

Volume 18, Issue 20
May 19, 2024

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations

This year, as we did last year, we will be tracking time used by each pair and penalizing a team if their pairs use significantly more than their allotted time. Each pair is allotted half of the session time, which is actually more time than they should be using, since some of the time at the table is "neutral," not charged to either pair. Pages 23 & 24 of the USBF General Conditions of Contest have the penalties charged; Appendix A has details of time keeping.

The penalty scale has been adjusted somewhat based on our experience last year, but the major change we've made for this year is in how time taken is shown to you at the table. Each player has a "pair clock" showing the amount of pair time remaining in the segment. The pair clock appears on the screen to the left of the table clock at the start of each board. The clock does not update during the bidding (otherwise it would provide information about which player on the other side of the screen was taking time) and I believe it is no longer visible during the play because that place on the screen is used for something else. The clock will be outlined in red if the time remaining is less than the allocated time for the remaining boards.

Puzzle:

People have gathered from around the world to witness the 2015 snail races. Each snail was handpicked by its country to race its way across the brutal 10cm track. Try to figure out the finishing time, country of origin, and shell color for each of the five snails. Don't be discouraged if it takes a while to solve, this is a snail race after all.

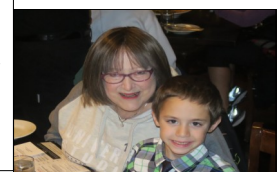
1. Of Todd and the snail with the teal shell, one finished in 24 minutes and the other is from Mexico.
2. The snail from Mexico finished 3 minutes after the snail with the lime shell, who finished 1 minute before the snail with the silver shell (who wasn't Hank).
3. The snail from USA finished 2 minutes before Kipp, who finished some time before the snail from Spain.
4. Of Ralph and the Spain contestant one had the fastest time and the other had the violet shell.
5. The snail from Canada was either the one with the teal shell or the one who finished in 25 minutes.

Answer

Hank, 26, Spain, violet, Mike, 23, China, silver, Kipp, 24, Canada, teal, Ralph, 22, USA, lime, Todd, 25, Mexico, grey

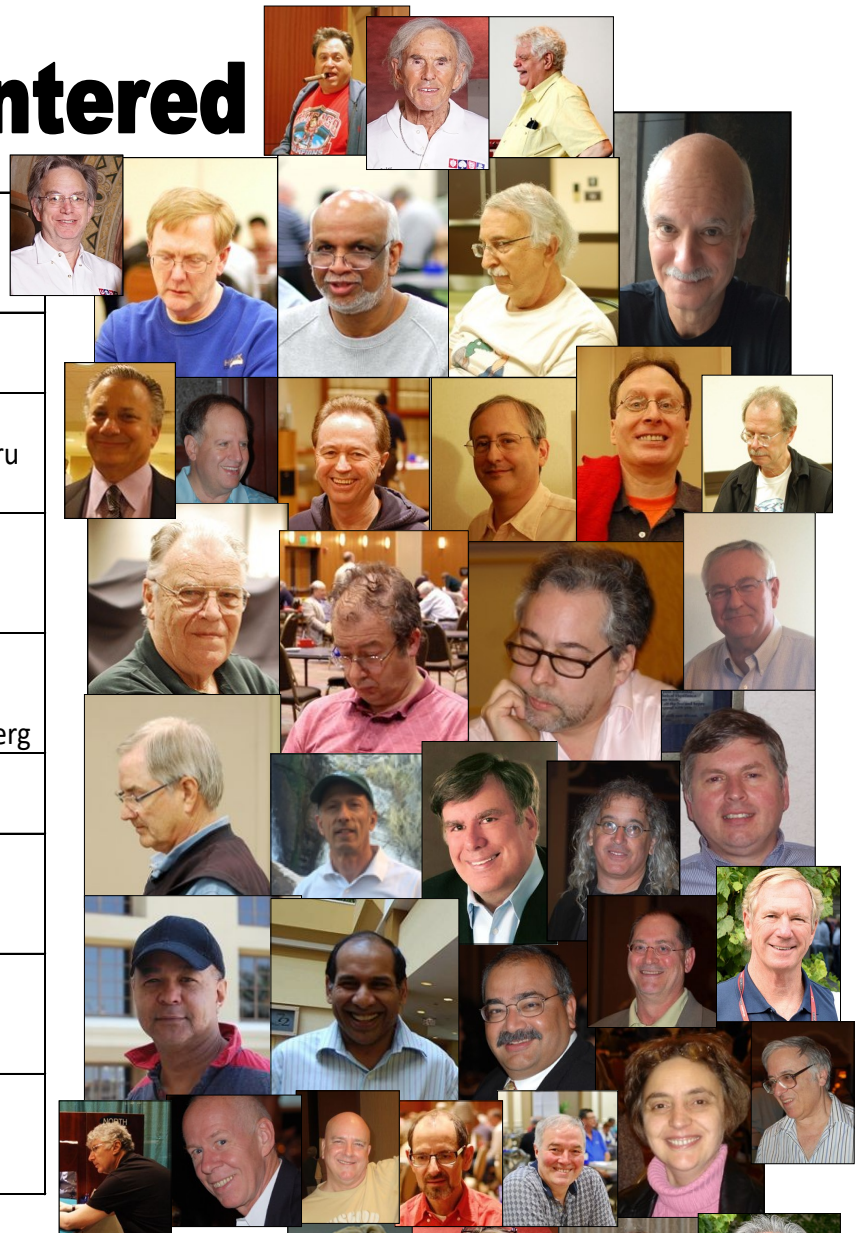
Ed. Note: With delayed broadcasting, it is challenging to watch every hand for write ups. If anyone has a particularly interesting hand, please send me the board # & match # with any important details. I will do my best to review and include it. Email to stansubeck@prodigy.net. Thank you!

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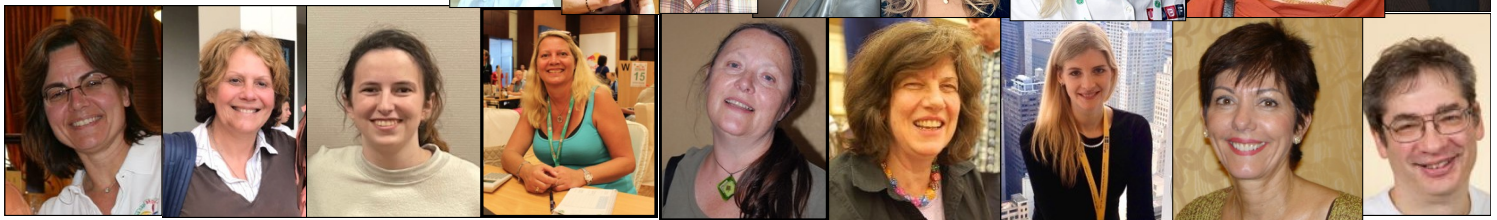
Senior Teams Entered

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Aker | Jeff Aker, Capt John Lusky Barry Rigal | Allan Falk Glenn Milgrim Ron Rubin |
| Cappelli | Bob Cappelli, Capt Bob Bitterman | Mark Aquino Mark Bendure |
| Goodman | Andy Goodman, Capt Pratap Rajadhyaksha Ron Smith | Mike Passell Venkatrao Koneru Billy Cohen |
| Hamman | Bob Hamman, Capt Doug Doub John Schermer | Neil Chambers Adam Wildavsky Neil Silverman |
| Lall | Hemant Lall, Capt Eric Rodwell Zia Mahmood | Reese Milner Bobby Levin Michael Rosenberg |
| Reynolds | Tom Reynolds, Capt Bernie Greenspan | Lance Kerr Fred Schenker |
| Simson | Doug Simson, Capt Jim Krekorian Steve Beatty | Curtis Cheek Peter Weichsel Fred Stewart |
| Tulin | Gary Cohler, Capt Alan Sontag Kit Woolsey | Stan Tulin Ralph Katz Bart Bramley |
| Wolfson | Jeff Wolfson, Capt David Berkowitz Mike Becker | Steve Garner Michael Kamil |



Women's Teams Entered

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| Baker | Lynn Baker Kerri Sanborn Cecilia Dwyer Rimstedt Sam Dinkin, NPC | Olivia Schireson Jill Meyers Sandra Rimstedt |
| Cooper | Kitty Cooper, Capt Linda Lewis Rozanne Pollack | Lynne Feldman Disa Eythorsdottir Cheri Bjerkan |



| | |
|---|--|
| 1. "That hydroelectric facility is so beautiful I think I'll pass out!" said Tom, fainting with dam praise. | 46. "It's best to find a new word for this," Tom determined. |
| 2. "I'm too smart to believe in Jesus Christ," said Tom with damnable cleverness. | 47. "I saw that man remove my ballot from the box," said Tom devotedly. |
| 3. "The eclipse is starting," said Tom darkly. | 48. "My word is final!" Tom dictated to his secretary. |
| 4. "The lights have gone out," said Tom darkly. | 49. "Of course you graduated," said Tom diplomatically. |
| 5. "I killed the Greek piper god," Tom deadpanned. | 50. "I was removed from office," said Tom disappointedly. |
| 6. "I wonder if I'd have better luck if I fished with a net," Tom debated. | 51. "All I want is 20,000 machine guns," said the dictator disarmingly. |
| 7. "How many dings you got in your door, there, Tom?" "Ten," Tom replied decadently. | 52. "DIS[1], DIS[2], ... DIS[n] (n > 2)," Tom said in total disarray. |
| 8. "Let's play musical chairs," said Tom deceitfully. | 53. "There are no more I/O operations to do today," Tom disclosed. (Or: "This slipped object is hard to find," the surgeon disclosed.) |
| 9. "What's wrong with a few tea leaves?" asked Tom deceptively. | 54. "I'll not have you punk rockers making music in MY auditorium," said Tom disconcertingly. |
| 10. "Let me clean out this poison tank," said Tom deceptively. | 55. "Let me out of this embassy," said Tom disconsolately. |
| 11. "Well, that tree definitely isn't a conifer," Tom decided. | 56. "Someone stole my computer terminal," said Tom disconsolately. |
| 12. "X is an integer," Tom declared. | 57. "I'm a frayed knot," said Tom discordantly. |
| 13. "I'm not going to eat any more of those pastries," Tom de-eclared. | 58. "And dat bay is not green," Tom discovered. |
| 14. "I've already given you the nominative, vocative, accusative, genitive, dative, and ablative, so I will say no more," Tom declined. | 59. "Dat is not duh @\$%*! way to do it," Tom discussed. |
| 15. "I don't want a bottle that can exist only in hyperspace," Tom declined. | 60. "Boy, that sure took the wind out of my sails!" said Tom disgustedly. |
| 16. "Adherents of my religion don't all have to believe the same thing," Tom decreed. | 61. "I have to wear this cast for another six weeks," said Tom disjointedly. |
| 17. "It's time to play my wild card," Tom deduced. | 62. "Oh no, it'll soon be June," Tom said in dismay. |
| 18. "Now I'll NEVER dance," said Tom defeatedly. | 63. "That's the woman!" Tom said dismissively. |
| 19. "They had to amputate them both at the ankles," Tom said defeatedly. | 64. "I just got a sex change," said Tom, feeling rather disorganized. |
| 20. "I have to attend my PhD oral examination," said Tom defensively. | 65. "I just got kicked out of China!" said Tom, rather disoriented. |
| 21. "Sure, I'll get rid of those jewels for you," said Tom defensively. | 66. "Turn the record player down," said Tom disquietingly. |
| 22. "I refuse to obey that French 'No Smoking' sign," fumed Tom defensively. | 67. "Out, out, damned spot!" said Lady Macbeth distainfully. "Look what you did to the rug, you naughty dog!" |

Tom Swifties

Senior Schedule

| SENIOR SCHEDULE | | | |
|---|--------|---------------|------------------------|
| Round Robin or KO - Schedule will depend on number of teams | | | |
| Day | Date | Time | Boards |
| Sunday | May 19 | | |
| Monday | May 20 | | |
| Quarterfinal | | | |
| Tuesday | May 21 | 10:00 - 12:00 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 |
| | | 12:15 - 2:15 | Segment 2 Boards 16-30 |
| | | 3:30 - 5:30 | 75 minute Break |
| | | 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 3 Boards 31-45 |
| | | | Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
| Wednesday | May 22 | 10:00 - 12:00 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 |
| | | 12:15 - 2:15 | Segment 6 Boards 16-30 |
| | | 3:30 - 5:30 | 75 minute Break |
| | | 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 7 Boards 31-45 |
| | | | Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |
| Semifinal | | | |
| Thursday | May 23 | 10:00 - 12:00 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 |
| | | 12:15 - 2:15 | Segment 2 Boards 16-30 |
| | | 3:30 - 5:30 | 75 minute Break |
| | | 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 3 Boards 31-45 |
| | | | Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
| Friday | May 24 | 10:00 - 12:00 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 |
| | | 12:15 - 2:15 | Segment 6 Boards 16-30 |
| | | 3:30 - 5:30 | 75 minute Break |
| | | 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 7 Boards 31-45 |
| | | | Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |
| Final | | | |
| Saturday | May 25 | 10:00 - 12:00 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 |
| | | 12:15 - 2:15 | Segment 2 Boards 16-30 |
| | | 3:30 - 5:30 | 75 minute Break |
| | | 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 3 Boards 31-45 |
| | | | Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
| Sunday | May 26 | 10:00 - 12:00 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 |
| | | 12:15 - 2:15 | Segment 6 Boards 16-30 |
| | | 3:30 - 5:30 | 75 minute Break |
| | | 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 7 Boards 31-45 |
| | | | Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |

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 wad anyone entering the playing field.



| Lovebridge practice sessions | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|-------------------|--|
| Day | Date | Time (CDT) | |
| Tuesday | April 30 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | |
| Thursday | May 9 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | |
| Saturday | May 18 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | |
| Wednesday | May 22 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | |

Location: TBD

| PRE-TOURNAMENT CAPTAINS & PLAYERS MEETINGS | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------|------------|
| On Zoom | | | |
| Event | Day | Date | Time (CDT) |
| Open | Tuesday | April 30 | 9:00 PM |
| Mixed | Thursday | May 9 | 9:00 PM |
| Senior | Saturday | May 18 | 9:00 PM |
| Women's | Monday or Wednesday | May 20 or 22 | 9:00 PM |

| Beth Palmer WOMEN'S SCHEDULE | | | |
|--|--------|---------------|------------------------|
| Round Robin or Quarterfinal if 5-8 teams enter - schedule will depend on number of teams | | | |
| Day | Date | Time | Boards |
| Tuesday | May 21 | | |
| Wednesday | May 22 | | |
| Semifinal | | | |
| Thursday | May 23 | 10:00 - 12:00 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 |
| | | 12:15 - 2:15 | Segment 2 Boards 16-30 |
| | | 3:30 - 5:30 | 75 minute Break |
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| | | | Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
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| Final | | | |
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| Sunday | May 26 | 10:00 - 12:00 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 |
| | | 12:15 - 2:15 | Segment 6 Boards 16-30 |
| | | 3:30 - 5:30 | 75 minute Break |
| | | 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 7 Boards 31-45 |
| | | | Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |

Beth Palmer Women's Schedule

US\$19.95 | GBP 15.95
978-1-77140-264-4

Available to order today from your favourite bookstore.

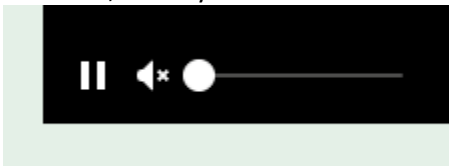
The Art of Becoming A Top Bridge Player

Samantha Punch with Tim Rees

Foreword by Jeff Meckstroth

2024 USBCs Kibitzing - There will be delayed kibitzing for all of the 2024 USBCs on LoveBridge

You can follow the USBC on the <https://vugraph.lovebridge.com/> website. If you get to the voice commentary and there is no sound, you need to "unmute." When you first get to the page, there is a small icon of a speaker in the middle of your screen with an x on it. Click there to unmute. If you miss that icon, move your cursor to the bottom left of the screen and you should see a something like this:



Click on the speaker to unmute.

Vugraph is delayed for 30 minutes or until all tables have completed play on a board, whichever is later.

Kibitzing Schedule (EDT)

For all KO days of the 2024 USBCs, kibitzing times will be :

Segment 1: 11:30 am EDT; Segment 2: 1:45 pm EDT

BREAK

Segment 3: 5:00 pm EDT; Segment 4: 7:15 pm EDT

For Round Robin days, each kibitzing segment will start 30 minutes after play starts. No voice for RR's. To listen to commentary, search for the TV icon! It will send you to the page where you can choose from the available live commentators. If it doesn't do anything, no one is commenting.

Deep Involvement: Choose the "Match view" at the starting page of your event. Your screen will be divided into 4 small screens – 2 of them showing the 2 tables of the match you choose, the other 2 having the scoresheet for your match and the current scores of the other matches. In the 2x2 view you can 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.

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, the 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 always 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 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.



You really ought
To see this squeeze.
Nickell played it
With great ease!



Kibitzing...

2024 USBCs Hospitality

We are returning to our pre-pandemic hospitality, with the hospitality suite (room 2321) open most of the day for socializing, Vugraph, and snacks. We will be providing breakfast and lunch each **day of play**. Marie-France Benoit will be our lead hostess, with help from Jacob Morgan and Julie Arbit, who makes the best guacamole. If you're at the tournament and can volunteer to help with hospitality (pick up items at Costco or nearby stores or restaurants, preparing food) please let Jan or Marie-France know.

Breakfast: From ^{8:30-10:30} There will be the usual breakfast food: cereal, bagels, toast, salmon, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. For those who prefer Keurig coffee, that will be available. So long as the suite doesn't become too crowded, you are welcome to eat there. No masking requirement.

Lunch: On the first four days of each event we will be serving a buffet lunch in a hotel banquet room, usually the Slate and Cyan rooms at the front of the hotel; we will have signs in the Player Break Room and Hospitality Suite with daily location. The hotel will be supplying what they do best: salads and chips. We will be bringing in 2 or 3 hot dishes from a local restaurant each day. There should be enough room for you to eat in the hotel banquet room, but you are welcome to take food from there to an outside table or to your hotel room. Lunch will be served from about half an hour before the morning session is supposed to end until about half an hour after the afternoon session starts. After the first 4 days of each event, lunch will be available in the hospitality suite at the break. There will be a main dish (sandwiches, chicken, main dish salads, pizza) as well as tuna salad, green salad, cheese, fruit, berries, cookies or other desserts. Water and soft drinks will be available in refrigerators. As with breakfast, you are welcome to eat in the hospitality suite unless it is too crowded.

Let us know if you have specific needs. Our hosts will do their very best to accommodate you.

Playing Rooms & Player's Break Room

We welcome Marge Morgan, mother of Jacob, to the venue. Marge will help Marie-France.

We will have bottled water in the Player's Break Room (1321), as well as soft drinks, Nespresso, some packaged snacks, and some fruit. Please keep your voices down in the Break Room where we are working.

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 for coffee, water or an escort outside to smoke.



Marie-France



Marge Morgan

**I TRIPPED
IN
FRANCE.
EIFFEL OVER.**



**Did you hear the
story about the
claustrophobic
astronaut?**
He just needed
some space.

**Last night, my wife
asked me if I'd seen
the dog bowl.
I said, "I didn't know
he could."**

**Apparently if u buy a
cabbage from Coles
you are legally
obligated to also buy
carrots and
mayonnaise. It's
Coles law**

**A SLICE OF APPLE PIE
IN JAMAICA IS
\$2.00. IT IS \$2.50 IN
THE BAHAMAS. THESE
ARE THE PIE RATES
OF THE CARIBBEAN**

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

Sudoku 1

Hard Sudoku

**Sudoku Solutions
on Page 12**

Sudoku 2

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

**Accidentally drank
invisible ink...**
**I am now in Hospital
waiting to be seen.**



**I caught my son
chewing on
electrical cords.
So I had to ground
him.
He's doing better
currently.
And conducting
himself properly ...**

Please be "scent" sitive! Many players
have allergies and have trouble
breathing when perfumed aromas are
present! Thank you!!



Puzzle Page ...

Chess

Find and circle all of the Chess words that are hidden in the grid.

The remaining letters spell a secret message.

Note: QUEEN and QUEENING are separately hidden and do not overlap.

```

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

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| ATTACK | CHAMPIONSHIP | GRANDMASTER | PAWN |
| BISHOP | DEEP BLUE | JUMP | PIECE |
| BLITZ CHESS | DIAGONAL | KASPAROV | PROMOTION |
| BLOCKED | EN PASSANT | KIBITZING | QUEEN |
| BLUNDER | ENDGAME | KING | QUEENING |
| CAPTURE | EXCHANGE | KNIGHT | ROOK |
| CASTLING | FILE | LOSE | SACRIFICE |
| CENTER | FISCHER | MATE IN TWO | STALEMATE |
| CHECKMATE | FORK | MIDDLEGAME | TOURNAMENT |
| CHESSBOARD | GAMBIT | OPENING | WIN |



The classy way
You see me dress...
A card in bridge,
A piece in chess!

I just got over my addiction to
chocolate, marshmallows and
nuts.

I won't lie, it was a Rocky Road.

My barber realised that
his scissors weren't
working so he apologized.

I said, "Well sorry's not
gonna cut it."

I TELL DAD JOKES,
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY KIDS.

THAT MAKES ME
A FAUX PA.



Barry Rigal (born 1958) is a bridge player, author, commentator and journalist. Born in England, he was married to world champion Sue Picus and lives in New York. Rigal has represented England in the Camrose Trophy Home International series several times and won the Gold Cup; he was a multiple winner of the Spring Fours and Tollemache Trophy. Rigal has been a Vugraph commentator for thirty years and chief commentator for the European Bridge League (EBL) and World Bridge Federation (WBF) since 2006. He has been an executive member of the International Bridge Press Association (IBPA) since the early 1990s and was appointed President in September 2016. Rigal is playing in the USBC Seniors on the Aker team.

SAN FRANCISCO November 23, 2012 excerpted NYT — At the Fall North American Championships, the main event is the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, which is played over three days.

On Thanksgiving evening there is charity event that raises money for the American Contract Bridge League's Education Foundation. In this fund-raiser, clubs around North America could hold games, the players afterward receiving copies of the deals with bidding and play analysis by **Barry Rigal** of New York City.

No doubt in the diagramed deal some Wests, when doubling 4S, thought Christmas had come on Thanksgiving. They learned, though, that Santa was giving match point presents only to North-South. In the old days many would have passed as dealer with that West hand, not wishing to open in such a weak suit. But now "pass" is a four-letter word.

Have you and your partners discussed South's two-club overcall?

Most experts treat both two clubs and two hearts as natural. With at least 5-5 in spades and diamonds, they overcall one no-trump or two no-trump. (One no-trump is called a sandwich no-trump because the overcaller is between two bidding opponents. To use it to show a strong, balanced hand is dangerous; if the overcaller's partner has a balanced, weak hand, one no-trump doubled will be expensive. This is why many pairs treat it as showing a two-suiter.)

| | | | |
|---------------|--|---------|-------------|
| NORTH | | | |
| ♠ J 9 5 | | | |
| ♥ 10 7 6 | | | |
| ♦ A Q 5 4 3 | | | |
| ♣ 7 3 | | | |
| WEST(D) | | EAST | |
| ♠ A K 10 4 | | ♠ 6 | ♥ A K J 8 5 |
| ♥ Q 9 3 | | ♥ 4 2 | ♦ 9 8 2 |
| ♦ K 7 6 | | ♦ 9 8 2 | ♣ Q 5 |
| ♣ 10 8 4 | | | |
| SOUTH | | | |
| ♠ Q 8 7 3 2 | | | |
| ♥ — | | | |
| ♦ J 10 | | | |
| ♣ A K J 9 6 2 | | | |

Both sides were vulnerable.
 The bidding:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♥ | 2 ♣ |
| Dbl. | Pass | 4 ♥ | 4 ♠ |
| Dbl. | Pass | Pass | Pass |

 West led the heart three.

West's double is fit-showing, indicating three-card heart support but not specifying hand strength. Then, after East jumps to four hearts, should South bid four spades? "Yes," writes Rigal. And here it works beautifully. West will no doubt double with relish, then find that the contract is unbeatable. West will presumably lead a heart, hoping to make declarer ruff once or twice and lose trump control. But South will ruff the first heart and cash his top clubs. When the queen drops, declarer will lead a trump toward the dummy. West can win and play another heart, but South will ruff and lead winning clubs through West.



Meet the Players

When West ruffs, dummy overruffs, declarer trumps the last heart in his hand and takes the winning diamond finesse. Not only has South made his contract, he has also collected an overtrick. Of course, if East had the diamond king and West queen-fourth of clubs, even two spades would be too high. What's that saying about fortune favoring the fearless?

Logic Puzzle Page

| | | Candidates | | | | | | | Professions | | | | | | | Hometowns | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|----------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------|-------|--------|------------|
| | | Al Allen | Cate Carlson | Dale Donovan | Ed Ewing | Fred Francis | Ida Ingram | Jed Jarvis | academic | architect | doctor | lawyer | rancher | teacher | writer | Daly City | Evansdale | Glendale | Indian Wells | Olema | Redway | Unionville |
| Votes | 8,500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 9,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 9,500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 10,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 10,500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 11,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 11,500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hometowns | Daly City | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Evansdale | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Glendale | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Indian Wells | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Olema | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Redway | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Unionville | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Professions | academic | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | architect | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | doctor | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | lawyer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | rancher | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | teacher | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | writer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**Answer
on page12**

| Votes | Candidates | Professions | Hometowns |
|--------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 8,500 | | | |
| 9,000 | | | |
| 9,500 | | | |
| 10,000 | | | |
| 10,500 | | | |
| 11,000 | | | |
| 11,500 | | | |

- Cate Carlson finished an unknown number of votes behind Jed Jarvis.
- The seven candidates were the politician who received 10,000 votes, the Glendale native, the architect, the Indian Wells native, the rancher, Ed Ewing and the teacher.
- Fred Francis isn't the writer.
- Neither the person who received 9,000 votes nor the writer was the Evansdale native.
- Neither the candidate who received 11,000 votes nor the rancher was Al Allen.
- The politician who received 9,500 votes is the teacher.
- Jed Jarvis is the doctor.
- Ed Ewing didn't end up with exactly 10,500 votes.
- Jed Jarvis was either the Daly City native or the architect.
- The candidate who received 9,500 votes isn't from Olema.
- Of the person who received 8,500 votes and the Glendale native, one is the rancher and the other was Ida Ingram.
- The Evansdale native is the rancher.
- The Glendale native isn't the lawyer.
- The Redway native finished an unknown number of votes behind the academic.
- Dale Donovan finished 2,500 votes behind the Indian Wells native.
- The politician who received 10,500 votes is from Redway

Playing Procedures Reviewed For Those Arriving for the Seniors, Womens

You will be playing on Chromebooks using LoveBridge software. The Chromebooks all have wired mice, which you may choose to use or not. They also have touch screens if you prefer that, and of course integrated keyboards. You will not be able to go to any websites other than the LoveBridge playing site from the playing room Chromebooks.

There will be 2 players in each room, one from each team in the match - North & East together and South & West together. All of the NE rooms are on the first floor; all of the SW rooms are on the second floor.

Because some of you have said that you prefer the opponents' system information on paper in addition to being available on the Chromebooks, we are asking each player to bring a copy of their SSF, convention card, and if relevant the ACBL Multi defense to the table for their opponent. If you need help printing anything, come to room 1321 before you play and one of us will print for you.

After you have finished a segment and scored with your teammates, please check the score on LoveBridge and if you disagree with it, come to room 1321 and so we can sort it out.

Captains:

Your lineup sheet been shared with you. If you can't open it, or don't understand something about it, please let us know.

For the first segment of play each day, the Away team (the team that does not have seating rights for the segment) should tell the Home team their lineup (by email, text, or an entry on the lineup sheet) no later than 8:50 am (70 minutes before play starts), and enter the lineup on their lineup sheet no later than 9:00 am. If you enter your lineup on the lineup sheet before 8:50 am, that will satisfy both requirements. The Home team should give the Away team its lineup by 8:55 am, and should also enter it on the lineup sheet no later than 9:00 am. Of course, if the Away team doesn't communicate its lineup on time, the Home team has more time.

We ask you to enter the lineup on your lineup sheet because that may be the easiest way to give your lineup to your opponent. If you leave your lineup page open on your computer or other device, it will automatically update with the opponent's lineup when they enter it. Also, especially for the first segment of the day, there are often players who come to the office asking where they're supposed to sit and if the lineup is on the lineup sheet, we can direct them.

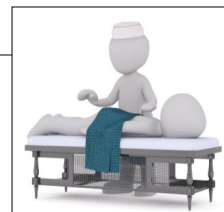
For subsequent segments, you need only notify each other of your lineups (10 minutes before the start of the segment for the Away team, 5 minutes for the Home team), although you are welcome to enter the lineup on the lineup sheet in case one of your players doesn't know where they are supposed to sit and comes to ask us.

Line-Up Procedures

For those of you who are interested, Ela has agreed to come to the Hyatt to provide massages any day that we have 3 or more people who want her. So if you want a massage, please let me know a day or two in advance, including what your timing is, and I'll try to make things work.

For now, Ela said she could come on April 30th for anyone who wants a post-flight, pre-tournament massage. So if you want one, please let me know and tell me what time(s) would work for you.

I think Ela still charges \$100 for an hour. She'll be setting her table up in my room (5117) and will have a key so she can get in and can the let you in when it's your turn. Any questions, let Jan know!



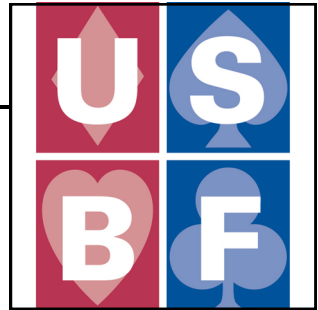
**Massage Therapist
message from Jan**

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

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

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.

I can't take my dog to the pond anymore because the ducks keep attacking him.

Guess that's what I get for buying a pure bread dog.

Thank you for phoning the fishing help center.

Please hold the line.



The man that invented the Ferris wheel never met the man that invented the merry go round. They traveled in different circles.

Answer to Logic Puzzle On Page 10

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 11,500 | Ida Ingram | Writer | Glendale |
| 11,000 | Fred Francis | Academic | Indian Wells |
| 10,500 | Al Allen | Architect | Redway |
| 10,000 | Jed Jarvis | Doctor | Daly City |
| 9,500 | Cate Carlson | Teacher | Unionville |
| 9,000 | Ed Ewing | Lawyer | Olema |
| 8,500 | Dale Donovan | Rancher | Evansdale |

As promised, more coverage of the Final Mixed match. It was a wild and wooly set of boards!

Zhang put another nail in the coffin on Board 20.

Zhang opened 1NT; Emma showed the majors; Wold passed and Adam bid 2H on his 5-count with four cards in hearts. Zhang competed with 3C and everyone passed.

There are 9 tricks in clubs if played from North and only 8 tricks if played from South. Zhang played it from North, but it wasn't an easy play and she missed the mark. Kolesnik led the HA and continued hearts to dummy's king.

Par: -1100

| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | N |
|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| N | 9 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| S | 8 | 7 | : | : | : |
| E | 4 | 6 | 11 | 11 | 7 |
| W | : | 5 | 12 | : | : |

Zhang played a club to the ace and a club to the ten. She played the D2 toward her hand and when Adam played small, she inserted the NINE! This was fatal. Emma won the queen and played a diamond to Adam's ace. Adam played a spade through declarer's king to Emma's ace and then queen. Zhang could only take eight tricks and conceded down one.

It was more exciting in the other room where Shi and Korbelt found their vulnerable heart game... a low high card game that could produce 12 tricks from West and 11 tricks from East.

Botta led the CA and Sylvia ruffed in dummy. She cashed the HA and led a second trump. Zach won the king. He played a club ruffed in dummy.

Shi returned to her hand with the H8 to finesse the spade.

When that worked, she claimed 12 tricks.

11 IMPs for Zhang

Par: -1100

| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | N |
|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| N | 9 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| S | 8 | 7 | : | : | : |
| E | 4 | 6 | 11 | 11 | 7 |
| W | : | 5 | 12 | : | : |

Membership:

Membership at 4/30/2024 = 130k. New members YTD in 2024 are down 8% versus 2023 while Guest members are up almost 19% compared to this time in 2023. *Guest members are not included in membership totals until they convert to a paid membership.*

Marketing: Top three opportunities

1. Increase awareness of game through Bridge Ambassador and related programs (i.e., Come Play Cards with Us and PickleBridge)
2. Increased conversion of guest members to regular members through extended \$29 deal
3. Increase engagement with newer players through new opportunities to play in online limited games such as ACBL Clubhouse and Community games

Top three challenges

1. Converting guest members to regular membership (technical and communication)
2. Garnering widespread endorsement from our network of clubs and teachers for our flagship offering: membership
3. Make Starting Easier for Beginners: Make bridge easier to get into by simplifying how new players learn the game.

Information Technology: Top three priorities

1. Working on putting Backoffice into production
2. Entry Express - finishing and testing upgrades and patches (2 years overdue)
3. Resolving high priority unscheduled work items

Top three challenges

1. Tensions between internal and external developers
2. Open positions not yet filled
3. Resolving high-priority unscheduled work items

AS400 Modernization update (Backoffice)

1. Putting Backoffice into production requires more coordination between the teams than initially anticipated, and differences of opinions between the teams slow progress
2. Key date (moved): June 30th for Membership Management in Production (Go Live)

National Recorder: Online Cheating: 2024 EDGAR generated cases

1. 98 flagged player cases received to date, expect another 80+ shortly
 2. Significant manual review invested to develop internal processes. Revised May 8th CDR will help to streamline the processes.
 3. 3 cases currently in the IBA, which is a positive indicator for disposition of future cases
- Player Memos (from Regionals and Sectionals)

1. February 1st, National Recorder's office assumed responsibility for these from Districts
2. Two cases have progressed to official charges stemming from activity at tournaments, one case has progressed to official charges stemming from activity at Spring NABC.

Anti-Cheating Committee

1. Partnership established with McKenzie Myers to address F2F cheating at NABC+ events
2. First organizational meeting and roundtable discussion occurred on March 14th in Louisville;

Committee should be fully functional no later than the Fall NABC

Finance:

April had a gain from operations of \$348k, better than budget by \$365k and \$333k more than 2023.

Revenues for the month totaled \$1.9M, which was \$17k better than the budget of \$1.9M.

Expenses were \$1.6M which was \$348k or 18.2% less than the budget of \$1.9M.

Overall, the YTD gain in net assets was \$832k, which was above budget by \$708k and \$270k better than the prior YTD gain of \$562k.

The balance sheet is strong with investments of \$8.1M

**Note that there are only two teams in the Women's since members of the Zhang team who won the Mixed were on that team and cannot play both events!
The Women's will now be a 3 day KO with 180 boards!
May the best women win!**

HOME CARDS SPLIT

| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|------|-----|
| PASS | 1♦ | PASS | 2♠ |
| PASS | 2NT | PASS | 3NT |
| PASS | PASS | PASS | |

2D=GF

DEALER 32 EAST SOUTH

Frequency

LoveBridge

♠ KJT3
♥ AK
♦ T843
♣ 862
N Eddie Wold

♠ AQ984
♥ T74
♦ J
♣ T953
W Anam Tebha

♠ 7
♥ QJ932
♦ Q765
♣ KQ4
E Stewart

♠ 652
♥ 865
♦ AK92
♣ AJ7
S Ianice Molson

DDS

Board 11 was entirely in the hands of the declarer.

Both tables bid to 3NT from North and both tables received the lead of the HJ (Rusinow) from East.

In the Open Room, Wold took the winning line. He won the HK and played the DT to the ace, felling the jack in Tebha's hand. He played the S2; Tebha hopped with her ace; She played the HT and Eddie won his ace. He played the D8 and when Rubinstein covered with the queen, he won the DK, played a spade

to his jack, followed by the D4 to dummy's nine. He played the S5 to his ten, and cashed the SK. The CA scored the 9th trick. Eddie played carefully, keeping control throughout and preserving his chance to use restricted choice to pick up the diamond if the opportunity presented itself.

In the Closed Room, Zach, too, won the opening heart lead with the king. At trick 2, however, he had a blind spot and ran the DT! He doomed himself when he ducked in dummy. The diamond lost to West's jack and there was no recovery.

HOME CARDS SPLIT

| W | N | E | S |
|------|-----|------|------|
| PASS | 1♦ | 1♥ | 1♠ |
| DBL | 1NT | PASS | 2NT |
| PASS | 3NT | PASS | PASS |
| PASS | | | |

1S=fewer than 4 spades, takeout

DEALER 32 EAST SOUTH

Frequency

LoveBridge

♠ KJT3
♥ AK
♦ T843
♣ 862
N Zach Grossack

♠ AQ984
♥ T74
♦ J
♣ T953
W Daniel Korbelt

♠ 7
♥ QJ932
♦ Q765
♣ KQ4
E Sylvia Sh

♠ 652
♥ 865
♦ AK92
♣ AJ7
S Giorgia Botta

DDS

Korbelt cleared the HA from Zach's hand. Zach played a diamond to the king and led a spade. Korbelt took his ace, played his last heart to Shi who cashed out for down one!

Winning trick 2 with a high diamond is really important for declarer to maintain control. Declarer can't permit the defense to clear the heart while they still have the SA as an entry. 10 IMPs to Rubenstein

Limey Jack...

Hallo, Colonials. Your side of the pond is busier than Friar Tuck at a roast pig buffet. Now the oldies have a turn at the golden ring.

Nine Squads begin the jousting and but one is eliminated after 2 days. Alas, it is one of the four handed lads, Reynolds. The other eight will play a knockout after.

Rumour is that M. Dung is on Holiday and will not be here to ruin the proceedings. That will not be good for the punters. Limey Jack will see to that.

Limey Jack notes that his two favourite players are in this event and hopes the God of matchups allows for Zia and Hamman to meet in the final. Limey Jack will stay up far into the eve to watch that.

Ta.



Howie Doing...

Of the nine entered,
Eight will have fun.
One will go home
When day two is done!

The eight will go on
To play head to head.
Getting massages
And being well fed.

A change in the rosters
Be sure that you're ready
Levin's on Lall
In place of Sir Eddie!

Eddie's on Zhang
And he's in the Mixed
Though Slimey and I
Both deemed they'd be nixed!

Who will go on?
Who will achieve?
Who will be first
To pack up and leave?

Aker will stay.
Goodman will too.
Tulin's my choice
For first when it's through!

Wolfson and Simson
And Hamman are players.
Reynolds and Lall
Will stay with the stayers.

Cappelli departs
Yes it is so...
All on the team,
"Pack your knives up and go!"

A streak of flat boards followed, not helping Rubinstein in their quest to turn the score around. Then Board 42 ...

Sometimes when you are trying really hard to swing IMPs your way, you stumble and create a situation where imathematically, t becomes nearly impossible to dig your way out of the hole.

The Zhang team gave the Rubinstein team the chance to dig themselves deeper on Board 42.

The screenshot shows a bridge game interface with the following elements:

- Navigation:** HOME, CARDS, SPLIT, and a back arrow.
- Bidding Table:**

| W | N | E | S |
|------|-----|------|------|
| | | PASS | 1♥ |
| PASS | 2♥ | DBL | RDBL |
| 3♦ | DBL | PASS | PASS |
| PASS | | | |
- Table Info:** Table: CL 1, Round: 7. N-S: Rubenstein 199 IMP. E-W: Zhang 262 IMP.
- Other Room:** OTHER ROOM S 4♥ = 620. Other table >
- Score Card:** NORTH WEST 42 DEALER SOUTH. Frequency >
- LoveBridge Logo:** Centered in the background.
- Card Holdings:**
 - North (Zach Grossack):** ♠ QJT9, ♥ JT9, ♦ 87, ♣ KQ62
 - West (Daniel Korbel):** ♠ 532, ♥ Q753, ♦ QT632, ♣ T
 - East (Sylvia Shi):** ♠ 87, ♥ A, ♦ KJ954, ♣ J8753
 - South (Giorgia Botta):** ♠ AK64, ♥ K8642, ♦ A, ♣ A94
- Buttons:** DDS (Double Dummy System) button at the bottom.

In the Open Room on a mama/papa auction: P-1H-P-2H-P-4H, Molson/Wold took their 10 tricks.

In the Closed Room (above), Korbel/Shi baited Grossack/Botta, interfering in their auction and presenting them with a losing alternative.

When Botta redoubled 2H, Zach knew she had extras. He knew his side had a likely game, however, he needed swings. Considering his 9-count, two tens and two nines, there was an opportunity for a swing on a hand the would ordinarily have been a flat game hand. He took the bait and doubled. 3D is cold and the penalty created a double game swing for Zhang.

The defense started off strong. Grossack led a diamond to Botta who underled her CA to him. He cashed his SQ and SJ and exited with his last trump. Korbel won the jack in dummy, cashed the HA, and went into a club/heart crossruff to score 9 tricks.

620 + 670 was worth 15 IMPs to Zhang

The very next board got back most of the 15 IMPs for Rubinstein...

HOME CARDS SPLIT

W N E S

| | | | |
|------|-----|------|----|
| | | | 1♥ |
| PASS | 4♦ | PASS | 4♠ |
| PASS | 4NT | PASS | 5♣ |
| PASS | 5NT | PASS | 7♥ |

4D=splinter
4S=cue

NORTH WEST 43 EAST DEALER

Score card Frequency

DDS

♠ 74
♥ J7653
♦ 4
♣ AKQ84

N Eddie Wold

♠ Q93
♥ A
♦ 9732
♣ J9752

W Anam Tebha

♠ T852
♥ K9
♦ AT86
♣ T63

E Stewa

♠ AKJ6
♥ QT842
♦ KQJ5
♣

S Janice Molson

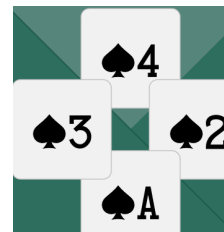
Molson/Wold had an accident.
Janice cued over Wold's splinter and Wold really liked his hand. He asked for key-cards.

Janice showed 1 or 4.
Eddie had a predicament. If Janice had only one keycard, they were probably too high at the five level. Accordingly, he played her for four and bid the grand slam!!

Anam made a sporting double figuring the trump ace would score. She led the C5. Janice won in dummy and shed a diamond from hand.

Janice played the S4 and was rewarded with a wish trick.

Unfortunately though, no matter how hard she wished, the ace and king of trump were going to score for E/W. Contract down two!



HOME CARDS SPLIT

W N E S

| | | | |
|------|-----|------|------|
| | | | 1♥ |
| PASS | 3♦ | PASS | 3♥ |
| PASS | 3NT | PASS | 4♣ |
| PASS | 4♥ | PASS | 5♣ |
| PASS | 5♥ | PASS | PASS |
| PASS | | | |

3D=GF heart raise with shortness somewhere
3H=ask
3NT= diamond shortness

NORTH WEST 43 EAST DEALER

Score card Frequency

DDS

♠ 74
♥ J7653
♦ 4
♣ AKQ84

N Zach Grossack

♠ Q93
♥ A
♦ 9732
♣ J9752

W Daniel Korbel

♠ T852
♥ K9
♦ AT86
♣ T63

E Sylvia S

♠ AKJ6
♥ QT842
♦ KQJ5
♣

S Georgia Botta

In the Closed Room, Botta/Grossack stopped in 5H. Korbel led the S3 to the J. Botta cashed the SA and pitched the D4 from dummy.

She gave Korbel his trump ace and claimed 11 tricks.

Korbel could have defeated this hand by leading a diamond or by cashing the trump ace, getting a look at dummy

and then leading a diamond. This would not have been wildly significant turning a 13 IMP swing into a 6 IMP swing.