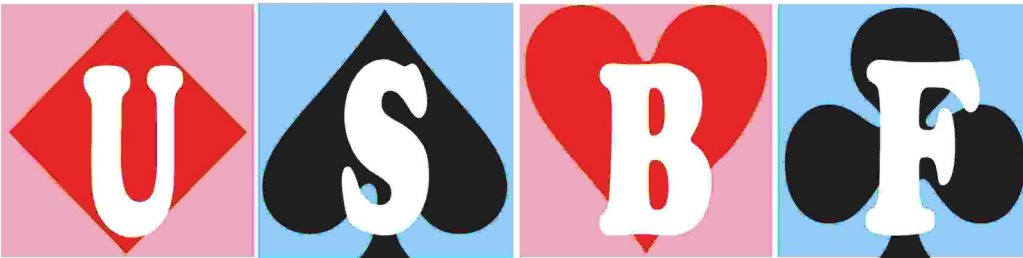


**Homewords Bound ... USBF Online Invitational Tournament**



Volume 14, Issue 1  
May 30, 2020



**The Prez Says ...**

Welcome to the First Ever 2020 USBF Invitational 1 Online Tournament. We are excited to present this event... entirely online for spectators' and players' enjoyment during this pandemic lockdown. 12 top United States teams are set to compete.

There will be 4 stages: a 2 day Round Robin on Saturday & Sunday and one day Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final KO matches on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday.

Team Nickell (Nickell, Katz, Levin, Weinstein, Rodwell and Meckstroth) and team Spector (Spector, Kranyak, Wolpert, Hurd, Demuy, and Wooldridge) have byes to the Round of 8.

For the Quarterfinal, Nickell will be assigned bracket position 1; Spector will be assigned bracket position 2; the Round Robin winner will be assigned bracket position 3 and have the right to choose its Quarterfinal opponent from the teams that finished 4th through 6th in the Round Robin. The teams that finished second & third may make themselves available to be chosen. If they were not chosen by the Round Robin winner, the 2nd and 3rd place Round Robin teams will be randomly assigned bracket positions 4 and 5, and the remaining Round Robin teams will be randomly assigned bracket positions 7 & 8.

The event will be "open notes" - players may consult their notes during bidding and play. If a table exceeds the allotted time for a RR match or KO segment and one of the players has spent a significant amount of time consulting his or her notes, that player's team will be deemed at fault for the tardiness.

Undo's may be requested for misclicks. The request must be made before the partner of the player who is asking for the undo has acted. The opponents must allow the undo.

Online play presents its own challenges. The USBF extends its gratitude to BBO for providing a venue for bridge to thrive during this difficult time. While the USBF Board and the tournament organizers do their best to make our events the fairest Competitions year after year, maintaining this standard is your responsibility as players. We count on you to uphold the high ideals of ethics, camaraderie and sportsmanship for which United States bridge is known worldwide.

I know I will do my part to uphold these standards. Please keep this in mind as you participate in this event.

Good luck everyone!

Let the games begin!

Brad Moss, USBF President

**USBF President**

Brad Moss

**USBF Vice President**

Kate Aker

**USBF COO & Secretary**

Jan Martel

**USBF CFO**

Stan Subeck

**Directors - USBC**

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Suzi Subeck, Chairman

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Kerri Sanborn

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**VuGraph Organizer**

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Suzi Subeck

**Photographer**

Peg Kaplan

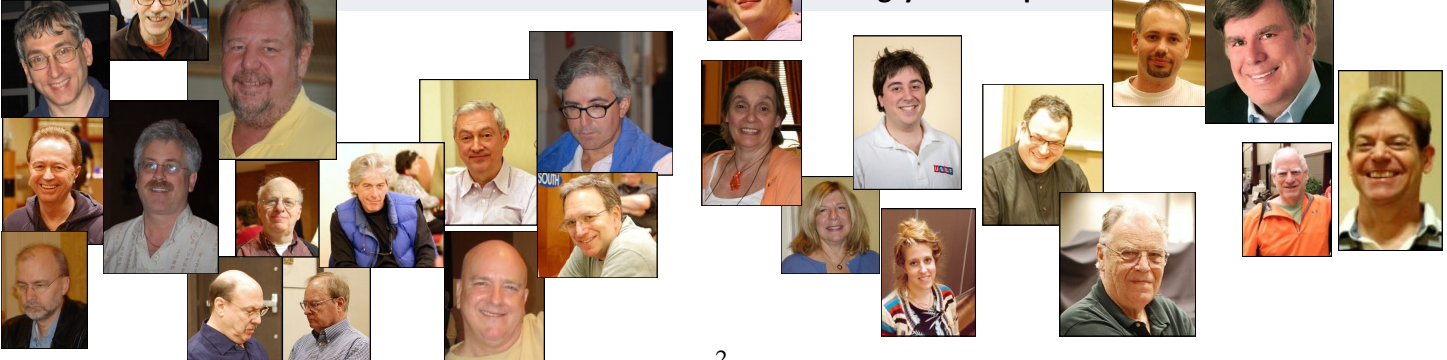
**Special  
Pandemic  
Competition**

# Teams Entered...

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS—PRE-BULLETIN

There are 12 teams entered. Following the two teams with byes, entries are listed in alphabetical order.

<b>Nickell</b> Bye to Rnd of 8	<b>Frank Nickell, Capt</b> <b>Bobby Levin</b> <b>Jeff Meckstroth</b>	<b>Ralph Katz</b> <b>Steve Weinstein</b> <b>Eric Rodwell</b>
<b>Spector</b> Bye to Rnd of 8	<b>Warren Spector, Capt</b> <b>John Kranyak</b> <b>John Hurd</b>	<b>Gavin Wolpert</b> <b>Vincent Demuy</b> <b>Joel Wooldridge</b>
<b>Dinkin</b>	<b>Sam Dinkin, Capt</b> <b>Finn Kolesnik</b> <b>Lynn Baker</b>	<b>Michael Shuster</b> <b>Michael Xu</b> <b>Karen McCallum</b>
<b>Donner</b>	<b>Gary Donner, Capt</b> <b>Rachael Moller</b> <b>Rose Meltzer</b>	<b>Yoko Sobel</b> <b>David Gurvich</b> <b>Wayne Stuart</b>
<b>Fleisher</b>	<b>Martin Fleisher, Capt</b> <b>Joe Grue</b> <b>Geoff Hampson</b>	<b>Chip Martel</b> <b>Brad Moss</b> <b>Roger Lee</b>
<b>Gupta</b>	<b>Naren Gupta, Capt</b> <b>Curtis Cheek</b>	<b>Huub Bertens</b> <b>Daniel Korbel</b>
<b>Lebowitz</b>	<b>Laurence Lebowitz, Capt</b> <b>Zachary Grossack</b> <b>Kevin Rosenberg</b>	<b>Adam Grossack</b> <b>Michael Rosenberg</b> <b>Zia Mahmood</b>
<b>Levine</b>	<b>Michael Levine</b> <b>Mike Passell</b> <b>John Diamond</b> <b>Robert Morris, NPC</b>	<b>Eddie Wold</b> <b>Marc Jacobus</b> <b>Brian Platnick</b>
<b>Moss</b>	<b>Sylvia Moss, Capt</b> <b>Justin Lall</b> <b>Kevin Dwyer</b>	<b>Ishmael Delmonte</b> <b>Kevin Bathurst</b> <b>Shan Huang</b>
<b>Reynolds</b>	<b>W. Thomas Reynolds, Capt</b> <b>William Hall</b> <b>George Jacobs</b>	<b>Lance Kerr</b> <b>John Jones</b> <b>Claude Vogel</b>
<b>Robinson</b>	<b>Steve Robinson, Capt</b> <b>Kit Woolsey</b>	<b>Peter Boyd</b> <b>Bart Bramley</b>
<b>Rosenthal</b>	<b>Andrew Rosenthal, Capt</b> <b>Chris Willenken</b> <b>David Berkowitz</b>	<b>Aaron Silverstein</b> <b>Eldad Ginossar</b> <b>Migry Zur Campanile</b>



# Tournament Schedule

ROUND ROBIN			
DAY	DATE	TIME - EDT	BOARDS
SATURDAY	MAY 30	2:00 PM	PLAYERS' MEETING WITH DIC (ON ZOOM)
SATURDAY	MAY 30	2:10 - 3:30	MATCH 1 - BOARDS 1-11
		3:40 - 5:00	MATCH 2 - BOARDS 12-22
		5:40 - 7:00	BREAK
		7:10 - 8:30	MATCH 3 - BOARDS 23-33 MATCH 4 - BOARDS 34-44
SUNDAY	MAY 31	2:00 - 3:20	MATCH 5 - BOARDS 45-55
		3:30 - 4:50	MATCH 6 - BOARDS 56-66
		5:00 - 6:20	MATCH 7 - BOARDS 67-77
		7:00 - 8:20	BREAK
		8:30 - 9:50	MATCH 8 - BOARDS 78-88 MATCH 9 - BOARDS 89-99
QUARTERFINAL			
MONDAY	JUNE 1	3:45 PM	CAPTAINS' MEETING (ZOOM)
MONDAY	JUNE 1	4:00 - 5:45	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-14
		5:50 - 7:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 15-28
		8:05 - 9:50	BREAK
		9:55 - 11:40	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 29-42 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 43-56
SEMIFINAL			
TUESDAY	JUNE 2	4:00 - 5:45	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-14
		5:50 - 7:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 15-28
		8:05 - 9:50	BREAK
		9:55 - 11:40	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 29-42 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 43-56
FINAL			
WEDNESDAY	JUNE 3	4:00 - 5:45	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-14
		5:50 - 7:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 15-28
		8:05 - 9:50	BREAK
		9:55 - 11:40	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 29-42 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 43-56



**Amazon: Your package will be delivered Wednesday**  
**Me: When is that?**

**Due to the Quarantine, These newsletters will only be featuring inside jokes**

# USBF 11 Board victory Point Scale

11 Boards (Blitz is 50 IMPs)								
Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10.00	10.00	18	15.33	4.67	36	18.49	1.51
1	10.37	9.63	19	15.55	4.45	37	18.62	1.38
2	10.74	9.26	20	15.76	4.24	38	18.75	1.25
3	11.09	8.91	21	15.97	4.03	39	18.87	1.13
4	11.43	8.57	22	16.18	3.82	40	18.99	1.01
5	11.77	8.23	23	16.38	3.62	41	19.11	0.89
6	12.09	7.91	24	16.57	3.43	42	19.22	0.78
7	12.41	7.59	25	16.75	3.25	43	19.33	0.67
8	12.71	7.29	26	16.93	3.07	44	19.44	0.56
9	13.01	6.99	27	17.11	2.89	45	19.54	0.46
10	13.30	6.70	28	17.28	2.72	46	19.64	0.36
11	13.58	6.42	29	17.45	2.55	47	19.74	0.26
12	13.85	6.15	30	17.61	2.39	48	19.84	0.16
13	14.11	5.89	31	17.77	2.23	49	19.93	0.07
14	14.37	5.63	32	17.92	2.08	50	20.00	0.00
15	14.62	5.38	33	18.07	1.93			
16	14.86	5.14	34	18.21	1.79			
17	15.10	4.90	35	18.35	1.65			

## Vugraph... Special "PANDEMIC" instructions...

The **2020 USBF Invitational 1** will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting with the Quarterfinals. All of the matches will be listed in the BBO Vugraph Theatre.

To watch the Vugraph online, go to the **BBO website**, log on to BBO, go to "Vugraph" and choose which match to watch. To watch on your smartphone or tablet, install the BBO app and watch using that.

The tables listed in the Vugraph Theatre are not real Vugraph tables, just links to actual tables on BBO where the players are playing. What you will see once you click on a "Vugraph" table is the same thing you would see if you got to the BBO table by searching for your favorite player and clicking on "join" on his or her profile. This means that some things are different from a normal Vugraph table:

1. We aren't able to load a starting score for segments after the first one. Instead, we will be putting the score from previous quarters in the Vugraph Theatre list, and will put (+##) after the name of the leading team in the score box to show how much that team was ahead at the start of the session. You will be able to determine the "real" running score by adding the score shown in the score box to the score after the +.
2. We do not have to have both tables "on Vugraph" to let you choose which table to watch. We only have 4 special Vugraph operators who can set up the links from the Vugraph Theatre to the tables in play. So for the Quarterfinal we will list one table from each match. To get to the other table, click on the blue "hamburger" menu in the upper right of the screen where the hands are shown and select "Other Table."
3. The names you see are the players' BBO names, but all of them will have their real names in the profile you can get by clicking on their name.
4. We will not have the usual pop ups with player pictures and links to convention cards. Instead, each pair has prepared a BBO convention card with links to the pair's USBF System Summary Form and either filled in the BBO convention card or provided a link to an electronic convention card. You can get to the BBO convention card using the hamburger menu, and to the linked system information by selecting the appropriate URL and either copying it and pasting it into a new tab or window, or right-clicking on it and going to it in a new tab or window (the links are not clickable).

There will often be a "yellow" user on BBO called USBF. If you have general questions, please ask USBF, although she will also be dealing with tournament issues and may not respond promptly.

Each day's schedule is the same (these are Eastern US times; to see the times for your time-zone, go to the **BBO Vugraph schedule site**)

4:00-5:45  
5:50-7:35  
8:05-9:50  
9:55-11:40

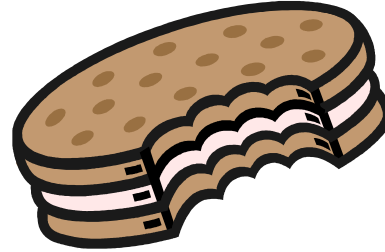
All of the teams will play the same boards throughout the event.



## Some Suggestions For Your Nearby Dining Pleasure (Home?) Pandemic Pleasures...

### DoubleTree Signature Cookie Recipe *Makes 26 cookies*

½ pound butter, softened (2 sticks)  
¾ cup + 1 tablespoon granulated sugar  
¾ cup packed light brown sugar  
2 large eggs  
1 ¼ teaspoons vanilla extract  
¼ teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice  
2 ¼ cups flour  
1/2 cup rolled oats  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon salt  
Pinch cinnamon  
2 2/3 cups Nestle Tollhouse semi-sweet chocolate chips  
1 3/4 cups chopped walnuts



**Cream butter, sugar and brown sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer on medium speed for about 2 minutes.**

**Add eggs, vanilla and lemon juice, blending with mixer on low speed for 30 seconds, then medium speed for about 2 minutes, or until light and fluffy, scraping down bowl.**

**With mixer on low speed, add flour, oats, baking soda, salt and cinnamon, blending for about 45 seconds. Don't overmix.**

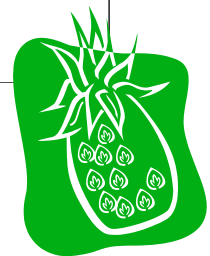
**Remove bowl from mixer and stir in chocolate chips and walnuts.**

**Portion dough with a scoop (about 3 tablespoons) onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper about 2 inches apart.**

**Preheat oven to 300°F. Bake for 20 to 23 minutes, or until edges are golden brown and center is still soft.**

**Remove from oven and cool on baking sheet for about 1 hour.**

**Cook's note: You can freeze the unbaked cookies, and there's no need to thaw. Preheat oven to 300°F and place frozen cookies on parchment paper-lined baking sheet about 2 inches apart. Bake until edges are golden brown and center is still soft.**



## Pineapple Whip...

For one serving, blend together 1 scoop of ice cream (we're assuming vanilla), 4 oz. pineapple juice, and 2 cups frozen pineapple chunks in a blender until smooth, then recreate the iconic swirl. Voila!  
Pineapple Dole Whip in a pinch.

*(Continued on page 9)*



## GRILLED THREE-CHEESE SANDWICH

From Woody's Lunch Box  
at Disney's Hollywood Studios

### INGREDIENTS

SERVES 4

#### Cream Cheese Spread

- 1/2 cup cream cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded Double Gloucester or cheddar
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse salt

#### Garlic Spread

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse salt

#### Grilled Three-Cheese Sandwich

- 8 slices of artisan bread
- 8 cheddar cheese slices
- 8 provolone slices

### DIRECTIONS

#### For Cream Cheese Spread

Combine cream cheese, Double Gloucester or cheddar, heavy cream, and salt in food processor. Blend until smooth. Set aside.

#### For Garlic Spread

Combine mayonnaise, garlic, and salt in small bowl and stir until blended. Set aside.

#### For Grilled Three-Cheese Sandwich

1. Lay out artisan bread slices on parchment paper or large cutting board.
2. Place 2 slices of cheddar on 4 of the bread slices. Place 2 slices of provolone on remaining bread slices.
3. Equally spoon cream cheese spread on slices with provolone. Gently smooth cream cheese spread over each slice.
4. Press cheddar side and provolone side together.
5. Heat a large skillet over medium heat for 5 minutes, until hot.
6. Brush both sides of the sandwiches with garlic spread.
7. Grill sandwiches for 2 minutes on each side, until cheese is melted and bread is golden brown.

How does NASA organize a company party? They planet.

“Employee of the month is a good example of how somebody can be both a winner and a loser at the same time.” – Demetri Martin

I found a job helping a one-armed typist type capital letters. It’s shift work.

As a scarecrow, people say I’m outstanding in my field. But hay, it’s in my jeans.

Teamwork is important; it helps to put the blame on someone else.

I cannot believe I just got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take one day off.

I was a bookkeeper for 10 years. The local library wasn't too happy about it.

A conference call is the best way for a dozen people to say “bye” 300 times.

## CANADIAN CHEDDAR CHEESE SOUP

From Le Cellier Steakhouse at EPCOT®



### INGREDIENTS

SERVES 10

- 1/2 pound of bacon, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 medium red onion, cut into 1/4-inch pieces
- 3 celery ribs, cut into 1/4-inch pieces
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 4 cups milk
- 1 pound white cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 tablespoon Tabasco sauce
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- Coarse salt, freshly ground pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup warm Canadian golden lager or any pale lager-style beer
- Chopped scallions or chives, for garnish

### DIRECTIONS

1. In a 4- or 5-quart Dutch oven, cook bacon, stirring, over medium heat for about 5 minutes, or until lightly browned.
2. Add red onion, celery, and butter and sauté until the onion has softened, about 5 minutes.
3. Add flour and cook, stirring constantly, for about 4 minutes over medium heat. Whisk in chicken stock and bring to a boil for 1 minute. Reduce heat to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Add milk and continue to simmer for 15 minutes. Do not boil after milk is added.
5. Remove from heat and add cheese, Tabasco sauce, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and pepper. Blend with immersion blender until cheese is melted and soup is smooth. Stir in warm beer. If the soup is too thick, thin with some warm milk.
6. Serve the soup hot, garnished with chopped scallions or chives.

An oxygen atom runs into his old friend, the hydrogen atom, on the street one day.

“How you doing?” asks the oxygen atom.

“Not well actually,” the hydrogen atom replies, “I lost an electron.”

The oxygen atom looks alarmed.

“Are you sure?”

“Yeah,” the hydrogen atom sighs. “I’m positive!”

(Continued on page 7)



## Chocolate, Peanut Butter, Banana French Toast

from Disney's PCH Grill  
at Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel



### PLAYING IN HEARTS!!

How many brain cells  
Do you think I'm burning  
While weighing the odds  
And being discerning?

### INGREDIENTS

**SERVES 4**

- 8 thick slices day-old challah bread
- 2 ripe bananas
- 1/4 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 6 eggs, lightly beaten
- 3/4 cup low-fat chocolate milk
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Chocolate syrup and powdered sugar, optional

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat a 9x13x2-inch baking pan with nonstick spray. Set aside.
2. Cut bread into 1-inch cubes and place in a large bowl. Slice bananas into 1/2-inch slices, and add to bowl. Stir in chocolate chips.
3. Combine peanut butter, eggs, chocolate milk, cinnamon, and salt in a blender. Process until smooth.
4. Pour egg mixture over bread mixture. Stir gently until bread cubes have absorbed egg mixture.
5. Pour mixture into prepared baking pan. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until top is golden brown.
6. Before serving, drizzle with chocolate syrup and dust with powdered sugar, if desired.

### CHEF'S NOTES

Challah is traditional Jewish yeast bread, rich with eggs, sweetened with honey that makes the best French toast.

*(continued on page 11)*

## TONGA TOAST

at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort



### INGREDIENTS

**SERVES 4**

#### SUGAR-CINNAMON

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon

#### BATTER

- 4 large eggs
- 1 1/3 cup whole milk
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar

#### TONGA TOAST

- 1 quart canola oil, for frying
- 1 loaf sourdough bread (uncut, 12 inches long)
- 2 large bananas, peeled

### DIRECTIONS

#### FOR SUGAR-CINNAMON:

Mix sugar and cinnamon in medium bowl (large enough to roll toast) with a fork until thoroughly blended. Set aside.

#### FOR BATTER:

Whip eggs in medium bowl (large enough to dip toast) until well beaten. Add milk, cinnamon, and sugar. Mix well and set aside.

#### FOR TONGA TOAST:

1. Using caution, preheat oil to 350°F in a large pot or a deep fryer. (If using a large pot, use a candy thermometer to make certain the oil does not get any hotter or it will burn.)
2. Slice the bread into four three-inch-thick slices.
3. Cut each banana in half crosswise, then each piece lengthwise.
4. Place a bread slice flat on the counter and tear out just enough from the middle (do not tear all the way through) to stuff half a banana into; repeat with each bread slice.
5. Dip stuffed bread into batter, covering both sides, allowing excess batter to drip off bread and place carefully into hot oil.
6. Cook 4-5 minutes until golden brown. If needed, turn toast over after 2 minutes and cook for another 2 minutes on other side. Remove and drain excess oil.
7. Roll toast in cinnamon-sugar. Repeat for each piece of toast.

## Kibitzer Activities:

Normally we would feature baseball happenings, golf courses, and shopping centers here. For this event, we are suggesting you consult your local restaurants and shopping venues for curb-side pick-up and delivery! If you choose outdoor dining where available or beaches where open, please remember to socially distance and bring your mobile device and wi-fi to be able to watch the matches while enjoying the beautiful outdoors!



And as Sadie Shopper will tell you, online shopping is available in your area (wherever that is) 24 hours a day for your enjoyment.

We recommend you stock up on popcorn and snacks, put your feet on your desk and enjoy the matches.



# Sudoku

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

Sudoku 1

Sudoku 2

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

## Answers to Puzzle on Page 15:

### Online Ethics -

We're not trying to provide security for this event, as we do when we sometimes have "real" events online. However, the provisions of the USBF General Conditions of Contest regarding ethical obligations and possible penalties still apply to this event. If an expert committee is convinced that any player covertly communicated with his/her partner or unethically obtained information about any other player's hand, the player will be subject to discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion from the USBF.

Hallo Yanks:

Haven't we all been through enough of this cheeky pandemic. We need some bridge played to chuff us all up.

Limey Jack is here for you yet again to make you a few bob with your local punter. Limey Jack has the inside track to all the tilts while Howie Dung sits across the pond pontificating like your Agony Aunt, all whilst waiting for a Lorry to barrel him over.

In the round robin, six teams will have the honour of joining Nickell and Spector in the quarter finals.

Dinkin: Even though they have but one solid partnership, their methods harken back to Cassius Clay and the Rope-a-dope. They will confuse their opponents more than each other to move on.

Donner: Howie Dung will attempt to rhyme Donner with Goner but will fail miserably. However, the Dungmeister is correct that they fail to claw ahead.

Fleisher: Has Greco been conscripted into the Colonial Army? While a new partnership is fraught with peril, this team may lead the field.

Gupta: Limey Jack dislikes four handed squads unless the beloved Zia is one of them. Gupta misses out on the later fun.

Lebowitz: Having only brought hand luggage, these chaps carry on due to Zia He is the Robin Hood of this event.

Levine: All fine players but this squad pulls a Robinson and leaves prior to their due.

Moss: The Damsel takes a shot at the Open prize and brings in a shopping trolley full of talent, but will it be enough to kindle. For now they will play through.

Reynolds: A strange assortment as ever, but barely enough to fit through the gap.

Robinson: For some reason, Robinson hits a sleeping policeman (Ed Note: a speed bump) year after year. On paper they look diligent but this foursquare is accursed.

Rosenthal: Carrying the water for now, but the maths indicate that they will be made redundant in the near doings.

Limey Jack will be with you each step and keep you straightened. Beware the Dung.

Cheers, LJ

# Limey Jack

Out the Round Robin, six will prevail.  
Two will be joining while four teams will fail.

Fleisher less Greco... How good can that be?  
Pass the Prosecco. Toast Hampson and Lee.

Sobel is noble but Donner is through.  
He will be viewing with me and with you.

Gupta, Bertens, Cheek and Korbel,  
Playing just four will not serve them well.

One NPC who's on team Levine.  
How will that function with matches online?

Brother and brother and father and son,  
Playing with Zia is second to none!

Rosenthal stays ... Reynolds has trouble...  
Tom's busy with teams and his team's on the bubble.

Moss has a squad that's got what it takes  
When bidding aggressively, everything makes!

Robinson's "oldies" are all Hall of Fame.  
The comfort of home should be good for their game!

Dinkin is sinkin'; Donner is done.  
Lebowitz ends up as team number ONE!

Moss takes a loss and Gupta will dive.  
The rest of the teams for this round will survive!

Nickell and Spector will join in the fray.  
"See" you online enjoying the play!

**Howie Doing...**

Howie... Doing!!

# Fun and Games Page

## Spring

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell a message about Spring.

T L E M W O N S S S A R G L A  
 G C Y C L A M E N S A L I L P  
 G N G R O W T H R L L L L R S  
 O Y I I D L S A R A I E S N N  
 L A L N K A I E B E R R O H E  
 F M L O A N F E S G M I P W W  
 E N A E E E S F I U L R R A L  
 I O B Q R A L E O E C S A B E  
 R S T U B E S C D D F O S W A  
 I A F I G R N N G L I N R H V  
 S E O N N R A E O N I L C C E  
 E S S O I D E W W B I R S B S  
 S I N X R G E E O A A R M E G  
 A Y F L P R O R N M L W P E O  
 E T E W S S P I L U T R S S R  
 R E T S A E P L A N T I N G F

ALLERGIES  
 APRIL  
 BASEBALL  
 BEES  
 CROCUSES  
 CYCLAMENS  
 DAFFODILS  
 DANDELIONS  
 EASTER  
 EQUINOX  
 FLOWERS

FROGS  
 GOLF  
 GRASS  
 GREEN  
 GROWTH  
 IRISES  
 LILIES  
 MARCH  
 MAY  
 NEW LEAVES  
 PLANTING

RAIN  
 RENEWAL  
 ROBINS  
 SEASON  
 SNOWMELT  
 SOFTBALL  
 SPRING BREAK  
 SPRING CLEANING  
 TULIPS  
 WARMER  
 WET



Supporting Bridge  
 Is always right!  
 Keep the future  
 In your sight!

When things again  
 Return to stable  
 I'll see you  
 Back at the table!

# Word Find Puzzle



If I were you,  
 I'd really  
 think...  
 You ruff my  
 ace,  
 You really  
 stink!

# Logic Puzzle ...

	blueberry	cheddar	onion	sesame	wheat	butter	cream cheese	egg & bacon	peanut butter	plain	Amaretto	Columbian	French vanilla	hazelnut	regular	large	medium	medium	small	small
Brad																				
Carlos																				
Joe																				
Rick																				
Walt																				
large																				
medium																				
medium																				
small																				
small																				
Amaretto																				
Columbian																				
French vanilla																				
hazelnut																				
regular																				
butter																				
cream cheese																				
egg & bacon																				
peanut butter																				
plain																				

Bagel Alley, the local bagel shop, was always a location of furious activity during the morning commute as people stopped by to get their coffee and bagel on the way to work. Fresh made on site each morning, the bagels were highly popular and the fact that the shop also had great coffee was like icing on the cake! The people who worked at Bagel Alley were cheerful and friendly, as well as competent, so despite the large volume of customers, the wait was never long or unpleasant. Joe and four of his coworkers stopped by this morning to see what everyone was raving about and were pleasantly surprised to find that the shop lived up to its reputation. Determine the name of each coworker, what kind of bagel with its topping, and what flavor and size of coffee (small, medium, or large) each ordered.

- Brad got his bagel, which wasn't wheat, with nothing on it. Walt ordered a small coffee.
- The two coworkers who got medium sized coffees were the one who got the hazelnut flavor and the one who got his bagel with peanut butter.
- The one who got the onion bagel, but not with butter, also got a French vanilla coffee, but not the small size.
- The five coworkers were Joe, the one who got a large coffee, the one who got Amaretto flavored coffee, the one who got a wheat bagel, and the one who got egg & bacon on his bagel.
- Rick didn't order the blueberry bagel but he did get Columbian coffee. The Amaretto coffee was ordered with the cheddar bagel but not by Walt.
- The cream cheese did not come with the blueberry bagel but it did come with a large coffee. The sesame bagel came with butter but Carlos didn't order it.

Name	Type of Bagel	Bagel Topping	Coffee Flavor	Coffee Size
Brad				
Carlos				
Joe				
Rick				
Walt				

-----	blueberry	butter	Amaretto	large
-----	cheddar	cream cheese	Columbian	medium
-----	onion	egg & bacon	French vanilla	medium
-----	sesame	peanut butter	hazelnut	small
-----	wheat	plain	regular	small

## Answer to Puzzle

Name	Type of Bagel	Bagel Topping	Coffee Flavor	Coffee Size
Brad	cheddar	plain	Amaretto	small
Carlos	onion	cream cheese	French vanilla	large
Joe	sesame	butter	hazelnut	medium
Rick	wheat	peanut butter	Columbian	medium
Walt	blueberry	egg & bacon	regular	small



**Kevin Dwyer** started to play bridge at 14 when his brother finished reading all the poker books in the local library and picked up a bridge book from the shelf nearby.

At first, Kevin wasn't interested in playing bridge.

His brother kept egging him on by saying things like "You know I'm gonna beat you." Kevin's competitiveness prevailed and he started playing bridge at the club with his brother. He found the game intriguing and stuck with it.

He rapidly became a successful professional player. In his early years, he partnered Owen Lien. Later, he played on several winning teams with Kimberly Whipple and some of her friends.

Kevin has at least five NABC+ wins, beginning with the NAP Flight A in 2013.

At just 25 years old, **Justin Lall** had a 15 year long bridge career with fantastic results. A prodigy, by age 12 Justin had won 3 Flight A regionals and become a life master.

By age 15 Justin was being mentored heavily by then #1 player Bob Hamman and Justin's father, Hemant Lall ... (A five-time national champion in his own right).

Justin started playing professionally, and at age 20 he moved from Dallas to New York. Justin has a wealth of experience playing at the highest levels as well as teaching players of all levels. His passion for bridge is clearly shown every time he plays.

At age 24, Justin was the youngest player on the youngest team ever to win the USBF Open Team Trials.

In the Bermuda Bowl, he won the silver medal, being the youngest player on the youngest team by average age. He now has six NABC+ wins, beginning with the GNT Championship Flight in 2006.



## Meet the Players

# Nickell v Mikadinho

## Wednesday, May 27

### Online Practice

bumport:	Zanna9	jjmeck	septiemt
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dbl	2♣	2♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Bumportant = Rodwell=West  
 JJmeck= Meckstroth=East  
 Zanna=Zanasi=North  
 Septiembre=Madala=South

Naninga=Lucena  
 Luchi200=Rizzo  
 Fnickell=Nickell  
 Ralphk=Katz

Meckstroth and Rodwell did well to bid the cold 6H slam after Madala opened extremely light in third seat. Rodwell likely smelled a rat since he was looking at 22HCP AND five diamonds!

When Meckstroth came in freely with 2S in response to the takeout double, it was even more likely that Madala had stretched to open.

naninga	fnickell	luchi200	ralphk
	Pass	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Dbl	4♦	Dbl
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Madala, on lead against East, led the DK. Meckstroth won with the ace, played the ace and queen of spades and ruffed a diamond to his hand. He cashed the SK, shedding the CT from dummy. He crossed to the CA and cross-ruffed for 13 tricks. +1010.

At the other table, Katz passed in third seat. Rizzo opened 2NT on his 22HCP. Lucena bid puppet Stayman and Rizzo showed at least one four card major. Lucena showed 5S and 4H with his 3S bid. Rizzo's 4C cue was doubled by Nickell and Lucena's 4D cue was doubled by Katz. Rizzo bid 4H and Lucena happily passed on his five count.

Nickell, on lead against West, led the D5. Rizzo won, pulled two rounds of trump and cashed the ace and queen of spades. He pulled trump. He claimed 12 tricks. +480

11 IMPs to Nickell

Light third seat openers have become so commonplace, their effectiveness has diminished. It is still intriguing when opening ahead of the "big" hand results in the opponents bidding slam... and passing ahead of the "big" hand results in the opps bidding game.

Nickell and Katz's doubles of the cue bids put just enough doubt in the opponents' minds to keep them out of slam.

Go USA!

# Puzzle Answers:

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

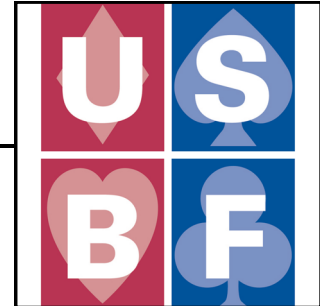
## Sudoku

on page 9

Puzzle 1 on left

Puzzle 2 on right

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



## USBF Supporting Membership

If you don't want to play in the USBF Championships that choose teams to represent the USA in the World Bridge Federation Championships, but do want to aid our events, a **Supporting Membership** can be the perfect way for you to be involved. As a Supporting Member, you are eligible to:

1. Enter the fantasy brackets, run on Bridge Winners, for the USBF trials choosing our Open and Senior teams for the World Championships. The highest-ranking Supporting Member in the fantasy brackets for each of these two events will win the prize of your choice - either an online match against the USBC winners or dinner with them at the next NABC.
2. Receive daily emails during the USBF Championships. These will summarize the previous day's results and provide vugraph information and links to daily bulletins containing pictures and commentary on individual hands.
3. Upon advanced request, make arrangements for you to kibitz a USBF member of your choice for a session once each year – either at an NABC or the USBF Championships.
4. Upon advanced request, we will arrange for you to be one of the vugraph commentators for one session of the team trials.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years) and the ACBL now offers you the chance to become an USBF Supporting Member when you renew your ACBL membership. If you don't want to wait that long, you can join by choosing the red Donate Now button on the USBF website. Your donation will be used to cover inevitable expenses: attorney fees, accounting fees, website support services, tournament directors, insurance, WBF dues, and vugraph operators. The USBF is an all-volunteer organization. Our meetings are by conference call and at NABCS. Board members and the organization's officers are not compensated for meetings, travel, or hotel expenses.

We hope you will join us.

An Englishman, Frenchman, Spaniard, and German are all trying to watch a street performer juggle knives. Unfortunately, it's such a busy day in the city, there are too many other people around to see clearly. Luckily, the juggler notices their plight and decides to climb onto a higher platform so the four men can see. As he balances a knife on his nose, he asks, "Can you see me now?" The four men reply one after the other, "Yes!" "Oui!" "Si!" "Ja!"

Three dinosaurs come across a magical lamp. The first dinosaur rubs it and a genie appears. "I have three wishes. One for each of you," the genie says. The first dinosaur doesn't hesitate before his request "All right, I'll have a big, juicy piece of meat." Immediately, a big, juicy piece of meat appears in front of him. Instantly envious, the second dinosaur speaks up. "Well, I want a shower of meat!" As soon as he utters his wish, a shower of meat rains down upon him. The third dinosaur, not to be outdone, has to think for a second about what could possibly be better than a shower of meat. "Aha, I've got it!" he proclaims. "I'll have a meatier shower!"

A frog decides to visit a fortune teller to find out if he'll ever find his princess. The fortune teller reads his palm and after a few brief moments of contemplation, begins her reading. "I have good news and I have bad news. Which would you like to hear first?" The frog, anxious for the possibility of true love, chooses the good news first. "You are going to meet the most beautiful girl," the fortune teller says. "She's going to be very interested in you and will know everything there is to know about you. You'll open up to her and give her your heart." Pleased, the frog then cautiously asks for the so-called bad news. To this, the fortune teller replies, "You'll meet her in a Biology class."



Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? There's great food, but no atmosphere.

What do you call a fake noodle? An impasta.

How many apples grow on a tree? All of them.

A duck walks into a bar and asks the bartender, "Do you have duck food here?" The bartender says no and the duck leaves. The next day, the same thing happens. The duck wanders in and asks, "Do you have any duck food?" Once again, the nonplussed bartender says no and the duck leaves. On the third day, the duck enters the bar and the bartender asks, "What do you want this time?" The duck asks once more, "Do you have any duck food?" "No!" yells the bartender. "We don't have any duck food. If you come back and ask me again, I'll nail your feet to the floor!" The duck leaves and comes back the next day and asks, "Do you have any nails?" The bartender says, "No." The duck then asks, "Do you have any duck food?"

A curious mom uses her new iPhone to text her daughter to ask a very important question. The text reads: What does IDK, ILY, TTYL mean? Before long, the daughter texts back, "I don't know. I love you. Talk to you later" to which the mom responds, "It's okay. Don't worry about it, I'll ask your brother. Love you, too."



# Laughter is the Best Medicine!



## 2020 USBCs CANCELLED

Although the WBF has not scheduled the 2021 World Championship, they have announced that there will be only one World Championship in 2021. It will be held in the late summer in Salsomaggiore, Italy. The USBF Board has therefore cancelled the scheduled 2020 USBCs. We expect to hold 2021 USBCs in May of 2021 to select the teams for whatever World Championship the WBF schedules. *The plan (still to be ratified) is to hold the Bermuda Bowl in 2021 and the World Bridge Games in 2022.*

Captains of teams that were entered in the 2020 USBCs should have received an email telling them of the cancellation and that they can either move their entry to 2021 or receive a full refund of their entry fee. If you are a team captain and did not receive the email, you can [email Jan](mailto:Jan@Marteljan@gmail.com) at [Marteljan@gmail.com](mailto:Jan@Marteljan@gmail.com) for more information.

Byes to the 2021 Open USBC will almost certainly be based on team performance in the 2019 USBC, Spingold, Soloway, and Reisinger, and the 2020 Soloway, and Reisinger and 2021 Vanderbilt, if those events are held.

For new teams, the entry pages for the 2021 USBCs will be online soon at the USBF website: USBF.org. Closing date for guaranteed entries is currently March 31, 2021. By then we should have firm dates for the events and will adjust those dates appropriately.

**16**

**fnickell**  
 ♠ A  
 ♥ J10965  
 ♦ 10872  
 ♣ 1076

**levin**  
 ♠ J6543  
 ♥ A7  
 ♦ AJ96  
 ♣ AK

**EOK**  
 ♠ K2  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ KQ543  
 ♣ 98532

**ralphk**  
 ♠ Q10987  
 ♥ Q8432  
 ♦  
 ♣ QJ4

**NS: 0**  
**EW: 0**

levin	fnickell	EOK	ralphk
1 ♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

## "Frank"ly speaking...

On the 23rd of this month, the Nickell team had a practice session where Ralph and Nick played against teammate, Bobby Levin and team coach, Eric Kokish. It was a one table IMP Pairs.

On this Board, of the 16 pairs in play, only Levin and Kokish bid the slam. Levin's 4H bid was alerted and explained as a slam try. Loaded with second round controls and a great trump holding, Eric jumped to slam.

Nickell led the HJ. Levin won in dummy. He played a club to the ace and king and cashed the HA, discarding a spade from Kokish's hand. A spade followed, won by Nickell with the ace. The HT gave Levin a ruff and sluff. Levin ruffed in dummy and discarded a long spade. Levin led the C5. He was at the crossroads. He ruffed with the DJ. This play failed because diamonds are 4-0. A chance that occurs 9.6% of the time.

*(Note that it can also fail when clubs break 4-2 and one opponent holds Txx in the trump suit.)*

Levin's play was reasonable. Unlucky for him, the clubs were 3-3 and trumps were 4-0.

Kokish, affectionately referred to as "Koach" proved a challenging opponent and a fun night was had by all!

- Last year I went on a ballooning holiday. I put on four stone.
- The rotation of Earth really makes my day.
- What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches? A nervous wreck.
- What did the ocean say to the sailboat? Nothing, it just waved.
- Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself? It was two tired.
- This graveyard looks overcrowded. People must be dying to get in there.
- I keep trying to lose weight, but it keeps finding me.
- I thought about going on an all-almond diet. But that's just nuts.
- We could certainly slow the aging process if it had to work its way through Congress.
- Regular naps prevent old age, especially if you take them while driving.
- I'm at an age when my back goes out more than I do.

I used to work in a shoe-recycling shop. It was sole destroying.

Want to hear a joke about construction? I'm still working on it.

My boss asked me who is the stupid one, me or him? I told him everyone knows he doesn't hire stupid people.

My job is secure. No one else wants it.

I'm great at multitasking. I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.

My favorite exercise is a combination of a lunge and a crunch. It's called lunch.

Standing in a park, I was wondering why a Frisbee gets larger the closer it gets. Then it hit me.

I was playing chess with my friend and he said: "Let's make this interesting." So we stopped playing chess.

There's a fine line between fishing and standing on the shore looking like an idiot.

I have a step ladder. Obviously, it's not my real ladder.

I like to keep my money in the freezer. That way I always have cold, hard cash.

The question isn't at what age I want to retire; it's at what income.

If you take away the looks, money, intelligence, charm, and success - there's no real difference between me and George Clooney.

I won \$3 million on the lottery this weekend, so I decided to donate a quarter of it to charity. Now I have \$2,999,999.75.

# Please Stay Safe!