

Volume 2, Issue 4
July 8, 2009

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Upsets Abound in the Semifinals...

Both the favorites were upset in the Semis. Tomorrow we will see Morse against Schwartz for USA1!!

Don't miss the action on VuGraph...

The USA2 matchups are on page 11



Teams Entered ... In Seeding Order ...

Larsen	Kyle Larsen, Capt Alan Sontag Bart Bramley	Rose Meltzer Roger Bates Lew Stansby
Lynch	Carolyn Lynch, Capt Mark Lair John Sutherlin	Mike Passell David Berkowitz Dan Gerstman
Schwartz	Richard Schwartz, Capt Russell Ekeblad	Bob Jones Matthew Granovetter
Wolff	Bobby Wolff, Capt John Solodar Fred Hamilton	Dan Morse Paul Swanson Arnold Fisher
Kasle	Gaylor Kasle, Capt Ron Smith Neil Chambers	John Onstott Drew Casen John Schermer
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Vernay	Colby Vernay, Capt Larry Griffey	Barry Schaffer Spike Lay
Epstein	Mark Epstein, Capt Jan George	Roberta Epstein Bob LaFleur

It is very strange that the years teach us patience -- that the shorter our time, the greater our capacity for waiting.
-- Elizabeth Taylor

HOW TO STRETCH YOUR PENSION

A couple, both age 76, went to a sex therapist's office. The doctor asked, "What can I do for you?"

The man said, "Will you watch us have sexual intercourse?" The doctor looked puzzled, but agreed.

When the couple finished, the doctor said, "There's nothing wrong with the way you have intercourse," and charged them \$50. This happened several weeks in a row. The couple would make an appointment, have intercourse with no problems, pay the doctor, then leave.

Finally, the doctor asked, "Just exactly what are you trying to find out?"

The old man said, "We're not trying to find out anything. She's married and we can't go to her house, I'm married and we can't go to my house. The Holiday Inn charges \$90; the Hilton charges \$108. We do it here for \$50 and I get \$43 back from Medicare."

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

An elderly man lay dying in his bed. In death's agony, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookies wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from the bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort forced himself down the stairs, gripping the railing with both hands. With labored breath, he leaned against the door-frame, gazing into the kitchen.

Were it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven: there, spread out upon racks on the kitchen table and counters were literally hundreds of his favorite chocolate chip cookies.

Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted wife, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man? Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself toward the table, landing on his knees in a rumped posture. His parched lips parted -- the wondrous taste of the cookie was already in his mouth, seemingly bringing him back to life.

"Stay out of those," she said. "They're for the funeral."

LONELY LADY

An older lady was somewhat lonely and decided she needed a pet to keep her company.

So off to the pet shop she went. She searched and searched. Nothing seemed to catch her interest, except this ugly frog. As she walked by the jar he was in, he looked and winked at her. He whispered, "I'm lonely too, buy me and you won't be sorry."

The old lady figured "what the heck," she hadn't found anything else. She brought the frog and put him in the car.

Driving down the road the frog whispered to her "kiss me and you won't be sorry".

So the old lady figured "what the heck", and kissed the frog. Immediately the frog turned into an absolutely gorgeous sexy young handsome prince. The prince then kissed the old lady back and guess what the old lady turned into?

She turned into the first motel she could find!

OBITUARY

When the husband finally died his wife put the usual death notice in the paper, but added that he died of gonorrhea. As soon as were the papers delivered when a good friend of the family phoned and complained bitterly, "You know very well that he died of diarrhea, not gonorrhea.

Replied the widow, "I nursed him night and day so of course I know he died of diarrhea, but I thought it would be better for posterity to remember him as a great lover rather than the big shit he always was.

MUTUAL ORGASM

Ethel and Mabel, two elderly widows, were watching the folks go by from their park bench. Ethel said, "You know, Mabel, I've been reading this 'Sex and Marriage' book and all they talk about is 'mutual orgasm.'"

"Mutual orgasm here and mutual orgasm' there. That's all they talk about. Tell me, Mabel, when your husband was alive, did you two ever have mutual orgasm?"

Mabel thought for a long while. Finally, she shook her head and said, "No, I think we had State Farm."

GRANDMA AND THE NUDIST COLONY

A man moves into a nudist colony. He receives a letter from his mother asking him to send her a current picture. Too embarrassed to let her know that he lives in a nudist colony, he cuts one in half and sends her the top part.

Later he receives another letter asking him to send a picture to his grandmother. The man cuts another picture in half, but accidentally sends the bottom half. He is really worried when he realizes that he sent the wrong part, but then remembers how bad his grandmother's eyesight is and hopes she won't notice.

A few weeks later he receives a letter from his grandmother. It says, "Thank you for the picture. Change your hair style? It makes makes your nose look too short."

Vugraph

The 2009 USSBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting on Tuesday with the Semi-Finals. We hope to cover 2 matches each round. 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 download the BBO software to run BBO on your computer. If you choose the latter approach, after downloading, install the software on your computer, log on, follow the directions to become a BBO member and you'll be magically transported to the Lobby of the largest bridge club in the world. Click on the button labeled EXPLORE BRIDGE and then on the button labeled VUGRAPH THEATRE and you'll be able to choose which of the USSBC matches you want to watch.

There may be a "yellow" user on BBO called USBF. If you have general questions, please ask USBF, not one of the hard-working Vugraph Operators, some of whom may prefer not to respond to private messages. If USBF is not online, it is because Jan is a Vugraph operator - she will be Vugraphu1 and will try to answer your general questions. Thank you.

Each day's schedule is the same (these are Las Vegas times; to see the times for your time-zone, go to the **BBO Vugraph schedule site**)

10:00-12:10
12:25-2:35
4:30-6:40
7:00-9:10

All of the teams in each bracket will play the same boards each segment. If a match is sufficiently far behind that another match starts early, the Vugraph presentation will not start until the slower match starts.

After a session, you can review the Vugraph action on our Web Vugraphs, which show each hand played with a link to bidding and play records. Take a look at the other 2009 events currently available to see what we'll have for the 2009 USSBC. Web Vugraphs are posted as soon as possible after completion of the Vugraph show.

HOSPITALITY SUITE INFORMATION

The hospitality suite for the 2009 USSBC is Room 6260 in the Palmer Tower of the JW Marriott Hotel. Players, kibitzers, friends and supporters are welcome in the Hospitality Suite during the tournament. Please join us for:

Breakfast each day from 8:30-10:00 am

Lunch each day from 2:30-4:30

Snacks, soft drinks, Vugraph and casual chat the rest of the day, except between 4:30 and 5:30 when the suite will be closed for cleaning



Seeding Information

The teams in the 2009 USSBC have been ranked by seeding points in accordance with the Conditions of Contest for the event.

MONDAY JULY 6	9:30 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING (PLAYING ROOM)
ROUND ROBIN		
MONDAY JULY 6	10:00-1:45 1:45-3:30 3:30-6:00 6:30-9:00	MATCH 1 BOARDS 1-8 MATCH 2 BOARDS 9-16 MATCH 3 BOARDS 17-24 1 HOUR 45 MINUTE BREAK (LUNCH SERVED IN HOSPITALITY SUITE) MATCH 4 BOARDS 25-32 MATCH 5 BOARDS 33-40 MATCH 6 BOARDS 41-48 MATCH 7 BOARDS 49-56 (NO SCORE COMPARISON ALLOWED)
SEMI-FINALS & USA2 ROUND OF 16 NOTE: USA2 ROUND OF 16 IS A 3-WAY WITH 2 SURVIVORS		
TUESDAY JULY 7	10:00-12:10 12:25 - 2:30 2:30 - 4:30 4:30 - 6:40 7:00 - 9:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 2 HOUR BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
FINAL & USA2 QUARTERFINALS		
WEDS JULY 8	10:00-12:10 12:25 - 2:30 2:30 - 4:30 4:30 - 6:40 7:00 - 9:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 2 HOUR BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
FINAL & USA2 SEMI FINALS		
THURS JULY 9	10:00-12:10 12:25 - 2:30 2:30 - 4:30 4:30 - 6:40 7:00 - 9:10	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 (SEGMENTS 1 & 2 OF USA2 SEMI-FINALS) END OF USA1 USA2 SEMI-FINALS CONTINUE SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
USA2 FINAL		
FRIDAY JULY 10	10:00-12:10 12:25 - 2:30 2:30 - 4:30 4:30 - 6:40 7:00 - 9:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 2 HOUR BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60

Tournament Schedule

All About Kibitzing

WHEN CAN YOU KIBITZ IN THE PLAYING ROOMS?

You will be able to kibitz at any of the tables during this event. You will be subject to the following regulations:

Kibitzers may enter the room ONLY at the start of play for a segment. Once play has started, the room will be closed. A kibitzer who leaves the room may not return until the start of the next session.

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

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

SCREENS

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

USBC KIBITZING RULES

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

1. General Rules

- a. During any use of duplicated boards across multiple matches, Kibitzers must select one table for kibitzing and may not move to any other table during a session or segment.
- b. Kibitzers may not speak with players, must watch only one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see more than one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see a computer screen in use for Internet broadcast, must check communication devices with the Director, cannot call attention to irregularities other than a board being placed incorrectly on the table (arrow positioning), but may serve as witnesses to a possible irregularity.

2. In the Open Room:

- a. If there is a live, or nearly live Internet broadcast of any match in the Open Room, kibitzers shall abide by the same rules as those applicable to the Closed Room.
- b. If there is no live, or nearly live Internet broadcast of any match in the Open Room then kibitzers, media, and NPC's may enter and return until such time as any table from the closed room has finished the segment. Once any table in the Closed room has finished, no one may return to the Open room after leaving unless escorted while absent.
- c. In either event, Open Room kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room and returning (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).

3. In the Closed Room:

- a. Kibitzers must enter the Closed Room before play commences. Kibitzers in the closed room are required to remain until the segment of play is completed at the table they are watching or to leave the playing area entirely. Closed Room kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).
- b. Except as expressly provided in these conditions and appendices, NPC's shall be subject to the WBF General Conditions, Section 17.
- c. No one other than the Internet broadcast personnel and Tournament Directors may watch any computer screen or any other mechanism for enabling the Internet broadcast at any time in either the Closed or the Open Room.

From the First Segment of the Semi-Finals...

Board 5 ♠ 2
 Dealer: N ♥ K97653
 N/S Vul. ♦ 764
 ♣ J72

♠ KJ8 ♥ AT2 ♦ J52 ♣ QT83	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> N ↑ </div>	♠ A97643 ♥ QJ84 ♦ T8 ♣ 4
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♠ QT5
 ♥
 ♦ AKQ93
 ♣ AK965

West	North	East	South
Sutherlin	Ekeblad	Gerstman	Granovetter
	Pass	2♠	3♦
3♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West	North	East	South
Schwartz	Lynch	Jones	Passell
	Pass	Pass	1♣ (strong)
Pass	1♦ (negative)	1♠	2♦
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Board 5 produced four different results, and offered the chance for a big swing.

At two tables, East opened a weak two spades. When Bates held the South cards, he jumped to 4NT asking partner to pick a minor. Commentator Peter Boyd mentioned to the VuGraph audience that it might be more effective to use four spades for both minors and 4NT for Blackwood. This fits well with the leaping Michaels convention that is popular with most experts.

West	North	East	South
Meltzer	Swanson	Larsen	Solodar
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Pass	2♥ (weak)	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Double	4♣
Pass	4♦	All Pass	

Sontag picked five clubs which was defeated by tapping dummy at trick two.

West	North	East	South
Wolff	Sontag	Morse	Bates
	Pass	2♠	4NT
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

When Matt Granovetter held the South cards, he chose to bid three diamonds and later jumped to five clubs. His partner corrected to diamonds.

The king of spades was led and East overtook with the ace in order to play his singleton club. This was a massive failure since declarer simply trumped one spade, drew trumps and led a club toward the jack to make five diamonds.

Needless to say, five diamonds was quite beatable. In fact, Meltzer/Larsen defeated four diamonds two tricks by leading a trump. Solodar won the trump and tried to cash the ace/king of clubs. When this was ruffed, he had no chance. He went down two for a 3 IMP loss.

As hard as it is to believe, Passell trusted the opponents' bidding and sold out to three spades without even showing his club suit.

Board 39 ♠ T
 Dealer: S ♥ AKJ3
 All Vul. ♦ KT83
 ♣ T974

♠ K987	N	♠ 63
♥ 92	↑	♥ Q
♦ AQ75		♦ J9642
♣ AQ6		♣ KJ832

♠ AQJ542
 ♥ T87654
 ♦
 ♣ 5

West	North	East	South
Schwartz	Sutherland	Jones	Gerstman
			2♣
2NT	Pass	3♥	4♥
5♦	Double	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Ekeblad	Lair	Granovetter
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	3♦
4♦	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Board 39 shows the wide disparity among experts when bidding highly distributional hands. Holding six good spades and six bad hearts, three of the four Souths chose to open two spades.

Alan Sontag saw his weak two passed out and made 140. His teammate, Lew Stansby, at the other table competed with two no-trump on the West hand and was raised to three. Believing his opponents and being afraid of the vulnerability, Swanson passed and defended. The opening lead was the spade ten, passed around to declarer's king. East/West took eight tricks for down one and a 1 IMP gain to Larsen.

West	North	East	South
Fisher	Bates	Hamilton	Sontag
			2♣
All Pass			

Gerstman also opened two spades. The opponents overcalled 2NT and Gerstman competed to four hearts. East/West wisely sacrificed in five diamonds. This was doubled and went down one.

West	North	East	South
Stansby	Solodar	Bramley	Swanson
			2♣
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Matt Granovetter was the only South not opening two spades. He chose to pass and back in later. After West opened 1NT and East bid two no-trump for the minors, Granovetter cuebid three diamonds and competed to four hearts which made five scoring his team a 10 IMP gain.



**No Electronic Devices Are permitted in the Playing Area.
 Violators will be penalized.
 (Senior exception: Pace Makers are allowed.)**

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

Sudoku

STANDARDS

Little old lady is sitting on a bench in Miami Beach. A man walks over and sits down on the other end of the bench. After a few moments, the woman asks, "Are you a stranger here?" He replies, "I used to live here years ago."

"So, where were you all these years?"

"In prison," he says.

"For what did they put you in prison?"

He looks at her, and very quietly says, "I killed my wife."

"Oh," says the woman. "So you're single..."

Answers to puzzle... no peeking!!

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

The dead might as well try to speak to the living as the old to the young.
-- Willa Cather

If you live long enough, the venerability factor creeps in; first, you get accused of things you never did, and later, credited for virtues you never had.
-- I. F. Stone

Senior Quotes

I don't have false teeth. Do you think I'd buy teeth like these?
-- Carol Burnett

One of the good things about getting older is you find you're more interesting than most of the people you meet.
-- Lee Marvin

Another belief of mine: that everyone else my age is an adult, whereas I am merely in disguise.
-- Margaret Atwood

Morrie Makes His Move ...

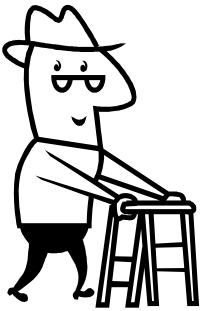
Wow!! It isn't easy pickins for tomorrow's matchups.

I still like the fillies for USA2 ... How could they both let me down today??

I think Lynch will emerge victorious for the title... Hope they know Spanish!

In tomorrow's competition, you will see Lynch best Vernay and Larsen best Kasle.

In the finals for USA1, it will be a photo finish with Schwartz coming out on top... It will be a battle of old world tradition vs. Modern Relay science. Old world might hold up for a while, but in the world of 2nd and 4th leads, strong clubs and active bidding, Wolff doesn't stand a chance.



More prune juice please!! I'm off to the craps table!

Till tomorrow...

Morrie

THE JOY OF SHARING

The little old couple walked slowly into McDonalds that cold winter evening.

They looked out of place amid the young families and young couples eating there that night. Some of the customers looked admiringly at them. You could tell what the admirers were thinking. "Look, there is a couple who has been through a lot together, probably for 60 years or more!"

The little old man walked right up to the cash register, placed his order with no hesitation and then paid for their meal. The couple took a table near the back wall and started taking food off of the tray. There was one hamburger, one order of French fries and one drink.

The little old man unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half. He placed one half in front of his wife. Then he carefully counted out the French fries, divided them in two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them.

As the man began to eat his few bites of hamburger the crowd began to get restless. Again you could tell what they were thinking. "That poor old couple. All they can afford is one meal for the two of them."

As the man began to eat his French fries one young man stood and came over to the old couple's table. He politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple to eat. The old man replied that they were just fine. They were used to sharing everything.

Then the crowd noticed that the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She just sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink. Again the young man came over and begged them to let him buy them something to eat. This time the lady explained that no, they were used to sharing everything together.

As the little old man finished eating and was wiping his face neatly with a napkin the young man could stand it no longer. Again he came over to their table and offered to buy some food. After being politely refused again he finally asked a question of the little old lady.

"Ma'am, why aren't you eating? You said that you share everything. What is it that you are waiting for?"

She answered, "The teeth."

Board 44 ♠ 98742
 Dealer: W ♥ AT82
 N/S Vul. ♦ A6
 ♣ 82

♠ 5 ♥ KQ9654 ♦ 32 ♣ J964	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> N ↑ </div>	♠ AKQ6 ♥ ♦ KQJT9 ♣ KQ3
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♠ JT
 ♥ J73
 ♦ 8754
 ♣ AT75

West	East
Berkowitz	Lair
2♥	2♣
3♣	3NT
All Pass	

West	East
Schwartz	Jones
3♥	3♣
4♣	4♦
4♥	4♣
All Pass	

West	East
Stansby	Bramley
3♥	4♣
All Pass	

West	East
Fisher	Hamilton
3♥	3NT
All Pass	

On Board 44, North/South passed throughout. Three out of four Wests preempted three hearts. Their partners were faced with an awkward bid. Only Hamilton made the winning 3NT call.

While it is tempting to show your spade suit, partner will be unable to bid constructively and you will likely arrive in four spades whether it's correct or not.

In fact, Bart Bramley apparently decided this was the case and simply jumped to four spades over three hearts... ending the auction.

Jones bid only three spades but arrived at the same losing contract.

It would seem that bidding 3NT gives you the best chance for a game. Even though partner's hearts will be useless, your two suits will likely produce enough tricks.

By starting with a weak two in hearts as Berkowitz did, Berkowitz and Lair were able to bid constructively to the winning 3NT contract.

Tomorrow's USA2 matchups will be Lynch against Vernay and Larsen against Kasle.

Good luck to everyone!