World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 79. Monday, 19 April, 2021

SEMIFINALS MODE IS NOW ON

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/

Yesterday the second half of the Quarterfinals was played.
During the 20 boards:

- **Skalman** managed to keep and increase their lead versus team Anatolia;
- **Goded**, who was 19.1 IMPs behind Ventin, managed to fill the gap; after that, they registered 20 more IMPs. That granted the Spanish team a 'vamos' to the Semifinals
- **Moss** kept and even increased a little bit their lead versus Robinson
- Alexander and **Salvo**, who were almost tied after the first segment (only 0.1 IMPs apart, in Alexander's favour) had a hard fight second half. The Turkey-based team scored 12 IMPs more than the Swedish champs.

The first half of the Semifinals will be played today.

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!

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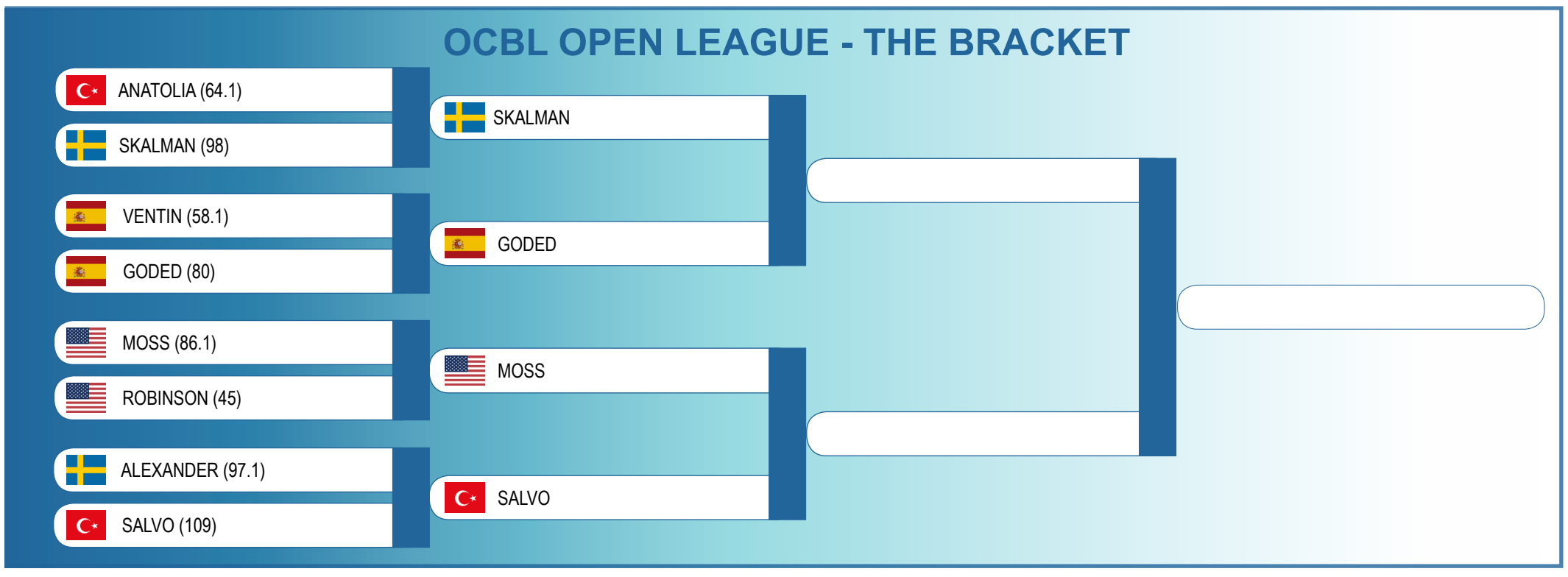
OCBL OPEN LEAGUE - THE BRACKET



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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

Deals That Challenged Even the Best Players

by Martin Cantor

This early board was nasty to bid and, depending on the contract, nasty to play:

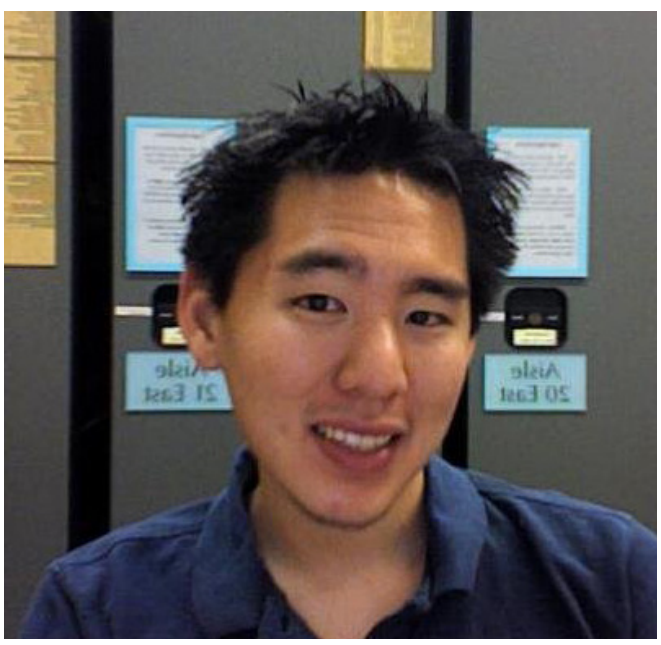
Board 182. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

On the EW cards game looks a reasonable shot in notrump, spades or clubs, in fact the club slam only needs a reasonably nice lie of the cards. And sure enough, game in each of those strains is available. That the bidding isn't straightforward can be seen from the fact that three played in 3NT, three in 4♠, one in 5♣ and one in 3♣. It is no surprise that the 4♠ was doubled twice; in fact it is perhaps a surprise that it was only doubled twice. Where 3NT was reached South had always made a weak 2♡ overcall, which had also been the case in the 3♣ and one of the 4♠ contracts. Those in notrump had it fairly easy, just needing to play up to the ♢K (in fact ten tricks are possible with an endplay). 3♣ was of course even easier. Ahlesved for Skalman was the only successful declarer in 4♠, luckily for him doubled so that he gained 4 IMPs against the 3NT+1 in the other room. The ♢A, ♡A and ♠Q took the first three tricks. Now the ♢K (♡ away), ♢ ruffed, club to the ace and another diamond ruff followed by the club king, leaving this

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

irrelevant



Roger Lee

and declarer could simply play clubs, forcing North to play into his trump tenace.

Against 5♣ South, in response to partner's double of a cue bid, led a diamond to the ace and ruffed the spade return. The heart switch was won by the ace, ♢K cashed for a heart discard, and a diamond was ruffed to leave this

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

Declarer can now get home by drawing trumps ending in hand, ruff a diamond to establish the fifth, discard the hearts on top spades and ruff a spade back to hand to claim. At the table one of the world's best players tried to ruff a spade at this point and was overruffed for one down.

Board 192. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Neither West nor North expect it, but this is destined to be the most dramatic board of the set. East and South are less surprised when it turns out that way. Looking just at the EW hands you would be happy to be in six of either minor, with a slight preference for clubs in case you need to finesse or ruff a diamond. Looking at all four hands you can see that both are fine if played by East, but 6♣ by West can go down on a diamond lead. On the other hand, if South Lightner doubles 6♣, EW might heed the warning and remove to the making diamond slam. All well and good, but South isn't letting EW have it all their own way; nine tricks are makeable in either major.

I was watching Robinson versus Moss, and this is what happened at one table

West	**North**	**East**	**South**
K.Rosenberg	*Lee*	*A.Grossack*	*S.Moss*
1♢	Pass	2♢*	3♡
Pass	4♡	4♠*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♢	All Pass		

2♢ nat, invite +
4♠ cuebid
4NT optional keycard

A nice controlled auction in the face of opposition interference - I particularly liked the 4♠ bid.

Meanwhile, at the other table:

West	**North**	**East**	**South**
Madala	*Kalita*	*D.Bilde*	*Klukowski*
1♣	Pass	1♣	1♡
Pass	Pass	2♡*	2♠
Pass	3♠	4♣	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Bilde thought long and hard before passing the double, as well he might, and well he should, since 200 is precious little compensation for 920. It got worse. The diamond lead was ruffed and a trump led. When Madala played small Klukoski had his chance, and he grabbed it. The ♠K won trick 2, and when the top three hearts were cashed West had to follow suit, a club went away on the fourth heart while West used one of his winning trumps. Declarer claimed for +790, and Moss claimed 17 IMPs which, together with their existing lead, just about sealed the match.

In Anatolia v Skalman Skalman played 6♣ by East while Anatolia rested in 5♣ - 11 IMPs. In Ventin v Goded Goded played 6♢ against Ventin's 5♢X (a stripe-tailed ape double, whether intentional or not) for 7 IMPs, and in Alexander v Slavo 5♢ made at one table and 5♣ at the other for no swing.

This next board was too tough a test for all except one declarer, who profited from a most helpful opening lead:

Board 195. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

3NT by West was the contract at all eight tables. The helpful North led the ♠Q, so setting up a ninth trick in that suit presented no problems. Two led a club and one a diamond, but four Norths found the most challenging (and traditional) lead of the fourth highest of their longest and strongest. The heart position is a classic, where going up with the ace will block the suit if they are 5-2 (North will not have underled the KQJxx), and it is essential here. Two declarers rose to the challenge by rising with the ace, the other two put the 10 in and were headed for defeat. But the two who won the ace were still not home, still needing a ninth trick, which can only come from the spade suit. Entries to dummy are not abundant so you need to lead a spade at trick 2 - and it has to be the 9 or 10; leading to the 8 will not work; try it. If South covers the spade you can win the ace, but then have to play a small one, playing for a

remaining stiff honour or an original 3-3. Usually South won't cover, and now you have killed the entry to the North hand and have the power to set up the extra trick by finessing again through South. Except for one thing; you are short an entry, and to overcome that problem there is just one solution; you have to overtake the ♣J with the queen, playing (or praying) for that suit to break 3-3. I'm not surprised no-one found it, especially as playing for spades 3-3 also gives you legitimate chances to make.

Jacek Kalita

And finally this one again proved too much for several:

Board 198. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Let's look at the bidding first. One South bid 2♣ over a strong club opener, and one South doubled a Gazzilli 2♣ rebid, but otherwise NS were silent throughout. In a natural auction East opens 1♡ and West responds 1♠, giving East a bit of a problem. Too good for 2♡ with 16 hcp, a six card major with two honours and the nice 3 card fit for partner, but the heart suit is not quite as good as you'd like for a 3♡ rebid. One chose 2♡, two chose 3♡, the others had available a Gazzilli 2♣ , either natural or any 16+. Over 2♡ West passed, of course, and over 3♡ the two Wests also passed, a little cautious, but, well, fair enough not vulnerable. Over Gazzilli one West could pass over South's double, showing fewer than 8 hcp, the other chose to upgrade a little to 8+, bidding 2♢ GF

Nafiz Zorlu

and now they ended in 4♠. All the strong club openings led to the spade game. The way to make 4♠ is to ruff three hearts while cashing two top trumps, which is exactly what the three successful players did. The declarer who tried to set up a diamond winner ended one trick short, while all those in a heart contract managed eight tricks.

Parker won the MMT

In the Final of the April Monthly Mixed Teams, Team Parker defeated team Alpert to win their first MMT-title.
Congratulations to Chris Parker, Adam Grossack, Stewart Rubenstein, Anam Tebha, Irene Baroni and Giovanni Donati!

Chris Parker

Irene Baroni

Anam Tebha

Giovanni Donati

Adam Grossack

Stewart Rubenstein

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OCBL CUP

Qualification + Knockout

MAY CUP	JUNE CUP	JULY CUP
17 - 21 May 2021	31 May - 4 June 2021	12 - 16 July, 2021

Qualification:

9 Rounds x 16 Boards	CEST	EDT
Monday	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
Tuesday	16.30 - 19.00 - 21.30	10.30 - 13.00 - 15.30
Wednesday	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00
Thursday	16.30 - 19.00	10.30 - 13.00

KOs:

Quarterfinals - Semifinals - Finals: 16 Boards each

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

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG