

Volume 2, Issue 7
January 1, 2018

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been." - **Rainer Maria Rilke**

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals." - **Melody Beattie**

"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." - **Michael Altshuler**

"New Year's Day. A fresh start. A new chapter in life waiting to be written. New questions to be asked, embraced, and loved. Answers to be discovered and then lived in this transformative year of delight and self-discovery. Today carve out a quiet interlude for yourself in which to dream, pen in hand. Only dreams give birth to change." - **Sarah Ban Breathnach**

"Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'It will be happier.'"
- **Alfred Lord Tennyson**

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."
- **Benjamin Franklin**

"Today is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one." - **Brad Paisley**

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Happy New Year!



U16
Harrison Luba, Rory Xiao,
Michael Hu,
Arthur Zhou, Jonathan Yue



U26 USA1
Ben Kristensen, Adam Kaplan,
Zach Grossack, Christian Jolly,
Kevin Rosenberg, Oren Kriegel

**Congrats Team Dhir...
U26 USA2**

Picture on page 2

#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
2	Wei	147	33	24	45	45
3	Dhir	154	41	21	33	59

MICHAEL SEAMON JUNIOR UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

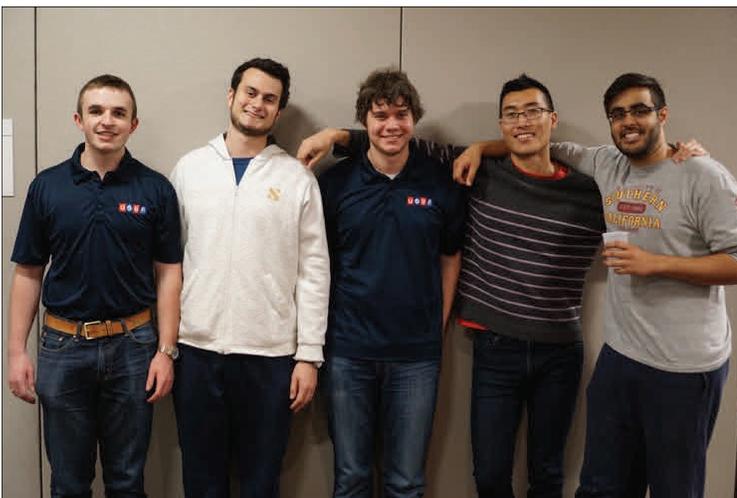
All Kidding Aside...



U21:
Sarah Youngquist, Keven Huang,
Richard Jeng, Brent Xiao,
Cornelius Duffie



Rona:
Sophia Chang, Lucy Zhang,
Isha Thapa, Amber Lin



U26 USA2:
Burke Snowden, Sam Amer,
Greg Herman, Will Zhu,
Arjun Dhir

Thanks...

The USBF wishes to thank all of those who made possible this hugely successful Michael Seamon Junior United States Bridge Championship. It is a wonderful tribute to Michael's memory and without your generous donations of money or time, it would be simply a pipe dream. 18 teams entered the events in Atlanta and that is a tribute to all of you.

Thanks to the direction of Jan Martel. Jan is the COO of the USBF and she is the key to the program at all levels... Senior, Junior, Open, and Women's.

Thanks to Michael Rosenberg for coordinating the Junior Training Program. It has grown annually under his direction. Most, if not all, of the participants in this venture have come out of that program. Thanks to Debbie Rosenberg for being "the woman behind the man" and offering her time and experience to coach when needed.

Thanks to the many mentors who have been giving their time on Sundays, Mondays, and/or Thursdays to teach, as well as play when needed, to encourage the juniors, and fill in for one another or for Michael when necessary.

Thanks to Joe Stokes for acting as Junior Committee Chairman of the USBF.

Thanks to the many parents and supporters who stepped up during this Championship to send photos and stories for this publication and the website. Special thanks to Bo Xiao and Sylvia Shi for their help.

Thanks to "Z" (Mackenzie Myers) for directing and managing the physical operation of the tournament. Z's great personality lends a good feeling to the tournament and keeps things running smoothly for all.

Thanks to Suzi Subeck for doing the Daily Bulletins remotely from Chicago. The Bulletins online give us a presence in World Bridge that we value.

Thanks to the many VuGraph operators who did a marvelous job bringing the tournament to our living rooms.

Thanks to the Commentators who spent time and energy explaining the auctions online. Special thanks to Al Hollander who does an amazing job on and off site for the USBF. Al's commentary is invaluable.

Thanks to the USBF Appeals Panel for standing by in case of need. This tournament, your service went unutilized (thankfully), but we appreciate your quick response time when we call.

If we have missed anyone, we apologize. Know that we could not function without all of the kindness and generosity that you have shown!



Meet the Players

Adam Kaplan, Captain of U26 USA1, lives in Stanford, CA, and is a senior at Stanford studying Psychology, and a Master's student in Management Science & Engineering.



He has been playing bridge since age 5, and has won 2 gold medals, 1 silver medal, and 2 bronze medals representing the USBF in junior competitions.

Outside of bridge and studying, he is a prolific traveler, and has visited over 75 countries.

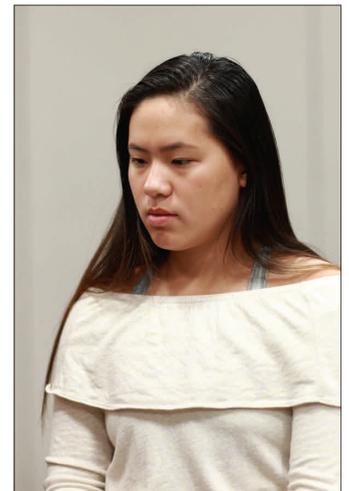
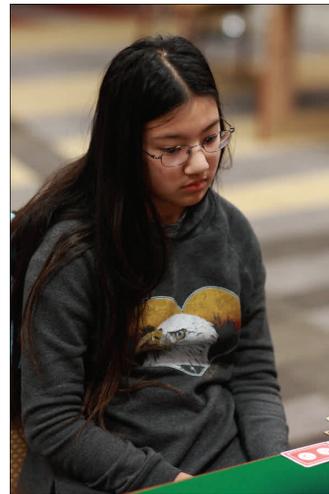
Swedish Junior Bridge Camp and Tournament...

March 28-April 1, 2018

The grandparents of one of our Juniors (Marley Cedrone) are going to be in Sweden in the spring and plan to take him to this event. For others who may be interested in attending, please go online to:

<http://www.eurobridge.org/events/2018-nordic-junior-pair-championship-junior-camp/>

The camp + tournament costs 3800 Swedish Kroners (about \$455), which includes room & board for 5 days as well as the cost of the camp and tournament.



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

Sudoku 1

Puns...

The number 10210 is too intense.
 I was caught studying the periodic table in English class. It was an elementary mistake.
 Finding all possible logical relations between a finite collection of sets is not a matter of If but Venn.
 If you see an improperly lowercased letter, you must capitalize on it.
 I stink at fractions. I'm not half as good as the class.
 What did the dry erase marker say to the blackboard? Nothing!
 Dry erase markers don't chalk.
 Retired teachers are classless.
 The hoarfrost that forms on a daycare center's windows is called nursery rime.
 Pre-schoolers are like black holes. They draw in everything around them.
 Finding area is an integral part of calculus.

Answers to Puzzles

Sudoku 2 Solution

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



Sudoku 2

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

Sudoku

Puzzle Page

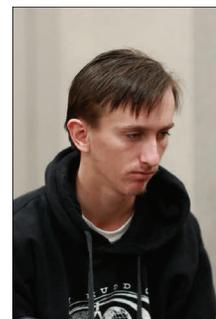
	All for One	Batters Up!	Fire Away!	On the Edge	Riley's Wish	Elizabeth	Larry	Mark	Samantha	Walter	3	4	4	5	5	47 hits	50 hits	52 hits	54 hits	61 hits	
1st place																					
2nd place																					
3rd place																					
4th place																					
5th place																					
47 hits																					
50 hits																					
52 hits																					
54 hits																					
61 hits																					
3																					
4																					
4																					
5																					
5																					
Elizabeth																					
Larry																					
Mark																					
Samantha																					
Walter																					



Millerstown had a marvelous idea – combine a winter festival with the New Year holiday. The funds raised would be used to update and expand the emergency care center of the town’s only hospital. The town enthusiastically supported this idea and turned out in droves for the event on New Year’s day. The day’s festivities included an ice sculpture art exhibit, ice skating on the town green, a cross country ski race, plenty of food, games for the kids, an auction of goods and services donated by local merchants and townspeople, and many other events and exhibits. The day’s highlight was the free-for-all snowball fight to win the “King of the Hill” trophy, which would be prominently displayed in the town hall front entrance with the names of the winning team engraved on it. Each team could have from three to five people. There were rules for when a team was out of the competition, mostly regarding how many snowball “hits” your team took, and the winning team was the last team left standing on the hilltop. Determine the placement of the last five teams, the name of each team, the name of each team’s Captain, how many members each team had, and how many snowball “hits” each team took before being called out. Note: The team placement does not go in consecutive order by the number of hits. The first place team does not have 47 hits, the second place team have 50 hits, etc.

- The two 4-member teams are Riley’s Wish and Elizabeth’s team. The 5th place team didn’t have Walter for a captain. The 4th place team had 61 hits.
- Mark’s team had less hits than On the Edge, but more hits than the 5th place team.
- All for One had 54 hits but was not the 2nd place team. Riley’s Wish was not the third place team.
- Samantha’s team and the 1st place team were two hits apart in score.
- Batters Up! won 1st place. The 5-member teams were the team with 47 hits and the 2nd place team. Larry was the captain for Fire Away!
- Samantha’s team, which wasn’t Riley’s Wish, did better than 4th place, but not as good as the 3-member team.

Team Placement	Name of Team	Team Captain	# of Members	Snowball "hits"
1st place	All for One	Elizabeth	3	47 hits
2nd place	Batters Up!	Larry	4	50 hits
3rd place	Fire Away!	Mark	4	52 hits
4th place	On the Edge	Samantha	5	54 hits
5th place	Riley's Wish	Walter	5	61 hits



Answer to Puzzle

5th place	Fire Away!	Larry	5	47 hits
4th place	Riley's Wish	Walter	4	61 hits
2nd place	On the Edge	Samantha	5	52 hits
1st place	Batters Up!	Mark	3	50 hits
3rd place	All for One	Elizabeth	4	54 hits
Team Placement	Name of Team	Team Captain	# of Members	Snowball "hits"

Clinching U26 USA1:

Open Room Board 3 D Kaplan: 183 IMPs Wei: 155 IMPs	N KRosenberg ♠ 9 ♥ A1092 ♦ 10843 ♣ 10832	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1NT	Dbl	1♠	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass			
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Pass	1NT	Dbl	1♠																							
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass																							
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass																							
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass																							
Pass																										
W Wei ♠ Q7643 ♥ J73 ♦ 762 ♣ J9 Closed Room: 2♣x S -1 -100	S Kristensen ♠ AKJ82 ♥ 54 ♦ K5 ♣ Q764	E C Liu ♠ 105 ♥ KQ86 ♦ AQJ9 ♣ AK5 <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="4">Closed Room</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Grossack</th> <th>Si</th> <th>Kriegel</th> <th>Fan</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Closed Room				Grossack	Si	Kriegel	Fan				1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	2♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass		
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Pass	Pass																									

In Segment 7 of the U26 USA1 Final, the final segment a 14 IMP swing for the winners.

In the Open Room, Rosenberg responded to Kristensen's 1S opening. It is often tactically wise to respond... even light... in IMPs... when your opponents are vulnerable. It may keep them out of a making game (not material on this hand) but worth the mention.

Liu got aggressive when he doubled, then cue bid, then raised his partner's minimum responses to game.

Rosenberg had great spot cards, an ace and a partner who opened the bidding. He did not see hope for a successful 3NT by his opponents so he doubled for what could be a big plus score.

The C3 was ducked to the queen and a club was continued. The H6 was led to the jack and ace and another club followed. The king and queen of hearts were played. Lacking entries to hand to try the diamond finesse, the DA was cashed. The DQ went to South's king. Kristensen cashed his spade ace and king. He led the C6 to Rosenberg's ten ten. Rosenberg cashed his HT and the contract was down three.

Declarer could have saved a trick by not cashing the HQ, and instead, driving out the DK. The opponents can cash a club on which declarer pitches a spade. North can exit with the HT. Declarer will cash his red winners and play a spade, eventually scoring a spade when South gets endplayed. In the alternative, South can cash his spades before playing a club to partner, but that will squeeze North in the red suits, and now declarer will score five red tricks and the club ace, king.

In the Closed Room, Si passed his partner's opening bid. Kriegel balanced with double; Fan bid 2C. Kriegel balanced with a second double. Grossack had nothing to say. His opponents weren't vulnerable so even if this made, it was only 180.

Grossack led the H3 and Fan won the ace in dummy. Fan played the S9 to his SA and continued with the SK pitching a diamond from dummy. A small spade was ruffed with dummy's deuce and overruffed with Kriegel's five. East/West ultimately scored six tricks... three clubs and one trick in each of the other suits.

South could have saved a trick by not cashing the SK and instead, trumping a low spade at trick three scoring +180.

Still, the best that could have happened for Wei was a loss of 320 or 8 IMPs to Kaplan.

Closed Room Board 30	N Amer ♠ K972 ♥ J4 ♦ 52 ♣ 87643	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South			2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♥	Pass	5NT	Pass	6♠	Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
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5NT	Pass	6♠	Pass																															
7♦	Pass	Pass	Pass																															
W Wei ♠ J1084 ♥ AK982 ♦ Q7 ♣ J2 Open Room: 6NT E +1 +1020	S Herman ♠ 65 ♥ Q10763 ♦ 963 ♣ 1095	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South			2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass	6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass												
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6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass																															

The USA2 Final had an exciting finish.

With one board to go, the Wei team had a seven IMP lead (see above).

Unfortunately for them, Wei and Liu believed they were losing the match because of several earlier poor-looking results. They had defended 7NT doubled with a cashing ace but didn't find it on the lead and were minus1790.

Two boards later Wei and Liu bid 7S on a finesse which lost...

And on the very next board, they were defeated in 3NT on a bad guess with nine tricks available.

It looked like they had lost 40 IMPs on those 3 boards. Indeed they had, but they didn't know most of those IMPs were recovered when the opponents at the other table had bad results on 3 different boards.

Given this scenario, Wei and Liu took a reasonable gamble when they bid 7D on board 30. The simple play of taking the spade finesse will make the contract. Wei noticed that there was an alternative. If South held five hearts and the SK, he would be squeezed in the majors.

After a trump lead, Wei played off his nine minor suit winners and led a heart to his ace and king. Since North had discarded a heart on the CQ, he showed out on the second round of hearts. Wei knew that North had two spades and South had one spade and the HQ. Wei led the SJ and when North played small, he went up ace, hoping that the squeeze had worked. Note that the odds favor taking the spade finesse since North held four spades and South only held two... Of course when the squeeze works, it feels so good.

Besides the 4-2 odds in favor of the finesse on this hand, Wei should have remembered the earlier hand where the finesse lost and tried for another on the theory that one out of two finesses should work! LOL

Happy New Year Everyone! Safe trips home from the Championships to all!