

December 30, 2019
Volume 3, Issue 5



Michael Seamon

Results: Congrats Team Kaplan, U26 USA1

U26 USA1 Michael Seamon United States Bridge Championship - 2019						
Final (60 boards)						
29-DEC-2019						
#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
1	Kaplan	214	92	37	59	26
2	Hallerman	118	25	33	17	43

Rona Michael Seamon Junior United States Bridge Championship - 2019						
Stage3 (60 boards)						
29-DEC-2019						
#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
2	Huang	109	22	43	21	23
3	Hsieh	154	26	28	66	34

U26 USA2 Michael Seamon Junior United States Bridge Championship - 2019						
QuarterFinals (60 boards)						
17-DEC-2019						
#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
3	Rockoff	167	53	49	35	30
8	YXu	123	25	42	27	29
4	Xu	116	29	34	14	39
7	Fan	166	45	52	26	43
5	Wolff	140	30	37	46	27
6	Stephani	141	56	36	35	14

U16 Michael Seamon Junior United States Bridge Championship 2019									
SemiFinals_Day2 3-Way (28 boards)									
28-DEC-2019									
VPs Total	#	TEAM	Carryover VPs	VPs Match	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
30.8	1	Cedrone	11.98	14.63	77	31	21	0	25
	2	Ge	8.02	5.37	53	14	13	11	15
25.37	2	Ge	20	20	156	39	36	41	40
	3	Zhao	0	0	12	0	5	7	0
3.83	3	Zhao	0	3.83	55	3	4	20	28
	1	Cedrone	20	16.17	90	35	28	23	4

U21 USA1 Michael Seamon Junior United States Bridge Championship - 2019						
USA1_SemiFinals (60 boards)						
29-DEC-2019						
#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
1	Xiao	210	53	41	57	59
4	Vohra	97	19	50	10	18
2	Kolesnik	179	60	60	26	33
3	Wang	73	18	5	50	0



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MICHAEL SEAMON JUNIOR UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

All Kidding Aside

Thanks Min Bai for more great photos!

Teams Entered U21

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

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

U16:

Cedrone	Marley Cedrone, Capt Michael Haas Eric Xiao	Zacharia Posternak Samuel Pahk 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

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

Board 1
None Vul.
Dealer: N

♠ J87642
♥ 65
♦ 7
♣ KQ98

♠ KQ
♥ AKJT742
♦ Q853
♣

N
↑

♠ A93
♥ Q83
♦ 9642
♣ JT6

♠ T5
♥ 9
♦ AKJT
♣ A75432

It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters.

F Kolesr	S Fei	M Xu	Z Wang
	2♠	Pass	2NT
4♥	Pass	Pass	5♣
5♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Wang/Kolesnik

C Xiao	H Luba	T Wang	Youngqu
	2♠	Pass	3♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

C Duffie	J Yue	S Wan	R Xiao
	Pass	Pass	2♣
4♥	5♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Xiao/Vohra

K Lui	R Jeng	L Liu	B Xiao
	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Three of four U21 players shown above opened the North hand 2S on a bad 6-card suit with a good 4-card side suit. In Wang/Kolesnik, Youngquist allowed Xiao to play 4H which easily succeeded. Wang took a different view. He could be defeating 4H with his AK/A and one of the high spade honors with partner. Or, he could be making 5C. He bid 5C and Kolesnik was pressured into bidding 5H. 5H went down one. 10 IMPs for Wang

In the Xiao/Vohra match, once Yue passed in first seat, R Xiao was able to open a Precision 2C. When Duffie jumped to 4H, Yue was able to take the save wisely. When Jeng opened 2S and B Xiao passed, K Lui bid only 3H in balancing position. His partner had no reason to raise on a flat seven count. 3H made four; 5C went light one... 3 IMPs for Vohra

Tournament Schedules

"Give the world the best you have, and the best will come to you."

-- Madeline Bridge

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			
Friday And Saturday Schedule is the same both days	Dec. 27 & Dec. 28	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
		6:30 - 8:05	Match 4 - Boards 1-11
	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 & Dec. 29	11:30 - 1:40	Boards 1-14
		1:50 - 4:00	Boards 15-28
		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	

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 Final

Board 2
N/S Vul.
Dealer: E

♠ K52
♥ A965
♦ 7632
♣ 84

♠ A763
♥ J2
♦ KJT8
♣ T65



♠ Q84
♥ 843
♦ A4
♣ AKQ97

♠ JT9
♥ KQT7
♦ Q95
♣ J32

Board 2 in yesterday's VuGraph matches provides an interesting declarer play problem. Five out of the six E/W pairs on screen reached 3NT after a 1NT opening bid followed by a Stayman auction. The sixth pair settled in an easy 2NT.

In the U26 final, the HQ was led at both tables. Zach Grossack and Kevin Rosenberg had the best defense. Rosenberg, South, led the HQ and Grossack followed with the H9. Rosenberg continued with the HQ followed by the HT. Grossack overtook with the HA and returned the H5 to Rosenberg's H7. Rosenberg played the S9 and Yang won in dummy with the ace.

Yang, declarer at East, played five rounds of clubs on which Rosenberg discarded two spades while Grossack discarded a spade and a diamond.

Based on the early play, it seems clear that Grossack's last three cards were the SK and two diamonds, while Rosenberg held three diamonds.

West	North	East	South
		1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Yang played the DA followed by a diamond to the king. When the queen didn't fall, 3NT was down one. 3NT succeeded at the other table on less inspired defense (South discarded a diamond on the fourth round of clubs and declarer

couldn't go wrong). 10 IMPs to Kaplan.

Was Yang's play best? It appears that it was assuming that North held the SK. South had three diamonds at the end of the hand and North had only two diamonds. However, North started with four diamonds and South started with only three diamonds. Therefore, North is a slight favorite (4 to 3) to hold the DQ.

On this layout, South had no problem holding all three of his diamonds. Would he have done the same thing if his diamonds were three small instead of Qxx?

In the U21 Xiao/Vohra match, Brent Xiao found the inspired lead of the SJ. Declarer ducked. Richard Jeng won the SK and switched to hearts. In the other room, North won the fourth round of hearts and exited with a club. Stella Wan took the diamond finesse and scored-up 3NT. 10 IMPs to Xiao.

In the other U21 match, Kolesnik vs. Wang, Xiao/Wang stopped in 2NT making 120 while in the other room, Michael Xu declared 3NT. Fei/Wang cashed four rounds of hearts ending in the North hand. North exited with a club. Xu won and ran the clubs pitching three spades and a diamond from dummy. This has the advantage of concealing the spade position. Someone might stiff the SK to guard diamonds since the position of the SQ is unknown. Note that Xu opened a 14-16 NT and could hold the SJ instead of the SQ. After running the clubs, Xu led a spade to the ace and followed with the DA and DK. The contract failed when the DQ didn't drop. 5 IMPs to Wang.

More U26 Final

Board 7
All Vul.
Dealer: S

♠ KJT5
♥ KQT9872
♦
♣ K7

♠ 764
♥ J4
♦ QJT87
♣ Q98



♠ AQ9832
♥ A
♦ A6532
♣ 5

♠
♥ 653
♦ K94
♣ AJT6432

Hallerma	Z Grossi	S McNall	KRosent
			Pass
Pass	4♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Kaplan	D Wong	Kristens	S Li
			3♣
Pass	4♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Hallerman/Kaplan

D Souku	N Finkle	H Berk	I Wolff
			3♣
Pass	4♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

C Hettle	N Chang	D Sonne	L Beaucl
			3♣
Pass	4♥	4♠	6♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Wolff/Stephani

K Lui	S Wan	L Liu	C Duffie
			3♣
Pass	4♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

B Xiao	C Smith	R Jeng	K Vohra
			4♣
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Xiao/Vohra

Board 7 produced explosive results in the Kaplan/Hallerman and the Wolff/Stephani matches.

In **Kaplan/Hallerman**, both tables played in 5HX. Who can blame East for doubling with three aces, including the ace of trump? McNally led his SA against Grossack. Grossack ruffed and played a trump to McNally's ace. Trying to limit the damage, and maybe even defeat the hand if his partner held the CK, McNally played his DA. Grossack trumped and ruffed a spade in dummy. He returned to hand by trumping a diamond and drew the last trump for +1050. In the other room, Kristensen led the DA. Wong trumped, ruffed a spade in dummy, and cashed the DK pitching a spade. He trumped a diamond to hand in order to trump a second spade in dummy. Probably thinking that 850 was a good score, he led a heart from dummy. East won the HA and cashed the SA. 5 IMPs to Kaplan.

In **Wolff/Stephani**, Wolff/Finkle reached 5HX after Wolff opened 3C on the South hand and competed to 5H. Berk led the HA and switched to a club producing an easy twelve tricks for declarer. Little did Wolff/Finkle know that 1050 would turn out to be a bad result. At the other table, Louis Beauchet held the South cards. He opened 3C and when his partner bid 4H he decided that three trumps and a spade void were just what was needed. He jumped to 6H! Pity poor Sonner. Surely his three aces and a queen would be enough to defeat this stab in the dark 6H bid. Sonner led the DA. Chang trumped and played a heart. Sonner won and switched to a club picking up his partner's queen. Chang claimed twelve tricks, scoring +1660. 12 IMPs to Stephani

Nothing very exciting happened in the Vohra/Xiao match. At one table, where Lauren Liu held the East hand, she made a very disciplined pass of 5H after the 3C opener by South. Liu led the SA. Stella Wan, declarer, ruffed and played a heart. Liu won the HA and tried to cash the DA. Wan trumped the diamond and drew the last trump to make 5H for +650. At the other table in this match, Kunal Vohra added a new wrinkle to the bidding. He opened 4C on this hand unlike the four other players who opened only three, and Kevin Rosenberg chose to not open at all. 4C was passed around to Richard Jeng in the East seat. Jeng bid 4S and Cooper Smith had an easy double with the North cards. 4SX was defeated two tricks. +500 for N/S. 4 IMPs to Xiao

Adam Wildavsky reports that in a photo-finish the final results of the **Truscott BAM** in NY are:

1 Jared Lilienstein	Adam Wildavsky	Michael Polowan	Jan Jansma	27.77
2 Ranald Davidson	Michael Lipkin	K Fung	Michael Radin	27.59
3 Allen Kahn	Jeffrey Rothstein	David Rosenberg	Ira Herman	26
4 David Moss	John Boyer	Andrew Rosenthal	Robert Stayman	24.27

U21 Fourth Segment Semi Final

Board 21

N/S Vul.

Dealer: N

- ♠ J9
- ♥ J43
- ♦ QT42
- ♣ 8742

- ♠ A3
- ♥ AK8652
- ♦ K7
- ♣ A95



- ♠ KT87642
- ♥ T
- ♦ J6
- ♣ JT3

- ♠ Q5
- ♥ Q97
- ♦ A9853
- ♣ KQ6

K Vohra	R Jeng	C Smith	B Xiao
	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Sometimes youthful exuberance pays off for the best. On this board from the U21 Semi-final, between teams captained by Brent Xiao and Kunal Vohra, Cooper Smith and Kunal Vohra bid their cards for all they were worth.

At favorable vulnerability, Smith preempted 3S on his broken seven-bagger and an eight-loser hand. If partner holds no useful cards, he will probably be defeated four tricks for -800, while the opponents will be cold for a vulnerable game or even a slam. Vohra held four and one-half quick tricks with spade support for his partner and a good suit of his own. He took the bull-by-the-horns. He bid 4NT (RKC Blackwood) and when Smith showed one keycard, Vohra jumped to slam.

The CK opening lead took an entry away from dummy, so Smith was going to need a combination of good luck in both major suits. He won the CA, played the HA and trumped a heart. The SK followed by a spade to dummy's ace drew the trumps. When the hearts split 3-3, declarer took 13 tricks for +1010. At the other table East opened 2S and E/W settled in a calm 4S making five scoring +450.

11 IMPs for Vohra

In the U26 Final, both East players opened 3S and both West players settled for game.

In the U26 USA2 match between Wolff and Stephani, both East players opened 3S and stopped in game. Soukup/Berk made a move toward slam. Soukup bid 4C (RKC) over Berk's 3S bid. When Berk showed one keycard and no queen of trumps by responding 4H, Soukup signed off in 4S. No swing in that match.



6



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

Sudoku 1

Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

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

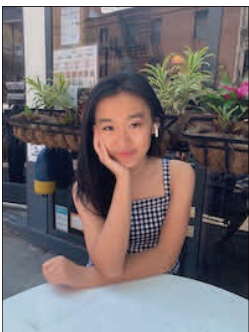
Sudoku 1 Solution

Sudoku 2 Solution

**Answers to Puzzles
No Peeking!**

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

Meet the Players:



Lauren Liu, age 17, is a high school senior from Princeton, NJ. An accredited ACBL teacher, she founded a youth bridge program for beginners in 2016 hoping to share this supportive community of youth and mentors. If not at a bridge tournament, she can be found on a boat, coxing her crew team, or on a NYC subway, exploring the limits to her MetroCard.



Kyle Lui is a freshman at UC Berkeley studying Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He has been playing bridge for four years with a small team from New Jersey.

Outside of playing bridge, Kyle enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, playing video games, and playing piano.

Puzzle Page

	Belmont	Lambert	Rondell	Stone	Willow	Angel	I Love You	Never Again	Solitude	Wild Ride	Anette	Mark	Ricky	Sammy	Sharon	Brown	Right	Star	Turner	White	
Gary																					
Richard																					
Sara																					
Tina																					
Wanda																					
Brown																					
Right																					
Star																					
Turner																					
White																					
Anette																					
Mark																					
Ricky																					
Sammy																					
Sharon																					
Angel																					
I Love You																					
Never Again																					
Solitude																					
Wild Ride																					

Friday night is Karaoke night at the Horse-shoe Pub. Tina and four of her friends visited the Pub last week for Tina's birthday. They had a grand time and by the end of the evening all had gathered their courage up and performed a song solo, to the delight of the others. Determine the full name of each friend, the song title each sang, and the full name of the artist who first performed the song.

- "Solitude" was not originally sung by Ricky Star. "Angel" was not originally sung by Ms. Turner. Anette, whose last name wasn't White, didn't sing the song that Sara chose.
- Sara, whose last name isn't Lambert, didn't sing a song by Sharon. "I Love You" was sung by a woman, both originally and on karaoke night.
- The man who sang "Wild Ride" originally was not Mr. Brown. Gary, whose last name wasn't Lambert, sang a song by Sammy, whose last name wasn't Right.
- Mr. Right originally sung the song that Ms. Belmont, whose first name wasn't Tina, chose to sing.
- "Never Again", which wasn't originally sung by Anette, was Richard's karaoke choice. Wanda, whose last name isn't Willow, sang Mark's song.
- The five songs are represented by: Richard, Ms. Stone, "Solitude", Sara Rondell, "Wild Ride".

First name	Last name	Song Title	Artist first name	Artist last name
Gary	Belmont	Angel	Anette	Brown
Richard	Lambert	I Love You	Mark	Right
Sara	Rondell	Never Again	Ricky	Star

Right	Mark	Wild Ride	Belmont	Wanda
Turner	Anette	I Love You	Stone	Tina
Star	Ricky	Angel	Rondell	Sara
White	Sharon	Never Again	Lambert	Richard
Brown	Sammy	Solitude	Willow	Gary
Artist last name	Artist first name	Song Title	Last name	First name

Answer to Puzzle

VuGraph Information

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

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

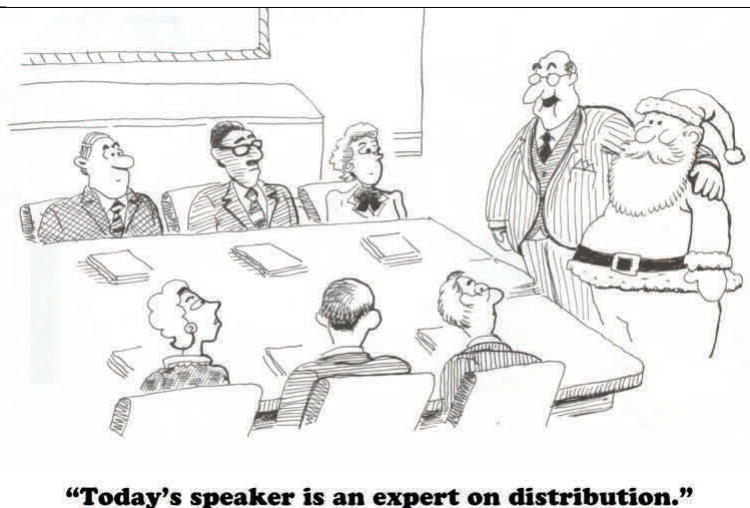
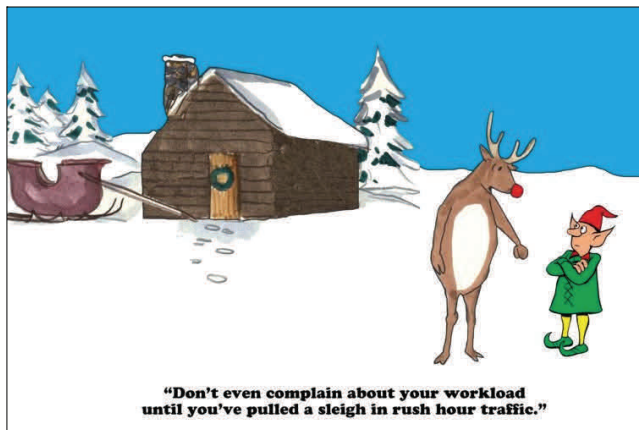
All of the teams in each event will play the same boards.

I watch what they do.
I hear what they say.
One of these years,
I'll be up to the play!

Thanks to the VG operators,
commentators, and
coordinators!



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.



Holiday Humor

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 20th January 2020

Start of the first round–Sunday, 2nd February 2020.

End of the tournament -Tuesday, 14th 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.

Players interested in competing in this event may indicate their intent during these Team Trials. Check with Joe or Jan.

Limey Jack...

Crikey Yanks:

The Lads and Lassies are putting on a right smart show. Naturally Limey Jack has shown you the penthouse whereas placing a bob or two on Howie Dung's guesses gets you the outhouse.

Kaplan runs away with the cheese as promised, leaving 4 left in the fray.

Hallerman V Stephani. Hallerman takes the modest extra experience and puts it to good use.

Rockoff V Fan. Yet another oppo for that Dung bloke to make a Fan comment. Rockoff does right the ship and ne'er a moment too soon.

In USA1 final Xiao V Kolesnik is a tight one that you should not write a cheque for. At dawn's early light, Kolesnik moves forward.

In USA2 semi Vohra V Wang. Vohra is dispatched like a Lorry hit them.

In the Rona Cup Lin V Hsieh, Limey Jack calls the upset with Hsieh.

In Cedrone V Ge in the U-16 almost anything can occur and since the Parson's Wife is Choosing Ge, so must we.

Limey Jack will win a bob,.

Howie Dung is still a fob.

Howie Doing...

Finn's gonna finn-ish on top of the pack.
It's Xaio hu plays Vohra ... don't listen to Jack!

Linn in the Rona... That you will hsieh.
Slimey just guesses... It's science for me!

USA2 ... U26 ...
Threw an appeal into the mix.

Hallerman's tired. Kaplan played great.
Isaac is ready ... It's gonna be fate!

Will Fan knockoff Rockoff? I would say NO.
All will end Well-and they'll say Wei to go!

While two Ge's are always better than one,
Cedrone will prevail when all's said and done!

Till tomorrow...
I remain...
Howie Doing... quite fine, thanks!

I was kibitzing Sarah Youngquist in the fifth segment of the U21 Friday night when board 19 caught my attention. Sarah was partnering Harrison Luba, and their opponents were Kunal Vohra and Cooper Smith. At favorable vulnerability, Sarah held

♠AQJ853

♥J

♦AJ7

♣Q43

U21RR on Friday Night from John Miller

She opened 1♠ in first seat, and with the opponents passing, partner bid a forcing 1N, Sarah rebid 3♣, and Harrison raised to 4♣. Kunal led the ♥4 (third from even, low from odd) after some thought, and Harrison put down

♠K4

♥AK7

♦985

♣J7652

While you are thinking about the play, it is worthwhile to consider a subtlety in the auction. Sarah and Harrison have a specialized bid to show three hearts to go along with the six spades in an invitational hand, so Sarah's 3♣ rebid denied three hearts. Looking at the two hands, you would much rather be in 3N. Should Harrison have bid it? At IMPs, choosing four of a major over 3N requires that the major be *two* tricks better than 3N, as you don't much care about the one IMP loss for +400 against -420. That means 3N should be played far more often than four of a major at IMPs than at matchpoints (or board-a-match). From Harrison's perspective, if diamonds are stopped, 3N is very likely to be better than 4M, and even if they are not, sometimes they don't lead them, or they are blocked. The fact that Sarah does not have three hearts increases 1) the likelihood that hearts is their longest suit and they will lead one, and 2) that she has a diamond stopper. So, in general I think I would chance 3N with Harrison's hand. Against that, they had a couple of good results already, and in those circumstances you would rather match the contract at the other table and hope to outplay them, so from that point of view I might have bid 4♣ anyway even if I thought 3N was likely better.

One other question that arises is whether Harrison's hand is worth a slam try. Within a standard range for 3♣, my opinion is that it is not. You are not much above standard game strength, and there is nothing special that points to this being a magic fit. Given that partner is known to have fewer than three hearts, more than half your strength is not opposite length, so coming up with a hand that has a good shot at twelve tricks is remote.

Back to the play. If you haven't thought about it, do so before you read on. Sarah took a good three minutes at trick one, and when she made her play I had not yet decided what I would do.

Despite having 26 high-card points and an eight-card fit, this is not a great contract. You have three options for your tenth trick ... 1) KT or QT of diamonds on your right, 2) the opening leader having the ♥Q and running trick one to the ♥J, or 3) something going right in clubs, either a singleton honor or honor doubleton in a hand you can lead the first round of the suit through, or maybe AK tight in clubs with RHO. There is some possibility of combining chances 1) or 2) with 3) (but not with each other), but you 1) have at most two entries to dummy, and only one if you run the first trick to the ♥J, and 2) there is a possibility of a club ruff looming. Problem 1) means that if you want to combine the chance in clubs with another one, you can only play LHO for the honor doubleton, as you won't start clubs and risk a ruff before trumps are drawn.

While it seems natural to focus on the heart suit, it is the threat of a club ruff that requires we first think through the club position. We will assume opening leader does not have ♣AK (virtually certain) or a small singleton (virtually certain), or the singleton Ace (almost certain), or a small doubleton (very likely). This means the club honors are split, unless RHO has ♣AK tight or all five. That information skews the split probabilities, removing more of the 4-1 breaks than the 3-2 breaks. My math (don't try this at the table) indicates almost an 81% chance of a 3-2 break and only 15% 4-1. With the 3-2's there are equal 37% chances of honors split with the two in either hand, and an extra 6% of ♣AK tight on your right.

(Continued on page 12)

The first option for your tenth trick is relatively straightforward ... win ♥A and run the ♦9 if it is not covered by the ♦T. On the surface it's 37.5% plus what you get from something good happening in clubs minus the possibility of a club ruff. Back to the clubs in a moment. What do we make of the fact LHO did not lead a diamond honor? I would say it's almost 100% LHO doesn't have KQT of diamonds, and not certain, but also very likely he doesn't have KQx. That raises the diamond play close to 50%.

However, and it is a big however, unless RHO has all three of the diamond honors, you will lose the first round of the suit to LHO. What will he do? He can't be sure you have solid spades, but he sees any honor the defense has is finessable. From the auction and trick one he knows there are no heart tricks for the defense, and if the diamond situation is the way you want it there are no more tricks there either. That means he must get three club tricks or two clubs plus a ruff to beat 4♠, so it is virtually certain that the defense will get their ruff if clubs are 3-2. That leaves you just with the blockage 4-1 situations and the club void with LHO.

How about running the heart? On the surface it is 50-50 where the ♥Q is. However, that needs to be discounted for LHO's lead tendencies. Nothing in the auction has indicated a long side suit or a need for an attacking lead. In those circumstances, my experience is that leading away from an unsupported Queen is a net loser. If LHO has the QT a heart lead is more likely, but that lowers the 50-50 odds somewhat. There is no objective way to compute the odds here, especially if you do not know your opponent well, but I would say the odds are closer to 20% that LHO has the ♥Q. Keep in mind LHO certainly has a passive trump lead unless he has a singleton.

Even though the diamond position is more likely to be favorable than the heart position, it must be correct to run the heart at trick one, because *if you are right, you need not lose the lead and worry about a club ruff*, as you must take advantage of a favorable diamond position. From above, that worry is very significant against good defenders.

However, if you lose the first trick to the ♥Q, your odds in clubs are not as high as they might seem to be. Look at the defense from RHO's perspective. Declarer has ducked the heart when known to have two or fewer hearts. Not only did she risk a loser in a suit she didn't have one, she lost an entry to dummy. Declarer wouldn't fool around that way if, for example, she could set up the clubs. She also must have a minor suit Ace to have done this. If RHO is looking at the ♣A, he will know there is no future in diamonds. Does he need to get active in clubs? The only reason to risk going for a club ruff with ♣Ax is if declarer can start clubs from dummy through him after trumps are drawn. RHO can counter that by leading a second heart now. Giving declarer a second entry to dummy when she has a singleton heart is an illusory danger, as she won't have an entry after trumps are drawn. How about ♣Axx? Now if partner has ♣Kx you can short-circuit the late danger of leading through partner by giving him a ruff now. What about the possibility declarer has ♥Jx ♣Qx and you set up a diamond pitch? Partner should foresee this danger if he doesn't have a doubleton club and shift back to diamonds. This defense is harder than finding the club ruff from LHO's hand, so this is another reason to prefer losing the lead to RHO.

Sarah indeed ran the heart, it lost to the ♥Q, and a diamond came back. She was tightroped into winning the ♦A, drawing two rounds of trumps ending on dummy, cashing the ♥AK to pitch the two losing diamonds, and ruffing a diamond back to her hand to draw the remaining trump (which LHO had). At that point you cannot play more trumps, because you must lose the lead twice to potentially set up a club trick. But a funny thing happened when you ruffed the diamond back ... the ♦K dropped. What do you make of that?

On the surface, if the ♦K is an honest card LHO is 3=4=2=4, as he dropped the lower heart spot on the ♥AK. Now an expert defender might throw the ♦K from a longer holding, realizing that it can't cost and may throw off the count. However, he had a simpler falsecard available, which is to hold his lowest spot in hearts when you played the ♥AK. The fact he did not do that leads me to believe the ♦K, so if you think LHO would have led the ♦K from ♦KQx, you should play for RHO to have a singleton club honor and duck the first round in both hands. It turns out that works.

This hand has the layers of complexity that make bridge a fascinating game. As declarer, you need to consider how the defense may go in various lines, sometimes choosing a lower percentage one because of timing or how a particular choice might roadmap the defense. As defender, look for chances to play known cards; on the opening lead declarer knows you have two cards higher than the ♥4, so play them under the ♥AK. And, finally, at IMPs, bid 3N more often than you do now. You will be shocked how many times you make it when you shouldn't, and how often it is better than your eight-card major fit.