World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 132. Tuesday, 14 September, 2021

SENIOR STILL HOLDING THE BALL

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE RESULTS

ROUND 4

Senior Ball	13.52 VPs 29 IMPs	6.48 VPs 16 IMPs	Skalman
Fredin	18.66 VPs 65 IMPs	1.34 VPs 20 IMPs	Scorway
Black	9.39 VPs 15 IMPs	10.61 VPs 17 IMPs	Bridge42
Flyfalcon	18.44 VPs 57 IMPs	1.56 VPs 14 IMPs	Sugi
Râteau bavoir	3.27 VPs 11 IMPs	16.73 VPs 41 IMPs	Junior Squad
Harris	5 VPs 15 IMPs	15 VPs 35 IMPs	French Juniors

RANKING AFTER ROUND 4

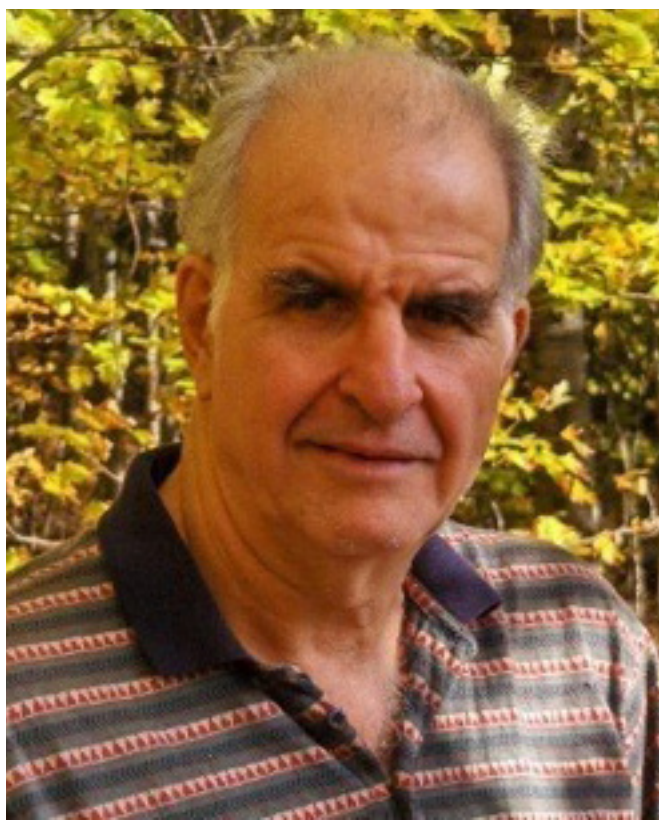
1	Senior Ball	58.56
2	Fredin	57.46
3	Flyfalcon	47.61
4	Bridge42	45.91
5	Skalman	45.89
6	Black	45.15
7	Scorway	39.69
8	Junior Squad	35.48
9	Râteau bavoir	29.97
10	Sugi	29.5
11	Harris	22.91
12	French Juniors	21.87

Almost halfway of the qualification stage, team Senior Ball (Fox Ji., Helms J., Chambers N., Graves A., Pellegrini C., Garcia da Rosa R.) (58.56 VPs) are still leading the ranking.

Team Fredin (Fredin P., Sylvan J., Morath A., Clementsson S., Clemmensson J., Ek B., Westman A., Gustawsson M.) are only 1 VP behind the leaders (57.46 VPs).

Team Flyfalcon (A. Wilson, R. Van Prooijen, L. Verhees, I. Gronkvist, M. Gronkvist, T. Sprinkhuizen, G. Mendes de Leon, V. Kiljan, L. Tijssen) are now third (47.61 VPs).

The fifth round of the Qualification stage will be played tomorrow.



Allan Graves - pic: Facebook

THE OCBL JOURNAL IN YOUR MAILBOX

Would you like to receive the OCBL Journal by e-mail for free?

Just drop your e-mail address here:
https://ocbl.org/journal/

World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEKEND LEAGUE

2 - 17 October, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Every Saturday and Sunday at:		16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
Qualification:	12 Rounds, 12 boards each		
KO:	QuarterFinals and SemiFinals: 2 Rounds, 12 boards each Final: 3 Rounds, 12 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		

OPEN SUPER CUP

22 - 27 November, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 22 November	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Tuesday 23 November	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Wednesday 24 November	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Thursday 25 November	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Friday 26 November	16.00 - 17.45 - 19.30 - 21.15	10.00 - 11.45 - 13.30 - 15.15
	Saturday 27 November	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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

Online Bridge NEWS

TEAM BUQQY WON THE ALT ELEVATOR II

Team Buqqy (Rashedul Ahasan, Peter Bi, Wen Hu, A H M Kamruzzaman, Kelvin Ng, MD Moshiur Rahman, Zia UI Haque Shah, Kheng Hun Siew, Lunfei Tang, Yong Wang, Kevin Zhang) won the ALT Elevator II.
Team Moss (Jacek Kalita, Daniel Korbel, Roger Lee, Sylvia Moss, Michal Nowosadzki) placed 2nd and team Harris (Marusa Gold, Susanna Gross, Jonathan Harris, Niall Igoe, Vladi Isporski, Eddie Malhasyan, Steve Root, Todor Tiholov, Rumen Trendafilov) got the 3rd place.

THE BULLETIN
ALT ELEVATOR
Alt Elevator II
'Super NewCo 2'

editor: Jan van Cleeff / co-editor: Rosalind Hengeveld / journalists: Martin Cantor, Toine van Hoof, Mark Horton / e: jvcleeff@xs4all.nl / urls: netbridge.online, bridgeresults.org, bid72.com/events

ASIAN ALL STARS TAKE SUPER NEWCO II

The winners, left to right; upper row: A.H.M. Kamruzzaman, Kelvin Ng, Sha Zia Ul Haq, Kheng Hun, MD Moshiur Rahman, Kevin Zhang, Peter Bi. Second row (l.t.r.): Rashedul Ahasan, Wen Hu, Lunfei Tang, Wen Yong.

Buqqy's Asian All-Stars Win the Second Edition of the Alt Elevator
On the final day four teams were left to decide the outcome of the ALT Elevator II: Buqqy, a mix of players from Bangladesh, China and Singapore; Moss, with players from the USA and Poland; Harris from England; and Ulli from Italy. This elite group of four was dominated by Buqqy, a bunch of Asian All-Stars, who eventually proved to be victorious.

This week's ALT - the so-called 'Super NewCo II' - was the second edition of a new and exciting format: the Elevator Principle. All teams started in one big group and played three rounds of twelve boards. After day one the field was split. The top twelve teams went to group A; the remaining sixteen teams went to group B. The rest of the week was used to reduce the size of group A, while allowing teams to move up and down between the groups. By Friday, group A was reduced to a four-team group which played a complete round-robin for the title.

Index

2 Participating Teams
3 Sheer Logic Strikes Gold
4 All About Doubles
8 Lucky Louk
10 Seeing Double
15 Happy Endings
18 Final Day
20 Triple F Alt Points
24 Results

Master Point Press bid72 BeBridge netbridge.online Triple F

The Daily Bulletin of the event is available at:
https://alt.bridgeresults.org/docs/210910AltBulletin.pdf

Send us your up-to-date pic, please!

It has been a long time since many of us last met and we are doing our best to make your online Bridge experience as valuable as we can.

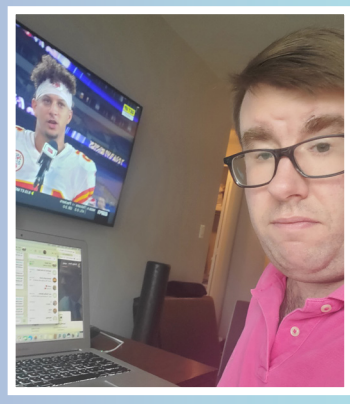
Obviously when producing Bridge articles it is necessary to use photos from the archives.

Since online play is at the moment a big part of our present, we would like to represent it as it is!

So if you can please send us a picture (can be a selfie) of yourself playing online Bridge.

Let your Bridge friends see you in the present!

You can send the pic to:
info@ocbl.org



Rollercoaster

by Mark Horton

Bridge matches to not follow a particular pattern. They can be one-sided, high-scoring, low-scoring, desperately close and so on. They can be exciting or mundane. The latter can be stressful for both the players and the writer as long stretches of dull deal deals are suddenly punctuated by something more demanding. John H. Arnold wrote 'War is sometimes described as long periods of boredom punctuated by short moments of excitement.' Many matches I have watched over the years might be regarded in a similar fashion. That's a bit like a ride on a rollercoaster, which slowly winds its way to the top of the track before suddenly plunging headlong into the descent. With that in mind, welcome to Round 4 of the OCBL Open League.

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Ek*	*Kvangraven*	*Westman*
—	—	3♢	3♠
4♡	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

3♢ was the popular choice with East's cards, but there was also support for 2♢ and Pass. The bid that attracted the most support over 3♢ was 4♣, non-leaping Michaels, promising clubs and a major. You can debate the merits of bidding 4♡ with West's cards – on this deal it is a good save against the spade game.

West led the ♡A and switched to the ♢7, declarer winning with the ace, drawing trumps and playing on clubs, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Levinson*	*Gottlieb*	*Shenkin*
—	—	2♢	2♠
3♡	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	3♠	All Pass	

Over 2♢ it would be a considerable stretch to bid 4♣. Just to be sure I checked on example hands for the bid and they tended to look something like this: ♠- ♡AK1096 ♢A9 ♣KQJ1064.

+170 meant a loss of 10 IMPs.

5 pairs reached 4♠.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Ek*	*Kvangraven*	*Westman*
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2NT 4♠, invitational+

3♣ Minimum

West led the ♣6 and East won with the king and switched to the ♢10, declarer winning with dummy's ace, drawing trumps, eliminating the clubs and exiting with a heart. West took the king and returned the ♢Q, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Levinson*	*Gottlieb*	*Shenkin*
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

2NT 'Spade raise'

3♣ 'Minimum, not worst'

West led the ♠8 and declarer took two rounds of the suit ending in dummy and continued with the ♣2. East went in with the king and exited with the ♡2, West winning with the king and returning the ♡3 to East's ace. He got off play with the ♢10 and declarer won with dummy's ace, played a spade to the jack, the ♣J to dummy's ace, ruffed a club, went to dummy with the ♠A and played a diamond to the jack. West's queen meant one down and 10 IMPs.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Ek*	*Kvangraven*	*Westman*
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
3♢*	Pass	3♠	4♢
4♠	5♢	All Pass	

3 players were content to pass with East's hand, the remainder opening 1♠, 2♠ or 2♢. Opening 1♠ might cause declarer to misplace the high cards if your side ends up defending, but perhaps declarer will allow for the fact that you are third in hand.

3♢ Invitational, 4+♠

West led the ♠A and continued with the four, declarer ruffing with the ♢9, cashing the ♢AK, crossing to dummy with a heart, ruffing a spade and cashing three more hearts before playing a club. Declarer knew West was 4-4-1-4. It was a question of deciding if he would have bid 4♠ without the ♣A. He went with the jack and East's queen meant one down, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Levinson*	*Gottlieb*	*Shenkin*
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♢
Dble	2♢	3♠	5♢
All Pass			

Nils Kvangraven - pic: Facebook

Gary Gottlieb - pic: Facebook

West started with two rounds of spades and declarer ruffed, drew trumps and played a club to the king, +400 and 10 IMPs.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Ek*	*Kvangraven*	*Westman*
—	—	Pass	1♡
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♢
Pass	2NT*	All Pass	

2NT 'Forcing'

Eastr led the ♣5 and West took the ace and switched to the ♡K, declarer winning with dummy's ace, playing a heart to the queen, a club to the queen and the ♠K, overtaking it with the ace. He then cashed his black-suit winners for +180.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Levinson*	*Gottlieb*	*Shenkin*
—	—	Pass	1♡
Pass	2♠*	Pass	3♢
Pass	3♡	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

2♠ 'Strong'

West led the ♣2 for the ten, jack and queen and declarer played the ♡3, West taking the king, cashing the ♣A and exiting with the ♢4. Declarer allowed East to win with the ace, ruffed the club return, drew trumps and claimed, +620 and 10 IMPs, making the match score 30-20 in favour of Fredin.

Geir Brekka

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Ek*	*Kvangraven*	*Westman*
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♡	All Pass		

Three players passed partner's 1♡, the remainder selecting 1NT. North led the ♡2 and declarer won and played the ♠K, North ducking, winning the ♠Q continuation and exiting with the ♢4. Declarer won with the ace, ruffed a spade, came to hand with the ♣K and played two rounds of hearts, North winning and playing the ♣Q, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Levinson*	*Gottlieb*	*Shenkin*
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♢	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

The Kaplan Rubens Hand Evaluator rates the West hand at 21.40.

North led the ♢2 for the eight, nine and ace and declarer cashed the ♡A and exited with the five, North putting up the jack as South won with the queen, and switched to the ♠8 for the queen and ace. North returned the ♠10 and declarer took his tricks, +600 and 10 IMPs.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Ek*	*Kvangraven*	*Westman*
—	—	1♡	1♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	Pass
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♢
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ♡J and East won with the queen and switched to the ♢4, West taking the jking and exiting with the ♢9. Declarer won with dummy's ten and played the ♠4, East winning with the king and exiting with the ♡2. That allowed declarer to win with dummy's king pitching a club from hand and play a spade for the queen and ace. West returned the ♢8 ensuring a one trick defeat, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Levinson*	*Gottlieb*	*Shenkin*
—	—	1♡	1♠
Dble*	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♠10 to dummy's king and declarer played the ♡2 for the seven, jack and four. He continued hearts, North taking the third round and switching to the ♢Q, +430 and 8 IMPs.

Superficially it looks like a diamond lead would put declarer on the spot, but there is more than one counter-measure. Declarer can win the second round of the suit and then cash three hearts via the finesse, unblock the ♠K, cash two clubs ending in hand and exit with a diamond to endplay South. A neat alternative is to return a diamond after winning with the king. If South cashes his diamonds North will end up being squeezed in hearts and clubs.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Brekka	*Ek*	*Kvangraven*	*Westman*
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT*	Pass
4♣*	Pass	4♡*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♢*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

3NT 'Slamish'
4♣ Cue
4♡ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♢ 1/4 key cards

South led the ♢K and declarer won in dummy, unblocked the ♣A, came to hand with the ♡K and tried running the ♣10 pitching a diamond from dummy. North won and played back a diamond and South won and switched to a heart which meant he scored a heart ruff when North came in with the ♠A, -150.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Levinson*	*Gottlieb*	*Shenkin*
1♡	Pass	1♠	2♢
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Declarer won the diamond lead in dummy, unblocked the ♣A, came to hand with a heart, pitched a diamond on the ♣K and played a spade for the queen and ace, +650 and 14 IMPs.

It was a big win for Fredin, 65-20, 18.66 – 1.34 VP, taking them up to second place.

World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL WEEKEND LEAGUE

2 - 17 October 2021

Qualification + Knockout

Qualification:

12 Rounds x 12 Boards

Play every Saturday and Sunday at: 16.00 CEST / 10.00 am EDT
18.00 CEST / 12.00 pm EDT
20.00 CEST / 2.00 pm EDT

KOs:

Quarterfinals: 24 Boards (2 Rounds x 12 Boards)
Semifinals: 24 Boards (2 Rounds x 12 Boards)
Final: 36 Boards (3 Rounds x 12 Boards)

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG