

Volume 17, Issue 28
May 27, 2023

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations ... Oldies but Goodies!

Results:

Final (120 boards)		Set score of form "Ax" or "Rx" indicates pending Appeal or Ruling. IMPs Total may change.									
23-May-2023		<i>The colored score boxes indicate the team with seating rights for that segment of play.</i>									
#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	SET #5	SET #6	SET #7	SET #8	Penalty (IMPs)
2	Hamman	128	21	60	18	29					
3	Wolfson	92	23	4	18	47					

Thanks Everyone!

Thank you to everyone who had a hand,
In making this tournament best in the land!
Thanks **Jan Martel** for all that you do,
To choose USA1 and USA2!

Thanks “**Z**” for being so good at your task,
Maintaining the peace is all we can ask.
Thanks **AI**, for explaining the chat between pards.
Thanks **Subecks** for bulletins, signage, scorecards.

Thanks to the folks who served on committees.
Thanks to prognostics who wrote lots of ditties!
Maya, Marie: you both did great.
Look at the mounds of food that we ate!

Setting up VuGraph, thanks to you, **Chris**.
Things went quite smoothly, nothing amiss.
Thanks to **the players** for making it fun.
A month-long event never seems to get done!

Leaving your families, leaving your friends,
Returning home tired when play finally ends.
Safe journeys home, however you tread,
We’ve kept you quite busy, amused and well-fed!

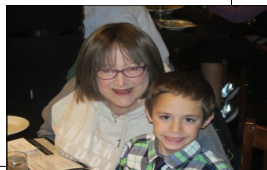
Have a good holiday: bar-b-que, cheer!
See you again at the same time next year!

- USBF President**
Aaron Silverstein
- USBF Vice President**
Lynn Baker
- USBF COO & Secretary**
Jan Martel
- USBF CFO & Treasurer**
Stan Subeck
- USBF Recorder**
Jack Oest
- Chief Communications Officer**
Suzi Subeck
- Directors**
McKenzie Myers, DIC
Ken Horwedel
Chris Wiegand
- Tournament Organizer**
Jan Martel
- Software Expert**
Al Hollander
- VuGraph Organizers**
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Chris Wiegand
- Appeals Administrator**
Suzi Subeck, Chairman
- Appeals Panel:**
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Rich DeMartino
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Ron Gerard
Marty Hirschman
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Chip Martel
Kerri Sanborn
Danny Sprung
Stan Subeck
Adam Wildavsky
- Bulletin Editor**
Suzi Subeck
- Hospitality**
Maya Alela
Marie-France Benoit

Senior Teams Entered

Beatty	Steve Beatty, Capt Jeff Aker Dennis Clerkin	Fred Stewart Doug Simson Jerry Clerkin
Cappelli	Bob Cappelli, Capt Ken Kranyak Mark Aquino	Bob Bitterman Phil Becker Pat McDevitt
Goodman	Andy Goodman, Capt Drew Casen Venkatrao Koneru	Mike Passell Jim Krekorian Pratap Rajadhyaksha
Hamman	Bob Hamman Neil Chambers Mitch Dunitz, Capt	Peter Weichsel John Schermer Ross Grabel
Lall	Hemant Lall, Capt Bart Bramley Eddie Wold	Reese Milner Kit Woolsey Marc Jacobus
Lewis	Paul Lewis, Capt Mark Itabashi Doug Doub	Linda Lewis Neil Silverman Adam Wildavsky
Lusky	John Lusky, Capt Jim Foster Jeff Roman	Allan Falk Mark Jones Robbie Hopkins
Reynolds	Tom Reynolds, Capt Bill Hall George Jacobs	Lance Kerr Joe Viola Craig Gardner
Wolfson	Jeff Wolfson, Capt David Berkowitz Larry Cohen	Steve Garner Mike Becker Bobby Levin

Ed. Note: With delayed broadcasting, it is especially challenging to watch every hand for write ups. If anyone has a hand of particular interest, please send me the board number & match and I will review it. Email to stansubeck@prodigy.net.
Thank you.
Suzi



Watch for the release of
David Caprera's Book, *The Cutting Edge!*
It's all about game theory...

Dave generously donates the profits to the USBF Junior Fund!

Senior Team Tournament Schedule

<i>ROUND ROBIN (EACH TEAM SITS OUT ONE MATCH)</i>			
DAY	DATE	TIME	BOARDS
FRIDAY	MAY 19	10:00 - 11:30	MATCH 1 - BOARDS 1-10
		11:45 - 1:15	MATCH 2 - BOARDS 11-20 75 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		2:30 - 3:45	MATCH 3 - BOARDS 21-30
		4:00 - 5:15	MATCH 4 - BOARDS 31-40
SATURDAY	MAY 20	10:00 - 11:15	MATCH 5 - BOARDS 41-50
		11:30 - 12:45	MATCH 6 - BOARDS 51-60
		2:00 - 3:15	75 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		3:30 - 4:45	MATCH 7 - BOARDS 61-70
		5:00 - 6:15	MATCH 8 - BOARDS 71-80 MATCH 9 - BOARDS 81-90
<i>USA1 SEMIFINAL & USA2 STAGE 1</i>			
SUNDAY	MAY 21	10:00 - 12:00	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 75 MINUTE BREAK
		3:30 - 5:30	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45
		5:45 - 7:45	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
MONDAY	MAY 22	10:00 - 12:00	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 75 MINUTE BREAK
		3:30 - 5:30	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 31-45
		5:45 - 7:45	SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 46-60
<i>USA1 FINAL & USA2 QUARTERFINAL</i>			
TUESDAY	MAY 23	10:00 - 12:00	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 75 MINUTE BREAK
		3:30 - 5:30	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45
		5:45 - 7:45	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
WEDNESDAY	MAY 24	10:00 - 12:00	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 75 MINUTE BREAK
		3:30 - 5:30	USA1 SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 31-45 USA2 SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 USA1 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 46-60 USA2 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
<i>USA2 SEMI FINAL</i>			
THURSDAY	MAY 25	10:00 - 12:00	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45
		12:15 - 2:15	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 75 MINUTE BREAK
		3:30 - 5:30	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75
		5:45 - 7:45	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90
<i>USA2 FINAL</i>			
FRIDAY	MAY 26	10:00 - 12:00	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 75 MINUTE BREAK
		3:30 - 5:30	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45
		5:45 - 7:45	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
SATURDAY	MAY 27	10:00 - 12:00	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 75 MINUTE BREAK
		3:30 - 5:30	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 31-45
		5:45 - 7:45	SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 46-60

Tough Puzzle...

The circuit breaker box in your new house is in an inconvenient corner of your basement. To your chagrin, you discover none of the 100 circuit breakers are labeled, and you face the daunting prospect of matching each circuit breaker to its respective light. (Suppose that each circuit breaker maps to only one light.)

To start with, you switch all 100 lights in the house to "on," and then you head down to your basement to begin the onerous mapping process. On every trip to your basement, you can switch any number of circuit breakers on or off. You can then roam the hallways of your mansion to discover which lights are on and which are off.

What is the minimum number of trips you need to make to the basement to map every circuit breaker to every light?

Question!

Answer to puzzle above:

The solution here is amazing if you pick the right strategy. Just to set the scene, the simplest strategy would be to just switch each circuit breaker off one at a time. But this would take 99 trips to the basement—the 100th circuit breaker would be mapped by the process of the elimination). You can do much, much better.

Believe it or not, you can map all 100 circuit breakers to their respective lights in just seven trips to the basement!

Here's the strategy:

For the ease of keeping track of things, put a piece of masking tape on each circuit breaker and on each light. On the first trip to the basement, flip 50 circuit breakers to off, mark these circuit breakers with a "0," and mark the 50 circuit breakers that are on with a "1." Accordingly, as you roam around the house to tally the lights, mark the 50 lights that are off with a "0" and mark the other 50 lights with a "1."

On your second trip to the basement, keep off half of the circuit breakers that are marked with a "0," turn off half of the circuit breakers that are marked with a "1," and mark all of these circuit breakers with a second number of "0." Flip on all other circuit breakers if they're not already on, and mark their second number as "1." Now go around the house, and again mark the lights that are off with a "0" and those lights that are on with a "1."

At the end of this step, all of your circuit breakers and lights should be marked with either "00," "11," "10," or "01." In fact, you've completely separated the matching problem into four different groups of 25—i.e., all lights must be matched to a circuit breaker with their same two-digit code.

Solution

WORLD TRANSNATIONAL OPEN SWISS AND KNOCKOUT TEAMS

August 28 – September 2

MARRAKECH GRAND PRIX TRANSNATIONAL BOARD-A-MATCH (BAM) TEAMS

August 30 – September 1



PLAY FOR WBF TITLES, MEDALS AND MASTERPOINTS AGAINST PLAYERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

PLAY PRESTIGIOUS CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS AGAINST THE WORLD'S BEST PLAYERS

ENJOY WORLD CLASS PLAYING CONDITIONS IN A UNIQUE LOCATION

5 OR 6 DAYS OF PLAY ACROSS BOTH EVENTS FOR ONE ENTRY FEE

BOTH EVENTS PART OF THE WORLD BRIDGE TOUR



Marrakech, Morocco



Check details on the back →

WWW.WORLDBRIDGE.ORG

WORLD TRANSNATIONAL OPEN SWISS KO TEAMS

August 28 – September 2

- ♣ WBF titles, medals and Masterpoints
- ♣ 2 Days of Swiss Qualifying followed by 3 (4 if reaching the Final) days of KO
- ♣ A "stand-alone" championship, including non-qualifiers from the Bermuda Bowl (BB), Venice Cup (VC), D'Orsi Trophy (DOT) and Wuhan Cup (WC)
- ♣ Players eliminated on day 2 or 3 can enter the Marrakech GP Transnational BAM Teams free of charge

MARRAKECH GRAND PRIX TRANSNATIONAL BAM TEAMS

August 30 – September 1

- ♣ WBF titles, medals and Masterpoints
- ♣ 2 Days of Qualifying followed by Finals A and B (everyone plays for 3 days)
- ♣ A "stand-alone" championship, including players eliminated in the Quarterfinals of the Bermuda Bowl (BB), Venice Cup (VC), D'Orsi Trophy (DOT) and Wuhan Cup (WC)

ENTRY FEES - BOTH EVENTS TOGETHER

♣ Players from the BB, VC, DOT and WC	Free
♣ New players (per player)	350 €
♣ Moroccan BF members (per player)	250 €
♣ Youth players - U26 (per player)	175 €

ENTRY FEES - BAM ONLY

♣ Players from the BB, VC, DOT and WC	Free
♣ New players (per player)	250 €
♣ Moroccan BF members (per player)	150 €
♣ Youth players - U26 (per player)	100 €

The total Entry Fee for a Team is the sum of the 4 highest paying players, i.e. a maximum of € 1,400 respectively € 1,000.



WWW.WORLDBRIDGE.ORG

The **Bermuda Bowl**, **Venice Cup**, **d'Orsi Senior Bowl** and the **Wuhan Cup** are for national teams, respectively Open, Women, Seniors and Mixed, representing their countries, qualified from the 8 WBF Zonal Conferences.

The **World Transnational Open Teams** is open, without any qualification, to all teams, national or transnational, which want to participate, accordingly to the conditions of contest.

The **World Bridge Teams Championships**, the oldest WBF Championship, grew out of private initiatives principally by the late Norman Bach. The first world championship for the Bermuda Bowl was held in 1950, in Bermuda, 8 years before the World Bridge Federation itself was formed. After the first event of the series, the Bermuda Bowl developed into a regular challenge match between the USA and the winners of the European Championship, but in 1957 the contest widened to included teams representing other zones of the WBF.

In 1974, in Venice, Italy, a new event was launched, the Venice Cup. It started as a challenge match between women's teams from the USA and Italy (Europe's representative) and today it is the equivalent of Bermuda Bowl for women, organized under the same laws and format.

A third series, the Senior Bowl, for senior players was added in 2001. Ernesto d'Orsi, Past President of the WBF and a member of the WBF Committee of Honor and the WBF Executive Council, presented the d'Orsi Seniors Trophy for the winners of this Championship at the World Teams Championships held in Brazil in 2009.

In March 2018 in Philadelphia the Executive Council added a fourth series for Mixed Teams starting from 2019 in Wuhan, China. This new event was named after the City of Wuhan which presented the prestigious trophy and provided, and will provide for the future editions, replicas for the winners.

Kibitzing: THERE WILL BE DEFERRED KIBITZING FOR ALL OF THE 2023 USBCs ON LOVEBRIDGE

You can follow the USBC on the <https://vugraph.lovebridge.com/> website. When available, voice commentary may be accessed by clicking on the TV screen icon. If there is no sound, you must unmute.

SENIOR KIBITZING SCHEDULE (EDT)

Kibitzing times on Friday will be:

Match 1: 11:30 am EDT

Match 2: 1:15 pm EDT

Match 3: 4:00 pm EDT

Match 4: 5:30 pm EDT

On Saturday times will be:

Match 5: 11:30 am EDT

Match 6: 1:05 pm EDT

Match 7: 2:35 pm EDT

Match 8: 5:10 pm EDT

Match 9: 6:45 pm EDT

After Saturday, the Seniors' times will match the Women's as follows:

Segment 1: 11:30 am EDT

Segment 2: 1:45 pm ET

Segment 3: 5:00 pm ET

Segment 4: 7:15 pm ET

Note: The Women's starts Saturday and their times will be as above throughout.



Nail biting!

Do you want to be deeply involved? Choose the "Match view" at the starting page of your event. Your screen will be divided into four small screens – two of them showing the two tables of the match you choose, the other two having the scoresheet for your match and the current scores of the other matches. In the 2x2 view you can also personalize the content in all your windows. (The 2x2 view is not available on mobiles.)

Think together!

When watching a table, click on a name and choose "Kibitz". Instead of seeing all 4 hands, you will see what the player sees, and you can decide what you would do and see whether your chosen player agrees.

More Information:

Be well informed and tell your friends: while following the play, you can click many items. The image of the sticker with the number of the board (upper right) takes you to the results of the board, in the bottom right corner the arrow takes you to the scoresheet, DDS shows the double dummy analyses, beside that there is a button for the other table of the same match, at the top left corner you can see the bidding with alerts and the explanations (mouse over), the tricks already played, and the double dummy analysis for the available number of tricks with the par score.

Navigation icons:

While surfing here and there in the vugraph, or amongst the archive sessions, there are icons to help you. You can go back to the main page with the "house" or to the standings with the "scores". If you cannot see the icons, move your mouse, or touch your screen and they pop up immediately. There is also a built-in back button because the back button of your browser will always take you to the starting page. If this is not what you wanted, push next in your browser and you can continue where you were.

Replay:

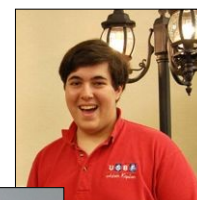
After the event you can find every board from every table easily. While replaying the hands, the only surprise can be the way "next board" button works. If you have arrived from a scoresheet, it navigates through the scoresheet. If you have arrived from a screen where the results were shown for a given board, the same buttons move you through the list. Push every button and enjoy!

The
Commentators
Know their
stuff...
Like when to
pitch
And when to
ruff.

Soon I'll be
An expert too.
My favorite show
Is called "The
Vu!"



Kibitzing...



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.



2023 USBCs Hospitality

Although the Covid situation has improved, it is still out there. To keep our players and staff safe, we want to keep the number of people in the suite to a minimum at any one time. Our wonderful hostesses, Maya Alela and Marie-France Benoit will host you in our usual suite (Room 2321). Grab and go breakfast and lunch each day, except that on the first Monday and Tuesday, when lunch will be available in the Copper, Sage, and Maize meeting rooms off the corridor running from the hotel's front door to the back door.

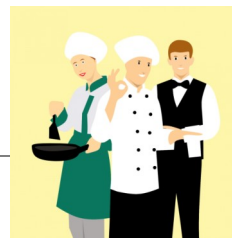
Seniors and Women's: On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, breakfast will be in the hospitality suite, but lunch will be in the Slate Room at the front of the hotel.

The hotel will be doing what they do best, salads and on Sunday house made chips. We will be providing the main courses from local restaurants. On Friday, lunch will be from 1:00-3:30; on Saturday and Sunday, lunch will be from 2:00-4:00. From Monday on, lunch will be in the hospitality suite from a little before 2:00-4:00.

There will be a main dish (sandwiches, chicken, main dish salads, pizza) as well as tuna salad, green salad, cheese, fruit and berries. Also, all the individual packages of add-ons we have for breakfast plus water and soft drinks will be available in refrigerators.

Let us know what you want: If you have specific needs or prohibition, please let Maya or Marie-France know and they will do their very best to provide food that meets your needs.

Your hostesses would appreciate it if you would mask-up when in the hospitality area especially when crowded. Thank you!!



More on Hospitality and Regulations...



Marie-France

Playing Rooms & Player's Break Room

We will have bottled water in the playing rooms and if there is a refrigerator in a playing room we'll stock it with soft drinks.

We will also have bottled water in the Player's Break Room (1321), as well as soft drinks, Nespresso, some packaged snacks, and some fruit. We are working in that room and would appreciate it if you try to keep voices low.

Masks will be required in playing rooms only if your screenmate asks you to wear one. You do not have to put on a mask when you summon a director or ask someone to bring you coffee or water or escort you outside to smoke.

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

Sudoku 1

Hard Sudoku

Sudoku Solutions on Page 12

Sudoku 2

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

A genie granted me
one wish, so I said
"I just want to be
happy."

Now I'm living in a
cottage with 6
dwarves and
working in a mine.

A copy of
"A Christmas Carol"
just fell on my toe.
It hurts like the Dickens.

I had a hip replacement,
but the hospital won't let
me keep the bone as a
souvenir.
They've got joint custody.



Puzzle Page ...

Capital Cities of Europe

Find and circle all of the European capital cities that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message.

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

AMSTERDAM (Netherlands)
ANDORRA LA VELLA (Andorra)
ANKARA (Turkey)
ATHENS (Greece)
BAKU (Azerbaijan)
BELFAST (Northern Ireland)
BELGRADE (Serbia/Montenegro)
BERLIN (Germany)
BERN (Switzerland)
BRATISLAVA (Slovakia)
BRUSSELS (Belgium)
BUCHAREST (Romania)
BUDAPEST (Hungary)
CARDIFF (Wales)
CHISINAU (Moldova)
COPENHAGEN (Denmark)
DUBLIN (Ireland)

EDINBURGH (Scotland)
HELSINKI (Finland)
KIEV (Ukraine)
LISBON (Portugal)
LJUBLJANA (Slovenia)
LONDON (England)
LUXEMBOURG (Luxembourg)
MADRID (Spain)
MINSK (Belarus)
MONACO (Monaco)
MOSCOW (Russian Federation)
NICOSIA (Cyprus)
OSLO (Norway)
PARIS (France)
PRAGUE (Czech Republic)
REYKJAVIK (Iceland)
RIGA (Latvia)

ROME (Italy)
SAN MARINO (San Marino)
SARAJEVO (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
SKOPJE (Macedonia)
SOFIA (Bulgaria)
STOCKHOLM (Sweden)
TALLINN (Estonia)
TBILISI (Georgia)
TIRANE (Albania)
VADUZ (Liechtenstein)
VALLETTA (Malta)
VATICAN CITY (Vatican City)
VIENNA (Austria)
VILNIUS (Lithuania)
WARSAW (Poland)
YEREVAN (Armenia)
ZAGREB (Croatia)



Bridge: A MindSport For All

Connects People, Challenges Minds

Sam Punch is an amazingly hard worker and a wonderful promoter of our game! She has worked wonders in the last several years organizing and heading BAMSA. We support her wonderful work and hope you support it too!

Bridge, Youth and Schools



Who am I? My name is Samantha Punch, Professor of Sociology at the University of Stirling, UK. I lead the international work of BAMSA.

What is BAMSA? *Bridge: A MindSport for All* (BAMSA) is a research project working collaboratively with bridge organisations to increase the number of players and transform the image of the mindsport.

BAMSA believes that bridge can be promoted as a potential solution to tackle big societal issues of social isolation, loneliness, mental health problems, inclusivity and healthy ageing.

BAMSA's new study

The new project aims to develop academic evidence that demonstrates the skills and wide-ranging benefits that bridge, as a mindsport, can offer young people. The study will investigate the benefits and challenges of teaching bridge in schools. The goal is to encourage schools to take bridge as seriously as chess, and mindsport education as seriously as physical education.

How can donating help?

By donating, you enable BAMSA to conduct this work in the USA as well as Europe. The funding pays for the researchers to interview school teachers, bridge teachers, pupils and parents to explore what helps and hinders learning bridge. The funds are used to develop practical resources from the findings to enable growth of youth bridge communities in USA and Europe.

How can I donate? ***All donations will be doubled* (matched by Levine Foundation)**

Online via the University website: www.stir.ac.uk/carddonate Scroll to the bottom of the page and choose single gift, this will direct you to our donation form where you can select "Bridge Research Project" as your designated cause.

Tax efficient giving for US donors: The University of Stirling is an approved institution with British Schools & Universities Foundation. You donate through their website stating that you wish the donation to go to the University of Stirling: www.bsuf.org/donate

Via the Keep Bridge Alive Crowdfunder: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/u5c0e5e7810869>

Thank You! Need more information?

Contact Sam with any queries – s.v.punch@stir.ac.uk

Follow BAMSA @bridgemindsport www.bridgemindsport.org



Logic Puzzle...

		Diplomats					Durations					Capitals				
		Bender	Quinn	Stevenson	Willis	Zimmerman	2 day	3 day	5 day	6 day	8 day	Copenhagen	Paris	Riga	Skopje	Zagreb
Months	February															
	March															
	April															
	May															
	June															
Capitals	Copenhagen															
	Paris															
	Riga															
	Skopje															
	Zagreb															
Durations	2 day															
	3 day															
	5 day															
	6 day															
	8 day															

**Answer on Page 12
Bottom of Page**

Months	Diplomats	Durations	Capitals
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			

1. The diplomat going to Zagreb won't leave for the 5 day visit..
2. Neither Stevenson nor the person going to Zagreb is the diplomat leaving in May..
3. Zimmerman won't leave in May..
4. Of the ambassador with the 3 day visit and Stevenson, one will leave in March and the other will go to Copenhagen..
5. Of the person leaving in March and the ambassador with the 8 day visit, one is Mr. Stevenson and the other is Mr. Willis..
6. The diplomat going to Paris is either the diplomat leaving in June or Stevenson..
7. Of Bender and the person going to Copenhagen, one will leave for the 3 day visit and the other will leave for the 5 day visit..
8. Bender will leave sometime before the diplomat going to Riga..
9. The ambassador with the 2 day visit will leave 2 months before the person going to Paris..

Meet the Players...

Mike Becker was born in 1943 and is an American bridge player. Becker is from Boca Raton, Florida. He is a son of B. Jay Becker.

As of 1979, Becker and Ron Rubin were partners in a New York City options firm and at the bridge table. Becker trained more than 50 bridge players, 15 of whom were national champions. At bridge they used a strong one-club, relay bidding system that they called "the Ultimate Club". They played on the last of the "Aces" teams sponsored by Dallas Businessman, Ira Corn , which won the 1983 Bermuda Bowl world team championship. In the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL)

Becker was President of the Greater New York Bridge Association in 1980, chaired committees governing the U.S. International Team Trials from 1996 to 2012, and the Hall of Fame in 2003. He was the founding president of the United States Bridge Federation, established in 2001 primarily to select and support teams that represent the United States in world competition. He was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2006.

From Mike's BridgeWinner's Profile:

Favorite Bridge Memory

Listening to Star Spangled Banner on podium after Bermuda Bowl win in 1983

Bridge Accomplishments

ACBL Hall of Fame and all that goes with it

Regular Bridge Partners

Mike Kamil, Allan Graves, Aubrey Strul, Warren Spector

Favorite Tournaments

Vanderbilt and Spingold

Favorite Conventions

X of STR NT shows S+another; 2C=C+H, 2D=D+H

BBO Username

Ultimike

ACBL Ranking

Grand Life Master



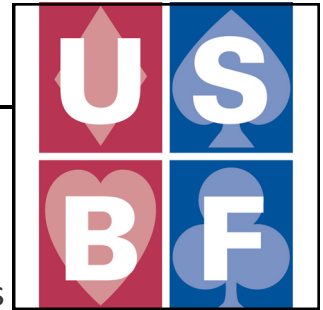
9	8	4	2	3	7	6	5	1
6	7	5	8	9	1	4	2	3
3	2	1	4	6	5	7	9	8
8	9	2	1	5	6	3	4	7
4	6	7	3	8	9	5	1	2
5	1	3	7	2	4	9	8	6
7	5	6	9	1	2	8	3	4
1	4	8	5	7	3	2	6	9
2	3	9	6	4	8	1	7	5

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

Sudoku Answers Puzzles on Page 7

Answer to Sudoku 1

Answer to Sudoku 2



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.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years) and 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.

How much room does a fungus need to grow?

As mushroom as possible!

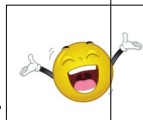
Head lice are not resistant to any old treatments.

The problem has scientists scratching their heads!

It's a 20 minute walk from my house to the bar.

It's a 45 minute walk from the bar to my house.

The difference is staggering!



May	Quinn	3 day	Copenhagen
April	Zimmerman	2 day	Zagreb
March	Stevenson	6 day	Riga
February	Bender	5 day	Skopje

Answer to Puzzle on page 10

**Please pick up a Chicago NABC flyer before you leave Schaumburg.
We want to see you there!!
Rooms are filling.**

We have engaged the Intercontinental as our overflow hotel!

Also, grab a Chicago NABC Convention Card Sticker from the table in the Break Room where the newsletters are.

**Join ABC
ACBL BIDDING CONTEST**

Bid these Bidding Box hands on your phone or tablet!

ABC is a *free*, ongoing weekly bidding contest organized by the ACBL using the app **bid72**. Enter the contest with your partner and automatically receive 5 hands on your phone/tablet every week. Compare your results with hundreds of other pairs. Monthly promotion/relegation ensures an exciting challenge for everyone. Please visit www.bid72.com/abc for more details and registration.

Register here → 

Extra: Bidding Box hands will be included in ABC two weeks before the Bridge Bulletin is published.

I phoned my office this morning and said, "Hi Boss. I can't come in today. I have a weak cough."

He said, "You have a weak cough?"

I said, "Really? Thank you. I will see you next week!"

Egypt claims they have no alligators. I think they are in da Nile!

A redneck gets pulled over by a traffic cop. The cop says, "Got any ID?"

Redneck: "About what?"

I shot a man with a paintball gun just to see him dye!

I'm looking after my locksmith's dog. As soon as I got him home, he made a bolt for the door!

I saw some red birds sitting in the sun on the lawn. I think they were baskin' robins.

A man is suing Smart Water for not making him smart. I would like to announce my lawsuit against Thin Mints!

I tried working as a lumberjack but I couldn't hack it... so they gave me the axe!

Why was the broom late for school?

It over swept!

What do you call a Christmas wreath made of \$100 bills?
Aretha Franklins!



The World Bridge Federation has been invited to the **Olympic Esports Week** ("OEW") in Singapore, June 19-25, organized by the International Olympic Committee.

The WBF, together with the platform providers, BBO and Funbridge, will have a pavilion at the Free-To-Play Zone ("FTPZ") that the IOC is providing, June 22-25, for a limited number (10-15) of its recognised "International Federations" during the OEW. It is a great achievement for Bridge to have been selected to exhibit our progress in the field of electronic sports.

The FTPZ will be a large exposition at the Suntec Convention Centre, and tens of thousands of visitors are expected. It is an important opportunity to showcase Bridge as a modern sport, adopting the latest technology, including Artificial Intelligence.

At our pavilion, we will live-stream tournaments on both platforms with local and international competitors, provide "Minibridge" demonstrations, show play on Lovebridge tablets and various other promotional activities. Many activities can be followed online on YouTube, and possibly Twitch.

Leading up to the tournaments in Singapore we are arranging qualification events on both BBO and Funbridge.

The overall winner on each platform will be invited (travel and accommodation) to the Transnational week (August 28 - September 2) during the World Championships in Marrakech, and there will be a ranking by country with prizes in the form of the platform's "currencies".

Programme for Online Bridge Olympic Esports Week, June 19/25

Qualification phase

19/21, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - Tournaments of 6 boards (100 tournaments available)

(0.50 Babydollars BB\$ on BBO) (25 diamonds on Funbridge) per tournament

Best five tournaments to qualify with a minimum average of 55 %

Thursday off

Final

23/25 Friday, Saturday, Sunday, free of charge, 8 Tournaments of 6 boards

Ranking according to the average of the best five.



Players should register on the sites and may play on either one or both. They should follow the online instructions, stating to which Federation they belong.

Registration implies complete acceptance of the BBO, Funbridge and WBF rules.

More Information

[Additional information about this event will be available on the BBO and Funbridge websites:](https://www.bridgebase.com/)

<https://www.bridgebase.com/>

<https://www.funbridge.com/>

The screenshot shows a bridge game interface. At the top, there are buttons for HOME, CARDS, and SPLIT. Below that is a bidding table with columns W, N, E, S. The bidding sequence is: W: PASS, N: 1NT, E: PASS, S: 2♥; W: PASS, N: PASS, E: 2♠, S: PASS; W: PASS, N: 3♦, E: PASS, S: PASS; W: 3♣, N: PASS, E: PASS, S: 4♦; W: PASS, N: 4♥, E: PASS, S: PASS; W: PASS, N: PASS, E: PASS, S: PASS. The score is 11 IMP for E-W (Hamman) and 12 IMP for the other team. Below the bidding table is a section for 'OTHER ROOM' showing a score of E 3♠ = -140. On the left, there are options for Score card, Frequency, Live scores, and Streams. The main area shows the hands for North (Jeff Wolfson) and South (Steve Garner). North's hand is ♠ 543, ♥ Q3, ♦ KQJ863, ♣ 63. South's hand is ♠ A, ♥ JT8762, ♦ AT7, ♣ K74. A third hand is shown for West (Mitch Dunitz): ♠ KJ96, ♥ AK9, ♦ 94, ♣ T852. A fourth hand is shown for East (Ross Grabel): ♠ QT872, ♥ 54, ♦ 52, ♣ AQJ9. At the bottom right, there are buttons for SOUTH (4♥), NS (0), and EW (0). A 'DDS' button is also visible.

Coming into Board 11, the score was:
 Wolfson 11
 Hamman 12
 Two good teams playing solid bridge...

Board 11 had to be frustrating for Dunitz and Grabel.

Wolfson/Garner were passing out 2H... but Grabel had a real balance. He held a 9-count with five spades and 4 clubs. He correctly

bid 2S. This passed around to Wolfson who introduced his good 6-card diamond suit. 3D passed around to Dunitz. He hadn't supported spades the first time around so with four good spades and the HAK, he balanced with 3S. Again, this passed around to Garner who then showed his diamond support by bidding 4D. Wolfson corrected to 4H... if he was playing at the 4-level, he might as well be in game!

Diamonds legitimately scores 10 tricks, declarer losing only two hearts and one club when Wolfson has enough trump to handle the club ruffs.

4H can be defeated. Dunitz led the D9. Garner won the jack in dummy, following with the ten from his hand. Grabel, playing upside down, followed with the deuce (maybe suit preference?) Garner played the H3 from dummy hoping to catch a singleton heart honor. Grabel played low and Garner inserted the jack. Dunitz won the king. At this point, it is critical that Dunitz find the shift to a club. If he finds the club shift, the best play is for Grabel to insert the queen, rendering ten tricks impossible. Once Garner plays a small trump off dummy, it doesn't matter if Grabel rises with the CA and continues with the CQ since declarer will be forced to ruff a club with the HQ, promoting a trump for Dunitz.

As it was, Dunitz continued diamonds and Garner won the ace in hand. A small trump went to the queen, Dunitz giving up on the idea of a diamond ruff and ducking his ace. Garner played a spade to the ace and forced out the high trump. Dunitz played the club to Grabel's ace but it was too little too late. Garner claimed 10 tricks.

At the other table, Berkowitz and Cohen, West and East respectively, bid to 3S and played it there taking 9 tricks on the auction below:

W	N	E	S
PASS	1NT	PASS	2♥
PASS	PASS	2♠	PASS
3♥	PASS	3♠	PASS
PASS	PASS		

After the fact, it feels bad to balance the opponents to a game that makes. That the game could have been defeated makes the balances sting less.

Sometimes it is just better to lead partner's suit. He can give clear suit preference more easily and you can blame him if it's wrong!!

11 IMPs to Wolfson

BOARD: 12
DEALER: WEST
VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ J872
♥ Q974
♦ 2
♣ KT52

♠ K54
♥ J65
♦ QJ64
♣ 943

♠ QT93
♥ A
♦ AT3
♣ AQJ87

Par: -130

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	3	5	9	4	6
S	:	4	:	:	:
E	10	8	4	8	7
W	9	7	:	:	:

♠ A6
♥ KT832
♦ K9875
♣ 6

Home team Visiting team Room By = IMP

The Hamman team struck back on Board 12! In the Open Room, Berkowitz and Cohen had a less than precise Precision auction to find their 7-card diamond fit instead of their 8-card club fit at the 4 level. Clubs produces 10 tricks; diamonds does not!

Hamman Wolfson

Open 4♦ W ♥4 -4 200

Closed 4♥x S ♥5 -1 200 9

HOME CARDS SPLIT

W	N	E	S
PASS	PASS	1♣	1♥
DBL	3♥	DBL	PASS
4♦	PASS	PASS	PASS

1C=Precision
Double=5-8 any shape

OTHER ROOM
S 4♥x -1 -200

Score card
Frequency
Live scores

DDS

♠ J872
♥ Q974
♦ 2
♣ KT52

N Peter Weichsel

♠ K54
♥ J65
♦ QJ64
♣ 943

W David Berkowitz

♠ QT93
♥ A
♦ AT3
♣ AQJ87

E Larry Cohen

♠ A6
♥ KT832
♦ K9875
♣ 6

S Bob Hamman

WEST 4♦

The play:
Weichsel led the H4. Dummy's ace won.

The CQ went to the king. Weichsel continued hearts and Berkowitz ruffed. Berk played the DT and Hamman won the king. Hamman continued diamonds to dummy's ace. Berk tried the CA and Hamman ruffed. Hamman cashed his HK and led the HT, Berk ruffing with the jack. David played a club to the eight and Hamman discarded a spade. At this point, Hamman's hand was good!

4D down FOUR!

Dunitz	Wolfson	Grabel	Garner
W	N	E	S
PASS	PASS	1♣	1♥
1♠	3♥	DBL	4♥
PASS	PASS	DBL	PASS
PASS	PASS		

1S=fewer than 4 spades
3H=mixed raise

At the other table, the auction was interesting. East opened a standard club and South overcalled 1H. West showed fewer than four spades and North made a mixed raise in hearts. East doubled. Garner, South, pulled 3H doubled to 4H which came back around to Grabel, East, who stuck to his guns and doubled again.

Had Garner waited to see what Dunitz did over 3HX before bidding 4H, East/West would likely have ended up in the same uncomfortable position as their counterparts above.

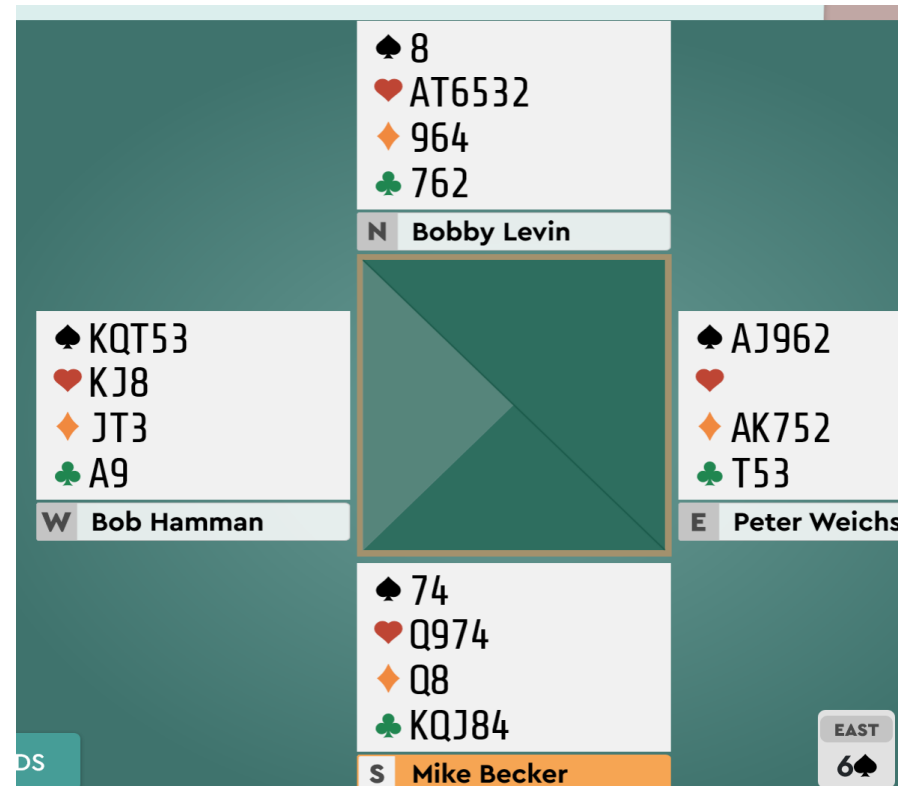
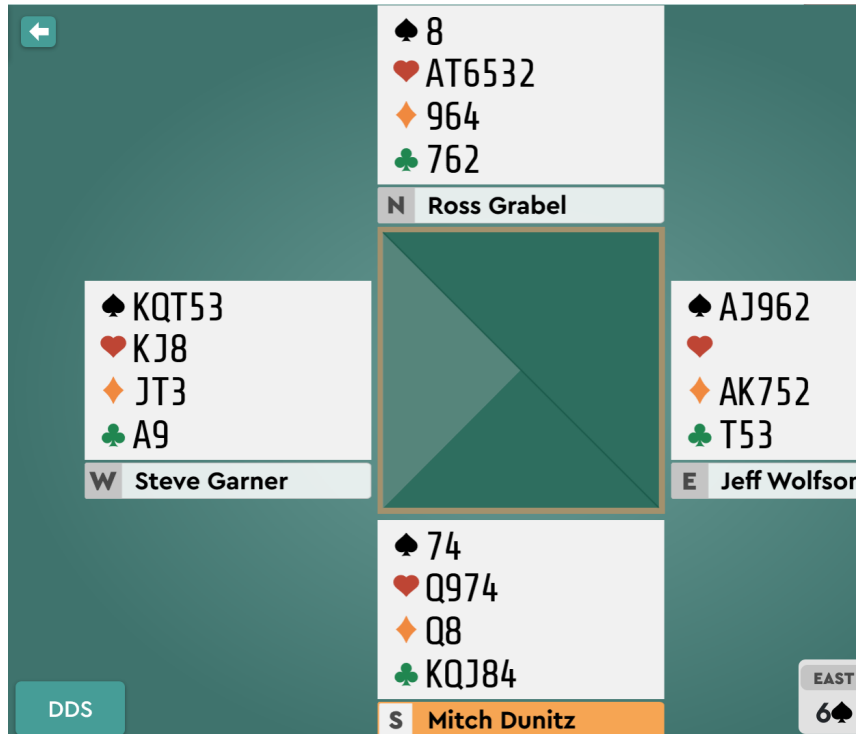
As it was, 4HX went down one vulnerable when the defense collected one trick in each suit.
9 IMPs to Hamman

It's a very close match.

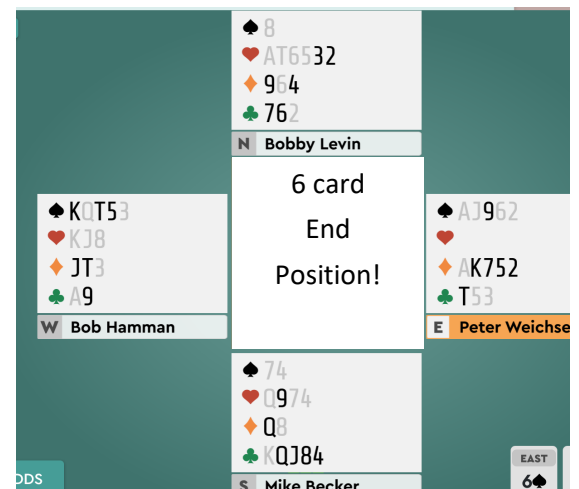
A big swing for Hamman occurred on Board 26:

Both tables bid slam in spades from East.

In the Open Room where Wolfson declared, Dunitz led the CK and Wolfson won dummy's ace. Wolfson pulled trump and cashed the DA. He left hand with a small club and Dunitz won the jack. The H4 was won with the jack and Wolfson took the losing diamond finesse. Slam down one!



In the Closed Room where Weichsel declared, Peter saw a chance to let the opponents make his life easier. The CK was led and won with the ace. **Peter tried the H8 from dummy and Grabel rose with the ace!!** Weichsel ruffed and played a spade to the queen and cashed the HK, discarding a club. Weichsel ruffed a heart and cashed the DA followed by the SA to reach this 6-card end position:



Peter played the CT. Becker won the queen and was endplayed!

A heart or a club gave declarer a ruff and sluff where declarer pitches a diamond from dummy, ruffs in hand, cashes the DK and dummy's good.

Playing the DQ brings down that suit.

Nicely played, Peter!

17 17 IMPs to Hamman

On Board 59, 3NT goes down on a diamond lead.

Grabel led his 4th best diamond and the defense collected the first five tricks.

Berkowitz could have saved the day by showing his 6th heart, but his hand did not look bad to play in NT after his partner's 2C opener... and he's certainly implied five or six hearts.

Par: -450					
	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	2	7	0	6	2
S	3	:	:	:	3
EW	9	6	11	6	8

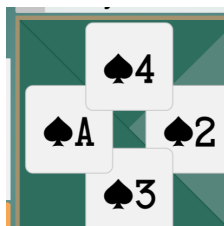
Meanwhile, at the other table...

Hamman opened 1NT, 15-17, concealing his 6-card club suit.

Weichsel made an automatic Texas transfer (after all, he is playing with a Texan!!).

4H is cold.

Levin led his singleton club. Hamman won the ace and played the HA and a heart to the king. He cashed the CK, played the S2 creating this trick:



Hamman claimed 10 tricks.

10 IMPs to Hamman