

MICHAEL SEAMON JUNIOR UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

# All KIDding Aside—Pre-Bulletin

## The Prez Says ...

December 26, 2019

Volume 3, Issue 1



Hi Everyone,

Welcome to Atlanta, Georgia, for the Michael Seamon Junior United States Bridge Championships.

On behalf of the USBF, we appreciate your commitment to this Championship. We want you to have a great experience while you are here. We also want you to remember that your opportunity to play in these trials, and to represent the United States, has been made possible through the generosity of a large number of players (donors) who very likely did not have this opportunity.

For this reason, and others, we expect participants to continue to uphold the ethics, camaraderie and sportsmanship ideals for which the United States Bridge Federation is known worldwide.

Best of luck here and in Italy next year should you qualify. Thanks for your participation. Your enthusiasm is an inspiration to others in the USBF Junior Training Program.

Marty Fleisher, President, USBF

**The USBF Junior Program gratefully acknowledges the donors whose generous contributions are being used to fund this 2019 Michael Seamon Junior USBC. Many thanks to:**

Lynn Baker

Drew Becker

Pat & Jimmy Cayne

Connie Goldberg

Linda and Jeffrey Wolfson Family Foundation (in memory of Billy Rosen)

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John McAllister

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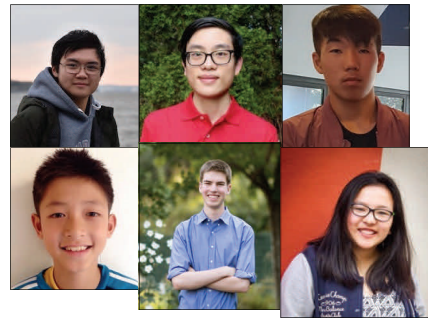
**Michael Seamon**

# Teams Entered...

ALL KIDDING ASIDE—PRE-BULLETIN

## U26:

Fan	Yewen Fan, Capt Nian Si	Hongji Wei Boyuan Xiong
Gordon	Elliott Gordon, Capt Jacob Williams Daniel Weiss	Jack Donaghue Luke Williams
Hallerman	Raphael Hallerman, Capt Gan Yang Tak Chun Wong	Sean McNally Shaowu Li
Kaplan	Adam Kaplan, Capt Zachary Grossack Yichen Yin	Benjamin Kristensen Kevin Rosenberg Arjun Dhir
Rockoff	Kyle Rockoff, Capt Joseph Lieberman	Sarik Goyal Christopher Welland
Stephani	Isaac Stephani, Capt Hakan Berk	Louis-Amaury Beauchet Nolan Chang David Soukup
Wolff	Ilan Wolff, Capt Daniel Sonner	Nathan Finkle Cyrus Hettle
Xu	Yuchen Xu, Capt Victor Xu Zhiyu Cheng	Cynthia Huang Thomas Scruggs
YXu	Yang Xu, Capt Hengrui Xing Di Wu	Jiaheng Hu Morgan Johnstone Chengbo Gu



Team Xiao



Schuyler



Team Cedrone



Sonner



Team Ge

## U21:

Chen	Haohao Chen, Capt Kevin Jiang Nicole Qian	Shi Chen Alex Zheng Andy Zhang
Kolesnik	Finn Kolesnik, Capt Sarah Youngquist	Harrison Luba Michael Xu
Vohra	Kunal Vohra, Capt Kyle Lui Rory Xiao	Cooper Smith Lauren Liu Jonathan Yue
Wang	Zhaofeng Wang, Capt Michael Zheng Yichen Xiao	Sihan Fei Ethan Wood Yuxiao Wang
Xiao	Brent Xiao, Capt Michael Hu Cornelius Duffie	Richard Jeng Arthur Zhou Stella (Qinqin) Wan
Zhao	Caroline Zhao, Capt Amalia Kutin	Miranda Schuyler Katherine Hwang



Kevin Dai

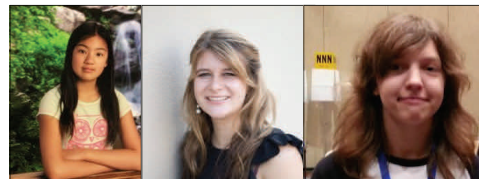


Team Dai

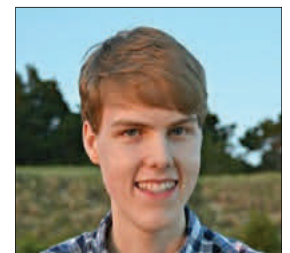
You can learn something new everyday if you listen!

## U16:

Cedrone	Marley Cedrone, Capt Michael Haas Eric Xiao	Zacharia Posternak Samuel Pahlk Arthur Gong
Ge	Brandon Ge, Capt Kayden Ge Brian Zhang	Olivia Schireson Charlie Chen Ethan Xie
Zhao	Derrick Zhao, Capt Kevin Dai	Eric Dai Keith Yao



Team Hsieh



Hettle



Team Huang

## RONA (GIRLS):

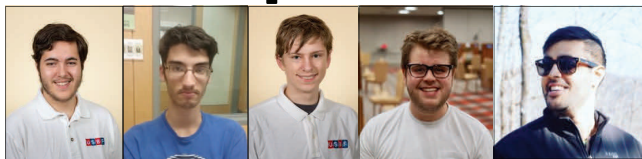
Dai	Sihui Dai, Capt Samantha Leff	Helen Abadiotakis Zoe Bowlus
Hsieh	Ellie Fashingbauer Yichen Cai	Emma Miller Helena Hsieh
Huang	Lucy Huang, Capt Alexandra Clark	Sarah Cai Sophie Lian
Lin	Ambler Lin, Capt Sophia Chang	Emma Kolesnik Lucy Zhang



Team Lin

# Tournament Schedules

## Kaplan Team



U26 SCHEDULE			
DAY	DATE	TIME	BOARDS
FRIDAY	DEC. 27	11:15 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
ROUND ROBIN			
FRIDAY  EACH TEAM WILL SIT OUT ONE MATCH.	DEC. 27	11:30 - 12:20	MATCH 1 - BOARDS 1-6
		12:30 - 1:20	MATCH 2 - BOARDS 7-12
		1:30 - 2:20	MATCH 3 - BOARDS 13-18
		2:30 - 3:20	MATCH 4 - BOARDS 19-24
		3:30 - 4:20	MATCH 5 - BOARDS 25-30
			110 MINUTE BREAK
		6:10 - 7:00	MATCH 6 - BOARDS 1-6
		7:10 - 8:00	MATCH 7 - BOARDS 7-12
		8:10 - 9:00	MATCH 8 - BOARDS 13-18
	9:10 - 10:00	MATCH 9 - BOARDS 19-24	
USA1 SEMIFINAL & USA2 ROUND OF 16 (5 TEAM ROUND ROBIN - SCHEDULE)			
SATURDAY	DEC. 28	11:30 - 1:40	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		1:50 - 4:00	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
			105 MINUTE BREAK
		5:45 - 7:55	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
	8:05 - 10:15	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30	
USA1 FINAL & USA2 QUARTERFINAL & SEMIFINAL			
SUNDAY  AND  MONDAY	DEC. 29  &  DEC. 30	11:30 - 1:40	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		1:50 - 4:00	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
			105 MINUTE BREAK
	5:45 - 7:55	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15	
	8:05 - 10:15	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30	
USA2 Final			
TUESDAY	DEC. 31	11:30 - 1:40	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:50 - 4:00	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			105 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:55	Segment 3 Boards 1-15
	8:05 - 10:15	Segment 4 Boards 16-30	

RONA SCHEDULE			
Friday	Dec. 27	11:15 am	Captains' Meeting
Stage 1 KO			
Friday	Dec. 27	11:30 - 1:40	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:50 - 4:00	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			105 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:55	Segment 3 Boards 1-15
	8:05 - 10:15	Segment 4 Boards 16-30	
Stage 2 KO			
Saturday	Dec. 28	11:30 - 1:40	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:50 - 4:00	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			105 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:55	Segment 3 Boards 1-15
	8:05 - 10:15	Segment 4 Boards 16-30	
Stage 3 KO			
Sunday	Dec. 29	11:30 - 1:40	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:50 - 4:00	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			105 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:55	Segment 3 Boards 1-15
	8:05 - 10:15	Segment 4 Boards 16-30	
Final			
Monday	Dec. 30	11:30 - 1:40	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:50 - 4:00	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			105 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:55	Segment 3 Boards 1-15
	8:05 - 10:15	Segment 4 Boards 16-30	

U21 SCHEDULE			
Friday	Dec. 27	11:15 am	Captains' Meeting
Round Robin			
Day	Date	Time	Boards
Friday And Saturday Schedule is the same both days	Dec. 27	11:30 - 1:05	Match 1 - Boards 1-11
		1:15 - 2:50	Match 2 - Boards 12-22
		3:00 - 4:35	Match 3 - Boards 23-33
			115 minute Break
		Dec. 28	6:30 - 8:05
		8:15 - 9:50	Match 5 - Boards 12-22
Semifinal			
Sunday	Dec. 29	11:30 - 1:40	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:50 - 4:00	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			105 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:55	Segment 3 Boards 1-15
	8:05 - 10:15	Segment 4 Boards 16-30	
Final & USA2 Semifinal			
Monday	Dec. 30	11:30 - 1:40	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:50 - 4:00	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			105 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:55	Segment 3 Boards 1-15
	8:05 - 10:15	Segment 4 Boards 16-30	
USA2 Final			
Tuesday	Dec. 31	11:30 - 1:40	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:50 - 4:00	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			105 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:55	Segment 3 Boards 1-15
	8:05 - 10:15	Segment 4 Boards 16-30	

U16 SCHEDULE			
Saturday	Dec. 28	11:15 am	Captains' Meeting
Semifinal (3 Team Round Robin)			
Saturday & Sunday Schedule is the same both days Final	Dec. 28	11:30 - 1:40	Boards 1-14
		1:50 - 4:00	Boards 15-28
	Dec. 29	5:45 - 7:55	110 minute Break
		8:05 - 10:15	Boards 1-14
			Boards 15-28
Monday	Dec. 30	11:30 - 1:40	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:50 - 4:00	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			105 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:55	Segment 3 Boards 1-15
	8:05 - 10:15	Segment 4 Boards 16-30	

# 6 board VP scale

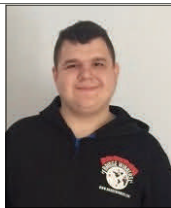
Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10	10	13	15.24	4.76	26	18.38	1.62
1	10.50	9.50	14	15.54	4.46	27	18.56	1.44
2	10.99	9.01	15	15.83	4.17	28	18.73	1.27
3	11.46	8.54	16	16.11	3.89	29	18.90	1.10
4	11.90	8.10	17	16.38	3.62	30	19.06	0.94
5	12.33	7.67	18	16.64	3.36	31	19.22	0.78
6	12.75	7.25	19	16.89	3.11	32	19.37	0.63
7	13.15	6.85	20	17.12	2.88	33	19.51	0.49
8	13.53	6.47	21	17.35	2.65	34	19.65	0.35
9	13.90	6.10	22	17.58	2.42	35	19.78	0.22
10	14.25	5.75	23	17.79	2.21	36	19.91	0.09
11	14.59	5.41	24	17.99	2.01	37	20	0
12	14.92	5.08	25	18.19	1.81			

# 14 board VP scale

Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10	10	20	15.26	4.74	40	18.41	1.59
1	10.33	9.67	21	15.46	4.54	41	18.53	1.47
2	10.66	9.34	22	15.66	4.34	42	18.65	1.35
3	10.97	9.03	23	15.85	4.15	43	18.76	1.24
4	11.28	8.72	24	16.03	3.97	44	18.87	1.13
5	11.58	8.42	25	16.21	3.79	45	18.98	1.02
6	11.87	8.13	26	16.38	3.62	46	19.08	0.92
7	12.16	7.84	27	16.55	3.45	47	19.18	0.82
8	12.44	7.56	28	16.72	3.28	48	19.28	0.72
9	12.71	7.29	29	16.88	3.12	49	19.38	0.62
10	12.97	7.03	30	17.04	2.96	50	19.47	0.53
11	13.23	6.77	31	17.19	2.81	51	19.56	0.44
12	13.48	6.52	32	17.34	2.66	52	19.65	0.35
13	13.72	6.28	33	17.49	2.51	53	19.74	0.26
14	13.96	6.04	34	17.63	2.37	54	19.83	0.17
15	14.19	5.81	35	17.77	2.23	55	19.91	0.09
16	14.42	5.58	36	17.91	2.09	56	19.99	0.01
17	14.64	5.36	37	18.04	1.96	57	20	0
18	14.85	5.15	38	18.17	1.83			
19	15.06	4.94	39	18.29	1.71			



Stephani Team



Rockoff Team

## Math Puns

Why do teenagers travel in groups of 3 or 5?

Because they can't even.

Why should you worry about the math teacher holding graph paper?

She's definitely plotting something.

What do you call a number that just can't keep still.

A roamin' numeral.

Why is it sad that parallel lines have so much in common?

Because they'll never meet.

Are monsters good at math?

Not unless you Count Dracula.

Why are obtuse angles so depressed?

Because they're never right.

What's the best way to woo a math teacher?

Use acute angle.

Did you hear about the mathematician whose afraid of negative numbers?

He'll stop at nothing to avoid them.

How come old math teachers never die?

They tend to just lose some of their functions.

My girlfriend is the square root of -100.

She's a perfect 10, but purely imaginary.

How do you stay warm in any room?

Just huddle in the corner, where it's always 90 degrees.

Did you hear the one about the statistician.

Probably.

What's the best way to serve pi?

A la mode. Anything else is mean.

A farmer counted 297 cows in the field.

But when he rounded them up, he had 300.

Did you hear about the statistician who drowned crossing the river?

It was three feet deep on average.

Why don't calculus majors throw house parties?

Because they know firsthand that it's a bad idea to derive and drive.

## From the Editor:

Please be advised to keep this issue of the newsletter. While team lists and schedules will be reprinted in later hard copy editions, other information will not. We do this to provide fresh content at a substantial print savings to the organization. Thank you!!



Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10	10	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	0
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			

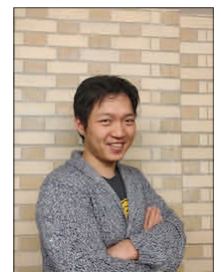
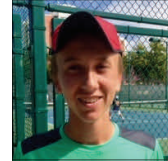
**11 board VP scale**



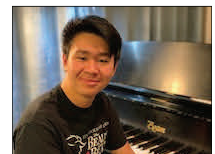
**Fan Team**



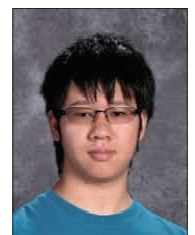
**Gordon Team**



**Gan Yang**



**Alex Zheng**



**Michael Zheng**

28 Boards (Blitz is 80 IMPs)											
Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10.00	10.00	21	14.16	5.84	42	16.99	3.01	63	18.93	1.07
1	10.24	9.76	22	14.32	5.68	43	17.10	2.90	64	19.01	0.99
2	10.47	9.53	23	14.48	5.52	44	17.21	2.79	65	19.08	0.92
3	10.70	9.30	24	14.63	5.37	45	17.32	2.68	66	19.15	0.85
4	10.92	9.08	25	14.78	5.22	46	17.42	2.58	67	19.22	0.78
5	11.14	8.86	26	14.93	5.07	47	17.52	2.48	68	19.29	0.71
6	11.35	8.65	27	15.08	4.92	48	17.62	2.38	69	19.36	0.64
7	11.56	8.44	28	15.23	4.77	49	17.72	2.28	70	19.43	0.57
8	11.77	8.23	29	15.37	4.63	50	17.82	2.18	71	19.50	0.50
9	11.98	8.02	30	15.51	4.49	51	17.92	2.08	72	19.56	0.44
10	12.18	7.82	31	15.65	4.35	52	18.01	1.99	73	19.62	0.38
11	12.38	7.62	32	15.78	4.22	53	18.10	1.90	74	19.68	0.32
12	12.57	7.43	33	15.91	4.09	54	18.19	1.81	75	19.74	0.26
13	12.76	7.24	34	16.04	3.96	55	18.28	1.72	76	19.80	0.20
14	12.95	7.05	35	16.17	3.83	56	18.37	1.63	77	19.86	0.14
15	13.13	6.87	36	16.29	3.71	57	18.45	1.55	78	19.92	0.08
16	13.31	6.69	37	16.41	3.59	58	18.53	1.47	79	19.98	0.02
17	13.48	6.52	38	16.53	3.47	59	18.61	1.39	80	20.00	0.00
18	13.65	6.35	39	16.65	3.35	60	18.69	1.31			
19	13.82	6.18	40	16.77	3.23	61	18.77	1.23			
20	13.99	6.01	41	16.88	3.12	62	18.85	1.15			

**28 board VP scale**

**No Electronic Devices are Permitted in the Playing Area.**

**This applies to players AND kibitzers.**

**Severe penalties will be assessed for violation of this rule.**

**Please turn off all cell phones and check them at the door.**

**The USBF reserves the right to wand anyone entering the playing field.**



## U26 USA2 Round Robin Schedule

### NOTES:

There are 5 teams in the Round Robin. Teams will be numbered in alphabetic order.

In order to avoid a sit out round, the matches will be played in clumps of 7 boards at a time, in 2 halves.

EVERY PLAYER ON EACH TEAM MUST PLAY 2 7 BOARD SEGMENTS AGAINST EACH OTHER TEAM  
(USBF General Conditions of Contest Section VIII B).

Because you are playing all at once, there are no seating rights, you cannot change lineups until both 7 board matches have been completed, and each match will have a different set of boards.

For security reasons, your NS pair must remain in the playing room when EW pairs are changing tables. During play, no one can leave a playing room without an escort.

Scoring: At the end of the day, you will have played a 14 board match against each other team. The IMP scores in those matches will be converted to Victory Points, using the **USBF 14 board VP scale**. Your score for the Round Robin will be the total VPs from those 4 matches.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH		
Time	Pairings	Boards
11:30-12:33	1 v 3 at table 1	A 1-7
	2 v 4 at table 2	A 8-14
	3 v 5 at table 3	A 15-21
	4 v 1 at table 4	A 22-28
	5 v 2 at table 5	A 29-35
12:35-1:38	1 v 4 at table 1	A 22-28
	2 v 5 at table 2	A 29-35
	3 v 1 at table 3	A 1-7
	4 v 2 at table 4	A 8-14
	5 v 3 at table 5	A 15-21
BREAK - SCORE COMPARISON AND LINEUP CHANGE		
1:55-2:58	1 v 5 at table 1	B 8-14
	2 v 1 at table 2	B 15-21
	3 v 2 at table 3	B 22-28
	4 v 3 at table 4	B 29-35
	5 v 4 at table 5	B 1-7
3:00-4:03	1 v 2 at table 1	B 15-21
	2 v 3 at table 2	B 22-28
	3 v 4 at table 3	B 29-35
	4 v 5 at table 4	B 1-7
	5 v 1 at table 5	B 8-14
LUNCH BREAK (72 MINUTES)		
5:10 - 6:13	1 v 5 at table 1	C 15-21
	2 v 1 at table 2	C 22-28
	3 v 2 at table 3	C 29-35
	4 v 3 at table 4	C 1-7
	5 v 4 at table 5	C 8-14
6:15 - 7:18	1 v 2 at table 1	C 1-7
	2 v 3 at table 2	C 8-14
	3 v 4 at table 3	C 15-21
	4 v 5 at table 4	C 22-28
	5 v 1 at table 5	C 29-35
BREAK - SCORE COMPARISON AND LINEUP CHANGE		
7:35 - 8:38	1 v 3 at table 1	D 22-28
	2 v 4 at table 2	D 29-35
	3 v 5 at table 3	D 1-7
	4 v 1 at table 4	D 8-14
	5 v 2 at table 5	D 15-21
8:40 - 9:48	1 v 4 at table 1	D 29-35
	2 v 5 at table 2	D 1-7
	3 v 1 at table 3	D 8-14
	4 v 2 at table 4	D 15-21
	5 v 3 at table 5	D 22-28

Why did the chicken cross the Mobius Strip?

To get to the same side.

Why do math teachers love parks so much?

Because of all the natural logs.

How do you do math in your head?

Just use imaginary numbers.

Why was the math lecture so long?

The professor kept going off on a tangent.

How many mathematicians does it take to change a light bulb?

One—she just gives it to three physicists, thus reducing it to a problem that's already been solved.

Why do plants hate math?

Because it gives them square roots.

Why are math books so darn depressing?

They're literally filled with problems.

Why does algebra make you a better dancer?

Because you can use algo-rhythm.

What kind of snake does your math teacher probably own?

A pi-thon.

What's the best place to do math homework?

On a multiplication table.

How do you get from point A to point B?

Just take an x-y plane or a rhom'bus.

How do you make seven even?

Just remove the "s."

Where do mathematicians like to party?

In bar graphs.

Why shouldn't you let advanced math intimidate you?

It's easy as pi!

**Why are obtuse angles so depressed?**



Because they're never right.

**Are monsters good at math?**



Not unless you Count Dracula.

# Meet the Players: Emma Kolesnik



Emma is from Ventura, CA and currently a first year student at Scripps College in Claremont, CA, majoring in Math and Computer Science. She is a member of the Harvey Mudd College bridge team.

Emma learned bridge from her parents when she was 8 or 9 years old, but has only been playing more seriously in the last few years.

When she's not playing bridge or studying, Emma enjoys baking and doing volunteer work with local underprivileged students.

# Morgan Johnstone



Morgan Johnstone, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is pursuing a B.A. in Earth Science at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities.

Since she played in her first duplicate match, much of her free time has shifted to time spent playing bridge. She was a co-president of the new UMN Bridge Club and has represented District 13 of the ACBL in Grand National Teams Flight C.

## The Gianarrigo Rona Trophy



What happens when you hire an odd-job guy to do 8 jobs? They only do 1, 3, 5 and 7.  
Why should you never mention the number 288? Because it's two gross.  
What do you call dudes who love math? Algebras.  
What did the math teacher rate the movie American Pie? 3.14 thumbs up  
Why is six afraid of seven? Because seven eight nine!  
Why DID seven eat nine? Because you're supposed to eat 3 squared meals a day!  
Why didn't the Romans find algebra very challenging? Because they always knew X was 10.  
Why couldn't the angle get a loan? His parents wouldn't Cosine.  
Why did the obtuse angle go to the beach? Because it was over 90 degrees.  
Why do plants hate math? Because it gives them square roots.  
What do you call an angle that is adorable? Acute angle.  
Why doesn't anybody talk to circles? Because there is no point!

**The Gianarrigo Rona Trophy corresponds to the World Girls Teams Championship. This competition is for players who must not have achieved their 25th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place.**

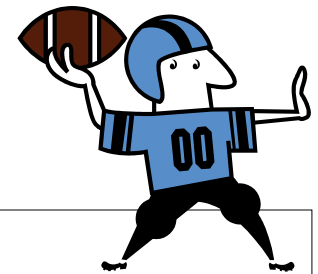
# Adults Eating Alone? 30 Best Restaurants by “Eatery” in order by Rating... updated 12/2019

- 1. Aviva by Kameel**  
Lebanese, Mediterranean\$
- 2. Babette's Cafe**  
Italian, French\$\$\$\$
- 3. Bone's Restaurant**  
American, Steakhouse\$\$\$\$
- 4. Eight Sushi Lounge**  
Japanese, Seafood\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 5. Herban Fix - Vegan Kitchen**  
Asian, Fusion\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 6. The Capital Grille**  
American, Steakhouse\$\$\$\$
- 7. Canoe**  
American\$\$\$\$
- 8. Desta Ethiopian Kitchen**  
African, Ethiopian\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 9. Poor Calvin's**  
Asian, Thai\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 10. La Grotta Ristorante Italiano**  
Italian\$\$\$\$
- 11. Chama Gaucha Brazilian Steakhouse**  
Steakhouse, Brazilian\$\$\$\$
- 12. Nan Thai Fine Dining**  
Asian, Thai\$\$\$\$
- 13. Red Phone Booth**  
Bar, American\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 14. Buttermilk Kitchen**  
American, Cafe\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 15. Aria**  
American\$\$\$\$
- 16. Atlanta Breakfast Club**  
American, Diner\$
- 17. The Porter Beer Bar**  
American, Bar\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 18. Nikolai's Roof**  
Contemporary\$\$\$\$
- 19. Fox Bros. BBQ**  
American, Bar\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 20. Thumbs Up Diner**  
American, Cafe\$
- 21. Swan Coach House**  
American\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 22. Egg Harbor Cafe**  
American, Cafe\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 23. Home Grown**  
American, Cafe\$
- 24. Copeland's of New Orleans Atlanta**  
American, Seafood\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 25. Wisteria**  
American\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 26. C&S Seafood & Oyster Bar**  
American, Seafood\$\$\$\$
- 27. Umi Sushi Buckhead**  
Japanese, Seafood\$\$\$\$
- 28. Wrecking Bar Brewpub**  
American, Bar\$\$ - \$\$\$
- 29. Cooks & Soldiers**  
European, Spanish\$\$\$\$
- 30. OK Cafe**  
American, Cafe\$\$ - \$\$\$



## Basketball Fans...

The Hawks will be hosting the Bucks on December 27 at State Farm Arena at 7:30pm. Tickets may be purchased online or at the stadium.



## Calling All Football Fanatics

Celebrate Bowl Week at the most unique football event in Atlanta! **Georgia Aquarium** is offering football fans the opportunity to be surrounded by millions of gallons of waters, thousands of aquatic animals and fellow football enthusiasts at Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Fan Night. Fans are invited to explore the Aquarium's galleries, attend a pep rally and enjoy food and drinks all night. There will be no lack of team spirit at our 6:30pm pep rally that will feature each team's cheerleaders and mascots! Café and cash bar will be available from 4:00pm – 8:00pm.

Date & Time: **December 27, 2019, 4:00pm - 8:00pm**, Price \$26.95, Location: **Georgia Aquarium, 225 Baker Street Northwest, Atlanta, Georgia**



## **Facts You Might Not Know About Atlanta...**

- 1.** Atlanta was originally named Terminus and Marthasville (the latter for Governor Wilson Lumpkin's daughter.)
- 2.** The city got its current name from railroad engineer J. Edgar Thompson. It's thought to be a shortened version of "Atlantica-Pacific."
- 3.** Your GPS might be confused if you punch in "Peachtree" as your destination. There are over 55 streets with the name.
- 4.** And it's possible none of them are named for an actual peach tree. Historians suggest they're named after the Native American village of "Standing Pitch Tree." The pronunciation corrupted over the years.
- 5.** Atlanta was the only city in North American destroyed as an act of war. (General Sherman burnt it to the ground.)
- 6.** Only 400 buildings survived.
- 7.** That's why the city's symbol is a phoenix.
- 8.** Lots of airports claim to be the world's busiest. But Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport truly is the world's busiest airport.
- 9.** Why? Because Atlanta is a perfect location. It's just a three hour flight from many major American cities.
- 10.** The terminal is as big as 45 football fields!
- 11.** Atlanta is Georgia's fifth capital. Savannah, Augusta, Louisville, and Milledgeville boasted the title earlier.
- 12.** The Georgia State Capitol building is gilded with 43 ounces of locally-mined gold.
- 13.** The Continental Divide out west gets all the love, but Atlanta is home to the Eastern Continental Divide, which separates water draining into the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic.
- 14.** One of the largest Hindu temples outside of India is located in the Atlanta metro area.
- 15.** It was once illegal to put an ice cream cone in your back pocket in Atlanta.
- 16.** Atlanta also outlawed tying a giraffe to a telephone pole.
- 17.** Want to ride your bike to Alabama? The Silver Comet Trail starting in Smyrna will get you there.
- 18.** In 1996, Terry Hitchcock ran from Minneapolis to Atlanta in just 75 days. He covered over 2100 miles!
- 19.** Stone Mountain outside Atlanta is one of the largest blocks of exposed granite in the world.
- 20.** Stone Mountain's etching of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and Jefferson Davis is the largest bas relief in the world, too!
- 21.** Atlanta had some tough competition when it nabbed the 1996 Olympics hosting duty. The city beat out Athens, Toronto, Melbourne, Manchester, and Belgrade for the spot.
- 22.** The fastest baseball game in history happened in Atlanta, when the Mobile Sea Gulls beat the Atlanta Crackers 2-1 in just 32 minutes.
- 23.** Atlanta also played host to the greatest rout in football history—a 1916 contest in which Georgia Tech blew out tiny Cumberland College 222-0.
- 24.** When pro football moved to Atlanta, the owners considered over 500 names. A schoolteacher came up with the Falcons nickname, a bird she endorsed because it was "proud and dignified, with great courage and fight."
- 25.** Atlanta resident Margaret Mitchell wrote *Gone with the Wind* because an ankle injury kept her from walking and she was really, really bored.

# Sudoku

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

Sudoku 1

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

Sudoku 2 Solution

**Answers to Puzzles  
No Peeking!**

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

Sudoku 2

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

# Puns!!!

- How does NASA organize a company party? They planet.
- 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.

# Puzzle Page

	DeGaines	Flock	Grant	Trent	Whey	gymnastics	field hockey	soccer	swimming	tennis	12	12	13	14	14	Mrs. Booth	Mr. Harding	Mrs. Kelly	Mr. Toomey	Mr. Webb	
Adam																					
Andrea																					
Elliot																					
Heather																					
Kristin																					
Mrs. Booth																					
Mr. Harding																					
Mrs. Kelly																					
Mr. Toomey																					
Mr. Webb																					
12																					
12																					
13																					
14																					
14																					
gymnastics																					
field hockey																					
soccer																					
swimming																					
tennis																					

First Name	Last Name	Sport	Age	Coach
Adam				
Andrea				
Elliot				
Heather				
Kristin				

- DeGaines    gymnastics    12    Mrs. Booth
- Flock    field hockey    12    Mr. Harding
- Grant    soccer    13    Mrs. Kelly
- Trent    swimming    14    Mr. Toomey
- Whey    tennis    14    Mr. Webb

Beverly Trent was one of the neighborhood's assigned taxis this week for the kids' afternoon activities. She and several of the other mothers in their neighborhood took turns picking their kids up after school. Only one of the five she was picking up today was her child. The other four belonged to four other families. One of the other mothers was picking up two more kids from karate practice. All of them had multiple children so scheduling who picked which of the kids up where was sometimes a major challenge. Determine the full name of each child Beverly picked up today, which sport each played (one was gymnastics), the age of each child, and the name of each child's coach.

- Mr. Toomey was Elliot's coach. The girl whose last name was Whey had Mr. Harding for a coach, but wasn't involved in swimming.
- The two 12-year-olds were Andrea and the girl who was coached by Mr. Webb.
- Kristin Flock played tennis but Mrs. Kelly wasn't her coach. Adam's last name wasn't Grant.
- One boy and one girl were 14 years old; one played soccer while the other swam, in no particular order.
- The boy whose last name was DeGaines had Mrs. Booth for a coach and he was one year younger than Heather.
- The girl who played field hockey was Beverly's daughter.

# Answer to Puzzle

First Name	Last Name	Sport	Age	Coach
Adam	DeGaines	gymnastics	13	Mrs. Booth
Andrea	Trent	field hockey	12	Mrs. Kelly
Elliot	Grant	swimming	14	Mr. Toomey
Heather	Whey	soccer	14	Mr. Harding
Kristin	Flock	tennis	12	Mr. Webb

## Limey Jack...

Allo Yanks:

It's that time of year when Howie Dung gets all 18 stone of him sitting on his own tongue. The USBF Juniors are underway of an instant. There are too many of them and much randomness involved but in the U-26 category one squad stands tall. Kaplan could field this team in the Reisinger and have a fair poke at the third day. More as it develops. There will also be a USA 2 and that will be the Yxu vs Wolff battle.

In the U-21, Howie Dung will blather. That is the only cert. Kolesnik, Chen, and Xiao will survive for the final 3 spots with two moving ahead.

In the U-16 Cedrone and Ge go head to head for the win.

In the Rona Cup (Girls), Limey Jack has the dope, while Howie Dung is the dope. Hsieh and Lin are your clubhouse leaders.

Be sure you view all the Proper names. In one match there are two teams named Y Xu. Howie Dung will make some inappropriate attempt at rhyming that for you.

Limey Jack is at your service. Even with Juniors there is a quid or two to be had.

Cheers

## Howie Doing...

Good that each partnership files a "card."  
Or choosing unknowns would really be hard.

After reading team methods, I'm still at a guess.  
But knowing the systems makes randomness less.

In U26 ... In USA1,  
It's Kaplan ... no question when all's said and done!

In U26... In USA2,  
Stephani and crew squeak past Rockoff and Xu.

In San Fran, Kolesnik and Ramos were hot,  
How much was Ramos and how much was not?

In U21, I'm going with Finn...  
Can't pick against teams whose names rhyme with WIN!

Employing that theory, we'll hsieh how it goes,  
In the Rona, it's Lin but just by a nose.

Amber's a gem; Emma's got class.  
Chang/Zhang know when to bid and to pass.

In U16, it's Marley Cedrone!  
His 6-person squad sets the pace and the tone.

Limey is clueless... He knows less than I.  
Whatever he says is pie in the sky!

When the first round is done, I will be back.  
Taking congrats and consoling poor Jack.

Till then, watch the play online on VuGraph.  
Jan has a plan and an excellent staff!



While you're staying on track  
with what is ensuing...  
I am your man... I'm the great  
Howie Doing!

# VuGraph Information

The 2019 Michael Seamon Junior USBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>.

From Saturday, December 28th on, we will cover as many matches as we can, probably 3 matches each session.

To watch the Vugraph online, go to the **BBO website** where you can either log on directly from your browser, go to "Vugraph" and choose which table to watch, or watch from the Windows version of BBO on your computer (if you don't have the Windows version, or don't know what it is, you probably can't use it). If you choose the Windows version, log on, click on the button labeled VUGRAPH and you'll be able to choose which of the MSJUSBC matches you want to watch. To watch on your smartphone or tablet, install the BBO app and watch using that.

There will often be a "yellow" user on BBO called USBF. If you have general questions, please ask USBF, not one of the hard-working Vugraph Operators, who may not have time to respond to private messages. Thank you.

The schedule for the entire event is the same (these are Atlanta times; to see the times for your time-zone, go to the **BBO Vugraph schedule site**):

11:30-1:40

1:50-4:00

5:45-7:55

8:05-10:15

All of the teams in each event will play the same boards.

You can find the hand records for USBC matches on this site, linked to the bracket sheets you can get to by clicking on 2016MSJUSBC under "Event Results" in the upper left of each page.

If you are going to be in Atlanta during the MSJUSBC and want to volunteer to help as a Vugraph operator, please **email Jan Martel**. The more operators we have, the more tables we can cover!

Jan's email address is [marteljan@gmail.com](mailto:marteljan@gmail.com).

**Watch it Live!**  
**Thanks BBO**  
**and the GREAT**  
**crew of commentators**  
**and operators!**

I don't play Precision  
But AI explains all.  
He follows the action  
Explaining each call!

I love to watch  
As long as it's clear.  
Thanks to Jan's guys  
I will be here!



## All About Kibitzing

### WHEN CAN YOU KIBITZ IN THE PLAYING ROOMS?

You will be able to kibitz at any of the tables during this event, except in the Closed Room during the final sequestered matches of the Round Robin, **subject to the following regulations:**

Kibitzers may enter the room **ONLY** at the start of play for a segment. Once play has started, the room will be closed.

A kibitzer who leaves the room may not return until the start of the next segment.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in the playing rooms, even if they are turned off. Any kibitzer who is found with a cell phone will be evicted and not allowed to kibitz during the remainder of the tournament.

When a match is being shown on BBO Vugraph, no kibitzer may sit on the same side of the table as the Vugraph operator.

### SCREENS

All of the USBC is played with screens. If you've never kibitzed at a table with screens before, you need to know that it is quite different from kibitzing at a regular table. You need to be seated at an "open" corner of the table (not next to the screen) in order to see, and once there are 4 kibitzers at a table it will be very hard for additional kibitzers to see.

### USBC KIBITZING RULES

The USBF **General Conditions of Contest** contain specific rules about kibitzers. They are designed to promote security at the tournament and are set forth in the conditions of contest section labeled "Security." They are:

#### GENERAL RULES

- a. During any use of duplicated boards across multiple matches, Kibitzers must select one table for kibitzing and may not move to any other table during a session or segment.
- b. Kibitzers may not speak with players, must watch only one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see more than one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see a computer screen in use for Internet broadcast, must check communication devices with the Director, cannot call attention to irregularities other than a board being placed incorrectly on the table (arrow positioning), but may serve as witnesses to a possible irregularity.
- c. Kibitzers must enter the playing room before play commences. Kibitzers are required to remain until the segment of play is completed at the table they are watching or to leave the playing area entirely. Kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).
- d. Except as expressly provided in these conditions and appendices, NPC's shall be subject to the WBF General Conditions, Section 17.
- e. No one other than the Internet broadcast personnel and Tournament Directors may watch any computer screen or any other mechanism for enabling the Internet broadcast at any time in either the Closed or the Open Room.
- f. These rules may be revised in specific instances by the DICs for the orderly running of the event.



## 3rd WBF Online (BBO) YOUTH TEAMS League (February – July, 2020)

### Format of the Championship

1. The Championship consists of **three** Series: Juniors (U26), Kids (U16), **NEW** - Girls (U26)
2. U26: All series will be played as a League & Draw tournament, each with a 7-round qualification stage.
3. At the end of the qualification stage, the leading 8 teams (Or 4 if there are 2 groups) in each series will qualify for the knock-out stages.
4. It is possible for a player to play in **more than one** category. For example, every girl who register for the Girls category can register also to the U16/U26.

### Timetable

**Important Dates: End of registration: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Start of the first round – Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020.

End of the tournament - Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020

For more information,

go to <http://youth.worldbridge.org/wbf-youth-online-league-2020-by-gilad-ofir/>

You can find the registration form along with detailed information on this site.

**NOTE: USBF Teams will be selected based on performance in these Trials!**



### ACBL Collegiate 12-01-2019, the four Board #2

**Board 7a**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

♠ 10  
♥ 9 7 5 4  
♦ 10 9 6 4  
♣ 9 8 7 2

13  
0 9  
18

♠ Q 7 5 3  
♥ A K 2  
♦ 8 5  
♣ K J 10 6

N		E
W		S

♠ A K 9 6 2  
♥ Q J 8 6  
♦ A 3  
♣ A 5

♠ J 8 4  
♥ 10 3  
♦ K Q J 7 2  
♣ Q 4 3

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
5 NT	Pass	7 ♣	All pass

NS 7N; NS 7♠; NS 7♥; NS 6♣;  
NS 1♦; Par +2220

Result	#	Pnts	Score
<u>7SS=</u>	3	2210	11.2
<u>6NS+1</u>	1	1470	-2.27
<u>6SS+1</u>	1	1460	-2.47
<u>6SS=</u>	2	1430	-3.33

There is a theme in this week's hand selection: How to open strong balanced hands with a five card major. The first hand is an easy decision. With 18 HCP you are too strong for a 1 NT opening bid, and nowhere near strong enough for 2 NT. So South should open 1 ♠ and be delighted to hear a Jacoby 2 NT raise by North. South, with extras and no short suit, is supposed to rebid 3 ♠. This gives him a chance to hear more about North's hand. If he is minimum for his GF raise North will retreat to 4 ♣, or with a little extra values he will make some positive noise. I suspect some will blast to Blackwood over 2 NT. They lose the little bit of extra information they can get by giving North a chance to describe his values.

After the 4 ♣ cue-bid, South can try Blackwood and might get to the Grand Slam. North will show 1 keycard (5 ♣), then the trump queen plus the ♥ K (5 ♥) over which South can count 12 tricks (5 Spades, 4 Hearts, 1 Diamond, 1 sure Club plus either the Club King or a club ruff based upon the 4 ♣ cue-bid). If North has no more than five red cards, there would be a Diamond ruff in North, or if North has the ♦ K the grand slam would be cold. So South could gamble 7 ♠, or could try for Grand with the 5 NT asking bid. North would probably bid the grand over a 5 NT grand slam try due to the doubleton Diamond and the strong Club holding, likely making the grand no worse than a club finesse or ruffing finesse. Those in 7 ♠ will likely earn double digit score, 6 ♠ should be minus a few IMPs, and not scoring slam will be a disaster.

Analysis from ACBL (3 more hands will be in first day Bulletin)

Board 2 7a from Dec 15 College Event...

# Team Practice: Stephani (purple) vs Fan (blue) 12/15/2019

<b>D</b> Closed Room Board 4	<b>N</b> hakanberk ♠ A65 ♥ Q108753 ♦ A765 ♣	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass											
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Pass																										
<b>W</b> tofuwen ♠ KJ103 ♥ J4 ♦ J102 ♣ 9653	<b>E</b> hhtytommy ♠ 942 ♥ AK96 ♦ 93 ♣ AJ87	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT																							
Pass	Pass	Pass																								
Team1: 3 IMPs Team2: 2 IMPs Open Room: 3NT S -3 -300	<b>S</b> assault1NT ♠ Q87 ♥ 2 ♦ KQ84 ♣ KQ1042	Open Room:																								

Open Teams do it. Women's Teams do it. Mixed Teams do it. And Junior Teams do it too. Bridge Base Online is a great source for Online Practice in advance of the "main event" ... in this case, the Junior Team Trials. Practice helps unwind major or minor problems in a system often with benefit of advice from mentors or teammates or opponents, and it benefits everyone. The hand above was taken from a Sunday night USBF team practice on 12/15/19. North/South in the Closed Room are Hakan Berk and David Soukup respectively. East/West are Nian Si and Yewen Fan. In the Open Room, Hongji Wei is North and Boyuan Xiong is South while Louis Beauchet is East and Isaac Stephani is West.

Board 4 is a good lesson hand: When you play light openers, you must use sound judgment through the auction so as not to get too high.

In the Closed Room, David Soukup was careful. His partner opened 1H. His singleton alerted him to a possible misfit. He judged well to bid 1NT instead of the possible 2C which would create a game force. When Hakan responded 2H, David went softly. 2H was defeated one trick. It could have succeeded. The opening lead was the D9. Declarer won in dummy and played on trumps. He needed to run the CK, instead. On the CK, he could discard one losing spade. Then he could discard a second spade on the CQ ultimately losing the CA and four trump tricks.

Many "experts" would choose to bid 2D on Hakan's hand before rebidding their 6-card major. Had Hakan chosen this, David could have bid 2S (the impossible suit... he would have responded 1S instead of a forcing NT if he really held spades) showing the best possible diamond raise... and when Hakan bid only 3D on his minimum, David could again yield in a safe spot.

3D is likely to make. On a trump lead, declarer can win in dummy and lead a heart to the ten. If trumps are continued, declarer can win in hand and bury the HJ by leading his queen. Declarer ruffs a club to his hand and plays the H8. If East ducks, declarer pitches a spade from dummy and West scores a trump trick. West cannot play on spades so he plays a club. Declarer discards a spade from hand and East wins the CA. Declarer has the rest of the tricks and actually makes four on this line. If East covers the H8, declarer ruffs in dummy, ruffs a club to his hand, plays a good heart... when West ruffs in, he is again unable to attack spades and the play successfully produces ten tricks. A spade opening lead will probably hold declarer to nine tricks.



**Open Room**  
Board 4

N	Hongji Wei
♠	A65
♥	Q108753
♦	A765
♣	

W	Isaac Stephani
♠	KJ103
♥	J4
♦	J102
♣	9653

Team1: 3 IMPs  
Team2: 2 IMPs  
Open Room: 3NT S -3 -300

Closed Room:			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

E	Louis Beauchet
♠	942
♥	AK96
♦	93
♣	AJ87

Open Room:			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

S	Boyuan Xiong
♠	Q87
♥	2
♦	KQ84
♣	KQ1042

In the Open Room (hand repeated above for ease of reading), Xiong, playing a strong club system with relays, chose a game forcing 2C bid in response to 1H. 2C showed a game force with at least 2 clubs. Wei's 2D response was artificial, showing 10-12 HCP. 2H was a relay. 2S indicated any 2-suited hand. 2NT was again a relay asking for more information and 3S showed 6H and 4D. South placed the contract at 3NT.

Even if the opponents' cards were at their most favorable, 3NT would not likely succeed... there just wasn't a suit with texture to produce a nine trick result. As it was, Stephani led the DJ, won by South's king. The H2 went to the ten and king, Louis continuing diamonds to declarer's ace. The H8 rode to West's jack and the D2 went to declarer's six. HQ to HA; S4 to the Q, K, 5; SJ ducked around; S3 to declarer's ace; D7 to the queen; CQ to East's ace; H9 cashed and CJ to dummy's king... contract defeated 3 vulnerable tricks (-300).

Sometimes even the most exact systems fail. South knew that North had between ten and twelve HCP with six cards in hearts and four cards in diamonds. That's a lot of precise information... Still, the partnership landed in 3NT with no real play.

Perhaps South should have realized that with the combination of the misfit in hearts and a 22-24 HCP, 3NT was likely to be a thin game. Unlucky for the Wei team, Xiong's only alternative to 3NT was to bid 4D. Not only would this put him a level higher, but once he had chosen his 2C response, the partnership could not stop short of game. 5D was not going to be much better than 3NT.

Live by the sword, die by the sword... 5 IMPs to Stephani

(Continued from page 17)

<b>Open Room</b> <b>Board 7</b> <b>D</b>	<b>N weihongji</b> ♠ 9853 ♥ A92 ♦ 874 ♣ J106	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South	Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT	Pass			Pass								
	West	North	East	South																		
Pass	3NT	Pass	2NT																			
Pass			Pass																			
<b>W isaac418</b> ♠ 7 ♥ J873 ♦ A10962 ♣ K75	<b>S pknfw</b> ♠ AKQJ ♥ Q6 ♦ J5 ♣ AQ942	<b>E KingLouis1</b> ♠ 10642 ♥ K1054 ♦ KQ3 ♣ 83																				
Team1: 5 IMPs Team2: 7 IMPs Closed Room: 3♠ S -1 -100		<b>Closed Room:</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South				1♣	1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠	3♦	3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	
West	North	East	South																			
			1♣																			
1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠																			
2♥	2♠	3♦	3♠																			
Pass	Pass	Pass																				

Sometimes a contract can simply not succeed. In situations like this, you must play to minimize the damage. On Board 7, Stephani led a 4th best diamond and East/West cashed five diamonds off the top and switched to a heart. Assuming that the HK is with East, which seems likely on this defense, declarer has a tough decision. He can rise with the HA and take the club finesse. If this succeeds, he will be -100. If it fails, the roof caves in... the defenders will make 3NT and declarer will be -500. (Unfortunately for Team Wei, this was the play declarer chose.)

In the alternative, declarer can duck the heart to East's king; win the heart return in hand and drive out the CK for minus 300 or minus 200 if the CK is singleton.

How do you decide which play is best?

Rising with the HA gives you a 50/50 chance of -100 or -500... an average of -300.

Ducking the heart will usually result in -300 but occasionally will be -200.

On the average of basic expectancy, it is slightly better to duck the heart.

There is also the slight possibility that West has underled the HK. This further tips the scales in favor of the duck.

At the other table, North/South, playing Precision, stopped in 3S after South opened a strong, forcing club; West overcalled 1D, and North passed showing less than 6 points. 3S is a good contract that will succeed whenever the CK is on-side or the spades break. A heart was led to the king. The opponents cashed two rounds of diamonds and exited with a heart. Declarer drew two rounds of trump getting the bad news. When West scored his club king, he was able to tap declarer's hand and promote a trump trick for East. The opponents could have accomplished this same position by playing a diamond at trick four. It would have a better line of play for declarer to win the HA at trick four and take an immediate club finesse. If the club is on-side, he can succeed even when trumps split badly. In fact, in this case, he would make four because the opponents didn't tap him at trick four.

Team Stephani won nine IMPs on the Board even though 3S went light one trick. If the Fan team declarer had ducked the heart return in the Open Room and gone -300, he would have saved 4 IMPs and gone -5 instead of -9. It is a really close decision and takes sophisticated reasoning to minimize the loss. Developing such reasoning takes years of practice and experience.