

December 31, 2022
Volume 6, Issue 6

MICHAEL SEAMON JUNIOR UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

All Kidding Aside

Results...

RONA:

2. Hsieh	92.75	43.02		11.83	17.90	20.00
4. Qian	55.66	28.79	8.17		4.89	13.81
3. Linkel	48.18	21.25	2.10	15.11		9.72
1. Farley	43.41	26.94	0.00	6.19	10.28	

U26 USA2 Semi-Final:

2	Xiao - wins tie	168	25	66	21	56
5	Berk	115	25	38	28	24
3	Chen - wins tie	146	14	65	16	51
4	Goyal	141	50	23	18	50

U21 USA1 Final

#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	Penalty (IMPs)
1	M Xu	216	60	51	34	71	
2	Zhou	122	22	53	29	18	

U21 USA2 SemiFinal

3	Derman - wins tie	167	75	32	27	33
4	Gong	130	8	24	48	50

Congratulations Team Xu! U21 USA1
Happy New Year!

- USBF President**
Aaron Silverstein
- USBF Vice President**
Lynn Baker
- USBF COO & Secretary**
Jan Martel
- USBF CFO & Treasurer**
Stan Subeck
- USBF Recorder**
Jack Oest
- Directors**
McKenzie Myers, DIC
Ken Horwedel
Chris Wiegand
- Tournament Organizer**
Jan Martel
- Software Expert**
Al Hollander
- Online VuGraph Organizer**
Adam Grossack
- Appeals Administrators**
Suzi Subeck, Chairman
- Appeals Panel:**
Dana Berkowitz
Cheri Bjerkan
Rich DeMartino
Marty Fleisher
Ron Gerard
Marty Hirschman
George Jacobs
Ralph Katz
Chip Martel
Kerri Sanborn
Stan Subeck
Adam Wildavsky
- Bulletin Editor**
Suzi Subeck
- Photographer**
Peg Kaplan
- Junior Committee Chair**
Joe Stokes
- Junior Program Co-Ordinator**
Alex Kolesnik



Michael Seamon

Schireson/Xu buck the field... See page 19 for story of their success on Board 5.

Teams Entered

ALL KIDDING ASIDE

RONA (GIRLS):

U26:

Berk	Hakan Berk, Capt Sophia Chang	David Soukup Lucy Zhang
Chen	Tianyang Chen, Capt Jiahe Shen Zhenling Wang	Fangqing Yuan Qian Sun Yifu Ouyang
Goyal	Sarik Goyal, Capt Derek Wong	Sheldon Tan Gan Yang
Hallerman	Raphael Hallerman, Capt Sean McNally	Ilan Wolff Isaac Stephani
Johnstone	Morgan Johnstone, Capt Isaac Stone	Vincent Zhu Robert West
Kolesnik	Finn Kolesnik, Capt Ben Kristensen Emma Kolesnik	Zach Grossack Kevin Rosenberg Jacob Freeman
Scott	William Scott, Capt Luke Williams	Reese Koppel Jake Williams
Xiao	Brent Xiao, Capt Stella Wan Cynthia Huang	Richard Jeng Cornelius Duffie Amber Lin
Y Xu	Yuchen Xu, Capt Jeff Hu Nathan Finkle	Zhiyu Cheng Dingjia Mao Henry Xing
Yeung	Alan Yeung, Capt Handi Yang Jakob Reinke	Ian Dunbar Victor Xu Patrick Delos Reye

Farley	Abbie Farley, Capt Khanh Tran Nguyen	Jessica Udomsriunguang Laura Chen
Hsieh	Helena Hsieh, Capt Ava Donnellan	Jessie Cai Margot Donnellan
Linkel	Lorelei Linkel, Capt Cecilia Ehrlichman Jay Sullivan	Katie Sullivan Kyra Helmbold
Qian	Nicole Qian, Capt Katherine Hwang	Helen Chow Helen Levy

U21:

A Zhang	Andy Zhang, Capt Ethan Xie Tiger Li	Matthew Rippin Zach Posternak Darwin Skalski
Derman	Ethan Derman, Capt Michael Haas Daniel Balof	Levi Katriel Sam Pahk Kai Eckert
Gong	Nathan Gong, Capt Edward He	Arthur Gong Eric He
Hu	Michael Hu, Capt Andrew Jin Luke Tong	Jerry Yao Oliver Que
Klein	Aidan Klein, Capt Owen Jiang Cedric Xiao	Kevin Jiang Philip Wang
M Xu	Michael Xu, Capt Harrison Luba	Olivia Schireson Bo Han Zhu
Zhao	Derrick Zhao, Capt Avery Silverstein	Caroline Zhao Jack Boge
Zhou	Arthur Zhou, Capt Rory Xiao	Michael Hu Jonathan Yue

“Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards.”
—Vernon Sanders Law

See page 9 for updated team rosters reflecting travel & Covid upsets for players. Original lists on this page!

Tournament Schedules

Lovebridge practice sessions			
Day	Date	Time	
Monday	Dec. 26	4:00 PM - 7:00 PM	
Tuesday	Dec. 27	10:00 AM	
Wednesday	Dec. 28	9:00 PM	
Thursday	Dec. 29	10:00 AM	

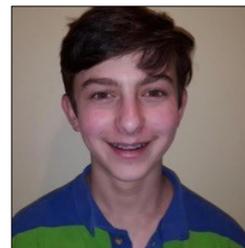
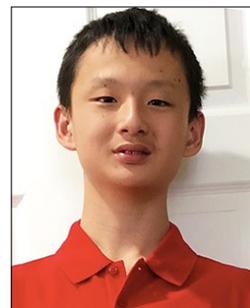
PRE-TOURNAMENT CAPTAINS & PLAYERS MEETINGS			
first two will be Both in the Playing Area & on Zoom			
Rona Captains' meeting 12/29 will be in the Playing area			
Day	Date	Time	
Monday	Dec. 26	9:00 PM	
Tuesday	Dec. 27	10:00 AM	
Thursday	Dec. 29	10:00 AM	

U26 Schedule			
Round Robin			
Day	Date	Time	Boards
Tuesday	Dec. 27	11:00 - 11:45 12:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 1:45 2:00 - 2:45 4:00 - 4:45 5:00-5:45 6:00-6:45 7:00-7:45 8:00-8:45	Match 1 - Boards 1-7 Match 2 - Boards 8-14 Match 3 - Boards 15-21 Match 4 - Boards 22-28 75 minute Break Match 5 - Boards 29-35 Match 6 - Boards 36-42 Match 7 - Boards 43-49 Match 8 - Boards 50-56 Match 9 - Boards 57-63
<i>Short Captains Meeting For Round Robin Winner to Choose Opponents after play Tuesday</i>			
USA1 Semifinal			
Wednesday	Dec. 28	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45 4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
USA2 Stage 1 (6 team Round Robin)			
Wednesday	Dec. 28	11:15 - 12:40 12:55 - 2:20 3:45 - 5:10 5:25 - 6:50 7:05 - 8:30	Match 1 - Boards 1-12 Match 2 - Boards 13-24 75 minute Break Match 3 - Boards 25-36 Match 4 - Boards 37-48 Match 5 - Boards 49-60
USA1 Final & USA2 Quarterfinal (6 teams)			
Thursday	Dec. 29	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45 4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
USA2 Semifinal			
Friday	Dec. 30	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45 4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
USA2 Final (Subject to Adjustment at Teams' Option)			
Saturday	Dec. 31	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45 4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60



Tournament Schedules... continued from page 3

U21 Schedule			
<i>Round Robin</i>			
<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Boards</i>
Tuesday & Wednesday	Dec. 27	11:30 - 12:25 12:40 - 1:35	Match 1 - Boards 1-8 Match 2 - Boards 9-16
	Dec. 28	1:50 - 2:45 4:15 - 5:10 5:25 - 6:20 6:35 - 7:30 7:45 - 8:40	Match 3 - Boards 17-24 90 minute Break Match 4 - Boards 25-32 Match 5 - Boards 33-40 Match 6 - Boards 41-48 Match 7 - Boards 49-56
Each player must play against each other team			
<i>Short Captains Meeting For Round Robin Winner to Choose Opponents after play Wednesday</i>			
<i>USA1 Semifinal</i>			
Thursday	Dec. 29	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45 4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
<i>USA1 Final & USA2 Semifinal</i>			
Friday	Dec. 30	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45 4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
<i>USA2 Final</i>			
Saturday	Dec. 31	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45 4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Rona Schedule			
<i>Round Robin</i>			
Thursday & Friday	Dec. 29 & Dec. 30	11:15 - 1:30 3:00 - 5:15 5:30 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-20 90 minute Break Segment 2 Boards 21-40 Segment 4 Boards 41-60
<i>KO</i>			
Saturday	Dec. 31	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45 4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60



ALERT!!! Earn a Berth in an Exhibition Match against ACBL Staff ...

Amy Casanova at ACBL and Dave Caprera are arranging a match between the juniors who qualify to represent the USA next year in each of the four categories (26, 21, Rona and 16) and representatives of the ACBL staff and management. The event will occur on Sunday, January 8th, at 8 pm eastern time on RealBridge. George Jacobs and Larry Cohen have agreed to do the commentary (none better). There will be four tables and ~16 boards (2 hours). It should be fun for the participants and a great show for the kibitzers. Watch for more information in later bulletins this week!

The WBF Zonal Conferences & Affiliated Federations (NBOs)

The **World Bridge Federation** consists of five continents, following the five rings of the Olympic Movement (America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania) and of eight **Zonal Conferences**. Each Zonal Conference administers bridge in its own geographical area, coordinating the **National Federations** of its member countries.



The areas covered by the Zones and some basic figures are given below.

Zone	Organization	Area	Member Countries
1	 EBL European Bridge League	Europe	46
2	NABF North American Bridge Federation	North America	3
3	 CSB Confederacion Sudamericana de Bridge	South America	10
4	 BFAME Bridge Federation of Asia & the Middle East	Asia	9
5	 CAC Central American & Caribbean Bridge Federation	Central America	11
6	 APBF Asia Pacific Bridge Federation	Pacific Asia	11
7	 SPBF South Pacific Bridge Federation	South Pacific	2
8	 ABF African Bridge Federation	Africa	8
2022 information, unless noted with *			Total: 100

To see the members of each zone click on the Organization name

Membership figures refer to registered National Federations members only – not to bridge players in the zone.

Composition of the World Bridge Federation....

News and Rumor... Current Events:

The USBF is in Zone 2. At present, Canada, the United States and Mexico comprise the North American Bridge Federation. Current NABF representation on the WBF Executive Council includes:

Nadar Hannah, Canada; Adam Wildavsky and Suzi Subeck, USBF; AJ Stephani, ACBL; and Gonzalo Herrera, Mexico. There is some discussion at this time about Mexico leaving Zone 2 and joining Zone 5. Nothing has been decided to date...

Players and Kibitzers: No Electronic Devices are Permitted in the Playing Area.
Please turn off all cell phones and leave them outside the arena.
The USBF reserves the right to wand anyone entering the playing field.



20 Board VP Scale (Roma)

20 Boards (Blitz is 68 IMPs)											
Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10.00	10.00	18	14.20	5.80	35	16.93	3.07	52	18.82	1.18
1	10.28	9.72	19	14.39	5.61	36	17.06	2.94	53	18.91	1.09
2	10.55	9.45	20	14.58	5.42	37	17.19	2.81	54	19.00	1.00
3	10.82	9.18	21	14.76	5.24	38	17.32	2.68	55	19.09	0.91
4	11.08	8.92	22	14.94	5.06	39	17.44	2.56	56	19.17	0.83
5	11.34	8.66	23	15.11	4.89	40	17.56	2.44	57	19.25	0.75
6	11.59	8.41	24	15.28	4.72	41	17.68	2.32	58	19.33	0.67
7	11.83	8.17	25	15.45	4.55	42	17.79	2.21	59	19.41	0.59
8	12.07	7.93	26	15.61	4.39	43	17.90	2.10	60	19.49	0.51
9	12.30	7.70	27	15.77	4.23	44	18.01	1.99	61	19.57	0.51
10	12.53	7.47	28	15.93	4.07	45	18.12	1.88	62	19.65	0.35
11	12.76	7.24	29	16.08	3.92	46	18.23	1.77	63	19.72	0.28
12	12.98	7.02	30	16.23	3.77	47	18.33	1.67	64	19.79	0.21
13	13.20	6.80	31	16.38	3.62	48	18.43	1.57	65	19.86	0.14
14	13.41	6.59	32	16.52	3.48	49	18.53	1.47	66	19.93	0.07
15	13.61	6.39	33	16.66	3.34	50	18.63	1.37	67	19.99	0.01
16	13.81	6.19	34	16.80	3.20	51	18.73	1.27	68	20.00	0.00
17	14.01	5.99									

Bad "Dad" Jokes!!!

What did Mr. and Mrs. Hamburger name their daughter? Patty!

Why did the cookie go to the doctor? Because he felt "crumby"

When potatoes have babies, what are they called? Tater Tots

Where do hamburgers go to dance? They go to the meat-ball!

What color of socks do bears wear? They don't wear socks... they have bear feet (bare feet)!

How does a penguin build a house? Igloos it together!

Two giraffes run a race. They are neck and neck.

What's the best day for monkey business? The first of Ape-ril!

What do you call a monkey selling potato chips? A chipmunk!

What do you call a camel with no humps? Humphrey

What do monkey cooks wear when they are working in the kitchen? They wear the Ape-rons

What do you get when you cross a turtle with a porcupine? A slowpoke.

What did the duck say after she bought Chapstick? Put it on my bill!

What do you call a horse that lives next door? Neigh-bor!

How do you get a mouse to smile? Say cheese!

What do pigs get when they're sick? Oink-ment!

What type of dog loves going to the groomer? A shampoodle

What did one firefly say to the other? You glow, girl!

What is a cat's favorite magazine? A CAT-alogue.

What does the secret agent cow say to the other agent cow before a mission? "Are you going 'udder cover'?"

Why did the cow cross the road? To get to the udder side!

What do you call a sleeping cow? A bulldozer!

What kind of dinosaur loves to sleep? A Stega-SNORE-us!



Meet the Players:



Kyra Helmbold hails from Los Gatos, California. Like all of us, Kyra's plans were upended when the Pandemic struck. Kyra enjoyed marching band for four years. She was going to do Science Olympiad for four years when it was canceled. Kyra was forced to dabble in activities like robotics, **bridge club**, mock trial, winter percussion, and a week of football.

Kyra's bridge experience started in California. She is currently leading the 2022 Mini-McKenney in the 5-20 MP category for Unit 507.

After high school, Kyra studied at Carleton College in Minnesota. On entering Carleton, she wrote about herself, "Hey all! I'm Kyra (she/her/hers) and I'm a freshman. I'm from California and in my free time I enjoy hiking and backpacking, fostering kittens/playing with my cats, spending time with friends, and playing music. I'm very excited to meet everyone and I look forward to everything that's going to be happening this year."



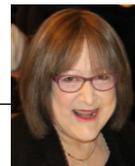
Kyra is a member of the Linkel team at this competition.



From the Editor:

I am happy to have hand submissions from the event and any stories of interest to our readers. If you have something to contribute, please email me at: stansubeck@prodigy.net. I am also happy to have "recent" pics of players at or away from the competition.

Thanks.
Suzi



THERE WILL BE DEFERRED KIBITZING FOR ALL OF THE 2022 MICHAEL SEAMON JUNIOR USBC ON LOVEBRIDGE

You can follow the MSJUSBC on the <https://vugraph.lovebridge.com/> website. Some sessions will have voice commentary. If you get to the commentary and there is no sound, you need to "unmute" it. When you first get to the page, there is a small icon of a speaker in the middle of your screen with an x on it:



Just click on it to unmute.

If you miss that icon, you can still unmute - just move your cursor to the bottom left of the screen and you should see a similar icon:



Click on the speaker to unmute.

KIBITZING SCHEDULE (EDT)

With 3 separate events going on at once, and both USA1 and USA2 brackets of the U26 and U21 events, the kibitzing schedule is a little confusing. In general:

Kibitzing of Round Robin matches will be delayed until each match is over, so you can watch Round 1 of a Round Robin when Round 2 is scheduled to start, etc.

On Day 1 U26 Round Robin kibitzing times will be:

- Round 1: 11:45 am;
- Round 2: 12:45 pm
- Round 3: 1:45 pm
- Round 4: 2:45 pm
- Round 5: 4:45 pm
- Round 6: 5:45 pm
- Round 7: 6:45 pm
- Round 8: 7:45 pm
- Round 9: 8:45 pm

On Days 1 & 2 U21 Round Robin kibitzing times will be:

- Round 1: 12:25 pm;
- Round 2: 1:35 pm
- Round 3: 2:45 pm
- Round 4: 5:10 pm
- Round 5: 6:20 pm
- Round 6: 7:30 pm
- Round 7: 8:40 pm

Kibitzing of KO matches will start half an hour after the start of the match.

The KO kibitzing times will be:

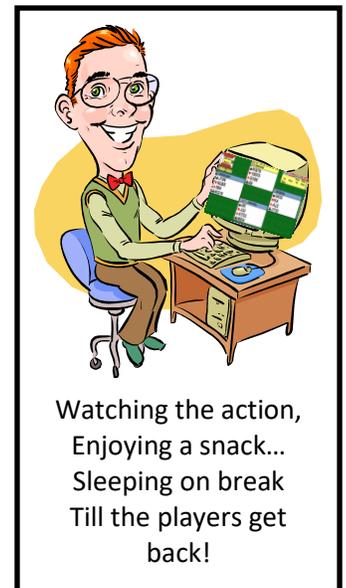
- Segment 1: 11:30 am
- Segment 2: 1:30 pm
- BREAK
- Segment 3: 4:30 pm
- Segment 4: 6:30 pm

NAIL BITING!

DO YOU WANT TO BE DEEPLY INVOLVED? CHOOSE THE "MATCH VIEW" AT THE STARTING PAGE OF YOUR EVENT. YOUR SCREEN WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR SMALL SCREENS – TWO OF THEM SHOWING THE TWO TABLES OF THE MATCH YOU CHOOSE, THE OTHER TWO HAVING THE SCORESHEET FOR YOUR MATCH AND THE CURRENT SCORES OF THE OTHER MATCHES. IN THE 2X2 VIEW YOU CAN ALSO PERSONALIZE THE CONTENT IN ALL YOUR WINDOWS. (THE 2X2 VIEW IS NOT AVAILABLE ON MOBILES.)

THINK TOGETHER!

Kibitzing...



U26...

Berk	Hakan Berk, Capt Sophia Chang	Victor Xu Lucy Zhang
Chen	Tianyang Chen, Capt Jiahe Shen Zhenling Wang	Fangqing Yuan Qian Sun Yifu Ouyang
Goyal	Sarik Goyal, Capt Derek Wong	Sheldon Tan Gan Yang
Hallerman	Raphael Hallerman, Capt Sean McNally	Ilan Wolff Isaac Stephani
Johnstone	Morgan Johnstone, Capt Isaac Stone	Vincent Zhu Robert West
Kolesnik	Finn Kolesnik, Capt Ben Kristensen Emma Kolesnik	Zach Grossack Kevin Rosenberg Jacob Freeman
Scott	William Scott, Capt Luke Williams	Reese Koppel Jake Williams
Xiao	Brent Xiao, Capt Stella Wan Cynthia Huang	Richard Jeng Cornelius Duffie Amber Lin
Y Xu	Yuchen Xu, Capt Jeff Hu Nathan Finkle	Zhiyu Cheng Dingjia Mao Henry Xing
Yeung	Alan Yeung, Capt Jakob Reinke	Ian Dunbar Patrick Delos Reyes

U21...

A Zhang	Andy Zhang, Capt Zach Posternak	Matthew Rippin Owen Jiang
Derman	Ethan Derman, Capt Michael Haas Daniel Balof	Levi Katriel Sam Pahk Kai Eckert
Gong	Nathan Gong, Capt Edward He	Arthur Gong Eric He
Hu	Michael Hu, Capt Andrew Jin	Jerry Yao Oliver Que
Klein	Aidan Klein, Capt Cedric Xiao	Kevin Jiang Philip Wang
M Xu	Michael Xu, Capt Harrison Luba	Olivia Schireson Bo Han Zhu
Zhao	Derrick Zhao, Capt Avery Silverstein	Caroline Zhao Jack Boge
Zhou	Arthur Zhou, Capt Rory Xiao	Michael Hu Jonathan Yue

Coming Together:

What you see here are the updated Team Rosters for U26 and U21... hopefully there will be no changes in the Rona later this week.

Some U26 and U21 players were stranded in Buffalo because of the storms... others could not get viable flights through Chicago or San Francisco...

Three players took a bus to the site at the last minute from Upstate New York ... One took a bus from Chicago ...

One team gave up a player to play on another team...

One player tested positive for Covid and will not be here.

The cooperation among the players was gratifying. Thanks to the positive attitudes and great working relationship between the players and the staff, all's well that end's well and we are commencing on schedule. You are the BEST!!

Your dedication shows and we THANK YOU all!!



Dining in Atlanta...

KIMBALL HOUSE

DECATUR 303 East Howard Avenue

404-378-3502

Open since 2013 and a local favorite ever since, this past year Kimball House was able to stick a new feather in its cap: The restaurant now serves oysters from its own harvesting operation, Shiny Dimes Oyster Farm, down on the Florida Panhandle. That's in addition to what's already the metro's finest oyster program, an asset that cries out for cocktails to match—which are mixed up here in spades, from a sophisticated house drink (the Kimball House features gin, French vermouth, Cocchi Americano, and orange bitters) to more fanciful creations like the New Tokyo, a scotch-based number with pine and pear brandy, ginger, yuzu, and lime. What else? Elegantly prepared steaks and other entrees, lively vegetable sides, caviar, and a gorgeous dining room inside of an 1891 train depot. Can't you hear that whistle blow?

LA GROTTA RISTORANTE ITALIANO

BUCKHEAD 2637 Peachtree Road Northeast

404-231-1368

Classic and *Old World* only begin to describe this Atlanta stalwart, which for almost 45 years has served Buckhead and beyond with its scratch-made Italian recipes: Jumbo shrimp linguini in spicy tomato sauce, lemon butter Dover sole meuniere, and pasta dishes like pappardelle ribbons with lobster, shallots, and white wine cream sauce are just as timeless as roasted veal and marinated lamb chops. Don't wait for a special occasion to stop in, even if only for an ahi tuna or beef carpaccio paired with a glass or bottle of one of the seemingly endless options from their world-traveled wine list.

LANZHOU RAMEN

DORAVILLE 5231 Buford Highway NE

678-691-2175

@lanzhourameng

Dinner *and* a show, and all from the same seat: A window into LanZhou's kitchen lets diners observe chefs rolling out and hand-stretching the impossibly long, exuberantly springy noodles that eventually wind up on tables—served either in steaming bowls of soup (with various cuts and off-cuts: beef, beef tendon, roast pork, intestine, tomato and egg, lamb, and so on) or stir-fried, in options including regular, spicy, and cumin-scented. Whatever the configuration, they're a tonic for anything that ails you. Founded in 2017 by Fu Li Zhang, the restaurant takes its name from the Northwestern Chinese city where these kinds of noodles originated.

LAZY BETTY

CANDLER PARK 1530 Dekalb Avenue NE

404-975-3692

The crown culinary jewel of the Hsu family's growing restaurant empire, Lazy Betty remains one of Atlanta's most impressive dining experiences, matching some of the cleverest, most gorgeously plated food in town with a remarkably unbothered neighborhood vibe. This past summer, the restaurant's six- and eight-course tasting menus included indulgences like heirloom tomato salad with charred lamb fat, veal tenderloin with sweetbread cream, and truffle-glazed diver scallop with corn pudding; various add-ons—e.g., caviar service with steamed milk buns and scallion pancakes—are always worth the money. All-vegetarian tasting menus are available on request, as are wine pairings.



(continued on page 11)

LITTLE BEAR**SUMMERHILL 71 Georgia Avenue**

404-500-5396

Perhaps a quotation from the menu will be the most efficient way to describe . . . whatever is going on at Jarrett Stieber’s iconoclastic, opinionated restaurant. Check out the dish described as “Potato & Peach,” containing also “chermoulah labneh sauce, peach amba, shishito, garlic chive, herbs out the ass.” It’s got the global ambition, the local ingredients, the surprising creativity, and the playful profanity that characterize the overall vibe here. This is high-concept fare, often exploring the sympathies between food that’s vaguely Sichuan and food that’s vaguely Jewish, that welcomes everybody to take a bite: “Michelin Tire Dining,” as lettering on the front window boasts.

LUCIAN BOOKS AND WINE**BUCKHEAD 3005 Peachtree Road**

404-549-2655

If you’re looking for the makings of a nice night out, this Buckhead hybrid—part restaurant, part wine bar, part honest-to-god bookshop—offers everything you could hope for: It’s sophisticated but not stuffy, upscale but not intimidating, and unflinchingly devoted to the pursuit of deliciousness. Working with chef Jason Paolini, owners Jordan Smelt and Katie Barringer offer a parade of seasonal small plates, from oysters with strawberry mignonette to burrata with caponata and pine nuts to a classically perfect French omelet with caviar and creme fraiche. Smelt is an amiable companion as you work your way through the wine list; Barringer, the bibliophile, curates the thoughtful selection of mostly art books.

LYLA LILA**MIDTOWN 693 Peachtree Street NE**

404-963-2637

Performative splash doesn’t live here: The appeal of this upscale Southern European restaurant is in its effortless cool, from the gentle color palette of its interior to the large windows looking out on Midtown traffic to the musical philosophy based on vinyl funk grooves. And, above all, chef Craig Richards’s kitchen wizardry, expressing itself in dishes like duck lasagna, whose stacks of crisp pasta sheets give way to layers of rich cocoa bechamel and carrot-coriander puree, and squid-ink spaghetti with Georgia shrimp and Calabrian chili sausage. Richards’s menu approaches French, Italian, and Spanish dishes in a way that makes Lyla Lila appear to take itself far less seriously than it actually does. Same goes for the bar, where the 43-page beverage book offers a roughly equal amount of zero-proof and “spirited” cocktails (in the latter category, definitely try the mezcal-Negroni-ish ’Round Midnight), and a wide selection of low- or no-intervention, mostly Italian wines that adhere to the restaurant’s commitment to only supporting responsible producers.

Richards previously oversaw cuisine for Ford Fry’s restaurants; here, he teams up with restaurateur Billy Streck, who’s shown a particular knack for picking great locations for low-key, high-quality ATL dining establishments. Launching almost three years ago in a prime location across from the Fox Theatre, they achieved immediate success in making the southern end of Peachtree Street way more awesome. And sure, the proximity to the Fox has made reservations a bit challenging—but regardless of what’s going on across the street, it’s worth planning ahead to get a taste of what a New Atlanta experience feels like, in the best possible way.

continued on page 12

MAMAK**DORAVILLE** 5150 Buford Highway 678-395-3192

This cheery little dining room does a brisk business in the fare of Malaysia: street-style snacks like roti canai and satay, as well as heartier dishes that are frankly a steal for the amount of food they provide—and the amount of flavor you’ll encounter in dishes like fish and mustard green soup, sambal okra, and beef rendang. Prefer your rendang with Beyond meat? Check out Mamak Vegan Kitchen, which opened in 2020 just around the corner.

MASTERPIECE**DULUTH** 3940 Buford Highway 770-622-1191

You could consider the plaudits—Rui Liu’s James Beard nomination; Masterpiece’s many glowing reviews; the fact that chef Liu, a native of Northeastern China who has written several books on the craft of food carving, came to the U.S. on the kind of visa given to “individuals of extraordinary ability or achievement.” Or you could just make your way up Buford Highway to what is easily the best Chinese restaurant in our neck of the woods, order a few dishes, and see what happens. Wontons and dumplings (e.g., purple potato juice dumplings, filled with a hearty mix of egg, tofu, wood ear mushrooms, and more) are small works of art, and Sichuan dishes like tingly fried eggplant or string beans, fish soup with pickled cabbage, and cumin lamb and other classic preparations balance freshness, texture, and numbing spice in ways that are—well—masterful.

MILLER UNION**WESTSIDE** 999 Brady Avenue 678-733-8550

There’s fancier stuff on the menu, and there are more famous dishes (in particular, an iconic farm egg cooked in celery cream), but the heart of the Miller Union experience is probably still chef Steven Satterfield’s seasonal vegetable plate—on any given night, a virtuosic demonstration of how a sense of place can be expressed through food, whether tomatoes, field peas, okra, or onions. Opening this spot in 2009—and taking home a James Beard Award in 2017 following a string of nominations—Satterfield and general manager Neal McCarthy contributed to a broader redefinition of the meaning of Southern cuisine, freeing it from its chicken-fried stereotypes in the process of creating what remains one of the very finest restaurants in Atlanta, and one that honors our region’s most precious assets: the land and the stories it tells. Sweetening the deal are the value (it’s remarkably affordable for a restaurant of this caliber) and the sweets themselves: In 2021, Satterfield hired pastry chef Claudia Martinez, one of the best in the biz, whose painterly desserts vibe perfectly with the overall vision here.

MUJO**WESTSIDE** 691 14th Street NW 404-400-6832

Arrive early: Dig the music, which counterbalances Mujo’s aspirational nature with songs like “Sexy M.F.” by Prince and the anthemic “Motownphilly” by Boyz II Men. When seating begins, you’re led through a door to a spotlit 15-seat counter, where you’ll spend two and a half hours on executive chef J. Trent Harris’s Edomae-style sushi, aged and cured exquisitely and presented twice nightly in an always evolving omakase experience. Harris, whose Michelin cred comes from working in celebrated restaurants like Sushi Ginza Onodera of NYC and Tokyo, was recruited by Atlanta restaurateur Federico Castellucci, who convinced him to launch a sushi pop-up out of Cooks & Soldiers. Mujo’s omakase is booked out a month in advance and might include decadent and buttery blackthroat sea perch or other rare fish flown in from Toyosu—the island area of Tokyo where the famed Tsukiji fish market moved. Fresh produce, which shows up in small plates of hot and cold dishes such as nasu agebitashi—a chilled dish of marinated, fried eggplant, served with squid ink and burnt-eggplant puree—comes from local purveyors including Delaware-based Japanese vegetable producer Suzuki Farms. Kentucky native Harris’s Southern sensibility helps it all blend together beautifully.

About Atlanta ...

Welcome to Atlanta – vibrant, cultural hub of the Southeastern USA

While Atlanta is a popular, bustling city with glittering skylines, it is also a city in the forest, dotted with expansive green spaces and charming neighborhoods. Discover hidden gems around every corner, including diverse dining, top attractions, incredible arts and entertainment. This urban oasis is a multi-cultural haven that exudes Southern hospitality in its own style. Ever-expanding and always reinventing itself, Atlanta is among the most influential and most welcoming cities in the USA.

Must-See Atlanta Attractions

The heart of the city is downtown, the perfect starting point for first-time visitors. Centennial Olympic Park is surrounded by Georgia Aquarium, World of Coca-Cola, CNN's global headquarters, Children's Museum of Atlanta, Center for Civil and Human Rights and the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame, all within walking distance of each other. Beyond Centennial Olympic Park, discover other top attractions including the High Museum of Art, Zoo Atlanta and Atlanta Botanical Garden.

Southern Cuisine Meets the World

Atlanta boasts everything from upscale gourmet cuisine to progressive variations of Southern staples, chef-driven restaurants and international fare. What makes Atlanta's dining scene special is its variety. Atlanta restaurants are relaxed and welcome diners with open arms. You'll find authentic ethnic restaurants too, especially on Buford Highway, just 20 minutes outside Downtown.

Music, Film and Pop Culture

Get the inside scoop on the Atlanta film scene with Atlanta Movie Tours including Atlanta film sites featured in *The Walking Dead*, *The Hunger Games* and the Marvel Cinematic Universe. There are 10 unique movie experiences offered on nearly 80 guided tours a month. Swan House Capitol Tours at Atlanta History Center includes a guided tour through the Swan House showcasing rooms used during filming of *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*.

For the music fans, Atlanta hosts more than 30 festivals annually, including AC3 Festival, Atlanta Jazz Festival, Imagine Music Festival, Music Midtown, Shaky Knees and SweetWater 420 Fest. The musical heritage of Atlanta includes many legends who made their careers in Georgia's capital, including Otis Redding and Gladys Knight, along with more recent artists like Indigo Girls, CeeLo Green, OutKast and many popular hip-hop artists.

Cultural Capital of the Southeast

Atlanta's arts scene spreads well beyond the city's world-class venues. A new wave of visual art installations and street murals has rolled in, adorning parks, walls, tunnels and walkways with color and jumpstarting Atlanta's independent artist scene.

The site of historic events including Civil War battles, the birth of the civil rights movement and the Centennial Olympic Games, Atlanta is rich with historical stories and figures. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park gives insight into the first steps toward civil equality and includes King's birth home. The city is also home to Jimmy Carter Presidential Museum and Library.

Sudoku

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

Sudoku 1

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

Sudoku 2 Solution

**Answers to Puzzles
No Peeking!**

Mr. Webb	12	tennis	Flock	Kristin
Mr. Harding	14	soccer	Whey	Heather
Mr. Toomey	14	swimming	Grant	Elliot
Mrs. Kelly	12	field hockey	Trent	Andrea
Mrs. Booth	13	gymnastics	DeGaines	Adam
Coach	Age	Sport	Last Name	First Name

Answer to Logic Puzzle on Page 17

Sudoku 2

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

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

Q: What is the difference between Mike Soroka and a union worker?

A: A union worker knows how to throw a strike.



Q: Which Braves baseball player holds water? A: Dallas Keuchel – he’s a pitcher.

Q: Why are some SunTrust Park umpires overweight? A: They clean their plates.

Q: Why did Austin Riley want spiders to play for the Braves? A: They catch flies.

Q: Why did the police go to SunTrust Park? A: Someone stole second base!

Q: What’s more impressive than seeing a line drive? A: Seeing a baseball park.

Q: Which superhero did the Braves want as their designated hitter? A: Batman.

Q: Why aren’t Atlanta players afraid of the dark? A: They’re Braves.

Puzzle Page

Christmas Tree

Find and circle all of the Christmas Tree words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining 53 letters spell a secret message.

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

ANGEL
ARTIFICIAL
BRANCHES
CANDY CANES
CELEBRATION
DECEMBER
DECORATE
DECORATIONS
FESTIVE
FRESH CUT

GARLAND
GIFTS
GREEN
LARGE
LIGHTS
NEEDLES
ORNAMENTS
PINE
PRESENTS
PURCHASE

REAL
SCENT
SETTING UP
SKIRT
SMALL
SPRUCE
STAND
STAR
TAKING DOWN
TINSEL

TOPPER
TRADITION
TREE FARM
TREE LOT
TRUNK
WATER
YEARLY

USBF JUNIORS v ACBL STAFF



**Vugraph commentary by
Larry Cohen & George Jacobs**

USBF Junior team trials winners challenge the
ACBL staff to a 16-board match.

SUNDAY JANUARY 8TH

8pm Eastern

5pm Pacific

<https://kibitz.realbridge.online>



RealBridge

	DeGaines	Flock	Grant	Trent	Whey	gymnastics	field hockey	soccer	swimming	tennis	12	12	13	14	14	Mrs. Booth	Mr. Harding	Mrs. Kelly	Mr. Toomey	Mr. Webb	
Adam																					
Andrea																					
Elliot																					
Heather																					
Kristin																					
Mrs. Booth																					
Mr. Harding																					
Mrs. Kelly																					
Mr. Toomey																					
Mr. Webb																					
12																					
12																					
13																					
14																					
14																					
gymnastics																					
field hockey																					
soccer																					
swimming																					
tennis																					

Answers to puzzle on page 14

First Name	Last Name	Sport	Age	Coach
Adam				
Andrea				
Elliot				
Heather				
Kristin				

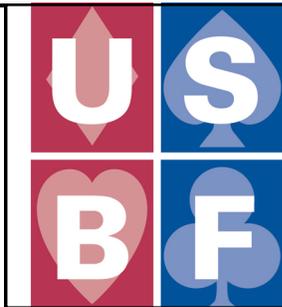
Beverly Trent was one of the neighborhood's assigned taxis this week for the kids' afternoon activities. She and several of the other mothers in their neighborhood took turns picking their kids up after school. Only one of the five she was picking up today was her child. The other four belonged to four other families. One of the other mothers was picking up two more kids from karate practice. All of them had multiple children so scheduling who picked which of the kids up where was sometimes a major challenge. Determine the full name of each child Beverly picked up today, which sport each played (one was gymnastics), the age of each child, and the name of each child's coach.

1. Mr. Toomey was Elliot's coach. The girl whose last

name was Whey had Mr. Harding for a coach, but wasn't involved in swimming.

- The two 12-year-olds were Andrea and the girl who was coached by Mr. Webb.
- Kristin Flock played tennis but Mrs. Kelly wasn't her coach. Adam's last name wasn't Grant.
- One boy and one girl were 14 years old; one played soccer while the other swam, in no particular order.
- The boy whose last name was DeGaines had Mrs. Booth for a coach and he was one year younger than Heather.
- The girl who played field hockey was Beverly's daughter

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.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years) and 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.

Q: Which Atlanta player was always in a cheerful mood? A: Chipper Jones.

Q: What do young Braves fans like about going to the park? A: The swings.

Q: How do Atlanta Braves baseball players stay cool? A: By standing close to the fans.

Q: Why was the tiny ghost asked to join the Atlanta Braves team? A: They needed a little team spirit.

Q: Why did Hank Aaron wear old stockings when he played? A: They had runs in them!

Q: Why did Chipper Jones bring string to the game? A: So he could tie the score if he had to.

Q: What do Braves ballplayers do when their eyesight goes bad? A: They get jobs as an umpire.

Q: If the Atlanta Hawks basketball team were chasing the Atlanta Braves baseball team, what time would it be? A: Five after nine.

Q: What do you get when you cross a Braves baseball player with a monster? A: A double header.

Q: Which Atlanta Braves player wears the biggest helmet? A: The one with the biggest head.

Q: Where did Chipper Jones go to dance? A: At a base ball!

Q: What did Ender Inciarte say to the baseball? A: Catch you later.

Q: Why is it hotter after a Braves baseball game? A: All the fans have left.

Q: Where did the baseball player wash his pants? A: In the bleachers.

Q: Why are Atlanta Braves players so rich? A: Because they play on diamonds.

Q: Did you tell Nck Markakis the joke about the pop fly? A: Don't – it will just go over his head.

Q: What is harder for Dansby Swanson to catch the faster he runs? A: His breath!

Q: Why doesn't Savannah have a MLB baseball team? A: Because then Atlanta would want one too.

Q: How often do Braves players call each other during the off-season? A: They touch base every once in a while.

Q: Why did the Atlanta Braves players cry when they lost? A: They're a bawl club.



BOARD: 5
 DEALER: NORTH
 VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ J
 ♥ T2
 ♦ J74
 ♣ AJT9543

♠ 976542
 ♥ AKQ
 ♦ AQ8
 ♣ 2

♠ AQ3
 ♥ J854
 ♦ 52
 ♣ KQ87

Par: -420

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	5	6	3	2	3
EW	8	7	9	10	9

♠ KT8
 ♥ 9763
 ♦ KT963
 ♣ 6

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	IMP			
					NS	EW	Home	Visiting
Xiao(U26)	Berk(U26)	Open	4♠	W ♥T =	420	-	-	
		Closed	4♠	W ♥T =	420	-	-	
Chen(U26)	Goyal(U26)	Open	4♠	W ♣A =	420		1	
		Closed	3N	E ♣6 =	400			
M Xu(U21)	Zhou(U21)	Open	3N	E ♣6 +1	430	12		
		Closed	3♣x	N ♦5 -4	1100			
Derman(U21)	Gong(U21)	Open	4♠	W ♦4 =	420	-	-	
		Closed	4♠	W ♥T =	420	-	-	

W	N	E	S
	3♣	PASS	PASS
3♠	PASS	4♠	PASS
PASS	PASS		

W	N	E	S
	3♣	PASS	PASS
3♠	PASS	3NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

W	N	E	S
	3♣	PASS	PASS
DBL	PASS	PASS	PASS

There were three different auctions reflecting the final contracts. Anyone who landed in 4S had the top auction. Anyone who landed in 3NT had the middle auction. And the only one to arrive in 3CX had the bottom auction... the shortest and sweetest for E/W! Every pair could have collected the same 1100 that Michael Xu, West, and Olivia Schireson, East, collected... but only if every West had chosen to double as Michael Xu did. Xu clearly noted the vulnerability and gave Schireson the option of bidding or penalizing. Schireson made the wise, clear decision to defend at unfavorable!

Olivia led the D5 and Xu won his queen. Xu cashed HQ followed by the DA, telling partner where his entries were. A diamond ruff followed and Olivia dutifully played a heart to Xu's king. The HA was trumped by declarer, Xiao, and the CA was cashed. The CT went to Schireson's queen and Schireson cashed her CK. The HJ was led, declarer ruffing and Schireson waited patiently for her SA to defeat 3CX four tricks! Great bidding... accurate defense...

(Note: Opening 3C at unfavorable is modern but dangerous when even down two scores more for the opponents than their game! With a weak spade suit and strong support for both red suits, X is really an attractive option AND it brings partner into the decision process. 2 heads are better than 1! And bridge is a partnership game!

BOARD: 8
DEALER: WEST
VULNERABLE: NONE

♠ KQT8
♥ A7
♦ 96
♣ AKQ52

♠ J6543
♥ 62
♦ AK84
♣ T4

♠ A9
♥ K8543
♦ JT73
♣ J3

♠ 72
♥ QJT9
♦ Q52
♣ 9876

Par: 100

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	9	5	6	6	7
E	4	7	7	7	5
W	:	8	:	:	:

Board 8 merits discussion both with respect to bidding & play.

3NT is far from cold. In fact, it can be defeated off the top!

Still, three pairs out of four made the game.

Why?

At several tables, West saw fit to overcall 1S after passing in an auction that had gone either:

P-1C-P-1H

Or

P-1C-1H-P

North then bid 2NT and South raised to game.

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP			
					NS	EW	Home	Visiting	
Xiao(U26)	Berk(U26)	Open	3N	N	♠A	=	400	-	-
		Closed	3N	N	♠A	=	400		
Chen(U26)	Goyal(U26)	Open	3♦x	E	♦2	-2	300	5	
		Closed	1N	N	♥4	+1	120		
M Xu(U21)	Zhou(U21)	Open	3N	N	♥4	-1	50		10
		Closed	3N	N	♠A	=	400		
Derman(U21)	Gong(U21)	Open	3♣	N	♠A	+1	130	6	
		Closed	2♦	E	♣9	=	90		

The 1S bid got partner off to the lead of the SA... no harm no foul... YET! Once the SA is led, East must shift immediately to the DJ or declarer will take three spades, five clubs and the HA, exactly what happened at three of the four tables in 3NT! Playing upside down signals, partner should know the S6 is discouraging. Playing standard signals, partner will play the discouraging three!

Most players were playing UDCA and followed with the S6. Apparently, their partners treated this as encouraging because they continued spades. If partner reads the six correctly, they will shift to diamonds... the strong heart holding in dummy making this the obvious shift.

Only in the Xu/Zhou match was 3NT defeated at one table. Their auction (see below) likely helped since Hu did not have the opportunity to overcall 1S on J6543 once Zhu opened 2NT showing 19-21 and responded 3S to Stayman!

Hu	Zhu	Zhou	Luba
W	N	E	S
PASS	2NT	PASS	3♣
PASS	3♠	PASS	3NT
PASS	PASS	PASS	

Arthur Zhou led the H4. The queen won in dummy. Zhu immediately led the S7 to his ten. Zhou took his ace and promptly shifted to diamonds defeating the contract.

Good, patient defense earned Zhou 10 IMPs!

BOARD: 15
 DEALER: SOUTH
 VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ A964
 ♥ 4
 ♦ QT64
 ♣ KJ85

♠ T852
 ♥ A65
 ♦ 93
 ♣ T732

♠ K
 ♥ QJ9872
 ♦ 872
 ♣ A96

Par: 620

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	9	11	6	10	8
EW	3	2	7	3	3

♠ QJ73
 ♥ KT3
 ♦ AKJ5
 ♣ Q4

Home team Visiting team Room By = IMP
 NS EW Home Visiting

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	IMP
Xiao(U26)	Berk(U26)	Open	Not played	
		Closed	Not played	
Chen(U26)	Goyal(U26)	Open	4♠	S ♦9 -1 100
		Closed	4♠	S ♦9 = 620
M Xu(U21)	Zhou(U21)	Open	4♠	S ♥A = 620
		Closed	4♠	S ♥A -1 100
Derman(U21)	Gong(U21)	Open	4♠	S ♦9 = 620
		Closed	4♠	S ♦9 -1 100

The key to Board 15 is the play in the spade suit. The goal is to hold your spade losers to one. If the spades are 3-2, almost any play will work. You can lose a club and a heart to bring home your game.

If spades are 4-1, playing a spade to the ace will succeed whenever West holds a singleton and it will likely succeed when East has either singleton king or singleton ten. On this hand, declarer will be rewarded when the SK drops. Declarer can establish two club tricks and eventually come to four spades, four diamonds and two clubs for ten!

At one table, declarer found the play of a spade to the ace, however, fell from grace when they didn't immediately tackle clubs before continuing trump! Declarer pulled two high trump and the opponents were able to keep him from ruffing a heart in dummy when they won the CA, put the HQ through. **Declarer covered with the king!!** East won the ace and drew declarer's last spade! Declarer was no longer able to ruff a heart in dummy!! Had declarer ducked the HQ, he could have kept control and still taken ten tricks!

Apparently Xiao/Berk were playing slowly and the board was pulled in that match. It is interesting to observe that all N/S players played in 4S from South. Whatever the lead (and in every match, the same opening lead was made at both tables!), one table succeeded in bringing home 4S and one table failed. 12 IMPs to Goyal, Xu and Derman

BOARD: 30
 DEALER: EAST
 VULNERABLE: NONE

♠ T7
 ♥ A543
 ♦ KJ87
 ♣ Q73

♠ QJ
 ♥ KQ97
 ♦ 964
 ♣ T954

♠ K65432
 ♥
 ♦ A2
 ♣ AKJ62

Par: -450

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	1	7	7	1	2
EW	11	6	6	11	8

♠ A98
 ♥ JT862
 ♦ QT53
 ♣ 8

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP		
					NS	EW	Home	Visiting
Farley	Linkel	Open	2♠	E	♦3	+4	230	5
		Closed	4♠	E	♣8	=	420	
Hsieh	Qian	Open	5♣x	E	♠A	=	550	12
		Closed	3N	W	♦7	-2	100	

In the Rona RoundRobin, four tables produced four distinct contracts on Board 30. E/W is cold for 11 tricks in spades or clubs. East has an extremely difficult hand to show without a complex convention like Gazilli. If, playing standard or 2/1, East opens 1S and follows with 2C over 1NT, it is easy for West to pass, their side missing game.

At one table in Qian/Hsieh, East jump shifted to 3C, a slight overbid, landing in a doomed 3NT when the opponents found the best lead of a diamond and could take 3 diamonds, 1 spade and 1 heart. At the other table in that match, South made a dangerous 2H overcall with a weak hand and a bad suit. The opponents found 5C and North doubled on the strength of her hand plus her partner's overcall. Contract cold and scoring +550 for 12 IMPs

In Farley/Linkel, at one table East opened 1S and rebid 2C and stopped in two spades missing game.

At the other table in Farley/Linkel, East rebid 2S and when West raised to three, East bid the spade game for a 5 IMP pickup.

If you had Gazilli in your arsenal, a rebid of 2C by the opener is used to show hands with 17+ HCP. On the hand East holds, opener can jump to 3C to show the distributional strength with less than 17 highs. If East opened 1S and West responded 1NT on this hand, East could now bid 3C and West, holding four clubs, would bid either 4C or 5C. If West bid 4C, East could bid five if they like their values.

A good convention in situations like this... situations that come up more often than you may think.

BOARD: 47
 DEALER: SOUTH
 VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ K5
 ♥ AJ
 ♦ T
 ♣ KQT97643

♠ Q72
 ♥ KT98742
 ♦
 ♣ A85

♠ T64
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ AKQJ732
 ♣ J

Par: 100

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	10	4	3	6	4
S	:	5	4	7	6
EW	3	7	9	6	3

♠ AJ983
 ♥ 65
 ♦ 98654
 ♣ 2

Home team		Visiting team		Room	By	=	★	IMP			
								NS	EW	Home	Visiting
1	Xiao(U26)	Berk(U26)		Open	5♦x	E	♣2	-4	800		
				Closed	5♦x	E	♣2	-3	500		7
2	Chen(U26)	Goyal(U26)		Open	5♣x	N	♦K	=	750		
				Closed	5♣	N	♦K	-1		100	13
3	M Xu(U21)	Zhou(U21)		Open	5♦x	E	♣2	-4	800		
				Closed	4♥	W	♣K	-1	50		13
4	Derman(U21)	Gong(U21)		Open	5♦	E	♣2	-3	150		
				Closed	4♥	W	♣K	-2	100		2

There were wild results on Board 47 across the field. The most interesting result was in the Goyal/Chen match. In the Closed room, Yuan, West, opened 3H. Sheldon Tan overcalled 4C. Chen raised to 4H. Tan took the push to 5C. Chen led the DK (misleading his partner into ruffing... at no cost on this hand...lucky for him!). Yuan ruffed and returned the H2. Tan won his ace, cashed the SK, played a spade to the jack, losing to Yuan's queen. Yuan returned a third spade and declarer discarded his losing heart. Tan conceded the CA, taking the ten tricks with which he started. Contract down one!

At the other table, Yang opened 2H (10-13 6+hearts). North, Ouyang gambled 3NT!! Derek Wong was not satisfied to cash his diamonds to defeat 3NT. He made a greedy double that was passed around to Ouyang who, having the opportunity at this point to save himself, pulled to 4C. Wong tried 4H and despite the unfavorable vulnerability, Ouyang took his chances by bidding 5C. Wong doubled and led the DK, holding the trick. He switched to the S6 (attitude). Dummy covered with the eight and Yang failed to discern the position and put up the queen. If he plays a small spade, declarer can only take two spade tricks because the suit is blocked. Apparently Wong believed his partner started with KT6. Declarer won the SK and drove out the CA and claimed, discarding a heart on dummy's third spade. 5CX making was worth 13 IMPs to Chen.

Something to ponder: How did West know not to ruff East's DK? Wouldn't the lead of the ace have been more helpful?

Cross IMPs...

1.	Richard Jeng - Brent Xiao	Xiao(U26)	1.19	35.79	30
2.	Harrison Luba - Bo Han Zhu	M Xu(U21)	1.13	67.87	60
3.	Richard Jeng - Cornelius Duffie	Xiao(U26)	1.06	15.86	15
4.	Tianyang Chen - Fangqing Yuan	Chen(U26)	0.74	43.66	59
5.	Olivia Schireson - Michael Xu	M Xu(U21)	0.71	42.32	60
6.	Daniel Balof - Kai Eckert	Derman(U21)	0.63	28.44	45
7.	Michael Haas - Sam Pahk	Derman(U21)	0.56	16.79	30
8.	Stella Wan - Brent Xiao	Xiao(U26)	0.37	5.57	15
9.	Sheldon Tan - Sarik Goyal	Goyal(U26)	0.25	14.87	60
10.	Cynthia Huang - Amber Lin	Xiao(U26)	0.13	5.83	44
11.	Ethan Derman - Levi Katriel	Derman(U21)	-0.05	-2.23	45
12.	Derek Wong - Gan Yang	Goyal(U26)	-0.14	-8.51	59
13.	Lucy Zhang - Sophia Chang	Berk(U26)	-0.19	-11.40	59
14.	Stella Wan - Cornelius Duffie	Xiao(U26)	-0.22	-3.14	14
15.	Rory Xiao - Jonathan Yue	Zhou(U21)	-0.27	-16.15	60
16.	Eric He - Edward He	Gong(U21)	-0.31	-18.87	60
17.	Arthur Gong - Nathan Gong	Gong(U21)	-0.40	-24.13	60
18.	Yifu Ouyang - Zhenling Wang	Chen(U26)	-0.81	-24.29	30
19.	Hakan Berk - Victor Xu	Berk(U26)	-0.82	-48.50	59
20.	Qian Sun - Jiahe Shen	Chen(U26)	-0.86	-25.72	30
21.	Arthur Zhou - Michael Hu	Zhou(U21)	-1.57	-94.03	60

**U26
and
U21**

1.	Ava Donnellan - Margot Donnellan	Hsieh	1.15	137.67	120
2.	Yichen Cai - Helena Hsieh	Hsieh	1.09	131.33	120
3.	Nicole Qian - Helen Chow	Qian	0.19	22.67	120
4.	Jessica Udomsrirungruang - Khanh Tran Nguyen	Farley	0.14	16.33	120
5.	Cecilia Ehrlichman - Kyra Helmbold	Linkel	-0.11	-13.33	120
6.	Katie Sullivan - Lorelei Linkel	Linkel	-0.21	-12.33	60
7.	Katie Hwang - Helen Levy	Qian	-0.40	-47.67	120
8.	Katie Sullivan - Jay Sullivan	Linkel	-0.71	-42.67	60
9.	Laura Chen - Abbie Farley	Farley	-1.60	-192.00	120

Rona

Good Luck Today Everyone!

Have a Safe NYE!

Limey Jack...

Cheerio Colonials:

Get ready to cash your cheque as this event is near its dawning. Howie Dung continues to flounder whilst Limey Jack proudly shows the path through the fen.

Rona:

Hsieh-Qian: It is Hsieh that gets the sticky toffee pudding to eat from the cup.

U21 USA2:

Zhou-Derman: Zhou holds off a determined Derman squad.

U26 USA2:

Xiao-Chen: Xiao joins Kolesnik and may be invited to tea with His Majesty.

Limey Jack will see you next when the stinking hellebores are in bloom.

Ta.



Some of these matches
Are hard to determine...
Who's Europe bound?
Team Zhou or Team Derman?

Both teams have players
Who've been here before...
Both teams make errors
But both teams can score!

Derman's the favorite;
I like most their bids.
I pick by the odds,
Not by the kids!

By odds, I don't mean
The players on site...
I mean by the numbers
These kids are all bright!

Howie Doing...

In Chen versus Xiao,
Chen sadly will leave,
With nothing to celebrate
This New Year's Eve!

Xiao takes the title.
USA2
U26
When play is all through!

Picking the Rona
Really is tough.
These girls play quite well.
They all know their stuff.

Hsieh will come through.
With great table feel.
Perhaps they'll Heelen?
Plus pard WaddleSeal?

From Jan Martel...

In order to finish play today a little earlier, we will be starting play at 10:30 instead of 11:00. That means segment start times will be:

- Quarter 1: 10:30
- Quarter 2: 12:30
- Quarter 3: 3:30
- Quarter 4: 5:30

The Hsieh team led throughout the Rona RoundRobin and finished with 77% of the Victory Points! On the very last hand, Yichen Cai was faced with a difficult lead problem.

Her hand:

♠ QJT952
 ♥ 75
 ♦ 762
 ♣ Q7

What would you lead?

The double seems unnecessarily aggressive. But when a passed hand bids game, it is always tempting to punish them!

Jessie chose to lead the SQ. The opponents scored +950 to win 16 IMPs when East/West at the other table played in 5CX down one!

The auction:

Hsieh	Jessica U	Cai	Nguyen
W	N	E	S
1♥	PASS	1♠	2♦
3♣	3NT	DBL	PASS
PASS	PASS		

The CQ was the winning lead. It would defeat the hand since the declarer would be forced to cash out for eight tricks.

On the actual lead, declarer was able to establish two heart tricks to come to two spades, five diamonds, two hearts and a club to make four!

This hand was unimportant to the outcome of the match since the Hsieh team blitzed the Farley team 105-29.

The whole hand: