World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 78. Friday, 16 April, 2021

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE:QUARTERFINALS ARE UNDERWAY

REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!

OCBL Open League
10 May - 6 June, 2021

OCBL May Cup
17 - 21 May, 2021

OCBL June Cup
31 May - 4 June, 2021

OCBL Super Cup
28 June - 3 July, 2021

OCBL July Cup
12 - 16 July, 2021

OCBL Super Cup
2 - 7 August, 2021

https://www.ocbl.org/registration/

20 boards out of 40 of the OCBL Open League Quarterfinals have been played.

At halftime,

- Skalman is leading versus Anatolia by 20.9 IMPs
- Ventin is +19.1 IMPs ahead in their match versus Goded
- Moss is leading versus Robinson by 35.1 IMPs
- Alexander and Salvo are only 0.1 IMPs apart (in Alexander's favour).

The second half of the Quarterfinals will be played on Sunday.

ANY INTERESTING PLAY? LET US KNOW!

If you see an interesting bid or play please let us know by e-mail at: journal@ocbl.org

Thank you!

THE OCBL JOURNAL IN YOUR MAILBOX

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OCBL OPEN LEAGUE - THE BRACKET

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OCBL UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN LEAGUE

10 May - 6 June, 2021

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

MAY CUP

17 - 21 May, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 17 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Tuesday 18 May	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 19 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Thursday 20 May	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
KO:	Friday 21 May	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

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

SUPER CUP

28 June - 3 July, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 28 June	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Tuesday 29 June	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 30 June	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Thursday 1 July	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
KO:	Friday 2 July	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Saturday 3 July	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

JULY CUP

12 - 16 July, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 12 July	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Tuesday 13 July	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
	Wednesday 14 July	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
	Thursday 15 July	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
KO:	Friday 16 July	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

From the Player's Own Mouth

by Martin Cantor

We'll get to some hands from the first half of the quarter-finals shortly, but first here is another interesting hand from the final round of the Swiss.

Board 158. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Omer Ekinci of team Turkish Delight was West and sent us this report of events at his table:

After weak NT and Stayman auction I found myself in 4♡

Spade was led, small, king. I led a diamond won by ace of diamonds, and diamond back on which I inserted the 10 and won the trick. Played the king of diamonds and after a long pause RHO ruffed with the ten where I discarded a spade reading at least ♡Q10xx position,in fact it was 5-0 which I have discovered on a trump return now the jack of hearts covered by queen and ace. I played the 9 of spades jack Q which was ruffed by RHO. Now the hand was an open book and a trump return by RHO put LHO on a triple squeeze in 3 suits, which I think its called Lover's Leap. LHO let the clubs go coming down to singleton king. Ruffed a small diamond and cashed ace of clubs (pinning down the king) and queen of clubs to get rid of dummy's last losers.

Roger Lee

I can't say I approve of opening the West hand with a weak notrump. Quite apart from the small singleton, the aces and lack of intermediates make it more suit-oriented, and while 4441 hands are often difficult to bid, there is never going to be a rebid problem here after a 1♣ opening. Be that as it may, the play in 4♡ or 4♠ is an interesting challenge. There is neither time nor space here to cover all the possible variations, but Omer's approach is certainly elegant as well as effective. At twenty-four tables 4♡ was the contract, nine times doubled and twice redoubled. Eight tried 4♠, doubled twice and redoubled once. Now ten tricks are makeable in either strain, but, as Omer's account shows, doing so is far from straightforward. Not that it is an easy hand for the defence either. Of the thirty-two in four of a major, fifteen made it, some of them doubled, some of them redoubled. Pride of place goes to Doga Seker of Amalgamated who made an overtrick in 4♠XX for a top score of 880; unfortunately for our correspondent, it was against Turkish Delight, so Omar's efforts to bring home 4♡ still saw him lose 10 IMPs.

Onto the quarter finals.

You would normally expect that a pair with a majority of the hcp, and possession of the boss suit, would own a deal. Not so in this battle of the majors:

Board 168. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Both sides have double fits, but NS have better controls. With a diamond ruff available to the defence a spade contract can be held to eight tricks, while there are twelve in hearts when that suit splits and the clubs are absurdly kind. I watched where Roger Lee and Sylvia Moss were NS against Kevin Rosenberg and Adam Grossack. In a competitive auction Lee-Moss bid as far as 5♡, I suspect thinking that they were sacrificing. When it made with the obvious overtrick Roger Lee commented laconically "Underbid". The declarers in hearts - all four of them - played at the five level, bidding it over 4♠. At the other four tables EW were allowed to play in spades, twice at the two level, once each at the three and four levels. Which tends to confirm that it feels to everyone that the hand belongs to EW, though maybe nobody doubling 5♡ argues against that.

The very next hand was a test of declarer play in 3NT.

Kevin Rosenberg

Board 169. Dealer North . EW Vul.

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

I know it's a test for two reasons. Firstly, as I watched, even with sight of all four hands, I remained uncertain how I would approach it. Secondly because four of our declarers made it (one with an overtrick), whereas four went a trick light. When East led a small club and the stiff jack won the play was simple. A high spade was a popular East choice, which should be enough for declarer to pick that suit up for three tricks. And so it was in three of four cases, the exception being where the play went ♠9-5-10-K then ♠2-3-Q-A, then later declarer played for the drop rather than finesse against the 8. A diamond lead was much more challenging and ended in defeat both times (once from each side), declarer, hampered somewhat by communications, not finding the spade position. At the final table East led the ♣ A and switched to the ♡10. The winning line now is to go up with the ♡A and play a spade to the king, then duck a spade to the ace, losing a spade and three clubs (you have to duck the ten and nine), making three spades, two hearts and four diamonds. I see no reason not to play, as Fernandez did at the table, for the ♡9 to be with the 10 - all credit to Sabaté for that demonic ♡10.

Michal Klukowski

The bridge literature is full of stories, both real and fictional, where declarer has to smell out the location of a queen. On this next board smelling out a ten was the key to success for any declarer in 5♣.

Board 174. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

North will surely get involved in the auction, and if s/he gets to show both majors, South will probably push to the four level, which will often push their opponents into 5♣. Unless NS are kind enough to lead diamonds for you - and why should they when they have been bidding the majors - then you need to hold yourself to one loser in the suit. One option is to find an opponent with both ace and king. Finding the ten is, however, a more realistic prospect. You don't have much to go on since you have to play for the suit to be 3-3, because if you try to ruff three hearts you can only get back to hand by ruffing spades and are in danger of running out of trumps. Michal Klukowski unerringly played Sylvia Moss in South for the key card. I have no idea what induced him to play it that way, but it's exactly this kind of thing that makes world champions (Michal do feel free to contact the Journal with your reasoning if you're willing to reveal the secrets of a master). Three tables stopped short in 4♣, the other five were doubled at the five level. Two went one down, but of the three successful declarers Klukowski was the only one to find that vital ten - at the other two South played the ♢A prematurely.

Finally, a mini bidding test for you. With only the opponents vulnerable, you deal and pass, as does your LHO. Partner opens a 15-17 notrump and RHO passes. Do you invite with this hand?

♠ Q 9 7 4
♡ A J 10
♢ 6 5 4
♣ J 10 9

Eight hcp makes it worth considering an invite - you normally want to be in game with 24 combined, and you certainly do with 25. On the plus side you have those nice 10s working in combination with honours and a nine. On the negative side it is 4333, with half your points in quacks. And, as the late great Roland Wald often pointed out, 15 counts have a much

Sylvia Moss

higher frequency than 16 or 17. Also, you aren't vulnerable, so the potential loss for missing a making game is just 6 IMPs, the loss for going off against a making 2NT is 5 IMPs. Well, do you or don't you? Three invited, four passed, the other was feeling bullish and didn't bother with an invite, just jumped straight to game. One of the passers found the opponents getting involved, partner doubling them for takeout, so bid game. Of the simple invites, two openers accepted, one declined. I leave it to you whether opener should accept with this fifteen count, that is rich in aces and kings, has nice shape, but lacks intermediates:

♠ K 3
♡ K 8
♢ K 9 3 2
♣ A Q 8 6 2

You be the judge.

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SUPER CUP

UPCOMING SUPER CUP
28 June - 3 July 2021

UPCOMING SUPER CUP
2 - 7 August 2021

UPCOMING SUPER CUP
13 - 18 September 2021

Qualification + Knockout

QUALIFICATION
12 Rounds x 16 boards

	CEST	EDT
Monday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Tuesday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Wednesday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Thursday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

KOs
QuarterFinals, SemiFinals, Final: 32 boards each

	CEST	EDT
Friday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Saturday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG