World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 134. Friday, 17 September, 2021

SWEDISH FLAGS ON TOP

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE
RESULTS
ROUND 6

Fredin	3.91 VPs 18 IMPs	16.09 VPs 44 IMPs	Skalman
Bridge42	9.69 VPs 24 IMPs	10.31 VPs 25 IMPs	Senior Ball
Black	12.03 VPs 43 IMPs	7.97 VPs 36 IMPs	Junior Squad
Flyfalcon	10 VPs 33 IMPs	10 VPs 33 IMPs	Harris
Scorway	3.42 VPs 8 IMPs	16.58 VPs 37 IMPs	French Juniors
Râteau bavoir	15.74 VPs 40 IMPs	4.26 VPs 16 IMPs	Sugi

RANKING AFTER ROUND 6

1	Fredin	78.1
2	Skalman	75.95
3	Bridge42	72.63
4	Senior Ball	72.14
5	Black	63.21
6	Flyfalcon	60.58
7	Râteau bavoir	60.31
8	Junior Squad	57.84
9	Sugi	48.56
10	Scorway	48.51
11	French Juniors	44.06
12	Harris	38.11

Team Fredin (Fredin P., Sylvan J., Morath A., Clementsson S., Clemmensson J., Ek B., Westman A., Gustawsson M., Gottlieb G.) faced team Skalman (Ahlesved K., Warne N., Elmroth G., Eliasson P., Fallenius B., Nilsland M., Karlsson T., Sandin A.). Despite losing the match, Fredin are still leading
the ranking (78.1 VPs). The victory brought Skalman quite close to the leaders (75.95 VPs), in second position. Bridge42 (Macskásy G., Talyigás P., Czímer C., Szalka T., Trenka P., Kemény M., Kemény G.) are third (72.63 VPs).

The 7th round of the Qualification stage will be played on Monday.

Alexander Sandin

WEEKEND LEAGUE
2 - 17 October, 2021

Every Saturday and Sunday at:

CEST	EDT
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

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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

Updates on Face-to-Face Bridge (Regionals and Nationals)

From Bridgewinners:

AUSTIN Fall NABC

The cancellation date for hotel reservations through the ACBL booking was September 25.
Yesterday the ACBL sent the following e-mail, postponing the cancellation date:

If you choose to cancel your hotel reservation at the JW Marriott or Marriott Downtown for any reason, the deadline to submit your cancellation request has been extended to Oct. 30. Guests who cancel by this date will receive a refund of their hotel deposit, minus a 5% processing fee. In the case that we have to cancel the NABC Austin tournament, ACBL will refund all hotel deposits in full.

The ACBL also updated The Covid safety protocol:

Face mask and vaccine requirements
In accordance with the city of Austin's current safety requirements to minimize COVID-19 exposure and spread, face masks must be worn at all times in the tournament area. Additionally, all NABC attendees must be fully vaccinated and will be required to show proof of their COVID-19 vaccine status. We will notify attendees at a later date with details on how to verify their vaccination status to ensure the verification process is as seamless as possible.

2022 Honolulu Regional - cancelled

The tournament organizers released the following statement:

"The January Regional is now officially cancelled. It's too risky to wait to see if the rules will let up and we'd lose too much money to keep hoping to have it and not have enough participants. Pity, but we shall hope that 2023 will be better (Dates reserved then are Jan. 23-29 2023.)."

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.

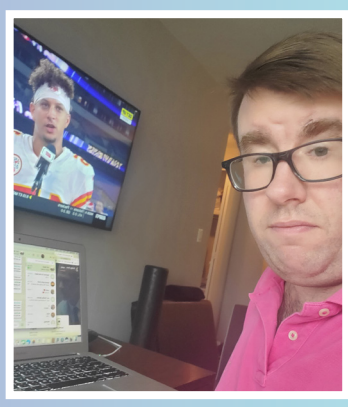
Obviously when producing Bridge articles it is necessary to use photos from the archives.

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



The Learning Curve

by Mark Horton

I am frequently asked about the best way to improve at bridge. There is no simple answer, but in my experience reading as much as you can and seeking the advice of your peers are invaluable. It is also beneficial in the long run to play against strong opponents. With that in mind, in Round 6 of the OCBL League I took a look at the match between Black and the Junior Squad, the 'old guard' against the new as some might term it. Football reporters might have described it as a 'game of two halves'.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bonin	*McIntosh*	*Dufrene*	*Paske*
—	1♣	Pass	2♡*
2♠	3♡	4♡*	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

2♡ Weak in hearts
4♡ Fit and shortness

North led the ♣10 and declarer won with the king and played the ♠K, North taking the ace and cashing the ♢A followed by the ♡A, South contributing the ♢4 and ♡3. When North continued with the ♣9 South's ruff was the setting trick, +50.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	*Guichet*	*Hallberg*	*Lebatteux*
—	1♣	Pass	1♡
1♠	Dble	Rdbl*	2♡
3NT	All Pass		

Rdbl 'Good hand'

North led the ♡10 and declarer won with the king and played a spade to the queen and a second spade, North winning, cashing the ♡A and playing a third heart, declarer claiming +460 and 11 IMPs.

9 pairs reached 4♠, but only one of them made it. Warne and Ahlesved were the only other pair to reach 3NT via this sequence: (1♣)-Pass-(1♡)-1♠-(Dble)-2♡*-(Pass)-3NT.

On Board 5 NS held

♠ J 9 5 2 ♡ K Q J 5 ♢ A 7 ♣ K 10 5

opposite

♠ A 8 3 ♡ A 8 ♢ J 9 8 3 ♣ J 7 6 3.

6 pairs bid 3NT, the other half stopping in 1NT. No-one could manage more than eight tricks, West holding

♠ Q 6 ♡ 6 3 ♢ K Q 10 5 2 ♣ A 8 4 2.

In our featured match Black picked up 8 IMPs by stopping low and they led 27-5 after 8 deals.

On Board 10 West held

♠ A 3 ♡ 4 2 ♢ K Q J 10 7 5 ♣ K 7 3

and after two passes Bertheau opened 3♢ echoing Reese's 'a preempt that is always weak is a blunt sword' and was left to play there. Partner held

♠ K 8 6 ♡ J 10 8 7 ♢ 3 ♣ J 9 8 6 2

and a defensive slip allowed nine tricks to be made, +110 being matched by 2♠ making for NS for another 6 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bonin	*McIntosh*	*Dufrene*	*Paske*
—	—	—	1♣
1♢	Dble	3♢	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

West led the ♣A and switched to the ♢K, declarer taking dummy's ace, ruffing a diamond and playing the ♡K. East took that and returned the ♡4, declarer claiming the rest, +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	*Guichet*	*Hallberg*	*Lebatteux*
—	—	—	1♣
1♢	Dble*	3♢*	3♡
4♣	4♡	5♢	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

Dble 4/5♡
3♢ 'Preempt'

North led the ♡2 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played a diamond for the king and ace. North switched to the ♠K and continued with the two, South winning and returning the ♡K. Declarer ruffed and drew trumps, eventually losing a club for two down, -300 and 4 IMPs.

You will have noticed that if North leads a club the defenders have a shot at collecting 500, but North then has to win the first diamond and switch to spades when South can win and return the ♣J, suggesting he owns the ♠Q.

If I might be allowed to digress at this point it is worth mentioning that some partnerships play that a switch to a low card when dummy has a worthless holding (typically 2/3/4 small cards) guarantees possession of the ace or king.

I checked to see if anyone had opened the South hand 2♡ (one of my favourite conventions, promising a limited three-suiter that always contains four hearts) but there was no joy in Mudville.

Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bonin	*McIntosh*	*Dufrene*	*Paske*
Pass	1♢	Pass	1♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♢*
Pass	3NT*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♢	All Pass	

3♢ 5+♡, game forcing
3NT 'Not 3♡/4♠'

East led the ♣2 and declarer won with the ace and played the ♢J, going up with dummy's ace when East followed with the four. You could hear the Rabbi applaud when West furnished the king, +1390.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	*Guichet*	*Hallberg*	*Lebatteux*
Pass	2NT*	Pass	3♢*
Pass	3♡*	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♢
Pass	4NT*	Pass	5NT*
Pass	6♢*	Pass	7♡
Pass	All Pass		

2NT 19+/21-
3♢ Transfer
3♡ 2♡
4NT RKCB
5NT 2 key cards and a void
6♢ King ask

East led the ♡J and declarer won with the ace and played three rounds of spades, ruffing. The ♣AKQ took care of a spade and two diamonds and a diamond to the ace allowed declarer to draw trumps for +2210 and 13 IMPs. 7♡ was reached four times.

In a game of Fantasy Bridge East would hold a small doubleton heart and ♢K64 and lead a diamond. If declarer goes up with dummy's ace another great writer would have his say, 'Up went the ace and down went the contact.' Øvyind Saur did lead a diamond against 7♡, but on this layout playing dummy's ace did not turn out badly!

On Board 13 East held a modest
♠ 3 ♡ 9 7 4 2 ♢ K 10 7 6 4 ♣ 7 6 2
and Gunnar Hallberg saw NS bid 1♡-1♠-2♢*-2♡-3♢-3♡. He led a trump, the only way to be sure of defeating 3♡ and it was worth 5 IMPs, as they stopped in 2♡ in the other room. North held
♠ K Q ♡ A 10 6 5 3 ♢ J 9 8 3 2 ♣ A, South
♠ A 8 7 5 2 ♡ Q 8 ♢ - ♣ K 10 9 8 5 4.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bonin	*McIntosh*	*Dufrene*	*Paske*
—	—	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

South led the ♢4 and North took the ace and switched to the ♠10 for the nine and queen and declarer played a diamond to the ten, South taking the king and switching to the ♡3 for the king and ace. North cashed the ♣A and continued with the eight, declarer ruffing with the ♠A and pitching a club on the ♢Q, two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	*Guichet*	*Hallberg*	*Lebatteux*
—	—	3♠	Pass
4♠	Dble	All Pass	

South led the ♢7 and North took the ace and switched to the ♠5 for the nine and queen, declarer playing a diamond for the ten and king. South switched to the king of clubs and followed it with the two, ensuring a trick for the ♠K, two down, -300, recovering the IMPs lost on the previous deal.

The double-dummy defence of playing clubs at every opportunity should result in three down, as ruffing twice in dummy will see the defenders score two trump tricks.

Where East passed as dealer NS had little trouble reaching 3NT which could not be touched – that happened 7 times.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bonin	*McIntosh*	*Dufrene*	*Paske*
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♡	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♢	Pass	3♢
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♠5 and declarer won with the ace and played a club to the ten, West winning and continuing with the king and ten of spades, -200.

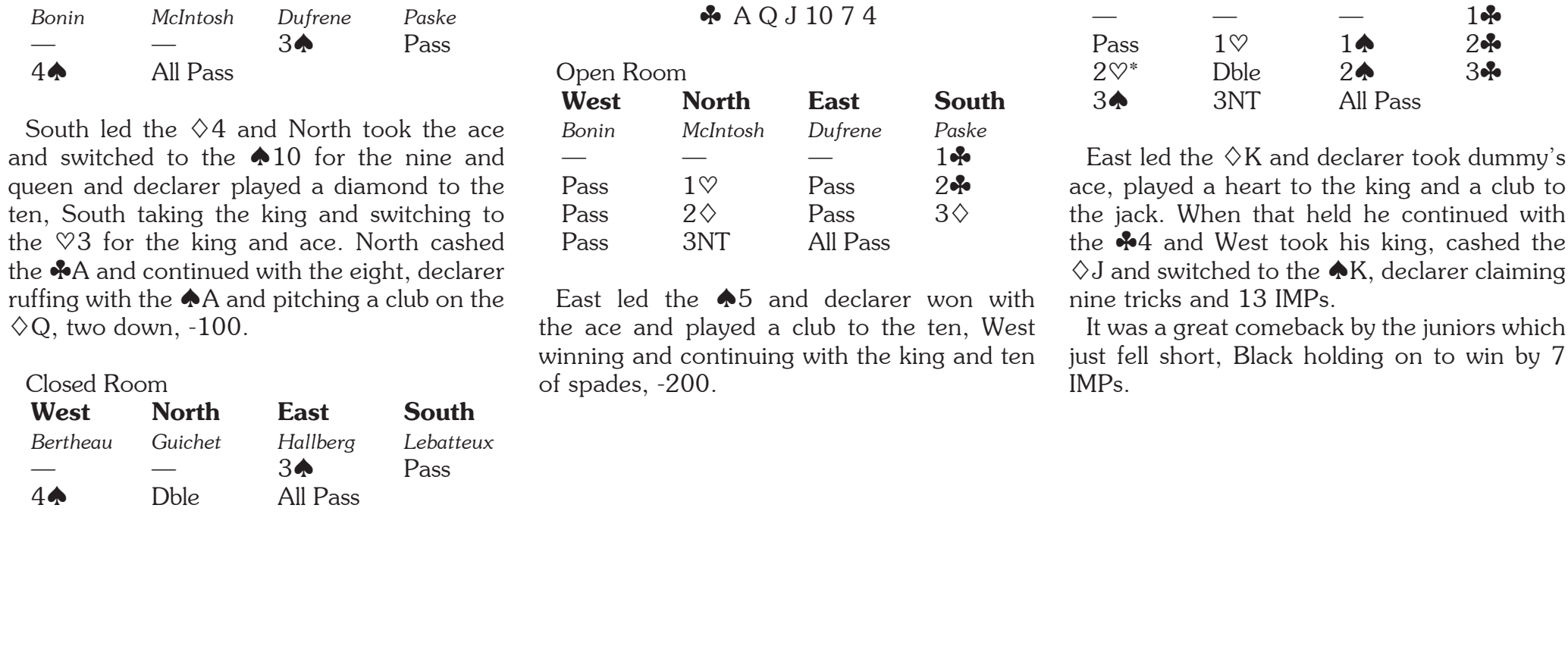
Gunnar Hallberg

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	*Guichet*	*Hallberg*	*Lebatteux*
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♡	1♠	2♣
2♡*	Dble	2♠	3♣
3♠	3NT	All Pass	

East led the ♢K and declarer took dummy's ace, played a heart to the king and a club to the jack. When that held he continued with the ♣4 and West took his king, cashed the ♢J and switched to the ♠K, declarer claiming nine tricks and 13 IMPs.

It was a great comeback by the juniors which just fell short, Black holding on to win by 7 IMPs.



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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