World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

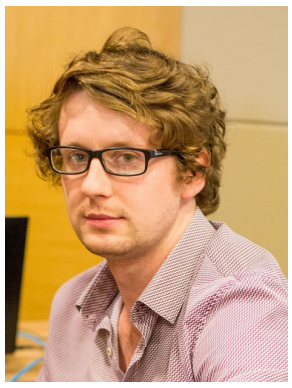
Issue N. 140. Friday, 1 October, 2021

BLACK WIN THE OCBL OPEN LEAGUE!

Andrew Black

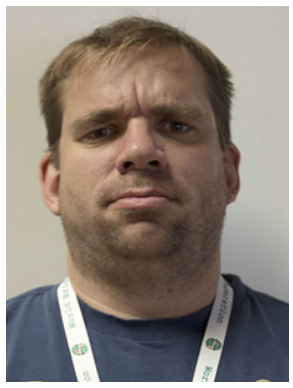
David Gold

Andrew McIntosh


Thomas Paske

Simon Hult

Gunnar Hallberg


Peter Bertheau

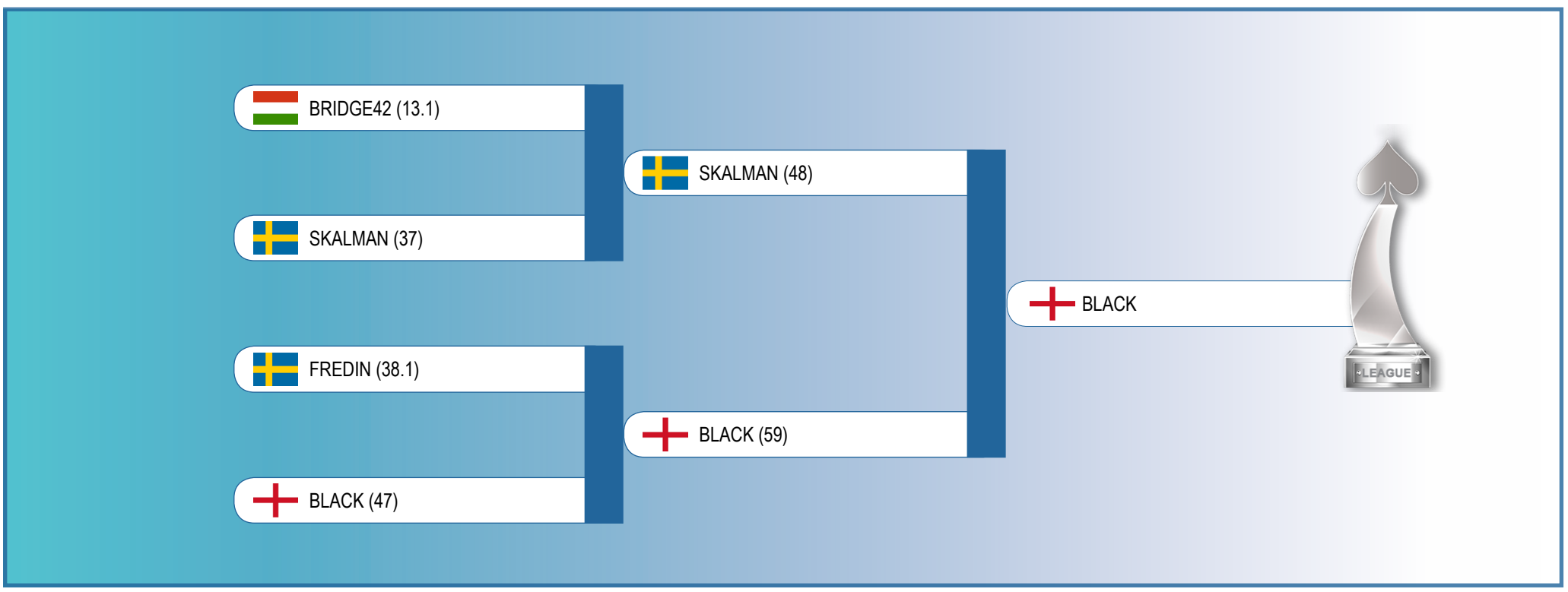
OCBL OPEN LEAGUE RESULTS

FINAL - Round 2

Black	18 IMPs TOTAL: 59	30 IMPs TOTAL: 48	Skalman
OPEN ROOM N: P. Bertheau S: S. Hult	CLOSED ROOM E: A. Black W: D. Gold	OPEN ROOM E: N. Warne W: K. Ahlesved	CLOSED ROOM N: T. Karlsson S: A. Sandin

SCORE:https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=65954-1633029300

Team Black (Black A., Gold D., McIntosh A., Paske T., Hult S., Hallberg G., Bertheau P.) won the OCBL Open League!
In the Final, they faced team Skalman (Ahlesved K., Warne N., Elmroth G., Eliasson P., Fallenius B., Nilsland M., Karlsson T., Sandin A.).
The match ended 59-48 for Black.
The third place is shared between the opponents of Black and Skalman in the Semifinals: Fredin (Fredin P., Sylvan J., Morath A., Clementsson S., Clemmensson J., Ek B., Westman A., Gustawsson M., Gottlieb G., Andersson T., Bennet J.) and Bridge42 (Macskásy G., Talyigás P., Czímer C., Szalka T., Trenka P., Kemény M., Kemény G.).



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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

DECEMBER CUP
20 - 23 December, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 20 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Tuesday 21 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Wednesday 22 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Thursday 23 December	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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

Online Bridge NEWS

UPDATES ON AUSTIN for INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

The ACBL have posted the following information on Bridgewinners

From Bridgewinners.com:

The ACBL has been working hard to receive approval for international bridge players to attend the Fall 2021 NABC being held in Austin, TX. Over the past two years, a series of Presidential Proclamations have restricted entry from travelers who were physically present in certain countries within the 14 days prior to travel (China, Iran, Schengen Area, Ireland, U.K., and Brazil) based on public health and economic considerations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each of these Presidential Proclamations prohibiting U.S. entry included an exception when a traveler's entry would be in the national interest.

The ACBL is pleased to announce that the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) Coronavirus Coordination Cell approved an exception to the ACBL for the Fall NABC. This allows players, who would otherwise be restricted from entering the United States, to travel to the United States to compete at the Fall NABC under certain circumstances.

As part of this approval, the ACBL has agreed that it will follow all CDC guidelines for international travelers.

As we were preparing this press release, the Biden Administration announced it plans to rescind the COVID-19 Travel Bans in November. As of this writing, the CBP has advised the ACBL that the current policies (detailed below) must remain in effect despite this announcement. CBP did indicate that they may permit modifications in the future when the new travel policies are finalized.

While some of the details and logistics are being worked out, here are some of the relevant details to assist with your planning:

- *Only fully vaccinated players will be allowed to attend. This is true for both foreign and domestic participants. There will be no exceptions.*
- *Prior to boarding an international flight to the United States, travelers will need to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 1 day before travel.*
- *Upon arrival, international travelers will need to quarantine for at least 3 days, and then provide another negative COVID-19 test after quarantining.*
- *Please plan on arriving at least 4 days prior to the first day you intend on playing.*
- *Travelers will need to wear a mask over their nose and mouth on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation while traveling.*
- *If the travel restrictions are not lifted, then the ACBL will need to receive the names and certain biographical information in advance from international players wishing to play in Austin. This information may be submitted here.*
- *This policy will apply specifically to travelers from China, Iran, Schengen Area, Ireland, U.K., and Brazil. After receiving the requisite biographical information, the ACBL through its immigration counsel on this matter, Jason Feldman, will submit the relevant information through a special CBP channel to obtain pre-approval.*
- *The CBP should then grant an exception to the travel restrictions authorizing these players to travel internationally and compete in the Fall 2021 NABC.*

The ACBL appreciates everyone's understanding and cooperation with these precautions in order to keep all participants at the tournament safe. As the COVID-19 cases continue to decline, the ACBL is cautiously optimistic that the Fall 2021 NABC will proceed as planned. However, it is not guaranteed that the ACBL will be able to hold this tournament. A final decision on whether the NABC will proceed is expected no later than October 15.

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.

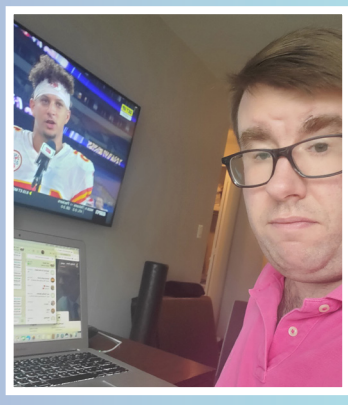
Obviously when producing Bridge articles it is necessary to use photos from the archives.

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



Great Expectations

by Mark Horton

At the half-way mark in the Open League Final Black led Skalman 41-18, a useful, but by no means decisive advantage. There was every reason to hope for a thrilling finale. As one of my friends often remarks, 'be careful what you wish for'.

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Karlsson*	*McIntosh*	*Sandin*
—	—	1♡	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

North led the ♠8 for the jack and queen and declarer ran the ♡8, continuing with the three when it held. South took the ace and returned the ♠4 and declarer took the ace, crossed to dummy's ♣A and cashed the hearts for +90.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	*Bertheau*	*Nilsland*	*Hallberg*
—	—	1♡	Pass
1NT*	Pass	2♡*	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

1NT 'Normally 5-11' (there is more but my Swedish is not enough to translate it!)
2♡ ♡+♣ 11-16

Peter Bertheau

North led the ♡6 and when dummy's king held declarer continued with the four, North winning with the jack and switching to the ♠8 for the jack and queen. A diamond saw North take the king and exit with the three, declarer ruffing with dummy's five and playing the ♡9, covered by the ace and ruffed and overruffed by North who returned the ♢8. Declarer ruffed with dummy's queen, cashed the ♣A and pitched a diamond on the ♡Q. North ruffed and exited with a diamond and declarer ruffed, cashed the ♣10 and the ♠A and was one down, -100 and 5 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Paske	*Karlsson*	*McIntosh*	*Sandin*
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♢*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the ♠J and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♡2, South going up with the ace and continuing with the ♠Q. Declarer won and played two rounds of diamonds, North winning and cashing four spades, -200.

Look for the deal in an upcoming text-book on defence!

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Fallenius	*Bertheau*	*Nilsland*	*Hallberg*
—	—	—	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass
2♢*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

North led the ♠J and as before declarer won in dummy and played a heart, but this time South followed with the seven. Having stolen a heart trick with the queen declarer played two rounds of diamonds and when the ♣K proved to be onside he was home, +600 and 13 IMPs.

On Board 9 EW held ♠63 ♡J83 ♢A9 ♣AKJ1086 opposite ♠AQJ94 ♡A7 ♢KJ6532 ♣-.

The ♠K was onside, as was the doubleton ♢Q, while South held ♣Q53. That meant you could score 12 tricks in either spades or diamonds. Both sides got as far as 5♢.

Skalman won the quarter 16-9 to trail 34-50 with ten deals remaining. They quickly added 6 IMPs, collecting two on boards 12, 13 and 14 to reduce the gap to 10 IMPs.

This was the most interesting of the three deals:

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Karlsson*	*Black*	*Sandin*
—	Pass	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2♢*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♢	Pass	4NT
All Pass			

2♣ 21/23NT/Game forcing
2NT 21/23
3♣ Puppet
3NT No 4/5 card major

West led the ♡8 and declarer won with the king and played the ♢Q West winning and playing a second heart, +690.

It's a tough deal. The six-card suit is good as are the outside controls, but the club void might be opposite wasted values. South is opposite a passed partner and has only one first round control, so bidding 4♡ over 4♢ is not appealing.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ahlesved	*Bertheau*	*Warne*	*Hult*
—	Pass	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♡*
Pass	3♠*	Pass	3NT*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♢	All Pass	

2NT 20/21
3♣ Puppet
3♡ No major
3♠ Transfer to 3NT
4♠ '5+ ru'

+420 accounted for the 2 IMP swing.

It took me some time to come up with a plausible way to reach 6♢:

	2NT
3♠*	3NT
4♠*	4NT
5♣*	6♢

3♠ Forces 3NT
4♠ Single suited slam try in ♢
5♣ Club control

Whether that would stand up in court is another matter!

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Karlsson*	*Black*	*Sandin*
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♢	2♡
Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ♢J and East took the ace and returned the five, declarer winning with the king and playing a spade for the nine, king and ace. East cashed the ♢Q and West pitched the ♠5. At this point a spade should lead to three down, but East went with the ♡7 and declarer won with the ace and exited with the ♣2. West took the ten and continued with the queen, but declarer ducked, won the heart exit with the ten and played winning hearts to endplay West for only two down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ahlesved	*Bertheau*	*Warne*	*Hult*
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♠	2♢	2♡
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣*
All Pass			

3♣ Minimum

West led the ♢J and East allowed declarer to win with the king. A spade saw East take the king and cash the ♢AQ, West discarding the ♠9. Here too East switched to a heart and declarer won and continued with the ♣A and a club, West winning with the ten. The contract was sure to go three down, -300 holding the loss to 5 IMPs, but giving Gold a slightly bigger cushion.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Karlsson*	*Black*	*Sandin*
—	—	2♡*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♡	All Pass

2♡ Constructive
3♡ Negative

South led the ♢K and switched to the ♠6, North winning with the king and playing the ♣3 for the nine, ten and ace. Declarer ruffed a spade, crossed to the ♢A, ruffed a spade with the ♡10, ruffed a diamond, played a spade, overruffing North's ♡6, ruffed a diamond, cashed the ♡Q, the ♡A being his ninth trick, +140.

To be sure of holding declarer to his contract North must switch to a heart after winning with the ♠K.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ahlesved	*Bertheau*	*Warne*	*Hult*
—	—	All Pass	

4 IMPs for Black, who was almost home.

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Gold	*Karlsson*	*Black*	*Sandin*
1♣*	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
1♢	1♡	Pass	3♡
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

East led the ♡4 and West won with the king and returned the two, declarer winning with the nine, unblocking the ♣A, playing a heart to the queen and cashing the ♣K, +650.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Ahlesved	*Bertheau*	*Warne*	*Hult*
1♢*	All Pass		

North led the ♣K and South won and switched to the ♠3, declarer winning with the ace and continuing with the king. North ruffed that and played the ♣Q followed by the ten, declarer discarding a spade. North switched to the ♡Q and South took the ace, cashed the ♠Q and continued with the ten, ruffed by declarer with the ten and overruffed by North who could have played a high club allowing South to pitch his remaining heart for four down. His decision to exit with a heart cost a trick, but declarer was still -300. It meant 8 IMPs for Skalman who had won the battle 14-9, but lost the war 48-59.

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Online Contract Bridge League

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