World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 135. Tuesday, 21 September, 2021

BRIDGE42 ARE NEW LEADERS

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE
RESULTS
ROUND 7

Fredin	4.44 VPs 22 IMPs	15.56 VPs 45 IMPs	Black
Skalman	0.57 VPs 7 IMPs	19.43 VPs 60 IMPs	Bridge42
Senior Ball	10.91 VPs 36 IMPs	9.09 VPs 33 IMPs	Junior Squad
Flyfalcon	6.72 VPs 25 IMPs	13.28 VPs 37 IMPs	French Juniors
Râteau bavoir	18.77 VPs 64 IMPs	1.23 VPs 18 IMPs	Harris
Sugi	16.09 VPs 63 IMPs	3.91 VPs 37 IMPs	Scorway

RANKING AFTER ROUND 7

1	Bridge42	92.06
2	Senior Ball	83.05
3	Fredin	82.54
4	Râteau bavoir	79.08
5	Black	78.77
6	Skalman	76.52
7	Flyfalcon	67.3
8	Junior Squad	66.93
9	Sugi	64.65
10	French Juniors	57.34
11	Scorway	52.42
12	Harris	39.34

SCHEDULE TODAY

Round 8. 21.15 CEST / 3.15 p.m. EDT

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

All the tables will be open to kibitzers

Bridge42 (Macskásy G., Talyigás P., Czímer C., Szalka T., Trenka P., Kemény M., Kemény G.) heavily won their match versus Skalman and are now first (92.06 VPs).

They are followed by team Senior Ball (Fox Ji., Helms J., Chambers N., Graves A., Pellegrini C., Garcia da Rosa R.) (83.05 VPs) and team Fredin (Fredin P., Sylvan J., Morath A., Clementsson S., Clemmensson J., Ek B., Westman A., Gustawsson M., Gottlieb G.) (82.54 VPs).

The 8th round of the Qualification stage will be played tomorrow. Last two rounds before semifinals starts.

Tamás Szalka and Czímer Csaba

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OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

From Bridgewinners:

LANCASTER Regional - CANCELED

The Lancaster Regional at Spooky Nook Sports (Oct 25-29) has been canceled. This difficult decision was made based upon local Covid transmission data, trends, and concern for the health and safety of all in attendance.

CHARLOTTE HALLOWEEN Regional - CANCELED

From Bridgewinners:

ACBL District 7 decided on September 1 to cancel the Charlotte Halloween Regional. There was no realistic chance that our area would have been able to meet the ACBL guidelines for holding a tournament. Covid test positivity in Mecklenburg County is above 12% and it's higher in most of the surrounding counties.
In order to maintain District 7's good relationship with the Hilton University Place, the tournament Executive Committee decided that cancelling now was the way to be most courteous to our host facility.

TRAVELLING TO AUSTIN IS NOW EASIER FOR PEOPLE OUTSIDE USA

From CNN.com:

***The United States plans to ease travel restrictions on all fully vaccinated foreign visitors starting in November**. [...]*
The new rules will require all foreign nationals arriving in the United States to show proof of being fully vaccinated, the White House Covid-19 response coordinator Jeff Zients said. He said the new rules would take effect in early November, a timeline that will give agencies and airlines "time to prepare."
[...]
In addition to requiring vaccination, the administration said it was taking other steps to mitigate spread of the virus in three other areas: testing, contact tracing and masking.
*Fully vaccinated foreign nationals and American citizens returning to the United States from abroad will be required to take a **pre-departure Covid-19 test within three days of their flight, and show proof of a negative result before boarding**. Unvaccinated Americans returning to the US will be "subject to stricter testing requirements," Zients said, including a test within one day of departure and an additional test when they return.*
[...]
Fully vaccinated passengers will not be subject to any quarantine mandates upon arrival in the US.
The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention plans to issue a contact tracing order requiring airlines to collect information from US-bound travelers, including a phone number and email address, to alert travelers of potential exposure. Airlines will be required to keep contact tracing information for 30 days.

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.

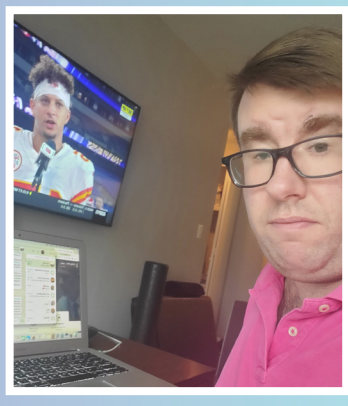
Obviously when producing Bridge articles it is necessary to use photos from the archives.

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 King of Clubs

by Mark Horton

The King of Clubs has frequently attracted the attention of writers. Agatha Christie used it as a title for one of her Hercule Poirot stories, while more recently Ben Schott featured it in 'Jeeves and the King of Clubs', one of his books paying homage to P.G.Wodehouse. Perhaps the most famous connotation for his majesty is being an integral part of 'The Rabbi's Rule'.

Ruminating whilst out walking on Sunday I wondered if it might have a role to play in any of the deals from Round 7 of the Open League, where my focus was on the match between Skalman and Bridge42.

After a quiet start the match exploded into life:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Trenka	*Fallenius*	*Kemény*	*Nilsland*
1♢	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♡*	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♢*	Pass
4♡*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♢	All Pass

2♡ Game forcing
4♢ Optional RKCB
4♡ Minimum
4♠ '?'
5♣ 1 key card

North led the ♡9 and dummy's jack was covered by the queen and king. Declarer played the ♢K and when it held he crossed to the ♣A, cashed the top spades pitching a heart and then took the ♣KQ and played a fourth club, ruffing in dummy when North discarded the ♡2. Declarer overtook dummy's ♢J with the queen and North won and exited with a heart but declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a heart high and drew the outstanding trump, +1370.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	*Czímer*	*Karlsson*	*Szalka*
1♢	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♡*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♢	Pass
3♡	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♢	All Pass

2♣ Natural
2♡ Game forcing
4NT RKCB
5♣ 1/4 key cards

North led the ♡2 for the jack, queen and king and declarer played the ♢Q, which took the second trick. He then played four rounds of clubs, North pitching the ♠3 on the last of them as declarer ruffed in dummy. When declarer continued with dummy's ♢J North won and exited with a heart. Declarer won in dummy and belatedly tried to cash the top spades, but North could ruff the second round for a 16 IMP swing.

7 pairs bid 6♢, five of them recording 12 tricks. In the match between Senior Ball and Junior Squad this was how events unfurled in the Open Room:

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Basler	*Fox*	*Dufrêne*	*Helms*
1♢	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♡*	Pass
2NT	Pass	4NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

2♡ 'Fourth suit forcing'

The result in the other room was 4NT+2, so there was sure to be a swing.

North led the ♡9 for the jack, queen and king and declarer played on diamonds, North taking the ace on the third round and exiting with the ♠3 after South pitched the ♠6. Declarer cashed dummy's top spades discarding a heart and then two rounds of clubs to reach this position:

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

Thomas Karlsson

If declarer now cashes the diamonds discarding two of dummy's spades, the second catches South in a guard squeeze! Unbale to spare a spade or a club he must part with the ♡10 allowing declarer to cash the ♣Q and then take the heart finesse.

Alas, declarer cashed the ♣K first and now the squeeze no longer operates.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Trenka	*Fallenius*	*Kemény*	*Nilsland*
—	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

With West making no attempt to look for a major South went with the ♡6 and declarer played dummy's seven, took North's queen with the ace and played the ♢J followed by the queen, North following with the six and nine. South won the third round of the suit and North pitched the ♠8. When South switched to the ♣5 declarer emerged with an overtrick, +430.

There is nothing on the convention card to suggest that NS play Smith Peters, the only relevant information being that the ♠8 was discouraging.

The only other point worth considering is that if declarer had started with ♡AKx he might have played dummy's jack at trick one.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	*Czímer*	*Karlsson*	*Szalka*
—	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

South led the ♡6 for the jack, queen and ace and declarer cashed the ♠K and then played the ♢J for the four, two and six. Declarer went back to spades, taking three more tricks in the suit and then played the ♢Q followed by the ten. South won and tabled the ♡10, the defenders collecting the next four tricks, -50 and another 10 IMPs.

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Trenka	*Fallenius*	*Kemény*	*Nilsland*
—	—	—	Pass
2♠*	Dble	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	4♢
All Pass			

2♠ 4-10, 5+♠

West led the ♠Q and declarer won perforce with dummy's ace, played a club to the ace and a diamond for the queen and king. East continued with the ♠K and after ruffing in dummy declarer cashed the ♢A and then played on clubs, East ruffing the third round and playing another spade, declarer discarding a club from dummy as West won with the jack. West cashed the ♢J enabling declarer to escape for one down, -50.

I suppose you could make a case for North to bid 3NT over 3♠, but it is not an obvious move.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	*Czímer*	*Karlsson*	*Szalka*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♣*	1♡	Pass*
2♡	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1♣ Strong
Pass 0-7

East led the ♡7 and declarer took West's king with the ace cashed two clubs ending in dummy and played a diamond for the queen and king, East switching to the ♠K which saw declarer finish with nine tricks, +400 and another 10 IMPs for Bridge42.

Bjorn Fallenius

6 pairs reached the notrump game, Fox and Helms stretching to 4NT against their silent opponents. East led the ♡5 and declarer won with the ace, played two rounds of clubs and a diamond for the queen and king. When East continued with a low heart declarer emerged unscathed with ten tricks.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Trenka	*Fallenius*	*Kemény*	*Nilsland*
—	—	—	3♢
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♢10 and South overtook it with the jack, declarer electing to follow with the four. South continued with the ♢a followed by the six and declarer won, cashed four clubs and then played a heart to the jack. When it held he cashed the ♡A and found he could score four tricks in the suit for +400.

3NT was reached four times. In the match between Senior Ball and Junior Squad, Aymeric Lebatteaux overtook his partner's diamond lead and at trick two he switched to the ♠7, Thomas Guichet winning with the jack and exiting with the ♣10. Declarer won in hand, cashed three more clubs and played a heart to the jack. When it held he cashed the ace and played a heart to the nine to reach this position:

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

When he cashed dummy's ♡Q declarer was squeezed. He pitched a spade and played a spade for the king and ace, but North still had a diamond for one down.

Declarer can avoid this by taking the ♢K at trick one.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	*Czímer*	*Karlsson*	*Szalka*
—	—	—	1♢*
1NT	Pass	2♣*	2♢
2♠	Pass	3♠	All Pass

1♢ 2+♢

North led the ♢10 and South took the ace and switched to the ♡K, declarer winning with the ace and exiting with the ♠3. North won with the jack and exited with the ♣10, declarer taking the ace and playing the ♠4. North won with the ♠Q and played the ♣9 but declarer won with the jack and played the ♠5, claiming when North took the ace, +140, but a loss of 6 IMPs.

Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Trenka	*Fallenius*	*Kemény*	*Nilsland*
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♢
Pass	1♡	1♠	2♡
All Pass			

East led the ♢J and declarer won with the king an played the ♣4, East taking the jack and switching to the ♠10. Declarer went up with dummy's ace, played three rounds of hearts, cashed dummy's top diamonds pitching a spade and ran the ♣8 which meant he took ten tricks, +170.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Sandin	*Czímer*	*Karlsson*	*Szalka*
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♡	Pass	3♡
All Pass			

1NT '9-12, loose'

Easy led the ♡3 for the five, queen and ace and declarer played a spade for the jack and king, West exiting with the ♠9. Declarer won with dummy's ace and played three rounds of diamonds pitching a spade. East ruffed, cashed the ♣A and then played the ♠Q. West ruffed with the ♡J and played the ♢10, but declarer could ruff with the ♡10 and draw the outstanding trump, +140 and only a 1 IMP loss.

As you will have spotted, if East plays the spade before the club the defenders will score five tricks.

5 pairs advanced to 4♡. Played by North it can be defeated if East finds a spade lead – but only if West puts in the nine at trick one, a play that was found by Esteban Vallet against Ricco van Prooijen's 4♡ and gained his team 7 IMPs, winning a match that would have been lost had he put in the king.

Played by South 4♡ can always be made as long as declarer takes the right view in the club suit, for example on a diamond lead declarer can win with dummy's ♢K, draw trumps and play a club for the eight and nine. If West exits with a diamond declarer wins and plays a second club. East wins and switches to a spade, but declarer takes the ace and West is helpless. If he unblocks the ♠K declarer will score two spade tricks, but If he hangs on to the king declarer pitches a spade on a diamond, ruffs a diamond and ducks a club. East wins but has to play a spade and West wins but must then concede the last trick to dummy's ♣K – at which point, as the parliamentarian might say at Prime Minister's Question time, 'I refer the honourable reader to my introduction'.

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OCBL OCTOBER CUP

18 - 21 October, 2021

Qualification + Knockout

Qualification:

9 Rounds x 12 Boards	CEST	EDT
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

KOs:

Quarterfinals - Semifinals - Finals: 16 Boards each

	CEST	EDT
Thursday 21 October	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG