World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 133. Thursday, 16 September, 2021

FREDIN TAKES THE LEAD

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE RESULTS

ROUND 5

Senior Ball	3.27 VPs 16 IMPs	16.73 VPs 46 IMPs	Fredin
Flyfalcon	2.97 VPs 18 IMPs	17.03 VPs 50 IMPs	Bridge42
Skalman	13.97 VPs 29 IMPs	6.03 VPs 14 IMPs	Black
Scorway	5.4 VPs 14 IMPs	14.6 VPs 32 IMPs	Râteau bavoir
Junior Squad	14.39 VPs 30 IMPs	5.61 VPs 13 IMPs	French Juniors
Sugi	14.8 VPs 45 IMPs	5.2 VPs 26 IMPs	Harris

RANKING AFTER ROUND 5

1	Fredin	74.19
2	Bridge42	62.94
3	Senior Ball	61.83
4	Skalman	59.86
5	Black	51.18
6	Flyfalcon	50.58
7	Junior Squad	49.87
8	Scorway	45.09
9	Râteau bavoir	44.57
10	Sugi	44.3
11	Harris	28.11
12	French Juniors	27.48

SCHEDULE TODAY

Round 6. 21.15 CEST / 3.15 p.m. EDT

Fredin	VS	Skalman
Bridge42	VS	Senior Ball
Black	VS	Junior Squad
Flyfalcon	VS	Harris
Scorway	VS	French Juniors
Râteau bavoir	VS	Sugi

All the tables will be open to kibitzers

By winning versus the previous leaders, team Fredin (Fredin P., Sylvan J., Morath A., Clementsson S., Clemmensson J., Ek B., Westman A., Gustawsson M., Gottlieb G.) climbed to the top of the ranking (74.19 VPs).

Bridge42 (Macskásy G., Talyigás P., Czímer C., Szalka T., Trenka P., Kemény M., Kemény G.) also had a great day and are now second (62.94).

Team Senior Ball (Fox Ji., Helms J., Chambers N., Graves A., Pellegrini C., Garcia da Rosa R. are now third (61.83 VPs).

Today the 6th round of the Qualification stage will be played.

Peter Fredin

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
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

USBF Selection Trials for 2021 World Championship are underway

From Bridgewinners:

The 2021 Open, Mixed, Senior, and Women's USBCs will select teams for the 2021 World Championships, to be played in March 2022 in Italy. In each of the first 3 events, the USBC has two stages: an online Round Robin to reduce the field to 8 teams for face-to-face play, and face-to-face KO play in Schaumburg, IL in October to select USA1 and USA2 for the World Championships. The Women's USBC, with 4 teams entered, has only face-to-face KO play. All players in any 2021 USBC are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
[...]
Play starts on RealBridge in the Open on Monday, Sept. 13th. There are 21 teams entered. They will play a 3-day complete Round Robin of 7-board matches to reduce the field to 12 teams, who will play a second complete Round Robin (no carryover from Round Robin 1 except to break ties) on Sept. 17th-19th to reduce the field to 8 for face-to-face play. The second Round Robin will be played in two halves, and each player is required to play at least one set against every other team to balance the field.

The Mixed Round Robin will be on RealBridge Sept. 25-26 and will be a complete Round Robin of 9-board matches to reduce the 12 teams entered to 8 for face-to-face play.

The Senior Round Robin will be on RealBridge Oct. 1-2 and will be a complete Round Robin of 10-board matches to reduce the 10 teams entered to 8 for face-to-face play.

There will be delayed kibitzing on RealBridge. The schedule of play and kibitzing, as well as links to Daily Bulletins(the Pre-Bulletin is available now) are on the USBF website.

Face-to-face KO play will be in Schaumburg, IL. A calendar with the schedule is here. Starting dates for each event:
Open - October 5th
Women's - October 9th
Mixed - October 15th
Seniors - October 23rd

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.

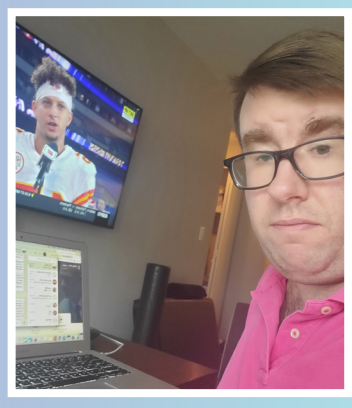
Obviously when producing Bridge articles it is necessary to use photos from the archives.

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



Bricks without Straw

by Mark Horton

Writing a report on matches that contain many 'no-swing' deals is not my idea of fun, especially if you are starting the task on a dull morning before the first coffee of the day.

Nevertheless, there were some deals in Round 5 of the OCBL League that might be worth preserving for posterity. The focus will be on the match between Flyfalcon and Bridge42, but from time to time we may look further afield.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Macskásy	*M*	*Talyigás*	*I Grönkvist*
—	Pass	1♣	1♠
Dble*	2♠	3♡	4♠
All Pass			

West led the ♡8 for the ten, king and ace and declarer ruffed a heart and played the ♢2, East winning with the ace and exiting with the ♣3 as declarer unblocked the ♢Q. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a heart, ruffed a club ruffed a heart and played a diamond, unblocking for a second time when East ruffed with the ♠10. Declarer ruffed the club return high and played the ♠Q but East won and played a fourth club which promoted West's ♠8 to glory, -50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Czímer*	*M de Leon*	*Szalka*
—	Pass	1♣*	Dble
1♡	2♢	3♡*	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♣*
Pass	5♢*	Pass	5♠
All Pass			

1♣ 2+♣ (5♢ possible)
3♡ Unbalanced ♣+♡
5♣ Exclusion Blackwood
5♢ 0 aces

Declarer won the heart lead with the ace and played the ♠K, East winning and exiting with the ♣5. Declarer ruffed and played the ♢K, East taking the ace and playing the ♣3. Declarer ruffed, ruffed a heart, played a spade to the queen and claimed, +450 and 11 IMPs.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Macskásy	*M*	*Talyigás*	*I Grönkvist*
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

South led the ♢10 and declarer won with dummy's ace, drew trumps and cashed the ♢K, +420.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Czímer*	*M de Leon*	*Szalka*
—	Pass	1♣*	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣ (5♢ possible)
2♠ 15-17, 4♠

North led the ♡Q and declarer won in dummy and played a club, South taking the ace and returning the ♡2 to dummy's king. Declarer cashed the ♠AK and then played a second club, South winning with the jack and exiting with the ♢10. Declarer won, ruffed a club with the ♠J, drew trumps and cashed the ♢K, claiming 11 tricks, +450 and an IMP.

Thomas Paske

Skalman v Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Fallenius*	*McIntosh*	*Nilsland*
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

The principle of dispensing with Stayman when you have a 4333 pattern is generally a sound one, but there are exceptions and when South led the ♣Q this proved to be one of them. North followed with the four and when South continued with the ace he unblocked the king, -50.

Five pairs tried 3NT – they were all defeated.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	*Black*	*Karlsson*	*Gold*
—	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2NT '17-18ish, not forcing'

South led the ♢10 and declarer won with dummy's ace, drew trumps and played a diamond to the king, claiming ten tricks, +420 and 10 IMPs.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Macskásy	*M*	*Talyigás*	*I Grönkvist*
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♢*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♢*	Pass	6NT	All Pass

2♣ Strong
2♢ Waiting
3♣ Stayman
3♢ No major

North led the ♣7 and declarer won with dummy's queen. There are 10 top tricks and an eleventh can be established in hearts. After that you need to find the missing trick in the majors.

Declarer cashed four more club winners pitching two spades from dummy as South parted with the ♢2,5, the ♡5 and the ♠9 and North the ♡4. When declarer cashed the ♢AK North discarded the ♠5. The ♡K saw South take the ace and exit with the ♢J. Winning with dummy's queen declarer cashed the ♠A and could claim, +1440.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Czímer*	*M de Leon*	*Szalka*
—	—	Pass	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♣*	Pass
3♡*	Pass	4NT	All Pass

2NT 21-23
3♣ Muppet Stayman
3♡ No 4/5 major

The K&R Hand Evaluator rates the West hand at 21.90.

North led the ♡6 for the ten, jack and king and declarer cashed his clubs and diamonds before playing spades, +690, but a loss of 13 IMPs.

8 pairs bid 6NT.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Macskásy	*M*	*Talyigás*	*I Grönkvist*
—	Pass	2♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

South led the ♣3 and when declarer played dummy's eight North won with the king and returned the ♣7, South ruffing and cashing her aces, +100.

Do you think South should bid something over 2♡?

Once South passes should West bid 4♡?

Guy Mendes de Leon

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Czímer*	*M de Leon*	*Szalka*
—	Pass	2♡	Dble
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♢
All Pass			

2NT Lebehsohl
3♢ 'Natural, no extras'

West led the ♡K and the defenders played three rounds of the suit, West discarding the ♣8 as declarer ruffed in dummy. The ♠Q was covered by the king and ace and declarer then cashed the ♢A and continued with the queen. When that did not pin the jack he was one down, -50 for a 5 IMP loss.

To answer the questions I posed, this was one of only two tables where South entered the fray. The other occasion was in the match between Sugi and Harris, where Beni overcalled 3♢. Facing a passed partner the chance of having a game your way is remote and getting involved could prove to be expensive on a bad day.

7 pairs bid 4♡, once after East had opened 1♡ and once following an initial pass by East.

Three Wests were content to pass 2♡ and even though they were in the minority perhaps they were right. What do you think?

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Macskásy	*M*	*Talyigás*	*I Grönkvist*
—	—	2NT	Pass
3♡*	Pass	4♠	All Pass

3♡ Spades

South led the ♡4 and declarer won with dummy's six, cashed the ♠AK and ran the ♣Q, North winning and switching to the ♢6, +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Czímer*	*M de Leon*	*Szalka*
—	—	2NT*	Pass
3♡*	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♢*	Pass	4♡*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♢*	Pass
6♠	All Pass		

2NT 21-13
3♡ ♠
3♠ 3(4)♠
4♢ 'Short ♢, slam try'
4♡ 'Last train'
4NT RKCB
5♢ 3 key cards

We could contrast this slam with the one that was bid on Board 6. That one was basically on a finesse, but might have been better than that, for example move East's ♡Q into the spade suit when played by West the tricks are virtually on top. That accords perfectly with the principle that you should bid a slam which will at worse be on a finesse but might be better.

West might have preferred 5♣ to 4NT. That would have catered for the situation where East's diamond holding was ♢A52. Lacking the ♢A East signs off in 5♠. On this deal even if the ♣K is onside you are still struggling so we can conclude that EW got too high. Declarer lost a diamond and a club, -50 and 11 IMPs.

Ida Gronkvist

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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