



Volume 2, Issue 7
June 4, 2016

Be Aware ...

WBF Systems Policy – Appendix 4: Psychic Bidding - (Adopted 7/1995, revised 8/2002)

Psychic Calls and similar actions based upon partnership understandings. The Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge 1997 permit a player to make a psychic call “provided that such call is not based upon a partnership understanding”. If a call is based upon a partnership understanding it ceases to be psychic. In its minutes of 30th August, 2000 the WBF Laws Committee ruled that a partnership understanding exists when the frequency of occurrence is sufficient for the partner of the player who makes the call to take his awareness of psychic possibilities into account, whether he does so or not; or, of course, it may be a matter explicitly agreed. There are also relevant statements in the WBF Code of Practice. Such an understanding must be disclosed beforehand.

The understandings in question are to be disclosed in World Championships and other tournaments conducted under the auspices of the WBF in accordance with the following requirements:

1. Explicit agreements that psychic calls are expected, or providing systemic protection for them, are classified as Brown Sticker. One example of the kind is when, third in hand at favorable vulnerability, a player is expected to open the bidding on anything at all.
2. Understandings whereby from time to time there may be gross violations of the normal meanings of calls, and where the nature or type of violation can be anticipated, must also be disclosed on the convention cards. The understandings may be explicitly agreed or they may have developed from partnership experience or mutually shared knowledge not available to opponents. They must be listed on the card amongst the conventions that may call for special defense and the supplementary sheets must give full detail of situations in which these violations may occur and of the relevant partnership practices and expectations. Subject to satisfactory disclosure methods of this kind are permissible in any category of event.
3. It continues to be the case that random psychics may occur as the laws allow, without warning, so long as these can no more be anticipated by the partner than by the opponents.
4. Similar principles apply in the case of psychic actions in defenders’ play of the cards.

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Halfway Through the Final...

“Miss” Print!!

#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
1	Baker	116	34	19	31	32
2	Palmer	175	27	46	31	71

Women's Teams: Listed in Quarterfinal Bracket Position Order



Baker Bye to SemiFinals	Lynn Baker Kerri Sanborn JoAnna Stansby Cenk Tuncok, NPC	Karen McCallum Irina Levitina Pam Granovetter
Wittes	Pamela Wittes Cheri Bjerkan Linda Lewis	Ljudmila Kamenova ----- Hjordis Eythorsdottir
Palmer	Beth Palmer, Capt Lynn Deas Tobi Sokolow	Sylvia Shi Juanita Chambers Janice Seamon-Molson
Weingold	Joanne Weingold Jill Meyers Kathleen Sulgrove	Shannon Cappelletti Jan Assini Debbie Rosenberg
OSMO	Mary Ose, Capt Ginny Curtis Joanne Merry	Teri Smoot Katherine Ewing Prudence Saunders

Meet the Players...



Inducted into the ACBL's Hall of Fame in 2007, Kerri is a seven-time world champion. She has won at least one World Championship in each of four consecutive decades, a record of "longevity at the top" equaled only by Bob Hamman. (Indeed, one wonders if anyone in any competitive endeavor outside of bridge has, or could, come close to that record of sustained excellence.)

Although (because?) her parents played bridge, Kerri swore she never would. But, she finally succumbed during her sophomore year at Miami University in Ohio, and played her first local duplicate with her father. She soon moved to California, where she credits many experts for helping her during her early years as a player: Mike Shuman, Harold Guiver, Mike Smolen, Hermine Baron, Harold Kandler, Rhoda Walsh, and, most significantly, Barry Crane.

Kerri's first victory at the world level was the 1978 Mixed Pairs in which she and Barry Crane bested a world-class field by an astonishing margin of 5 boards. During her highly successful 14-year partnership with Barry, she was responsible for buying his coffee (2/3 of a cup, black) and filling out the convention card, while he handled the travel arrangements. Kerri's five subsequent world championships were won in partnership with Karen McCallum (1989, 1990, 1993) and Irina Levitina (2002, 2006). Her most recent world championship was a repeat Mixed Pairs win, this time with Jie "Jack" Zhao.

A full-time player beginning in the early 1970s, Kerri changed careers in 1988 when she began trading options full-time on the floor of the American Stock Exchange. She retired in 2001. An avid golfer, Kerri lives in Delray Beach, FL, with her husband, Steve, and brother-and-sister cats Boomer and Brooke.

Tournament Schedule



QUARTERFINAL			
DAY	DATE	TIME	BOARDS
MONDAY	MAY 30	10:15 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
MONDAY MATCH 1	MAY 30	10:30 - 12:40 12:55 - 3:05 4:15 - 6:25 6:40 - 8:50	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
TUESDAY MATCH 2	MAY 31	10:30 - 12:40 12:55 - 3:05 4:15 - 6:25 6:40 - 8:50	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
SEMI-FINAL			
WEDNESDAY	JUNE 1	10:15 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
WEDNESDAY	JUNE 1	10:30 - 12:40 12:55 - 3:05 4:15 - 6:25 6:40 - 8:50	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
THURSDAY	JUNE 2	10:30 - 12:40 12:55 - 3:05 4:15 - 6:25 6:40 - 8:50	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
FINAL			
FRIDAY	JUNE 3	10:30 - 12:40 12:55 - 3:05 4:15 - 6:25 6:40 - 8:50	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
SATURDAY	JUNE 4	10:30 - 12:40 12:55 - 3:05 4:15 - 6:25 6:40 - 8:50	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30



Hospitality Suite ...

The hospitality suite for the 2016 Women's USBC is Suite 4019 in the Folsom Wing. Players, volunteers, kibitzers, friends and supporters are welcome in the Hospitality Suite during the tournament. Please join hostesses Martha Katz and Chris Benson for:

Breakfast each day from 8:00-11:00 am.

Lunch each day from 2:30-4:30 pm.

The Hospitality Suite will be open for Vugraph, casual chit chat, drinks & snacks during the rest of the playing hours and for a short while after the end of the second session of play.

All About Kibitzing

You will be able to kibitz at any of the tables during this event. However, you will be subject to the following regulations:

Kibitzers may enter the room ONLY at the start of play for a segment. Once play has started, the room will be closed.

A kibitzer who leaves the room may not return until the start of the next session.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in the playing rooms, even if they are turned off. Any kibitzer who is found with a cell phone will be evicted and not allowed to kibitz during the remainder of the tournament.

When a match is being shown on BBO Vugraph, no kibitzer may sit on the same side of the table as the Vugraph operator.

SCREENS

All of the Women's USBC is played with screens. If you've never kibitzed at a table with screens before, you need to know that it is quite different from kibitzing at a regular table. You need to be seated at an "open" corner of the table (not next to the screen) in order to see much, and once there are 4 kibitzers at a table it will be very hard for additional kibitzers to see.

USBF KIBITZING RULES

The USBF General Conditions of Contest contain specific rules about kibitzers. They are designed to promote security at the tournament and are set forth in the conditions of contest section labeled "Security." They are:

a. During any use of duplicated boards across multiple matches, Kibitzers must select one table for kibitzing and may not move to any other table during a session or segment.

b. Kibitzers may not speak with players, must watch only one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see more than one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see a computer screen in use for Internet broadcast, must check communication devices with the Director, cannot call attention to irregularities other than a board being placed incorrectly on the table (arrow positioning), but may serve as witnesses to a possible irregularity.

c. Kibitzers must enter the playing room before play commences. Kibitzers are required to remain until the segment of play is completed at the table they are watching or to leave the playing area entirely. Kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).

d. Except as expressly provided in these conditions and appendices, NPC's shall be subject to the WBF General Conditions, Section 17.

e. No one other than the Internet broadcast personnel and Tournament Directors may watch any computer screen or any other mechanism for enabling the Internet broadcast at any time in either the Closed or the Open Room.

f. These rules may be revised in specific instances by the DICs for the orderly running of the event.

Kibitzing



Team Seeding Points

The teams in the Women's USBC are seeded based on ACBL Performance Points, including masterpoints (aka Wagar seeding points). The seeding points for an individual player are capped at 50. Teams are seeded based on the average seeding points for the team, except that the team with a bye to the Semifinal is seeded first. The teams and their seed positions are listed in the table below. To see information about each player's seeding points, download the **PDF Spreadsheet of 2016 Women's USBC Seeding Points** at the USBF site. If you want to see the ACBL information (masterpoints and ACBL Positioning Points) for players on each of the teams, you can **email Jan** to get a text document with detailed information for each player on each team.

Teams may add or drop players before the USBC, which would change the seeding points.



<i>SEED</i>	<i>TEAM NAME</i>	<i>TEAM AVERAGE SEEDING POINTS</i>
1	Baker	Bye
2	Wittes	39.93
3	Palmer	37.22
4	Weingold	25.92
5	OSMO	2.98

Vugraph Information

The 2016 Women's USBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting with the Quarterfinals. We hope to cover all tables in play in the event. To watch the Vugraph online, go to the BBO website where you can log on directly from your browser, go to "Vugraph" and choose which table to watch, or download the BBO software to run BBO on your computer.

If you choose the latter approach, after downloading, install the software on your computer, log on, follow the directions to become a BBO member and you'll be magically transported to the Lobby of the largest bridge club in the world. Click on the button labeled VUGRAPH and you'll be able to choose which of the matches you want to watch.

There will often be a "yellow" user on BBO called USBF. If you have general questions, please ask USBF, not one of the hard-working Vugraph Operators, who may not have time to respond to private messages. Thank you.

The schedule for each day (60 boards a day) is the same (these are California times; to see the times for your time-zone, go to the BBO Vugraph schedule site:

10:30 - 12:40: Segment 1; 12:55 - 3:05: Segment 2; 4:15 - 6:25:

Segment 3; 6:40 - 8:50: Segment 4

Segments 2 and 4 may start a little earlier or later than they are scheduled depending on when segments 1 and 3 end.

All of the teams will play the same boards. For security reasons, if one match is sufficiently behind that we have to start it later than the other one, we will not start the Vugraph broadcast until both matches have started play.

After a session, you can review the Vugraph action on our Web Vugraphs, which show each hand played with a link to bidding and play records. If you are going to be in Sacramento during the Women's USBC and want to volunteer to help as a Vugraph operator, please email Jan.

Hints for BBO viewers

Useful information is available to browser BBO users

- * click on the name of the table/event name will provide a pop-up that:
 - * displays the BBO Schedule for the specific vugraph event – calculated for the time zone of the viewer's electronic device
 - * has a link to the home page for event
- click on a player name will usually provide a pop-up that
 - * displays a picture of the player
 - * shows links to System Summary Forms (SSFs), Convention Cards (CCs), and biographical information



Upcoming Senior USBC Information

LOCATION AND DATES

The 2016 Senior USBC will be held at the **Grand Hyatt, Denver, CO**, starting on Friday, June 17th and ending on Wednesday, June 22nd. Room rate for the Senior USBC is \$169 per night, including internet. You can make a reservation at the USBF **online reservation page** or by calling the hotel at (303) 295-1234 and mentioning USBF. **NOTE:** The hotel is fully booked on June 20, 21, and 22. The hotel has assured me that when those of you who made reservations for the last few days lose and check out, they will extend the reservations of those of you who are still playing. So please just reserve through 6/20 and we will work out the remaining days if you are still playing. If you have any problems with hotel reservations, **email Jan** and she will try to straighten things out. **The cut-off date to make reservations at our rate is Friday, May 20th.**

AIRPORT RAIL OPEN

The train goes from the airport to downtown Union Station, which is about 12 blocks from the Grand Hyatt. Cost is \$9 each way.

ENTRY INFORMATION

Entries are now open and will close at midnight EDT on May 23, 2016; additional entries will be accepted through June 3, but only if those additional teams will improve the format of the event. Any team that is reduced to fewer than 4 players because team members have qualified to represent the USBF in the Women's Teams in Wroclaw can withdraw its entry to the Senior USBC and receive a full refund of the entry fee.

FORMAT

The Senior USBC will last for 6 days.

The first stage will be a 1.5 day Round Robin. The top 8 teams will qualify for the Quarterfinal. The event will continue with 1.5 day KO matches for the Quarterfinal, Semi-Final & Final.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, May 20: Final day to submit Advance Submission Forms if you are playing a Super Chart method.

Friday, June 3: Final day to submit System Summary Form & ACBL Convention card. Penalty for late submission of the SSF is loss of seating rights in one segment of the team's first KO match per day that the form is late.

Friday, May 20: Last day to make hotel reservations and be assured of receiving our hotel rate. The hotel may honor the rate for later reservations, but is not required to do so.

Wednesday, June 15: Last day for roster changes without Credentials Committee approval.

**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.



The husband had just finished reading the book 'Man of the House.'

He stormed into the kitchen and walked directly up to his wife, pointing a finger in her face, he said, 'From now on I want you to know that I am the man of the house and my word is law. I want you to prepare me a gourmet meal tonight, and when I'm finished eating my meal, I expect a scrumptious dessert. Then, after dinner, you are going to draw me my bath so I can relax.

And when I'm finished with my bath, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair?

"The funeral director?"



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

**Answers to Puzzle
No Peeking!**

Giant Sudoku

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

Puzzle Page ...

Puzzle Details:

During a recent plane and train spotting contest, five eager entrants were lined up ready to be tested on their spotting ability. They had each spotted a number of planes (26, 86, 123, 174, 250) and a number of trains (5, 42, 45, 98, 105). From the clues below, can you determine what colour anorak each was wearing, their position, their age (21, 23, 31, 36, 40) and the number of trains and planes spotted?

1. Simon spotted 44 fewer trains than planes.
2. Keith was 36 years old.
3. The person on the far right was 8 years younger than Simon, and spotted 174 planes.
4. James was wearing a beige anorak and spotted 37 trains fewer than Simon.
5. The person who was wearing a green anorak, was 19 years younger than the person to the left of him.
6. Steven spotted 105 trains and 250 planes.
7. The person in the centre was 31 years old, was wearing a blue anorak and spotted 42 trains.
8. Alan, who was on the far left, spotted 26 planes, and spotted 72 trains more than planes.
9. The person who was wearing a red anorak, was 4 years older than Keith and was not next to the person wearing a blue anorak.
10. The person who was next to the 31 year old but not next to the person who spotted 26 planes, was wearing an orange anorak, and spotted 45 trains.



**Game
Faces**

Answer: No Peeking!

#	Name	Anorak	Age	Planes	Trains
1	Alan	red	40	26	98
2	Steven	green	21	250	105
3	Simon	blue	31	86	42
4	Keith	orange	36	123	45
5	James	beige	23	174	5

2016 Mixed USBC

In 2016, the [World Bridge Games](#) , to be held in Wroclaw, Poland from September 3 through September 17th, will include a Mixed Teams event. USBF will hold a hybrid online & face-to-face selection event, the 2016 Mixed United States Bridge Championship. The USBF Tournament Committee is working on the details of the competition, but what we expect is that it will be in 3 stages:

1. An online Swiss Teams event to be held on BBO on Saturday & Sunday, July 9 & 10, 2016. Any USBF member who has paid dues for 2016 may enter this event. The exact format will be determined by the number of teams. Each player will be required to provide a monitor, who will sign a statement that the player did not communicate with anyone during play and did not have any window other than the BBO playing window open during play.
2. Online Knockout Rounds of 16 and 8 on BBO on Saturday & Sunday, July 16 & 17 (teams in the Round of 16 may arrange to play their match earlier than July 16). The top 16 teams from the Swiss stage will participate, and they will be seeded in the order of finish in the Swiss. Each match will probably be 64 boards long, but that has still to be finally determined. Each player will be required to have a monitor, who will have to be approved in advance and may have to be an ACBL certified director. The monitor will sign a statement that the player did not communicate with anyone during play and did not have any window other than the BBO playing window open during play. Arrangements may be made for multiple players to compete at a local bridge club.
3. Face to face Semi-Final and Final matches to be played in Washington, DC on Aug. 1-3 (the three days after the Summer NABC). These matches will be 90 boards long. We hope to arrange space for this stage of play at the NABC tournament hotel, but are still working on that.

ENTRY INFORMATION

Entries are now open and will close on June 27th, 2016; additional entries will be accepted after June 27th, but only if those additional teams will improve the format of the event.

ENTRY FEES

Entry fees for this event will be lower than for the Open, Senior & Women's events, because USBF costs will be lower. The tournament committee has not yet determined the exact entry fees. Best guess right now is that there will be an event entry fee of \$240 per team, and no additional fees until the Semi-Final. Players will, however, be required to compensate their monitors and to pay any fees that local bridge clubs may charge if they play at a local club. Session fees for the Semi-Final and Final will be the same as for other USBF events - \$150 per team per session, so \$450 for each stage.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Please [email Jan](#) if you have any suggestions, comments or questions about this event.

I'd tell you a chemistry joke but I know I wouldn't get a reaction.
The other day I held the door open for a clown. I thought it was a nice jester.
I was going to tell you a joke about infinity, but it didn't have an ending!
The tale of the haunted refrigerator was chilling.
I've always pictured myself taking selfies.
I'm reading a book about mazes, I got lost in it.
I had a hand in the puppet show.
I had plans to begin reading a book about sinkholes but they fell through.



Board 6
 Segment 3 ♠ 5
 Dealer: E ♥ 963
 E/W Vul. ♦ K63
 ♣ KQJ532

♠ AKQ943 ♠ J872
 ♥ 4 ♥ T75
 ♦ AQ75 ♦ JT982
 ♣ T8 ♣ 7

♠ T6
 ♥ AKQJ82
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A964

West	North	East	South
Deas	Levitina	Chambers	Sanborn
		Pass	1H
1S	2C	2S	4H
4S	5H	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

Baker	Sokolow	McCallum	Molson
		Pass	1H
1S	2S	Pass	3C
3S	4C	4S	4NT
Pass	5D	5S	Double
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, Deas cashed the SA and the DA and led a small diamond. Levitina flashed her king and claimed 11 tricks. +650

In the Open Room, the commentators and the audience thought that Baker/McCallum had found par! They were impressed by the Vul vs. Not sacrifice... however, they did not allow for what was about to happen... Sokolow led the H9 to Molson's jack. Molson switched to her singleton diamond. Baker DUCKED! In sympathy, had it worked she would have made the hand; in reality, however, Sokolow won her king, gave Molson a ruff; Molson underled her CA; Another diamond ruff... and when the smoke cleared, Molson/Sokolow scored +800 for a 4 IMP gain for Palmer. 4 IMPs sounds small, but had Baker flown with the DA, she would have gone down one for -200 and 10 IMPs to Baker... the swing was really 14!

Board 20
 Dealer: W
 All Vul.

♠ A6
 ♥ KJT85
 ♦ 732
 ♣ KO6

♠ KJ9753 ♠ Q84
 ♥ Q963 ♥ 7
 ♦ 4 ♦ KJ986
 ♣ T7 ♣ A984

♠ T2
 ♥ A42
 ♦ AQT5
 ♣ J532

Granovetter	Palmer	Stansby	Shi
Pass	1H	Pass	1NT
Pass	2C	Pass	3H
Pass	4H	All Pass	

Deas	Levitina	Chambers	Sanborn
2S	3H	4S	5H
All Pass			

In the Open Room where Palmer was declarer, the opponents stayed out of the auction. Palmer had no information to mislead her. Stansby led the S4; Palmer won the ace and took the "normal" play in hearts. She led a low heart to the ace and finessed the jack. When that held, Palmer hooked the DT. Another heart to the queen and king was followed by the HT pulling the last trump. The ace of clubs was knocked out. Stansby had tossed her losing spades on the run of the hearts and with no spades to

lead, led the DJ to the Q, S3, D2. Declarer was home with twelve tricks.

In the Closed Room, Deas opened 2S. Levitina, declarer in 5H, could have collected 11 tricks finessing the HQ through West and the diamonds through East on Palmer's line. She, however, had just enough info to place doubt in her mind. What were the odds that the preempter held four hearts with her six spades? Thinking it unlikely, she won the spade lead and immediately ran the HJ to Deas's queen. Sad for Levitina, she knew too much. The opponents took their spade trick and their club ace. Down one... 13 IMPs to Palmer.

Board 18
Dealer: E
N/S Vul.

♠ AK92
♥ AKJT
♦ K5
♣ A73

♠ Q873
♥ 74
♦ AJ9764
♣ 6



♠ JT654
♥ 9863
♦ 2
♣ QT5

♠
♥ Q52
♦ QT83
♣ KJ9842

West	North	East	South
Granovetter	Palmer	Stansby	Shi
		Pass	Pass
2D	Double	Pass	2NT (Lebensohl)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	
Deas	Levitina	Chambers	Sanborn
		Pass	Pass
3D	Double	Pass	5C
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

Diamonds are a girl's best friend! Diamond preempts generated big swings on boards 18 and 19. On Board 18, in the Open Room, Granovetter opened 2D with the West hand, Palmer doubled and Shi took a very dim view of her hand when she bid a Lebensohl 2NT, holding 8 HCP, a six card suit and a void. Palmer tried to show her big hand by refusing the relay to 3C and instead bidding 3NT. Shi did well not to just jump to 6C, which will be defeated by the diamond ruff. Unfortunately, she still didn't like her hand and passed 3NT. A low diamond was led and Shi took all 13 tricks.

Meantime, in the Closed Room, Deas opened an aggressive 3D on the West hand, Levitina doubled and Sanborn jumped to 5C with the South cards. With 22 HCP, Levitina had no problem jumping to 6NT. Since West had preempted, Levitina played East for the club queen to make her slam. 13 IMPs to Baker.

Board 19
Dealer: S
E/W Vul.

♠ QJT8
♥ A9875
♦ K84
♣ 8

♠ 62
♥ 2
♦ Q62
♣ AJT9643



♠ AK9543
♥ KQT3
♦ 3
♣ KQ

♠ 7
♥ J64
♦ AJT975
♣ 752

Deas	Levitina	Chambers	Sanborn
			2D
Pass	3D	Double	Pass
5C	All Pass		
Granovetter	Palmer	Stansby	Shi
			3D
Pass	4D	4S	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

On the very next board, in the Closed Room, Sanborn opened 2D on the South hand, Levitina raised to 3D and Chambers doubled with the West cards. Deas jumped to 5C on her good seven card suit. Levitina led the DK and a second diamond. Chambers trumped in dummy and led the HK to set up a pitch if needed. Levitina continued diamonds. Deas ruffed in dummy and claimed.

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In the other room, Shi decided to open 3D on her good six card suit. Palmer raised to 4D and Stansby was trapped. She bid the obvious 4S and Palmer doubled. With a doubleton spade, Granovetter had no reason to run. The defense was fierce. A club was led. Stansby won and played the AK of spades, followed by a second club. Palmer ruffed and played a diamond to Shi's ace. The jack of diamonds followed. Stansby ruffed and tried the HK. Palmer won and played the DK on which Stansby pitched a heart, playing Palmer to be end-played in hearts. Palmer led a heart which was finessed to Shi's Jack. Down three for 800 and 16 IMPs to the Palmer team.

Note that Stansby does best to play a spade at trick four. Now Palmer must lead a diamond to Shi's ace and Shi must play a club to cut-off dummy. Palmer will be poorly placed. She can play a low heart and Stansby can win the king and follow with the queen. If she guesses the HJ she is out for 500. Of course this saves but 1 IMP!

Three Israelis say they've broken the full Fisher-Schwartz code by Hanan Sher

(posted on FB shared by Glen Eisenstein)

This article appeared in Haaretz, Israel's most respected daily newspaper. The link won't work, because it's in a restricted section, so it is copied and pasted below.

Three Israeli experts, an investigator and two professional bridge players, believe they have finally cracked the system allegedly used by Israeli bridge stars Lotan Fisher and Ron Schwartz, who were suspended for cheating last year by the European Bridge League. The Israeli pair was suspended for five years, received a hefty fine and were prohibited from playing together in the future.

Fisher and Schwartz have been the rising stars of international bridge for the past six years, winning the world championship, the European championship and the North American championship. But all that came to an end last year, when Norwegian player Boye Brogeland accused the two of cheating and appealed to the global bridge community around the world to help him discover their system.

In the world of bridge, it was a real earthquake. The Israeli pair strenuously deny the allegations. But they have lived under a heavy pall since their suspension, with the bridge world, Israel included, speculating feverishly about the method they used to cheat. A bridge player is allowed to transmit information to his partner, but under severe restrictions. At first this is done with specific declaration cards and after that with the playing cards themselves. That way the signals are seen by everyone. Any other way of passing information is considered cheating, which is neither new nor rare in bridge. To prevent it, the opposing pairs are separated by a wooden partition above and below the table. There is an opening in it through which a bidding tray is passed, to prevent passing information between players. The cards are held in four separate pockets of a board, which is placed on the tray.

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In September 2015, the Swedish player Per-Ola Cullin suggested that the Israeli pair communicates by positioning the board in a specific way immediately after the bidding process. When defending a hand, the player making the lead bid would place the board at a certain spot on the table to signal to his partner which suit was his strongest – diamonds in the middle, hearts up and to the right, clubs close to his own hand and spades on the far side of the screen. But this theory only explains 95 percent of cases, and since there is only a small sample of relevant hands the theory has been disputed. Lotan and Schwartz deny the cheating charges and are fighting to prove their innocence in lectures and on a Facebook page they opened for the purpose. They have recruited bridge players and scientists, including some from the Weizmann Institute and the European Organization for Nuclear Research, who testified on their behalf, both in terms of the game and on its statistical aspects.

The three Israeli experts who now believe they have cracked the system are Dr. Netzer Zeidenberg, a lecturer in computer sciences at the College of Management Academic Studies, Israel's 2003 bridge champion Amir Levin and another professional bridge player who has not divulged his name. The three, who have spent many hours watching Fisher and Schwartz play, are convinced they've figured how the system works. "We looked at dozens, maybe hundreds, of hours of video recordings," said Zeidenberg, adding that it wasn't much fun. "We watched four fat men playing, without being able to see the cards in the recording. We were only trying to uncover the alleged cheating." "There was no unambiguous scientific proof beyond reasonable doubt," Zeidenberg said of Cullin's theory regarding the positioning of the board. "There were certain hands in which the theory was quite problematic. It was contrary to their cards." "The people who developed the theory were aware of this and they tried to explain it by saying that the player made a mistake in his signaling, after which he immediately corrected himself."

Zeidenberg and his colleagues agree with Cullin that the positioning of the board is the method used by Lotan and Schwartz to pass signals. But what they realized, he says, is that the position of the board does not relate to the player himself but to compass absolutes. "You have the four directions – north, south, east, west – and if you want a certain color you push the board to the north," he says. "If you're sitting in one position that might be away from you, and if you're sitting in another position it might be closer to you. Essentially, the partners' signs are opposites. Lotan signals clubs when the board is close to him and Ron signals clubs when the board is far from him." "When you look at the signs as absolutes, suddenly all the things that were in doubt disappear, and suddenly there are no strange hands," says Zeidenberg.

Levin says that the theory is 100 percent accurate. "We saw that this theory also held true in other competitions," he says. You see the theory holding water in a whole number of places, and in a number of different leagues. We examined 15 video recording and we ascertained that the signs are repeated. The Europeans only complained about four." Support for their theory was also supplied by two other leading players who were not in the investigative team but examined the findings.

Asked about Zeidenberg and Levin's research, the Israel Bridge Association said it could not comment due to ongoing proceedings on the matter.

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Fisher and Schwartz provided this response: “We are innocent of any crime and we will fight for our innocence. We already successfully passed a polygraph that proved that we are innocent.” “The result of the proceeding in Switzerland is surprising and very disappointing. From the hearing, it was apparent that there is no agreement whatsoever about the bridge moves for which we were being investigated; that there are more cases that contradicted the theories raised against us than cases that support them.” “In the opinion of an independent international expert, Prof. Eilam Gross, the database is so small that it cannot be used to prove anything. Moreover, the decision that was issued did not include any explanations. Once we do receive the detailed explanations, we will of course appeal the decision.

“We wish to point out that we are being tried by three different panels (in Israel, Europe and the United States) and being accused of four supposed signaling methods, each of which contradicts the other. The fact that our rivals and their ‘experts’ keep coming up with more and more ‘cheating theories’ from the same data and competitions, while we have been presenting proof that the original theory is false, just goes to prove our claim – that there is no code. That there is no cheating.

“There was never any cheating on our part. Interested parties made a premature judgment that sealed our fate and are now trying to prove it in any way possible. The accusations against us are not just false, and often contradictory, but also motivated by certain interests and written with the clear aim of getting rid of us as competitors. We will not give up. The truth will win out in the end.”

