interviewed about half of the living former titleholders.

Are you working on any new project at the moment? Can you tell us something about that?
Recutting Double Dummy, we want a film that will take off in the bridge community and beyond.

You said that before interviewing someone you want to have an idea of what you want to learn from that person. What do you think we should learn from you?
Do the thing that lights you up in side and serve the shit out of them!

the setting trick
https://www.thesettingtrick.com/

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

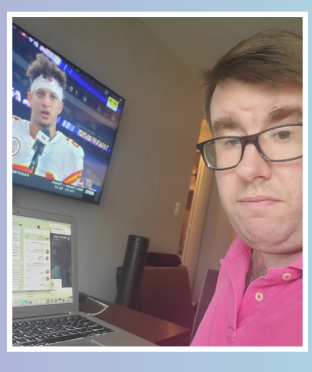
It has been a long time since many of us last met and we are doing our best to make your online Bridge experience as valuable as we can.

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:
info@ocbl.org



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SUPER CUP

Qualification + Knockout

2 - 9 March 2021

QUALIFICATION:	CET	EST
Tuesday 2 March	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Wednesday 3 March	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Thursday 4 March	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
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KO:	CET	EST
Monday 8 March	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Tuesday 9 March	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG