World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 120. Wednesday, 4 August, 2021

OCBL AUGUST CUP
RANKING AFTER ROUND 6

1	Ventin	80
2	Apres-Bridge Ch.	72.68
3	Flyfalcon	60.16
4	Gillis	58.43
5	Black	58.01
6	Rippey	56.59
7	Leslie	55
8	Ferguson	54.92
9	Gupta	53.43
10	Compton	50.78

FOUR TICKETS

After three more rounds, team **Ventin** (Ventin J.C., Fernandez C., Palma A., Pacareu J., Wrang F., Nystrom F., Chrueheras J.) climbed the ranking a little bit more. They are now leading (80 VPs). They are followed by team **Apres-Bridge Champs** (Auken S., Welland R., Milner R., Lall H., Jagniewski R., Gawel W.) (72.68 VPs) and by team **Flyfalcon** (Wilson A., Van Prooijen R., Verhees L., Gronkvist I., Gronkvist M., Sprinkhuizen T., Mendes De Leon G., Kiljan V., Tijssen L.) (60.16 VPs).

Today the last three rounds of the qualification stage will be played.
Then, the top 4 teams of the ranking will advance to the Semifinal.
The first ranked team will play versus the fourth one, and the second one will play the third one.

The Semifinals and the Final will be played over two segment of 12 boards each (24 boards each match)
There will be the following carry over:
In the Semifinal no. 1 – 2 get a carry-over of 8.1 – 4.1 IMP.
In the Final no. 1 get a carry-over of 0.1 IMP as a tiebreaker

Schedule Today

Round 7. 16.00 CEST / 10.00 a.m. EDT

Rippey	VS	Gupta
Compton	VS	Ventin
Leslie	VS	Black
Apres-Br. Champs	VS	Gillis
Flyfalcon	VS	Ferguson

Round 8. 18.00 CEST / 12.00 p.m. EDT

Rippey	VS	Compton
Black	VS	Gupta
Ventin	VS	Apres-Br. Champs
Ferguson	VS	Leslie
Gillis	VS	Flyfalcon

Round 9. 20.00 CEST / 2.00 p.m. EDT

Rippey	VS	Black
Apres-Br. Champs	VS	Compton
Gupta	VS	Ferguson
Flyfalcon	VS	Ventin
Leslie	VS	Gillis

All the tables will be open to kibitzers

World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER CUP

31 August - 3 September, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Tuesday 31 August	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Wednesday 1 September	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Thursday 2 September	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Friday 3 September	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

OPEN LEAGUE

6 - 30 September, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at:		21.15	15.15
Qualification:	9 Rounds, 16 boards each		
KO:	3 Rounds, 20 boards each		

OCTOBER CUP

18 - 21 October, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 18 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Tuesday 19 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Wednesday 20 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Thursday 21 October	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

OPEN LEAGUE

25 October - 18 November, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at:		21.15	15.15
Qualification:	9 Rounds		
KO:	3 Rounds		

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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

Online Bridge
NEWS

ACBL TWO DAY PAIR EVENT WINNERS

Haig Tchamitch and Geoff Hampson

From the ACBL website:

Hampson, Tchamitch win Open Pairs

Geoff Hampson of Las Vegas NV and Haig Tchamitch of Paradise Valley AZ won the Two-Day Open Pairs. Having qualified in tenth place with a carryover of 37.20, the pair, who are both full-time professional players, scored 57.30% in the first final session, which moved them into sixth place. They scored an impressive 65.38% in the second final session, propelling them into first place by two boards. They finished with a combined score of 833.38.

Maximo Crusizio of Fort Lauderdale FL and Judy Fox of Virginia Beach VA finished second. They qualified in second place and were leading the event after the first final session, thanks to a 61.47% first final score. Their final session score of 50.64% was still good enough to secure second place by a little more than half a board.

Maximo Crusizio and Judy Fox

Gerardo and Trisha Malazdrewicz

BBO couple win 5K pairs

Trisha and Gerardo Malazdrewicz of Dartmouth NS have won the 0–5000 Two-Day Pair event. Qualifying for the second day in 11th place, the pair scored 66.10% in the first final session and 63.02% in the second final session. Their combined matchpoint score of 333.81 was three boards better than second place, Christina Parker and Stewart Rubenstein of Chestnut Hill MA. They qualified in fourth place and scored 56.63% and 54.75% on the second day for a combined score of 300.43.

Trish Malazdrewicz is an ACBL tournament director and the TD manager for BBO. She has worked for BBO for 11 years and met Gerardo there. “We just celebrated our eighth anniversary,” said Malazdrewicz. “Gerardo has worked for BBO as a system admin for about 15 years. Bridge is our lives.
“We were both very shocked with our win as tonight’s session seemed atrocious, the hands were torture with bad splits. I did a double-take when I saw our score.”

Father-son duo wins 0-1500 pairs

Xin Ge and son Brandon Ge won the Two-Day 0–1500 Pairs Sunday, scoring 60.12% in the first final session and 63.61% in the second. The Ges’ margin of victory in the final was more than three boards. Their four-session total with carryover was 207.54.

The winners, of Cupertino CA, qualified fifth in Saturday’s opening round.
Brandon, 14, was previously second in the GNT Flight C in 2019, and he won the Online Pairs of the Youth NABC in 2020. He was slated to represent the U.S. on its Under-16 team at the World Youth Championships in Italy in 2020, but the event was canceled due to COVID.

In second with 184.38 was Gregory Gauthier of Mountain View CA and John Stremel of San Jose CA. Third place went to first-day leaders Gilbert Deleeuw of Douglassville PA and Craig Bailey of Macungie PA who scored 181.96 (top = 7).

Rounds 2, 3 and 4

by Brian Senior

Round 2

It is difficult to be too critical of those East players who chose to open with a strong and artificial 2♣ on this deal, as it is far from clear how to get the power of the hand across after opening at the one level. However, as is often the case after an opening 2♣ on a low point count, West at a number of tables bid on the assumption that East would have more all-round high-card strength than was actually the case, which led to disaster.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Flyfalcon v Apres-Bridge Champs

West	North	East	South
Welland	*V Prooijen*	*Auken*	*Wilson*
–	–	2♣	Pass
2♢	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♢	Pass	6♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Verhees	*Jagniewski*	*Kiljan*	*Gawel*
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♢	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♡	Pass
4♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Auken opened 2♣ and rebid 4♠ over the 2♢ relay response. That seems to me to be the best rebid after opening 2♣, as it implies a massive spade suit with limited slam ambition, but Welland had a solid suit of his own plus a side-king and jumped to 6♢, converted back to spades by Auken. Wilson led ace and another heart, and that was one down for –100.

Kiljan opened at the one level, Verhees responding with a game-forcing 2♢. Here it was Kiljan who jumped to slam, though his partner had not done anything to suggest that he held either major-suit ace. Simply, Kiljan had so much playing strength that he knew his partner would never be able to make an informed decision so he took it upon himself to pick the final level; down one for –100, and a push board after Gawel too cashed the ace of hearts, switching to a club; down one.

Black v Gillis

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Saelensminde*	*Hult*	*Gillis*
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♢	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♢	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*McIntosh*	*O Rimstedt*	*Paske*
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♢	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	5♢	Pass
5♡	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Hult opened 1♠, made a jump rebid, then asked for key cards. Alas, Hallberg thought that this was with diamonds agreed, so showed more than he had got. Though Hult had the ♠Q himself, so could see that there had been a misunderstanding, he guessed to go on to slam, but regretted a few moments later as, despite the favourable club lead, there was no way to avoid the loss of two aces; down one for –100.

Ola opened at the one level then made a jump rebid. When Mikael now bid 3NT, Ola showed the trust that the brothers share, when he used Exclusion Key-card in his partner's suit and, on discovering that there were two aces missing, could sign off. Two rounds of hearts meant that the club losers went away and the Rimstedts chalked up +650 and 13 IMPs for GILLIS.

Gupta v Ventin

West	North	East	South
Wrang	*N Gupta*	*Nystrom*	*Korbel*
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♢	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♢	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Ventin*	*Stamatov*	*Pacareu*
–	–	2♣	Pass
3♢	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♢	Pass	6♠	All Pass

Nystrom opened at the one level, rebid 3♠, then asked for key-cards and got a one-for-spades response, so knew to sign off in 5♠. The club lead solved his problems in that suit and he just had to concede the two major-suit aces; +650.

Stamatov opened 2♣ and Zia's positive response took away valuable bidding space, normal though the 3♢ response may be. While Stamatov kept making minimum spade bids, Zia had a lot of his own and asked for key-cards. Stamatov's answer related to spades, but Zia was not prepared to pass out 5♠, though he must have known that his partner might have only one ace plus the ♠K. Well, hopefully the contract would have play if dummy had the ♠A rather than the ♠K. Paceareu cashed the ace of hearts then switched to a club, so the contract was down one for –100 and 13 IMPs to VENTIN.

Leslie v Compton

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	Bell	Huang	Norton
–	–	1♣	Pass
2♢	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♡	Dble
Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Byrne	*Goodman*	*Dyke*	*Compton*
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♢	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♢	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♢	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Huang opened a strong club, showed his spades then clubs, before cuebidding the singleton heart. When the heart cuebid was doubled and Dwyer could do no more than pass, Huang judged correctly to sign off in 4♠ and leave any further move to his partner. Ace of hearts and a club switch meant 11 tricks for +650.

Dyke opened at the one level then, unlike our other easts, rebid a quiet 2♠, leaving more room to explore. That enabled Byrne to repeat his diamonds at the three level, cuebid 4♢, then accept Dyke's sign-off in game. Compton led two rounds of hearts; +650 and no swing.

Rippey v Ferguson

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Nowak*	*V D Bos*	*Rippey*
–	–	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♠	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Wiankowski	*Nadel*	*Nawrocki*	*Ferguson*
–	–	1♠	Pass
2♢	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♡	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♠	All Pass

Van Den Bos opened 2♣ and rebid 4♠. Van Lankveld asked for key-cards then passed the 5♠ response, knowing that two were missing. Rippey led a trump, Nowak winning the ace and returning a club. Van Den Bos won the ace of clubs, drew trumps, and led his heart up. Rippey could win the ace but was then endplayed. He returned a club, but the even club split meant that Van Den Bos had the rest for +650.

Nawrocki opened at the one level, rebid 3♠, the asked for key-cards. On finding that two were missing, he signed off in 5♠. Ferguson's lead of the jack of hearts gave the overtrick when Nawrocki put up the king and took club discards on the diamonds; +680 so 1 IMP to RIPPEY.

Four pairs got to the doomed slam, so well done to the four who stopped at the five level, and even better done to the two who stopped at the four level. While the defence may be impossible to find, even 5♠ can be defeated. South must cash the ♡A then switch to a spade, and North can win the ace and exit safely with a second spade. In the fullness of time, declarer has to concede a club trick, holding him to 10 tricks.

In three of the five matches, this next board was played in 3NT at both tables, with only an overtrick at stake. In the other two matches, one pair stopped in the NT game, while the other bid to the excellent club slam.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

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

Black v Gillis

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*McIntosh*	*O Rimstedt*	*Paske*
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1◇	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4◇	Pass	4♡
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Hallberg	*Saelensminde*	*Hult*	*Gillis*
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Salensminde responded 1NT and Gillis simply raised to 3NT. Other than a desire to play the contract, I'm not sure what is wrong with a 1◇ response, which might have given the partnership at least some chance if South then jumped to 2♡, but perhaps also South might have thought that 1NT normally shows four or five clubs – well, presumably Gillis could not be sure of that, given that his partner bypassed a strong four-card suit to respond 1NT. Anyway, Saelensminde came to 11 tricks after a diamond lead; +660.

McIntosh did respond 1◇, then showed club support over the game-forcing 2♡ rebid. Paske completed the picture of his hand with 3NT, but McIntosh had good cards and went on with a 4◇ cuebid. Though he signed off at his next turn, having made his clear slam try and having no spade control, Paske had excellent top cards and went on the small slam. He won the spade lead, drew trumps, and could take a heart ruff in dummy and a spade pitch in hand on the ◇K; 12 tricks for +1370 and a well-deserved 12 IMPs to BLACK.

Gupta v Ventin

West	North	East	South
Wrang	*N Gupta*	*Nystrom*	*Korbel*
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Dble	3NT	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Zia	*Ventin*	*Stamatov*	*Pacareu*
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♡
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4◇	Pass	4♡
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

Gupta made the 1NT response to 1♣, showed club support over the 2♡ rebid, then signed off in 3NT. Korbel tried for slam but Gupta passed 4NT and made 11 tricks after a spade lead; +660.

Ventin responded 1♠, presumably denying a major. He showed club preference, signed off in 3NT, then co-operated with a diamond cuebid when Pacareu went on. Though Ventin signed off in game at his next turn, the fact that head been able to co-operate once was enough for Pacareu, who went on to the cold slam; +1370 and 12 IMPs to VENTIN.

Round 3

Round Three featured this slam deal, on which slam was reached at six of the 10 tables but was only successful at three of them.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Apres-Bridge Champs v Leslie

West	North	East	South
Burgess	*Lall*	*Leslie*	*Milner*
1NT	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Gawel	*Bell*	*Jagniewski*	*Norton*
1◇	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♡	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♡	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass

Burgess opened 1NT, Leslie transferred to spades, and Burgess completed the transfer. From here, your guess is as good as mine, and the partnership alighted in the obscure spot of 4♡, against which Milner led the five of diamonds. Leslie won dummy's ace and led the ten of spades, covered all around. Back came a club. Leslie won the king, led a spade to the nine and ace, then played three rounds of clubs, ruffing low as Milner discarded a spade. Had Milner thought to ruff in, the contract might have been defeated, but he was no doubt as lost by the auction as the rest of us. Leslie continued with the king then queen of diamonds, ruffed with the six and over-ruffed with the ace. A spade was ruffed and over-ruffed and back came a heart to the queen and king. The jack of hearts was declarer's tenth trick; +620. The fact that his spades had been established early in the play seems to have escaped declarer, who was probably more than a little flustered to find himself in such an odd contract.

I don't have the Gawel/Jagniewski methods at hand but, after a natural start, they stopped in 4NT, where Jagniewski made 12 tricks after a spade lead to the ten, jack and queen; +690 and 2 IMPs to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS.

Ventin v Black

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Ventin*	*Black*	*Patareu*
1NT	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
5◇	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Fernandez	*Hallberg*	*Palma*	*Hult*
1NT	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Gold opened 1NT rather than 1◇ then have to stretch slightly by reversing into hearts. Black transferred to spades then to clubs before inviting slam, and Gold suggested 5◇ and was left to play there. Ventin led a heart round to the queen and king. Gold cashed the ♡A, crossed to the king of clubs, and ruffed his losing heart. That was over-ruffed and back came a trump. Gold won, drew trumps, and the spade loser went away on the third club; +620.

Fernandez and Palma had essentially the same auction as far as 4NT, but now Fernandez jumped to 6NT, against which Hallberg led a heart to the three, queen and king. Fernandez played four rounds of diamonds, discarding two spades from dummy, as Hallberg pitched a heart and the nine of spades. Hult returned the ten of hearts to dummy's ace. Fernandez cashed the ace of spades, crossed to the king of clubs, and cashed the fifth diamond, on which Hallberg was squeezed out of another heart as he had to guard the clubs. Fernandez cashed the jack of hearts but did not realise that his seven was a winner and hoped for dummy's fourth club to provide his twelfth trick. It was not to be, so the contract was down one for –100 and 12 IMPs to BLACK.

Compton v Gupta

West	North	East	South
Korbel	*Goodman*	*N Gupta*	*Compton*
1NT	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*A Gupta*	*Huang*	*Garner*
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	2◇	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Korbel and Naren Gupta had a straightforward transfer sequence after Korbel's 1NT opening. Korbel declined the slam invitation but managed 12 tricks in 4NT; +690.

Dwyer opened 1♣ and rebid 1NT. Huang forced to game, showed his fifth spade, then raised to 6NT. The lead was a heart for the three, queen and king. Dwyer unblocked the ace of hearts then led a low spade to the two, ten and jack. Back came the nine of spades. Having chosen a losing play at trick three, Dwyer got the next one right, rising with the ace. He crossed to the king of clubs and cashed the ♡J, discarding a spade from dummy, then cashed two more clubs. Finally, he tried to split the diamonds and, when they did not oblige, had to concede the last two tricks so was down two for –200 and 13 IMPs to GUPTA.

Rippey v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Verhees	*Percario*	*Kiljan*	*Cima*
Wiankowski	*V Prooijen*	*Nawrocki*	*Wilson*
1NT	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Identical auctions saw the respective Wests at the helm in the NT slam.

Van Prooijen led a heart round to the queen and king. Wiankowski cashed the ace of diamonds, unblocked the ace of hearts, then played three more rounds of diamonds, discarding spades from dummy. Wilson returned a low club to the nine, ten and queen which, had Wiankowski known it, presented him with a fourth club winner and 12 in all. But he could not know that, nor could he test clubs without committing himself to the suit. He crossed to the king of clubs, cashed the fifth diamond and ♡J, and discarded the winning eight of clubs before taking the spade finesse for his contract; down one for –100.

Percario too made the popular heart lead to the queen and king. Verhees immediately played out four rounds of diamonds, discarding spades from the dummy. Cima won the fourth diamond and got out safely with a heart to dummy's now bare ace. Verhees came to hand with the ♣K and cashed the ♡J. As Percario had thrown two hearts on the diamonds, Verhees could also cash the ♡7 and had 12 tricks for +1440 and 17 IMPs to FLYFALCON.

Gillis v Ferguson

West	North	East	South
V D Bos	*Saelensminde*	*V Lankveld*	*Gillis*
1NT	Pass	2♡	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♢	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
M Rimstedt	*Nadel*	*O Rimstedt*	*Ferguson*
1♢	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♢	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♡	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♡	Pass	6NT	All Pass

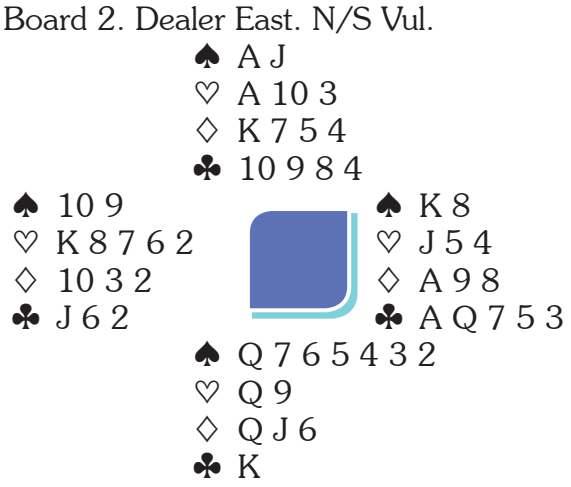
Van Den Bos and Van Lankveld followed a familiar path as far as 4NT, then Van Den Bos accepted the slam invitation but did so by jumping in his powerful diamond suit, and was left to play there. Once again, the lead was a heart. Van Den Bos won the king, cashed the ace, and came to hand with a diamond to the ace. Next he ruffed his low heart and was over-ruffed. He won the trump return, drew trumps, and the spade loser went away on the third club; +1370.

Mikael Rimstedt opened 1♢ and the brothers had a largely artificial auction to 6NT, played by Ola, East. Ferguson led a low club to the nine, ten and ace. Ola played four rounds of diamonds, pitching spades from hand, while Nadel discarded clubs. Ferguson returned a club to the king and, when Nadel followed to this trick, Ola knew that his fourth club was a winner and cashed out for 12 tricks; +1440 and 2 IMPs to GILLIS.

Round 4

Going into Day Two, with three matches played, there were already no undefeated teams, and only one, COMPTON, yet to have a win. Nobody, then, had built up a big early lead, and nobody had suffered a devastating first day, so there was all to play for with all 10 teams still well in contention.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



Black v Compton

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Hallberg*	*Huang*	*Hult*
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♢	Pass	2♡	2♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Smith*	*McIntosh*	*Moses*
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♢	Pass	2♡	All Pass

Both Easts opened 1NT and both Wests transferred into hearts after a pass from South. Moses now continued to go quietly with the South cards, while Hult competed with 2♠ and was left to play there.

Moses led a spade against 2♡, Smith winning the ace and switching to the eight of clubs. McIntosh played low, losing to the bare king, and Moses switched back to spades, to the jack and king. McIntosh led a heart to the nine, king and ace, and back came a club, ruffed with the queen. But now McIntosh could win the diamond return, cross to the jack of clubs, and play the six of hearts. Smith covered with the ten, but NcIntosh could win the jack and draw the last trump with his four, staying in hand to cash two more club tricks to get rid of both dummy's diamond losers; just made, eight tricks for +110.

Dwyer led the ten of spades against 2♠. Hult won the ace and immediately set about the diamonds. When his queen scored, he switched to a spade to Huang's king and Huang played ace and another club. Hult ruffed and played the jack of diamonds. Huang won that and returned a heart. Hult got that wrong, putting up his queen – king, ace – but the even diamond split meant that he had a discard for his remaining hearts so he came to 10 tricks for +170 and 7 IMPs to BLACK.

Gillis v Rippey

West	North	East	South
Gillis	*Nowak*	*Saelensminde*	*Rippey*
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♢	Pass	2♡	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Vallet	*Eriksson*	*Bedouet*	*O Rimstedt*
–	–	1♣	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Saelensminde also opened 1NT and Rippey passed with the South hand. And Rippey passed again when Gillis transferred into hearts and Saelensminde completed the transfer.

Bedouet opened 1♣ and now it was easy for Ola to get his spades into the auction via a simple overcall. Eriksson responded 1NT to that and Ola repeated the spades. Taking that to show a sound hand as a weaker one would have started with a weak jump overcall, Eriksson raised to the spade game.

Rippey led the queen of diamonds against 2♡, Saelensminde winning the ace and playing a heart to the nine, king and ace. Nowak returned a low diamond, Rippey winning the jack and cashing the queen of hearts before reverting to diamonds. Nowak won the king of diamonds and switched to the ten of clubs, which Saelensminde ducked to the bare king. There was still a spade to come, so the contract was down one for –50.

Vallet led a low club, Bedouet winning the ace and continuing with a low one for Ola to ruff. The spade finesse lost and back came a third club, again ruffed. Ola cashed the ace of spades and led a diamond to his queen then cashed the ♠Q before playing the ♢J and, when that held the trick, a third diamond. His low heart went away on the thirteenth diamond; +620 and 11 IMPs to GILLIS.

Gupta v Apres-Bridge Champs

West	North	East	South
Lall	*Stamatov*	*Milner*	*Zia*
–	–	1NT	Pass
2♢	Pass	2♡	2♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Garner	*Auken*	*A Gupta*	*Welland*
–	–	1♣	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
3♡	3♠	All Pass	

Zia did not come in immediately over Milner's 1NT, but he did compete with 2♠ after the transfer to hearts. Stamatov gave his delayed action plenty of leeway and passed, so 2♠ became the final contract.

Ash Gupta opened 1♣ and Welland made the jump overcall of 2♠. Auken passed that but competed to 3♠ when her opponents got to 3♢. Game, however, was not in the picture and 3♠ concluded the bidding.

Lall led the ten of spades against 2♠. Zia won the ace and led a diamond to the queen followed by a spade to the jack and king. Milner played ace and another club, but Zia ruffed and led the jack of diamonds to Milner's ace. The heart loser went away on the diamond; 10 tricks for +170.

Garner led a heart against 3♠. That went to the three, jack and queen, and Welland promptly played his remaining heart to the ten then cashed the ace for a club discard. He lost only one spade and one diamond; 11 tricks for +200 and 1 IMP to APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS.

Ferguson v Ventin

West	North	East	South
Palma	*De Boer*	*Fernandez*	*Snellers*
–	–	1NT	2♢
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Nystrom*	*V D Bos*	*Wrang*
–	–	1♣	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Snellers was the only South to come in over a 1NT opening, her 2♢ showing a single-suited major hand. De Boer responded 2♠, showing interest in greater things if his partner's suit was hearts, but not if it was spades, and 2♠ ended the auction.

Van Den Bos opened 1♣ and Wrang overcalled a simple 1♠. He repeated the spades over Nystrom's 1NT response and Nystrom invited game. Now Wrang decided that his seventh spades justified going on to game.

Palma led a club against 2♠, Fernandez winning the ace, cashing the ace of diamonds, then switching to a heart. Snellers put up the queen so that went to the king and ace and, when Fernandez won the king of spades, he had a heart to cash; nine tricks for +140.

Van Lankveld led a diamond, Van Den Bos winning the ace and cashing the ace of clubs before switching to a heart. That went to the queen, king and ace, and Wrang played ace and another spade to the king. According to the bidding and play records, which end here, the contract was just made for +620 and 10 IMPs to VENTIN – but why did Van Den Bos not cash the jack of hearts when in with the spade? Did he play to give his partner a diamond ruff if declarer had begun with a 6-2-5-1 shape?

Leslie v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Byrne*	*Kiljan*	*Dyke*
–	–	1♣	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Bell	*V Prooijen*	*Norton*	*Wilson*
–	–	1NT	2♠
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Wilson made a natural 2♠ overcall of the 1NT opening on his right and Van Prooijen raised to 3♠. Wilson didn't like all the missing aces and kings so passed and played in 3♠.

When Kiljan opened 1♣, Dyke made the weak jump overcall, and Byrne cuebid to invite game, expecting a sensible hand at the prevailing vulnerability. Dyke had enough to go on to game.

Bell led the ten of spades against Wilson, who rose with dummy's ace to lead a club towards his hand. Norton rose with the ace and played a second club, ruffed by Wilson, who played a spade. Norton won the king and returned a club. Wilson ruffed and, slightly oddly, led her low diamond to the king and ace. That meant that when he next misguessed on the heart return, the diamonds were blocked and he could not take advantage of the even split in the suit. Wilson therefore lost a heart so the contract was just made for +140.

Tijssen led a heart against 4♠ – three, jack, queen – and Dyke led the ♡9 to the ten then took a club pitch on the ♡A. He had just two losers now so that was +650 and 11 IMPs to LESLIE.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ J 10 6 5 4 2
♡ Q 9 5
♢ –
♣ 10 8 3 2

♠ A 3
♡ 10 7 6 4
♢ 10 7
♣ A Q J 5 4

♠ Q 9 7
♡ A 8 2
♢ A K Q J 9 2
♣ K

♠ K 8
♡ K J 3
♢ 8 6 5 4 3
♣ 9 7 6

Gupta v Apres-Bridge Champs

West	North	East	South
Lall	*Stamatov*	*Milner*	*Zia*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	3♠	4NT	Dble
Pass	Pass	6♢	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Garner	*Auken*	*A Gupta*	*Welland*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	3♠	4♢	Pass
4♡	Pass	5♢	All Pass

Both Norths overcalled 3♠, a sign of what modern-day bridge is like with everyone wanting to out-pre-empt their opponents.

Milner went for brute force, asking for key-cards then ignoring Zia's double and jumping to the diamond slam.

Gupta bid his diamonds over the pre-empt and Garner bid a natural 4♡. With no spade control and no obvious way to find out if partner had one, Gupta settled for the diamond game.

Ferguson v Ventin

West	North	East	South
Palma	*De Boer*	*Fernandez*	*Snellers*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	2♠	3♢	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♡	Dble	6♢	All Pass

West	North	East	South
V Lankveld	*Nystrom*	*V D Bos*	*Wrang*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	3♠	Dble	Pass
4♡	Pass	5♢	All Pass

Van Den Bos doubled Nystrom's 3♠ pre-empt then bid 5♢ over Van Lankveld's 4♡ response. That was no doubt intended to be stronger than bidding diamonds immediately, but Van Lankveld couldn't work out that he held what was required, and passed, so the cold slam was missed. The king of spades was again led and the black-suit squeeze produced the thirteenth trick for +640.

At the other table, De Boer overcalled only 2♠. That allowed Fernandez a whole extra level of bidding in which to explore. He began with 3♢ then continued with 4♢ over Palma's 3NT, and that collected just what he was hoping for – a spade cuebid. Fernandez asked for key-cards then bid the small slam. Snellers led her low heart to the queen and ace. Fernandez cashed all six diamonds, cashed the king of clubs, and crossed to the ace of spades to cash the clubs; +1390 and 13 IMPs to VENTIN.

Gillis v Rippey

West	North	East	South
Gillis	*Nowak*	*Saelensminde*	*Rippey*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♢	Pass
1♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♢	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♡	Dble	Rdbl	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♢	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Vallet	*Eriksson*	*Bedouet*	*O Rimstedt*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	2♠	3♢	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♡	Pass	6♢	All Pass

Eriksson overcalled only 2♠ so Bedouet could bid diamonds twice, get a spade cuebid from partner, then ask for key-cards and bid the diamond slam. Rippey led a heart so Saelensminde could unblock the club and had 13 top tricks; +1390.

Nowak didn't overcall at all, so Gillis and Saelensminde could take all the time in the world to pick a contract. Gillis showed clubs and hearts, then Saelensminde jumped to 2♠, FSF, before bidding diamonds twice more. When Gillis showed the spade control, Saelensminde could take control and bid the small slam. Ola led the eight of spades and, of course, Bedouet put up the ace and drew trumps. However, Eriksson discarded clubs, so there were five club winners after all and 13 in all; +1390 and a flat board.

Of course, the discards only cost the overtrick, as declarer would have overtaken the club, cashed the three club winners and led towards the ♠Q for the twelfth trick.

Black v Compton

West	North	East	South
Dwyer	*Hallberg*	*Huang*	*Hult*
–	–	–	Pass
1♢	Pass	2♢	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♡	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♡	Dble
6♣	Pass	6♢	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Smith*	*McIntosh*	*Moses*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	2♠	3♢	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Dwyer opened a Precision 1♢ and Hallberg passed the North cards. Huang bid a natural and forcing 2♢ and Dwyer's 2♡ showed a weak NT type. Two Spades was a relay to 2NT and now Huang bid a game-forcing 3♢. Three Spades showed something good in spades, 4♡ was RKCB, and 5♣ showed two key-cards without the trump queen. Huang said that they had all the key-cards and Dwyer showed something in clubs but, unable to count 13 tricks, Huang settled for the small slam.

Hult led a heart, so Huang could win the ace, draw trumps, and unblock the ♣K before crossing to dummy's ♠A; 13 tricks for +1390.

Smith led the ten of spades against 6NT.

That was covered by the queen, king and ace. Though the spade entry to hand had been knocked out, Paske had the ten of diamonds, so could cash the ♣K and come to hand with that card; 13 tricks for +1470 and 2 IMPs to BLACK.

Leslie v Flyfalcon

West	North	East	South
Tijssen	*Byrne*	*Kiljan*	*Dyke*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	3♠	4♡	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♢	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Bell	*V Prooijen*	*Norton*	*Wilson*
–	–	–	Pass
1♣	2♠	3♡	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♢	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♡	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♢	Pass	6NT	Pass
7NT	All Pass		

We saw a good example yesterday of swapping the suits around to make bidding easier after an opposing pre-empt, and this match featured two E/W pairs employing those same methods.

Byrne overcalled 3♠ and Kiljan bid 4♡ to show diamonds. Tijssen bid 4♠ in response to that, and if that bid is taken at face value as showing a spade control, it is very surprising that Kiljan now signed off in 5♢, ending the auction. Dyke led the king of spades to dummy's ace. Though that had knocked out the late entry to the clubs, forcing Kiljan to overtake his king, the black-suit squeeze against North meant that Kiljan had 13 tricks anyway; +640.

Van Prooijen overcalled only 2♠ and Norton too could bid hearts to show diamonds. He, however, had an extra level to work with, and went on with 4♢ over Bell's 3NT. Bell showed the ace of spades, then two key-cards, and Norton invited Seven then converted the 6♢ response to 6NT, and Bell calculated that his partner must hold the king of clubs for this action, in which case there should be a good chance of 13 top tricks. He raised to 7NT and found that there were indeed 13 tricks. A very well bid grand slam meant +2220 and 17 IMPs to LESLIE.

You hold:

♠ K 5 3 2
♡ 9 8 5
♢ A 10
♣ A Q 10 6

Right-hand-opponent opens 3♡, vulnerable against not. Do you double or pass?

On Board 5, nine Easts were presented with this problem. Four doubled and their partners jumped to 4♠ on their 5-3-3-2 12-count including ♡AQx. Five Easts passed and defended 3♡. The tenth East had to deal with only a 2♡ opening and doubled, so got to the spade game.

Four Spades was a comfortable make as the cards lay, three times making an overtrick. Three Hearts was down three at three tables and down two at the other two. Two matches were flat while there were modest swings in the other three on this deal.

OCBL AUGUST CUP - RESULTS

ROUND 4

Rippey	7.1 VPs / 17 IMPs	12.9 VPs / 26 IMPs	Gillis
Leslie	15.99 VPs / 46 IMPs	4.01 VPs / 24 IMPs	Flyfalcon
Ferguson	0 VPs / 4 IMPs	20 VPs / 59 IMPs	Ventin
Gupta	5.07 VPs / 14 IMPs	14.93 VPs / 31 IMPs	Apres-Br. Champs
Black	7.99 VPs / 21 IMPs	12.01 VPs / 27 IMPs	Compton

ROUND 5

Rippey	16.55 VPs / 29 IMPs	3.45 VPs / 4 IMPs	Leslie
Ventin	13.97 VPs / 22 IMPs	6.03 VPs / 9 IMPs	Gillis
Flyfalcon	12.01 VPs / 15 IMPs	7.99 VPs / 9 IMPs	Gupta
Compton	13.71 VPs / 14 IMPs	6.29 VPs / 2 IMPs	Ferguson
Apres Br. Champs	9.29 VPs / 24 IMPs	10.71 VPs / 26 IMPs	Black

ROUND 6

Rippey	10.36 VPs / 20 IMPs	9.64 VPs / 19 IMPs	Ventin
Gupta	5.54 VPs / 16 IMPs	14.46 VPs / 31 IMPs	Leslie
Gillis	11.05 VPs / 12 IMPs	8.95 VPs / 9 IMPs	Compton
Black	12.01 VPs / 9 IMPs	7.99 VPs / 3 IMPs	Flyfalcon
Ferguson	10 VPs / 22 IMPs	10 VPs / 22 IMPs	Apres-Br. Champs

OCBL AUGUST CUP - RESULTS

BUTLER RANKING

1	F. Wrang, (fly21)	Ventin	1.69	48
	F. Nystrom, (F_Nystrom)	Ventin	1.69	48
3	P. Wiankowski, (vifon_e)	Rippey	1.21	48
	P. Nawrocki, (nawrot)	Rippey	1.21	48
5	L. Tijssen, (luctijs)	Flyfalcon	0.86	36
6	M. Bell, (MickyB)	Leslie	0.7	60
	B. Norton, (Bechno)	Leslie	0.7	60
8	J.C. Ventin, (phave)	Ventin	0.53	36
9	R. Jagniewski, (mlodybog)	APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS	0.52	48
	W. Gawel, (redds)	APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS	0.52	48
11	O. Rimstedt, (olarim)	Gillis	0.5	72
	M. Eriksson, (Magnus_E)	Gillis	0.5	36
	M. Rimstedt, (Mikaelrim)	Gillis	0.5	36
14	C. Fernandez, (carlitosf)	Ventin	0.46	48
15	T. Sprinkhuizen, (thibos)	Flyfalcon	0.42	36
	G. Mendes de Leon, (guymdl)	Flyfalcon	0.42	36
17	V. Kiljan, (Vkill)	Flyfalcon	0.38	60
18	D. Korbel, (dank)	Gupta	0.33	60
	N. Gupta, (nareng)	Gupta	0.33	60
20	S. Auken, (jcmax)	APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS	0.23	48
	R. Welland, (roy)	APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS	0.23	48
22	R. Milner, (reesem)	APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS	0.19	48
	H. Lall, (hemantlall)	APRES-BRIDGE CHAMPS	0.19	48
24	S. Hult, (hultahult)	Black	0.17	48
	G. Hallberg, (rerack)	Black	0.17	48
26	M. Byrne, (michaelGB)	Leslie	0.13	48
	K. Dyke, (Woozle)	Leslie	0.13	48
28	A. Palma, (apalma)	Ventin	0.12	60
29	B. Van Den Bos, (Berendbs)	Ferguson	0.1	72
	J. Van Lankveld, (ennaji)	Ferguson	0.1	72
31	J. Pacareu, (paca1987)	Ventin	0.08	48
32	C. Compton, (compton)	Compton	-0.08	36
	A. Goodman, (agoodman1)	Compton	-0.08	36
34	A. McIntosh, (mcintosh)	Black	-0.21	48
	T. Paske, (thomas1000)	Black	-0.21	48
	Zia Mahmood, (Zia)	Gupta	-0.21	48
	J. Stamatov, (jerry72)	Gupta	-0.21	48
38	K. Dwyer, (kdwyer)	Compton	-0.26	72
	S. Huang, (precisebri)	Compton	-0.26	72
40	T. Moses, (hottodstl)	Compton	-0.33	36
	R. Smith, (ronsmithsf)	Compton	-0.33	36
	L. Verhees, (loukie)	Flyfalcon	-0.33	24
	A. Snellers, (asnellers)	Ferguson	-0.33	24
	W. De Boer, (bukkum)	Ferguson	-0.33	24
45	A. Black, (boggis)	Black	-0.42	48
	D. Gold, (dagold)	Black	-0.42	48
47	S. Gillis, (Rayas78)	Gillis	-0.54	72
	E. Saelensminde, (skaal1)	Gillis	-0.54	72
49	P. Bedout, (pi420)	Rippey	-0.64	36
	E. Vallet, (rasko179)	Rippey	-0.64	36
51	A. Wilson, (flyfalcon)	Flyfalcon	-0.77	48
	R. Van Prooijen, (riccovp)	Flyfalcon	-0.77	48
53	M. Rippey, (radiators)	Rippey	-0.81	48
	K. Nowak, (kamiln)	Rippey	-0.81	48
55	J. Nadel, (juliejoy)	Ferguson	-0.94	48
	B. Ferguson, (bruceferg)	Ferguson	-0.94	48
57	A. Gupta, (axp1011)	Gupta	-0.94	36
	S. Garner, (garner)	Gupta	-0.94	36
59	L. Cima, (100dog)	Rippey	-1	12
	G. Percario, (giacomopr)	Rippey	-1	12
61	T. Leslie, (Culross66)	Leslie	-1.56	36
	O. Burgess, (mrspen)	Leslie	-1.56	36

SEPTEMBER CUP

31 August - 3 September, 2021

Registered Teams

The OCBL September Cup will take place from 31 August to 3 September, 2021

GILLIS
Gillis S. (Rayas78)
Brogeland B. (boye)
Svendsen O. (Pirrum)
Saelensminde E. (skaal1)
Lindqvist E. (stevieg)

ORCA
Plackett R. (hoofie)
Erichsen E. (espene)
Crouch P. (pitiful)
Cope S. (Copeyj)

LEVINE
Levine M. (mikerl)
Wold E. (womoco)
Meckstroth J. (jjmeck)
Garner S. (garner)
Helgemo G. (micelle45)
Helness T. (Helstokk)
Morris B. (bobat3333)

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

PARKER
Rubenstein S. (stewr)
Parker C. (cmp56)
Grossack A. (nevereast)
Grossack Z. (germs345)
Demuy V. (Okvince)
Kranyak J. (jkrans)
Tebha A. (anamtebha)

ISR-TUR
Zeitak A. (avivz)
Khutorsky N. (nir khut)
Tatlicioglu S. (Sinantos)
Baskan B. (baskanb)

Book your seat at:
https://www.ocbl.org/registration/

World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL SEPTEMBER CUP

31 August - 3 September, 2021

Qualification + Knockout

Qualification:

9 Rounds x 12 Boards	CEST	EDT
Tuesday 31	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
Wednesday 1	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
Thursday 2	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00

KOs:

Quarterfinals - Semifinals - Finals: 16 Boards each

	CEST	EDT
Friday 3	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG