

Volume 15, Issue 6
August 14, 2020

Today's Quarterfinal Matchups:

Nickell v Donner
McAllister v Meyers
Rosenthal v Seligman
Lusky v Robinson

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Spot On!

	N scotty ♠ Q543 ♥ A982 ♦ A10 ♣ A98	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S			P	P	1♦	X	P	2♥	P	3♥	P	4♥	P	P	P	
	W	N	E	S																		
		P	P																			
1♦	X	P	2♥																			
P	3♥	P	4♥																			
P	P	P																				
W ralphk ♠ J1098 ♥ K ♦ KQ982 ♣ K62	E fnickell ♠ K762 ♥ J63 ♦ J754 ♣ J3																					
	S ridacl ♠ A ♥ Q10754 ♦ 63 ♣ Q10754	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0																				

Ralph Katz challenged me to find this hand. Now I challenge you to find what's interesting about it ... This is Board 10 from the 8th match of the Round Robin.

Compare South's hearts and clubs. His suits are identical.

It reminded me that years ago, Eric Rodwell mentioned that he had been looking forever to find a hand that had one of each number card (2-A) in it. These hands may or may not be that uncommon, but who would notice them? When you've played as much bridge as Ralph or Eric, spotting card combinations adds a fun dimension to the game!

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Homewords Bound

Pandemic Competition Number II

Teams Entered...

Bishel	Thomas Bishel, Capt Ronald Mullins	John Bishel Charley Seelbach
Brenner	Anne Brenner, Capt Chris Compton Steve Beatty	David Caprera Andy Goodman Fred Stewart
Donner	Gary Donner, Capt Giorgia Botta Anam Tebha	Sandra Rimstedt Zachary Grossack Adam Grossack
Harris	Martin Harris, Capt Howard Liu Louis Glasthal	Miriam Harris-Botzum Eugene Hung Michael Massimilla
Levine	Michael Levine Mike Passell Jeff Meckstroth Robert Morris, NPC	Eddie Wold Mark Lair Eric Rodwell
Lusky	John Lusky, Capt Ai-Tai Lo Franklin Merblum	Allan Falk Franco Baseggio Walter Lee
McAllister	John McAllister, Capt Oren Kriegel	Kevin Rosenberg Ronald Smith
Meyers	Jill Meyers, Capt Janice Seamon-Molson Ross Grabel	Kerri Sanborn Tobi Sokolow Mitch Dunitz
Moss	Joe Grue, Capt Sylvia Moss David Grainger	Brad Moss Roger Lee Joel Wooldridge
Nickell	Frank Nickell Bobby Levin Eric Greco Jill Levin, NPC	Ralph Katz Steve Weinstein Geoff Hampson
Reynolds	Tom Reynolds, Capt John Jones Leo Bell	Lance Kerr William Hall Cris Barrere
Robinson	Steve Robinson, Capt Bart Bramley Martin Fleisher	Peter Boyd Kit Woolsey Chip Martel
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Migry Zur Campanile Chris Willenken	Aaron Silverstein David Berkowitz Gary Cohler
Schireson	Max Schireson, Capt Geeske Joel Cadir Lee	Debbie Rosenberg Michael Rosenberg Yehudit Hasin
Seligman	Martin Seligman Robert Hamman Petra Hamman, NPC	Hemant Lall Jacob Morgan
Spector	Warren Spector, Capt John Kranyak John Hurd	Gavin Wolpert Vincent Demuy Kevin Bathurst



Tournament Schedule

QUARTERFINAL - SEGMENTS ON BBO HAVE TO START WITH BOARD 1			
FRIDAY	AUGUST 14	12:45 PM	CAPTAINS' MEETING (ZOOM)
FRIDAY	AUGUST 14	1:00 - 2:45	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-14
		2:50 - 4:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 1-14
		BREAK	
		5:05 - 6:50	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-14
		6:55 - 8:40	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 1-14
SEMIFINAL - SEGMENTS ON BBO HAVE TO START WITH BOARD 1			
SATURDAY	AUGUST 15	1:00 - 2:45	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-14
		2:50 - 4:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 1-14
		BREAK	
		5:05 - 6:50	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-14
		6:55 - 8:40	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 1-14
FINAL - SEGMENTS ON BBO HAVE TO START WITH BOARD 1			
SUNDAY	AUGUST 16	1:00 - 2:55	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		3:00 - 4:55	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 1-15
		BREAK	
		5:30 - 7:25	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
		7:30 - 9:25	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 1-15

Ethics Statement

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. The USBF has appointed an Ethics Investigation Committee that will review any complaints about ethics violations. If the EIC concludes that a player or pair was acting unethically, they will report to the USBF Board of Directors, who may place a player on probation, suspend, or expel a player for cause.

System Regulations & Conditions of Contest

- Normal USBF System regulations apply to this event.
- This event is governed by the USBF General Conditions of Contest and Special Conditions of Contest for this event.
- The ACBL Open+ Convention Chart applies to this event.

VuGraph ...

The KO stage of the USBF INV2 tournament starts today at 1:00 Eastern time. You can see the matchups on page 1 of this bulletin.

We will be showing delayed Vugraph from all of the matches. The Vugraph will begin 30 minutes after the scheduled start of play. (see schedule in column to the left).

Seating Rights (See table below):

#	TEAM	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
1	<u>Nickell</u>	Seating			Seating
8	<u>Donner</u>		Seating	Seating	
2	<u>McAllister</u>		Seating	Seating	
7	<u>Meyers</u>	Seating			Seating
3	<u>Rosenthal</u>		Seating	Seating	
6	<u>Seligman</u>	Seating			Seating
4	<u>Lusky</u>	Seating	Seating		
5	<u>Robinson</u>			Seating	Seating

We will have voice commentary during some of the segments. Today we will feature commentary from the Nickell vs Donner Closed Room for the first and second quarters. First quarter will be Gary Donner & Sandra Rimstedt vs Bobby Levin and Steve Weinstein; second quarter will be Zach Grossack & Giorgia Botta vs Nick Nickell & Ralph Katz.

David Grainger will be commenting both quarters. The first quarter he will be joined by Zia; the second quarter he will be joined by Mike Passell.

There is no organized voice commentary for the third quarter, but the fourth quarter will feature voice commentary from whatever match is closest (or maybe from the match that looks closest half-way through the third quarter). Commentators will be Larry Cohen and Mike Passell.

Please join us for some great, fun and friendly bridge.

It's almost like being there and you will feel the excitement as you watch from home in your jammies!

Excerpted from the USBF Invitational 2 advance email to players... Or Everything You Wanted to Know About This Event Beyond the Round Robin!

Information about the event can be found on the USBF website (USBF.org). Click on USBF Invitational 2 under the tournament menu - that will take you to the main page where there is general information and will also open the sub-menus, which include:

Results - link to the brackets for the KO matches. We will have our usual “web vugraphs” linked to the scores, so you can access a scorecard with links to the hands, bidding & play by clicking on a score.

Teams entered has the list of teams with links to players’ System Summary Forms (SSFs).

Event schedule has the time each segment starts. Remember to be logged into the “competitive” area of BBO at least 5 minutes before you are due to play.

Daily Bulletin - links to the Daily Bulletins - if a link gets you a 404 error (“we can’t find that page”) that means that the daily bulletin has not yet been posted.

BBO Procedures

Where to go: The event will be played in the Competitive section of BBO, which is where you will be when you log in to BBO. If you go to the Casual section to play or kibitz at a table there, you will need to return to the Competitive section, which sometimes requires logging off and back on. Please be logged into the Competitive section at least 5 minutes before you are scheduled to play.

Starting: If all of the players are on BBO in a timely manner, you should be automatically taken to the appropriate table and seat when the matches start.

Kibitzers: We will not be allowing kibitzers for any part of this event. After each round, we will link the bidding & play records to the Cross-Table as quickly as we can, so people who want to see what happened can do so.

Alerting: You should self-alert your bids, and as with screens, should alert if you have any question about whether or not to alert. You can also provide additional information about bids orally to your screenmate in the Zoom session.

Undo’s: Undo’s for misclicks are allowed and must be accepted. You need to ask for an undo before your partner acts.

BBO profile: Please make sure that your profile includes your real name.

System Information: Some of you created BBO convention cards with links to your SSF and ACBL convention card for the USBF INV1. We are not asking those of you who did not do so to create BBO convention cards for this event, because we found there was a problem with the convention cards loading, and it is probably easier to get your opponents SSF and ACBL convention card from the Teams Entered list on the USBF website.

Asking questions of opponents: You may ask questions of one or both opponents by directing chat to them. You may ask your screenmate questions orally on Zoom. PLEASE do not ask questions of the entire table, as that might give your partner UI. You may ask only the person who made a bid the meaning of his or her bid.

Help during play: Jan will be on BBO as USBF, Al Hollander will be on as USBF2, as well as some ahollan# accounts, and Will Watson will be on as willwats. If you have any problems, please message one of us and we’ll try to solve them.

Scores: Jan will be entering the scores into the USBF scoring program based on the BBO results. She will try not to have to ask you for scores, but she may sometimes miss the end of a match and have to do so.

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. The USBF has appointed an Ethics Investigation Committee that will review any complaints about ethics violations. If the EIC concludes that a player or pair was acting unethically, they will report to the USBF Board of Directors, who may place a player on probation, suspend, or expel a player for cause.

Any questions, please ask!



David Berkowitz reported the following funny story, confirming that it's better to be lucky than good.

	N migry ♠ 832 ♥ Q108 ♦ K32 ♣ AK84	W N E S X XX 1♠ 1♥ P 4♥ P P P P
	W Yu18772 ♠ AKQ10 ♥ K ♦ 10964 ♣ J765	E debrose ♠ J975 ♥ 976 ♦ Q87 ♣ Q93
	S mikeyb ♠ 64 ♥ AJ5432 ♦ AJ5 ♣ 102	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

4H was a frequent contract on Board 3 of the 12th match of the Round Robin.

The defense started with three rounds of spades. Declarer ruffed the third spade, led a club to dummy and took the losing heart finesse. Some West players exited with a diamond and made declarer's life easy. This play doesn't look harmful, since the DQ was always in the pocket. But look what happens if West returns a club...

The expert declarer has two choices: One is the diamond finesse. The other is a squeeze. If either defender holds four clubs and the DQ, the squeeze will succeed. To execute, declarer must win the club return and trump a club high. Everybody follows. Declarer draws trumps to produce the four-card end position shown below:

When declarer leads his last trump, West and dummy will discard diamonds while East discards a spade. Whichever defender started with four clubs will be squeezed down to one club and two diamonds. If that defender's diamond holding included the queen, the DK followed by the DA will bring home the suit.

Four declarers chose this line of play: Berkowitz, Boyd, Demuy, and Joel (Berkowitz's counterpart in the Rosenthal/Schireson match).

West has shown up with a singleton heart, four spades, and three clubs, therefore, he either has four diamonds and the remaining club or five diamonds. The DQ will show-up if East started with Qx. So, the only relevant case is West being 4-1-4-4 (as in the actual layout). The odds slightly favor (4 to 3) West holding the DQ as part of the four-card holding. Accordingly, declarer should probably play for the squeeze to have worked by cashing the DK followed by the DA.

	N migry ♠ ♥ ♦ K32 ♣ 8	W N E S X XX 1♠ 1♥ P 4♥ P P P P
	W Yu18772 ♠ ♥ ♦ 1096 ♣ J	E debrose ♠ J ♥ ♦ Q87 ♣
	S mikeyb ♠ ♥ ♦ AJ5 ♣	4♥ S NS: 6 EW: 3

Indeed, that is exactly how Boyd, Demuy and Joel played the hand. An elegant play for DOWN ONE.

Proving that "accidents do happen", Berkowitz, who apparently has "fat fingers", mis-clicked and played the DJ to make 4H. David writes, "I must confess I was planning to drop the DQ, but clicked on wrong card. Confession is good for the soul."

Note that while playing for the drop appears to be odds-on, one should consider that holding the DQ, West might have raised to 2S, rather than passing East's 1S bid.

10 IMPs to Rosenthal.

Some Suggestions For Dining at Home Between Sessions! Pandemic Pleasures...

Slowly Roasted Pork with Ginger Scallion Ketchup

By Chef Jon Ashton

Ingredients

Pork Butt:

1 bone-in pork butt, 6 to 8 pounds (2.7 kg to 3.6 kg)

Dry Brine:

15 tablespoons kosher salt (255 grams)

14 tablespoons white sugar (240 grams)

6 tablespoons packed brown sugar (100 grams)

Directions

Using a sharp knife, cut slits (1 inch apart) in crosshatch/diamond pattern into the outer layer of fat on pork butt trying not to cut into meat. Combine salt and sugars in medium bowl. Rub brine mixture over entire pork shoulder and into slits. Wrap seasoned pork tightly in double layer of plastic wrap. Place on rimmed baking sheet and refrigerate for at least 12 to 24 hours.

Adjust oven rack to lowest position and heat oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C). Remove pork from refrigerator, unwrap and brush any excess brine mixture off the fat cap and discard any juices.

Transfer roast to V-rack coated with cooking spray or cooling rack with nonstick cooking spray set in large roasting pan. Add 1-quart water to roasting pan.

Place in oven and cook until an instant-read thermometer inserted into roast (near but not touching) bone registers 190 degrees F (88 degrees C), 5 to 6 hours.

I like to baste the meat twice during cooking with pan juices, usually on hour 2 and hour 4.

Once meat is cooked to temperature, remove from the oven and allow it to rest 30-45 minutes to allow the juices to settle.

Slice with a knife or pull apart meat with tongs or two forks.

Serve with Ginger Scallion Ketchup

Ginger Scallion Ketchup

Ingredients

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for storing (120 ml)

2/3 cup minced peeled ginger (35 grams)

1 bunch scallions, thinly sliced

1 teaspoon kosher salt (5 ml)

1 teaspoon sugar (5 ml)

1 teaspoon fish sauce (optional) (5 ml)

1/2 cup tomato ketchup (120 ml)

1/4 cup hoisin sauce or plum sauce (60 ml)

Directions

In a small pan heat oil to medium high. Add the ginger, scallions and turn off heat. Stir for a couple of minutes. Add salt, sugar, fish sauce, ketchup and hoisin sauce and stir until everything is emulsified.



(Recipes continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

Ingredients

- 1 package (4 ounces) cannoli shells
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- **FILLING:**
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon grated orange zest
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3/4 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon rum extract
- 1/2 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips
- Chopped pistachios, optional

No Bake Chocolate Chip Canoli Cheesecake

Directions

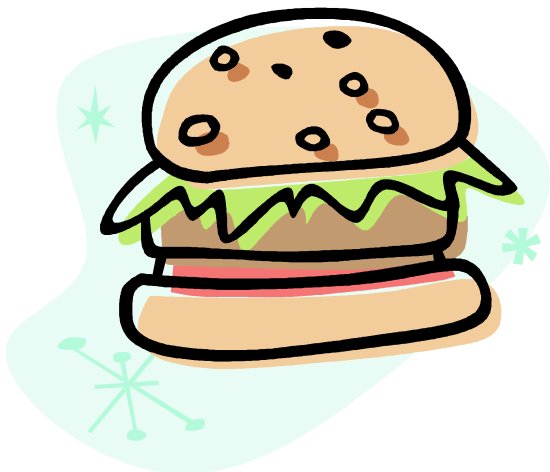
- Pulse cannoli shells in a food processor until coarse crumbs form. Add sugar, cracker crumbs and melted butter; pulse just until combined. Press onto bottom and sides of a greased 9-in. pie plate. Refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour.
- Beat the first 4 filling ingredients until blended. Beat in ricotta cheese and extracts. Stir in chocolate chips. Spread into crust.
- Refrigerate, covered, until set, about 4 hours. If desired, top with pistachios.

Test Kitchen tips

1. Pistachios are classic in cannoli. If you don't have them, you can still add crunch by topping the pie with additional crumbled cannoli shells. Or add a sprinkle of chocolate shavings.
2. If you don't have mini chocolate chips, you can coarsely chop regular chocolate chips.

Nutrition Facts

1 piece: 548 calories, 36g fat (20g saturated fat), 88mg cholesterol, 292mg sodium, 51g carbohydrate (38g sugars, 1g fiber), 8g protein.



Watch on the VuGraph
See page 3 please,
Or read 'bout the story
Of David's botched squeeze!
(see page 5!)

Ingredients

- 2-3/4 cups chocolate bear-shaped crackers or chocolate wafer crumbs, crushed
- 2 tablespoons plus 1/2 cup sugar, divided
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/4 cup cold water
- 1 teaspoon instant coffee granules
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1-1/2 cups heavy whipping cream, divided
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- Caramel sundae syrup, optional
- Chocolate syrup, optional

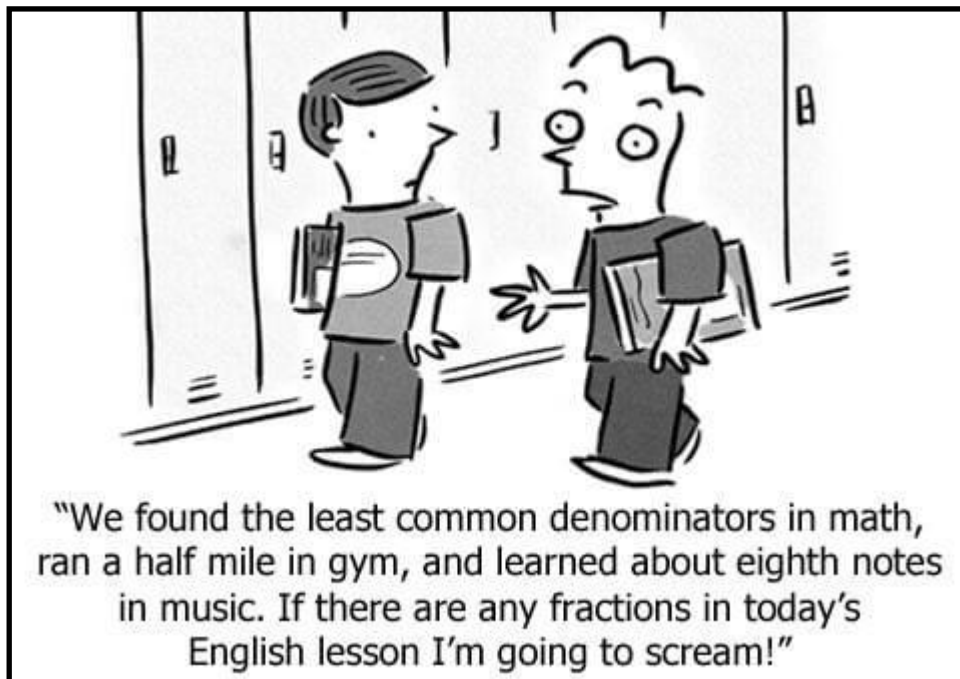
Easy Mocha Cream Pie

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350°. Combine crushed crackers and 2 tablespoons sugar with melted butter. Using the bottom of a glass, press cracker mixture onto bottom and up the sides of a greased 9-in. deep-dish pie plate. Bake until set, 12-15 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack.
- Meanwhile, mix cold water and coffee granules until blended. Sprinkle gelatin over coffee mixture; let stand 5 minutes. Microwave chocolate chips and 1/4 cup cream on high until chips are melted; stir until smooth. Stir gelatin into chocolate mixture until smooth. Cool slightly.
- Beat cream cheese and remaining sugar until smooth. Gradually beat in remaining cream. Beat in chocolate mixture until blended. Transfer filling to crust. Refrigerate, covered, until set, about 2 hours.
- If desired, drizzle with caramel and chocolate syrups.

Nutrition Facts

1 piece: 699 calories, 54g fat (31g saturated fat), 139mg cholesterol, 400mg sodium, 49g carbohydrate (33g sugars, 3g fiber), 8g protein.



2	N winkle	W N E S
	♠ KQJ74 ♥ KJ7 ♦ AJ7 ♣ 83	1♠ 1NT P 3NT P P P
W chip	E mfleisher	
♠ 108532 ♥ 1082 ♦ 92 ♣ K102	♠ 9 ♥ A543 ♦ K8543 ♣ AJ6	
	S fmerb	
	♠ A6 ♥ Q96 ♦ Q106 ♣ Q9754	3NT N NS: 0 EW: 0

On Board 2 of Round 9 in the Round Robin, Lusky/Merblum were rewarded with an 11 IMP swing when Walter Lee overcalled 1NT on his 15 count between two bidding opponents. At most tables, North passed at this point resulting in E/W playing in 1NT. One E/W pair played in their 3-3 club fit.

At two tables where North bid 1NT (this table and Migry's in Rosenblum/Spector), N/S landed in 3NT.

In Lusky/Merblum, Fleisher led a fourth best diamond, the queen winning in dummy. Lee led a heart to his king and a heart to dummy's queen, Fleisher ducking. Lee, hoping for 4-3 spades, played the SA. He noted the fall of the nine from East and the five from West. He played the S6 from dummy, and when Chip followed with the deuce, he bravely played the SEVEN holding the trick!

Lee collected five spades, two hearts, and two diamonds for +600.

At the other table, where Lusky opened 1D and Falk responded 1S, Robinson passed and Lusky bid 1NT so both sides of the same team played in the same strain: NT. Lusky went light two for -100.

Migry/Berkowitz had the same auction, same defense, same result in as Lee and Merblum above. They gained 10 IMPs when South (Demuy) played and made 2H in the 3-3 fit.

Strangely, Demuy and Kranyak were not the only ones to find a 3-3 fit at the two level on

2	N robinswr	W N 4+ Ds S
	♠ KQJ74 ♥ KJ7 ♦ AJ7 ♣ 83	1♠ P 1NT P P P
W Allan Falk	E pachyderms	
♠ 108532 ♥ 1082 ♦ 92 ♣ K102	♠ 9 ♥ A543 ♦ K8543 ♣ AJ6	
	S pab1	
	♠ A6 ♥ Q96 ♦ Q106 ♣ Q9754	1NT E NS: 0 EW: 0

this board. Compton and his partner played in their 3-3 club fit at the two level East/West.

It's not often you see these sorts of results on what appears to be "just another average hand!"

In point of fact, 3NT could not succeed if the West players split their 10-8 of spades. From declarer's standpoint, the fall of the 9 from East has some elements of restricted choice making the finesse slightly more favorable. But, since for that to be true, opponent error is a factor, nothing is truly reliable.

In Nickell/Meyers, Levin and Weinstein, E/W, played 2D in their 5-2 fit going down two while Gabel/Dunitz played 2CX in their 3-3 fit. Needless to say, that was a three trick failure for -500.

In Donner/Bishel, Anam and Adam G. found 3NT from South. J Bishel found the diamond lead and the contract failed before it got started. In the other room, Botta and Zach G. played the same 3-3 fit as Gabel and Dunitz, but they were luckier to escape undoubled for down one.

In Schireson/Harris, M Rosenberg balanced with a double over East's 1NT to get a spade lead. Geeske Joel led as requested and 1NT was defeated one trick. At the other table, there was no double, so Harris made his normal lead of a club. When the ten held in dummy, D Rosenberg played on diamonds and collected seven tricks when the opponents didn't find the spade shift!

Apparently there is no such thing as "just another average hand!"

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

Sudoku 1

Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

Answers to Puzzle on Page 15



YOUTH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Presents an 8-Week Free Course

Beginner's Bridge Class

8 Saturdays starting on Sat. August 15
4 - 6 pm PDT

Warren Buffett ~ "Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players."

Interested in learning the world's most fascinating game? Sign up for the free class for students in grades 1-12, where basic bidding and card play techniques will be taught. This class is hosted by the Youth Bridge Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting bridge to middle and high-school students, founded by members of the US junior bridge team.

Don't miss out on the perfect chance to learn the world's ultimate card game from the comfort of your home! No experience is necessary.

Register @ <https://bit.ly/introtobridge>

The USBF supports and encourages any and all Junior Bridge Programs. Some of the organizers of this event are participants of the USBF Junior Training Program under the excellent direction of Michael Rosenberg.

Joe Stokes, Chairman of the USBF Junior Committee applauds this effort of "juniors teaching juniors." The classes rate to be fun for all.

A recording of their Bridge Introductory Workshop from last week is on their website.

As always, check there to learn more about the organization!

<https://www.youthbridgeassociation.org/>

Sign up your children, grandchildren or yourself if you qualify today or tomorrow so you don't miss any classes!

The organizers are Michael Xu, Michael Hu, Arthur Zhou, and Jonathan Yue.

Write youthbridgeassociation@gmail.com for more information.

Talk About Luck!

3 D	N fnickell	W N E S
	♠ QJ8 ♥ 762 ♦ QJ9743 ♣ Q	1♣ 1NT 2♣ 2NT X P P P
W gcoher	E junior	
♠ A9532 ♥ AQ9 ♦ AK6 ♣ J9	♠ 10764 ♥ J1083 ♦ 10 ♣ 7652	
S ralphk	2NTx N NS: 0 EW: 0	
♠ K ♥ K54 ♦ 852 ♣ AK10843		

North/South found an incredibly lucky lie of the club suit on Board 3 from the first segment of the INV2.

In the Nickell/Rosenthal match, Nickell found himself to be declarer in 2NTX. If Willenken (Junior) leads a high heart, the contract is down off the top. A heart lead is impossible on the auction. Willenken led a spade. Cohler won his SA, cashed his DK, and played a small spade. Nick won his queen and knocked out the DA. Cohler continued spades. Nick won the SJ, ran the diamonds, played the CQ to the A and when the C:J9 fell, he was home free with ten tricks for +690 and 13 IMPs.

At the other table, Nick's teammates played in 2H making two on this auction:

W	N	E	S	
X	1♦	P	1♣	They disdained the 5-4 spade fit to play the 4-3 heart fit but they went plus.
X	P	2♥	2♣	
P	P		P	

Fun and Games Page

★ Jack Nicholson

All the words are hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally—in both directions. The letters that remain unused form a sentence from left to right.

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

EASY RIDER
GOFER
GOLDEN GLOBE
GRIN
HEARTBURN
HOFFA
HOLLYWOOD
IRONWEED
JAKE
LAKERS
MARINE
MARS
NEW YORK
OSCAR
SCENARIO
SUCCESS
THE SHINING
TIME
TOMMY
WITCH
WOMEN
YOUTH

AMERICAN
BASKETBALL
BATMAN

BRIMMER
BUNNY
CARTOONS

COLONEL
COWBOY
CRY BABY KILLER

Word Find Puzzle



	First Names					Phobias					Knots				
	Georgia	Jason	Jonathon	Nathan	William	arachnophobic	claustrophobic	coulrophobic	glossophobic	hydrophobic	half-hitch	halyard	overhand	sheep shank	sheet
Ages	19														
	27														
	31														
	33														
	60														

Knots	half-hitch									
	halyard									
	overhand									
	sheep shank									
	sheet									

Phobias	arachnophobic				
	claustrophobic				
	coulrophobic				
	glossophobic				
	hydrophobic				

Ages	First Names	Phobias	Knots
19			
27			
31			
33			
60			

Logic Puzzle

- The 33 year-old is hydrophobic.
- The scoutmaster who taught the sheep shank knot isn't hydrophobic.
- The scoutmaster who taught the half-hitch knot is not Jonathon.
- The scoutmaster who taught the overhand knot is older than Nathan.
- The 60 year-old is not Georgia.
- The glossophobic is younger than the claustrophobic.
- The scoutmaster who taught the overhand knot is younger than William.
- Either the 19 year-old or the 27 year-old taught the sheet knot.
- The 19 year-old is Jason.
- The 5 people were Jonathon, the coulrophobic, the scoutmaster who taught the sheep shank knot, the 27 year-old, and Georgia.
- Of Nathan and the glossophobic, one taught the halyard knot and the other taught the overhand knot.

Answer on page 16



Ronnie Smith lives in Chicago. Once a trader, he now plays professional bridge full time.

Though it sometimes seems like he misses living in California, he is well liked in Illinois and brings a much appreciated sense of fun to the Midwest bridge tournaments.

Ron has several championships to his credit:

Wins

North American Bridge Championships

- Senior Knockout Teams 2015
- Grand National Teams 1996
- Jacoby Open Swiss Teams 1993, 1998
- Blue Ribbon Pairs 1979
- Reisinger 1987
- Wernher Open Pairs 2001

Runners-up

Cavendish Invitational Pairs 1985, 2001

- North American Bridge Championships
- Grand National Teams 1973, 2000
- Blue Ribbon Pairs 1988
- Mitchell Board-a-Match Teams 1994
- Fast Open Pairs 2002
- Nail Life Master Open Pairs 1998
- Reisinger 1978, 2008
- Spingold 1996, 2004, 2008
- Vanderbilt 1988

A short Ron story... in 2015, we flew home from the Omaha Regional with Ron on our plane. Ron, Stan and I headed to the airport together and decided to have a drink before boarding.

Up to this point, I really liked spending time with Ronnie. However, though he is older than Stan and I are (not by much, of course), the waitress CARDED him!!! That really irritated me when she didn't card the rest of us (her mistake as her tip dwindled!!!) Still really like Ronnie... It isn't his fault he looks so young and we don't!!!

**Meet
the
Players**

Me and my receding hairline? We go way back.
 Long fairy tales have a tendency to dragon.
 No matter how kind you are, German children are kinder.
 Many architects are good at coming up with concrete plans.
 The person who invented the door knock won the No-bell prize.
 To the guy who invented Zero, thanks for nothing!
 The tallest building in my city is the library because it has the most stories.
 I gave away my dead batteries - free of charge.
 One fifth of people are just too tense!
 After the birth of your first child, your role in life will become apparent.
 A backwards poet writes inverse.
 Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
 You gotta hand it to short people.
 Waking up this morning was an eye-opening experience.
 I bet the butcher he couldn't reach the meat on the top shelf. He said the steaks were too high.
 My friend's bakery burned down last night. Now his business is toast
 He wears glasses during math because it improves division.
 I'm glad I know sign language, it's pretty handy.
 I was going to grow some herbs but I couldn't find the thyme..
 No matter how hard you push the envelope it will still be stationery.
 He drove his expensive car into a tree and found out how the Mercedes bends.
 I cut my finger chopping cheese, but I think that I may have grater problems.
 What did the triangle say to the circle? You're so pointless.

"Pun"tificating!

Puzzle Answers:

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

Sudoku

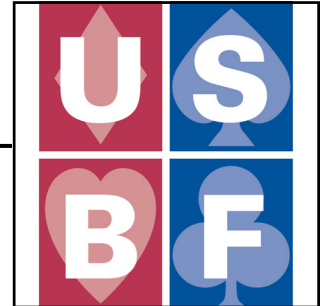
on page 10

Puzzle 1 on left

Puzzle 2 on right

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

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.

Gadzooks Yanks; but that was some spicy porridge.

Even Limey Jack was knocked asunder by some of the tall timbre who were favourites to fjord the moat. It is likely that Howie Dung is forced into retirement by these results in the round robin. As Limey Jack ably stated, Moss was a bubble team but they certainly expected to qualify with 3 world class players. Spector would have been on Aunt Tilly’s short list but came to naught. Levine is the hard pill to swallow. This poor bloke recruited five World Champions, all of whom are in the Yank Hall of Fame and finished a distant 11th, 3 furlongs off the pace.

Onward:

Nickell-Donner: Donner has every nationality on this squad ne’er an Aussie. The twins are the future of the game, but put your pay packet on Nickell here. With a brand new pair trying to justify his faith, they have far more than honour at stake.

McAllister-Meyers: One of these two teams is very lucky to draw the other. Limey Jack does not care for four handed tilters, especially with a wee lad and an aging yuppie. None of these lads would one take to war. Meyers has 4 world class lassies and a pair of fill-ins, but when the tannoy calls the victors, it will include six names.

Rosenthal-Seligman: Another cast of four, including the inimitable Monsieur Hamman. Raise an ale to him but they go Baltic and Rosenthal does not muck about on their march forward.

Lusky-Robinson: Even the muppet Dung, will get this one correct. Robinson is famous for their fold-ups both early and on time. They cannot seem to get out of their own way. Adding a sponsor and good partnership should make the difference. Moreover, while Lusky has some very nice players, they are not fearsome. Many in the past have blown the house of the wee lads right over, but get to the punter and cash your checque.

Til the morrow.

Limey Jack...

Through this event, Nick’s led the pack.
No one imagined he’d pick to play Zach!

While one Jeff and Eric are gone from the fray,
The other Geoff/Eric remain and will stay!

All Hall of Famers, there is no doubt,
The Nickell/Katz partnership won’t get knocked out!

McAllister’s team is steaming and strong.
His teammates are awesome and can do no wrong.

Oren’s is home; schooling’s in tatters!
He’s playing with Ronnie and that is who matters!

Kevin is lucky. He’s got great bridge genes...
This means that Meyers departs from our screens.

Silverstein/Rosenthal: They will not fall!
They’re ready to battle the likes of H. Lall.

Howie Doing

It could prove simple; It could prove trouble...
It could prove messy should Cohler redouble!

Bob Hamman, the great, won’t tumble lightly.
But Rosenthal wins and smiles politely.

Robinson/Lusky? Who’s gonna skid?
Such different styles when these pairs should bid.

When Kit finds a preempt on near every hand.
He’ll keep Falk and Lusky from bidding their grand.

While playing this way is really quite fine,
Everyone’s ready to get back offline.

Here’s hoping the time “inside” will be shorter
And games can return to the old “brick and mortar?”!

**SOLUTION to Logic Puzzle on
page 13**

19	Jason	Coulrophobic	Sheet
27	Nathan	Arachnophobic	Halyard
31	Jonathon	Glossophobic	Overhand
33	Georgia	Hydrophobic	Half-hitch
60	William	Claustrophobic	Sheep shank