World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 137. Friday, 24 September, 2021

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE: SEMIFINALS

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE RESULTS

RANKING AFTER ROUND 9

1	Bridge42	121.95
2	Fredin	116.83
3	Black	106.36
4	Skalman	102.11
5	Senior Ball	97.05
6	Junior Squad	85.96
7	Râteau bavoir	85.42
8	Scorway	82.31
9	Sugi	82.25
10	Flyfalcon	80.15
11	French Juniors	68.74
12	Harris	50.87

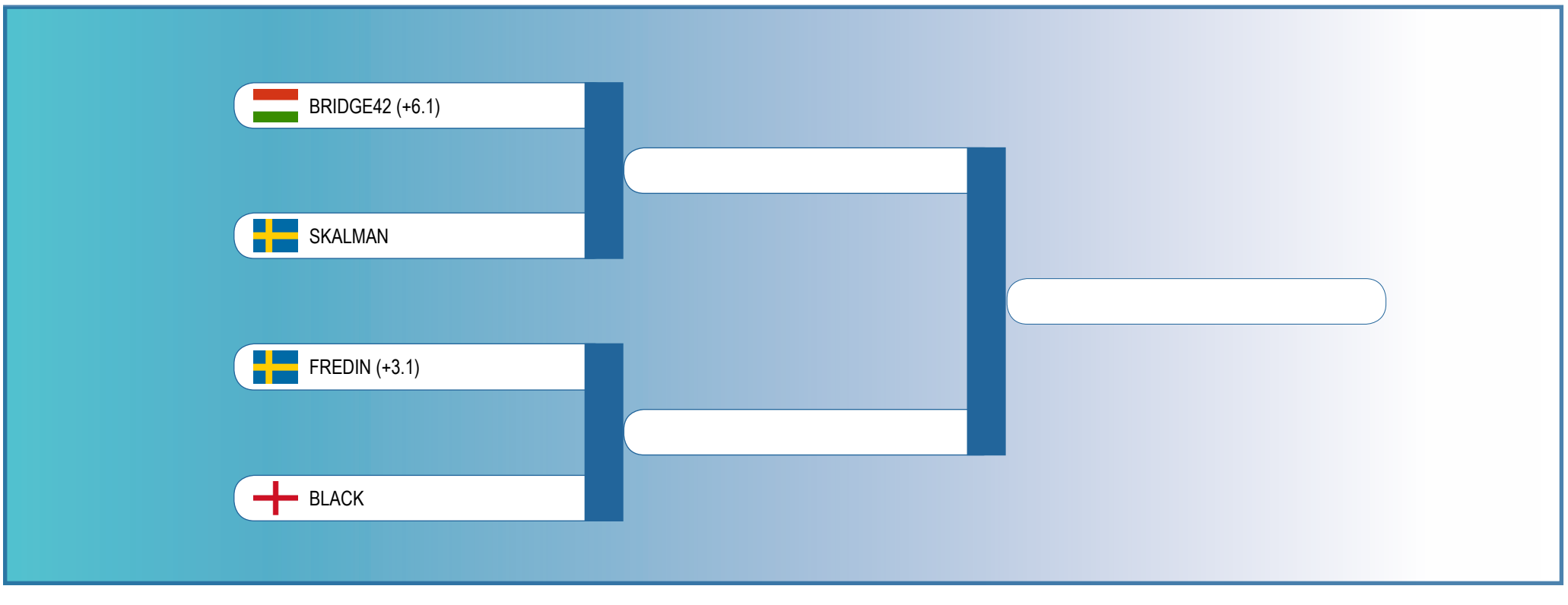
Yesterday the last round of the Qualification stage was played. Bridge42 and Fredin were among the top fours before the last round and materialized their qualification. Black were 5th and Skalman were 6th and by winning the 9th round they managed to climb the ranking and qualify.

The **Semifinals** will be:
Bridge42 vs Skalman
Fredin vs Black

The two matches will be played next Monday.

ROUND 9

Bridge42	15.92 VPs 42 IMPs	4.08 VPs 17 IMPs	Sugi
Fredin	19.69 VPs 72 IMPs	0.31 VPs 16 IMPs	Râteau bavoir
Senior Ball	6.03 VPs 27 IMPs	13.97 VPs 42 IMPs	Scorway
Black	15.56 VPs 49 IMPs	4.44 VPs 26 IMPs	French Juniors
Skalman	12.55 VPs 52 IMPs	7.45 VPs 43 IMPs	Flyfalcon
Junior Squad	12.55 VPs 39 IMPs	7.45 VPs 30 IMPs	Harris



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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

EUROPEAN NATIONAL YOUTH TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

From Eurobridge.org

The ENYTC was rescheduled from 2021 to 2022 due to the pandemic.
In response to comments from NBOs that many young players who would have been eligible in 2021 would lose the opportunity to represent their country, the EBL EC has taken the decision to apply the following age restrictions for the ENYTC in 2022

- *Each team, in every category, may include up to two players who satisfied the 2021 age requirements but no longer do so in 2022.*
- *All other players must satisfy the 2022 age requirements.*
- *This rule applies only to EBL events held in 2022.*
- *From 2023 onwards, the usual restrictions will apply.*

It is important to note that the WBF has decided that the usual age restrictions will apply for the World National Youth Teams Championships scheduled for 2023, for which our ENYTC 2022 will qualify.

SORRY, PARTNER Podcast: Welcome to the Table!

From Bridgewinners:

Ahoy! There's a new bridge podcast in town.

Hosted by bridge partners and best friends Catherine Harris and Jocelyn Startz, SORRY, PARTNER (https://shows.acast.com/sorry-partner) is a playful take on the game of bridge and the worldwide community of bridge players.

The weekly program is organized into two sections. It kicks off with a lively conversation between the two hosts about anything and everything from funny things that happen at the table to bridge challenges of all stripes, as well as a mailbag of listeners' bridge stories. The second part features a long-form interview with a bridge champion who shares insights and top tips.

Episode one (https://shows.acast.com/sorry-partner/episodes/giorgia-botta-on-la-dolce-vita-and-the-blame-game) showcases Giorgia Botta, who discusses how she went from being a junior champion in Rome to life as a bridge professional in New York City. Bridge legend Barry Rigal spearheads (https://shows.acast.com/sorry-partner/episodes/barry-rigal-loves-to-talk-just-not-at-the-table) episode two with his trademark self-deprecating humor about his seriousness at the table. Future guestsinclude Adi Asulin (Israel), Mel Colchamiro (USA), Heather Dhondy (England), Disa Eythorsdottir (Iceland/USA), Andrew Mill (Australia), and Kiran Nadar (India).

We think the program is fun and interesting for players at all levels, but features tips and advice of particular use to developing students of the game.

The program is available on Apple podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and pretty much wherever people like to listen. We hope people will follow the show. Send your bridge stories to sorrypartnerpodcast@gmail.com or message us on Instagram @sorrypartnerpodcast.

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.

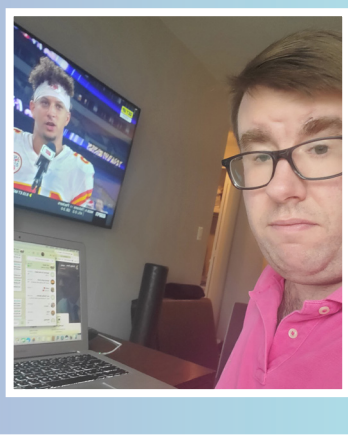
Obviously when producing Bridge articles it is necessary to use photos from the archives.

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 Last Hurrah

by Mark Horton

Going into the last of the qualifying rounds in the September Open League it was the battle for the last two places in the semifinals that was the focus of attention. Bridge42 and Fredin looked sure to qualify, but Senior Ball and Black could come under pressure from Skalman or Râteau bavoir.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

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

Fredin v Râteau bavoir

Open Room

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
Guillemin	Fredin	Harari	Clemantsson
—	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

East led the ♡8 and declarer won with the king and advanced the ♣Q. When that held he played a heart to dummy's queen and the nine of diamonds for the ten, queen and ace. East switched to the ♠5, but it was too late as declarer won the second round of the suit and cashed his winners recording +430. He had pitched one of dummy's diamonds on a heart which meant he could no longer score the last trick with the ♢7 – expensive if you are a beer card aficionado!

Closed Room

West	**North**	**East**	**South**
Andersson	*van Oosten*	*Bennet*	*Thorpe*
—	1NT*	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1NT '(14)15-17, may be off shape'

Thibo Sprinkhuizen

East went with his 'stronger' major and led the ♠5. It was a mortal blow and when declarer took the second round of the suit and played a diamond East went up with the ace and played the ♠9 (having unblocked the jack) allowing West to cash four more spades for -100 and 11 IMPs. It was the start of a great run for Fredin, who led 54-2 after ten deals, ending their opponent's hopes.

With Black starting well against the French Juniors it looked like Skalman would be the only threat to Senior Ball.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Skalman v Flyfalcon

Open Room

West	**North**	**East**	**South**
Sprinkhuizen	*Warne*	*M de Leon*	*Ahlesved*
1NT*	Pass	2♢*	Pass
2♡	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1NT 15-17
2♢ Transfer, 4♡ possible if invitational+
2♠ Forces 2NT
2NT Forced
3NT Game forcing, 4♡

North led the ♠2 and declarer won with dummy's jack and played a diamond to the seven. North won with the ten and switched to the ♡K, following it with the queen. Declarer won and played a diamond for the jack and king and North exited with the ♡10, South winning and cashing the ♢A, -100.

Closed Room

West	**North**	**East**	**South**
Fallenius	*van Prooijen*	*Nilsland*	*Wilson*
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♢*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the ♠8 and having won with dummy's king (dropping the queen from his hand) declarer played a diamond to the jack and king. He won the spade return with dummy's jack, played a club to the ace and a diamond for the ten, queen and ace. That was nine tricks, and when both defenders pitched a heart and North also parted with a spade on the diamonds he could duck a heart, recording +430 and 12 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Skalman v Flyfalcon

Open Room

West	**North**	**East**	**South**
Sprinkhuizen	*Warne*	*M de Leon*	*Ahlesved*
—	—	—	Pass
2♡	2NT*	Dble	3♠
Pass	Pass	4♡	All Pass

2NT 15-18

Two first round controls and a modest suit were no deterrent to West opening 2♡ and he was soon in game. North led the ♣Q and declarer won with the ace, played a heart to the ten, ruffed a spade, played a club to the ten, ruffed a spade, played a club to the king, cashed the ♢A, ruffed a spade, crossed to dummy with the ♢K and ruffed the ♠K with the heart jack, claiming ten tricks, +620.

North's lead was unlucky, but I recall that in his brilliant Complete Book of Opening Leads, Easley Blackwood (and you thought all he knew about was asking for aces!) points out just how dangerous it is to lead for a suit headed by the QJ.

Closed Room

West	**North**	**East**	**South**
Fallenius	*van Prooijen*	*Nilsland*	*Wilson*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♡*
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

1NT 15-17
2♡ Transfer

Declarer was not hard pressed to take eight tricks, +110 and 12 IMPs. Although they trailed 22-12 at half time Flyfalcon were still in the hunt.

Ricco van Prooijen

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

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

Black v French Juniors

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Vallet	*Black*	*Bedouet*	*Gold*
—	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♢	Pass
3♢	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Gold struck gold (I'll wager no-one has penned that line before) by leading the ♣2 and all declarer could do was win and cash his diamonds. South discarded the ♡10 followed by the queen and the contract was two down, -200.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hult	*Guth*	*Hallberg*	*Bellicaud*
—	2♠*	2NT	Pass
3♢*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

2♠ 5♠+4♢/♣
3♢ Stayman

South led the ♠2 and North took the ace and returned the three. Declarer put up the king and South followed with the nine, which presumably suggested he had something useful in hearts. Declarer now settled down to the diamonds and reached this position:

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

He tried exiting from dummy with the ♡8 but North pitched the ♣6 as South won with the ten and switched to the ♣J. Alas, North did not cover dummy's queen and declarer emerged with nine tricks and 13 IMPs. Black led 42-13 and were on their way to the semifinals.

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

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

Skalman v Flyfalcon

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Warne*	*M de Leon*	*Ahlesved*
—	—	Pass	Pass
4♠	Dble*	All Pass	

4♠ 'Takeout ish'

North led the ♡K and declarer ruffed, took a round of trumps and played the ♢A followed by the three, claiming eleven tricks, +990.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	*van Prooijen*	*Nilsland*	*Wilson*
—	—	Pass	Pass
4♠	5♡	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	Pass	6♡
6♠	Dble	All Pass	

Declarer ruffed the heart lead and used two trump entries to dummy to eliminate the heart suit before exiting with a club. North won and continued with the ♣A and declarer ruffed and played a diamond to the ten, -200 and 15 IMPs. A damaging blow but Senior Ball were also having a hard time:

Senior Ball v Scorway

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Shenkin	*Fox*	*Levinson*	*Helms*
—	—	Pass	Pass
3NT*	4♡	4♠	5♡
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♡
6♠	All Pass		

3NT 'Strong 4 in major, slam interest'

South led the ♡10 and declarer ruffed in dummy and cashed all the remaining spades. On the last of them, North, down to ♡K ♢Q4 ♣AQJ pitched the ♢4 which was not best, but still on course for one down. South was looking at ♢J652 ♣K7 and pitched the ♢6. Declarer continued with a diamond to the king collecting North's queen on route and played the ♢10. When South followed with the five declarer could score two more diamond tricks for +1430.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Graves	*Kvangraven*	*Chambers*	*Saur*
—	—	Pass	Pass
4♠	5♡	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

There was no way to prevent 11 tricks and +850, but it was still an 11 IMP swing. It took Scorway's total up to 42 giving them a 29 IMP lead and meant Senior Ball were under pressure.

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Skalman v Flyfalcon

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Sprinkhuizen	*Warne*	*M de Leon*	*Ahlesved*
—	1♢*	1♠	Dble*
2♢*	Pass	2♡*	Pass
2♠	Pass	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

1♢ 0+♢
Dble Transfer
2♢ Good ♠ raise
2♡ 'Artificial, at least opening strength'
2NT Minors

East led the ♠A which meant declarer only had one loser in the suit and four in all, +110.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	*van Prooijen*	*Nilsland*	*Wilson*
—	1♢	1♠	2♢
3♢*	Pass	3♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

South led the ♢8 and North won with the queen and switched to the ♣Q. That got the defenders up to three tricks, but the disposition of the major suit kings meant declarer had the rest, +620 and 12 IMPs which all but ended Flyfalcon's hopes and put their opponent's in a strong position.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Sugi v Bridge42

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Reza	*Kemény*	*Elwindra*	*Trenka*
—	—	—	1♢
4♡	4♠	5♡	5♠
Pass	Pass	6♡	Dble
All Pass			

North led the ♢Q and declarer won in hand, drew trumps ending in dummy and played a club. He ruffed South's ace, but could not avoid the loss of a spade, +1210.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Macskásy	*Nurkunyil*	*Talyigás*	*Sugiharto*
—	—	—	Pass
4♡	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♡	All Pass

Naturally declarer took 12 tricks, but +480 meant a 12 IMP loss.

Scorway lost 7 IMPs on the deal, doubling 5♠ in the Open Room collecting 200 when East did not find a club lead to compare against -480 for 5♡+1. However, it was 'too little too late' for Senior Ball who dropped down to fifth. For once the last deal had no role to play.

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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