Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 175. Tuesday, 12 July, 2022

OCBL MON-TUE SWISS

MON-TUE SWISS
Ranking after Round 5

1	ECF Holding	70.5
2	New Amateurs	70.21
3	Amoils	63.49
4	Levine	56.2
5	Nedev	56.13
6	Fredin	54.2
7	Goodman	53.32
8	Sandfia	49.59
9	Croatia U26	48.43
10	Nadel	46.33
11	Netbridge	40.23
12	Croatia U31	38.58
13	Pigot	34.15
14	Harris	18.64

OCBL Mon-Tue Swiss has started yesterday!

After 5 out of 10 rounds, the Norwegian team ECF Holding are leading by 0.29 VPs (70.5 VPs).
They are followed by New Amateurs (70.21 VPs) and Amoils (63.49 VPs).

Today the teams will play five more rounds.

SCHEDULE TODAY

All the tables will be closed to kibitzers, but the matches will be broacast on Vugraph. The show will be delayed by 15 minutes.

Round 6. 16.00 CEST / 10.30 a.m. EDT

ECF Holding	VS	Fredin
New Amateurs	VS	Levine
Amoils	VS	Goodman
Nedev	VS	Sandfia
Croatia U26	VS	Harris
Nadel	VS	Croatia U31
Netbridge	VS	Pigot

Round 7. 17.15 CEST / 11.15 a.m. EDT

Round 8. 18.30 CEST / 12.30 p.m. EDT

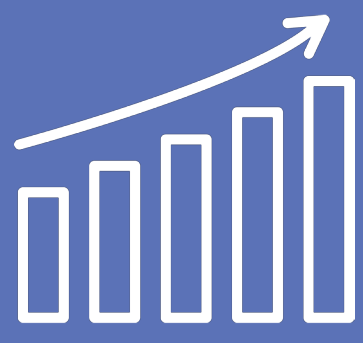
Round 9. 19.45 CEST / 1.45 p.m. EDT

Round 10. 21.00 CEST / 3.00 p.m. EDT

STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE!

Who are the strongest defenders?

Who are the overall leaders?



Who should I be more afraid of?

Who is the top declarer?

The answers to your questions are here:

https://public.tableau.com/views/OCBL2022TopDeclarersandDefenders/Topdeclarersanddefenders?:language=en-US&publish=yes&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link%3AshowVizHome=no#2

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER CUP
13 - 15 September, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 boards	CEST	EDT
Tuesday, 13 September R1 - R4	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Wednesday, 14 September R5 - R8	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Thursday, 15 September R9 - R12 & SF/F	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

OCTOBER CUP
4 - 6 October, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 boards	CEST	EDT
Tuesday, 4 October R1 - R4	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Wednesday, 5 October R5 - R8	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Thursday, 6 October R9 - R12 & SF/F	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

HALLOWEEN CUP
25 - 27 October, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 boards	CEST	EDT
Tuesday, 25 October R1 - R4	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Wednesday, 26 October R5 - R8	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30
Thursday, 27 October R9 - R12 & SF/F	16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30	10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
https://www.ocbl.org/registration/

Sunshine Bridge

by Mark Horton

What a summer of sport we are having! At the weekend I could choose between the Wimbledon finals, the Austrian FI Grand Prix, the T20 cricket matches between India & England and numerous football matches in the Women's EURO 2022 Championships. The bridge world is no less active, with Junior European and World Championships and the World Bridge Games coming up. As an hors d'oeuvre we can follow the exploits of the stars contesting the OCBL July Monday-Tuesday Swiss.

Round 1

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

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

Levine v Fredin

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bösenberg	*Helgemo*	*Eber*	*Nystrom*
—	—	1♡	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

With no attractive lead South went with the ♡7 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♣8 for the jack, queen and king. South returned the ♣6 and North ruffed and played the ♠7 for the king and ace. Back came the ♣5, ruffed and overruffed and North now tried the ♠2. Declarer won with the jack and ruffed a club, but when North produced the outstanding ♡10 the contract was two down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	*Fredin*	*Grainger*	*Apteker*
—	—	1♡	Pass
2♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

Here South led the ♢2 and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ♣8 for the jack, queen and king. South returned the ♣6 and North ruffed and played the ♠2, South taking declarer's jack with the ace and playing another club for one down, -50, and a 2 IMP gain.

