



A HAND FROM A THURSDAY NIGHT PRACTICE SESSION

D		N coolbeans		W N E S			
5		♠ K1062		1NT	P	P	P
		♥ 963		2♣	P	2NT	P
		♦ A107		3NT	P	P	P
		♣ 863					
W cman3NT		E focac90					
♠ AQ53		♠ 98					
♥ A104		♥ KJ5					
♦ K963		♦ J842					
♣ A10		♣ K952					
S kriegel							
♠ J74							
♥ Q872							
♦ Q5							
♣ QJ74							
				3NT W NS: 0 EW: 0			

A lot of IMPs were swung on this seemingly normal 3NT board played during a recent Thursday night Junior practice session.

On BridgeBase, ten tables played this hand in 3NT. A fourth-best spade was led at eight of the ten tables (after a 1NT-2NT-3NT auction). On a spade lead, declarer has a number of options that can lead to nine tricks. Four of the declarers guessed well and made their contract. Four others didn't guess so well, or misplayed and only took seven or eight tricks.

Look what happened to our snake-bitten declarer, Cole Spencer (CMAN3NT). Since a direct 2NT bid would not be a no-trump invitation, Cole's partner, Evan Berman (FOCAC90), was forced to use Stayman, despite his lack of a four-card major. Cole showed his spade suit and Evan invited with 2NT (he might or might not hold a four card heart suit on this auction). Now Matthew Weingarten (COOLBEANS), found the well-reasoned lead of the club eight to Oren Kriegel's jack and declarer's ace. At this point, perfect play combined with good guessing is needed to bring home the game. Declarer must start by leading a heart to dummy's king. At that point, it appears that a diamond to the nine is the most effective play. North wins the ten and plays a club ducked to South. South returns a spade. Declarer rises ace (disdaining the finesse) and plays the diamond king, smothering the queen. Now declarer has diamond entries to dummy and is able to take one spade, three hearts, two diamonds and three clubs while losing only two diamonds, one spade and one club.

Alas Cole did not guess so well. He played a heart to the jack at trick two, then mis-guessed the diamonds, and when the smoke cleared, the defenders took eight tricks.

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U-26 Qualifiers

Kaplan	Adam Kaplan, Capt Owen Lien Adam Grossack	Zachary Brescoll Marius Agica Zachary Grossack
Wang	Zhuo Wang, Capt Edmund Wu	Erli Zhou William Zhu
Herman	Gregory Herman, Capt Alex Hudson	Anam Tebha Drew Cavalier
Kaye	Jordan Kaye, Capt John Altman	Xu Wang Isaac Stephani

U-21 Qualifiers

Kriegel	Oren Kriegel, Capt Benjamin Kristensen	Christopher Huber Kevin Rosenberg
Harper	Brandon Harper, Capt Hakan Berk	Ryan Miller David Soukup
Dhir	Arjun Dhir, Capt Burke Snowden	Christian Jolly Allison Hunt
Weingarten	Matthew Weingarten, Capt Cole Spencer	Nolan Chang Evan Berman

Rona Qualifiers

Goyal	Rachna Goyal, Capt Mili Raina Asya Ladyzhensky	Alice Kaye Ruth Ng
Thapa	Isha Thapa, Capt Marianna Linz	Julie Arbit Rebecca Wernis



Lien A Grossack Z Grossack Agica Brescoll

Play Cards!

schedule of Play

U26 & U21 USA1 SemiFinals

Captains' Meeting in Playing Area at 10:15 AM

TUESDAY DECEMBER 31ST	10:30 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-12
	12:25 - 2:05	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 13 - 24 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK
	3:15 - 4:55	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 25 - 36
	5:10 - 6:50	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 37 - 48

U26, U21 & Rona USA1 Final & U26 & U21 USA2 SemiFinal

WEDNESDAY JAN 1ST	10:30 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-12
	12:25 - 2:05	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 13 - 24 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK
	3:15 - 4:55	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 25 - 36
	5:10 - 6:50	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 37 - 48

U26 & U21 USA2 & Rona Final (Rona plays Boards 49 - 96)

THURSDAY JAN 2ND	10:00 - 11:40	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-12
	11:55 - 1:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 13 - 24 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK
	2:45 - 4:25	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 25 - 36
	4:40 - 6:20	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 37 - 48

New Years Eve One Liners

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

My New Years resolution is 1080p.

My New Year's resolution is to stop hanging out with people who ask me about my New Year's resolutions.

I have only one resolution. To rediscover the difference between wants and needs. May I have all I need and want all I have. Happy New Year!

People treat New Year's like some sort of life-changing event. If your life sucked last year, it's probably still going to suck tomorrow.

I'll remember 2013 like it was yesterday

Dear Luck,can we be friends in 2014 Please?

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Sudoku

Happy New Year



9					1			
					3		8	1
1	8		5	9		4		7
	9	1				6		
	3		1		4		5	
		2				3	1	
3		6		1	7		4	5
8	7		6					
			2					3

This Training & Trials week is being held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, GA, starting about 4:00 PM on December 28, 2013 (Saturday) and ending about 6:00 PM on January 2, 2014 (Thursday).

USBF is paying a substantial portion of expenses for players participating in the in-person competition. Many thanks to ACBL and the **generous individual donors** who provided the funds necessary for this first-ever stand-alone Junior USBC and to donors of prizes to be distributed to the players. The Bridge World has generously donated 6 month subscriptions and copies of ALL IN THE GAME to each participant in the T&T Week. Larry Cohen, Eddie Kantar and others have donated books and CDs and BridgeWinners has donated hoodies to be distributed as prizes during the training portion of the event. Thank you all.

The T&T Week starts with 3 days of training and continues with 3 days of competition to select the 2014 World Championship teams. The competition will be shown on BBO Vugraph on Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 & 2. In person kibitzers are welcome also. If you live in the Atlanta area and are interested in helping us show more tables on Vugraph by being a Vugraph operator, please email Jan Martel.

Assisting with the T&T Week will be Debbie & Michael Rosenberg, without whose tireless efforts to organize the event this wouldn't be happening, mentors Marty Fleisher, Barry Goren, Karen McCallum, Jan & Chip Martel, Patty Tucker, Joe Stokes and Howie Weinstein, and ACBL Director Jay Bates. Many thanks to all of them for spending part of their holiday helping with this event. None of the mentors is being paid for his or her participation and we are very thankful to all of them for their help.

Answers to puzzle

3	9	7	8	4	2	9	1	5
2	6	1	5	3	6	4	7	8
5	4	8	9	1	7	6	2	3
4	1	3	9	8	7	2	5	6
9	5	2	4	6	1	8	3	7
8	7	9	2	5	3	1	9	4
7	2	4	6	9	5	3	8	1
6	3	8	1	2	7	4	9	5
9	4	7	8	2	1	5	3	6

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May all your troubles last as long as your New Year resolutions.

Every year I make a resolution to change myself..... this year making a resolution to be myself!

My New Years Resolution is to break my New Years Resolutions....That way I succeed at something!

New Year's is just a holiday created by calendar companies who don't want you reusing last year's calendar.

I'm actually feeling pretty okay about not accomplishing anything this year.

My 2014 resolution is for everyone else to gain the 50 pounds I refuse to lose.

What do you tell someone you didn't see at New Year's Eve?

I haven't seen you for a year!

New Years Resolutions You Have No Chance At Keeping

When I hear a funny joke I will not reply,
"LOL, LMAO, or ROTFLMAO!"

Start using Facebook for something other than
Farmville

Lose 20 pounds by going to the gym!

Spend less than five hour a day on the Internet.

Read the manual... just as soon as I can find it.

Lose weight by inventing an anti-gravity machine

Stop repeating myself again, and again, and again.

Think of a password other than "password"

PLAYER PROFILE:

Hello, my name is **Isaac Stephani**. I am 15 years old and live in Cincinnati Ohio. I started my bridge career by caddying District 11's many tournaments; every single time someone knocked over their bidding box accidentally, I wondered what all the different colored cards were that I was picking up. My dad has been playing bridge since I was little, and after the Cincinnati Flying Pig regional one year, I finally asked him if I could learn how to play.

Not soon after, my father started a bridge club at a local school and every Monday, John Altman would drive us down there, and after it was over we would go to the local bridge club and play the evening session. From there, bridge just got to be a larger and larger thing in my life. The first national I went to was in Philadelphia, in the 2012 summer nationals. There I met so many of the junior and youth players that have been slowly taking over my life the past year or so.

The largest accomplishment for me so far in my bridge career has probably been qualifying for the U26 Trials. A somewhat interesting story; John Altman and I didn't really know about the trials or the championships for a long time, and the day we got an email about it, I kind of pushed it aside and didn't really take note of it. A week or so before it began, other youth and junior players started messaging me about who my team was and everything, and then I kind of realized that it was a really cool opportunity. We couldn't find teammates for the U21 category, and our teammates, Jordan Kaye and Xu Wang, couldn't find teammates for the U26. So a few hours before the teams were required to be submitted, we entered as a team for the U26, with no one expecting us to do particularly well. But here I am.

In the bridge world, I am also a certified club director, and the District 11 youth coordinator, as I believe bridge is a great game, and it is always nice to see other bridge players who are as young as I am!



FROM THE JULY TRAINING PROGRAM



Happy New Year!!