World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 80. Tuesday, 20 April, 2021

SEMIFINALS - ONE HALF TO GO

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 first half of the Semifinals was played. After the 20 boards:

- In the match Skalman (Ahlesved, Selberg, Skalman, Warne, Wademark, Karlsson, Nilsland, Fallenius) vs Goded (F. Goded, G. Goded, Jimenez, Fractman, Sabaté, Gonçalves, Gómez), the Sweden-based team is leading by 31 IMPs
- In the match Moss (S. Moss, Lee, Klukowski, Kalita, de Wijs, Muller) vs Salvo (Zorlu, Kubac, Koksoy, Aslan, Aluf, Yılmaz, Uçar, Suiçmez, Umur), the US-based team is leading by 24 IMPs.

The second half of the Semifinals will be played on Wednesday.

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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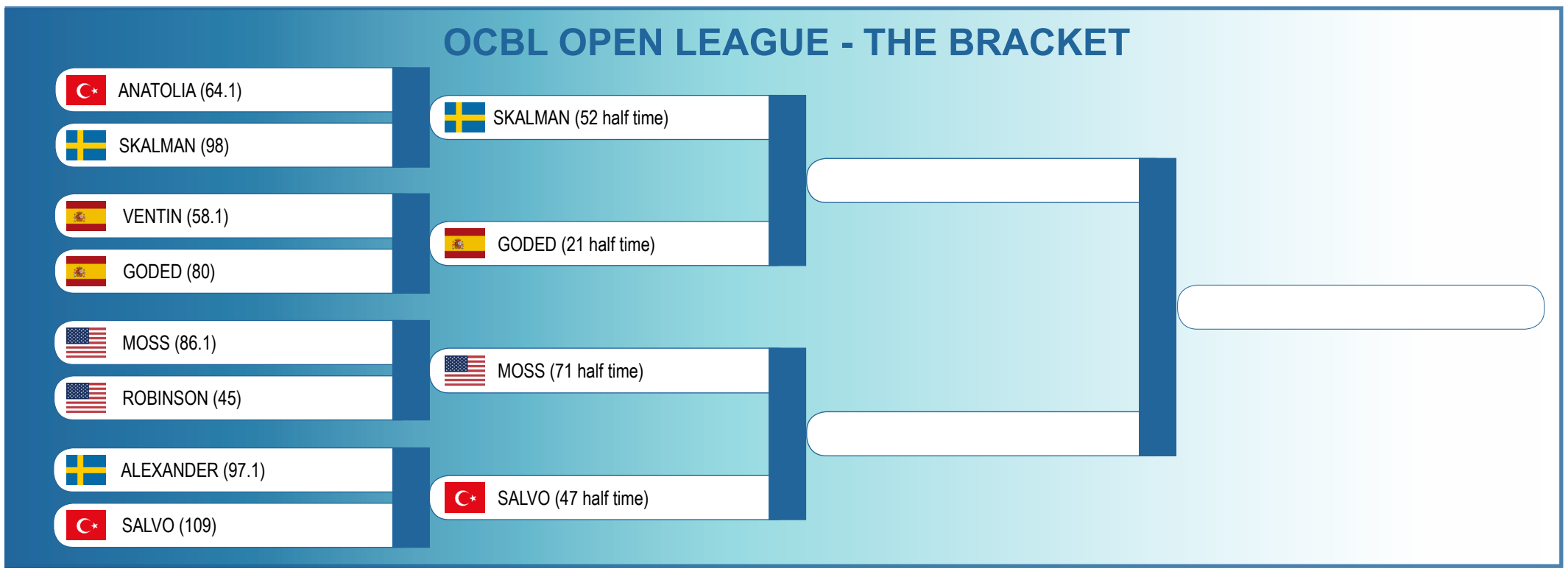
https://ocbl.org/journal/

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

Strap Yourself In

by Martin Cantor

I decided to watch Moss versus Salvo. It was just as well that I strapped myself into my seat, as there was some very forward bidding, complemented by some very aggressive doubling more reminiscent of a matchpoint or board a match event than IMPs. Board 204, for example, saw both tables in game on a combined 24 hcp. Kalita-Klukowski played in their 4-4 heart fit, were doubled, and went one light. Aslan-Kubac played 3NT and made an overtrick for a 13 IMP gain to Salvo. Limit on the hand is eight tricks in notrump or, the par contract, that was played at both tables in the other match, nine tricks in hearts. On board 206, with a combined 21 count, Aslan-Kubac made an overtrick in 2♠, while de Wijs-Muller went to the making heart game on a 5-3 fit, for 10 IMPs back to Moss.

The other big swing of the first half came from this board

Board 210. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	*Zorlu*	*Muller*	*Uçar*
—	—	1♣	Pass
1♢	1♡*	Pass	Pass
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♣
2♠	All Pass		

1♣ 15+
1♢ 0-8
Pass 18+
1♠ 0-5 less than 4♠

Nine tricks, 140

West	North	East	South
Aslan	*Kalita*	*Kubac*	*Klukowski*
—	—	1♠	Pass
1NT	2♡	Dbl	All Pass

Nezih Kubac

Here it was EW who made the eight tricks that North had contracted for, so three off and 800 meant 12 IMPs. I have to confess that bidding 2♡ on that hand would not have occurred to me. But if it had, when that double came back round, I would surely have tried 3♢. That's no party either, but should be only two off, and it's not quite so easy for the opponents to double it.

Only 3 IMPs went to Moss here when Aslan-Kubac overbid the hand, but it could have been eight if de Wijs had made his contract

Board 207. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

I'm not sure whether this was over-optimism, or perhaps a misunderstanding - it looks like the latter.

West	North	East	South
Aslan	*Kalita*	*Kubac*	*Klukowski*
—	—	—	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠*	Pass
4♡	Dbl	All Pass	

1NT 15-17
2♠ 5 spades, GI
4♡ minimum

North led the ♠K and declarer won and returned the suit. After some thought Kalita played back the ♠8, dummy ducked and after some more thought Klukowski ruffed low, overruffed. Maybe the ♠8 was meant as some sort of suit preference, or maybe he thought the bidding made the spade distribution clear. Aslan played a diamond to the king and a diamond back, taken by North, who now had a pretty clear picture of the whole hand. So he played the ♠4 for South to ruff with the ace for their third trick, and ensuring the ♡J for a fourth.

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	*Zorlu*	*Muller*	*Uçar*
1NT	Pass	2♡*	Pass
2♠*	Pass	2NT	All Pass

Zorlu lead the ♡9 to his partner's ace, which looks like it makes life easy for declarer. In practice it fooled him completely about the lie of that suit, so he later, understandably, finessed into Zorlu's ♡J. As Uçar had returned his singleton spade at trick 2, the defence came to three spades, two hearts and a diamond.

In the other match the swings in the first half were more modest, nothing above a six, mostly in favour of Skalman. So, on into the second half of the first half of the semi final. Both of Salvo's pairs got too high here...

Board 212. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

West	North	East	South
Aslan	*Kalita*	*Kubac*	*Klukowski*
Pass	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	1♠	Pass	2♣
Dbl	2♡	3♢	3♡
4♢	All Pass		

GIB says the defence can take 6 tricks, at the table they took 5, still two light.

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	*Zorlu*	*Muller*	*Uçar*
1NT	2♣*	2♢	3♡
All Pass			

Declarer took seven tricks, one fewer than GIB wants to allow him, and Moss had another 7 IMPs. In the other match both tables played 3♡ and both made nine tricks; but Skalman's Kvick was doubled so he gained 11 IMPs.

Board 214. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

The grand slam here just needs spades 3-2, when it would also make in notrump. It wasn't to be, and I'm sure that both Kubac and Muller were relieved to see the split since they settled for the small slam. The same happened in the other match.

Board 216. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

With modern bidding systems and styles, all sorts of things could happen here. Despite the vulnerability West might open a Muiderberg 2♠, which East would surely raise a level, giving

South quite a headache. If West passes, an aggressive North, despite being in second seat, might open a weak 2♡, which doesn't make things in any way easier for South. If West and North both pass East might produce a third seat light opener, when at least South can reasonably get in. Best for South is three passes, when s/he can open 1♣ and reverse into diamonds, when reaching the par 5♣ is at least feasible. At my table they got nowhere near. This time system worked against them:

West	North	East	South
Aslan	*Kalita*	*Kubac*	*Klukowski*
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣*
Pass	1♡	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♡	All Pass	

1♣ Polish
2♣ 5+♣s, 15+ F1

South could not bid 2♢ at his second turn, as in Polish Club this shows 18+ and a 3+ fit for partner's major and says nothing about either minor.

They managed to find the making game at the other table:

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	*Zorlu*	*Muller*	*Uçar*
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	2♢
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♢
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♡
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

Of course, having bid it, you have to make it, but that he did. ♠A, ♡A, ♢ finesse taken by the king then another spade was ruffed. A trump went to the king and ace, a third spade was ruffed, The ♢A was cashed then the ♢J was ruffed in dummy for the entry to take a club finesse. That brought 6 IMPs to Salvo, their last plus score of the day as Moss went on a scoring run.

Board 217. Dealer North, None Vul.

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

System brought Moss a nice 11 IMPs here

West	North	East	South
Aslan	*Kalita*	*Kubac*	*Klukowski*
—	1♢	1♠	2♢*
Pass	2♡	Dbl	Rdbl
2♠	4♡	All Pass	

2♢ hearts

As you can see, 4♡ played by North is cold, and when Kubac tried a somewhat desperate underlead of the ♣A Kalita was able to wrap up twelve tricks.

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	*Zorlu*	*Muller*	*Uçar*
—	1♢	1♠	2♡
Pass	3♡	3♠	4♡
All Pass			

Uçar suffered the obvious spade lead through the king. Muller cashed two of those, then the ♣A and then played another spade to promote the ♡J for two down.

On board 218 EW have 21 hcp facing 10, with no particular distributional plus points. De Wijs-Muller for Moss stopped in 3NT and made 12. Aslan-Kubac for Salvo bid to slam and ended two down, for another 11 IMP loss. The same bidding difference happened in the other match, except that here Sabaté made his notrump slam, gaining 11 for Goded.

Board 219. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

Another success for the Moss team on this board, the third 11 IMP gain in a row, and again system had a large part to play.

West	North	East	South
Aslan	*Kalita*	*Kubac*	*Klukowski*
—	—	—	2♡*
Pass	4♡	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♡	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All Pass		

2♡ ♡ & minor

Once South showed his hand North was never allowing 4♠ to play at this vulnerability. It was close to a double game swing, but EW's club pips were good enough to generate the third defensive trick.

West	North	East	South
de Wijs	*Zorlu*	*Muller*	*Uçar*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♡	1♠	4♡
4♠	All Pass		

A brave but very effective bid by de Wijs. Both North and South have what look like fair defensive assets for their bidding to date, so neither chose to bid on. Moss goes into the second half with a 24 IMP lead, Skalman with 31.

A BOARD FROM THE QUARTERFINALS

Board 174. Dealer East, None Vul.

	♠ A J 10 4 2 ♡ K 10 6 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	

In the first half of the Quartefinal, in the match Moss vs Robinson, Michal Klukowski played 5♣, against Bilde – Madala:

West	North	East	South
Klukowski	*Bilde*	*Kalita*	*Madala*
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	Pass	3♣*
Dble	3♡	4♣	4♠
5♣	Dble	All pass	

3♣ Mixed Raise

To make the contract you need to score two diamond tricks.

Michal, was kind to text us and explain how he found the right play:

"I knew exact shapes of both my opps from the bidding (5431 and 4432). From the double I also knew that K of H is behind me 100% (what would he have had for the double otherwise?), so there is no danger of tapping the dummy (club club, D to the J, spade back, A of H, heart ruff and D to the 9, now I have only 1 trump left in the dummy, so if K of H is on my right, its enough to play a heart now to defeat the contract, even despite the fact that I guessed a diamond).

To summarize, it was a pure guess, but.. I played to the J because there was small additional chance, that Dennis has both A and K."

The board brought 9 imps to team Moss, once in other table the contract was 4♣ made.

Moss finished to won the match by 41.1.

Thanks Michal, well done!

Michal Klukowski

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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