



Volume 2, Issue 8
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**Thanks to the Workers Who Made This
Tournament Possible...
from Howie Weinstein, USBF President**

Thanks to all the great volunteers who made this Women's Championship possible.

Thanks to Jan Martel for her amazing organizational skill. Without Jan, none of our Trials would be possible. Besides running the show, Jan arranges and manages the VuGraph proceedings which benefit everyone!

Thanks to Martha Katz and Chris Benson for handling the hospitality. The breakfasts and lunches have been delicious.

Thanks to Jeanne van den Meiracker for her excellent directing skill. The tournament has moved along on schedule and that makes everyone happy.

Thanks to Suzi Subeck for producing the newsletters. The puzzles, one-liners, news and hand analysis have made for great reading.

See you at the Seniors!!

**Congratulations
Team Palmer!
Great Performance!**

#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	SET #5	SET #6	SET #7	SET #8
1	Baker	267	34	19	31	32	26	46	45	34
2	Palmer	301	27	46	31	71	45	30	35	16

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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

Novice pirates make terrible singers because they can't hit the high seas.

Did you hear about the crime that happened in a parking garage? It was wrong on so many levels.

Why was the ink drop sad? Because her dad was in the pen and she didn't know how long the sentence would be!

They won't know who robbed the Scotch factory until they check the tape.

A man stole a case of soap from the corner store. The police said he made a clean getaway.

Obituaries of those hanged in the old west used to be posted in the noose paper.

How did Mister Nucleus escape from prison? Through the cell wall.

The nudist was acquitted of indecent exposure because nobody could pin the wrap on her.

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.



I was struggling to figure out how lightning works then it struck me.

A rule of grammar: double negatives are a no-no.

I'm bad at math, so the equation $2n+2n$ is $4n$ to me.

I used to hate math but then I realized decimals have a point.

My student was late for class, claiming he was in the washroom. I think he was stalling.



Puzzle Page ...

Puzzle Details:

Four friends were competing in the internationally renowned Brain Bashers Bog Snorkeling competition. As usual, the judges were a little careless and once again, they managed to lose the results. Luckily, a number of spectators were able to remember the following snippets of information:

Only one person wore the same number as the position they finished.

Gary, who didn't wear green, beat Barry.

Larry beat the person who wore yellow.

The person who wore number 3, wore green.

The person who wore number 2 finished first whereas Harry came last.

The person who finished second wore green, Barry wore yellow and the person wearing red beat the person wearing blue.

Can you work out who finished where, the number and color they wore?

The artist's favorite swimming technique was the brushstroke.

A pun spun with a good yarn gets fabricated!

The electrician worked hard to get in shape so he could perform with Circuit Soleil.

Shakespeare had to get his act together to finish his play.

I went to go see the movie 'Shrek' last weekend, it was so ogre rated.

Moliere's influence on modern comedy just shows that he was very farce-sighted.

Soup operas were the big winners at the Cans Film Festival.

Cartoons produced by the Japanese government are animes of the state.

The land where movies are made is called reel estate.

Hint & Answers: No Peeking!

Answer:

#	Name	Wore	Color
1	Gary	2	red
2	Larry	3	green
3	Barry	1	yellow
4	Harry	4	blue

Hint: Harry wore number 4.

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 wondered why my geometry class was always tired. They were all out of shape.

I always prayed before my trigonometry tests. I was hoping for a sine from above.

I didn't understand the math, so the teacher summed it up for me.

My son's spelling test consisted of synonyms of the word incorrect. He was able to write every wrong.

I've failed the mathematics test so many times I lost count.



Board 7
 Segment 3
 Dealer: S
 All Vul.

♠ 93
 ♥ T6542
 ♦ 973
 ♣ 532

♠ A74
 ♥ A
 ♦ AQJ86
 ♣ A974

♠ QT52
 ♥ J73
 ♦ T2
 ♣ JT86

♠ KJ86
 ♥ KQ98
 ♦ K54
 ♣ KO

West	North	East	South
Deas	Levitina	Chambers	Sanborn
			1NT
Pass	2D (transfer)	Pass	2H
Double	Pass	2S	3H
Double	All Pass		
Baker	Sokolow	McCallum	Molson
			1NT
2NT (minors)	Pass	3C	All Pass

This hand demonstrates why it is generally best to “get it off your chest” by bidding your maximum as soon as possible.

Sanborn opened 1NT with the South hand. Since double by West would be conventional (generally showing a two suiter), Deas chose to pass. Levitina transferred to hearts. Sanborn had an aceless maximum with KQxx of hearts. If she jumped to three hearts (or made some other super-acceptance), Deas would have been stuck for a bid. She could choose to make a risky takeout double or could pass and defend. If Deas doubled 3H for takeout, Chambers would probably bid a simple 3S. When Sanborn bid only 2H, Deas had an easy two-level takeout double. When Sanborn backed in with 3H, Deas was able to show her 19 HCP by doubling again, and Chambers, knowing that partner was unlikely to hold four spades, made a wise pass to collect 800.

At the other table, Molson opened 1NT with the South hand. Rather than passing her 19 count, Baker bid 2NT for the minors. McCallum responded 3C, making five.

12 IMPs to Palmer

Board 7
 Segment 5
 Dealer: S
 All Vul.

♠ AKT7
 ♥ KQT87
 ♦ T974
 ♣

♠ Q843
 ♥ 432
 ♦ A
 ♣ A9652

♠ 62
 ♥ A65
 ♦ KQ653
 ♣ T74

♠ J95
 ♥ J9
 ♦ J82
 ♣ KQJ83

Shi	McCallum	Palmer	Baker
			Pass
Pass	1H	Pass	1NT
Pass	2D	Pass	2H
Double	Pass	3C	Double
All Pass			

The Palmer team was full steam ahead when an aggressive action by Shi handed the opponents a 12 IMP swing.

When Baker took a preference to 2H, Shi jumped in with a double, even though she did not know where the auction was going. If 2H is passed around to the East hand, her partner can balance with values and the right shape.

Since South did not raise hearts initially, it is likely that East has a three card heart holding, which makes declaring less attractive than defending. Alternatively, North might have had a good hand and bid again over 2H. If that is the case, staying out of the auction is the better part of valor.

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When Shi doubled, Palmer bid her three-card club suit and Baker knew what to do. Baker led a heart which Palmer ducked. A second heart was won by Palmer, who, hoping to score a spade ruff in her hand, decided to exit with a spade to North's ten. McCallum cashed a heart on which Baker pitched a spade. McCallum played the SA followed by the S7. Palmer ruffed with the C7 and Baker over-ruffed with the C8. At this point Baker can collect 1100 by exiting with a diamond. Instead, she played a high club and Palmer escaped for 800.

In the other room, Sanborn passed with Shi's cards and N/S played in 2H making an overtrick.

Board 15
 Segment 5
 Dealer: S
 N/S Vul.

♠ AQJT764
 ♥
 ♦ QJ863
 ♣ 3

♠ K9
 ♥ KQT842
 ♦ KT
 ♣ AKT

♠ 82
 ♥ A975
 ♦ A95
 ♣ J642

♠ 53
 ♥ J63
 ♦ 742
 ♣ Q9875

Shi	McCallum	Palmer	Baker
			Pass
1H	2H (Michaels)	4H	Pass
Pass	4S	Pass	4NT (minor?)
Pass	5S	Double	All Pass

Sanborn	Sokolov	Levitina	Molson
			Pass
1H	1S	2S	Pass
4S (RKC)	Pass	5D (2 w/o)	Pass
6H	All Pass		

The final board of the fifth segment provided real fireworks. At both tables, West opened 1H. North held seven good spades and five mediocre diamonds. Showing a sharp contrast in styles, Sokolow bid 1S while McCallum made a Michaels cue-bid. Perhaps Sokolow was planning to "walk the dog", and McCallum trying to find the perfect spot?

Sokolow's plan worked well because Levitina decided to make an aggressive cuebid in support of hearts. Holding 18 HCP, lots of controls and a six card suit, one can hardly blame Sanborn for blasting to slam when partner showed two aces. If partner held a black queen, slam would probably have a play, even with the poorly placed king of spades. Optimism didn't pay off, and 6H was defeated one trick.

McCallum's two suited view really backfired! East's 4H bid showed nothing extra, since she could have cuebid 2S with a better hand. Shi passed and McCallum had no choice but to bid 4S, something that both Norths probably should have done on the previous round of bidding. Baker could pass and play McCallum for a 6-5 hand, but what if McCallum's second suit was clubs? Baker bid 4NT asking for McCallum's minor. Now McCallum was stuck in 5SX, which was defeated three tricks.

On this layout, if North bids 4S over 1H, West will balance with double and E/W will probably land in the standard 5H contract, but who knows? Making the opponents guess at the five level is usually the best strategy. 13 IMPs to Palmer