



Volume 15, Issue 13
October 8, 2021

Results...

USA1 SemiFinals Day 1

1	Nickell - wins tie	165	43	50	47	25
4	Hill	75	5	23	25	22
2	Fleisher	109	21	29	52	7
3	Spector - wins tie	108	31	35	23	19

USA2 SemiFinals Day 1

5	Bramley	131	20	38	64	12	-3
8	Donner - wins tie	86	24	12	21	29	
6	Levine	122	22	51	21	28	
7	Gu - wins tie	98	36	24	19	25	-6

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UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations



Socially distanced outside at the site

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.

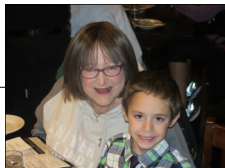
There are no exceptions to this rule.

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.



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
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>			

Christopher Columbus, as everyone knows, is honored by posterity because he was the last to discover America.

James Joyce

Well, if I called the wrong number, why did you answer the phone?

James Thurber

Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves.

Abraham Lincoln

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.

My wife was quite upset (teed off?) after she spilled a freshly brewed cup of hot chocolate (spiced chocolate chai actually), not because of the broken cup, or that it spilled on the carpet and might leave a stain the best cleaning company NYC has to offer couldn't get out, but because she had just spent all that time making it exactly the way she likes it at just the right temperature. "I didn't even get one sip of that," she said. I couldn't help myself when I replied. "Well, if at first you don't succeed, chai, chai again."

What do you call two people in an ambulance? A pair of medics.



Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in their craft it sank -- proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

A mushroom walks into a bar, sits down and orders a drink. The bartender says "We don't serve mushrooms here." The mushroom says, "Why not? I'm a fun guy!"

There was a man who entered the local newspaper's pun contest. He sent in ten different puns, in the hope that at least one of the puns would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

A guy goes to a psychiatrist. "Doc, I keep having these alternating, recurring dreams. First I'm a teepee; then I'm a wigwam; then I'm a teepee; then I'm a wigwam. It's driving me crazy. What's wrong with me?" The doctor replies: "It's very simple. You're two tents."

A man wrote a letter to one of the Chicago hotels he planned to stay at while on vacation: "I would like to bring my dog with me. He is well behaved and well-groomed. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room?" The hotel owner replied, saying, "I've been operating hotels for thirty years. I've never had a dog steal bed-clothes, towels, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to kick a dog out in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. And I've never had a dog skip out on a hotel bill. So, yes, your dog is welcome at my hotel. And if your dog will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay, too."

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

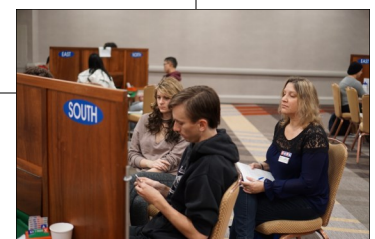
Segment 5: 12:00 noon

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!**

A corporate businessman has two cubes on his office desk. Every day he arranges both cubes so that the front faces show the current day of the month.

What numbers are on the faces of the cubes to allow this?

Note: You can't represent the day "7" with a single cube with a side that says 7 on it. You have to use both cubes all the time. So the 7th day would be "07".

Logic Puzzle

Cube One has the following numbers: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Cube two has the following numbers: 0, 1, 2, 6, 7, 8
The 6 doubles as a 9 when turned the other way around.
There is no day 00, but you still need the 0 on both cubes in order to make all the numbers between 01 and 09.
Alternate solutions are also possible e.g.

Solution

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



Come get breakfast.

Come get a snack.

Once you've been,

You are sure to come back!

What did the Jif say to the Skippy? You're my butter by anutter mudder!

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...)

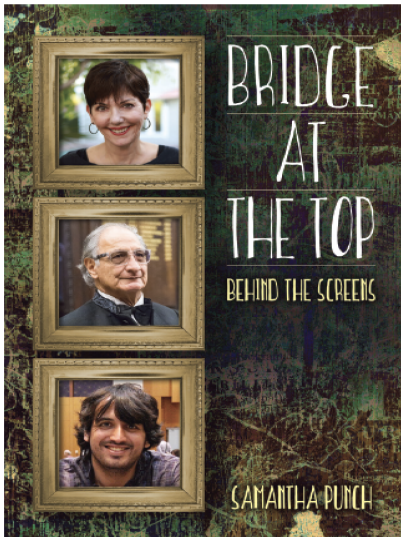
Jan VanCleaf provided this so our readers could use it to improve their bidding and better build partnerships. Bid72 allows users to participate in bidding contests, bid random boards and get a rating based on their bidding, learn about “topic board” hands dedicated to conventions and special agreements,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

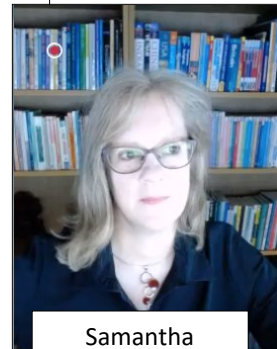
 Master Point Press

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

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

Sudoku 1



Answer to Puzzle on page 10

Walter	Nancy	Chicken	Steak	Soda	Lemonade
Peter	Linda	Chicken	Steak	Coffee	Water
Michael	Amy	Vegetarian	Chicken	Lemonade	Tea
Elliot	Sara	Vegetarian	Chicken	Tea	Coffee
Bill	Ruth	Steak	Vegetarian	Water	Soda
First Name	First Name	His Entrée	Her Entrée	His Drink	Her Drink

Hard Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

Sudoku Solutions on Page 17

		Amy	Linda	Nancy	Ruth	Sara	Chicken	Chicken	Steak	Vegetarian	Vegetarian	Chicken	Chicken	Steak	Steak	Vegetarian	Coffee	Lemonade	Soda	Tea	Water	Coffee	Lemonade	Soda	Tea	Water
Bill																										
Elliot																										
Michael																										
Peter																										
Walter																										
Her	Coffee																									
	Lemonade																									
	Soda																									
	Tea																									
	Water																									
His	Coffee																									
	Lemonade																									
	Soda																									
	Tea																									
	Water																									
Her	Chicken																									
	Chicken																									
	Steak																									
	Steak																									
	Vegetarian																									
His	Chicken																									
	Chicken																									
	Steak																									
	Vegetarian																									
	Vegetarian																									

Puzzle Mania

answers on page 9

First Name	First Name	His Entrée	Her Entrée	His Drink	Her Drink

Senior Prom Night was last night and the event was an enjoyable evening for all who participated. The meal was deemed delicious and the disc jockey played an excellent selection of music, keeping the dance floor packed throughout the evening. For dinner, there were three different choices for the main entrée and multiple options for drinks. As it happened, none of the couples ordered the same entrée or the same drink. Determine the first names of each couple and the main entrée and drink selections for each person.

1. Peter, who didn't order the vegetarian entrée, ordered coffee to drink. Amy ordered tea.
2. The two people who ordered lemonade were the girl

whose date ordered soda and Michael. Ruth, who wasn't Peter's date, ordered the vegetarian entrée.

3. Walter's date, who wasn't Ruth, ordered steak. Peter's date ordered water to drink.
4. Bill ordered the steak entrée and his date, who wasn't Nancy, ordered soda.
5. Sara, who didn't order lemonade, went to the prom with Elliot, who didn't order water.
6. The four people who ordered the chicken entrée were Linda's date, the girl who ordered coffee, Walter, and Michael's date.

Photography

Find and circle all of the Photography terms that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell the name of a type of camera.

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

APERTURE	ENLARGEMENT	OVEREXPOSURE	SATURATION
BALANCE	ENLARGER	PANNING	SHUTTER
BELLOWS	FILTER	PANORAMA	SLIDE
BLOWUP	FIXING BATH	PARALLAX	STOP BATH
CAMERA	FLASH	PHOTOFINISHER	TELEPHOTO LENS
CLOSE UP	FOCAL LENGTH	POSITIVE	TINT
COLOR	FRAME	PRINT	STONE
CONTRAST	HOT SHOE	PROCESSING	TRIPOD
CROPPING	LIGHT METER	RANGEFINDER	UNDEREXPOSURE
DARKROOM	LIGHTING	RETOUCHING	VIEWFINDER
DEVELOPER	NEGATIVE	SAFELIGHT	ZOOM LENS

Meet the Players

There were two particularly meritorious defensive plays during the Spring Nationals in New Orleans 2015..

The deal was written up by Brent Manley of Arlington, Tenn., who has since retired as the editor of the American Contract Bridge League's monthly Bridge Bulletin. The defenders were David Sabourin of Ottawa (East) and **Shan Huang** then of Toronto (West).

East's two-heart response was alerted as a very weak raise. North's three-heart cue-bid indicated a strong hand with, typically, three-card spade support.

In four spades, it looks as though South can hold his losses to one diamond and two spades, establishing a diamond trick to discard his club loser.

NORTH
 ♠ K J 7
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ A 10 5 4
 ♣ A K 9 8

WEST
 ♠ A 10 5
 ♥ J 10 9 8 6
 ♦ K Q 3
 ♣ 6 5

EAST(D)
 ♠ Q 2
 ♥ Q 7 4
 ♦ 8 7 6 2
 ♣ Q 10 7 4

SOUTH
 ♠ 9 8 6 4 3
 ♥ K 5 2
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ J 3 2

Both sides were vulnerable.

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
--	--	Pass	Pass
1 ♥	DbL.	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the heart jack.

Huang led the heart jack. South won with his king and played the diamond jack, covered by the queen and ace. After a diamond to the nine and king, West led another heart to dummy's now-bare ace.

Declarer ruffed dummy's low diamond in his hand before playing a spade to dummy's king. (Note that if South had finessed dummy's jack, he would have gone down. The simplest defense would have been for East to give West a diamond ruff with his spade ten, and the spade ace would have been the fourth defensive trick.) Now declarer discarded a club on the diamond ten.

West realized that if he ruffed with his spade ten, when South won the next trick, he would lead a trump, bringing down the queen and ace. Therefore, to sow confusion, West ruffed with his spade ace.

West exited with a club, taken with dummy's king. Now declarer was nervous of playing another trump, for fear that East would take tricks with his queen and ten, then cash a heart trick for down two. So South, trying to get back to his hand to ruff his last heart, cashed the club ace and ruffed a club in his hand.

Quelle dommage! West overruffed with his spade ten, and in a moment, East's spade queen defeated the contract.

Plus 100 was worth 62 matchpoints out of 90.

In chess, when you are losing a game, you try to find a move that you hope will throw your opponent off his stride and allow you to win the game. In some quarters, this is called a cheapo, in others a swindle. At the bridge table, when you cannot see a legitimate way to defeat a contract, try to swindle.

From the New York Times, April 2, 2015



Shan Huang, playing in the USBC as a member of the Hill team, is originally from Toronto, Canada. Shan won the 2016 Richmond Trophy for the player who won the most masterpoints in that year. He is now a resident of the United States and one of the younger players here in Schaumburg!



Italian Trials: Bortoletti's Appeal Approved

7 OCTOBER 2021



The Italian Federal Tribunal has approved the [appeal](#) submitted by Carlo Bortoletti and his team has been outright readmitted to the Open Trials for Bermuda Bowl.

The Team Bortoletti consists of: Carlo Bortoletti (captain), Dano De Falco, Paolo Clair, Giovanni Genova, Fulvio Fantoni, Massimo Moritsch.

After the first hearing, held on the [15th of September](#), the Tribunal ordered that Bortoletti's team be readmitted as a

precautionary measure.

The second and final hearing of the Federal Tribunal was held on the 5th of October 2021. The Federal Tribunal's Sentence has been published today, the 7th of October 2021: the first Ruling has been confirmed and the Bortoletti's Team has been outright readmitted.

The Federal Tribunal consists of three members: Antonio Feleppa (President), Gerardo Laguardia (Judge) and Simone Rona (Judge).

Italian Trials: National Sports Judge readmits Vinci

7 OCTOBER 2021



The National Sport Judge, Riccardo de Lodi, has accepted the [appeal](#) filed by the Public Procurator Sergio Bianchi. The National Sports Judge's Sentence has been just released:

- The results of the first phase of the Open Trials for the Bermuda Bowl 2022, which took place on the 16th of September, are considered **not** valid;
- The Team captained by Romain Zaleski is considered as withdrawn;
- The Team Captained by Francesco Saverio Vinci is readmitted;
- The Italian Trials for Bermuda Bowl will take place from the 14th to the 17th of October (Single Phase) and the participating teams are four: Bortoletti, Burgay, De Michelis and Vinci.

The hearing before the National Sports Judge was held on the 29th of September, 2021.

Bridge Around the World...

USA1

2
EAST
N-S

♠ 8 7 4 3
♥ Q T 8 3
♦ 5 4
♣ 8 5 2

♠ A T 9 5
♥
♦ A J 9 8 3
♣ A T 4 3

♠ J
♥ J 9 7 5 4 2
♦ K Q 7
♣ Q J 7

♠ K Q 6 2
♥ A K 6
♦ T 6 2
♣ K 9 6

Par: -920

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	1	1	4	4	3
EW	11	12	9	8	10

Home team		Visiting team		Room	C	By	1	=	★	P				
											NS	EW	Home	Visit
1	Nickell	Hill	♣	Open	3♦	W	♥8	+3	170	8				
			♣	Closed	1Nx	S	♦8	-2	500					
2	Spector	Fleisher	♣	Open	2N	S	♦8	-3	300	13				
			♣	Closed	1Nx	S	♦3	-4	1100					

Grainger	Levin	Wooldridge	Weinstein
W	N	E	S
		PASS	1NT
2♠	PASS	2NT	PASS
3♦	PASS	PASS	PASS

Nickell/Hill

Korbel	Bathurst	Lee	Hurd
W	N	E	S
		2♥	2NT
PASS	PASS	PASS	

Spector/Fleisher

Hampson	Hill	Greco	Dyer
W	N	E	S
		1♥	1NT
DBL	PASS	PASS	PASS

Wolpert	Grue	Kranyak	Moss
W	N	E	S
		1♥	1NT
DBL	PASS	PASS	PASS

Board 1 was not exciting, but Board 2 made up for it. East, in first seat, has a flawed weak two in hearts... bad suit and too much outside, but that did not stop Lee from opening 2H. East also has a flawed 1H opener with only ten HCP and no aces and a suit East would prefer not led, but that did not stop either Kranyak or Greco from opening 1H. Whatever opener did, all four Souths made an overcall showing a strong 1NT opener.

In Spector/Fleisher Closed Room, defending 1NTX, Wolpert led the D3. Kranyak won the queen, cashed the king and found the killing switch to the CQ. When the smoke cleared, E/W collected 5 diamonds, 4 clubs, and 1 spade for 1100!

In the Spector/Fleisher Open Room, when Lee opened 2H, Hurd overcalled 2NT. While it was easy for two Wests to double 1NT, doubling 2NT into a potential game swing was not. Korbel passed and led the D8. Lee won the queen and continued with the king. At trick three, he shifted to the SJ. Korbel won the king with the ace but he could no longer get Lee in to lead the club through the king. Korbel/Lee defeated 2NT three tricks for 300. 13 IMPs to Spector

(Continued from page 14)

In the Closed Room of Nickell/Hill, defending 1NTX, Hampson led the D8. Greco won the DQ and played back the D7. Hampson won the DT and played the D9 to Greco's king, hoping for the club switch. Greco was not certain which black suit was right and he switched to the SJ. Hampson won the queen with the ace and continued with the ST. Again, like Lee, Greco was out of entries to put through a club and E/W defeated 1NT two tricks for 500!

In the Open Room, Wooldridge passed and Weinstein opened a 14-17 NT. Grainger overcalled 2S showing spades and a minor. Wooldridge's 2NT asked for Grainger's minor. Grainger bid 3D and played it there.

Look at the great diamond spots! Levin led a heart. Grainger ruffed, cashed the SA, ruffed a spade, ran the CQ, played the C7 to the CT, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart, ruffed a spade, ruffed a heart, cashed the DA and DJ followed by the CA and conceded trick 13 to the DT, scoring 170, 3D +3! 8 IMPs to Nickell

The Gu/Levine was similar to Nickell/Hill swinging 4 IMPs to Gu when 2NT went down three undoubled and 2D made six.

In Bramley/Donner, in the Closed Room, the auction was simple:

W	N	E	S
		1♥	1NT
DBL	PASS	2♥	PASS
PASS	PASS		
Delmonte	Weischel	Kolesnik	Lall

Lall led the SK against 2H. Finn won the diamond return with the queen and played the HJ to the king, S5, 3. Lall exited the DT to the jack which Weichsel ruffed. Weichsel played the C2 to the Q, K, A. Finn ruffed the S9, played a small heart felling the ace and the queen.

ace and cashed a high diamond and played the H2 to the 6, C3, 8. He won the diamond return with the queen and played the HJ to the king, S5, 3.

Donner	Bramley	Open	2♦x	E	♦6	+4	580
		Closed	2♥	E	♠K	+1	140
Gu	Levine	Open	2♦	W	♣2	+4	170
		Closed	2N	S	♦8	-3	300

Finn claimed nine total tricks, making three.

In the Open Room, Bramley opened the East hand a multi 2D showing a weak two in one of the majors. Donner doubled on his strong NT, Woolsey passed asking Bramley to pass with 3+ diamonds. Bramley did as he was told. Donner led the D6, won in hand with the seven. Bramley played the SJ to the ace and ruffed a spade. He cashed his DK and led the CQ. Donner covered with the king and Bramley won dummy's ace. Bramley pulled the last trump and played the ST off dummy, discarding a heart while South won his king. The S6 was won with dummy's nine and Bramley was left with all good diamonds and clubs when clubs split 3-3!

580 is a little seen score!

10 IMPs to Bramley

4
WEST
ALL

♠ 6
♥ AK9752
♦ 4
♣ AJ742

♠ T752
♥ 84
♦ KT952
♣ Q5

♠ QJ93
♥ QT6
♦ 863
♣ K93

♠ AK84
♥ J3
♦ AQJ7
♣ T86

Par: 650

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	11	7	11	8	9
S	:	8	:	:	:
EW	2	5	2	5	3

Home team		Visiting team		Room	C	By	1	=	*	
NS EW Home										
1	Nickell	Hill	USA 1	Open	6♣	S	♠5	=	1370	12
				Closed	3N	S	♦5	+2	660	
2	Spector	Fleisher	USA 1	Open	4♥	N	♠Q	=	620	
				Closed	3N	S	♦2	+1	630	
3	Donner	Bramley	USA 2	Open	6♣	N	♠Q	-1	100	
				Closed	6♥	N	♦3	-1	100	
4	Gu	Levine	USA 2	Open	4♥	N	♠Q	+1	650	13
				Closed	6♣	S	♦T	-2	200	

Sometimes simple bidding is best. In the USA-2 matches, three of the four N/S pairs reached an unmakeable slam. In 6H, declarer must lose a club and a heart. In 6C, declarer might be able to avoid a heart loser by trumping the third heart in South, but not on this lie of the cards. If declarer trumps a heart in the South hand, they will lose a second trump trick.

Gu/Wang had a straightforward auction to reach 4H and win 13 IMPs when the opponents in the other room bid the non-making slam.

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. At the top, there's a bidding table with columns for West (W), North (N), East (E), and South (S). The table shows various bids like 1♥, 3♦, 4♥, 2♣, 3NT, and PASS. Below the table, there are two hands displayed. The top hand is for North (Jiang Gu) and the bottom hand is for South (Jian-Jian Wang). The hands are shown in a standard layout with suits and ranks. A score display at the bottom right shows N-S: Gu 21 IMPs, E-W: Levine 0 IMPs, and Other room: S6 -2-200.

The most unusual result came in the Hill/Nickell match. Levin/Weinstein reached the club slam from South. Grainger led the S5 and declarer, Weinstein, won the SA. Weinstein played the C8 to dummy's CJ. Not realizing the weakness of declarer's club holding, Wooldridge DUCKED and in an effort to deceive declarer, played the C9. (Dropping the 9 may make declarer think trumps are not breaking.) Weinstein cashed two high hearts followed by the CA. A heart was trumped with the CT and the CK was conceded. Contract making.

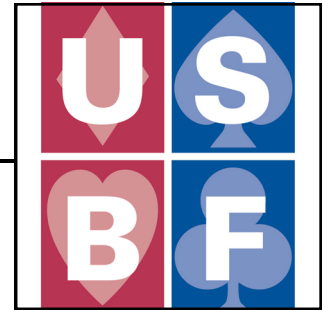
2	4	9	5	1	8	6	7	3
8	5	3	7	6	9	4	2	1
6	7	1	3	4	2	9	8	5
5	1	4	9	2	3	8	6	7
7	9	2	8	5	6	1	3	4
3	8	6	4	7	1	5	9	2
4	6	7	2	9	5	3	1	8
1	2	8	6	3	4	7	5	9
9	3	5	1	8	7	2	4	6

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

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.

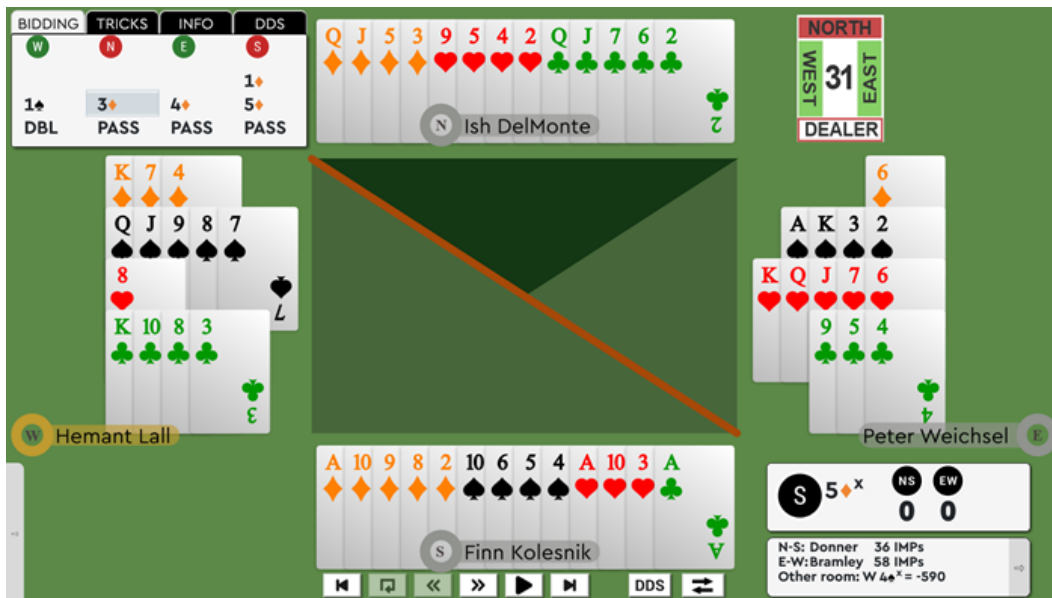
Our meetings are by conference call and at NABCS. Board members and the organization's officers are not compensated for meetings, travel, or hotel expenses.

We hope you will join us.



The queen lies over the jack?
As my mom would say more or less.
But whether she'd need it or not,
She would always take a finesse!



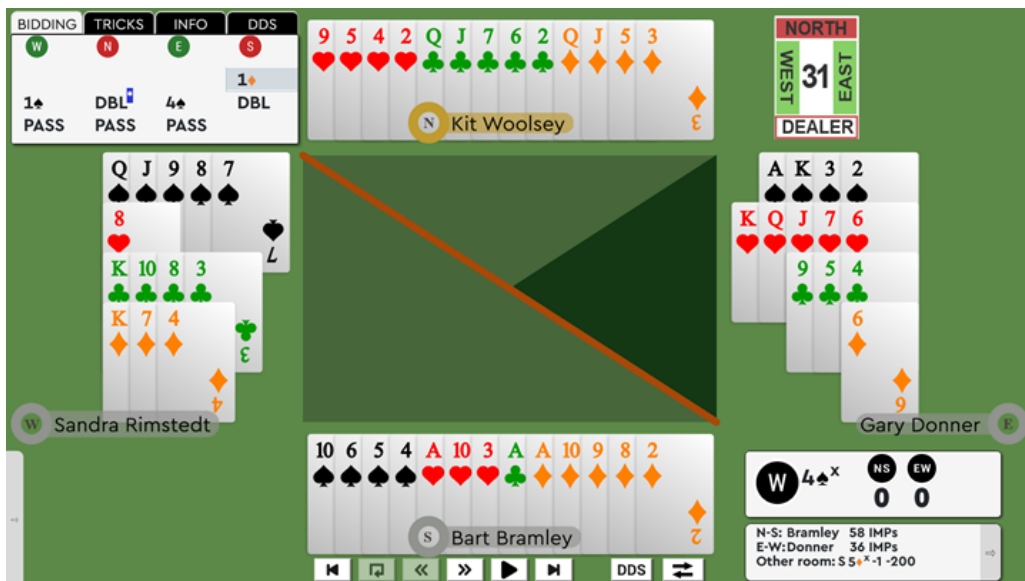


Usually, vulnerable vs. non-vulnerable sacrifices are marginal propositions.

On Board 31 in USA2, Kolesnik/DelMonte showed this isn't always true. Finn opened 1D in first seat; Lall overcalled 1S and DelMonte concealed his anemic four-card heart suit. Instead, he chose a preemptive 3D call. Weichsel cuebid 4D and Kolesnik bid 5D. Kolesnik was almost certain that DelMonte had no spades and, with a little luck he might lose two hearts and no other

tricks. Lall had no interest in playing at the five level. He doubled and led his singleton heart.

Kolesnik won the HA, cashed the CA, and trumped a spade in dummy. The CQ was led from dummy and Kolesnik discarded a heart from his hand. Lall won the CK but had no hearts to cash. He exited with the CT and Kolesnik won the CJ, discarding his last heart from his hand. Kolesnik trumped a club, cashed the DA, trumped a spade and trumped a heart. Lall refused to overruff. Kolesnik trumped a spade in dummy and led dummy's good club to discard a spade. Lall scored the D7 and the DK to defeat the contract.



At the other table, Bramley opened a Precision 1D (could be 2). Sandra Rimstedt overcalled 1S and Woolsey made a negative double to show his four card heart suit. Donner jumped to 4S and Bramley, holding three aces with a partner who showed some values, doubled for penalties.

Woolsey led the CQ won by Bramley's singleton CA. Bramley returned the S4 and Rimstedt won the SQ. Rimstedt played a heart to dummy's king and Bramley's ace. Bramley returned another spade, which Rimstedt won in dummy with the SA. She trumped a heart and drew trumps, ending in dummy. Dummy's three good hearts were cashed, followed by a diamond toward the king. Rimstedt won the DK and cashed the CK for ten tricks scoring +590.

		37 NORTH N-S			♠ T 4 3 ♥ K Q 8 5 ♦ A 8 4 ♣ A Q 4					
		♠ Q 7 ♥ A ♦ K 6 2 ♣ K J 9 8 7 6 3			♠ A K J 9 8 ♥ J 7 ♦ Q J 9 7 5 ♣ 5					
				♠ 6 5 2 ♥ T 9 6 4 3 2 ♦ T 3 ♣ T 2						
		Par: -420								
		♣	♦	♥	♠	N				
NS	3	2	7	2	3					
EW	10	11	5	10	6					

Home team		Visiting team		Room	C	By	1	=	★	P
					NS	EW	Home	Vis		
1	Nickell	Hill	USA 1	Open	3♣	W	♥K	+1	130	1
				Closed	2♦	E	♥T	+3	150	
2	Spector	Fleisher	USA 1	Open	4♠	W	♥K	=	420	
				Closed	2♠	E	♥6	+3	200	
3	Donner	Bramley	USA 2	Open	3♦	E	♣T	+2	150	1
				Closed	2♠	E	♣T	+2	170	
4	Gu	Levine	USA 2	Open	3♣	W	♥K	+1	130	7
				Closed	4♠	E	♣T	=	420	

With 25 HCP, it is surprising that game was bid at only two of the eight tables in play.

In the USA2 match, Sheng/Wei, Sheng showed spades and a minor over Garner's opening 1NT. Wei asked, "Good hand? Bad hand?" and Sheng showed a good hand. With only two spades, Wei trusted partner and bid the spade game. Sheng collected ten tricks, losing one club, one diamond, and one heart.

In USA1, Moss/Grue bid the spade game also. Kranyak opened a strong NT. Moss bid 2H (showing spades) and Grue jumped to the spade game with his opening hand including Q7 of spades. He also took ten tricks.

It is never easy to bid a game in the face of a strong NT opener. It is interesting that at two of the tables, the final contract was 3C making four. At two of the tables, they found the spade suit but stopped at the two level, and at two of the tables, they found the diamond suit at the two or three level, taking 11 tricks.

Good bidding and hand evaluation by Grue and Wei to score the game bonuses.

42
EAST
ALL

♠ Q 9
♥ K Q 4
♦ A J 2
♣ K J 7 6 3

♠ 8 7 6 5 3
♥ A Q T 9 8 4 2
♣ J 8 7 6 4 3 2
♥ A 8 5
♦ K Q T
♣

Board 42 in the third set yesterday was diabolical. E/W have ten tricks in NT. Because of the extreme distribution, E/W can only take nine tricks in hearts. None of the eight tables found the makeable No-Trump game. Two N/S pairs played in their 7-0 club fit at the five-level. Double dummy play would allow N/S to get out for -800, but both pairs were actually defeated four tricks for -1100. One N/S pair played in 5DX and got out for -500. Another N/S pair found their 7-0 spade fit and played 3SX. The defense slipped a trick and that pair got out for -800.

1	Nickell	Hill	USA 1	Open	4♥	E	♠2	=	620	6	
				Closed	3♠	S	♥K	-4	400		
2	Spector	Fleisher	USA 1	Open	5♣x	N	♥T	-4	1100	15	
				Closed	4♥	E	♠2	-1	100		
3	Donner	Bramley	USA 2	Open	3♦	E	♣T	+2	150	1	
				Closed	2♠	E	♣T	+2	170		
4	Gu	Levine	USA 2	Open	3♣	W	♥K	+1	130	7	
				Closed	4♠	E	♣T	=	420		

The most unusual result occurred in the Bramley/Donner match of USA2. Gary Donner took eleven tricks in 5HX and scored 850. Donner opened an unorthodox weak 2H bid. Bramley overcalled 2S and Rimstedt raised to 4H. Woolsey fell into the 1100 trap when he bid 5C on his 0-1-5-7 hand. Ignoring the maxim that preemptors don't bid again, Donner bid 5H and Bramley doubled. Lucky for Donner, whatever he did would be right... 1100 or 850 was the same for all practical purposes.

Bramley led the DK. Donner won the DA and played the HK. Bramley ducked the HA and Donner continued with a heart to his jack and Bramley's ace. A heart return would defeat 5H, but this wasn't at all clear. Bramley returned the S8. Donner played the S9 from dummy and won the ST in his hand to play a diamond toward the jack. Bramley won the DQ. Since Bramley had no clubs to play the DJ provided a discard for declarer's club loser. Bramley exited with a spade, Donner won the SQ, drew the last trump with the HQ and claimed eleven tricks for +850, losing 6 IMPs against his teammates - 1100 playing in 5CX.

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

- Hand 1 (Sandra Rimstedt):** ♠ K Q 4, ♥ Q 9, ♦ A J 2, ♣ K J 7 6 3
- Hand 2 (Bart Bramley):** ♠ A 8 5, ♥ J 8 7 6 4 3 2, ♦ K Q 10
- Hand 3 (Kit Woolsey):** ♠ 6 8 7 6 5 3, ♥ A Q 10 9 8 4 2, ♦ 7 6 5 4 3 2, ♣ 7
- Hand 4 (Gary Donner):** ♠ J 10 9 7 3 2, ♥ A K 10 5, ♦ 9 4, ♣ 5
- Bidding:** W: 4♥ PASS, N: 5♣ PASS, E: 5♥ PASS, S: 2♠ DBL
- Tricks:** W: 4♥, N: 5♣, E: 5♥, S: 2♠
- Score:** NS: 0, EW: 0
- Game Info:** N-S: Bramley 110 IMPs, E-W: Donner 47 IMPs, Other room: N 5♠x-4 -1100

54
EAST
E-W
♠ T 9 6 5 3
♥ Q 7
♦ 3
♣ J T 9 6 4

♠ 4
♥ 5 4 3
♦ K Q J T 6 2
♣ Q 8 5

♠ A K J 8
♥ 9 8
♦ A 9 8 5 4
♣ A 7

♠ Q 7 2
♥ A K J T 6 2
♦ 7
♣ K 3 2

Par: -600

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	7	2	7	7	3
EW	6	11	6	5	7

Home team		Visiting team		Room	C	By	1	=	★	P			
										NS	EW	Home	Visiting
3	Donner	Bramley		Open	5♦	W	♥Q	=	600				
				Closed	5♦	W	♥Q	=	600				
4	Gu	Levine		Open	5♦	E	♥A	=	600				
				Closed	5♦	E	♥A	-1	100	12			
1	Nickell	Hill		Open	5♦	W	♥Q	-2	200				
				Closed	5♦	W	♥Q	-2	200				
2	Spector	Fleisher		Open	5♦	W	♥Q	-1	100				
				Closed	5♦	E	♥K	-1	100				

Every E/W pair reached 5D on Board 54. The result was a push in three of the four matches.

In both USA 1 semifinal matches, all declarers were defeated. In the Hill/Nickell match, both Kevin Dwyer and Bobby Levin, sitting West, determined that North had length in spades and finessed for the SQ after playing a few rounds of trump. The result was down one. In the Fleisher/Spector match, both Marty Fleisher, West, and John Kranyak, East, cleared the CA and ran trumps before taking the losing spade finesse. When the spade finesse lost, South cashed a club for down two.

In the USA2 event, Bramley/Donner pushed the board. When Woolsey declared, he cashed all but one trump, played the SAK and trumped a spade to take eleven tricks. At the other table Rimstedt played to squeeze South in the black suits. She cashed the CA before running trumps. When the CK did not appear, she played the SAK and dropped South's SQ. In both cases, declarer was successful and brought home the game.

In the Gu/Levine USA2 match, Lair played for the black suit squeeze and succeeded by dropping South's SQ. At the other table Ao took an early spade finesse and was down-one producing a 12 IMP gain for Levine.



End of Break... Where's your mask, Kit?



Donner studies his hand...



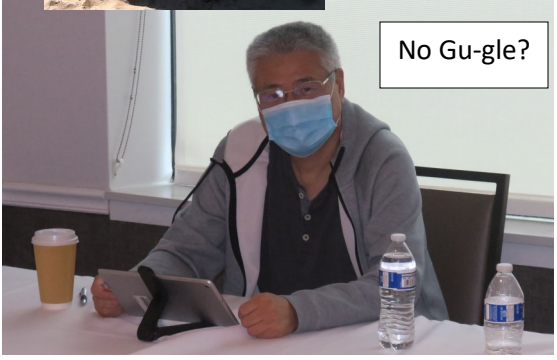
Smoking hot team?



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Gabby and Mike Kamil on their very recent nuptials! (photo from FB)



Mike Levine rates a big screen TV!



No Gu-gle?



McKenzie, hard at work!