



Homewords Bound ... USBF Online Invitational Tournament

Congrats Team Gupta!!!

USBF Invitational #1 - 2020							
Final (56 boards)				Set score of form "AX" is preliminary with a pending Appeal and is not included in TOTAL			
03-JUN-2020				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	Penalty (IMPs)
1	Rosenthal	17	13	3	1	WD	
2	Gupta (wins tie)	111	21	43	47		

Email to the Editor:

ADDED ANALYSIS on YESTERDAY'S 5D HAND (See Page 3)

Hi Suzi,

Very nice work on the bulletin and much appreciated especially for those like me who are in "double lockdown" given what is happening in NY.

One small point about the 5D hand you comment on page 3 today. The line chosen by Willenken is actually much better than a finesse since it works anytime spades are 4-3 or the SK is short anywhere which is around 66%.

Best regards

Pietro Campanile

Editor's Additional Note:

Thanks Pietro. As you point out, with no extra information, Chris's play is superior to a simple finesse for the SK. However, the mathematics may be altered by the opening lead. Woolsey/Bramley lead 3rd/5th versus suit contracts. The S4 is the lowest outstanding spade. If the lead is fifth best, the alternatives are to finesse (50%) or hope for Kx in the East hand (about 5%). If the lead is third best, Chris's play is 100%.

All-in-all, I like Chris's play, since, as stated in yesterday's bulletin, the result is never worse than -100, where the losing finesse will result in -300.

Stay safe!

Suzi

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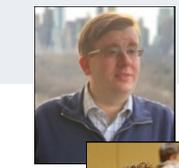
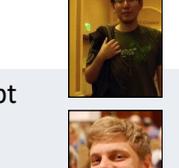
Peg Kaplan

Special Pandemic Competition

Teams Entered...

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS—PRE-BULLETIN

There are 12 teams entered. Following the two teams with byes, entries are listed in alphabetical order.

<p>Nickell Bye to Rnd of 8</p>	<p>Frank Nickell, Capt Bobby Levin Jeff Meckstroth</p>		<p>Ralph Katz Steve Weinstein Eric Rodwell</p>	  
<p>Spector Bye to Rnd of 8</p>	<p>Warren Spector, Capt John Kranyak John Hurd</p>		<p>Gavin Wolpert Vincent Demuy Joel Wooldridge</p>	 
<p>Dinkin</p>	<p>Sam Dinkin, Capt Finn Kolesnik Lynn Baker</p>		<p>Michael Shuster Michael Xu Karen McCallum</p>	 
<p>Donner</p>	<p>Gary Donner, Capt Rachael Moller Rose Meltzer</p>		<p>Yoko Sobel David Gurvich Wayne Stuart</p>	 
<p>Fleisher</p>	<p>Martin Fleisher, Capt Joe Grue Geoff Hampson</p>		<p>Chip Martel Brad Moss Roger Lee</p>	 
<p>Gupta</p>	<p>Naren Gupta, Capt Curtis Cheek</p>		<p>Huub Bertens Daniel Korbel</p>	  
<p>Lebowitz</p>	<p>Laurence Lebowitz, Capt Zachary Grossack Kevin Rosenberg</p>		<p>Adam Grossack Michael Rosenberg Zia Mahmood</p>	 
<p>Levine</p>	<p>Michael Levine Mike Passell John Diamond Robert Morris, NPC</p>		<p>Eddie Wold Marc Jacobus Brian Platnick</p>	  
<p>Moss</p>	<p>Sylvia Moss, Capt Justin Lall Kevin Dwyer</p>		<p>Ishmael Delmonte Kevin Bathurst Shan Huang</p>	 
<p>Reynolds</p>	<p>W. Thomas Reynolds, Capt William Hall George Jacobs</p>		<p>Lance Kerr John Jones Claude Vogel</p>	 
<p>Robinson</p>	<p>Steve Robinson, Capt Kit Woolsey</p>		<p>Peter Boyd Bart Bramley</p>	 
<p>Rosenthal</p>      	<p>Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken David Berkowitz</p>      		<p>Aaron Silverstein Eldad Ginossar Migry Zur Campanile</p>     	       

Trailing by 20 after 11 Boards,

#9584 Teams USBF Inv Final Q1 Rosenthal v

Rosenthal: 13 IMPs
Gupta: 21 IMPs

Host: TDDon
Event type: Teams
Scoring: IMP Pairs (Cross IMPs)

Other Table

	Table Results	By	NS Score	EW Score	NS IMPs	EW IMPs
1	1NT+1	E		120		5
2	3♥=	E		140		5
3	1NT+2	E		150	—	—
4	1NT+1	W		120		1
5	1NT-1	N		100		4
6	2♠-1	S		50	—	—
7	1NT=	N	90			1
8	2♠=	E		110		4
9	2♥+1	S	140			1
10	3♠-1	S		100	—	—
11	3NT+2	W		460	1	
12	4♥=	N	620		12	
13	3NT+1	W		630	—	—
14	3NT=	N	400			

12

migry

♠ Q763
♥ A64
♦ AKJ7
♣ Q6

curtis

♠ J98
♥ Q
♦ 1096542
♣ K95

dank

♠ K1054
♥ 10853
♦ 83
♣ AJ2

mikeyb

♠ A2
♥ KJ972
♦ Q
♣ 108743

NS: 0
EW: 0

curtis	migry	dank	mikeyb
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Rosenthal gained 12 IMPs on Board 12. Korbel led a diamond, what looks like the best lead for his side. Migry won the queen in dummy and immediately played a club to the 5, Q, and A. She was keeping her options open to ruff a club in hand if necessary.

Korbel returned a spade. Migry rose with dummy's ace and played a heart to her ace in hand. It was good news when the HQ appeared!

Migry played three diamonds, pitching a spade and two clubs from dummy. Korbel discarded clubs on the last two diamonds. Migry led a heart to the king and exited with a club. Cheek played a third round of clubs, Migry ruffed and claimed 10 tricks! +620

In the other room, Rosenthal led a spade. Gupta cashed the DQ and played the HK. He crossed to the HA and tried cashing his diamonds. Rosenthal ruffed the third round of diamonds. Gupta overruffed and played a club. Rosenthal won and played his last trump, leaving Gupta with three more black suit losers. Contract failing one trick...

The first segment ended: Gupta 21 ... Rosenthal 13 ... moving on to page 4!

#2392 Teams USBF Inv Final Q3 Rosenthal v

Rosenthal: 1 IMP
 Gupta(+48): 22 IMPs

Other Table

Host: TDDon
 Event type: Teams
 Scoring: IMP Pairs (Cross IMPs)

	Table Results	By	NS Score	EW Score	NS IMPs	EW IMPs
1	3NT=	W		400	1	
2	6♥+1	S	1460		—	—
3	3NT+1	W		630	—	—
4	4♥-4	N		400		6
5	4♠+1	N	650		—	—
6	3♥=	W		140		6
7	2♦-1	N		100		5
8	4♥=	E		420	—	—
9	3NT+3	E		690		3
10	2♠-1	N		100	—	—
11	3♠x-3	S		500		2
12	4♥-4	N		400		
13	4♠+1	N	650			
14	3NT+2	S	460			



eldad
 ♠ KJ
 ♥ KQ1086
 ♦ AKJ1097
 ♣

curtis
 ♠ Q965
 ♥ J543
 ♦
 ♣ K9862

dank
 ♠ 742
 ♥ A9
 ♦ Q52
 ♣ AQ1053

junior
 ♠ A1083
 ♥ 72
 ♦ 8643
 ♣ J74

NS: 0
 EW: 0

curtis	eldad	dank	junior
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

mikeyb	nareng	migry	H Berten
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♥	Pass	5♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

This just wasn't Rosenthal's day. Board 12 was the second time in the third segment that Willenken/Gino found their way to 4H going down four vulnerable tricks (see boards 4 and 12 above). The first time this occurred, it wasn't so painful because their partners made 170 at the other table where game can't make on best defense.

On this board, Gino opened 1D and reversed into hearts. Willenken's 2S bid is artificial and generally shows a weak hand. 3D would be a stronger hand. Gino created a problem for Willenken when he jumped to 4H. This sounds like a 7-6 hand! Willenken passed 4H.

Korbel led the CA, trumped by declarer. The HK was won with the ace and a second club tapped declarer again. Gino tried the HQ followed by the DA. Cheek trumped and drew declarer's last trump. When the smoke cleared, the contract was four light.

At the other table, Bertens/Gupta had a disciplined auction to stop in 5D. Huub's 2NT bid was artificial showing a weak hand. Gupta rebid 3H and Bertens jumped to 5D. With good diamond support and any reasonable values, Bertens would have bid 3D directly over 2H. When dummy was tabled, Gupta no doubt wished he had bid six, but this was his day... Diamonds were 3-0 with the queen offside and the 5D scored 600.

14 IMPs to Gupta

Recipes For Home Dining ... Pandemic Pleasures...

Wisconsin Beer Cheese Soup

Wisconsin, home of so many cheeses, is the inspiration for this hearty soup that highlights bock beer and two kinds of cheddar, with its traditional garnish of popcorn and chives. Be sure to use sharp, good-quality cheeses and bock beer—the strong, dark lager’s maltiness creates a depth of flavor you will not get with a lighter beer.

Ingredients

½ C (115 g) butter
2 med yellow onions, finely diced
4 celery ribs, finely diced
4 med carrots, finely diced
1 C (125 g) flour
1 12-oz (355-ml) bottle bock beer
4 C (946 ml) chicken broth
1 tsp (1 g) thyme leaves
1 bay leaf
Pinch cayenne pepper
½ tsp (1 g) smoked paprika
1 T (16 g) Dijon mustard
4 C (946 ml) heavy cream
16 oz (454 g) sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
16 oz (454 g) white cheddar cheese, shredded
Salt to taste

Garnish

1½ T (5 g) chives, chopped
½ C (4 g) popped popcorn, dusted with salt and pepper

Directions

In a large pot over medium low heat, cook butter, onions, celery, carrot and garlic until softened. Add flour; cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Increase heat to medium, stir in beer and broth, bring to a boil and cook until slightly thickened. Add thyme, bay leaf, cayenne pepper, paprika, mustard and cream. Add cheese slowly, stirring constantly, until incorporated. Remove from heat; remove bay leaf. Garnish with chives and popcorn just before serving.

Prep time: 20 minutes.

Cook time: 30 minutes.

Makes 16 servings.



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(Continued on page 6)

Rustic Fried Green Tomatoes with Cajun Beurre Blanc

Ingredients

TOMATOES:

6 med green tomatoes
1 tsp (15 g) salt
1 tsp (7 g) pepper
1 C (237 ml) buttermilk
2 lg eggs, beaten
2 C (250 g) flour
1 C (151 g) cornstarch
1 C (170 g) cornmeal
1 tsp (10 g) garlic powder
Peanut or canola oil for frying

CRAWFISH:

2 T (30 ml) water
Dash Worcestershire
1 tsp (2 g) lemon zest
2 T (29 g) unsalted butter, room temperature
1 lb (454 g) crawfish tails (or small shrimp)

CAJUN BEURRE BLANC SAUCE:

2 T (30 ml) dry white wine
2 tsp (10 ml) white wine vinegar
4 black peppercorns
1 shallot, minced
1 bay leaf
2 tsp (10 ml) heavy cream
8 oz (227 g) unsalted butter, cold, cut into cubes
1 tsp (5 ml) lemon juice
Dash Worcestershire
Dash Crystal Hot Sauce
Kosher salt to taste

GARNISH:

Cajun spice



Directions

Tomatoes: Preheat oven to 200°F (93°C). Slice tomatoes ¼ inch (6 mm) thick; sprinkle with salt and pepper; set aside. Wash and drain crawfish; refrigerate. Stir together buttermilk and eggs in a shallow bowl; place flour in another bowl; stir together cornstarch, cornmeal and garlic powder in a third bowl. In a large frying pan, heat ½-inch-deep layer of peanut oil to 350°F (177°C) over medium heat. Lightly coat each tomato slice in flour; dip in buttermilk, then cornstarch mixture. In batches, gently cook tomatoes until golden brown, approximately 1-2 minutes; turn gently and cook another 1-2 minutes. Drain on paper towels; keep warm in oven until ready to serve.

Crawfish: Combine water, Worcestershire and lemon zest in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Slowly whisk in butter until incorporated. Bring to a simmer; add crawfish, tossing gently until cooked through, 5-7 minutes.

Cajun Beurre Blanc Sauce: Place wine, vinegar, peppercorns, shallots and bay leaf in a small saucepan over medium high. Bring to a boil; cook until very thick and reduced by ¾, about 3 minutes. Stir in cream; cook until thickened, about 3 minutes. Reduce to low; add butter, one cube at a time, whisking constantly until two pieces of butter remain. Remove from heat and continue whisking in last two cubes of butter. Add lemon juice, Worcestershire, hot sauce and salt to taste, stirring to combine. Pass through a fine sieve.

Plating: Place 3 or 4 slices of tomato on each plate. Spoon crawfish and sauce over the top, and dust entire plate lightly with Cajun spice.

Prep time: 45 minutes.

Cook time: 60 minutes.

Makes 6 servings.

Chopped Pork Sandwich

This classic comfort food is a staple along the banks of the Lower Mississippi. The practice of slow-cooking cuts of meat to bring out their heavenly textures and succulent flavors was well established in the American South by the 19th century. Memphis especially is renowned for its pulled pork, which is seasoned to create a perfect balance of sweet and savory notes.

Ingredients

BBQ SAUCE:

1½ C (338 g) ketchup
½ C (126 g) yellow mustard
½ C (120 g) dark brown sugar, packed
3 med cloves garlic, finely chopped
3 T (45 ml) apple cider vinegar
3 T (45 ml) Worcestershire
2 T (21½ g) Cajun seasoning
½ C (118¼ ml) water

PULLED PORK:

1 yellow onion, thinly sliced
4 med cloves garlic, crushed
2 C (473¼ ml) chicken stock or low sodium chicken broth
3 T (32¼ g) Cajun seasoning
1 T (15 g) dark brown sugar, packed
1 4½- to 5-lb (2- to 2¼-kg) boneless or bone-in pork shoulder (also known as pork butt), twine or netting removed

COLESLAW:

½ head red cabbage, finely shredded
½ head green cabbage, finely shredded
2 lg carrots, finely shredded
½ red onion, finely sliced
¾ C (172½ g) mayonnaise
3 T (45 ml) apple cider vinegar
2 T (24 g) sugar
Salt and pepper to taste

ASSEMBLY:

15 soft hamburger buns

Directions

BBQ Sauce: Combine all ingredients in a small saucepan over medium. Bring to a boil, stirring until ingredients are completely incorporated; reduce heat to low and simmer gently until sauce has thickened enough to coat the back of a spoon, 30 to 40 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool to room temperature. If not using right away, cover and refrigerate for up to two weeks.

Pulled Pork: Preheat oven to 275°F (135°C). Spread out onions and garlic in an even layer in a roasting pan; pour in chicken stock. Combine Cajun seasoning and brown sugar in a small bowl. Pat pork shoulder dry with paper towels, then rub all over with spice mixture. Set pork on top of onions and garlic and cover roasting pan with foil; transfer to oven and cook until pork is fork tender, 6 to 8 hours. Transfer pork to a cutting board to cool; strain cooking liquid through a fine-mesh sieve and reserve. If pork has a bone, remove and discard it. With two forks, shred meat into bite-size pieces, discarding any large pieces of fat; return shredded meat to roasting pan. Add 2 C BBQ Sauce and a bit of reserved cooking liquid if too dry.

Coleslaw: Combine red and green cabbage, carrot, and red onion in a large bowl. Whisk mayonnaise, vinegar, sugar, and salt and pepper together in a medium bowl, then add to cabbage mixture; mix well to combine. Taste for seasoning; adjust with more salt, pepper or sugar as needed.

Plating: Serve pulled pork on buns topped with coleslaw.

Prep time: 20 minutes.

Cook time: 6 hours 45 minutes-8 hours 45 minutes.

Makes 15 servings.



Sudoku

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

Sudoku 1

Sudoku 2

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

Answers to Puzzle on Page 12:

Online Ethics -

We're not trying to provide security for this event, as we do when we sometimes have "real" events online. However, the provisions of the USBF General Conditions of Contest regarding ethical obligations and possible penalties still apply to this event. If an expert committee is convinced that any player covertly communicated with his/her partner or unethically obtained information about any other player's hand, the player will be subject to discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion from the USBF.

Fun and Games Page

Sports

Find and circle all of the Sports that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Vince Lombardi quotation.

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

ARCHERY
BADMINTON
BASEBALL
BASKETBALL
BILLIARDS
BOCCE
BOWLING
BOXING
CRICKET

CROQUET
CYCLING
DARTS
FENCING
FISHING
FOOTBALL
GOLF
HANDBALL
HOCKEY

JAI ALAI
LACROSSE
POLO
RACQUETBALL
RUGBY
RUNNING
SKATEBOARDING
SKATING
SKIING

SOCCER
SOFTBALL
SQUASH
SURFING
SWIMMING
TENNIS
VOLLEYBALL
WRESTLING

Logic Puzzle Page

	Couch	James	Sanford	Travers	West	black	blue	red	white	yellow	1-piece	1-piece	1-piece	2-piece	2-piece	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	
Amelia																					
Julia																					
Melony																					
Rachel																					
Sarah																					
1st																					
2nd																					
3rd																					
4th																					
5th																					
1-piece																					
1-piece																					
1-piece																					
2-piece																					
2-piece																					
black																					
blue																					
red																					
white																					
yellow																					

First Name	Last Name	Suit Color	Suit Type	Place Won
Amelia				
Julia				
Melony				
Rachel				
Sarah				
-----	Couch	black	1-piece	1st
-----	James	blue	1-piece	2nd
-----	Sanford	red	1-piece	3rd
-----	Travers	white	2-piece	4th
-----	West	yellow	2-piece	5th

3rd	2-piece	red	James	Sarah
4th	2-piece	black	Travers	Rachel
1st	1-piece	yellow	West	Melony
2nd	1-piece	blue	Sanford	Julia
5th	1-piece	white	Couch	Amelia
Place Won	Suit Type	Suit Color	Last Name	First Name

Answer to Puzzle

To add a little fun to the sweltering summer heat, Bella's Bath and Body Boutique in downtown Millersville (commonly known as the 4Bs by her clientele) announced that they were sponsoring a swimsuit contest. Prizes would be awarded to the winners and judging would be held the following weekend at Settler's Pond, a favorite local hang-out that featured a public beach and town-funded restroom facilities. Interested contestants could sign up inside and the 4Bs clientele set up quite a buzz over it all, with speculation running high for both who would sign up and who would win, if they did sign up. Determine the full name of the five winning contestants (one first name was Sarah and one last name was Sanford), the color of each winner's bathing suit, if the winners wore a 1-piece suit or a 2-piece, and what place each won (1st to 5th).

- Rachel Travers didn't wear a red bathing suit but she did place one higher than the woman wearing the white 1-piece bathing suit.
- Melony's last name wasn't James but she won 1st place.
- The three who wore 1-piece suites were the woman in 2nd place, the one who wore the yellow bathing suit, and Amelia, whose last name wasn't West.
- Rachel placed one higher than Ms. Couch but two places lower than the one who wore the blue bathing suit.
- Julia's last name wasn't Couch. Ms. James wore a 2-piece bathing suit.
- The five women were, in no particular order, Ms. James, Julia, the woman who placed 5th, the woman who wore the black 2-piece bathing suit, and Ms. West.



Daniel Korbel started playing bridge in Canada, but now resides in the USA. He is married to Sylvia Shi, an excellent player in her own right.

Bridge accomplishments

Wins

- 2015 Mitchell BAM
- 2016 Jacoby Swiss Teams

CNTC 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014

Runners-up

- 2012 transnational world championship

North American Bridge Championships

- Roth Open Swiss Teams 2014
- Wernher Open Pairs 2007
- 2016 Mitchell BAM (runner up)
- 2017 Vanderbilt KO Teams (runner up)

David Berkowitz is from Old Tappan, New Jersey. In 1998, he came as close as it is possible to come to a world championship without winning it. In the World Open Pairs, he and Larry Cohen led throughout the five-session final, only to be overtaken on the last two boards. David earned a bronze medal at the 2000 World Team Olympiad in Maastricht, Netherlands. He was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2010.

Berkowitz whose wife, Lisa, is a former women's world champion, often comments, "I am not even the best player in my own house."

David and Lisa reside in Boca Raton, Florida. Their daughter Dana and son Michael play bridge as well. Daughter Dana is married to Chris Willenken, another great player who has given much of his time to working onbridge ethics and other important aspects of cleaning up the game.



David has an impressive 31 NABC+ wins, along with other notable finishes such as in the Cavendish Invitational, and 2000 USBF Open Team Trials. Also a member of the ACBL Hall of Fame, David serves on the HOF Committee today. Wife Lisa is a great USBF volunteer working on hospitality at F2F USBC's.

Meet Two of the Players in Yesterday's Final

Puzzle Answers:

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

Sudoku

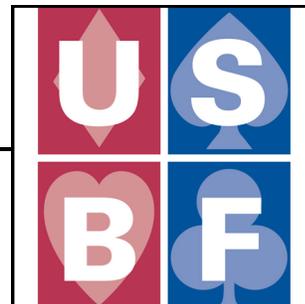
on page 8

Puzzle 1 on left

Puzzle 2 on right

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

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. As a Supporting Member, you are eligible to:

1. Enter the fantasy brackets, run on Bridge Winners, for the USBF trials choosing our Open and Senior teams for the World Championships. The highest-ranking Supporting Member in the fantasy brackets for each of these two events will win the prize of your choice - either an online match against the USBC winners or dinner with them at the next NABC.
2. Receive daily emails during the USBF Championships. These will summarize the previous day's results and provide vugraph information and links to daily bulletins containing pictures and commentary on individual hands.
3. Upon advanced request, make arrangements for you to kibitz a USBF member of your choice for a session once each year – either at an NABC or the USBF Championships.
4. Upon advanced request, we will arrange for you to be one of the vugraph commentators for one session of the team trials.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years) and the ACBL now offers you the chance to become an USBF Supporting Member when you renew your ACBL membership. If you don't want to wait that long, you can join by choosing the red Donate Now button on the USBF website. 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.

We hope you will join us.

Know the Cold Card Facts...

Jokers are funny things -- many decks of cards don't have jokers, and in most cases you can lose the jokers and it doesn't matter. So why include them? And while we're on the topic, where did any of the cards in a deck come from? Why are there 52 cards, with four suits and 13 cards to a suit?

According to Britannica.com, the 52-card deck that we use today is a modification of part of the standard Tarot deck, made up of the *Major Arcana* and *Minor Arcana*, minus the knight cards. Probably around the 15th century, the deck started settling into the modern form we know today.

The **joker**, however, did not appear until sometime around the 1860s. At that time, the game of **euchre** was extremely popular (**it was later unseated by bridge**). In euchre, under the British rules, there is a card known as the **Imperial Bower** (or Best Bower) that trumps all others. Decks of cards began to include a special Imperial Bower card, and it later morphed into the joker card that we know today.

According to this page:

The "Best Bower" was invented for use in the game of Euchre in which two of the Jacks are named Right and Left Bower; this happened during the 1860s in the USA. "Bower" is a corruption of the German word "Bauer" used in Alsace, from where Euchre or Juker originated as the ordinary word for "Jack." This card evolved into the Joker during the 1870s. The Joker arrived in Europe in the 1880s along with the game of Poker. It was gradually incorporated into French-suited packs with 52 cards.

A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?



Riddle Time...

Answer: The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry.

2020 USBCs CANCELLED

Although the WBF has not scheduled the 2021 World Championship, they have announced that there will be only one World Championship in 2021. It will be held in the late summer in Salsomaggiore, Italy. The USBF Board has therefore cancelled the scheduled 2020 USBCs. We expect to hold 2021 USBCs in May of 2021 to select the teams for whatever World Championship the WBF schedules. *The plan (still to be ratified) is to hold the Bermuda Bowl in 2021 and the World Bridge Games in 2022.*

Captains of teams that were entered in the 2020 USBCs should have received an email telling them of the cancellation and that they can either move their entry to 2021 or receive a full refund of their entry fee. If you are a team captain and did not receive the email, you can **email Jan** at Marteljan@gmail.com for more information.

Byes to the 2021 Open USBC will almost certainly be based on team performance in the 2019 USBC, Spingold, Soloway, and Reisinger, and the 2020 Soloway, and Reisinger and 2021 Vanderbilt, if those events are held.

14

eldad
 ♠ A1053
 ♥ AQ6
 ♦ K952
 ♣ Q7

curtis
 ♠ J9
 ♥ 1042
 ♦ 1086
 ♣ A10963

dank
 ♠ 764
 ♥ J987
 ♦ Q743
 ♣ J8

junior
 ♠ KQ82
 ♥ K53
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ K542

NS: 0
 EW: 0

curtis	eldad	dank	junior
		Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

mikeyb	nareng	migry	H Berten
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Normally we would say

"Have a safe trip home..."

Soooooooooooo

Have a safe trip to the couch.

On Board 14 of the third segment, it was likely that Gino realized his team was trailing by a significant amount. In fact, they were trailing by 72 IMPs.

Willenken opened 1NT and Gino decided not to look for a 4-4 major suit fit. He, instead, bid 3NT hoping that his opponents might go down in a major suit game or slam at the other table.

The opening lead was a club. Willenken rose with the CQ and led a diamond to the jack. When this held, he had an easy 11 tricks.

At the other table, Gupta had no reason to do anything unusual. He bid Stayman. When Bertens showed spades, Gupta bid 3H to show interest in slam with shortness.

3S asked for his singleton. 4S was non-conventional (showing NT shortness?)

4NT was RKC. Gupta showed two without the queen of trump and Bertens bid 6S.

The trump nine was led. Bertens won with dummy's ten, played a diamond to the ace, and led a club toward the queen. When this held, he played the DK and trumped a diamond with the trump eight. He cashed a high spade, led a heart to his hand and ruffed his last diamond.

He returned to his hand with a heart and drew the last trump. He claimed 12 tricks and 11IMPs.

At this point, team Rosenthal, tired from five long days of play, tipped over the king and resigned.

Big thanks to Jan Martel for running this event!

To Al Hollander, Kit Woolsey, Chip Martel, Mike Shuster, Greg Lawler and any others who commentated during the matches...

To Will Watson for directing the event and keeping things moving along...

To Suzi Subeck for the Daily Bulletins...

And everyone else behind the scenes for their efforts!

Thanks to the Appeals Panel members who volunteer at USBF events regularly. We are glad we didn't need you but we appreciate you're standing by in case.

Stay safe everyone! Hope to see you at USBF INV2 whenever that will be!