



Volume 15, Issue 12
October 7, 2021

Results...

Open USBC - 2021

QuarterFinal (120 boards)		Set score of form "Ax" or "Rx" indicates pending Appeal or Ruling. IMPs Total may change.									
05-Oct-2021		<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	Adjustment (IMPs)
1	Nickell - wins tie	275	46	33	46	73	21	26	5	25	
8	Donner	253	42	37	41	16	22	55	23	17	
2	Fleisher	257	63	35	35	35	30	50	9		
7	Gu - wins tie	148	25	31	23	13	18	25	13	wd	
3	Spector	246	60	60	24	40	8	14	20	20	
6	Levine - wins tie	213	7	12	47	23	23	60	13	31	-3
4	Bramley - wins tie	237	51	78	12	21	11	27	13	24	
5	Hill	242	17	16	31	35	15	37	39	52	

- USBF President**
Brad Moss
- USBF Vice President**
Kate Aker
- USBF COO & Secretary**
Jan Martel
- USBF CFO & Treasurer**
Stan Subeck
- Director**
McKenzie Myers
Chris Wiegand
Will Watson (Senior Online)
- Tournament Organizer**
Jan Martel
- Software Expert**
Al Hollander
- VuGraph Organizer**
Chris Wiegand
- Appeals Administrators**
Suzi Subeck, Chairman
Bill Arlinghaus
Martha Katz
- Appeals Panel:**
Cheri Bjerkan
Mark Feldman
Ron Gerard
Marty Hirschman
Rich DeMartino
George Jacobs
Kerri Sanborn
Danny Sprung
Joann Sprung
- Bulletin Editor**
Suzi Subeck
- Photographer**
Peg Kaplan
- Hospitality Chair**
Christian Jolly
Julie Arbit
Evvie Gilbert
Maya Alela

LoveBridge computes some interesting statistics on each player each day. Today you can see the yesterday's statistics and tomorrow you can see the stats from today. To view, you must go to <https://stats.lovebridge.com/> and enter your username. Each player has an individual username and password. Anyone can view a complete set of stats by clicking the tournament link and selecting USBC Open All.

Certain stats are only available if you are a logged in player!

In the Daily Bulletin from the Senior Online Championships on October 3, you may have seen the **In Memoriam** for Jeff Goldsmith. Jeff lost his battle with cancer last week.

Jeff's family has designated the **USBF Junior Fund**, a 501C-3 charity, for donations in his memory. Donations may be made through the USBF website (USBF.org) and will be properly acknowledged. This was a very kind gesture by Jeff and his family who recognized how important bridge was to Jeff.

QuarterFinalists in Alphabetical Order

Bramley	Bart Bramley, Capt Mike Becker Hemant Lall	Kit Woolsey Peter Weichsel Michael Kamil
Donner	Gary Donner, Capt Radu Nistor Ish DelMonte	Sandra Rimstedt Iulian Rotaru Finn Kolesnik
Fleisher	Marty Fleisher, Capt Joe Grue Roger Lee	Chip Martel Brad Moss Daniel Korbel
Gu	Jiang Gu, Capt Ming Sheng Jian-Jian Wang	Hailong Ao Hongji Wei
Hill	Kevin Dwyer, Capt Shan Huang Joel Wooldridge	Joyce Hill David Grainger
Levine	Mike Levine Jeff Meckstroth Mike Passell Bob Morris, NPC	Eddie Wold Steve Garner Mark Lair
Nickell	Frank Nickell Geoff Hampson Bobby Levin Jill Levin, NPC	Ralph Katz Eric Greco Steve Weinstein
Spector	Warren Spector, Capt John Kranyak John Hurd	Gavin Wolpert Kevin Bathurst



Face to Face Tournament Schedule

VACCINATION REQUIRED:

All players in the 2021 Open USBC MUST be vaccinated against CoVid19.

Players must submit proof of vaccination to the USBF Secretary (Jan Martel) before play commences in the event.

This includes the online stages - players are not eligible to enter the event if they do not submit proof of vaccination.

There are no exceptions to this rule.

Ed. Note:

With the delayed broadcasting and the Covid ban on kibitzing, it is especially challenging to write up the hands. If anyone has a hand of interest, please submit it to me at stansubeck@prodigy.net. I also welcome any human interest stories, news or gossip!!

Thanks.

Suzi



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.



I'm going to get an MRI to find out whether I have claustrophobia.

Steven Wright

DAY	DATE	TIME - CDT	BOARDS
<i>QUARTER-FINAL</i>			
MONDAY	OCT. 4	8:00 PM	CAPTAINS' MEETING WITH DIC (ON ZOOM)
TUESDAY	OCT. 5	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45
WEDNESDAY	OCT. 6	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46- 60
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75
		3:45 - 5:55	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90
		6:10 - 8:20	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
THURSDAY	OCT. 7	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
FRIDAY	OCT. 8	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46- 60
<i>SEMI-FINAL & USA2 STAGE 1</i>			
SATURDAY	OCT. 9	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105
SUNDAY	OCT. 10	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		3:45 - 5:55	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		6:10 - 8:20	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
<i>FINAL & USA2 QUARTERFINAL & SEMIFINAL</i>			
MONDAY	OCT. 11	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46- 60
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75
TUESDAY	OCT. 12	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120
<i>USA2 FINAL</i>			

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

Steven Wright

It doesn't matter what temperature the room is, it's always room temperature.

Steven Wright

FORMAT

The face-to-face USA1 stages will be 2-day, 120-board KO matches.

The face-to-face USA2 stages will be a 2-day, 120-board KO R16 in which the 4 losing USA1 Quarterfinalists will play, followed by a 1-day, 60-board KO Quarterfinal, in which the 2 USA1 Quarterfinal losers will play the 2 USA2 Round of 16 winners; a 1-day 60-board KO Semifinal in which the USA2 Quarterfinal winners will play, and a 2-day 120-board Final between the USA1 Final loser and the USA2 Semifinal winner.

Play Requirements: Each player must play 10 matches in RR 1 and at least one segment against each other team in RR 2 to qualify for the KO stages (a player who does not meet the play requirements can be added back to the team as long as the requirements for roster changes are met. Each player must play 50% of the boards in every KO match to be eligible to continue on the team. See General Conditions of Contest Section XII (at USBF.org) about how to count boards and potential waiver of this requirement.

Closed Notes: Players may not consult their notes at any time during play unless they are dummy.

Withdrawal: A player or team may withdraw at any time.

Play in the KO stages will be on LoveBridge tablets, with either 2 or 4 players in a room.

SETTING THE KO BRACKET: THE KO BRACKET WILL BE BASED ON ACBL SEEDING POINTS, EXCLUDING POINTS AWARDED FOR ONLINE PLAY, PLUS ADDED SEEDING POINTS FOR PERFORMANCE IN EACH STAGE OF THE ROUND ROBIN.

A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter.

What do you get from pampered cows? Spoiled milk.

A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumor.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well, red.

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.

What's the definition of a will? (Come on, it's a dead giveaway!)

A backwards poet writes inverse.

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism, your count votes.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist, will you get repossessed?

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft, and I'll show you a flat minor.

If a clock is hungry does it go back four seconds?

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.



KO KIBITZING ON LOVEBRIDGE

You can follow the USBC on the <https://vugraph.lovebridge.com/> website. The stream is delayed; go to the schedule below for starting times for each segment.

Popcorn time! Do you want to listen to commentary? Search for the TV icon! It will send you to the page where you can choose from the available live commentary. If inactive, no one is commenting.

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 personalize the content in your windows. (Not active 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. 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 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 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.

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 then the same buttons move you through the list. Push every button and enjoy!

KIBITZING SCHEDULE FOR THE KO (EDT)

Segment 1: 12:00 noon

Segment 2: 2:30 pm

BREAK

Segment 3: 6:00 pm

Segment 4: 8:00 pm

NEXT DAY

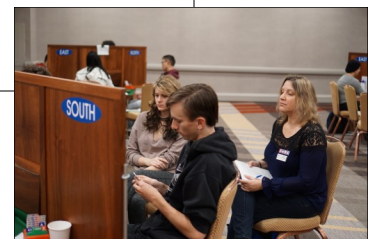
Segment 5: 12:00 noon

Segment 6: 2:30 pm

BREAK

Segment 7: 8:00 pm

Segment 8: 10:15 pm



Mask Rules

Attendees are required to wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth in all public areas in the hotel. That means the hotel lobby, corridors, and elevators, as well as the **Hospitality Suite** and the **Office/Players' Break Room, where masks must be worn at all times. Therefore, there is no eating or drinking in those rooms.**

Our attorney has told us that the Cook County Mask Mandate forces us to require masks in the playing rooms. Therefore, we have adopted the following policy about that:

*Masks are required in playing rooms. If you are observed not wearing a mask in a playing room, there will be a 2 IMP penalty for the first offense in a segment, a 4 IMP penalty for the second offense, an 8 IMP penalty for the third offense, and a 16 IMP penalty for the fourth and subsequent offenses; however, if you and your opponent agree to something other than both wearing masks, any IMP penalties for not wearing a mask will apply to both of you equally and there will be no other penalties. You may remove your mask briefly to eat or drink. **However, if you call for a director (for any reason), and you are not wearing a mask properly when the director enters the room, the penalty will apply to your team for your next match in the event.** There is no eating or drinking in the playing room when the Director present.*

In addition, anyone who is penalized more than twice (over the course of the entire event) in situations where his/her opponent was wearing a mask while s/he wasn't, or where the director was called, may be subject to additional conduct penalties.

You should bring masks to the tournament with you; we will not be supplying masks.

Covid Waiver

We are going to ask each player in these events to sign a COVID-19 Waiver of Claims. It is being sent to you by email and you may sign it electronically and return it to Jan (marteljan@gmail.com) or you can sign a printed waiver at the site. Waivers will be available to sign in room 1321 starting Oct. 5th at 9:00 am. **Everyone is required to sign the form before the start of play!**

Customer to book store owner: "I'd like to return this book on modern medical procedures."

Owner: "Is there something wrong with it?"

Customer: "Someone removed the appendix."

Did you know that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers? Yes, it's true. But, unfortunately, all the bowling league records were destroyed in a fire, so we will never know for whom the Tells bowled.

In 1853, the Tate Watch Company of Connecticut decided to branch out and produce other products. Compasses for the pioneers traveling west were their first new endeavor. Although they produced fine and accurate watches, the same was not true of their compasses. Travelers would sometimes end up in Canada or Mexico. Thus came about the phrase, "He who has a Tate's is lost."



Hospitality Information ... the Suite and more ...

Because of Covid, we won't be able to provide the full, wonderful hospitality we have in the past, but we will do what we can.

Hosts Evvie Gilbert and Maya Alela for the Open and Women's and Julie Arbit and Christian Jolly for the Mixed and Seniors will be in our usual hospitality suite (Room 2321). They will provide grab and go breakfast and lunch each day, starting on Tuesday, Oct. 5th.

Breakfast: From 8-10 am. There will be individually packaged cereal, fruit, hard boiled eggs, bagels, and some hot options. Also individual butter, jam, peanut butter, and cream cheese, as well as condiment packages. They will be making coffee and will have individual packages of sugar, sweetener, and dairy & non-dairy creamers. For those of you who prefer Keurig coffee, that will also be available in the hospitality suite. We are limiting access to 6 players at any one time, so we ask that you come to the suite, pick up a large to go container and put the smaller packages in that to take with you as quickly as you can, and then go someplace else to eat. **Masks that cover your nose & mouth must be always worn in the Hospitality Suite.** There will be a hand sanitizer station near the door and we encourage you to sanitize your hands before choosing what to take.

Lunch: From 2-4 pm (the first half of play each day ends at 2:35; we encourage those of you who are sitting out the 2nd quarter to go early). There will be a main dish (sandwiches, chicken, main dish salads, pizza) as well as individually packaged tuna salad, green salad, cheese, fruit, and berries. Also all the individual packages of add-ons we have for breakfast. Water and soft drinks will be available in refrigerators.

Let us know what you want: If there is a menu for a future day's lunch hanging on the wall outside the Hospitality Suite, please mark what you want, so we have a better idea of what to order.

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.

Masks that cover your nose & mouth must be always worn in the Player's Break Room, so you may not eat and drink in the room.



Julie Arbit



Christian
Jolly



Filling orders
Best we can.
Stay hydrated.
That's the plan!

Halloween is coming... Who's your favorite witch? Sand"wich"

bid72

Work on your Partnership
Try the App for Free



This app will connect you to bid72. All you need to do is scan it with your phone (Special thanks to my children and grandchildren for explaining how to accomplish this...)

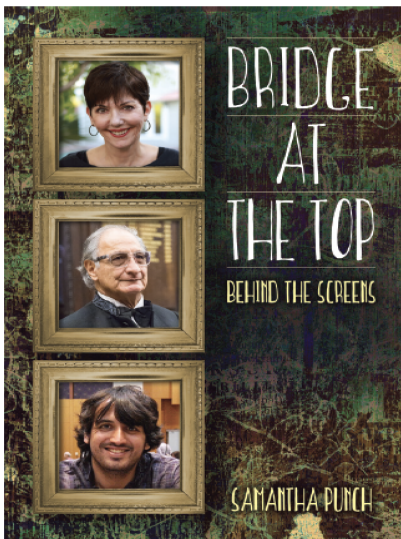
Jan VanCleaf provided this so our readers could use it to improve their bidding and better build partnerships. Bid72 allows users to participate in bidding contests, bid random boards and get a rating based on their bidding, learn about "topic board" hands dedicated to conventions and special agreements, and to create, upload and bid your own boards.

For more information, email info@bid72.com

In addition, Bid72 has an excellent newsletter to which you can subscribe.

Now Available

Bridge at the Top *Behind the Screens* Samantha Punch



The interviews make the names we see on VuGraph come to life. The tips are tricks of the trade that will be useful to players of all levels. It is a fun and informative read.

— Jill Levin

...intimate and revealing pictures of who these stars are, how they got to the top, and what keeps them there. The interviews are absorbing reading and the advice will help players at any level. The suggestions on partnership and mental toughness are of particular note.

— Chip Martel

In the course of her research project, *Bridge: A MindSport for All*, sociologist Dr. Samantha Punch has been able to speak with many of the world's top bridge personalities. The best interviews are collected in this book, and they offer fascinating insight into what it takes to be a top player, coach or even sponsor. As a bonus, each subject offers their favorite bridge tip.

US\$22.95 | GBP 17.95
978-1-77140-064-0

Available to order today from your favourite bookstore.



Samantha Punch's book is recently published and ready for your reading pleasure.

Sam is an amazing advocate of the game and while I have not yet read the book, based on her work with "Keep Bridge Alive" and more, I am certain you will want to have this volume in your collection!

Learn about the experts... how they think... what they think... and why they are so driven by a card game.

Editor



Samantha

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

Sudoku 1



Answer to Puzzle on page 10

First Name	First Name	Baby's Name	Day of Week	Delivery Time
Brad	Cindy	Christopher	Friday	6:00 AM
Elliot	Patti	Timothy	Wednesday	2:00 AM
Roland	Maureen	Lynn	Thursday	8:00 AM
Tom	Ruth	Sara	Tuesday	10:00 AM
Walter	Hollie	Melissa	Monday	4:00 AM

You have a three gallon and a five gallon measuring device. You wish to measure out four gallons.

Logic Puzzle Answer Below!

Solution: Fill the five gallon container. Pour all but two gallons into the three gallon container. Empty the three gallon container. Put the two remaining gallons from the five gallon container into the three gallon container. Fill the five gallon container one more time. Pour one gallon from the five gallon container by filling the three gallon container. Now the five gallon container contains four gallons.

Sudoku 2

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

Hard Sudoku Sudoku Solutions on Page 17

	Cindy	Hollie	Maureen	Patti	Ruth	Christopher	Lynn	Melissa	Sara	Timothy	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	2:00 AM	4:00 AM	6:00 AM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Brad																				
Elliot																				
Roland																				
Tom																				
Walter																				
2:00 AM																				
4:00 AM																				
6:00 AM																				
8:00 AM																				
10:00 AM																				
Monday																				
Tuesday																				
Wednesday																				
Thursday																				
Friday																				
Christopher																				
Lynn																				
Melissa																				
Sara																				
Timothy																				

Puzzle Mania

answers on page 9

First Name	First Name	Baby's Name	Day of Week	Delivery Time

The maternity ward of the Millersville Hospital had a very busy week. Five babies were delivered, hale and healthy, to their ecstatic parents. The happy couples, all first-time parents, were enchanted with their new sons and daughters. The babies were all delivered on different days and at different times, although all were delivered in the morning hours. Determine the name of each couple, the name of their newborn, and the day of the week (one is Thursday) and time (from 2:00 AM to 10:00 AM) of each delivery.

- Sara wasn't delivered on Monday, but she was delivered two hours later than Maureen's daughter.
- Elliot, who wasn't married to Hollie, was a proud fa-

ther at 2:00 AM, but not on Friday morning. Timothy was delivered the day after Ruth's baby but two days before the baby born at 6:00 AM.

- Roland's baby was delivered the day before Christopher but four hours later than Hollie's baby.
- Brad and his wife Cindy didn't have a daughter. The baby born at 4:00 AM was delivered on Monday.
- Roland wasn't married to Patti. Walter's new daughter was named Melissa. Hollie's baby wasn't delivered on Wednesday.
- Lynn was born two hours earlier than Ruth's baby but three days after Walter's baby. Tom's wife, who wasn't Patti, delivered a daughter on Tuesday.

Radiohead Songs

Find and circle all of the Radiohead songs that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell an additional song by Radiohead.

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

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| AIRBAG | HIGH AND DRY | MORNING BELL | PYRAMID SONG |
| ALL I NEED | HUNTING BEARS | MY IRON LUNG | RECKONER |
| BLACK STAR | IN LIMBO | NICE DREAM | RIPCORD |
| BLOW OUT | JUST | NO SURPRISES | SULK |
| BODYSNATCHERS | KARMA POLICE | NUDE | THE BENDS |
| BONES | KID A | OPTIMISTIC | THE TOURIST |
| CREEP | KNIVES OUT | PARANOID ANDROID | TREEFINGERS |
| ELECTIONEERING | LET DOWN | PLANET TELEX | VEGETABLE |
| FAUST ARP | LUCKY | PROVE YOURSELF | VIDEOTAPE |
| FITTER HAPPIER | LURGEE | | |



Jason Chiu

Favorite Bridge Memory occurred in Istanbul
Bridge Accomplishments World Juniors 2009, 3rd; 2010, 4th
Regular Bridge Partners Kevin Fay
Favorite Conventions Hate them all
BBO Username jchiu

Meet the Players

The first World Youth Congress started on Saturday in Istanbul. The team events run through Wednesday, then the pair competitions continue until Sunday.

Since only five countries entered the under-21 teams, they were merged with the 35 under-26 teams. After 13 rounds of 10-board matches, eight teams will qualify for knockout play, starting on Tuesday. The rest will compete in a secondary board-a-match event.

The United States has sent two teams. U.S.A. Blue is Jason Chiu, Kevin Dwyer, Kevin Fay, Jeremy Fournier, Justin Lall and Matthew Meckstroth; U.S.A. Red is Zachary Brescoll, Alex Hudson, Adam Kaplan, Owen Lien, John Marriott and Cameron Shunta. Howard Weinstein is the nonplaying captain and Jim Sternberg the coach for both teams.

After eight rounds U.S.A. Blue, with a 7 and 1 record, led with 165 victory points out of 200. Tied for second were a transnational team from the Czech Republic and Japan (who beat U.S.A. Blue by 16 victory points to 14 in Round 7) and Netherlands Red with 145 victory points. U.S.A. Red was 15th with 127 victory points.

In the second round U.S.A. Blue opposed France, a team including three players who won world titles last year in Beijing. The points were flowing freely, with no flat boards. After six deals France led by 26 international match points to 21. See 7th board in the diagram.

NORTH			
♠ K Q 9 7			
♥ 10 9 6 4 2			
♦ 5			
♣ A 10 2			
WEST		EAST(D)	
♠ 6 2		♠ J 10 4 3	
♥ A 7		♥ K Q J 8	
♦ A 10 9 7 4		♦ K J	
♣ J 9 7 4		♣ 6 5 3	
SOUTH			
♠ A 8 5			
♥ 5 3			
♦ Q 8 6 3 2			
♣ K Q 8			
Neither side was vulnerable.			
The bidding:			
East	South	West	North
1♦	Pass	3♣	Dbl.
Pass	3 N.T.	Dbl.	Redbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	
West led the diamond ten.			

You might have expected everyone to pass, but not in junior bridge. At the other table, after three passes, Fay (North) opened one heart. This contravened the Rule of 15, which states that in the fourth position open the bidding if your point count plus your spade length is greater than 14. Chiu (South) responded two diamonds, North rebid two hearts (how he must have loved doing that), South raised to three hearts, and all passed.

Declarer lost four hearts and one diamond to go down one.

In the given auction Lall (East) opened one diamond, showing 11 to 15 high-card points and two-plus diamonds. (A one-club opening would have promised 16-plus points.) After Nicolas Lhuissier (South) passed, Fournier (West) responded three clubs, indicating length in both minor suits and less-than-game-invitational strength.

Aymeric Lebatteaux (North) made a thin takeout double. Then, after East passed, surely South should have passed also. He had eight of his cards and seven of his points in his opponents' suits. Unless West had made a very weak response, North and South could not have the values for game. Three clubs doubled would have gone down one or two.

When South bid three no-trump, West smartly doubled. North should have passed, but he redoubled to express doubt about this contract. That was an astute assessment, but when his partner had nowhere to run, the redouble just doubled the penalty.

West led the diamond ten, when the seven (or four) would have been a wiser choice. East won with his king and returned the jack, which was covered by the queen and ace. West shifted to the spade six, declarer taking East's ten with his ace.

Now South cleverly led a heart to cut the communications between the defenders. To get the contract down three, West had to win with his ace and play another heart (perhaps after cashing the diamond nine). Understandably, though, West played low. East won and returned a heart, West taking his ace and cashing the diamond nine. (Returning a spade immediately would not have helped, because South could have won in the dummy, run his clubs and led a heart from the dummy, endplaying East to lead away from the jack-four of spades into dummy's king-nine.) Now declarer had seven tricks: three spades, one diamond and three clubs. Minus 50 and plus 600 gave U.S.A. Blue 11 imps on the board.

U.S.A. Blue scored 18 imps on the last three boards to win by 50 imps to 26, which converted to 22 victory points to 8.

46	♠ A K J 6 5
EAST	♥ Q T 9 8 4
NONE	♦ 6
	♣ T 2
♠ 9	♠ Q 3 2
♥ K 7 3	♥ A J 6 5
♦ A K Q 5 3	♦ T 9 8 2
♣ J 8 7 5	♣ A 4
	♠ T 8 7 4
	♥ 2
	♦ J 7 4
	♣ K Q 9 6 3

In Bramley/Hill, an aggressive opening bid worked well on Board 46 from Tuesday's evening session.

Weischel opened 1D with the East hand in the Open Room. Lall's 2D showed limit plus.

Dwyer overcalled with 2S; Huang jumped to game, Lall, holding the "plus," bid 5D.

Open Room			
W	N	E	S
2♦	2♠	1♦	PASS
5♦	PASS	PASS	4♠
Lall	Dwyer	Weischel	Huang

Huang led the H2, picking off his partner's HQ. Weichsel won the HA, pulled three rounds of trump, cashed the CA and yielded a club trick to South. Huang played a spade to Dwyer's king and Dwyer switched back to hearts. Weichsel won the heart in dummy, ruffed a club, ruffed a spade, and claimed 11 tricks.

Closed Room			
W	N	E	S
1♦	2♦	PASS	PASS
4♣	4♠	2♠	3♠
Grainger	Becker	Wooldridge	Kamil

In the Closed Room, Wooldridge passed the East hand. South passed and West opened 1D. North's 2D bid showed the majors. 2S was an invitational raise in diamonds. South competed with 3S. West made a game try with 4C. North bid 4S and played it there.

The play in 4S was routine. When trumps split 3-1 with the queen offside, Kamil had to lose one trick in each suit for down one... a good save that almost came home! 7 IMPs to Bramley

1	Nickell	Donner		Open	4♦	E	♥2	=	130	7
				Closed	5♦	E	♠7	=	400	
2	Hill	Bramley		Open	5♦	E	♥2	=	400	7
				Closed	4♠	S	♦A	-2	100	
3	Spector	Levine		Open	4♦	W	♠K	=	130	5
				Closed	5♦	E	♥2	-1	50	
4	Gu	Fleisher		Open	3N	W	♠6	=	400	
				Closed	3N	E	♠7	=	400	

W	N	E	S
2♦	DBL	1♦	PASS
3♥	PASS	3♠	3♣
3NT	PASS	PASS	PASS
Korbel	Gu	Lee	Ao

At both tables in Gu/Fleisher, E/W bid 3NT. Wei/Sheng right-sided the contract so a spade lead was into the SQ not through it. Korbel/Lee did not. Korbel must have held his breath when he put up the queen at trick one!

At both tables, once the SQ scored, declarer could collect eight more tricks without a finesse: five diamonds, two hearts and one club.

W	N	E	S
2♦	3♦	1♦	PASS
DBL	PASS	PASS	3♠
Wei	Grue	Sheng	Moss

49		♠AK97	
NORTH		♥QJ8752	
NONE		♦K	
		♣QT	
♠652		♠JT	
♥AK		♥64	
♦Q98		♦AT76542	
♣AK964		♣J3	
		♠Q843	
		♥T93	
		♦J3	
		♣8752	

Par: -400					
NS	3	0	8	7	1
EW	9	11	5	6	9

Home team		Visiting team		Room	C	By	I	=	★	P
NS	EW	Home	Visiting							
1	Nickell	Donner		Open	3♥	S	♥K	-1	50	4
				Closed	2♥	N	♣J	=	110	
2	Hill	Bramley		Open	3♦	E	♥T	+4	190	5
				Closed	3N	W	♠A	=	400	
3	Spector	Levine		Open	3♦	E	♥3	+4	190	6
				Closed	5♦	E	♥3	+2	440	
4	Gu	Fleisher		Open	3N	W	♥J	+4	520	6
				Closed	4♥x	N	♣J	-2	300	

The traveler from Board 49 on Tuesday night had two 190's on it. That is not an expected score at this level of competition, however, game on this hand is truly a bad proposition. The East/West pairs who bid either 3NT or 5D got lucky. In 3NT, declarer starts with four spade losers (and is lucky that spades divide 4-4 to have any chance). Once past the 4-4 spades, declarer still requires the favorable position of the singleton diamond king to succeed. In 5D, declarer faces the loss of two spades off the top and still needs a favorable lie of the diamonds to bring home the game.

W	N	E	S
	1♥	PASS	PASS
1NT	2♥	3♦	3♥
3NT	PASS	PASS	PASS
Grainger	Becker	Wooldridge	Kamil

Grainger/Wooldridge bid 3NT on the auction to the left. ←

Korbel and Lee bid 3NT on the auction to the right. →

W	N	E	S
	1♥	PASS	PASS
1NT	PASS	3NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		
Korbel	Gu	Lee	Ao

Seeing these hands brings back tales from the past of players bidding what was then termed "Canadian slams." I only mention that because both partnerships in this case contain former Canadian players... Just sayin'

1 NORTH NONE
 ♠ Q 9 8 4 2
 ♥ A 8 4
 ♦ J 4
 ♣ A 5 2

♠ J T 7 5 3
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ 6
 ♣ K T 7 4 3

♠ K 6
 ♥ K T 7 6 3
 ♦ A Q T 5 3
 ♣ 9

♠ A
 ♥ Q 5 2
 ♦ K 9 8 7
 ♣ Q J 8 6

There are some interesting anomalies about Board 1 on Wednesday.

First of all, there are SIX five-card suit holdings. That can't be normal!

Second, seven tables played in hearts N/S, six in game and one in a partscore.

The eighth table played in spades!!

In three of the four matches, South was the declarer and in one only match, both tables declared from North.

Getting to game in hearts looks easy.

1	Nickell	Donner	Open	4♥	S	♦6	=	420	
			Closed	2♥	S	♦6	+3	200	6
2	Hill	Bramley	Open	4♥	S	♦6	=	420	
			Closed	4♥	S	♦6	+1	450	1
3	Spector	Levine	Open	4♥	S	♦6	=	420	
			Closed	4♥	S	♦6	=	420	
4	Gu	Fleisher	Open	4♥	N	♣Q	=	420	
			Closed	2♠	N	♣Q	+1	140	7

W	N	E	S
	PASS	1♦	1♥
DBL	2♣	PASS	4♥
PASS	PASS	PASS	

Ish Levin Kolesnik Weinstein

This was a typical sort of auction. Double showed 4+ spades and 2C was cue in support of hearts. Everyone in hearts took at least ten tricks. Most Wests led their singleton diamond to the J, K, A; Declarer pulled two rounds of trump and cashed the DT before ruffing a diamond in dummy. A spade drew the singleton ace. East switched to a club. South claimed ten tricks!

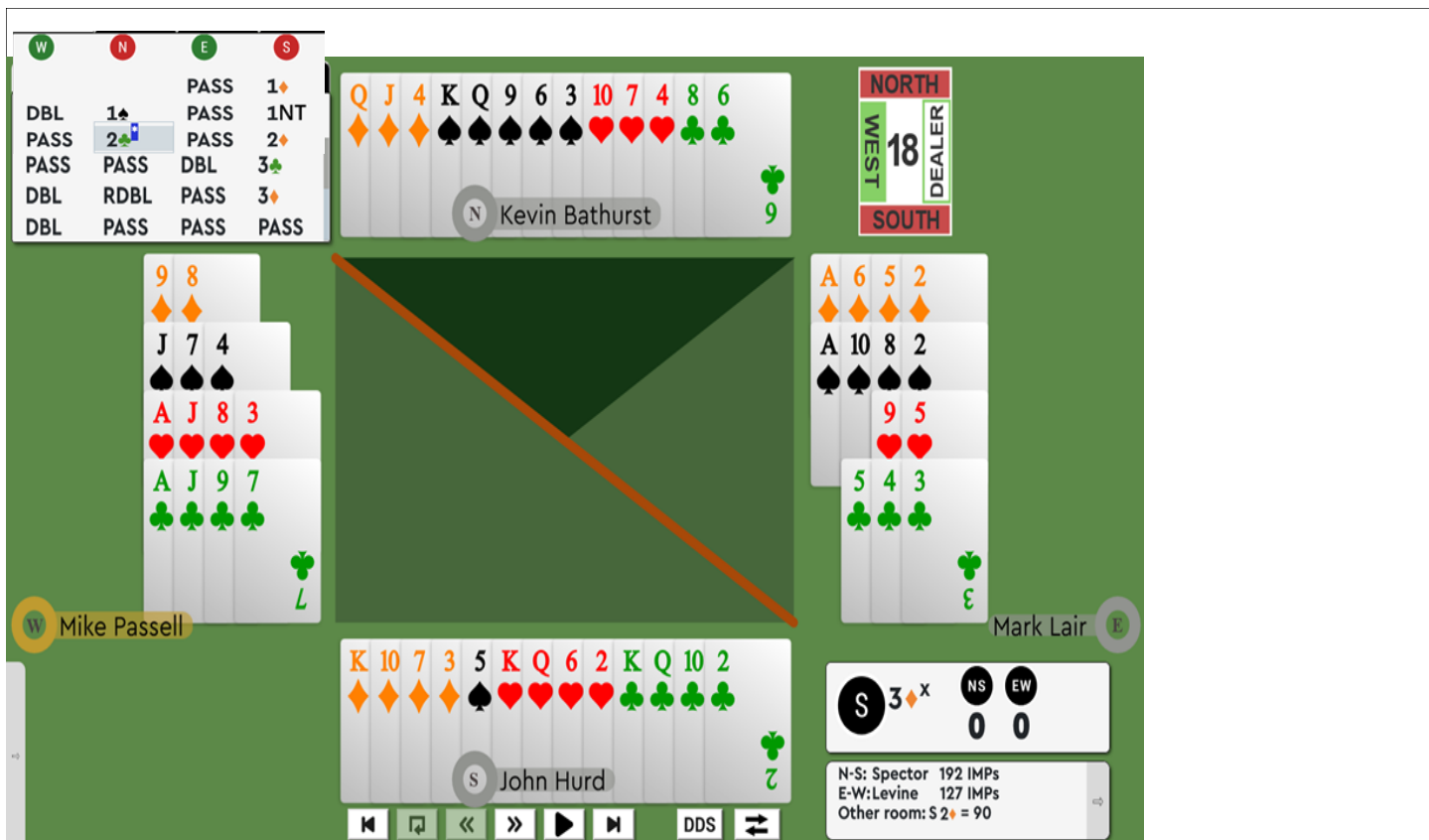
The screenshot shows a bridge bidding software interface. At the top, there's a bidding table with columns for BIDDING, TRICKS, INFO, and DDS. Below that, the hands for three players are shown: Joe Grue (North), Brad Moss (South), and Jian-Jian Wa (East). The hands are displayed in a standard bridge notation. At the bottom, there's a score summary showing IMPs for different rooms.

Just how did N/S settle in 2S?

In Fleisher/Gu, Grue opened the North hand 1S! (That would seem to make it more likely that N/S would get to game looking at the South hand!) East doubled; South redoubled; West bid 2C and when it got back to Moss in balancing seat, he went low and bid 2S.

Being non-vulnerable, it's 6 or 7 IMPs either way and this way would most certainly yield a plus score. He hoped Grue would take another call if he could... but, alas, he could not.

7 Imps to Gu



Board 18 in the 6th segment of the Open Quarterfinal looks pretty dull. Double Dummy analysis indicates that E/W can make 1C, 1D, 1S or 1NT and that South can make 1H. South has the best hand at the table and, not surprisingly, became declarer at seven out of eight tables. Three of the South declarers made +90 in 1NT or 2D.

In the Levine/Spector match Mark Lair wasn't going to let the opponents steal. He balanced with a takeout double. Before Mike Passell could be left to suffer in a hopeless 2H contract, John Hurd decided to steal some more, he bid 3C in front of Passell. Passell doubled and Bathurst made an SOS redouble. Hurd ran to 3D and Passell doubled again.

Passell led the D9 to declarer's DT. Hurd led a spade to the queen and East's ace. Lair exited with H9. Declarer played the HK and Passell allowed this to hold the trick. Declarer played the CK to Passell's ace. Passell played the D8 to Lair's ace and Lair continued diamonds. Hurd drew the last trump and played a heart toward dummy. Passell won the HJ, cashed the HA and exited with the H8. Hurd won the heart and played the C2. Passell won the C7 and was forced to lead a club from the J9 into declarer's QT. A nicely executed endplay to get out for -500 on a hand where par is -90. At the other table in this match, Garner/Meckstroth stopped in 2D and took eight tricks when the defense mistimed the play. 11 IMPs to Levine

1	Nickell	Donner		Open	2♦	S	♦8	-1	100	5
				Closed	1N	S	♥3	=	90	
2	Hill	Bramley		Open	2♦	S	♦9	-1	100	5
				Closed	1N	S	♥3	=	90	
3	Spector	Levine		Open	3♦x	S	♦9	-2	500	11
				Closed	2♦	S	♦9	=	90	
4	Gu	Fleisher		Open	2♠	E	♠5	-1	50	6
				Closed	1N	S	♠4	-2	200	

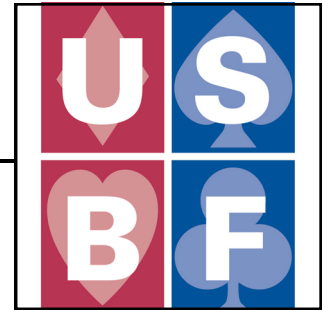
8	3	6	5	9	7	4	1	2
5	7	3	8	4	1	2	6	9
6	4	7	8	9	2	5	1	3
7	3	5	9	8	4	1	2	6
8	9	6	1	2	3	4	7	5
2	1	4	7	6	5	9	3	8
4	5	8	2	7	9	3	6	1
3	6	2	4	1	8	7	5	9
9	7	1	3	5	6	2	8	4
1	8	9	5	3	7	6	4	2
5	2	3	6	4	1	8	9	7
6	4	7	8	9	2	5	1	3

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

Sudoku Answers

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.

We hope you will join us.



Trust me there's a reason why...
The rule's always "Third hand high!"



Board 21
 N/S Vul.
 N dealer

♠ QJ8
 ♥ Q6
 ♦ J42
 ♣ 98542

♠ AKT2
 ♥ J98
 ♦ AK76
 ♣ AK

♠ 43
 ♥ AK54
 ♦ QT9853
 ♣ 6

♠ 9765
 ♥ T732
 ♦
 ♣ QJT73

Nickell/Donner	Open	7D	E	DQ	1440	11 Donner
	Closed	6D	E	CJ	920	
Hill/Bramley	Open	6D	W	SJ	940	Push
	Closed	6D	E	CQ	940	
Spector/Levine	Open	6D	W	CJ	940	
	Closed	7D	E	CQ	1440	11 Spector
Gu/Fleisher	Open	6D	E	CQ	940	Push
	Closed	6D	W	C2	940	

Only two pairs, Donner/Rimstedt and Kranyak/Spector found 7D.

With twelve top tricks, this contract required the HQ to be doubleton or the SQJ to fall in three rounds. In this case both spades and hearts worked to produce the thirteenth trick.

Holding the East cards, John Kranyak opened 1D in second seat, catching Warren Spector with a huge hand. The unimpeded auction to slam was:

East	West
Kranyak	Spector
1D	1S
2D	4H (RKC)
4NT (1 KC)	5C (cue)
5H (cue)	7D

Kranyak won the club lead, drew two rounds of trump and cashed a second club. He drew the last trump and cashed the AK of hearts. When the HQ fell, Kranyak had thirteen tricks. If the HQ didn't fall, Kranyak would need to fall back on the double spade finesse. At the other table the opponents played in 6D. 11 IMPs to Spector

Donner/Rimstedt had a more complex auction. Rimstedt did not open the East hand. Donner started with a strong 1C in fourth seat and the auction continued:

East	West
Rimstedt	Donner
Pass	1C (16+)
2C (GR diamonds)	2NT
3D (4 hearts)	4D
4H (cue)	4NT
5C (cue)	6D
7D	

Rimstedt won the club lead, cashed the DA and played the SA. Levin dropped the SJ. Rimstedt drew two more rounds of trump and played on spades. When the SQ dropped, Rimstedt claimed 13 tricks to win 11 IMPs when the opponents played in 6D at the other table.

Gadzooks, but Limey Jack can twirl that baton. Howie Dung picked Bramley whilst Limey Jack told you how downtrodden they were.

Nickell-Hill: Nickell heads for the inevitable fount of representing the Yanks on the world stage.

Fleisher-Spector: Each squad held the throttle at full and never let off the petrol. It is yonks since Spector has gotten even this far and they seem fully energized and well synched as they send Fleisher to the second hand store for retooling.

In the USA-2 bracket

Levine-Gu: Levine suffered an embarrassing setback at the hands of Spector and Limey Jack will be gobsmacked if Levine does not pull off a phoenix here. Take a flutter at your favorite punter and cash in for a bob or two.

Bramley-Donner: Neither team distinguished itself and are relegated to also-ran status. Donner at least has a bit of a lassie from this side of the pond and that makes them a favourite on paper. However, Bramley rallies to win at the 16th pole.

Steer clear of Howie Dung. That moppet is daft. Limey Jack is where you make the flat payment.

Ta.

Limey Jack...

Howie Doing...

In the matter of Nickell playing team Hill,
Like "J"ack and like "J"ill, poor "J"oyce takes a spill.

Fleisher v Spector be close for a sector,
Then in for the kill like Hannibal Lector.

With Moss and with Grue, Fleisher comes through.
Spector is off to USA2.

In USA2, it's Levine versus Gu.
Who's gonna win for the red, white and blue?

I know that I've said though hasn't been heeded...
Gu and his guys are quite underseeded.
Going 300 on hand after hand?
Garner and Meck aren't playing as planned.

Gu's gonna stay; Levine's gonna go.
It's beauty 'fore age. I ought to know.

Bramley fell fast. Who woulda thunk?
After only one match, the Titanic was sunk!

Donner came close to knocking out Nick.
For that reason alone, his guys are my pick!



Huang and Bramley: screenmates

"Pun"ting...

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

If you don't pay your exorcist, will you get repossessed?

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.

Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.

When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Acupuncture is a jab well done.

Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana

Without geometry, life is pointless.

When you dream in color, it's a pigment of your imagination.

Sign for a networking business in Australia: The LAN down under.

He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

When she told me I was average, she was just being mean.



Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him A super callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

A doctor made it his regular habit to stop off at a bar for a hazelnut daiquiri on his way home. The bartender knew of his habit, and would always have the drink waiting at precisely 5:03 p.m. One afternoon, as the end of the work day approached, the bartender was dismayed to find that he was out of hazelnut extract. Thinking quickly, he threw together a daiquiri made with hickory nuts and set it on the bar. The doctor came in at his regular time, took one sip of the drink and exclaimed, "This isn't a hazelnut daiquiri!" "No, I'm sorry," replied the bartender, "it's a hickory daiquiri, Doc."

These friars were behind on their belfry payments, so they opened up a small florist shop to raise funds. Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. He asked the good fathers to close down, but they would not. He went back and begged the friars to close. They ignored him. So, the rival florist hired Hugh MacTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to "persuade" them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed their store, saying he'd be back if they didn't close up shop. Terrified, they did so, thereby proving that Hugh, and only Hugh, can prevent florist friars.

This guy goes into a restaurant for a Christmas breakfast while in his home town for the holidays. After looking over the menu he says, "I'll just have the Eggs Benedict." His order comes a while later and it's served on a big, shiny hubcap. He asks the waiter, "What's with the hubcap?" The waiter sings, "There's no plate like chrome for the hollandaise!"

Two vultures get ready to board an airplane, each carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at them and says, "I'm sorry, gentlemen, only one carrion allowed per passenger."

A three-legged dog walks into a saloon in the Old West. He slides up to the bar and announces: "I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."



In the Fleisher/Gu match Sheng/Wei reached an aggressive, but makeable 6D slam.

Martel led the C7. Sheng won the CA in dummy and played the D3 to the DK. Sheng played the H5 to dummy's HQ and cashed the HA. Martel dropped the HK under dummy's ace!!

Sheng led the H2 from dummy and Fleisher played the HJ. Sheng trumped with DJ and could no longer make the hand, even though trumps were divided 3-2 and hearts were 3-3.

When players bid 27 HCP slams with no singletons in either hand, they need luck and they can't afford to slip in the play.

The straightforward play on this hand is to draw trumps and play for 3-3 hearts with the king in the pocket. Sheng may have been trying to give himself an extra chance in case the heart lie wasn't perfect.

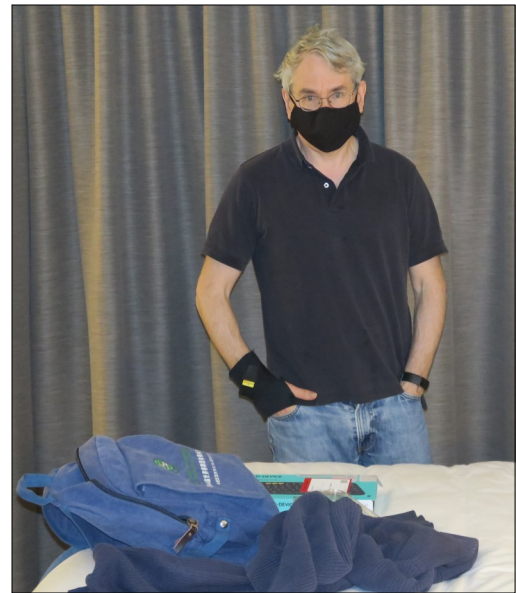
It may appear that Martel took a chance playing the HK, but there was very little risk. When Fleisher followed with the H9 on the second round, Martel was certain that Sheng did not start with H:JT_x. With that holding Sheng would have led the HJ on the first round of the suit. If Fleisher held the H:J8, he could play either card (they are equals). This is a restricted choice play. The fact that Fleisher played the HJ makes it more likely that Martel holds the H8. Trumping low is the winning play.

Making 6D would win 12 IMPs for Gu and going down two tricks lost 13!

Face to Face in Schaumburg!



In the Break Room



Marty Fleisher awaiting the start of the game



Matt Dyer helping players with LoveBridge

Playing on Pads



Mark Lair



Jan, working hard as always!

Two in a Room



Joel Wooldridge concentrating!



Chip Martel contemplating a bid