World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 81. Thurday, 22 April, 2021

...AND NOW THE FINAL!

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 Semifinals was played.

- In the Semifinal 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 managed to increase their lead and won the match by 73 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 also managed to increase their lead and won the match by 67 IMPs.

The Final will be Skalman vs Moss. It will be played over two segments.
The first half is scheduled today, the second half 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!

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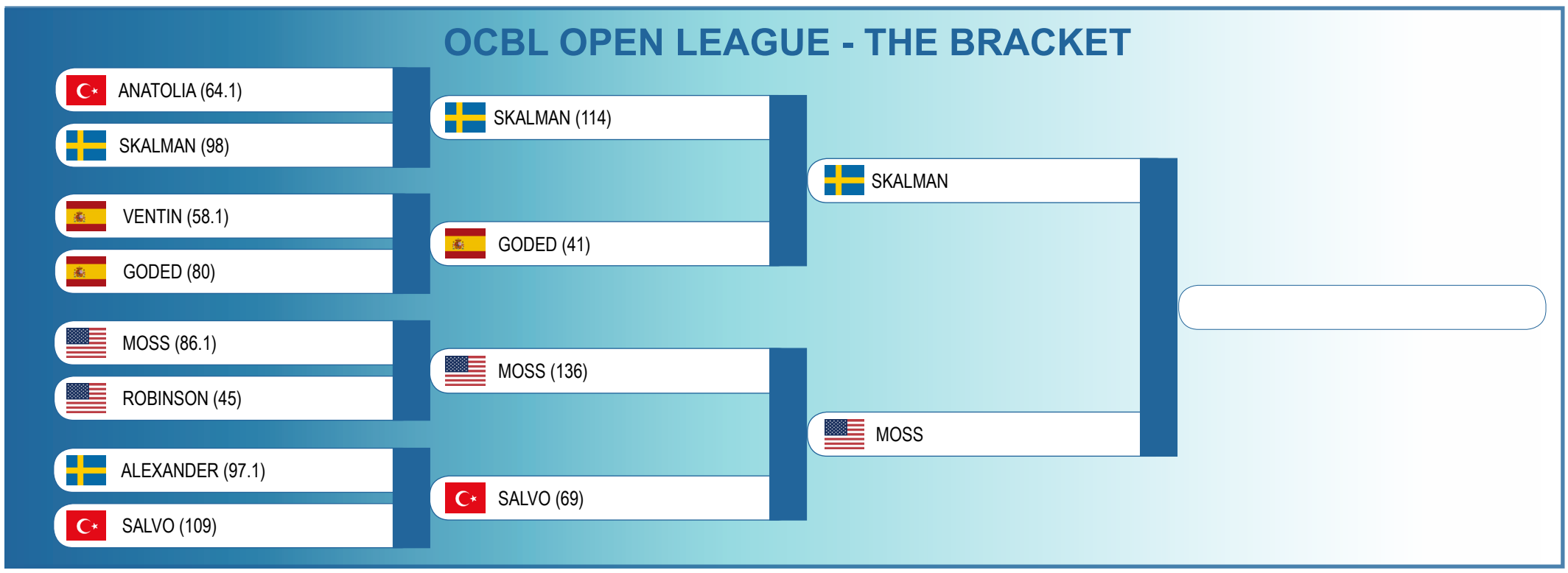
OCBL OPEN LEAGUE - THE BRACKET



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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

Swings Wanted

by Martin Cantor

Their deficits from the first half of the semi-final were far from enormous (31 and 24), but the two trailing teams would be hoping for some boards with swing potential. So were we kibitzers. We weren't to be disappointed, nor were we made to wait too long. Having focused on Moss v Salvo on Monday, today I turned my eyes onto Goded v Skalman.

Board 223. Dealer South, EW Vul.

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

Given a free run EW should have a pretty good chance of getting to 6♢ or 6NT and might even be able to exchange enough information to underwrite the diamond grand slam. But you don't often get a free run these days, and neither EW pair had it all their own way:

West	North	East	South
Sabaté	*Fallenius*	*G.Goded*	*Nilsland*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣*	1♠
2♣*	3♠	Dbl*	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5NT*	Pass
6♢	Pass	7♢	All Pass

1♣ 16+
2♣ ♢ invite+
Dbl no agreement
5NT pick a slam

Goded thought a long time over his partner's 5♣ cuebid, and I speculated he must be considering the grand slam. And so it proved to be. He can't have been entirely certain, but giving partner king to six diamonds and the club ace he could count twelve tricks, and that would barely constitute an invitation, let alone the extras that 4♢ suggests. The ♡J or ♣Q or ♠K would be enough, and there would be other chances, like the one here of setting up a long club. After the claim Mats Nilsland complimented their auction "well done". Reflecting the fact that the final raise had an element of (educated) guesswork, Sabaté responded wryly "not really". As it happens the raise to seven only brought in an extra 4 IMPs, as the small slam would have been worth 12 when this was the auction at the other table where East was given a much tougher time:

West	North	East	South
Warne	*F.Goded*	*Ahlesved*	*Fractman*
—	—	—	2♡*
Pass	3♠	3NT	All Pass

2♡ 5+♠ 4+♡ 6-10

In the other match Klukowski-Kalita bid the EW cards to 6♢+1 while their teammates de Wijs - Muller managed to steal it in 4♠X-4 for a gain of 11.

If you're looking for swings you have to consider exploring for slam, perhaps on marginal hands.

Board 225. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Slam certainly isn't great, missing an ace and the queen of trumps, but with nine hearts the missing queen is less worrying, and you do have good controls. In Moss v Salvo both Easts played in 4♡, and Umur gained an IMP for Salvo when he made an overtrick. In the other match:

West	North	East	South
Warne	*F.Goded*	*Ahlesved*	*Fractman*
—	Pass	1♡	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♡*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣	Dbl	4♣	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

1NT inv+ relay
2♣ minimum, not 4♠
2♡ FG relay
2NT 4+♢s
3♣ relay
3NT x64x not VOID or 1741
4♣ general slam invitation
4♢ min 64 or max 74

Krister Ahlesved

A long and accurate relay auction that let them put the brakes on nice and early. The other table also saw a relay auction

West	North	East	South
Sabaté	*Fallenius*	*G.Goded*	*Nilsland*
—	Pass	1♡	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♣*	Pass	3♡*	Pass
3♠*	Pass	4♣*	Pass
4♢*	Pass	4♡*	Pass
4♠*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♡	All Pass		

1NT any GF
2NT 6♡ 4minor, 11-13
3♣ relay
3♡ 4♢s
3♠ relay
4♣ 2641
4♢ keycard in ♡
4♡ 1
4♠ ♡Q?
4NT no

You can make eleven tricks in hearts, though it isn't necessarily the best single dummy line. Basically you have to play ♠A and a spade towards dummy. On most lines you get to set that suit up, on others you can cross ruff your way home. Declarer played for some diamond tricks and for the ♡Q to be friendlier than she was, and lost ten IMPs as a result.

If you're looking for swings you want hands with some distribution. The Norths with their balanced nine count won't have expected much from this one, but the other three had something to get excited about:

Board 227. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

There is a bridge saying "six-five, come alive". For this East hand I'm coining a couple more: "six-seven you're in heaven"; and "double void, you're overjoyed". Your joy is slightly tempered when your LHO opens the bidding with 1♣ and your partner overcalls 1♡ and then your RHO bids 1NT. So, that is both your voids bid, one of them by partner. Is any new suit bid forcing here?

West	North	East	South
Warne	*F.Goded*	*Ahlesved*	*Fractman*
—	—	—	1♣
1♡	1NT	Dbl	2♣
2♡	3♣	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣*	Pass
5♢*	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	

Gonzalo Goded

The club lead was ruffed, a spade went to dummy's king and a diamond came off dummy on which North played the ace. The rest was simple, declarer soon claiming 1660. Meanwhile ……

West	North	East	South
Sabaté	*Fallenius*	*G.Goded*	*Nilsland*
—	—	—	1♣
1♡	2♣	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♢	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♢	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	Dbl	Rdbl	All Pass

Here a heart was led to dummy's ace, and of course the diamond played at trick two. Fallenius ducked smoothly, with devastating effect. Goded's jack lost to the queen and a trump was returned, taken in dummy. A heart was ruffed to hand and the ♢K played for a ruffing finesse that was destined to fail. Great play by Fallenius: sure, East has shown a heart void and, on the bidding, club shortage, therefore a secondary diamond suit - but he had figured this out quickly enough to make that smooth duck of an ace to a known singleton, and in a redoubled slam. It paid huge dividends, +400 + 1660 is +19 IMPs, when -2070 +1660 would have been -9 IMPs.

In the other match the swing was "only" 15 IMPs when Klukowski-Kalita bid and made 6♠, while de Wijs - Muller again stole the deal, this time in 3NT, going two off after the ♢J lead was won by the queen, but the attempt to sneak a heart trick failed and the defence cashed their spades.

The next board was only a little quieter, prompting Nilsland to comment, with almost British understatement "interesting deals"

Board 228. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

West has a pretty obvious 4♠ opener - that was certainly the view of all these four Wests. Both Norths in Moss v Salvo doubled, as did Federico Goded, while Fallenius passed. Doubling with only three hearts runs a certain danger of course, but so does passing. And what is life (or bridge) without a little danger? In Moss v Salvo both Souths passed the double, but de Wijs led a top club which cost the defence a trick, taking it just three down and losing 7 IMPs. Nilsland in South also passed after his partner's pass, so Sabaté played undoubled, and he too got an extra trick for -150. The big action was at the fourth table:

West	North	East	South
Warne	*F.Goded*	*Ahlesved*	*Fractman*
4♠	Dbl	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♢
Pass	Pass*	Pass	
Pass	♢ & ♡ I suppose		

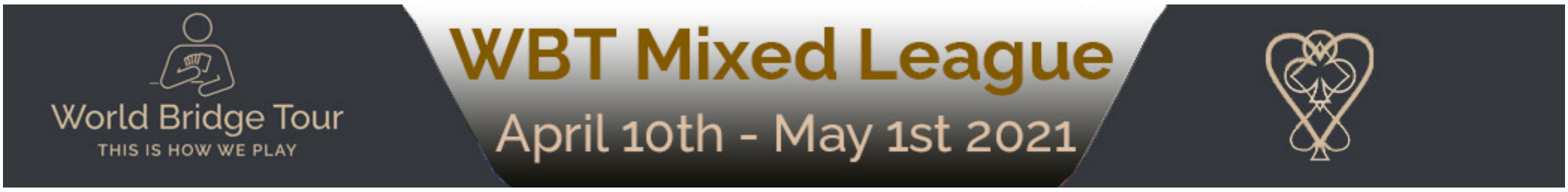
Warne led a spade into declarer's tenace, which improved things a bit for him. However, despite a herculean effort on his part, the 5-0 trump break eventually proved too much and he was a trick short. Only 5 IMPs, but it could have been so much more.

123 IMPs were exchanged across the two matches in the first set of ten boards. The second set was much quieter, just 46 IMPs, the only major swing being on Board 13 in both matches when Kubac-Umur, and Sabaté-Goded both unaccountably bid to 6♢ missing two cashing aces while their counterparts stopped in 5♢, which made both times when the respective declarers guessed trumps right with KJxx opposite 109xxx. Nobody managed to play the rather simpler 3NT that has nine top tricks with good chances for overtricks. Next stop the final.

Federico Goded

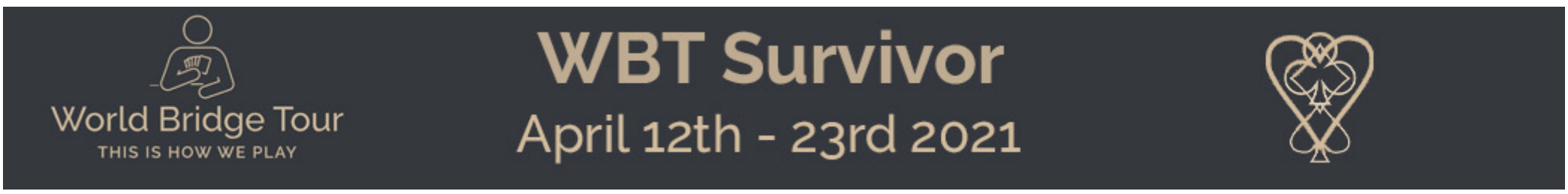
WBT EVENTS

The following WBT events are underway:



This is a Swiss tournament, with a total of 8 Rounds to be played.
This is the ranking after Round 4:

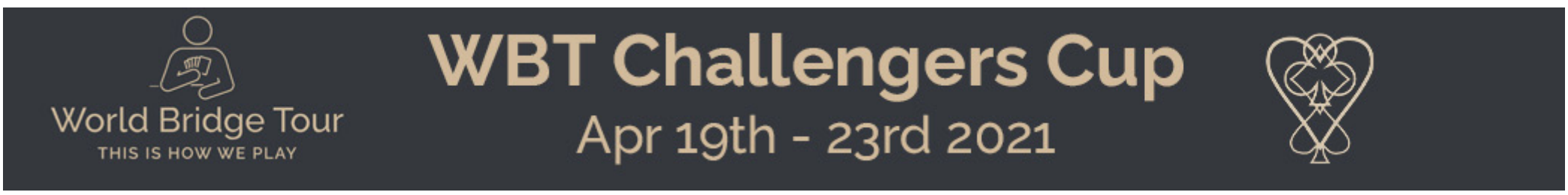
1	Potter	64.37
2	Abisco	53.06
3	Sofie's world	49.96
4	Warner	48.39
5	Frequently Offshape	48.01
6	Chan	45.56
7	Weekend Warriors	43.84
8	Poland	40.2
9	Mixed Emotions	38.55
10	Poland II	35.99
11	No Pasaran	32.44
12	Kolton	32.3
13	La La Land	32.05
14	One bourbon, one scotch, 2 beers	27.73
15	Tricontinental	26.85
16	Marbella Aces	20.7



We are currently in the Final stage.

Team **Leslie** (Tim Leslie, Mike Bell, Ollie Burgess, Ben Norton, Michael Byrne, Kieran Dyke) are facing team **Hansa** (Hansa Narasimhan Carlos Pellegrini, Michael Whibley, Sumit Mukherjee, Debrabata Majumder).

After two segments, team Hansa is leading by 1 IMP.



The event includes a qualification stage (8 rounds) followed by a knockout stage.

The ranking after Round 6:

1	Abisco	81.66
2	Skeidar	75.73
3	Kinds	74.83
4	Daugava	73.99
5	Zaza's Boys	70.16
6	Germany Juniors	67.94
7	Texan Aces	66.76
8	Les Berrichons	64.32
9	Köln Lindenthal	63.85
10	ECF Holding	61.54
11	Anatolia	58.98
12	Balzacc	56.85
13	Harris	56.7
14	Flekkefjord	53.97
15	Marupe	45.79
16	Denmark Juniors	44.22
17	Munlein	36.3
18	European Juniors	26.41

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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