



Volume 17, Issue 1  
April 9, 2021

# We Remember:



Welcome to the **2021 Justin Lall Online Teams 3**. The USBF has run several highly successful Online Knockout Events since the start of the Pandemic and the JLall Teams 3 will most certainly follow suit! This event marks the third of many to be named in memory of Justin Lall. Justin was an amazingly talented young player and great friend of the game. While we mourn his loss, with this event like the ones before, we celebrate his life.

JLall3 will be held from **April 9-12** and **April 16-19**.

- Play each day will start at 1:00 pm EST and end no later than 9:30 pm EST.

### Round Robin Stage 1, April 9-11:

Everyone will play 3 days of a “split field” Round Robin with 10 board matches; there are two Round Robin groups named Pfizer and Moderna. (see page two for listing) The top 5 teams in each group will qualify for the KO Round of 16. The bottom 5 teams in each group will be eliminated. The five teams in the middle of each group (“bubble teams”) will play in Stage 2 of the Round Robin. Since there are 30 teams entered, each team will have one sit out round during RR 1.

### Round Robin Stage 2, April 12:

Each bubble team plays a 10 board match against each bubble team from the other group, scored at VPs with carryover from the first 3 days. The top 6 teams qualify for the Round of 16. The bottom 4 teams are eliminated.

### Knockouts, April 16-19:

One match/day. 56 boards/match. If both finalists request a longer match, it will be done.

There will be a Captains' meeting on April 13th to set the KO bracket. The precise method of setting the bracket will be set forth in the Special Conditions of Contest. Summary: the top 4 teams from Round Robin Stage 1 will select their opponents for the Round of 16 from the bottom 8 qualifiers. The remaining qualifiers will be shuffled in groups to fill the bracket.

The matches will be played on RealBridge. During the bidding & play, each player will see & hear their screenmate - (N&E, S&W). Before and after each match, teammates will be seated at one table.

RealBridge will archive bidding, play & score information for the event. Scores will be posted on the USBF website.

Online play presents challenges. While the USBF Board and the tournament organizers do their best to make our events the fairest of competitions, maintaining this standard will always be the responsibility of the players. We count on you to uphold the high ideals of ethics, camaraderie and sportsmanship for which United States bridge is known worldwide.

I know I will do my part to uphold these standards and I know you will do yours. Please keep this in mind as you participate in this event.

Let the games begin!

Brad Moss, USBF President

## The Prez Says ...

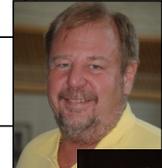
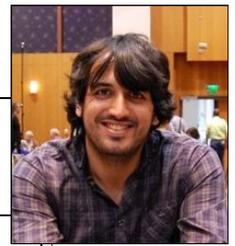


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Peg Kaplan

# Teams Entered...

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS—PRE-BULLETIN

<b>Baker</b>	Lynn Baker, Capt Sam Dinkin Dave Caprera	Karen McCallum Michael Shuster Anne Brenner	<b>Nickell</b>	Nick Nickell Bobby Levin Geoff Hampson Jill Levin, NPC	Ralph Katz Steve Weinstein Eric Greco																																
<b>Bishel</b>	John Bishel, Capt Blaine Mullins Bernie Greenspan	Tom Bishel Charley Seelbach Fred Schenker	<b>Onstott</b>	John Onstott, Capt Drew Casen Chris Compton	Jacob Morgan Jim Krekorian Venkatrao Koneru																																
<b>Bitterman</b>	Bob Bitterman, Capt Jerry Helms John Stiefel	Bob Cappelli Sam Marks Geof Brod	<b>Parker</b>	Stewart Rubenstein, Capt Joel Wooldridge Adam Grossack	Christina Parker David Grainger Zach Grossack																																
<b>Carmichael</b>	Jenni Carmichael, Capt Greg Humphreys Christian Jolly	Tom Carmichael Ari Greenberg Adam Kaplan	<b>Rasmussen</b>	Jim Rasmussen, Capt Maxim Silin	Anton Tsyppin Carrie Liu																																
<b>Dawson</b>	Dennis Dawson, Capt Mark Itabashi Roger McNay	Charlie Wilkins Mitch Dunitz Eric Stoltz	<b>Reynolds</b>	Tom Reynolds, Capt Bill Hall Joe Viola	Lance Kerr Randy Howard																																
<b>Donnelly</b>	Chris Donnelly, Capt Robin Hillyard Marley Cedrone	Ethan Wood Dan Jablonski Sally Matthews	<b>Robinson</b>	Eric Robinson, Capt Jeff Wolfson Jill Meyers	Gary Cohler Steve Garner Kerri Sanborn																																
<b>Donner</b>	Gary Donner, Capt Jacob Freeman Radu Nistor	Sandra Rimstedt Finn Kolesnik Iulian Rotaru	<b>Rockoff</b>	Kyle Rockoff, Capt Joey Lieberman Christal Henner	Doug Couchman Christopher Welland Uday Ivatury																																
<b>Goodman</b>	Andy Goodman, Capt Anam Tebha Shan Huang	Steve Zolotow Kevin Dwyer	<b>Rosenthal</b>	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken Migry Campanile	Aaron Silverstein Eldad Ginkossar David Berkowitz																																
<b>Hinze</b>	Greg Hinze, Capt Josh Donn Ira Hessel	Kay Enfield James Holzhauser	<b>Schireson</b>	Max Schireson, Capt Cadir Lee John Miller	Olivia Schireson Randal Burns Lynn Shannon																																
<b>Jacobs</b>	George Jacobs, Capt Dick Bruno Steve Beatty	Claude Vogel Kerry Smith Fred Stewart	<b>Smith</b>	Ron Smith Linda Lewis, Capt Doug Doub	Billy Cohen Disa Eythorsdottir Paul Lewis																																
<b>Joel</b>	Geeske Joel, Capt Owen Lien	Will Watson Kevin Rosenberg	<b>Zhang</b>	Qiang Zhang, Capt Eric Xiao Weishu Wu	Brian Zhang Victor Xiao Peter Sun																																
<b>Kolesnik</b>	Alex Kolesnik, Capt Bob Etter Andrew Gumperz	Michael Xu Bill Harker Phil Clayton	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Moderna</th> <th>Pfizer</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bishel</td> <td>Baker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bitterman</td> <td>Donnelly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carmichael</td> <td>Donner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dawson</td> <td>Goodman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kolesnik</td> <td>Hinze</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lin</td> <td>Jacobs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lo</td> <td>Joel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Merblum</td> <td>Lall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moss</td> <td>Levine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nickell</td> <td>Martel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Onstott</td> <td>Robinson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parker</td> <td>Rockoff</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rasmussen</td> <td>Schireson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reynolds</td> <td>Smith</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rosenthal</td> <td>Zhang</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Moderna	Pfizer	Bishel	Baker	Bitterman	Donnelly	Carmichael	Donner	Dawson	Goodman	Kolesnik	Hinze	Lin	Jacobs	Lo	Joel	Merblum	Lall	Moss	Levine	Nickell	Martel	Onstott	Robinson	Parker	Rockoff	Rasmussen	Schireson	Reynolds	Smith	Rosenthal	Zhang
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<b>Lall</b>	Hemant Lall Naren Gupta Bob Hamman Petra Hamman, NPC	Reese Milner Zia Mahmood Peter Weichsel																																			
<b>Levine</b>	Mike Levine Jeff Meckstroth Mark Lair Bob Morris, NPC	Eddie Wold Eric Rodwell Mike Passell																																			
<b>Lin</b>	Amber Lin, Capt Cynthia Huang Cornelius Duffie	Emma Kolesnik Ilan Wolff Brent Xiao																																			
<b>Lo</b>	Ai-Tai Lo, Capt Franco Baseggio David Chechelashvili	Harrison Luba Andy Stark Ahmed Soliman																																			
<b>Martel</b>	Chip Martel, Capt Bart Bramley Brian Platnick	Marty Fleisher Kit Woolsey John Diamond																																			
<b>Merblum</b>	Frank Merblum, Capt John Lusky Doug Simson	Walter Lee Allan Falk Jeff Aker																																			
<b>Moss</b>	Sylvia Moss, Capt Joe Grue Daniel Korbel	Roger Lee Brad Moss Ish DelMonte																																			



# Tournament Schedule

# USBF 10 Board victory Point Scale

ROUND ROBIN - STAGE 1			
DAY	DATE	TIME - EDT	BOARDS
FRIDAY	APRIL 9	12:45 PM	CAPTAINS' MEETING WITH DIC (ON ZOOM)
FRIDAY	APRIL 9	1:00 - 2:15	ROUND 1 - BOARDS 1-10
		2:35 - 3:50	ROUND 2 - BOARDS 11-20
		4:10 - 5:25	ROUND 3 - BOARDS 21-30 BREAK
		6:20 - 7:35	ROUND 4 - BOARDS 31-40
SATURDAY	APRIL 10	7:55 - 9:10	ROUND 5 - BOARDS 41-50
		1:00 - 2:15	ROUND 6 - BOARDS 51-60
		2:35 - 3:50	ROUND 7 - BOARDS 61-70
		4:10 - 5:25	ROUND 8 - BOARDS 71-80 BREAK
SUNDAY	APRIL 11	6:20 - 7:35	ROUND 9 - BOARDS 1-10
		7:55 - 9:10	ROUND 10 - BOARDS 11-20
		1:00 - 2:15	ROUND 11 - BOARDS 21-30
		2:35 - 3:50	ROUND 12 - BOARDS 31-40
MONDAY	APRIL 12	4:10 - 5:25	ROUND 13 - BOARDS 41-50 BREAK
		6:20 - 7:35	ROUND 14 - BOARDS 51-60
		7:55 - 9:10	ROUND 15 - BOARDS 61-70
		KO CAPTAINS' MEETING ON ZOOM	
TUESDAY	APRIL 13	1:00 PM (TENTATIVE)	
ROUND OF 16			
FRIDAY	APRIL 16	1:00 - 2:45	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-14
		3:00 - 4:45	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 15-28 BREAK
		5:30 - 7:15	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 29-42
		7:30 - 9:15	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 43-56
QUARTERFINAL			
SATURDAY	APRIL 17	1:00 - 2:45	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-14
		3:00 - 4:45	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 15-28 BREAK
		5:30 - 7:15	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 29-42
		7:30 - 9:15	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 43-56
SEMIFINAL			
SUNDAY	APRIL 18	1:00 - 2:45	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-14
		3:00 - 4:45	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 15-28 BREAK
		5:30 - 7:15	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 29-42
		7:30 - 9:15	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 43-56
FINAL (WILL CHANGE IF TEAMS WANT 60 OR 64 BOARDS)			
MONDAY	APRIL 19	1:00 - 2:45	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-14
		3:00 - 4:45	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 15-28 BREAK
		5:30 - 7:15	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 29-42
		7:30 - 9:15	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 43-56

10 Boards (Blitz is 48 IMPs)								
Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10.00	10.00	17	15.29	4.71	34	18.44	1.56
1	10.39	9.61	18	15.52	4.48	35	18.58	1.42
2	10.77	9.23	19	15.75	4.25	36	18.71	1.29
3	11.14	8.86	20	15.97	4.03	37	18.84	1.16
4	11.50	8.50	21	16.18	3.82	38	18.97	1.03
5	11.85	8.15	22	16.39	3.61	39	19.10	0.90
6	12.18	7.82	23	16.59	3.41	40	19.22	0.78
7	12.51	7.49	24	16.78	3.22	41	19.33	0.67
8	12.83	7.17	25	16.97	3.03	42	19.44	0.56
9	13.14	6.86	26	17.16	2.84	43	19.55	0.45
10	13.43	6.57	27	17.34	2.66	44	19.66	0.34
11	13.72	6.28	28	17.51	2.49	45	19.76	0.24
12	14.00	6.00	29	17.68	2.32	46	19.86	0.14
13	14.28	5.72	30	17.84	2.16	47	19.96	0.04
14	14.54	5.46	31	18.00	2.00	48	20.00	0.00
15	14.80	5.20	32	18.15	1.85			
16	15.05	4.95	33	18.30	1.70			

## Ethics Statement

**Ethics** - We're not trying to provide the same security for this event as we have for online events to select USBF International teams. However, the provisions of the USBF General Conditions of Contest regarding ethical obligations and possible penalties apply to this event. The USBF has appointed an Ethics Investigation Committee that will review any complaints about ethics violations. If the EIC concludes that a player or pair was acting unethically, they will report to the USBF Board of Directors, who may place a player on probation, suspend, or expel a player for cause.

2021 Committee is: **Dana Berkowitz, Eugene Hung, Roger Lee, Chip Martel, Steve Weinstein, Jenny Wolpert**

## System Regulations & Conditions of Contest

- Normal USBF System regulations apply to this event.
- This event is governed by the USBF General Conditions of Contest and Special Conditions of Contest for this event.
- The ACBL Open+ Convention Chart applies to this event.



# Kibitzing on VuGraph...

THERE WILL BE DELAYED KIBITZING FOR ALL OF THE JLALL3 EVENT.

**KIBITZING SCHEDULE FOR THE ROUND ROBIN (EDT)...** The schedule will be the same each day:

Round 1: 2:30 pm

Round 2: 4:05 pm

Round 3: 5:30 pm

Round 4: 7:50 pm

Round 5: 9:25 pm

**KIBITZING SCHEDULE FOR THE KO (EDT)**

Quarter 1: 1:15 pm

Quarter 2: 3:15 pm

BREAK

Quarter 3: 7:15

Quarter 4: 9:15



Watching online,  
Even delayed,  
Is the best way to see  
How a hand's bid and played!

To kibitz, go to **kibitzrealbridge.online**, enter your name and click on Log In. That will take you to a screen where you can select the event to kibitz.

After you select Kibitz JLall Online Teams #3, you will be taken to a lobby where you will see a list of tables on the left and a chat box and list of people in the lobby on the right. The table listing shows the team & player names at each table, as well as the board and trick that table is playing (that's in the middle of the table, immediately under the table number). Click on a table to kibitz it.

At the table, you will see a hand diagram, and the bidding and play as it happens. You do not get to hear or see the players yet (that's coming).

There is a chat window on the right of the screen (if your browser window isn't large enough to show it, you can click on the "chat" icon immediately above the UNDO button to open the chat window. For now, anyone can type chat into the chat window.

Some things you can do to get more information:

If there is an asterisk next to a bid, that means it was Alerted or Explained. Click on the bid to see the explanation if there was one.

-- "Rewind" the play using the slider underneath the "table" with hand diagram. just move the vertical handle on the slider to the left to go to earlier tricks.

-- Click on the "Scores" button to the left of the South player's name, you will get a scorecard for the match so far. You can use this to get lots of information:

----Click on a board number to see the hand record and results at all the tables.

----You can also click on a number in a yellow box to get to the hand record from some screens.

----In the hand record screen, click on a result to see the bidding and play at a specific table.

--In the upper left corner:

----Click on the yellow box with 4 little boxes to get the match scores for all the matches (that will be IMPs and for the Round Robin will not include scores from previous rounds).

----Click on the yellow box with 3 bulleted lines to get Cross-IMPs for the pairs (that will be just for this match).

The Scores information is also available in the lobby using the button at the upper right in case you want to check on scores before deciding which table to watch.

**TIMING OF DELAY**

The Round Robin matches will be delayed until each round is completed.

The first half KO matches will be delayed until each board has been played at all tables, so there may sometimes be a period when nothing new is being shown because one or two tables are slow to play the board. **For the second half of the KO matches, the delay will be until the quarter has been completed.**

**That means that the 3rd quarter kibitzing will start at 7:15 EDT.**

# USBF News...

## USBCs POSTPONED

Although the WBF has not yet officially postponed the 2021 World Championships, the EBL has canceled the 2021 European Team Championship because of travel restrictions in Europe that are expected to continue through the summer. The USBF does not expect to be sending teams to a World Championship in August, 2021, and has therefore postponed the USBF Selection Trials (USBCs).

We do not know when the WBF will hold the 2021 World Championships, so it is difficult to establish dates for the USBCs that would give the qualified teams time to make plans and also have the USBCs as late as possible, when more people will be vaccinated.

We recognize that people need to make plans even in these uncertain times.

Therefore, we will hold the face-to-face stages of the USBCs either in August or October, unless the WBF completely cancels the 2021 World Championships.

As soon as we have had an opportunity to discuss space availability with our host hotel in Schaumburg, IL, we will post proposed schedules for August and October face-to-face stages, recognizing that only one set of dates will apply.

We will also post starting dates for online stages, if those are needed.

Entry deadlines for the 2021 USBCs have all been extended to July 1. If the face-to-face stages are held in October, the entry deadlines will be further extended.

Thank you all for your patience with the uncertainties of this. We wish we knew more. We will update you as updates become available.

## USBF DISCIPLINES CURTIS CHEEK AFTER CONFESSION OF CHEATING IN INV-1

The USBF and Curtis Cheek have reached a Negotiated Resolution based upon Cheek's confession that he cheated during the USBF INV-1. Accordingly, the USBF has imposed the following discipline:

1. Curtis Cheek is not eligible to compete in any United States Bridge Championship or to represent the USBF in any World Bridge Championship until January 1, 2024.
2. Curtis Cheek is not eligible to compete in the Open United States Bridge Championship until January 1, 2025.
3. Curtis Cheek is suspended by the USBF from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022, and is not eligible to compete in any other online or in-person USBF events during this time (e.g., JLALL or Invitational events).
4. Curtis Cheek is on probation with the USBF from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.
5. Curtis Cheek is not eligible to serve as a non-playing captain of any USBF Bridge team until January 1, 2025.

# Gary Can Be Scary!

18 D	N jwolfson	W	N	E	S
	♠ 42 ♥ J965 ♦ Q ♣ AQ9643	1♠ 2♣ 2♦ P 3♣ P 3♥ P 3♠ P 4♣ P 4♥ P 5NT P 6♠ P P P	♠ Q9 ♥ K743 ♦ AKJ1065 ♣ J	E: Cohler	
W CorpLaw	S garner	6♠ W NS: 0 EW: 0			
♠ AJ10753 ♥ A ♦ 942 ♣ K102	♠ K86 ♥ Q1082 ♦ 873 ♣ 875				

On March 31, Steve Garner and Jeff Wolfson were spotted playing a practice round against Gary Cohler and Eric Robinson on BBO.

Gary's aggressive style generates exciting results and Board 18 is a perfect example.

The hand was played 16 times in the IMP Pairs event and Cohler/Robinson were the ONLY pair to reach slam... creating a swing of +11.33 IMPs!

With the SK onside and the DQ falling, the contract made easily.

Wolfson led the CA and switched to a heart. Robinson won the HA, led a small diamond toward the dummy. When the DQ popped, Robinson pulled trump and claimed 12 tricks.

In fields like those on BBO, the scoring can be stressful when your opponents reach a reasonable slam where the cards lie well and they are successful. Note that 5 tables incredibly did not reach game and anywhere from 11 to 13 tricks were scored.

Traveller M-1617241981-M_2_0009410865 played by garner						
N°	Time	North	South	East	West	Result NS Points Score
1	2021-03-31 20:51	jdbentz	pccp	ggcanner	narf1940	3♠W+2 -200 5.60
2	2021-03-31 20:31	flopsy1771	gophertuna	tundra pony	JulianneD	3♠W+3 -230 5.07
3	2021-03-31 20:51	tarobridge	Jdama	Jorgebe10	bruceb27	2♠W+4 -230 5.07
4	2021-03-31 20:51	tzantzai	copeau	Rajuthumba	dizy2	3♠W+4 -260 4.13
5	2021-03-31 20:51	giulivia2	45Norway	vertsc	CapeCod	2♠W+5 -260 4.13
6	2021-03-31 20:50	lemon pie	aldonamen	MALIA29	digmire	5♥E+1 -420 0.27
7	2021-03-31 20:50	sasha58	Rafikk	wb2020	gblot	4♠W+1 -450 -0.67
8	2021-03-31 20:51	neet2	ac1919	jroberts52	flbigguy2	4♠W+1 -450 -0.67
9	2021-03-31 20:51	The Nonni	ursben	spikenicho	Grannylou	4♠W+1 -450 -0.67
10	2021-03-31 20:51	Cardinal26	KKD6	turkey117	peacock117	4♠W+1 -450 -0.67
11	2021-03-31 20:51	MalEwell	DaisyEwell	Queen Pro	Nicki90	4♠W+2 -480 -1.53
12	2021-03-31 20:51	chiduke	DeeGee6015	RPCV2015	mapa19	4♠W+2 -480 -1.53
13	2021-03-31 20:51	miki1104	bamorrow	gcmocean	endokl	4♠W+3 -510 -2.40
14	2021-03-31 20:51	kingwi	ouananiche	armenilsk	Julie425	4♠W+3 -510 -2.40
15	2021-03-31 20:52	rfs1	0314570	Thrommel	cjaffee	4♠W+3 -510 -2.40
16	2021-03-31 20:53	jwolfson	garner	gcowler	CorpLaw	6♠W= -980 -11.33

THE FACT THAT THERE'S A HIGHWAY TO HELL AND ONLY A STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN SAYS A LOT ABOUT ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC NUMBERS.

I'M READING A HORROR STORY IN BRAILLE  
 [REDACTED]  
 SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN... I CAN FEEL IT.



Two handy cards:  
 The ace of spades and the proof of Vaccination!

# Some Suggestions For Dining at Home Between Sessions! Pandemic Pleasures...

## COCONUT CAKE WITH WHITE CHOCOLATE FROSTING Servings: 10-12

2 1/4 cups (270 grams) cake flour, sifted  
1 tablespoon (15 ml) baking powder  
3/4 (3 ml) teaspoon table salt  
5 large egg whites  
1 large egg  
3/4 cup (180 ml) Coco Lopez or coconut cream (the cream used for making Piña Coladas)  
4 tablespoons (60 ml) water  
1 teaspoon (5 ml) vanilla extract  
12 tablespoons (170 grams) unsalted butter (1-1/2 sticks), cut into 12 pieces, softened, but still cool  
1 cup (225 grams) granulated sugar  
Cake Assembly:  
1/4 cup (60 ml) Malibu rum  
2 cups (130 grams) coconut flakes

**Directions:** Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees F.

Grease two 9-inch round cake pans with butter and dust with flour.

Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt in a medium sized bowl and place to one side.

In another bowl, whisk together, egg whites, egg, Coco Lopez, water and vanilla and place to one side.

In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, cream the butter and sugar on medium-high speed for 3 to 5 minutes, until light yellow and fluffy. With the mixer on medium speed, slowly add half of the egg mixture and turn up to high for 30-45 seconds and allow to mix in well. Once mixed, lower to medium speed, and add the other half of the mixture and turn back to high for another 1-2 minutes until mixture looks light and airy. Turn off mixer and add flour mixture and turn mixer back on to low and mix batter.

Pour the batter evenly into the 2 pans (about 1 lb. 2 oz. in each pan) and smooth the top with off-set spatula or knife. Bake in the center of oven for 25 minutes, or until the tops are browned and a cake tester comes out clean. Be sure to check cakes are evenly browning, some ovens require rotating tins mid baking. Remove from oven and place on cooling rack and let cakes set for 10 minutes. Once cooled, loosen cakes from sides of pans with paring knife, invert cakes onto racks and then re-invert; cool to room temperature about 30 minutes. Meanwhile, spread the coconut flakes on a large rimmed baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees F (6-12 minutes) stirring occasionally, until the coconut is toasted to golden brown. I like to check every three minutes as coconut color changes from blonde to golden quickly. Let cool completely.

## WHITE CHOCOLATE FROSTING

10 ounces (283 grams) white chocolate, coarsely chopped  
3 cups (720 ml) heavy cream, divided  
1/4 cup (28 grams) confectioners' sugar  
1 teaspoon (5 ml) vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon (2 ml) coconut extract

**Directions:** Melt the white chocolate and 1 cup (240 ml) cream in a medium bowl over a medium saucepan of simmering water, stirring occasionally. Once melted, remove from heat and let cool for an hour.

Add the remaining 2 cups (480 ml) chilled heavy cream, confectioners' sugar, vanilla and coconut extract to stand mixer and whip until soft peaks. Add the cooled white chocolate mixture and whip on low speed for a few seconds just until the mousse is combined and forms soft peaks again — please be sure you do not over-mix. Keep chilled in fridge until ready to use.

Using a long-serrated knife, held so that blade is parallel with work surface, use sawing motion to cut each cake into two even layers. Starting with first cake, carefully lift off top layer and set aside. Brush each layer with 1 tablespoon (15 ml) Malibu rum. Using icing spatula, distribute about 3/4 cup (180 ml) filling evenly on cake, spreading filling to very edge of cake and leveling the surface. Carefully place upper cake layer on top of filling; repeat using remaining filling and cake layer.

Frost top and sides of cake with remaining frosting. Press toasted coconut into sides of cake and sprinkle evenly over top. Refrigerate until filling and frosting are set, about 2 hours. (Cake can be refrigerated for up to 24 hours.)



# GUINNESS BRAISED SHORT RIBS WITH CABBAGE, BACON AND POTATOES

## GUINNESS BRAISED SHORT RIBS

Servings: 8

8 short ribs, trimmed of excess fat  
3/4 cup (180 ml) olive oil, divided  
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper  
2 leeks, washed and sliced  
6 celery ribs, chopped  
2 onions, chopped  
6 carrots, peeled and chopped  
10 cloves of garlic, peeled  
1 (750-milliliter) bottle of dry red wine  
2 cups (480 ml) beef stock,  
1 cup (240 ml) marinara sauce like Rao's  
2 (11.2-ounce) (330 ml) bottles Guinness  
2 bay leaves  
3 thyme sprigs



### Directions:

Adjust oven rack to top third position and heat oven to 425 degrees F.

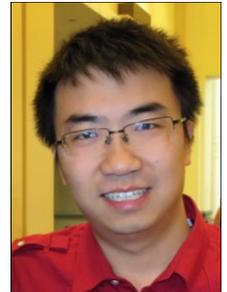
Pat meat dry with paper towel and arrange short ribs, bone-side down, on a rimmed baking sheet lined with foil. Brush the ribs with olive oil, and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Roast for 20 minutes and remove from the oven. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Heat 1/4 cup (60 ml) olive oil in a large Dutch oven or heavy pot over medium heat. Add the leeks, celery, onions, and carrots and cook over medium to medium-high heat and sauté, stirring occasionally, until vegetables soften, about 12 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for another 5 minutes. Add the wine, bring to a boil, lower the heat, and simmer over medium heat for 15 minutes, until the liquid is reduced. Add the stock, marinara sauce, Guinness, bay leaves and sprigs of fresh thyme.

Bring to boil and add short ribs, completely submerging meat in liquid; return to boil, cover, place in oven, and simmer until ribs are tender, about 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Transfer pot to a wire rack and cool, partially covered, until warm, about 2 hours.

Transfer the ribs from the pot to a large plate, removing excess vegetables that may cling to the meat; discard loose bones that have fallen away from meat. Strain braising liquid into medium bowl, pressing out liquid from solids; discard solids. Cover ribs and liquid separately with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. (Can be refrigerated up to 3 days.)

Reheat gently, basting frequently, on top of the stove or in a 350°F oven.



## BACON & POTATOES

Servings: 6

2 1/2 pounds (1.1 kg) small potatoes, peeled (about 30)  
4 cups (960 ml) chicken stock  
4 sprigs fresh thyme, plus extra picked leaves for garnishing.  
1/2 pound (227 grams) smoked bacon, cut into 1-inch pieces  
2 yellow onions, peeled and largely diced



### Directions:

Add the potatoes, chicken stock and sprigs of thyme to a large pot (stock should be covering the potatoes). Bring the stock to a simmer over medium heat and cook until the potatoes soften, about 15 minutes.



While the potatoes are cooking, heat a large skillet over medium heat. Fry the bacon pieces until crispy. Remove and place on a plate lined with paper towels. Raise the heat and add the onions to the skillet and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onions are golden, about 20-25 minutes.



Using a slotted spoon, lift the potatoes out of the stock and add to the skillet with the onions. Add the bacon to the skillet. Turn up the heat to medium-high and add one cup of stock. Baste the potatoes with stock and bacon/onion mixture. If the pan is drying, add another 1/2 cup of stock. You are looking for the sauce to be the thickness of honey. Add thyme leaves and season with salt and pepper to taste.

## ROASTED CABBAGE WEDGES

Servings: 8

4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
1 head green cabbage, cut into 8 wedges  
salt and ground black pepper to taste



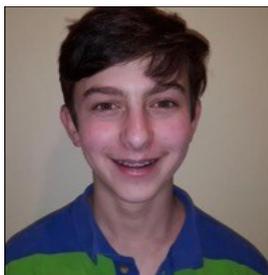
### Directions:

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C).

Brush both sides of each cabbage wedge with olive oil and season with salt and pepper over each wedge. Arrange wedges on a rimmed baking sheet.



Roast in the preheated oven for 15 minutes; flip cabbage and continue roasting until browned and charred in some areas, about 15 minutes more.



When do monkeys fall from the sky? During Ape-ril showers!

Can February March? No, but April May!

Why is everyone so tired on April 1? Because they've just finished a long, 31 day March!

What flowers grow on faces? Tulips

Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the Fall they "Let It Go" and in the Spring they "turn over a new leaf".

Why is the letter A like a flower? A bee comes after it!

When do people start using their trampoline? Spring-Time

What do you get when you pour hot water down a rabbit hole? A hot cross bunny

What did the tree say to spring? What a re-leaf.

What do you call a girl with a frog on her head? Lily!

What does the Easter Bunny order at a Chinese Restaurant? Hop Suey!

What do you call a rabbit with fleas? Bugs Bunny

What does the Easter Rabbit get for making a basket? Two points just like everybody!



Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they had a flat tire. Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test today so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper."

Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said: "First Question: Which tire was flat?"

## Kibitzer Activities:

Normally we would feature local sports happenings, golf courses, and shopping centers in this space. For this event, since all online, we suggest you consult your local restaurants and shopping venues for curbside pick-up and delivery! If you choose outdoor dining where available or beaches where open, please remember to socially distance and bring your mobile device and wi-fi to be able to watch the matches while enjoying the beautiful outdoors!



And as Sadie Shopper will tell you, online shopping is available in your area (wherever that is) 24 hours a day for your enjoyment.

We recommend you stock up on popcorn and snacks, put your feet on your desk and enjoy the delayed kibitzing of the RealBridge matches.

# Sudoku

SOLUTION to Logic Puzzle on  
page 14

Rosewood	Magenta	Jade	5.2
Fir	Gray	Camille	4.0
Bamboo	Burgundy	Collin	3.2
Chestnut	Cyan	Donald	2.2

Sudoku 2

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

Sudoku 1

# Answers on Page 16

I knew a woman who owned a taser. Man, was she stunning!

I meant to look for my missing watch, but I could never find the time.

Did you hear about that great new shovel? It's ground breaking.

Inspecting mirrors is a job I could really see myself doing.

Two antennas got married last Saturday. The reception was fantastic.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

The golfer brought an extra pair of pants in case he got a hole in one.

Why does Peter Pan fly all the time? Because he Neverlands.

How do you kill a circus? Go for the juggler.

I did a performance about puns. Really it was just a play on words.

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

# Puns...

Cheerio Yanks:

Here we are again with the JLall3 afore us. There are 2 brackets of 15 teams each. In a 3 day round robin the top 5 survive, the bottom 5 are eliminated, and the middle 5 will play a 2<sup>nd</sup> one day round robin with 6 survivors. Stick with Limey Jack to make a fiver and steer clear of that muppet Howie Dung.

Moderna Bracket:

In the weaker of the two brackets, Nickell, Moss and Rosenthal barely have time to finish a cuppa, whilst Bishel, Lin, Reynolds and Rasmussen will be having a bevvy at the pub sooner than later.

There are a bunch of middle-diddle teams that could all go either direction. Parker has a load of talent but someone has to fail.

On the other end, Onstott and Kolesnik hold a slight edge on the rest.

Pfizer Bracket:

Lall, Levine, Martel are favourites to qualify; nay-automatic, while Donnelly, Joel, Rockoff, and Schireson are the weak sisters. Hinze will have to leg it to avoid the walk of shame. Baker has some dodgy systems that will keep their oppos off kilter and has them playing still on Monday, while a pair of new names; Jacobs and Robinson, round out the upper echelon.

Blimey what fun. Make a quid or two and beware of the prat.

Cheers.

# Limey Jack

Which of the Brackets have teams that are wiser?  
I'll first pick **Moderna** and then I'll pick **Pfizer**!

Both Bracket Names exuding of charm,  
Both give the players a shot in the arm!

Five teams succeed; five drop to the "bubble,"  
Five teams are out when they get into trouble!

Rosenthal, Nickell, Merblum and Moss  
All are unlikely to suffer a loss!

Onstott's the fifth to show off his worth!  
Grabbing his team a knock-out phase berth!

Into the "bubble," see Carmichael go,  
With Bitterman, Parker, Reynolds and Lo.

**Howie Doing...**

The rest of Moderna sadly no more,  
We'll see them again in J Lall team 4!

Which teams in Pfizer rate to do well?  
Those with Levine and those with Martel!

One team with Robinson, two teams with Smith  
Skip past the bubble and that is no myth!

Joel and Rockoff, along with team Hinze,  
Drop into the bubble with just enough wins.

Lall gets there easy; And Baker's not done ...  
Grab some popcorn and wine and watch all the fun!

Howie Doing... fine, thanks!

# Fun and Games Page

Find and circle all of the COVID-19 words that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell a secret message.

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

ACHES	FEVER	NURSING HOMES	SANITIZE
ACUTE CARE	FRONTLINE	OUTBREAK	SHORTAGES
ASYMPTOMATIC	GLOVES	PAINS	SIXF EET
BATS	HEADACHE	PANDEMIC	SORE THROAT
CAREGIVERS	HOSPITAL	PARAMEDICS	SPREAD
CASES	ICU	PATIENTS	STAY SAFE
COMMUNITY	ISOLATE	PNEUMONIA	SYMPTOMS
CONTACT	JOB LOSSES	POSITIVE	TESTING
CONTAGIOUS	LOCKDOWN	PPE	TIREDNESS
CORONAVIRUS	LONG TERM CARE	PRECAUTIONS	TREND
COUGH	LUNGS	QUARANTINE	UPDATES
DOCTORS	MASKS	RECOVERY	VACCINE
ESSENTIALS	NURSES	RESTRICTIONS	VENTILATORS
FEAR	NURSING ATTENDANTS	RUNNY NOSE	WASH HANDS



		First Names				House Colors				Wood			
		Camille	Collin	Donald	Jade	burgundy	cyan	gray	magenta	bamboo	chestnut	fir	rosewood
Megapixels	2.2												
	3.2												
	4.0												
	5.2												
Wood	bamboo												
	chestnut												
	fir												
	rosewood												
House Colors	burgundy												
	cyan												
	gray												
	magenta												

Answers on page 11

Megapixels	First Names	House Colors	Wood
2.2			
3.2			
4.0			
5.2			

- The person whose table is made of fir is not Donald or Jade.
- The person whose table is made of chestnut doesn't own the burgundy house.
- Donald has a camera with fewer megapixels than the person whose table is made of bamboo.
- The person whose table is made of rosewood doesn't own the burgundy or gray house.
- The person with the 5.2 megapixel camera doesn't own the gray house.
- Either the person whose table is made of chestnut or the person whose table is made of fir lives in the cyan colored house.
- The person whose table is made of bamboo is Collin.
- The owner of the burgundy house has a camera with fewer megapixels than the person whose table is made of fir.
- Of the owner of the gray house and the person whose table is made of bamboo, one has the 4.0 megapixel camera and the other has the 3.2 megapixel camera.
- The person with the 2.2 megapixel camera doesn't own the magenta house.
- The owner of the cyan house is Donald.

**Logic  
Puzzle**

# "Robot"tricks...

10 D	N p531753	W N E S
	♠ AK73 ♥ K6 ♦ AJ104 ♣ KJ10	P P P P X 2♦ XX 2♥ 3♦ P P P
W fnickell	E ralphk	
♠ QJ98 ♥ Q875 ♦ 9 ♣ A754	♠ 52 ♥ AJ932 ♦ K3 ♣ 8632	
	S p531745	
	♠ 1064 ♥ 104 ♦ Q87652 ♣ Q9	
		3♦ N NS: 0 EW: 0

Practicing on BBO with Ralph Katz and Nick Nickell on Monday night, we suffered a strange happenstance ... and in so doing, learned a little bit about the BBO robots. Nick's internet failed on Board 10 and he was inadvertently logged off the system right after Stan passed my opening 2D (18-21 balanced). Stan had neglected to bar "substitute robots" when he set up the room and a robot promptly jumped into Nick's seat.

Not noticing the mayhem, we continued the bidding. Stan passed and the Robot doubled showing 3+clubs; 4+hearts; 4+spades; 11- HCP (his alerted explanation). Liking diamonds, I redoubled. Holding hearts, Ralph bid 2H. Stan bid 3D and we played it there, making three.

Our observations:

2D was alerted for the opponents and explained as 18-21 balanced ... but the Robot evidently ignored it and thought it was a weak two ... a 4th seat weak two??

The Robot's alert of the double is probably not a "real" alert. It seems far more thorough than a more normal "take out by a passed hand!"

Ralph led his S5 to the Robot's nine and my ace. I won the SA, cashed the trump ace and knocked out the CA to establish a spade discard on my long club. We won 1.73 IMPs for choosing diamonds over NT... a systemic victory when Stan was able to pass my 2D bid.

The Traveler:

Nº	Time	North	South	East	West	Result	NS Points	Score
1	2021-03-29 19:58	Arvind41	Arpash21	fourofus	rnaik	2NN+1	150	3.00
2	2021-03-29 19:55	lcbj	delank	jasmine15	Lilmart27	3♦N+1	130	2.47
3	2021-03-29 19:56	238Niagars	L54Hilton	joanrath	pendeb	4♦N=	130	2.47
4	2021-03-29 19:55	kinseydoc	Saint15	hamsandwic	bmutton1	4♦N=	130	2.47
5	2021-03-29 19:54	mark78	fraile1	dee kl	aabjo	1NN+1	120	2.27
6	2021-03-29 19:45	blue_421	AMKW1	gurujiti	Fresnoearl	1♦N+2	110	1.73
7	2021-03-29 19:56	trelawny1	Solstice05	varcoe	paddler101	2♦N+1	110	1.73
8	2021-03-29 20:02	p531753	p531745	ralphk	fnickell	3♦N=	110	1.73
9	2021-03-29 19:55	Muggs41	Mae Thomps	danielhoen	mlc41	1NN=	90	1.20
10	2021-03-29 19:55	colleen1mc	drosvold	elkunkel	xt4	1NN=	90	1.20
11	2021-03-29 19:55	NEArnell	stevebbq1	normanmile	dianea22	1NN=	90	1.20
12	2021-03-29 19:51	atom6	Redtailpa	annmellett	gerigolf	1NN-1	-100	-3.80
13	2021-03-29 19:56	hari2021	wonku	john1233	lsbaskin	3NN-1	-100	-3.80
14	2021-03-29 20:04	CherylAB	NanouLou	janithaca	Raven9969	5♦N-1	-100	-3.80
15	2021-03-29 19:56	Connie25	makeeffort	bidemup9	wilfestey	3NN-1	-100	-3.80
16	2021-03-29 19:55	riggi1	Webster_S	killf3	cgogail	3NN-2	-200	-6.27



# Puzzle Answers:

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

## Sudoku

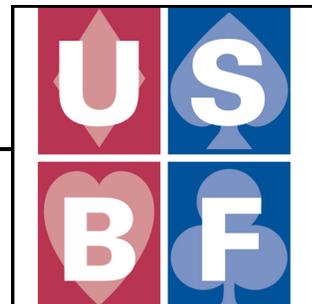
on page 11

Puzzle 1 on left

Puzzle 2 on right

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

## 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.

What do the letter T and an island have in common?

Answer: You'll find them both in the middle of water.

I'm the rare case when today comes before yesterday. What am I?

Answer: A dictionary.

What goes all the way around the world but stays in a corner?

Answer: A stamp.

You cannot keep me until you have given me. What am I?

Answer: Your word.

What gets bigger the more you take away?

Answer: A hole.

What has four fingers and a thumb, but isn't alive?

Answer: A glove.

If you have me, you will want to share me. If you share me, you will no longer have me. What am I?

Answer: A secret.

What gets wet when drying?

Answer: A towel.

What two words, when added together, contain the most letters?

Answer: Post office.

What has a head and a tail, but no body?

Answer: A coin.

What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?

Answer: The letter M.

Two coins add up to 30 cents. One isn't a nickel. What are they?

Answer: A quarter and a nickel. The statement said only one of the coins isn't a nickel!!

I shave every day, but my beard stays the same. Who am I?

Answer: A barber.

What always ends everything?

Answer: The letter G.

The man who invented it doesn't need it. The man who bought it doesn't want it. The man who needs it doesn't know. What is it?

Answer: A coffin.





# Meet the Players

**James Holzhauer**, playing with Josh Donn on the Hinze team, is famous as an American game show contestant and professional sports gambler. He is the third-highest-earning American game show contestant of all time and is best known for his 32-game winning streak as champion on the quiz show *Jeopardy!* from April to June 2019 during which he set multiple single-game records for winnings, and for winning the following Tournament of Champions that November.

Holzhauer won \$2,464,216 in his 33 appearances, making him the second-highest winner in *Jeopardy!* regular-play (non-tournament) winnings and number of games won, behind only Ken Jennings, who won \$2,522,700 in 75 episodes in 2004. His \$250,000 top prize in the Tournament of Champions and \$250,000 runner-up prize in the Greatest of All Time Tournament brought his total to \$2,964,216, making him still the third-highest winning *Jeopardy!* contestant, behind Jennings and Brad Rutter. Holzhauer also set the single-game winnings record with \$131,127. Based on his success on *Jeopardy!*, he has been nicknamed "Jeopardy James".

Holzhauer was born in the mid 1980's and raised in Naperville, Illinois. His father was a German immigrant. His grandmother was Japanese and spoke very little English; he had promised her that he would appear on *Jeopardy!* before she died. In 1989, when he was four, his teacher was astounded by his arithmetic abilities and developed advanced classwork just for him. At age seven, he was moved up to a fifth-grade math class, and at his mother's urging, he skipped second grade. He consistently got A's on math tests and competed on the Naperville North High School math team

Despite high marks on individual tests, he was a C student overall, as he often skipped class and homework on the grounds that he could use the time more productively, such as playing online poker. Holzhauer memorized obscure baseball and professional wrestling statistics, prompting his parents to reprimand him for "wasting his life" learning about sports.

Holzhauer was a member of the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering Team that won the state competition at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign; he contributed by taking first place in physics and second in math. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics in 2005.

## ***The Chase***

Holzhauer appeared on the American version of the quiz show *The Chase* on September 2, 2014, internationally produced by ITV Studios. In his first round, a one-minute round called the Cash Builder, he correctly answered 12 questions out of 13 posed by host Brooke Burns; the last question was asked just before time expired and was quickly passed on by Holzhauer. His score set a record for the Cash Builder that was never surpassed during the show's run.

In his second round, he faced Mark Labbett to determine whether he would advance to the final round and add money to the team prize pool. Holzhauer had a choice of three amounts to play for: \$60,000 based on his score in the Cash Builder, \$30,000 to reduce the difficulty of the round; and \$120,000, which would increase the difficulty. He chose to play for \$60,000; after the show he said that the odds did not favor playing for the maximum amount and that it was not worth the gamble.

*The Chase* was played head-to-head, with the players using hidden buttons to select multiple-choice answers. Holzhauer advanced to the finals and added to the prize pool with a score of five right and one wrong. Labbett scored a perfect five, with his final answer not revealed since Holzhauer had already achieved the necessary points to win the round.

In the Final Chase round (as team leader with two other contestants also participating), Holzhauer's team defeated Labbett by a score of 26 to 9, earning him a \$58,333.33 share of the \$175,000 team prize pool. By answering 19 questions correctly for his team, he set a Final Chase record, which was also never surpassed.

Bob Boden, the producer of *The Chase*, was impressed by his performance and had Holzhauer audition to join the show as a colleague of Labbett. In July 2020, Holzhauer and several other famous game show contestants were said to be in negotiations to become chasers for a potential reboot of *The Chase*, which would be produced for ABC. The reboot starring Holzhauer, Ken Jennings, and Brad Rutter premiered January 7, 2021 on ABC.

### **500 Questions**

Holzhauer appeared on the American quiz show *500 Questions* on May 22, 2015. This show did not allow the challenger to replace the champion unless the champion answered three questions wrong in a row. The incumbent champion, Steve Bahnaman, prevailed over Holzhauer, who did not receive any winnings.

### **Jeopardy!**

Holzhauer appeared on 33 episodes of Season 35 of the American quiz show *Jeopardy!*, from April 4 to June 3, 2019.

During his first game, he won \$43,680, which was the largest single-game total to that point in Season 35. In his fourth game, which aired on April 9, he broke the previous single-game *Jeopardy!* winnings record (\$77,000, set by Roger Craig in 2010) by winning \$110,914.

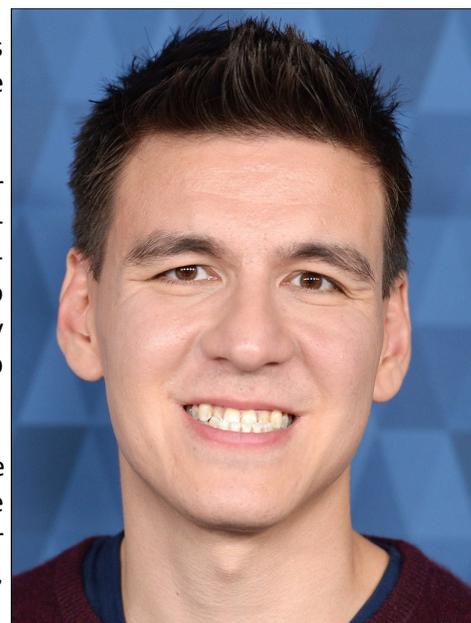
During his 33 appearances, Holzhauer exceeded Craig's single-day total 16 times (see table below), including a new all-time record set on April 17, when he won \$131,127. He is also the first and only player to win \$100,000 or more in a single episode, a feat he accomplished six times. His \$298,687 total winnings across his first five days surpassed the five-day record set by Frank Spangenberg in 1990 before the changes in the values of the clues. Holzhauer is the only contestant to date to do so. Holzhauer won a total of \$2,464,216, averaging \$75,362 per episode—a 33-day average that nearly equaled the previous all-time single-day record.

Fellow *Jeopardy!* champion Ken Jennings has likened this feat to "a basketball player notching 70-point games for an entire season or a baseball player hitting for the cycle in every game". Holzhauer's average winnings were more than the estimated \$43,000 per episode that host Alex Trebek earned.

Holzhauer was defeated in his 33rd game, which aired on June 3, 2019, and was watched by 14.5 million people. The winner, Emma Boettcher, used many of the same strategies Holzhauer used during his run against him.

In July 2019, *Jeopardy!* confirmed that Holzhauer would return for the Tournament of Champions in November. Holzhauer won both his quarterfinal and semifinal games to advance to the final round, which featured a rematch against Boettcher, who was invited separately and also won her first two tournament games. Holzhauer won the two-day final, winning the first game by a larger margin than Boettcher won the second and claiming the \$250,000 top prize.

The following week, *Jeopardy!* announced that Holzhauer would compete against Jennings and Rutter in prime-time specials for a million-dollar prize in *Jeopardy! The Greatest of All Time*, which aired in January 2020. Holzhauer won one match in the tournament, but lost to Jennings in the other matches,



and received the runner-up prize of \$250,000.

## Strategies

Holzhauser took a two-pronged approach to play. He selected the highest-value clues first in an attempt to maximize the money he had available to wager when he hit a Daily Double. This strategy does not always work, as a Daily Double is more likely to be behind a high-value clue, and often he hit the Daily Double before accumulating a large sum to wager. On Daily Doubles and during Final Jeopardy! clues, Holzhauser bet aggressively; his average wager on Daily Doubles was \$9,000.

While aggressive betting is disadvantageous if a player responds incorrectly, Holzhauser was correct on 72 of the 76 Daily Doubles he hit (94.7 percent). This strategy was not entirely new; Alex Jacob, also a professional gambler, used a similar strategy in his six regular-play wins in April 2015 as well as the 2015 Tournament of Champions, which he won.<sup>1</sup>

Excluding Daily Doubles and Final Jeopardy! wagers, Holzhauser's average score of \$30,800 during his 32-episode winning streak (57 percent of the \$54,000 available in each game) is higher than the \$28,786 averaged by Jennings, who was far more conservative in his wagering; Holzhauser considered it more logical to make large bets that will usually pay off, since, during the first 25 episodes of his winning streak, he averaged 35.5 correct and only 1.04 wrong responses per game. On the episode he lost, he did not respond to any clues incorrectly. He credited reading fact books written for children, with their heavy use of infographics, with allowing him to learn vast amounts of information in an easily digestible manner. He took a year off from his occupation as a sports gambler to study for *Jeopardy!*

## Response to gameplay

Holzhauser's record-breaking winning streak attracted considerable reaction and media attention. When Holzhauser reached \$1 million, Craig, who held the single-game winnings record before Holzhauser, said, "To me, it's clear that he's one of the top players of all time already." Jennings said he was "just gobsmacked by James", adding, "It's absolutely insane what he's doing." Of Holzhauser's strategies, Jennings said, "he's got these incredibly confident wagers. He's maximizing money. He can make two or three times what any other player ever has with that same level of play, which again is top-shelf. He's as good as anybody." Jennings adopted Holzhauser's wagering strategy in the *Greatest of All Time* tournament, a factor in his victory. Labbett, meanwhile, recalled Holzhauser's *The Chase* appearance as "the worst beating I've ever had", adding, "I've got to give *Jeopardy!* immense credit, and *The Chase* U.S.A. In Britain or Australia, James would not have made it onto television, because he's just too damn good. They would never have him on."

## Television ratings

Nielsen ratings for *Jeopardy!* rose 11 percent nationally during the first two weeks of Holzhauser's run and as much as 50 percent in select local markets, with a continuing upward trend over the course of his streak; by the fourth week of Holzhauser's run, ratings were up 30 percent nationwide and had doubled in select markets. Former Game Show Network executive Bob Boden said the ratings would help compensate for any short-term financial losses Holzhauser's run caused, and that the show's profitability up to this point (both *Jeopardy!* and sister program *Wheel of Fortune* combine to generate approximately \$125 million in revenue while costing \$100 million) would allow them to absorb the increased payouts.

It was also noted that the improved ratings would not immediately allow the show to increase advertising rates, since those are set on a season-by-season basis as part of long-term ad buys.

The highest-rated episode during Holzhauser's run was his final one, which at 14.5 million same-day viewers was the highest-rated episode since Jennings's last episode in 2004, the highest-rated episode of a syndicated show that season and the third-most-watched episode of a running series in the 2018–19 season (behind only the series-ending "The Stockholm Syndrome" episode of *The Big Bang Theory* and an episode of *60 Minutes* that had led out of an *NFL on CBS* contest), not



counting DVR or streaming views, the latter of which *Jeopardy!* does not offer. The episode had been spoiled several hours before it aired on most affiliate stations; *Sports Illustrated* credited the spoilers with creating buzz, counteracting the conventional wisdom that people would not tune in without the element of surprise. Even if the result had not been spoiled, Holzhauer was on pace to break Jennings's regular-play record that day had he won, which might also have had a part in the increased ratings.

While a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, Holzhauer played hearts and spades at a card club. The twice-a-week club quickly turned into a five-day-a-week home poker game with a 10-cent ante and \$2 maximum bets. The poker game is where Holzhauer began gambling but he grew his sports betting bankroll in the 2006 World Baseball Classic. Believing the round-robin format of the tournament and variance in baseball had skewed the odds, he bet heavily on each team except the US and the Dominican Republic to win the tournament. After graduating from college, Holzhauer moved to Las Vegas in 2008 to bet professionally on sports. Holzhauer says he has built predictive models for baseball, NFL, and college basketball, but now focuses largely on in-game betting.

Holzhauer debuted at the World Series of Poker in 2019. In his first event, he finished 454th out of approximately 1,800 contestants and did not win any prize money (he would have needed to finish at 281st or higher to win any prize money). His second event was a tag-team match in which he partnered with Mike Sexton. He ultimately was knocked out as a solo contestant in round 17 of the tournament, with his most notable prize win being a \$600 profit for finishing 92nd out of 1,867 on a No-Limit Hold'em Super Turbo Bounty game.

On September 8, 2012, Holzhauer married Melissa Sassin, a tutor from Seattle, Washington. Sassin has also been a game show contestant, appearing on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* in 2014 and winning \$28,800. Their daughter, Natasha, was born on November 9, 2014.

Holzhauer frequently made inside references to important dates in his life with his *Jeopardy!* wagers, including family members' birthdays, his anniversary, and the date of the 2017 Las Vegas shooting.

Holzhauer is a lifelong fan of the Chicago Cubs; he has said his dream job is a front-office position with the team and has actively sought employment in Major League Baseball. Holzhauer has said that he was contractually obligated to a non-compete clause in an agreement with the *Jeopardy!* producers; it expired in January 2020.

### Philanthropy

Holzhauer said he intended to donate some of his *Jeopardy!* winnings to Las Vegas children's charities. On April 7, 2019, he donated \$10,000 to a Las Vegas organization for displaced teens. On May 2, 2019, he was awarded a key to the Las Vegas Strip for his success on *Jeopardy!* and for his donations to children's charity organizations and other non-profit organizations in the Las Vegas area. In mid-2019, Holzhauer donated \$1,109.14 (representing his daughter's birthday) to the 2019 Naperville Pancreatic Cancer Reach Walk in Illinois, in Alex Trebek's name. On June 24, 2019, Holzhauer began participating in World Series of Poker events in Las Vegas. He plans to donate half his winnings to the Las Vegas nonprofit Project 150, which helps homeless, displaced and disadvantaged high school students.



# From the D20 GNT Championship Flight...

D	1	N dwgreen	W N E S
		♠ KQ2	1♣ P 1♠
		♥ 84	P 2♠ P 4♠
		♦ 972	P P P
		♣ KQJ76	
W upstate		E vista711	
♠ 4		♠ AJ96	
♥ 1097653		♥ Q2	
♦ KJ54		♦ Q86	
♣ A10		♣ 8542	
		S zulu29	
		♠ 108753	
		♥ AKJ	
		♦ A103	
		♣ 93	
			4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0

Mark Smith Zwerling Don Tofte Tolliver

W	N	E	S
	1♦	P	1♠
P	2♥	P	2NT
P	3♣	P	3NT
P	P	P	

- 1D=2+ 11-15
- 1S=canapé
- 2H=3 card raise or good 4 card suit
- 2NT=asking
- 3C=4+clubs

On Board 1 from the District 20 Online GNT Qualifying on April 3rd, Zwerling and Tolliver, using their "home-honed" version of strong club, chose the nine trick game over the ten trick game and were rewarded when the poor spade split defeated the ten trick game in the other room.

Mark Smith led the H6 the his partner's queen and declarer's ace. Tolliver won and switched to clubs, Smith flying with his ace. Smith continued with the HT to the king, Tolliver switching to spades. Tofte won his SA. He played the D8 ducked to the jack and the D6 was continued to the queen and ace. Tolliver cashed the HJ, ran his clubs and claimed 9 tricks. Contract making for +400

In the other room where David Green was North, Everett Fukushima was East, Ed Lee was South and Mark Bennett was West, Green/Lee found their eight card spade fit and opted for the ten trick game.

The defense commenced in much the same manner as it did against 3NT. Bennett led the HT to his partner's queen and declarer's ace. Lee switched to a small club. Bennett ducked and clubs were continued to his ace. The D4 went to the queen and ace and declarer tried the HK, pitching a diamond from dummy, and the HJ pitching a diamond from dummy while East ruffed with the S6. The D8 went to the jack and the DK was ruffed in dummy. The SQ was won with East's ace and East still had the SJ protected to collect five tricks for down two.

The lie of East/West's spades made the spade game impossible while reasonable on the bidding. Note that 3NT would be defeated on a diamond lead when E/W score three diamonds and two black aces... but who would make that lead holding a 6 card heart suit and two side entries?

11 IMPs to Zwerling

Ed. Note:

With the delayed broadcasting and the use of the Round Robin, it will be especially challenging to write up the hands. If anyone has a hand of interest, please submit it to me at stansubeck@prodigy.net. I also welcome any human interest stories, news or gossip!!

Thanks.

Suzi



My dog can do magic tricks. It's a labracadabrador.

What do you call a piece of toast at the zoo? Bread in captivity.

I used to have a fear of hurdles, but I got over it.

My fear of moving stairs is escalating.

I was going to buy a book on phobias, but I was afraid it wouldn't help me.

I wanted to buy a camouflage shirt, but I didn't see one.

