World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 62. Monday, 8 March, 2021

QF. ROUND 1. 16.30 CET / 10.30 EST

Gupta	VS	Gillis	VUGRAPH
Fredin	VS	Levine	VUGRAPH
Donner	VS	France Sud	VUGRAPH
Compton	VS	Orca	VUGRAPH

QF. ROUND 2. 19.00 CET / 13.00 EST

Gupta	VS	Gillis	VUGRAPH
Fredin	VS	Levine	VUGRAPH
Donner	VS	France Sud	VUGRAPH
Compton	VS	Orca	VUGRAPH

SF. ROUND 1. 21.30 CET / 15.30 EST

To be announced

CONVENTION CARDS: PLEASE UPLOAD THEM!

It is highly recommended for all participants to prepare and load your convention card.
If you need help, here is a quick video tutorial, provided by Andrew Robson:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrL2FnyFaJc

HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY!

OCBL SUPER CUP QFs: all matches are USA vs Europe

The Quartefinals of the OCBL Super Cup are starting today!
In each match a USA based team is facing a Europe based team.

The QFs will be played on two rounds of 16 boards each, at:
16.30 CET / 10 30 EST (first segment) and at 19.00 CET / 13.00 EST (second segment).

After that, the Semifinals will be starting; the first segment will be played today, the second (and last one) tomorrow.

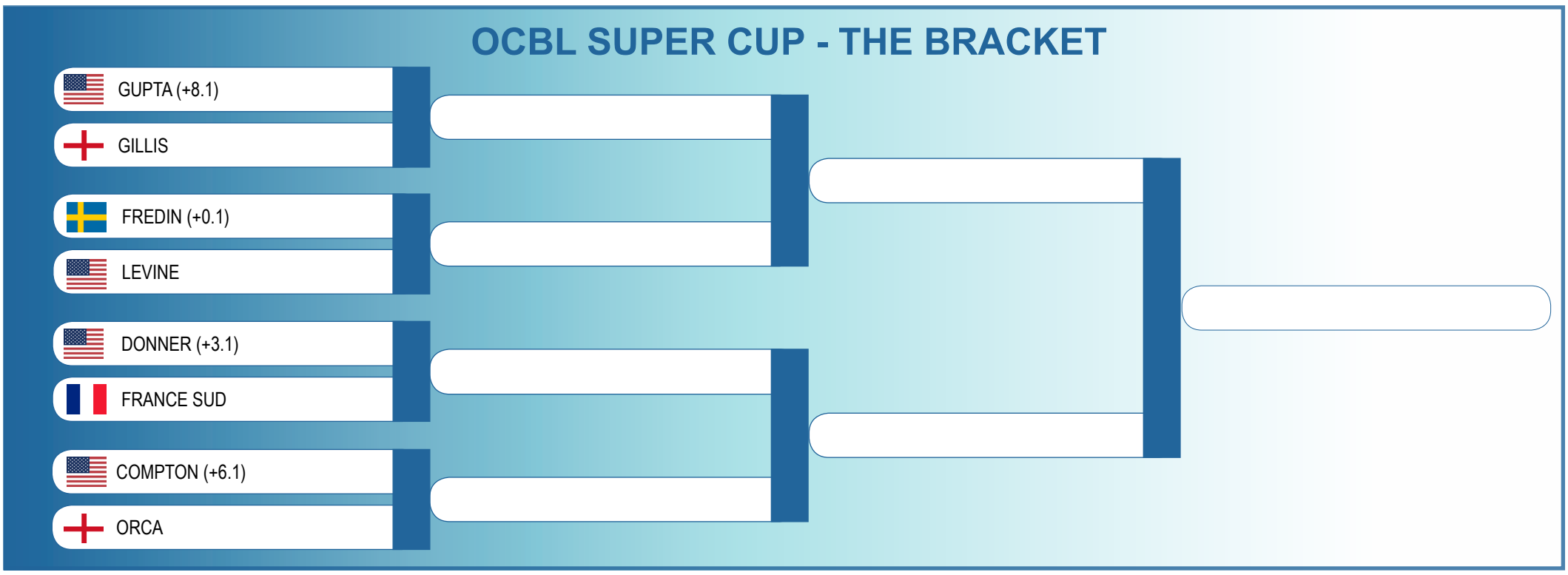
All the tables will be broacast on Vugraph. Enjoy the show!

The OCBL JOURNAL in your MAILBOX

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

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

OCBL SUPER CUP - THE BRACKET



World Bridge Tour
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Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Round 12

by Brian Senior

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

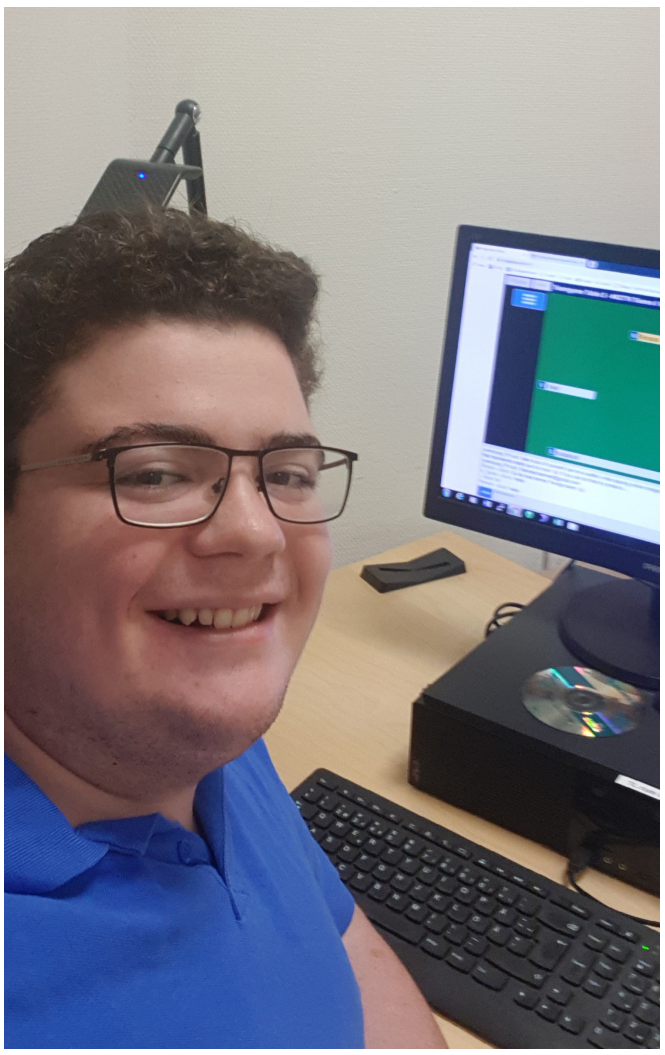
	♠ 6 ♡ J 10 9 8 7 6 ♢ 10 9 ♣ 9 8 3 2	
♠ Q 10 9 8 2 ♡ A Q ♢ A J 4 ♣ K Q 5		♠ 5 ♡ K 4 3 2 ♢ K 8 6 5 2 ♣ J 10 4
	♠ A K J 7 4 3 ♡ 5 ♢ Q 7 3 ♣ A 7 6	

Scorway v Compton

West	North	East	South
Diamond	*Compton*	*Silverstone*	*Goodman*
–	–	Pass	1♠
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Diamond made a slightly heavy 1NT overcall and was pleased to see that his partner had just enough to use Stayman to look for game, which was duly bid.

Compton led the jack of hearts, which Diamond won in hand with the ace. Diamond played the king of clubs at trick two but, when that held the trick, could see that he was not going to be permitted an easy entry to dummy so switched his attention to diamonds, cashing the ace then running the jack to Goodman's queen. Goodman cashed the king of spades then underled in clubs. Diamond won the queen, cashed the queen of hearts, and crossed to the king of diamonds. He had four diamonds, three hearts and two clubs, for +400.



Simon Hult

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Lie*	*Huang*	*Ovesen*
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	2♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Dwyer did not overcall, instead passing and hoping and praying for a reopening double, which would offer the opportunity to score more than as declarer at the prevailing vulnerability. And Huang did not disappoint. He doubled, Dwyer left it in, and Lie ran to what he hoped would be the relative safety of his own long suit. Dwyer doubled that, and 2♡ doubled became the final contract.

Huang led his singleton spade. Lie won the king and took a diamond pitch on the king as Huang ruffed. Huang returned the jack of clubs and Lie ducked. Dwyer overtook with the queen and switched to a low diamond. Huang won the ♢K and continued with a low diamond for the queen, ace and ruff. Lie played a heart to Dwyer's queen, ruffed the low spade return, and played another heart to the ace. He ruffed the diamond return but could then only cash the ace of clubs so was down three for –800 and 9 IMPs to Compton.

Slovakia v Black

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Henc*	*McIntosh*	*Velecky*
–	–	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	2♠
Dble	All Pass		

Would spades prove to be any better for N/S than were hearts? Well, we would soon find out. Paske decided to try for a penalty, so was about to pass out 1♠ doubled – when Velecky raised himself to 2♠! Paske was pretty sure that he knew what to do with that.

Paske led the king of clubs and, when that was ducked, continued with the queen. Velecky won that and conceded a heart, so Paske won the ♡Q and played a third club. McIntosh won that and played his spade through. Velecky rose with the king and played the queen of diamonds. Paske won the ace then played jack and a third diamond to McIntosh's king. With no way to shorten his trumps, Paske could not prevent himself getting endplayed and Velecky came to a ruff plus the ace and jack of spades. However, that was +800, so Paske was content.

West	North	East	South
Kvocek	*Hallberg*	*Vodicka*	*Hult*
–	–	Pass	1♠
1NT	Pass	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Kvocek did not look for a penalty at his first turn but that didn't mean that he had missed his chance. When the 1NT overcall came round to him, Hult put his neck firmly back on the block by rebidding his spades and, when that came round to Vodicka, a reopening double was swiftly left in by Kvocek.

Thomas Paske

Hult won the club lead and gave up a heart. Kvocek won and played two more rounds of clubs and Vodicka won the third club and led a spade through. Hult won the ace and tried a low diamond, but but the defence took three of those and there were still two trumps to be lost; down three for –800 and just another dull push board.

Mikadinho v Apres Bridge Champs

West	North	East	South
Milner	*Verhaegen*	*Lall*	*Mikadinho*
–	–	Pass	1♠
1NT	2♡	All Pass	

Milner made the 1NT overcall, and Verhaegen made a very aggressive competitive bid of 2♡ and was left to play there undoubled – of course, a double on the East hand would have been for take-out in this situation.

The defence was not quite spot on so Verhaegen escaped for down two and only –200, something of a bargain.

West	North	East	South
O. Rimstedt	*Jagnieski*	*K. Todd*	*Gawel*
–	–	Pass	1♠
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♢	Pass	3♢	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Ola Rimsedt overcalled 1NT and Todd used Stayman. With no longer any scope for a penalty, E/W did what they had to do and bid to the no trump game, against which Jagniewski led his partner's suit, having no expectation that he would ever again be on lead. Gawel won the ♠K and cashed the ace, getting the bad news that the lead was singleton. He switched to a low club, which Rimstedt could run to dummy to finesse the jack of diamonds, after which he had 10 tricks for +430 and 6 IMPs to Mikadinho.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

This deal saw 34 pairs out of 40 bid to 3NT on the N/S cards. Twenty-four were successful, 10 were not, though the opening lead was almost invariably the same, a low spade from West.

Gupta v Levine

West	North	East	South
Helness	*de Wijs*	*Helgemo*	*Muller*
Madala	*Meckstroth*	*Bilde*	*Rodwell*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Helness led the two of spades against Muller who, hoping for an early dummy entry to play on clubs, called for dummy's jack. That was covered by the queen so Muller won the king and led a heart to the ace followed by a club to the queen and ace. Back came a low spade, which he ran to his nine. Muller led the ten of hearts to the queen and led a second club up, putting in the ten. That lost to the jack and Helness cleared the spades, but Muller had nine tricks – three in each of clubs, spades and hearts – +600.

Madala too led a low spade, the six, and Rodwell played low from the dummy – queen, king. Rodwell crossed to the queen of hearts to lead a club to his queen but Madala ducked and Rodwell went back to dummy to lead a second club up. Had he crossed with a heart, he would still have survived, but he chose to lead the nine of spades to the ace. When Madala now won the club he could clear spades and had two spades to cash when in with the third club; down two for –200 and 13 IMPs to Gupta.

Orca v France Sud

West	North	East	South
Poizat	*Plackett*	*Cabanes*	*Erichsen*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Crouch	*Mus*	*Forrester*	*Gautret*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Plackett raised directly to 3NT while Mus checked for a five-card major on the way before settling for the no trump game.

Erichsen received the usual low spade lead and put in the jack – queen, king. He played the king of clubs from hand and Poizat won the ace and returned a spade. Erichsen ran that to his nine, crossed to dummy's queen of hearts, and took the club finesse. That lost but he had nine tricks for +600.

Gautret played low from dummy on the spade lead and won the queen with his king. He crossed to dummy with a spade to lead a club to the king and ace. Back came a spade, and when the club finesse lost the contract was down two for –200 and 13 IMPs to Orca.

Mikadinho v Apres Bridge Champs

West	North	East	South
Milner	*Verhaegen*	*Lall*	*Zanasi*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
O. Rimstedt	*Jagniewski*	*K. Todd*	*Gawel*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Milner led a low spade, the five, and Zanasi put in the jack, which was covered by the queen and king. He crossed to the queen of hearts to lead a club to the king and Milner ducked. A heart to the ace was followed by a club to the ten and jack, and Milner returned a heart to the king, establishing his fourth heart in the process.

Gabriele Zanasi

Rafal Jagniewski

Zanasi won the heart and knocked out the ace of clubs. Milner won the club and cashed his heart winner and Zanasi was squeezed. He threw a winning club away to keep a guard for his ♢K and Milner got off play with a low spade. Zanasi ran that to his nine and cashed his one remaining club winner. When Milner pitched the two of spades, Zanasi read him for an original 5-4-1-3 shape. That being the case, the contract could be made if the singleton diamond was the ace. Accordingly, Zanasi led the eight of diamonds from hand and was no doubt charmed to see the ace appear on his left. He had the last two tricks now for a slightly breathless +600. Nicely recovered.

Rimstedt led the five of spades to the jack, queen and king, and Gawel crossed to the queen of hearts and led a club to the queen and ace. Back came the six of spades which he ran to his nine and he now cashed the king of hearts. The fall of the doubleton jack convinced Gawel that there were more routes to nine tricks than via clubs alone. He cashed the ♡10 next before leading a spade to the ace, taken in by Rimstedt's second-round falsecard which suggested that he had led from an only four-card suit. Gawel cashed the ♡K, discarding a club, as did Todd, and now a club towards hand learned the bad news that there was a guarded club on the left as Todd discarded a diamond. Gawel went up with the king but that was his last trick; down one for –100 and 12 IMPs to Mikadinho.

And just one more table to illustrate the key point on the hand.

West	North	East	South
Svendsen	*Nadel*	*Gillis*	*Ferguson*
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Svendsen led the seven of spades and, when Ferguson played low from the dummy, so did Gillis, so Ferguson could win his nine. He crossed to dummy with a heart to the queen to lead a club to his queen, and Svendsen ducked. Ferguson went back to dummy with the ace of spades, having no reason from the opening lead to know that the suit was divided five-two, and led a club to his ten. That lost to the jack, Svendsen cleared the spades, and Ferguson cashed the king and ten of hearts before playing a club. Svendsen could win the ♣A and cash his spades and the ♢A, but had to give the last trick to dummy's ♡A; down one for –100.

And the key point which I mentioned? Simply that, while declarer can always succeed if he reads the position correctly, the play is much, much, harder to get right if West ducks the first club.

Neat Endplay

by Brian Senior

Thanks to Jason Pitt, who sent me this deal from Round 3 on which his opponent, Dror Padon, found a nice squeeze and endplay to bring home a partscore which defeated a number of other declarers who received the same defence.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Pitt	*Padon*	*Nelson*	*Townsend*
–	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♡(i)	Pass	2♠
All Pass			

(i) 6+ spades, usually no side-suit

Martin Nelson led the seven of clubs, MUD, to the jack and queen, and Pitt promptly switched to a trump. Padon played low so Nelson won the king and continued with a second spade. Seeing the three-two split, Padon had the option of winning in dummy and taking the diamond finesse, as was the line chosen at a number of tables, or he could overtake and rattle off a few more rounds of trumps. He chose the second line.

On the fourth spade, East could let go a low heart, but the fifth squeezed him out of a club. Now Padon led a heart to dummy's king and, when that held, ruffed a club. That removed East's last club exit card and he was ripe for the endplay. Padon played the queen of hearts, not caring how many cards East had in the suit at that point, just so long as he had no more clubs.

Nelson won the ♡A, cashed the ♡10, and was forced to lead a diamond round to the ace-queen at trick 12. Nicely done.

Dror Padon

Better to be Lucky Than Good

by Brian Senior

There is a saying in English that it is better to be lucky than to be good. Of course, even better is to be lucky AND good. Ovunc Yilmaz sent me this deal, where he and partner, Craig Ganzer, would admit to having been just a tiny bit lucky.

Round 8
Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Yilmaz	*Grue*	*Ganzer*	*Moss*
–	–	1♣	1♡
Dble	Pass	2♢	Pass
2♡	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♡	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♢	Pass
5NT	Pass	7♢	All Pass

After a natural start to the auction, Yilmaz set diamonds as trumps and, when Ganzer could co-operate by showing his heart control, used RKCB then followed through with 5NT to invite partner to bid Seven – which is what Ganzer did.

Brad Moss led his singleton trump, the jack. What must Ganzer have felt when he took his first look at dummy? Well, he had to try his best, so he won dummy's ace and led the singleton club to his queen. When that held, which had seemed unlikely given South's overcall, coupled with the fact that so few high cards were missing, Ganzer continued with the ace and a third club, ruffing. The fall of the king was good news and Ganzer now cashed three rounds of trumps followed by the two established clubs.

That crushed the South hand. What could Moss do? Dummy's ten of spades meant that he could not rely on Joe Grue to guard the spades, so his only faint hope was that Grue would have help in hearts. Moss therefore discarded down to the bare king of hearts, only to see, as he had suspected, that Ganzer could now cash three heart tricks.

The dreadful slam had proved to be cold – four diamonds, four clubs, a club ruff, and four tricks in the majors.

No, Grue/Moss's team-mates did not manage to flatten the board for them.

Craig Ganzer

OPEN LEAGUE

29 March-25 April, 2021

Registered Teams

14 Teams already registered!
The Open League will take place from 29 March to 25 April, 2021.

DONNER
Donner G. (GDonnerSC1)
Rimstedt S. (sandria)
Rimstedt C. (CillaR)
Dwyer K. (kdwyer)
Grue J. (joegrue)
Moss B. (brad)

THE EXPATS
Botta G. (Gio 89)
Savchenko I. (Igors)
Amer S. (Samer026)
Endelman E. (E11)
Soliman A. (Rabie3)
Trenka P. (trp42)
Chechelashvili D. (Dato)
Kemény G. (Kemeny)

AUSTROMANY
Guttmann D. (daviesG)
Berger H. (wuzi5)
Fritsche J. (joefri)
Reps K. (rops)
Kasimir U. (udo)
Jokisch P. (jockel)

ROBINSON
Robinson L. (Saba)
Grossack A. (nevereast)
Grossack Z. (germs345)
Bilde D. (Ballebo-Jr)
Madala A. (Septiembre)

DE MICHELIS
De Michelis L. (LucaDM)
Failla G. (gioffi)
Manno A. (maqeda)
Di Franco M. (M_DiFranco)

DENMIX
Hammelev J. (johse61)
Krefeld C. (camse2)
Henneberg J.O. (JOH1)
Henneberg M. (MAKIR)
Thomsen S. (Thomsen)
Jepsen P. (P_Jepsen)
Monsted N. (Monsted)
Monsted R. (Rikkemusdk)
Schaltz D. (DS_DK)
Schaltz P. (PS_DK)

VENTIN
Ventin J.C. (phave)
Wrang F. (fly21)
Pacareu J. (paca1987)
Thoma M. (hawai)
Palma A. (apalma)

BLACK
Black A. (boggis)
Gold D. (dagold)
McIntosh A. (mcintosh)
Paske T. (thomas1000)
Hult S. (hultahult)
Hallberg G. (rerack)

SKEIDAR
Andresen M. (Mime477)

ALEXANDER
Sandin A. (stridsvagn)
Övelius E. (Emma Sj)
Bergdahl T. (lingonback)
Andersson L. (bridgetruck)
Larsson J. (Jela79)
Molberg J. (juve_)
Clementsson S. (237425)
Karlsson T. (charlie99)

SWEDESE
Morath A. (andersm)
Efraimsson A-Z. (annazack)
Axdorph M. (axdorph63)
Probert D. (davpro)
Borgesson T. (saturmos)
Hammarstrom G. (maximum)
Arnberg M. (marnberg)
Gullberg T. (psotogul)
Efraimsson B-E. (berik)

DENMARK
Caspersen H. (hcasp)

DE BOTTON
De Botton J. (Capt Lulu)

HARRIS
Root S. (AsNuttyAs)
Igoe N. (ibraves)
Gold M. (marusab)
Trendafilov R. (rumen)
Harris J. (Jdache)
Malhasyan E. (master DJ)
Isporski V. (smileyv)

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World Bridge Tour
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Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE

Qualification + Knockout

UPCOMING OPEN LEAGUE (1)
29 March - 25 April 2021

UPCOMING OPEN LEAGUE (2)
10 May - 6 June 2021

Qualification:

10 Rounds x 16 Boards
Play every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday
at 21.30 CEST - 15.30 EDT

KOs:

Quarterfinals: 2 Rounds x 20 Boards
Semifinals: 2 Rounds x 20 Boards
Finals: 2 Rounds x 20 Boards

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG