

Volume 18, Issue 6
May 5, 2024

Results: Happy Cinco de Mayo!

Open USBC - 2024

- * Lebowitz penalized 10 imps for having electronic device in the room
- * Simson slow play penalty of 0.25 imps
- * Simson 2nd slow play penalty for total of 4.5 imps
- * Simson 3rd slow play penalty for total of 5.5 imps

| QuarterFinal (120 boards) | | Set score of form "Ax" or "Rx" indicates pending Appeal or Ruling. IMPs Total may change. | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|
| 03-May-2024 | | The colored score boxes indicate the team with seating rights for that segment of play. | | | | | | | | | |
| # | TEAM | IMPs Total | SET #1 | SET #2 | SET #3 | SET #4 | SET #5 | SET #6 | SET #7 | SET #8 | Penalty (IMPs) |
| 1 | Nickell | 243 | 34 | 9 | 7 | 37 | 36 | 26 | 50 | 44 | |
| 8 | Juster | 209 | 23 | 45 | 22 | 20 | 17 | 21 | 25 | 36 | |
| 2 | Lebowitz | 244 | 34 | 50 | 22 | 19 | 65 | 30 | 17 | 17 | -10 |
| 7 | Simson | 254.5 | 36 | 47 | 22 | 47 | 5 | 28 | 51 | 24 | -5.5 |
| 3 | Fleisher | 384 | 56 | 43 | 65 | 42 | 40 | 54 | 49 | 35 | |
| 6 | Bailey | 112 | 14 | 22 | 14 | 11 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 11 | |
| 4 | Rosenthal | 258 | 10 | 5 | 48 | 29 | 47 | 33 | 32 | 54 | |
| 5 | Bramley | 231 | 6 | 22 | 20 | 28 | 32 | 32 | 53 | 38 | |

Today: Nickell vs Rosenthal Simson vs Fleisher

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

USBF President
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USBF Vice President
Steve Garner
USBF COO & Secretary
Jan Martel
USBF CFO & Treasurer
Max Schireson
USBF Recorder
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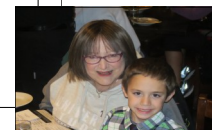
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VuGraph Organizers
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Mitch Dunitz
Marty Fleisher
Ron Gerard

Marty Hirschman
George Jacobs
Ralph Katz
Bobby Levin
Chip Martel
Eric Rodwell
Danny Sprung
Josh Stark
Adam Wildavsky

Bulletin Editor
Suzi Subeck
Hospitality
Julie Arbit
Marie-France Benoit



Open Teams Entered

| | | |
|------------------|--|--|
| Nickell | Nick Nickell Bye to QF Bobby Levin Geoff Hampson Jill Levin, NPC | Ralph Katz Steve Weinstein Eric Greco |
| Lebowitz | Adam Grossack, Capt Zach Grossack Zia Mahmood | Larry Lebowitz Michael Rosenberg Daniel Korbel |
| Fleisher | Marty Fleisher, Capt Brad Moss Kevin Bathurst | Chip Martel Joe Grue John Hurd |
| Bailey | Bill Bailey, Capt Aaron Jones Arti Bhargava | Josh Donn Owen Lien |
| Balleisen | Aaron Balleisen, Capt Nicole Qian | Zhiyu Cheng Philip Wang |
| Bramley | Bart Bramley, Capt Brian Platnick | Kit Woolsey Kevin Rosenberg |
| Gu | Jiang Gu, Capt Ai-Tai Lo Josh Sher | Walter Lee Alex Kolesnik Ron Smith |
| Hamman | Adam Wildavsky, Capt Doug Doub John Schermer | Bob Hamman Neil Chambers Greg Hinze |
| Han | Yanong Han, Capt Qiang Zhang | Ming Sheng Brian Zhang |
| Juster | Jeff Juster, Capt Andy Goodman Shan Huang | Jacob Morgan Mike Passell Kevin Dwyer Rimstedt |
| Petrov | Dian Petrov, Capt Matthew Haag | Val Kovachev Rumen Dimitrov |
| Robinson | Eric Robinson, Capt Ish DelMonte David Berkowitz | Michael Kamil Finn Kolesnik Steve Garner |
| Rosenthal | Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken John Kranyak | Aaron Silverstein Gavin Wolpert Vince Demuy |
| Schireson | Max Schireson, Capt John McAllister Olivia Schireson | Debbie Rosenberg Will Watson |
| Simson | Doug Simson, Capt Eddie Wold David Grainger | Eric Rodwell Joel Wooldridge Venkatrao Koneru |



Mixed Teams Entered

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| Carmichael | Tom Carmichael, Capt Christian Jolly | Jenni Carmichael Julie Arbit |
| Derman | Ethan Derman, Capt George Klemic | Avery Silverstein Maya Jonas-Silver |
| Ding | Donna Compton, Capt Hong Ding | Chris Compton Adam Wildavsky |
| Dinkin | Sam Dinkin, Capt Harrison Luba Jeff Ferro | Yoko Sobel Cynthia Huang Jean Barry |
| Ivatury | Uday Ivatury, Capt Shawn Quinn Lapt Chan | Allan Graves Irina Kislitsyna Christal Henner |
| Lewis | Paul Lewis, Capt Mark Itabashi Cheri Bjerkan | Linda Lewis Disa Eythorsdottir Larry Robbins |
| Millens | Shan Huang, Capt Kevin Dwyer Sandra Rimstedt | Joan Millens Cecilia Dwyer Rimstedt |
| Pollack | Rozanne Pollack, Capt Dave Caprera | Bill Pollack Anne Brenner |
| Rosenthal | Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken Michael Rosenberg | Migry Campanile Jenny Wolpert Debbie Rosenberg |
| Rubenstein | Stewart Rubenstein, Capt Zach Grossack Adam Grossack | Anam Tebha Giorgia Botta Emma Kolesnik |
| Zhang | Susan Zhang, Capt Eddie Wold Janice Molson | Sylvia Shi Daniel Korbel |



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.



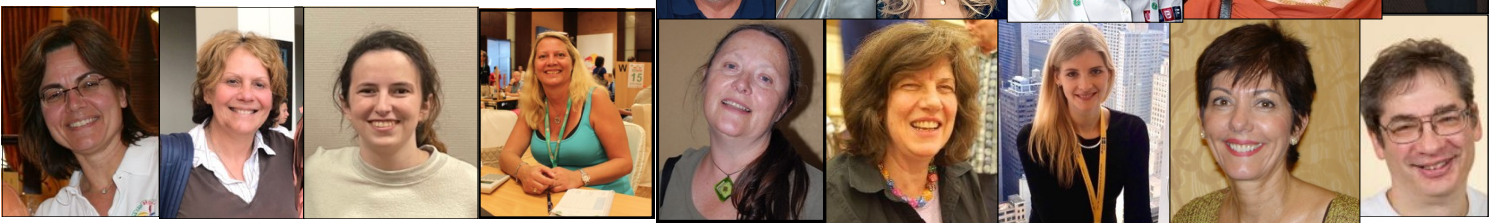
Senior Teams Entered

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



Women's Teams Entered

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| Baker | Lynn Baker, Capt Kerri Sanborn Cecilia Dwyer Rimstedt [alternate] Debbie Rosenberg | Olivia Schireson Jill Meyers Sandra Rimstedt [alternate] Migry Campanile |
| Cooper | Kitty Cooper, Capt Linda Lewis Rozanne Pollack | Lynne Feldman Hjordis Eythorsdottir Cheri Bjerkan |
| Zhang | Susan Zhang, Capt Janice Molson | Sylvia Shi Irina Levitina |



Open Team Tournament Schedule

| OPEN SCHEDULE | | | |
|--|-------|---|--|
| Day | Date | Time (CDT) | Boards |
| Round of 16 (if 14-16 teams enter; fewer than 14 will be rr with different schedule) | | | |
| Wednesday | May 1 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Lunch Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
| Thursday | May 2 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Lunch Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |
| Quarterfinal | | | |
| Friday | May 3 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Lunch Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
| Saturday | May 4 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Lunch Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |
| Semifinal | | | |
| Sunday | May 5 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
| Monday | May 6 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |
| Final | | | |
| Tuesday | May 7 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
| Wednesday | May 8 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |

Location: TBD

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

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

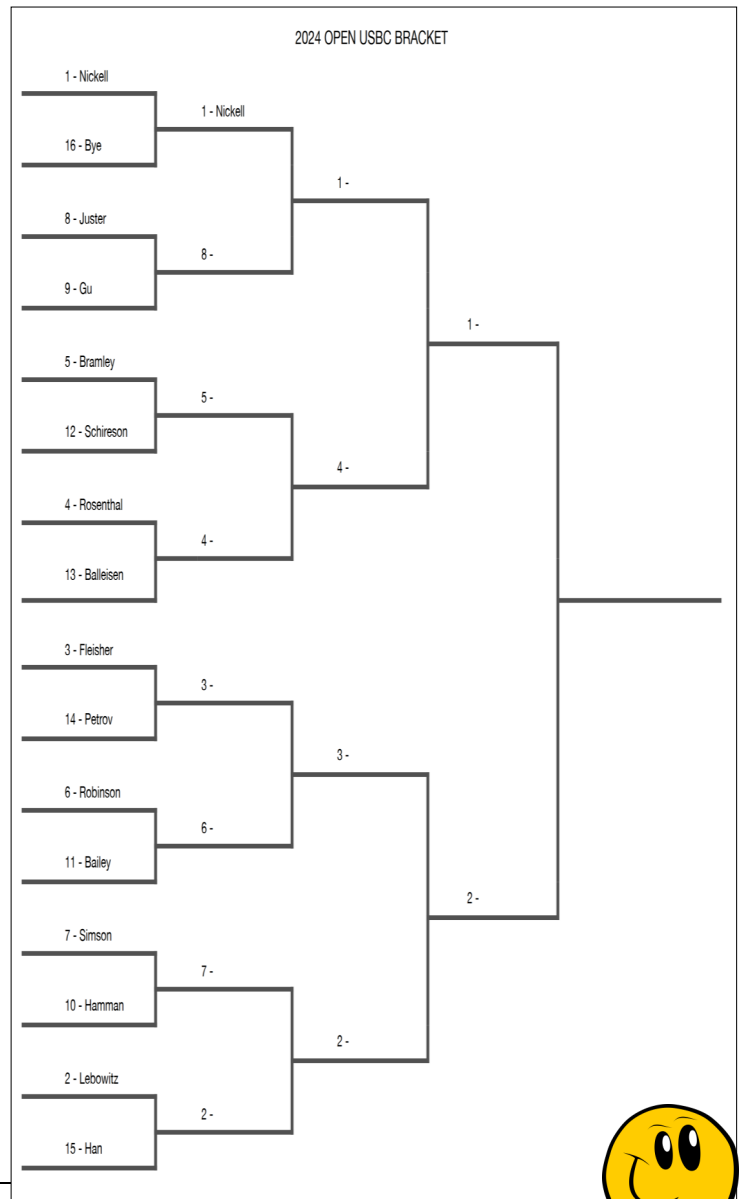
Mixed Team Tournament Schedule

| Mixed Schedule | | | |
|---|--------|---|---|
| Round Robin or KO - Schedule will depend on number of teams | | | |
| Day | Date | Time | Boards |
| Friday | May 10 | | |
| Saturday | May 11 | | |
| Quarterfinal | | | |
| Sunday | May 12 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
| Monday | May 13 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |
| Semifinal | | | |
| Tuesday | May 14 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
| Wednesday | May 15 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |
| Final | | | |
| Thursday | May 16 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60 75 minute Break Segment 5 Boards 61-75 Segment 6 Boards 76-90 |
| Friday | May 17 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |

“Those people
 who think they
 know everything
 are a great
 annoyance to
 those of us
 who do.”
 ISAAC ASIMOV

Senior Schedule

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



| Beth Palmer WOMEN'S SCHEDULE | | | |
|--|--------|---|--|
| Round Robin or Quarterfinal if 5-8 teams enter - schedule will depend on number of teams | | | |
| Tuesday | May 21 | | |
| Wednesday | May 22 | | |
| Semifinal | | | |
| Thursday | May 23 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
| Friday | May 24 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |
| Final | | | |
| Saturday | May 25 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60 |
| Sunday | May 26 | 10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45 | Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60 |

Beth Palmer Women's Schedule

**“When I was a kid
my parents moved
a lot, but I always
found them.”**

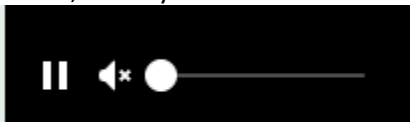
RODNEY DANGERFIELD

**“No man goes
before his time —
unless the boss
leaves early.”**

GROUCHO MARX

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

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



Click on the speaker to unmute.

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

Kibitzing Schedule (EDT)

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

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

BREAK

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

For Round Robin days, each kibitzing segment will start 30 minutes after play starts. No voice for RR's.

To listen to commentary, search for the TV icon! It will send you to the page where you can choose from the available live commentators. If it doesn't do anything, no one is commenting.

Deep Involvement: Choose the "Match view" at the starting page of your event. Your screen will be divided into 4 small screens – 2 of them showing the 2 tables of the match you choose, the other 2 having the scoresheet for your match and the current scores of the other matches. In the 2x2 view you can personalize the content in all your windows. (The 2x2 view is not available on mobiles.)

Think together!

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

More Information:

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

Navigation icons:

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

Replay:

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



My eyes are crossed.
It's hard to rhyme.
Last night
This went to over-
time!

Today I'm back
With expectation
They'll conclude
In regulation!



Kibitzing...

2024 USBCs Hospitality

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

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

Lunch: On the first four days of each event we will be serving a buffet lunch in a hotel banquet room, usually the Slate and Cyan rooms at the front of the hotel; we will have signs in the Player Break Room and Hospitality Suite with daily location. The hotel will be supplying what they do best: salads and chips. We will be bringing in 2 or 3 hot dishes from a local restaurant each day. There should be enough room for you to eat in the hotel banquet room, but you are welcome to take food from there to an outside table or to your hotel room. Lunch will be served from about half an hour before the morning session is supposed to end until about half an hour after the afternoon session starts.

After the first 4 days of each event, lunch will be available in the hospitality suite at the break. There will be a main dish (sandwiches, chicken, main dish salads, pizza) as well as tuna salad, green salad, cheese, fruit, berries, cookies or other desserts. Water and soft drinks will be available in refrigerators. As with breakfast, you are welcome to eat in the hospitality suite unless it is too crowded.

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

Playing Rooms & Player's Break Room

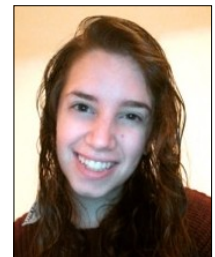
We will have bottled water in the playing rooms and if there is a refrigerator in a playing room we'll stock it with soft drinks.

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

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



Marie-France



Julie Arbit

"Most people work just hard enough not to get fired and get paid just enough money not to quit." — George Carlin

"Trying is the first step toward failure." — Homer Simpson, "The Simpsons"

"Work is the greatest thing in the world, so we should always save some of it for tomorrow." — Don Herold

"By working faithfully eight hours a day, you may eventually get to be boss and work 12 hours a day." — Robert Frost

"All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence; then success is sure." — Mark Twain

"If it's a good script I'll do it. And if it's a bad script, and they pay me enough, I'll do it." — George Burns

"Hard work never killed anybody, but why take a chance?" — Edgar Bergen

"Adults are always asking children what they want to be when they grow up because they're looking for ideas." — Paula Poundstone

"When you're good at something, you'll tell everyone. When you're great at something, they'll tell you." — Walter Payton

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit. No use being a damn fool about it." — W.C. Fields

"The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without one." — Oscar Wilde

"When in doubt, look intelligent." — Garrison Keillor



Hard Sudoku

Sudoku Solutions on Page 16

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

Sudoku 1

Q: I add 5 to 9 and get 2. The answer is correct, so what am I?

A: A clock. When it is 9 a.m., adding 5 hours would make it 2 p.m.

Q: Rachel goes to the supermarket and buys 10 tomatoes. Unfortunately, on the way back home, all but 9 get ruined. How many tomatoes are left in a good condition?

A: 9.

Q: What is 3/7 chicken, 2/3 cat, and 2/4 goat?

A: Chicago!

Q: If a zookeeper had 100 pairs of animals in her zoo, and two pairs of babies are born for each one of the original animals, then (sadly) 23 animals don't survive, how many animals do you have left in total?

A: 977 animals ($100 \times 2 = 200$; $200 + 800 = 1000$; $1000 - 23 = 977$)

Q: I saw my math teacher with a piece of graph paper yesterday.

A: I think he must be plotting something.

Q: If you multiply this number by any other number, the answer will always be the same. What number is this?

A: Zero



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

Sudoku 2

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



Puzzle Page ...

Astronomy

Find and circle all of the Astronomy related words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message.

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



As cards go,
I'm really
cute!
Hearts not
spades
Should be
"Boss Suit!"

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| ANDROMEDA GALAXY | DEEP SPACE | MOON | SOLAR SYSTEM |
| APOGEE | ECLIPSE | NEBULA | SOLAR WIND |
| ASTEROID | EQUINOX | ORBIT | SPACE SHUTTLE |
| ASTRONOMER | GALAXIES | PARSEC | SPACECRAFT |
| ATMOSPHERE | GALILEO | PERIGEE | STARS |
| AURORA | GRAVITY | POLARIS | SUN |
| BINARY STAR | HUBBLE | PROXIMA CENTAURI | SUPERNOVA |
| BLACK HOLE | KEPLER | PULSARS | TELESCOPE |
| CONSTELLATION | LIGHT YEAR | QUASARS | TIDES |
| CORONA | METEOR | RED GIANT | UNIVERSE |
| CRATER | MILKY WAY | SATELLITE | WHITE DWARF |



"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary." — Vince Lombardi

"If hard work is the key to success, most people would rather pick the lock." — Claude McDonald

"I choose a lazy person to do a hard job. Because a lazy person will find an easy way to do it." — Bill Gates

At a meeting of the WBF Executive Council on March 9, 2024, the following decision was taken concerning the participation of Russian and Belarusian bridge players in WBF events:

- No Russian or Belarusian players may participate in WBF National Representative events. Such events include WBF Zonal events that qualify for a WBF National Representative event.
- Russian and Belarusian players may participate as individuals in Transnational events provided the following conditions, in line with the IOC eligibility conditions published on December 8, 2023, are met:
- Players who actively support the war will not be eligible to be entered or to compete. Support personnel who actively support the war in Ukraine will not be eligible to be entered or to compete.
- Players who are contracted to the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies will not be eligible to be entered or to compete.
- Players may not display any text, colours, flags, or other attributes identifying them as Russian or Belarusian.
- All other existing eligibility criteria for participation in WBF events apply. The Executive Council notes that, at writing, Belarus is not a member in good standing of the WBF and therefore Belarusian players are not currently eligible to participate in WBF events in any capacity.

This decision applies with immediate effect and stays in effect until further notice.

WBF Executive Council



Katz/Nickell did well to bid the spade game after a strong NT opener with both sides vulnerable.

Greco's 1NT showed 15-17. Levin's 2D showed hearts. Katz, doubled showing his long diamonds. When Greco took the transfer, Nick effectively raised diamonds. Levin called 3H and Katz, judging well, jumped to the spade game.

Greco cashed his CA and HA and continued with the HT. Katz ruffed, pulled trump and claimed ten tricks.

Levin had a tough decision in the auction. Would 5H be a good save at All Vul? Was 4S even making?

Levin thought a long time for someone who wanted to go out and smoke! He was truly tempted to bid, however, in the end he went quietly.

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Bd 20, Dlr W 4♠ = S | | ♠ K84 ♥ 763 ♦ J65 ♣ QJ42 | N Frickell |
| W eric greco | | ♠ 753 ♥ A109 ♦ K4 ♣ AK985 | Robert Levin E ♠ 106 ♥ KJ8542 ♦ 87 ♣ 1076 |
| 0 0 | | ♠ AQJ92 ♥ Q ♦ AQ10932 ♣ 3 | W N E S 1NT P 2♦ X 2♥ 3♦ 3♥ 4♠ P P P |
| Ralph Katz S | | | |

After the play, Bobby commented, "I should have taken the sac!" And while it would have worked on this hand, it isn't clear that he "should" have taken it!

If 4S was failing while 5H was doomed, it "could or would" have been a disaster!

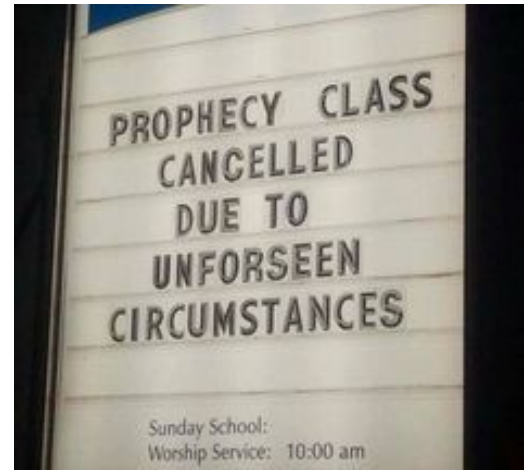
As it is, 5HX would have gone down two for +500 N/S, a small gain for East/West.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| ♠ K84 ♥ 763 ♦ J65 ♣ QJ42 | ♠ 106 ♥ KJ8542 ♦ 87 ♣ 1076 | NT ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ N 5 10 4 10 5 S 5 10 4 10 5 E 7 3 9 3 8 W 7 3 9 3 8 |
| ♠ 753 ♥ A109 ♦ K4 ♣ AK985 | ♠ AQJ92 ♥ Q ♦ AQ10932 ♣ 3 | Par +500 5♥X-2 EW NS: 7 + 15 = 22HCP EW: 4 + 14 = 18HCP |

Cannibals' favorite game? Swallow the leader.
 What's in Dickens' spice rack? The best of thymes.
 I took the chairlift. It's all downhill from here.
 I will stop procrastinating, starting tomorrow.
 I will read more. Just turned closed captioning on my TV.
 I will get in shape. Probably round, maybe pear.
 Misbehaving kayakers just need a good paddling.
 I dated a baker. Brought her flours every Friday.
 Uhaul driver arrested. Cops busted a move.
 Where'd the pirate get his hook? A 2nd hand store.
 Angry carrots are steamed veggies.
 When I tripped in France, Eiffel over.
 Cannibalism: it's a Doug eat Doug world.
 Predicting the wind is a vane pursuit.
 Is there Nintendo is France? Wii.
 A storm grate in Manama is a Bahrain drain.
 I hurled a bunch of peas. My first pod cast.
 Want deals on mustard? Try Groupoupon.
 Forcing kids to do sit-ups is child ab use.
 The promiscuous violinist plays a Straddlevarious.
 The band formed by BP execs? The Spillage People.
 I crashed my Audi. Now it's an Inni.
 In Norway, every day is Oslo news day.
 A few years ago, a new nation appeared Sudanly.
 Models of dragons are not to scale.
 Money advice from Cheers = a fiscal Cliff.
 Office for rent at Christmas = For Lease Navidad.
 I named my iPad "Titanic". It's syncing now.
 England has no kidney bank, but it has a Liverpool.
 Nightclubs on Mars have no atmosphere.
 Thank you arms, for always being by my side.
 My ceiling isn't the best, but it's up there.
 Clones are people too.
 Bad gardeners are rough around the hedges.
 I failed my Braille class. It's a touchy subject.
 Bald sheep look similar, by shear coincidence.
 Hurt myself digging for gold. A miner injury.
 I buried my records in their vinyl resting place.
 What veggie was kinda cool in the 80s? Radish.
 I baptized the hay. Now it's a Christian Bale.
 Waiters really bring a lot to the table.
 People who can't stick with diets are desserters.
 Pizza is a pie chart of how much pizza is left.
 Many ATMs suffer from withdrawals.
 North Korea has no Seoul.

**WHY AM I THE
 ONLY NAKED PERSON
 AT THIS GENDER
 REVEAL PARTY**

Pun-ishment!



**SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF CHEESE,
 WHO AM I TO DISS A BRIE.
 I CHEDDAR THE WORLD
 AND THE FETA CHEESE,
 EVERYBODY'S LOOKING FOR STILTON.**



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

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

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

**Massage Therapist
 message from Jan**

Logic Puzzle Page

Answers to Puzzle on Page 16

| | | Incorrect | | | | | Incorrect | | | | | Correct | | | | | Correct | | | | | Correct | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------|------|-------|--------|---------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|------|--------|----------|--------|---------|-------|------|--------|---------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--|--|
| | | Frazelle | Snow | South | Temple | Waverly | Lantern Way | Main Street | Singletary Lane | Waterville Road | West Street | Elliot | Gary | Horace | Madeline | Martha | Blanch | Grant | Post | Rensel | Whimble | Bunt Street | East Avenue | Maple Avenue | Prescott Road | Strawberry Lane | | |
| Incorrect | Louis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Richard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Roberta | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Sara | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Stewart | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Correct | Bunt Street | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | East Avenue | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Maple Avenue | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Prescott Road | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Strawberry Lane | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Correct | Blanch | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Grant | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Post | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Rensel | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Whimble | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Correct | Elliot | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Gary | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Horace | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Madeline | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Martha | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Incorrect | Lantern Way | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Main Street | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Singletary Lane | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Waterville Road | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | West Street | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| First Name (Incorrect) | Last Name (Incorrect) | Address (Incorrect) | Last Name (Correct) | First Name (Correct) | Address (Correct) |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Larry works at the Millersville Post Office and today he received five puzzles from various customers. Somehow, five letters were delivered to the wrong addresses. The strange thing was where the mail was actually delivered. Usually when mail was delivered incorrectly, it was to a similar name or street, or sometimes to a different number on the same street. But the five letters he received today were delivered across town from where they should have gone, and even stranger, not one of them was remotely similar to the place it went. "Well, at least they stayed in the right town," he said with a sigh. Shaking his head, he took the letters out back and sorted them for the next morning's delivery, making sure they were correctly sorted this time. Determine the name and street address (one was Lantern Way) where the letter was mistakenly delivered, and the actual name and street address (one was East Avenue) written on each letter.

1. Martha, whose last name wasn't Blanch, lived on Prescott Road. The letter delivered to West Street was addressed

- to Elliot, whose last name wasn't Post. The letter addressed to Mr. Whimble wasn't delivered to Mr. Frazelle.
2. The person whose last name was South didn't live on Main Street but did receive a letter addressed to Strawberry Lane. Roberta received Gary's letter, but his last name wasn't Whimble. Stewart Waverly didn't live on Waterville Road.
 3. The five misplaced letters are represented by: the letter addressed to Ms. Blanch, the letter addressed to Maple Avenue, the letter delivered to Waterville Road, the letter delivered to the person whose last name was Snow, and the letter addressed to Horace.
 4. The letters addressed to the three men, in no particular order, were the letter delivered to Richard, the letter addressed to Mr. Grant, and the letter delivered to Waterville Road. Only one woman received a letter addressed to a woman.
 5. The letter delivered to Singletary Lane was addressed to Bunt Street. Richard didn't receive a letter addressed to Mr. Post. The resident of Main Street didn't have a last name of Temple but he did receive a letter addressed to Madeline.
 6. Louis, who didn't live on Main Street, received a letter addressed to Maple Avenue. Sara, who didn't live on Waterville Road, received a letter addressed to someone whose last name was Rensel.

Meet the Players

Through the Ages: A History of Great Partnerships!

Bart Bramley (excerpted from an interview with the *Ontario Kibitzer* in 2021): I have been lucky to play with many great players. My first truly great partner was **Lou Bluhm**. We played from 1984-1990, when Lou died of pancreatic cancer. He was 50. He was totally unflappable, steady as a rock. He showed me what a serious system looked like. Until then my partnerships didn't have notes, or they were just a few pages – most of what I played was simple enough to keep in my head. Lou had 75 pages of notes. And I hated most of it, but since he had done the work, I figured I ought to learn it.

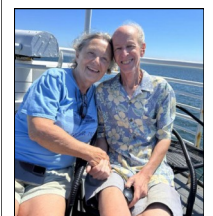
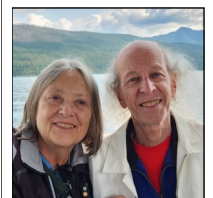
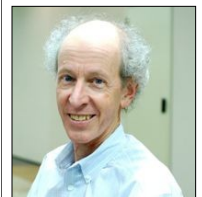
My next great partner was **Hugh Ross**. We became great friends when Hugh was captain of my team the only time I played in the Bermuda Bowl, in 1991 (Yokohama), but we were not a great partnership! Hugh had won the Bermuda Bowl several times in the preceding decade, playing with Peter Pender. We played for a few years starting in 1992. Though we both tried to make it work, we didn't mesh.

In 1995 John Sutherlin fixed me up with **Sidney Lazard**, and we played regularly until 2008. Sidney was the greatest man I've ever known. He taught me many things bridge. One was the importance of voids. Until then I thought voids were like singletons, but a little better. Sidney insisted they were a LOT better, and he was right. Sidney had a reputation as a wild man, but he was a devoted "bridge scientist" at heart. However, his wildness was uncanny. He didn't take as many shots as most people thought, but his percentage of success was phenomenal. My greatest thrill in bridge was winning the Blue Ribbon Pairs with Sidney in 2002, when he had just turned 72. We played great throughout the event and drove from behind at the very end to win.

Another great partner was **Lew Stansby**. We had been friends for decades when we won the Senior World Championship together in 2007 (Shanghai), but we didn't become partners until a few years later. The greatest lesson I learned from Lew was about composure. In Shanghai, during the round-robin, my screenmate accused Lew of coffee housing him when Lew was declarer. I became incensed and made a stink. A director was needed to calm things down. Afterwards Lew told me never to do that again, because it upset him. As luck would have it, we drew the same team in the quarterfinal of the knockout stage. Early in the match a different player on the team accused us of hosing him on defense (he had gone down in a trivial contract). I remained stoic as the opponent had his say with the director, who gave him nothing. We blew out that team and I learned a good lesson.

My current partner is **Kit Woolsey**, with whom I have played regularly since 2017. We have been friends for almost 50 years. I have adopted many aspects of "Kit Standard," such as very loose weak two-bids, and suit preference at trick one against suit contracts, both of which seem to work out far better than I had previously thought. Kit and I have been teammates off and on since the '70s, and we both love to go over the hands in detail; if you like doing that, it's best to do it with your partner.

Bob Hamman is another player I've known for almost 50 years. We first played together in the Open Swiss Teams on the final weekend of the 1990 Nationals (Fort Worth). And we won the event. (Both Bob and I have multiple National wins with first-time partners.) We didn't play together again until 2003, when I moved to Dallas to work for Bob at his company, SCA Promotions. Despite his persona as a no-nonsense, down-the-middle player, I learned that he is actually a mad scientist. He has never met a convention that he couldn't improve. Eventually I had to put my foot down to prevent the system from changing every time we played. And I know that's OK, because Bob can still win with anyone, any time, playing any system. He has a legendary reputation for his powers of concentration and compartmentalization," and it is well-deserved.



Bart is an amazing player with an amazing record of accomplishments in the bridge world. He writes great articles. He is beyond brilliant. He and his late wife, Judy (Wadas), were great friends of Stan's and mine when they lived in Chicago. Bart has recently moved back to Connecticut, an early home of his. He is happier than ever with his new love, Kitty Cooper. They were meant to be!

Tom Swifties...

"I feel so empty," said Tom **vacuously**.

"I need an injection," Tom pleaded in **vain**.

"I can tell which way the wind blows," said Tom **vainly**.

"I invested in a hi-tech startup," Tom **ventured**.

"Our local clergyman has a toothache," said Tom **vicariously**.

"A spirit transported me from the couch to the chair," said Tom, **visibly moved**.

"I wouldn't like anything but just that," said Tom **wantonly**.

"Do you know the location?" asked Tom **warily**.

"Eating garbage is a form of recycling, but I can't eat any more" said Tom **wastefully**.

"I visit my parents every Sunday," said Tom **weakly**.

"I don't like this Chardonnay," Tom **whined**.

"Phew! I've just finished learning all Shakespeare's works," said Tom **willfully**.

"Some you lose," said Tom **winsomely**.

"This tooth extraction could take forever," said Tom with infinite **wisdom**.

"I wish I could remember the name of that card game," said Tom **wistfully**.

"Stop, horse! Stop!" cried Tom **woefully**.

"This must be an aerobics class," Tom **worked out**.

"This is all from memory," Tom **wrote**.

"I'm Irish," said Tom **wryly**.

"You've got to be egging me on," **yolked** Tom.

"I used lots of detergent in late December," was Tom's **yuletide** comment.

"Zo, what do you have for zale?" asked Tom **zealously**.

"I can't eat any more lemon peel," said Tom **zestfully**.

"Your fly is undone," was Tom's **zippy rejoinder**.



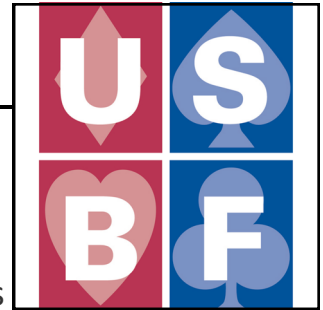
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 |
| 7 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| 1 | 3 | 4 | 6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

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

Sudoku Answers Puzzles on Page 9

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.

(Continued from page 9)

Q: What 3 numbers give the same result when multiplied and added together?

A: 1, 2, and 3 ($1 + 2 + 3 = 6$ and $1 \times 2 \times 3 = 6$).

Q: What's a single-digit number with no value?

A: Zero.

Q: A tree doubled in height each year until it reached its maximum height over the course of ten years. How many years did it take for the tree to reach half its maximum height?

A: Nine years.

Answer to Logic Puzzle On Page 13

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Stewart | Waverly | Main Street | Madeline | Blanch | East Avenue |
| Sara | Snow | Lantern Way | Martha | Rensel | Prescott Road |
| Robertta | South | Waterville Road | Gary | Post | Strawberry Lane |
| Richard | Temple | Singletary Lane | Horace | Whimble | Bunt Street |
| Louis | Frazelle | West Street | Elliot | Grant | Maple Avenue |
| First Name (Incorrect) | Last Name (Incorrect) | Address (Incorrect) | First Name (Correct) | Last Name (Correct) | Address (Correct) |

Good Start to Day 2 of the Quarterfinals...



For those who have never explored the VuGraph on LoveBridge, the above is an example of the “Live” (albeit delayed) broadcast with the split screen. You can see both tables in the same match playing at the same time. You get a sense of tempo... note as above, one table is still on board 1 and the other is just starting board 2.

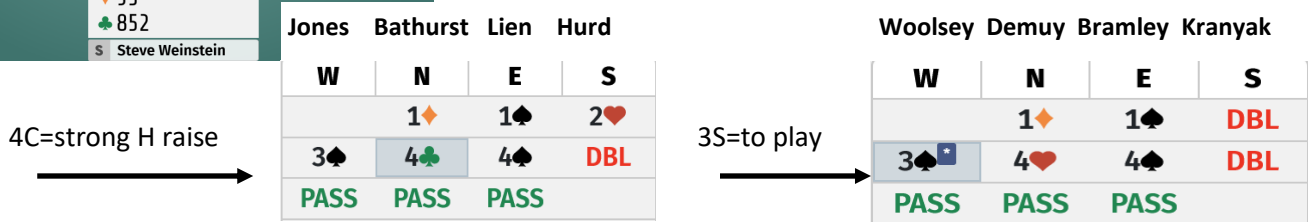
On another note:



It’s a “good start to day 2” because the first trick of the first board in Nickell/Juster generated the proverbial “wish trick.” ... and while they don’t know it, but they have a second wish trick available in clubs!

Well done, Bobby and Stevie, Andy and Mike!

Two pairs did well to find the save in 4S over 4H. While only a small swing, you never know when 3 IMPs will matter! The auctions:



| | Home team | Visiting team | Room | By | 1 | = | ★ | IMP | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|--------|-----|---|----|----|-----|----|------|
| | | | | | | | | NS | EW | Home |
| 1 | Nickell | Juster | Open | 4♥ | S | ♠3 | = | 420 | - | - |
| | | | Closed | 4♥ | N | ♦A | = | 420 | - | - |
| 2 | Lebowitz | Simson | Open | 4♥ | S | ♠7 | = | 420 | - | - |
| | | | Closed | 4♥ | S | ♣J | = | 420 | - | - |
| 3 | Fleisher | Bailey | Open | 4♠x | E | ♥K | -2 | 300 | | 3 |
| | | | Closed | 4♥ | S | ♠7 | = | 420 | | |
| 4 | Rosenthal | Bramley | Open | 4♠x | E | ♥K | -2 | 300 | | 3 |
| | | | Closed | 4♥ | S | ♠T | = | 420 | | |

BOARD: 2
DEALER: EAST
VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ Q2
♥ AQJ93
♦ KT742
♣ Q

♠ K7654
♥ 765
♦ QJ6
♣ J9

♠ A9
♥ KT
♦ 853
♣ A86542

♠ JT83
♥ 842
♦ A9
♣ KT73

Par: 140

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | N | |
| NS | 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 8 | |
| EW | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | |

| | | Home team | | Visiting team | | Room | By | = | ★ | IMP |
|---|-----------|-----------|--------|---------------|----------|------|----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | NS | EW | Home | Visiting | | | | | |
| 1 | Nickell | Juster | Open | 4♥ | N | ♦3 | -1 | | 100 | |
| | | | Closed | 2♥ | N | ♣A | +1 | 140 | | |
| 2 | Lebowitz | Simson | Open | 4♥ | N | ♣A | = | 620 | | 11 |
| | | | Closed | 2♣x | E | ♥2 | -1 | 100 | | |
| 3 | Fleisher | Bailey | Open | 2♥ | S | ♥5 | = | 110 | | 5 |
| | | | Closed | 4♥ | N | ♠A | -1 | 100 | | |
| 4 | Rosenthal | Bramley | Open | 4♥ | N | ♣A | = | 620 | | 10 |
| | | | Closed | 2♥ | S | ♣J | +1 | 140 | | |

On Board 2, N/S can only come to 9 tricks on careful play.

The game made twice. In both instances, East led the CA and continued clubs giving declarer a chance to discard one of their losing spades on the CK.

Demuy was successful when Bramley led the CA and another club.

Zia was successful when Simson did the same.

Note below that Simson and Zia have found the secret to comfortable playing conditions!



I thought they were watching the VuGraph but Jan said they were opponents -screenmates- playing! We think one of them was the dummy!

I wondered if the seeded team got first dibs on the bed!

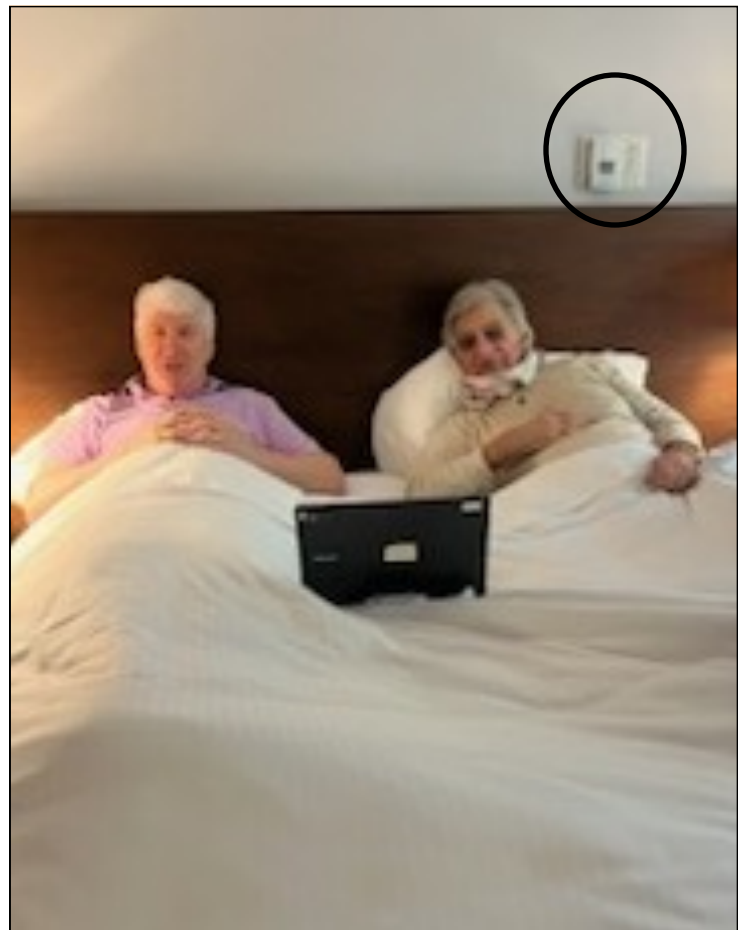
I thought it was hilarious and sent the photo to Howie Doing and Limey Jack. Howie responded as such:

Under the covers,
Opponents not lovers!
Feeling chilly in bed?
Turn the temp overhead!

Thanks Howie!!

Simson and Zia giving "screenmates" a new dimension.

Who needs tables when we have such great playing conditions in Schaumburg!?!



BOARD: 3
DEALER: SOUTH
VULNERABLE: E-W

♠ QJ943
♥ AK
♦ 953
♣ QT2

♠ A
♥ 8542
♦ 72
♣ AK9643

♠ 876
♥ Q973
♦ Q864
♣ J8

♠ KT52
♥ JT6
♦ AKJT
♣ 75

Par: 420

| | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | N |
| NS | 5 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 7 |
| EW | 8 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 3 |

| | Home team | Visiting team | Room | By | = | NS | EW | Home |
|---|-----------|---------------|--------|----|---|----|----|------|
| 1 | Nickell | Juster | Open | 4♠ | N | ♣J | = | 420 |
| | | | Closed | 4♠ | S | ♣K | = | 420 |
| 2 | Lebowitz | Simson | Open | 4♠ | N | ♣J | = | 420 |
| | | | Closed | 4♠ | N | ♣J | = | 420 |
| 3 | Fleisher | Bailey | Open | 4♠ | N | ♣J | = | 420 |
| | | | Closed | 4♠ | N | ♣J | = | 420 |
| 4 | Rosenthal | Bramley | Open | 4♠ | N | ♣J | = | 420 |
| | | | Closed | 4♠ | N | ♣J | = | 420 |

This is as close as one can get to a "Flat Board." All counterparts played or defended 4S. All counterparts led a club. At every table, declarer took 10 tricks!

The only fly in the ointment was in Nickell/Juster where Dwyer became declarer as **South** on the following auction, putting Greco on lead from East!



| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|------|----|
| | | | 1♦ |
| 2♣ | 2♥ | PASS | 3♠ |
| PASS | 3NT | PASS | 4♠ |
| PASS | PASS | PASS | |

1D=2+ 10-15
2H=5+spades
3S=natural/better than min
3NT=offer to play

NORTH
WEST 3 EAST
DEALER

Score card >
Frequency >
Live scores >

LoveBridge

♠ QJ943
♥ AK
♦ 953
♣ QT2

N Shan Huang

♠ A
♥ 8542
♦ 72
♣ AK9643

W Geoff Hampson

♠ 876
♥ Q973
♦ Q864
♣ J8

E Eric Greco

♠ KT52
♥ JT6
♦ AKJT
♣ 75

S Kevin Dwyer

SOUTH
4♠

DDS

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------|--|--------|-----|---|----|----|------|---|----|
| 1 | Nickell | Juster | | Open | 6♣ | W | ♠8 | = | 1370 | - | - |
| | | | | Closed | 6♦ | W | ♠8 | = | 1370 | | |
| 2 | Lebowitz | Simson | | Open | 6♣ | W | ♠8 | -1 | 100 | | 16 |
| | | | | Closed | 6♣ | W | ♠8 | = | 1370 | | |
| 3 | Fleisher | Bailey | | Open | 6♣ | W | ♠8 | = | 1370 | | 5 |
| | | | | Closed | 6♦x | W | ♠8 | = | 1540 | | |
| 4 | Rosenthal | Bramley | | Open | 6♦ | W | ♠8 | = | 1370 | | 16 |
| | | | | Closed | 6♣ | W | ♠4 | -1 | 100 | | |

Both 6C and 6D are cold on careful play. Two great declarers: Eric Rodwell and Chris Willenken went down in the slam confirming how difficult a hand it really was. The 4-1 splits in both minors are confounding.

Aaron Jones in Fleisher/Bailey played 6C really well to bring it home.

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

- Table:** OP 3, Round: 5
- N-S:** Fleisher 211 IMP
- E-W:** Bailey 64 IMP
- OTHER ROOM:** W 6♦x = -1540
- Hand Layout:**
 - North (Kevin Bathurst):** ♠84, ♥842, ♦J543, ♣K942
 - West (Aaron Jones):** ♠A5, ♥AT9862, ♣QJT63
 - East (Owen Lier):** ♠A75, ♥KJ963, ♦KQ, ♣A85
 - South (John Hurd):** ♠KQJT9632, ♥QT7, ♦7, ♣7
- Game Info:** Table: OP 3, Round: 5; N-S: Fleisher 211 IMP; E-W: Bailey 64 IMP; OTHER ROOM: W 6♦x = -1540.

Bathurst led the S8. Jones ducked in dummy and ruffed in hand. He played the CQ, successfully finessing. He continued with the CJ, finessing that too.

He played a diamond to the king and cashed the DQ. He cashed the SA, discarding a diamond from his hand. He played the HJ. Hurd covered with the queen and Jones won his ace. He continued hearts to dummy's king.

He ruffed the H3 and played his last club to the ace in dummy creating this end position:

Jones led the good H9 from dummy. He discarded the D9 while Bathurst ruffed with the C9. (*Ed. Note: Hurd gets a charge for not having the foresight to keep his S9 for this trick. He could have discarded most any of his spades making no difference and it would have looked great to have all four nines on this trick!*)

Poor Bathurst! He was endplayed. He had to lead from his DJ5 into Jones's DAT.

Contract making. Nice play, Aaron! It must have been frustrating to lose 5 IMPs when 6DX made in the other room!

The screenshot shows the end position of the hand with the following details:

- Hand Layout:**
 - North (Kevin Bathurst):** ♠84, ♥842, ♦J543, ♣K942
 - West (Aaron Jones):** ♠A5, ♥AT9862, ♣QJT63
 - East (Owen Lier):** ♠A75, ♥KJ963, ♦KQ, ♣A85
 - South (John Hurd):** ♠KQJT9632, ♥QT7, ♦7, ♣7
- End Position:** The table shows the final cards on the table: ♣K, ♣T, ♣A, ♠2.

BOARD: 20
DEALER: WEST
VULNERABLE: ALL

♠ AJ
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ AK76
 ♣ AQJ64

♠ T8654
 ♥ K9763
 ♦ J
 ♣ K7

♠ K9732
 ♥ A54
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ T95

♠ Q
 ♥ T82
 ♦ T95432
 ♣ 832

Par: 660

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|---|---|----|
| | ♣ | ♦ | ♥ | ♠ | N |
| NS | 11 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 11 |
| E | 0 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 1 |
| W | : | : | : | 9 | : |

| Home team | | Visiting team | | Room | By | = | ★ | IMP | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|--|--------|----|---|----|-----|-----|------|----------|
| | | | | | | | | NS | EW | Home | Visiting |
| 1 | Nickell | Juster | | Open | 3N | N | ♠3 | +4 | 720 | - | - |
| | | | | Closed | 3N | N | ♠3 | +4 | 720 | - | - |
| 2 | Lebowitz | Simson | | Open | 3N | N | ♠3 | +2 | 660 | | 2 |
| | | | | Closed | 3N | N | ♠3 | +4 | 720 | | |
| 3 | Fleisher | Bailey | | Open | 3N | N | ♠3 | +4 | 720 | | 2 |
| | | | | Closed | 3N | N | ♠3 | +2 | 660 | | |
| 4 | Rosenthal | Bramley | | Open | 3N | N | ♠2 | +4 | 720 | | 11 |
| | | | | Closed | 3♦ | S | ♥3 | +2 | 150 | | |

On board 20, Woolsey and Bramley were the only N/S pair to miss game. That might be credited to the interference perpetrated by their opponents. Theirs was the only table where East/West entered the auction at all.

HOME CARDS SPLIT

| W | N | E | S |
|------|----|------|------|
| PASS | 1♣ | PASS | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 2♣ | 2♥ | 3♣ |
| PASS | 3♦ | PASS | PASS |
| PASS | | | |

1C=Precision
 1D=0-7 HCP

OTHER ROOM
 N 3N +4 720

Score card
 Frequency
 Standings

LoveBridge

♠ AJ
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ AK76
 ♣ AQJ64
 N Bart Bramley

♠ T8654
 ♥ K9763
 ♦ J
 ♣ K7
 W Chris Willenken

♠ K9732
 ♥ A54
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ T95
 E Gavin Wolpert

♠ Q
 ♥ T82
 ♦ T95432
 ♣ 832
 S Kit Woolsey

DDS

SOUTH
 3♦

Bramley opened a strong club and Woolsey showed a negative response. Willenken bravely overcalled 1H. When Bramley bid 2C, Wolpert raised Willenken to 2H, further muddying the waters.

Woolsey raised clubs and Bramley made one final move toward game with 3D. Kit, looking at 6 small diamonds and a 10-count, opted to pass.

Woolsey took 11 tricks to lose 11 IMPs! *To his credit, while they did not get high enough, he did find a way to steal the hand from partner!* 11 IMPs to Rosenthal

Cross Imps...

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------|-----|
| 1. | Brad Moss - Joe Grue | Fleisher | 1.95 | 146.14 | 75 |
| 2. | John Hurd - Kevin Bathurst | Fleisher | 1.20 | 107.57 | 90 |
| 3. | Chip Martel - Marty Fleisher | Fleisher | 0.79 | 47.29 | 60 |
| 4. | Eric Greco - Geoff Hampson | Nickell | 0.79 | 70.43 | 89 |
| 5. | John Kranyak - Vince Demuy | Rosenthal | 0.77 | 69.00 | 90 |
| 6. | Joe Grue - Marty Fleisher | Fleisher | 0.62 | 9.29 | 15 |
| 7. | David Grainger - Joel Wooldridge | Simson | 0.60 | 54.14 | 90 |
| 8. | Daniel Korbel - Zia Mahmood | Lebowitz | 0.60 | 53.71 | 90 |
| 9. | Eddie Wold - Venkatrao Koneru | Simson | 0.21 | 16.00 | 75 |
| 10. | Bobby Levin - Steve Weinstein | Nickell | 0.20 | 17.71 | 90 |
| 11. | Kevin Dwyer - Shan Huang | Juster | 0.14 | 17.14 | 120 |
| 12. | Michael Rosenberg - Zach Grossack | Lebowitz | 0.12 | 10.71 | 90 |
| 13. | Bart Bramley - Kit Woolsey | Bramley | -0.02 | -2.71 | 120 |
| 14. | Jacob Morgan - Jeff Juster | Juster | -0.18 | -10.71 | 59 |
| 15. | Brian Platnick - Kevin Rosenberg | Bramley | -0.19 | -23.14 | 120 |
| 16. | Aaron Silverstein - Andrew Rosenthal | Rosenthal | -0.26 | -15.57 | 60 |
| 17. | Chris Willenken - Gavin Wolpert | Rosenthal | -0.31 | -27.57 | 90 |
| 18. | Nick Nickell - Ralph Katz | Nickell | -0.56 | -33.86 | 60 |
| 19. | Aaron Jones - Owen Lien | Bailey | -0.88 | -66.00 | 75 |
| 20. | Arti Bhargava - Josh Donn | Bailey | -0.89 | -26.71 | 30 |
| 21. | Doug Simson - Eric Rodwell | Simson | -0.90 | -67.71 | 75 |
| 22. | Andy Goodman - Mike Passell | Juster | -1.01 | -60.71 | 60 |
| 23. | Adam Grossack - Larry Lebowitz | Lebowitz | -1.11 | -66.86 | 60 |
| 24. | Aaron Jones - Arti Bhargava | Bailey | -1.47 | -66.00 | 45 |
| 25. | Owen Lien - William Bailey | Bailey | -1.66 | -24.86 | 15 |
| 26. | Josh Donn - William Bailey | Bailey | -1.69 | -126.71 | 75 |

Howie Doing

Andrew v Nick
Not tough to pick...
Nick's number ONE!
And will be when done.

Some boards are wilds.
Some boards are flats.
Predicting the Seniors
Won't include Katz!

Simson's one flaw
Could cause his demise.
Add up the penalties
As they arise.

Wooldridge plays well,
Wooldridge plays slow.
Penalties mount
And deficits grow!

The Final is coming
In just two days time.
Fleisher v Nickell
Will finish this rhyme!

Till then... I remain... Howie Doing

Limey Jack

Ah, Colonials:

Limey Jack is crushed. In possibly the biggest upset since you blokes defeated His Majesty's forces, my dear Zia has been vanquished. Simson needed to outpoint him by 44 in the last two chuckers to win by 10.

Whilst he will see Limey Jack soon to hoist a glass at his favourite Indian Restaurant, tis an unhappy reunion. On to it, then.

Nickell-Rosenthal: Nickell overcame their usual lackluster performance in day one to escape Juster. Rosenthal won a nailbiter against a shorthanded Bramley squad. That bodes ill for them and Nickell always plays up to par after a scare.

Simson-Fleisher: Simson is the home team by virtue of knocking off the number two seed. Will that make a difference? Fleisher has far better partnerships and should uphold their honour.

It looks to be a Nickell-Fleisher finale.

Limey Jack will be having a pint, and hiding in the flat for the next two days. Even beating that cur, Howie Dung, doesn't ease the sting.