All fourteen tables played in hearts, 13 in game and one in a very optimistic 6♡. The game was made seven times, South twice leading the ♠A, a low diamond three times (declarer letting it run to the queen) and a club. The only successful declarer to be faced with a trump lead was Wenfei Wang. She took it in hand with the nine and played the ♢Q for the king and ace. When the ♣8 was covered by the jack she went up with the ace and continued with the ♣3. North ruffed dummy's ten and switched to the ♠2 for the jack and ace. When South exited with the ♣5 declarer pitched a diamond from dummy and North ruffed and exited with the ♡10. Declarer won with dummy's ace and claimed – she could pitch one club on the ♢J and ruff the other. It was a push as in the other room South led the ♣2.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ J 8 ♡ 9 6 ♢ K Q 6 5 4 2 ♣ Q 7 5	
♠ K 9 5 ♡ 3 ♢ J 9 ♣ J1098432		♠ A 10 7 6 4 ♡ K 10 7 5 2 ♢ 10 8 ♣ —
	♠ Q ♡ A Q J 8 4 ♢ A 7 3 ♣ A K 6	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bösenberg	*Helgemo*	*Eber*	*Nystrom*
Pass	2♢	2♠	3♡
3♠	Pass	Pass	5♢
All Pass			

East led the ♠2 and when West won with the king he switched to the ♣8, East ruffing and cashing the ♠A for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	*Fredin*	*Grainger*	*Apteker*
Pass	Pass	1♠	Dble
2♠*	3♢*	Pass	3♡
Pass	3♠	Pass	5♢
All Pass			

2♠ Weaker raise
3♢ Constructive

Here East led the ♠A and continued with the two, West winning and returning the ♣2 to flatten the deal.

One pair made 5♢ when West led the ♡3, North having opened with a two-way 2♣, South responding with a forcing 2NT and then jumping to 5♢. EW had bid and supported spades so one possibility for West would be to lead the ♠K. Another thought – perhaps East should risk a double of 5♢? When I studied the bidding more closely I noticed that East had bid 4♣ over his partner's 3♠ which would perhaps make the situation unclear.

One pair made game when West opened 3♣ and then led the suit against South's 3NT.

Five pairs played in 4♠ doubled, the penalties ranging from -500 through -800 up to this result:

Nedev v Netbridge

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zomer	*Nedev*	*Bouwen*	*King*
Pass	2♢	3♢*	3♡
4♣	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	Pass	4♢*	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

3♢ Majors
3♡ Good raise
4♢ 'Try again'

For once the maxim 'six-five come alive' did not survive.

North led the ♢K and continued with the five, South taking the ace and switching to the ♠Q. Declarer won with the ace and played the ♡2, South winning with the jack and exiting with the ♠3. When declarer played dummy's nine North won with the jack and played the ♢Q. Declarer ruffed in hand and played the ♡7, running it when South followed with the four. North won and played a club and declarer could muster only six tricks, -1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Hseih	*V. Den Hoek*	*Chen*	*T Drijver*
Pass	Pass	2♠	Dble
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	4♢	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

The defenders started with two rounds of spades and West continued with the ♣J, East ruffing and exiting with the ♠10. Declarer ruffed in dummy, played a heart to the jack and cashed the ♡A which meant he was two down, -200 and a 16 IMP swing.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bösenberg	*Helgemo*	*Eber*	*Nystrom*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♣*	Pass
2♡	All Pass		

2♣ Majors

North led the ♠Q and declarer won in dummy and played two more rounds of spades, North overruffing the third round of the suit with the ♡Q and exiting with the ♡3 which restricted

declarer to nine tricks, +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	*Fredin*	*Grainger*	*Apteker*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1NT	2♣*	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

2♣ Majors

The play followed an identical course, so -100 meant the loss of 6 IMPs, Fredin winning this low-scoring encounter 7-3.

Nine Pairs bid 4♡ and +620 was recorded seven times. That sometimes happened when North, having overruffed with the ♡Q did not see the necessity of exiting with a heart.

Round 2

Board 6. Dealer East. EW Vul.

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

Amoils v Nedev

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hsieh	*Hanlon*	*Chen*	*Amoils*
—	—	1♣*	1♠
1NT*	Pass	3NT	All Pass

1♣ 16+
1NT Spade stopper, game forcing

North led the ♢9 for the queen and ace and South returned the jack, declarer winning in dummy, cashing the ♣A and then playing a spade to the queen followed by a low heart, declarer scoring 11 tricks when North went up with the king, +660.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Nedev*	*Bessis*	*King*
—	—	1NT	2♣*
3NT	4♡	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

2♣ Majors

East led the ♣A and switched to the diamond king. Declarer won in dummy and returned the jack, East winning with the queen and switching to the ♠7. West took dummy's king with the ace and switched to the ♡8, East winning with the queen and returning the ♣Q. Declarer ruffed in dummy and played the ♠J, covered by the queen and ruffed. Declarer ruffed a club, pitched a diamond on the ♠10 and played the ♠5. West and declarer threw diamonds and East won and played a heart, West taking the ace and playing a club, ensuring another trick. That was four down, -800 and 4 IMPs.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hsieh	*Hanlon*	*Chen*	*Amoils*
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

In his classic work The Acol Index, Eric Crowhurst describes a double jump to 4♣ as purely preemptive, showing six clubs and little else. It looks a pretty good description of North's hand, although the void might give one case for concern.

Declarer took the lead of the ♠J, crossed to the ♣A and played a diamond to the queen. When that held he repeated the recipe, crossing to dummy with the ♣K and playing a diamond to the ten. He continued with the ♢A, scoring ten tricks when West ruffed, +130.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Nedev*	*Bessis*	*King*
—	—	—	1♣
1♠	2♠*	3♡	Pass
Pass	5♣	Dble	All Pass

2♠ Good support for clubs

West led the ♡3 and declarer ruffed in dummy and played a diamond to the queen. A club to the king was followed by a spade, declarer ducking East's king, winning the next spade, playing a second club and a diamond to the ten. West ruffed the ♢A and cashed the ♠J for one down, -200 and 8 IMPs, enough for a 20-5 win.

Round 3

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

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

New Amateurs v Fredin

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Fredin	*Chechelash.*	*Apteker*	*Lo*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♡	Pass	2NT*
3♣	Pass	Pass	4♡
4♠	Dble	5♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	All Pass	

North followed the sound principle of leading a trump when you know you have most of the high cards and South won and returned the ♡7, North winning with the ace as declarer pitched his diamond. Declarer ruffed the continuation of the ♢A and played the ♠3, South winning with the jack and exiting with a heart. Declarer could not avoid the loss of a second spade so two down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	*Bösenberg*	*Weinstein*	*Eber*
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Dble	1♢*	Dble
1♠	Pass	1NT	Dble
2♣	Pass	Pass	2♢
2♠	3♢	Pass	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♢
All Pass			

1♢ Hearts

West led the ♠K and declarer won in dummy, cashed the ♢A and played a diamond to the king. When West pitched the ♣4 declarer played a heart to the ten and East won, cashed the ♢QJ and switched to the ♣Q. The spade position meant declarer went only one down, -50, but an 11 IMP loss in a match that New Amateurs won 19-0.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Croatia U31 v Goodman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Moses	*Mijic*	*Zhao*	*Dilovic*
—	—	—	2♣*
Pass	2♡*	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3♡*
Pass	3♠*	Dble	3NT*
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

2♣ 9-13 6+♣ or 5+♣ and 4+♢, no major
2♡ Any game force, starts relay
2NT 6(332) or 7(222)
3♣ Asking
3♡ 2326
3♠ Asking aces
3NT One ace

West led the ♠K and switched to the ♢4, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Stefanec	*Dwyer*	*Grguric*	*Goodman*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♢*	1♠	2♣
4♠	5♣	All Pass	

1♢ 4+♢

On the same defence that was +600 and 12 IMPs.

Everyone else was in 5♣ save for the pair who essayed 3NT and lost the first five spades.

Round 4

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Amoils v New Amateurs

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	*Hanlon*	*Weinstein*	*Amoils*
—	Pass	1♡	Dble
2♡*	3♣	3◇	Pass
3♡	All Pass		

2♡ Weak raise

South led the ♡A and continued with the three, declarer winning with dummy's eight and playing a diamond to the jack. South won and exited with his remaining heart and that meant declarer could muster only seven tricks, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Chechelash.*	*Bessis*	*Lo*
—	Pass	1♡	Dble
2♡*	2NT*	4♡	Pass
Pass	Dble*	All Pass	

2♡ Weak raise
2NT ◇+♣
Dble Values

I am a great fan of Meckstroth's Law, but it did not turn out well this time. East might have bid 3◇ over 2NT as a help suit trial bid – an invitation which West would decline.

South led the ♡3 and declarer won with dummy's seven and played a diamond to the jack. When South won and played two rounds of hearts the contract was three down, -500 and a 9 IMP loss.

Board 7. Dealer South. All Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Yang	*Hanlon*	*Weinstein*	*Amoils*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2◇	Pass	2NT
Pass	3◇	Pass	3♠
All Pass			

East led the ♡K and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the ◇10, East winning with the king and returning the ♡Q. Declrer ruffed and played the ◇J, West winning and continuing with the ♡9. Declarer ruffed and played the ◇Q, West ruffing and returning the ♠9. East won with the jack and continued with the queen and when declarer won and played another diamond East could ruff, draw the outstanding trump and play a club which allowed West to win and cash two hearts for five down, -500.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Chechelashvili*		*Bessis Lo*
—	—	—	Pass
Pass	1♠	1NT	Dble
Pass	2◇	Pass	2♠
Dble*	All Pass		

Dble Takeout

East led the ♠K and declarer elected to win and play a club for the king and ace. Declarer took the heart switch with dummy's ace, pitched two diamonds on dummy's clubs and played a diamond. East won with the king, cashed the ♠J and then took the ♠7 followed by the queen. Then the ♡Q and another heart meant the contract was three down, -800 and 7 IMPs, New Amateurs just holding on for a 10-9 win.

Declarer does best to duck the opening lead. If East switches to hearts declarer wins and plays on diamonds. He accepts the forces and then, with the diamonds established plays a club. West wins and plays a fourth heart, but declarer ruffs and although East can overruff the defence will score only one more trump for -200.

ECF Holding v Sandfia

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Burgess	*Ovesen*	*Leslie*	*Høyland*
Pass	1NT*	Pass	3♣*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

1NT 15-17
3♣ Asks for five-card major

East led the ♠K and when West unblocked the jack declarer took the third round of the suit, played the ◇10 to the queen and then cashed his top cards for +400.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lie	*Bell*	*Fasting*	*Norton*
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
Pass	2◇*	Pass	3◇
Pass	4◇	Pass	4♡*
Pass	4♠*	Pass	5♣*
Dble	Pass	Pass	Rdbl*
Pass	6◇	All Pass	

4♡ Cue
4♠ First/second
5♣ Cue
Rdbl First round control

When East led the ♣9 declarer took dummy's ace, drew trumps, and played a club, claiming, +920 and 11 IMPs.

Round 5

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

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

Amoils v ECF Holdings

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lie	*Hanlon*	*Fasting*	*Amoils*
—	1♡	1♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble
4♣	Dble	Pass	4♡
Dble	All Pass		

South's double persuaded West to run from the virtually laydown 3NT, but when North doubled 4♣ (cold for 11 tricks) South took flight.

East led the ♣7 and when the jack was allowed to hold West switched to the ♠2, East taking the ace and returning the three. West ruffed and played the ♣10, East ruffing declarer's ace. West ruffed the spade return, cashed the ◇A and then played a club, East's ♡Q giving the defenders the first seven tricks, -1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Ovesen*	*Bessis*	*Høyland*
—	1♡	1♠	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

North led the ♡5 and declarer won with dummy's queen and played on clubs, North taking the third round and switching to the ♠K. Declarer took dummy's ace and cashed winners, claiming ten tricks when the diamond break was revealed, +430 but 12 IMPs away.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Lie	*Hanlon*	*Fasting*	*Amoils*
1♣*	2NT*	Dble	3◇
3♠	5◇	Dble	All Pass

1♣ 2+♣
2NT ♡+◇

West led the ♣Q and East took the ace and continued with two rounds of diamonds. Declarer won, crossed to dummy with a diamond and ran

the ♡J, one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Lorenzini	*Ovesen*	*Bessis*	*Høyland*
1♣	2NT*	Pass	3♢
3♠	5♢	Dble	All Pass

2NT ♡+♢

West led the ♠A and declarer ruffed in dummy and played the ♢K. East took the ace and exited with the jack, but now the ♠K could take care of the losing club. After winning the second diamond declarer crossed to hand, took the discard, ruffed a spade and played the ♡3. When East followed with the two, he put in the nine, continuing with the jack when it held. East won and returned the ♡10, but declarer could claim, +550 and 12 IMPs, giving ECF holdings a 37-1 win that took them to the top of the table.

Sunshine Bridge

by Mark Horton

One of the many tragedies resulting from the Covid curse is the demise of the most famous partnership in the world. This is one of the news items in the latest issue of Bridgerama US: Leading players and personalities are regular guests on the Bridge Partner Podcasts presented by Catherine Harris and Jocelyn Startz. Sorry, Partner (sorrypartner.com). In June Jeff Meckstroth featured in two episodes in which he talked about a wide range of bridge topics. In one of them he refers to Eric Rodwell as his former partner and says the partnership is over. If you want to discover Jeff's favourite tournaments and conventions and get an insight into bridge at the top, make sure you listen to the Podcasts!

That coincided with the publication of a terrific deal from the final match in the second Round-Robin of the 2021 USBC Open Championships between Levine and Henner, reported by Andrew Robson in his daily column in The Times.

Board 80. Dealer West. EW Vul.

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

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Passell	*Henner*	*Lair*	*Ivatury*
Pass	Pass	1♢	Dble
Pass	2♡	Pass	4♢
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

East led the ♣A and continued with the eight. Declarer won with dummy's king and ruffed a club with the ♡7, East's overruff holding him to eleven tricks, +450.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Zolotow	*Meckstroth*	*Tebha*	*Garner*
Pass	Pass	1♢*	Dble
Pass	2♡	Pass	4♢*
Pass	5♢*	Pass	6♡
All Pass			

4♢ Splinter
5♢ Cue

The bidding made it clear to East that her diamonds were paste, so rising star Anam Tebha found the devilish lead of the ♣8!

This is what Andrew wrote:

Meckstroth will have reasoned as follows: 'Where my play matters, East has led from the queen or ace of clubs. Would East really lead from the queen – much more likely to cost than gain?' Declarer will have reflected that if East had not led a club, he would have had to play East for the ace of clubs and lead towards the king.

Meckstroth went up with dummy's king and returned a club. East won and exited with the ♡2 and declarer won in dummy, cashed another heart, and claimed, +980 and 11 IMPs.

Levine won the match by a single IMP, 16-15 and secured the last of the eight qualifying places in the knock-out phase. If the contract had failed Henner would have been the team to advance.

OCBL MON-TUE SWISS

Swiss, Round 1

Levine	8.33 VPs 3 IMPs	11.67 VPs 7 IMPs	Fredin	
Goodman	6.88 VPs 12 IMPs	13.12 VPs 20 IMPs	Croatia U26	
Amoils	18.83 VPs 39 IMPs	1.17 VPs 6 IMPs	Croatia U31	
Nadel	14.68 VPs 25 IMPs	5.32 VPs 12 IMPs	Harris	
Nedev	18.37 VPs 38 IMPs	1.63 VPs 8 IMPs	Netbridge	
New Amateurs	10 VPs 10 IMPs	10 VPs 10 IMPs	ECF Holding	
Sandfia	16 VPs 19 IMPs	4 VPs 1 IMPs	Pigot	

Swiss, Round 2

Amoils	15.23 VPs 20 IMPs	4.77 VPs 5 IMPs	Nedev	
Sandfia	15.23 VPs 24 IMPs	4.77 VPs 9 IMPs	Nadel	
Croatia U26	8.33 VPs 8 IMPs	11.67 VPs 12 IMPs	Fredin	
ECF Holding	15.5 VPs 33 IMPs	4.5 VPs 17 IMPs	Levine	
New Amateurs	17.31 VPs 29 IMPs	2.69 VPs 5 IMPs	Goodman	
Harris	8.73 VPs 11 IMPs	11.27 VPs 14 IMPs	Pigot	
Netbridge	10 VPs 21 IMPs	10 VPs 21 IMPs	Croatia U31	

Swiss, Round 3

Amoils	19.11 VPs 36 IMPs	0.89 VPs 1 IMPs	Sandfia	
New Amateurs	16.23 VPs 19 IMPs	3.77 VPs 0 IMPs	Fredin	
ECF Holding	14.09 VPs 19 IMPs	5.91 VPs 8 IMPs	Nedev	
Croatia U26	10.44 VPs 21 IMPs	9.56 VPs 20 IMPs	Nadel	
Pigot	2.69 VPs 4 IMPs	17.31 VPs 28 IMPs	Levine	
Harris	2.13 VPs 11 IMPs	17.87 VPs 38 IMPs	Netbridge	
Croatia U31	1.79 VPs 7 IMPs	18.21 VPs 36 IMPs	Goodman	

Swiss, Round 4

Amoils	9.56 VPs 9 IMPs	10.44 VPs 10 IMPs	New Amateurs	
ECF Holding	11.67 VPs 20 IMPs	8.33 VPs 16 IMPs	Sandfia	
Croatia U26	12.77 VPs 23 IMPs	7.23 VPs 16 IMPs	Levine	
Netbridge	9.56 VPs 11 IMPs	10.44 VPs 12 IMPs	Nadel	
Nedev	7.58 VPs 10 IMPs	12.42 VPs 16 IMPs	Goodman	
Fredin	16.23 VPs 20 IMPs	3.77 VPs 1 IMPs	Pigot	
Harris	1.96 VPs 13 IMPs	18.04 VPs 41 IMPs	Croatia U31	

Swiss, Round 5

Amoils	0.76 VPs 1 IMPs	19.24 VPs 37 IMPs	ECF Holding	
New Amateurs	16.23 VPs 25 IMPs	3.77 VPs 6 IMPs	Croatia U26	
Fredin	10.86 VPs 10 IMPs	9.14 VPs 8 IMPs	Sandfia	
Goodman	13.12 VPs 25 IMPs	6.88 VPs 17 IMPs	Nadel	
Netbridge	1.17 VPs 0 IMPs	18.83 VPs 33 IMPs	Levine	
Nedev	19.5 VPs 38 IMPs	0.5 VPs 0 IMPs	Harris	
Croatia U31	7.58 VPs 6 IMPs	12.42 VPs 12 IMPs	Pigot	

Online
Contract
Bridge
League

OCBL SEPTEMBER CUP

13 - 15 September, 2022

12 Rounds x 10 Boards

Tuesday, 13 September
R1 - R4
CEST 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30
EDT 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Wednesday, 14 September
R5 - R8
CEST 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30
EDT 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Thursday, 15 September
R9 - R12, SF/F
CEST 16.00 - 17.30 - 19.00 - 20.30
EDT 10.00 - 11.30 - 13.00 - 14.30

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG