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#	TEAM	ТC	TAL	1-	12	13	3-24	2	5-36	3	37-48	Pen- alties
1	Kaplan		97		36		20		19		22	
2	Wang		74		20		31		17		6	
Playoff												
3	Herman	1	56		16		53		32		55	
4	Кауе		79		43		13		16		7	
	U-21											
#	TEAM		TOTA	AL	1-1	2	13-2	4	25-36	5	37-48	Pen- alties
1	Kriegel		123			10	4	-0	3	3	40)
2	Harper		86		24 3		4	4 6		22	2	
D1												
P 1 3	ayoff Dhir		100		C.	21	2	3	3	4	22	2
4	Weingarte	n	92	_		12		0	1		38	

RONA

ľ	#	TEAM	TOTAL	1- 12	13- 24	25- 36	37- 48
	1	Goyal	72	38	27	5	2
	2	Thapa	94	24	23	27	20

Junior J

U-26 Qualifiers

Kaplan	Adam Kaplan, Capt Owen Lien Adam Grossack	Zachary Brescoll Marius Agica Zachary Grossack
Wang	Zhuo Wang, Capt Edmund Wu	Erli Zhou William Zhu
Herman	Gregory Herman , Capt Alex Hudson	Anam Tebha Drew Cavalier
Kaye	Jordan Kaye , Capt John Altman	Xu Wang Isaac Stephani

U-21 Qualifiers

Kriegel	Oren Kriegel , Capt Benjamin Kristensen	Christopher Huber Kevin Rosenberg
Harper	Brandon Harper , Capt Hakan Berk	Ryan Miller David Soukup
Dhir	Arjun Dhir, Capt Burke Snowden	Christian Jolly Allison Hunt
Weingarten	Matthew Weingarten, Capt Cole Spencer	Nolan Chang Evan Berman

Rona Qualifiers

Goyal	Rachna Goyal, Capt Mili Raina Asya Ladyzhensky
Thapa	Isha Thapa, Capt Marianna Linz

Alice Kaye Ruth Ng

Julie Arbit Rebecca Wernis





Atlanta summer 2013

Puzzle Page ...

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

Happy New Year



SIQOKA

Answers to puzzle

Z	4	٢	G	8	2	6	9	3
ε	ഗ	8	9	6	٢	4	Z	2
9	6	2	ε	Z	4	8	ç	٢
2	3	6	4	G	8	Z	ŀ	9
4	9	G	Z	ŀ	6	ω	Ŋ	8
8	ł	Z	Z	9	3	G	6	4
G	Z	3	8	2	9	٢	4	6
٢	2	4	6	ε	G	9	8	Z
6	8	9	₽	4	Z	2	3	G

This Training & Trials week is being held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, GA, starting about 4:00 PM on December 28, 2013 (Saturday) and ending about 6:00 PM on January 2, 2014 (Thursday).

USBF is paying a substantial portion of expenses for players participating in the in-person competition. Many thanks to ACBL and the **generous individual donors** who provided the funds necessary for this first-ever stand-alone Junior USBC and to donors of prizes to be distributed to the players. The Bridge World has generously donated 6 month subscriptions and copies of ALL IN THE GAME to each participant in the T&T Week. Larry Cohen, Eddie Kantar and others have donated books and CDs and BridgeWinners has donated hoodies to be distributed as prizes during the training portion of the event. Thank you all.

The T&T Week starts with 3 days of training and continues with 3 days of competition to select the 2014 World Championship teams. The competition will be shown on BBO Vugraph on Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 & 2. In person kibitzers are welcome also. If you live in the Atlanta area and are interested in helping us show more tables on Vugraph by being a Vugraph operator, please email Jan Martel.

Assisting with the T&T Week will be Debbie & Michael Rosenberg, without whose tireless efforts to organize the event this wouldn't be happening, mentors Marty Fleisher, Barry Goren, Karen McCallum, Jan & Chip Martel, Patty Tucker, Joe Stokes and Howie Weinstein, and ACBL Director Jay Bates. Many thanks to all of them for spending part of their holiday helping with this event. None of the mentors is being paid for his or her participation and we are very thankful to all of them for their help.

U26 & U21 USA1 SemiFinals

Captains' Meeting in Playing Area at 10:15 AM

	10:30 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-12			
Tuesday	12:25 - 2:05	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 13 - 24			
		1 hour 10 minute Break			
December 31st	3:15 - 4:55	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 25 - 36			
	5:10 - 6:50	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 37 - 48			

U26, U21 & Rona USA1 Final & U26 & U21 USA2 SemiFinal

Wednesday	10:30 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:05	Segment 2	BOARDS 1-12 BOARDS 13 - 24 MINUTE BREAK
Jan1st	3:15 - 4:55 5:10 - 6:50		BOARDS 25 - 36 BOARDS 37 - 48

U26 & U21 USA2 & Rona Final (Rona plays Boards 49 - 96)

THURSDAY	10:00 - 11:40 11:55 - 1:35 2:45 - 4:25 4:40 - 6:20	SEGMENT 2	Boards 1-12 Boards 13 - 24 MINUTE BREAK
JAN 2ND		SEGMENT 3	BOARDS 25 - 36 BOARDS 37 - 48

sched_{ule} of Play



PLAYER PROFILES

RACHNA GOYAL

Rachna is 24 years old and was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. She learned to play bridge at the age of eleven while watching her dad on the computer. They have always played together as a father-daughter activity until this year she decided it was her last year as a Junior so she thought she'd get involved in the Junior scene.

As she was growing up tennis was always her first priority and bridge was second. She played in all of the local tournaments but never travelled unless she & her dad were invited. Her biggest bridge achievement was coming in 3rd place in B at the GNT in Las Vegas with her dad.

Rachna got married this past summer. She and her husband are currently doing their Master's together in Computer Science at Purdue University.

ALICE KAYE

Alice is 24 years old and is originally from England. She learned to play bridge properly during her time at Oxford University after first being briefly introduced to the game at the age of 15. She credits her perseverance in learning the game to the fact that she had a crush on a particular boy, returning week on week to the University Bridge Club to see him. A couple of years later and she was fully involved in the local bridge scene as well as in national youth bridge, competing in her first international competition last year.

After completing her Masters in Mathematics in June 2013, Alice moved to Seattle to be closer to her family and to take a well-earned break after five years of hard work! Joe Stokes was very helpful in finding an awesome partner to play with and wonderful team mates, but Alice still finds it strange that she has never met any of them in person!

ASYA LADYZHENSKY

My name is Asya Ladyzhensky. I was born in Bradenton, FL. I am 20 years old and I currently live in Raleigh, North Carolina. I'm studying at Wake Tech there.

Both my parents are world class bridge players, so I grew up around bridge. I started caddying at local tournaments and eventually I started to play the game.

In 2010, I had the opportunity to represent the USA on the U26 girls team in Philadelphia for the 13th World Youth Bridge Championship.

In 2013, my bridge partner, Allison Hunt and I won the North American Youth Pairs and also the Youngsters Pairs at 3rd World Youth Open Bridge Championship at Atlanta, Georgia.

RUTH NG

Ruth is a 21-year-old undergraduate at the University of Chicago. While she is studying Math, she will be the first to admit that many things in her life, like the number of key cards she sometimes promises her partner, do not add up.

She learnt to play bridge while melting into a puddle in the sunny island of Singapore, while playing for her Junior College bridge club, but now is happy and proud to be playing under the banner of the USBF. She also cannot get her head around the fact that she learnt the Standard AMERICAN Yellow Card in Singapore, then showed up to her university club in the US where no one knew what she was doing.



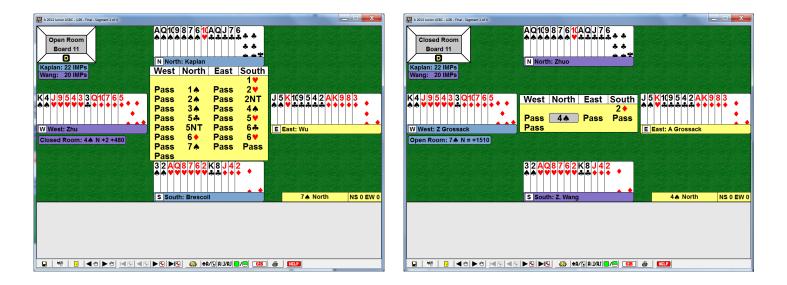
2014: A GRAND YEAR?

Board 3 produced a wide diversity of results.

In the U26 Finals, both E/W pairs bid to 6C for +1390. At both tables, South opened 2D showing a major suit weak two bid. At one table, Zhu doubled 2D and then bid 6C when his partner responded 3C. At the other table, Zack Grossack showed clubs and a major by bidding 4C over 2D. His brother, Adam, inquired with 4D and then corrected 4H to 5C. Zack now raised to 6C.

The Rona players bid unbelievably conservatively stopping in 4C and 5C for a 10 IMP swing to the Goyal team. Stopping in the part score makes no sense. E should clearly jump to 5C after W's 2nd double. Then, maybe, W will judge to bid the slam.

The most excitement occurred in the U21 match. In the open room, South passed in 1st seat, West opened 1H and never mentioned his club suit. E/W played 5H making six. In the closed room, South started the auction with a weak 2S bid. Huber doubled with the West hand. When East bid 5C freely over 4S, Huber cuebid and then bid 7C over 6S by the opponents. Berk, who had opened 2S, now judged correctly and made the "par" bid of 7S, holding the loss on the board to 3 IMPs. Good calls by both teams.



Kaplan-Brescoll used an interesting gimmick to reach slam on this board. The 2S rebid by North is "forcing". This is very logical, since it is rare to hold a hand that wants to correct 2H to 2S. This treatment eliminates the need for inventing a bid when one holds a good hand with no second suit, or with very dominant spades. This treatment should help to prevent getting too high opposite a weak distributional opener (or not high enough opposite a decent opener).

After 2S the bidding was natural, with cue-bids at the five level. Presumably, 5NT asked about second round controls. The 6D and 6H bids are unclear. If 6D is simply a further try, it seems clear for South to sign off in 6S.

The 7S contract is a poor spot (less than a 25% play). From an IMP standpoint, it is an even worse proposition given the result at the other table. If 7S is defeated, you lose 11 IMPS on a board where a simple 6S contract would win 11 MPs. 7S making gained only 3 extra IMPs. Essentially, N/S bet 22 IMPs against 3 IMPs on a one in four proposition. Of course, on this hand, the bridge gods were with the Kaplan team and they won 14 IMPs.

Alas, what happened at the other table? Multi backfired! South opened 2D showing a major suit weak two bid (3-9 HCP). I confess that I don't know the N/S methods for bidding constructively after the multi-2D opener. Typical methods involve starting with a 2NT response on most strong hands. In this case North apparently assumed his partner had a bad weak 2H bid, or concluded that he did not have the methods to explore for slam. So he signed off in 4S and made six after safety playing the spade suit.

In the U21 Final and the Rona Final, all four tables played in 4S or 5S.





A TRUE DOUBLE GAME SWING SOMETIMES DOUBLED

Board 25 produced a wild set of results. Both sides can make game. N/S is cold for 5D and E/W is cold for 4H.

In the U26 finals, North opened 3D at both tables.

Although 5H should be beaten, both N/S pairs took out insurance at favorable vulnerability. Kaplan-Brescoll played 5SX while Zhou-Wang, at the other table, played 6DX. Each pair was defeated one trick for a push board.

The U21 Finals, both Norths chose to pass in first seat. East opened 1H and both South hands bid 1S. After that, the auctions diverged. Berk-Soukup played 4SX making while Rosenberg-Kristensen played a calm 5D, losing 5 IMPs for playing in the better spot (Spades can be held to nine tricks).

In the U26 Playoff, Tebha opened 2D and N/S reached the solid 5D contract. At the other table, Hudson-Cavalier were allowed to play 4H on the E/W hands and took eleven tricks after a club lead.

The big swing occurred in the U21 playoff. Both tables began P-1H-4S. Snowden bid 5H on the West hand and Weingarten doubled 4S. Both contracts made and the Dhir team gained 15 IMPs.

By now you have probably noticed that all of the spade declarers took ten tricks. This is really incredible, since every West found the singleton diamond lead.

After winning the diamond, two declarers finessed the spade losing to West's king. Both Wests switched to a club. Zhu played the club queen and a club to his partner who then tried to cash a third club. Huber played the club eight to his partner's king and then played the queen under the ace. Logically, Kriegel, like his counterpart, thought a third club was cashing and returned a third club.

The Vugraph play was flawed in the Dhir-Weingarten match, but it appears that Jolly won the opening lead in hand and led a spade to the ten, which held. He ruffed a heart, played the ace of spades and claimed ten tricks. Nice deceptive play!

The key question is , "How does West get a diamond ruff?"

The answer is that West must be careful to "deny holding the club queen".

A possible sequence is to lead the jack of clubs. As the cards lie, partner will win the king of clubs and cash the ace. Now West plays the deuce as suit preference for diamonds. Leading the deuce first and then playing the jack would also deny the queen, but would be suit-preference for hearts.

WE BID FAREWELL TO FOUR TEAMS AND HAVE THREE MATCHES PLAYING TODAY.