



Volume 3, Issue 1
June 4, 2009

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

"Trials" and Tribulations—Pre-Bulletin

Welcome from Bill Pollack



Welcome to White Plains!

I feel like we're going coastal - not to be confused with postal. The Women's Trials ended last Friday in Sacramento, California, and here we are on Thursday in White Plains, New York. It is great to be here and even greater to see so many old friends.

Congratulations to the Dinkin (Lynn Deas, Beth Palmer, Lynn Baker, Karen McCallum, Kerri Sanborn, and Irina Levitina) and Mancuso (Renee Mancuso, Shawn Quinn, JoAnn Sprung, Peggy Sutherlin, Connie Goldberg, and Pam Wittes) teams, USA1 and USA2 respectively in the Women's this year. We expect great things from you in Sao Paulo.

As always, the USBF mavens are doing as much as possible to make your stay enjoyable. Joan Gerard and Barbara Nudelman will furnish us with their own special brand of hospitality.

Jan Martel will be our behind-the-scenes and behind the screens guru. Jan will make sure operations run smoothly while also coordinating the VuGraph presentation.

Suzi Subeck will be doing the daily bulletins, and Kitty Cooper will maintain the website.

Joan Gerard is local to White Plains and if you have any questions about the area, please feel free to ask Joan.

See you at the bridge table!

Bill

USBF President
Bill Pollack

USBF Vice President
Steve Beatty

USBF Secretary
Joan Gerard

USBF Treasurer
Sylvia Moss

USBF Chief Operations Officer
Jan Martel

USBF Chief Financial Officer
Barbara Nudelman

Directors - USBC
Chris Patrias
Sol Weinstein
Alan Miller

Operations Manager
Jeff Johnston
Ken Horwedel

Appeals Coordinator
Joan Gerard

Appeals Administrator
Bill Rosebaum

Appeals Committee
Ron Gerard
Henry Bethe
Robb Gordon
Jeff Polisner
Howard Weinstein
John Sutherlin
Bart Bramley
Adam Wildavsky

VuGraph Organizers
Jan Martel
Joe Stokes

Bulletin Editor
Suzi Subeck

Hospitality Chairs
Barbara Nudelman
Joan Gerard

Webmaster
Kitty Cooper

Nickell	Bye to SemiFinals	Frank Nickell , Capt Robert Hamman Jeff Meckstroth	Richard Freeman Zia Mahmood Eric Rodwell
Welland	Bye to Rnd of 8	Roy Welland , Capt Steve Garner Billy Cohen	Chris Willenken Howard Weinstein Ron Smith
Jacobs	Bye to Rnd of 16	George Jacobs , Capt Bobby Levin Joe Grue	Ralph Katz Steve Weinstein Curtis Cheek
Diamond	Bye to Rnd of 16	John Diamond , Capt Eric Greco Fred Gitelman	Brian Platnick Geoff Hampson Brad Moss
Strul	Bye to Rnd of 16	Aubrey Strul , Capt David Berkowitz Chip Martel	Michael Becker Larry Cohen Lew Stansby
Cohler		Gary Cohler , Capt Jacek Pszczola Mike Passell	Michael Rosenberg Sam Lev Jim Mahaffey
Meltzer		Rose Meltzer , Capt Alan Sontag Neil Chambers	Kyle Larsen Roger Bates John Schermer
Schwartz		Richard Schwartz , Capt Chris Compton Bjorn Fallenius	Richard Coren Marc Jacobus Fred Chang
Fleisher		Martin Fleisher , Capt Russell Ekeblad Ron Rubin	Michael Kamil Peter Weichsel Matthew Granovetter
Beatty		Steve Beatty , Capt Michael Moss	Bill Pollack Brian Glubok
Weed		Jimmy Cayne Chuck Burger Greg Hinze Charlie Weed, NPC	Michael Seamon Stephen Landen Nagy Kamel
Lewis		Paul Lewis , Capt Mark Itabashi Eddie Wold	Linda Lewis Ross Grabel Bart Bramley
Robinson		Steve Robinson , Capt Kit Woolsey Adam Wildavsky	Peter Boyd Fred Stewart Doug Doub
Lall		Hemant Lall , Capt Justin Lall Seymon Deutsch	Nikolay Demirev Kevin Bathurst John Kranyak
Rogoff		Bruce Rogoff , Capt Doug Simson Glenn Milgrim	Josh Parker Walter Johnson Jeff Aker
Ozdil		Melih Ozdil , Capt Jiang Gu Xiaodong Shi	Mark Lair Jonathan Weinstein David Yang
Cole		William Cole , Capt Ai-Tai Lo Jian-Jian Wang	Alan Schwartz Hailong Ao John Adams
Ivatury		Uday Ivatury , Capt Christal Henner	Lapt Chan Ari Greenberg
Blanchard		Robert Blanchard , Capt Gail Greenberg John Hurd	Shane Blanchard Jeffrey Hand Joel Wooldridge
Saxe		Gene Saxe , Capt Victor King Geoffrey Brod	Franklin Merblum Alan Applebaum Glenn Eisenstein
Kahn		Allen Kahn , Capt G.Margie Gwozdzinsky	Jeffrey Rothstein Ira Herman
McKellar		Arch McKellar , Capt Warren Rosner Franco Baseggio	Chuck Lamprey Stephen Sanborn Andrew Stark

**"To err is
human; to
forgive,
infrequent."**

- Franklin
Adams

In Seeding Order

All About Kibitzing

WHEN CAN YOU KIBITZ IN THE PLAYING ROOMS?

You will be able to kibitz at any of the tables during this event. However, except in the Open Room during the Round Robin, you will be subject to the following regulations:

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

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

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

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

Screens

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

USBF KIBITZING RULES

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

1. General Rules
 - a. During any use of duplicated boards across multiple matches, Kibitzers must select one table for kibitzing and may not move to any other table during a session or segment.
 - b. Kibitzers may not speak with players, must watch only one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see more than one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see a computer screen in use for Internet broadcast, must check communication devices with the Director, cannot call attention to irregularities other than a board being placed incorrectly on the table (arrow positioning), but may serve as witnesses to a possible irregularity.
2. In the Open Room:
 - a. If there is a live, or nearly live Internet broadcast of any match in the Open Room, kibitzers shall abide by the same rules as those applicable to the Closed Room.
 - b. If there is no live, or nearly live Internet broadcast of any match in the Open Room then kibitzers, media, and NPC's may enter and return until such time as any table from the closed room has finished the segment. Once any table in the Closed room has finished, no one may return to the Open room after leaving unless escorted while absent.
 - c. In either event, Open Room kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room and returning (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).
3. In the Closed Room:
 - a. Kibitzers must enter the Closed Room before play commences. Kibitzers in the closed room are required to remain until the segment of play is completed at the table they are watching or to leave the playing area entirely. Closed Room kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).
 - b. Except as expressly provided in these conditions and appendices, NPC's shall be subject to the WBF General Conditions, Section 17.
 - c. No one other than the Internet broadcast personnel and Tournament Directors may watch any computer screen or any other mechanism for enabling the Internet broadcast at any time in either the Closed or the Open Room.

Sprung

Danny Sprung, Capt
Abraham Pineles
Michael Massimilla

Hal Mouser
Alex Allen
Louis Glasthal

McLaughlin

John McLaughlin, Capt
Pamela Miller
Ljudmila Kamenova

Lloyd Arvedon
Jim Rasmussen
Stephen Gladyszak

Nussbaum

Daniel Nussbaum, Capt
Robert Heitzman
David Rowntree

Mark Aquino
Michael Prahin
Dougin Walker

Meckstroth

Matthew Meckstroth, Capt
Kevin Dwyer
Michael Zeller

Owen Lien
Zachary Brescoll

Yates

David Yates, Capt
Michael McNamara

Daniel Wolkowitz
Sylvia McNamara

VuGraph Information

The 2009 USBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting with the Round of 32. In the Rounds of 32 and 16 we will be covering 1, 2 or 3 of the matches being played. From the Quarterfinals on, we will cover all of the tables in play.

To watch the Vugraph online, go to the **BBO website** where you can either log on directly from your browser, go to "Vugraph" and choose which table to watch or download the BBO software to run BBO on your computer.

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

Click on the button labeled EXPLORE BRIDGE and then on the button labeled VUGRAPH THEATRE and you'll be able to choose which of the USBC matches you want to watch.

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

Each day's schedule is the same (these are New York times; to see the times for your time-zone, go to the **BBO Vugraph schedule site**)

10:00-12:10
12:25-2:35
3:45-5:55
6:10-8:20

During the Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Finals, all of the teams will play the same boards, unless one or more matches gets sufficiently far behind that they have to start later than the other matches, in which case, for security reasons, they will play different boards.

During the Rounds of 32 & 16, all of the teams shown on Vugraph will play the same boards in the first and third segments each day. In the second and fourth segments, those matches that start on time will play the same boards.

After a session, you can review the Vugraph action on our Web Vugraphs, which show each hand played with a link to bidding and play records. Take a look at the older events currently available (under Archived Results) to see what we'll have for the 2009 USBC.

Web Vugraphs are posted within about half an hour of completion of the Vugraph show.

USBF 7 Board VP Scale

Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10	10	14	15.22	4.78	28	18.36	1.64
1	10.47	9.53	15	15.51	4.49	29	18.53	1.47
2	10.92	9.08	16	15.78	4.22	30	18.69	1.31
3	11.35	8.65	17	16.04	3.96	31	18.85	1.15
4	11.77	8.23	18	16.29	3.71	32	19	1
5	12.18	7.82	19	16.53	3.47	33	19.15	0.85
6	12.57	7.43	20	16.76	3.24	34	19.29	0.71
7	12.94	7.06	21	16.99	3.01	35	19.43	0.57
8	13.3	6.7	22	17.21	2.79	36	19.56	0.44
9	13.65	6.35	23	17.42	2.58	37	19.68	0.32
10	13.99	6.01	24	17.62	2.38	38	19.8	0.2
11	14.32	5.68	25	17.82	2.18	39	19.92	0.08
12	14.63	5.37	26	18.01	1.99	40	20	0
13	14.93	5.07	27	18.19	1.81			

You know you're from New York City when..

You pay more each month to park your car than most people in the U.S. pay in rent.

You're suspicious of strangers who are actually nice to you.

You take a taxi to get to your health club to exercise.

You have never been to the Statue of Liberty or the Empire State Building.

You think \$7.00 to cross a bridge is a fair price.

Your door has more than three locks.

The most frequently used part of your car is the horn.

Hospitality Information

The hospitality suite for the 2009 USBC is in **Rooms 1206 & 1208** in the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Players, kibitzers, friends and supporters are always welcome in the Hospitality Suite during the tournament. Please join us for:

Breakfast each day from 8:30-10:00 am

Lunch on Friday from 2:45-4:15

Lunch on Saturday from 1:35-3:30

Lunch, for the rest of the tournament, from 2:35-3:45

Vugraph, casual chit chat, drinks and snacks at any other time, **except from 4:00-5:30 each afternoon**, when the suite will be closed for refreshing.

Joan and Barbara are looking forward to seeing you there!

Notable Quotes:

"It's always been and always will be the same in the world: The horse does the work and the coachman is tipped." - Unknown

"Anything you lose automatically doubles in value." - Mignon McLaughlin

"It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions." - Unknown

"The Act of God designation on all insurance policies ... means roughly that you cannot be insured for the accidents that are most likely to happen to you. If your ox kicks a hole in your neighbor's Maserati, however, indemnity is instantaneous." - A Coren

"No one is listening until you pass gas." - Unknown

New York Humor

A blonde walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. She says she's going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000. The bank officer says the bank will need some kind of security for the loan, so the blonde hands over the keys to a new Rolls Royce. The car is parked on the street in front of the bank; she has the title, and everything checks out. The bank agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the blonde for using a \$250,000 Rolls as collateral against a \$5,000 loan. An employee of the bank then drives the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the blonde returns and repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer says, "Miss, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely; but we are a little puzzled. We checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is - why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The blond replies....."Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

A Hamman Hand from the Grand National Teams by Bart Bramley

Dealer: E

♠ 9xx

N/S Vul.

♥ Qxxx

♦ Oxx

♣ Q9x

♠ Q



♥ J9x

♦ AK9xx

♣ AJxx

♠ AJ8x

♥ AK

♦ T8

♣ KT8xx

♠ KT7xx

♥ T8xx

♦ Jxx

♣ x

East	South	West	North
2♥ (Wesk with both majors, at least 5-4 either way)	2NT	All Pass	

(Ed. Note: This hand was played in the finals of the Grand National Teams in Texas last weekend. Hamman's team was Bart, Bob, Bob's son Chris, and Hemant Lall. This hand illustrates Hamman's great skill at the table. In Bart's words, "unfortunately, in spite of this result, we lost the match!"

West led a heart to the king. Guided by the bidding, Bob Hamman passed the club eight, cashed the heart ace, and led a second club taken by West's ace. West tried a low diamond. After no more than a few seconds, Hamman called for the queen and took nine tricks for +150.

Why did he play the diamond queen? First, the bidding suggested that West would have both length and strength in diamonds. Second, and more important, if West held the diamond jack, HE WOULD HAVE LED IT. This is a common inference, but is available only against good players.

At the other table East passed and South bid 1NT, ending the auction. West, Chris Hamman, led a tricky deuce of diamonds, purportedly fourth best. Declarer did not have the same inference and made the normal play of a low diamond. East won and shifted to a spade, ducked to the queen and giving the defense seven tricks. Down one, -100, and 6 imps for the Hammans. Good bridge runs in the family.

Note that at the second table the spade suit afforded a similar chance for guess and counter-guess. East might have led the TEN, hoping that West had both the queen and eight. However, he feared that his partner would be short in spades, reducing the chances of finding the necessary holding. Declarer, for his part, knew that East MIGHT have led the ten, so was tempted to insert the jack. Eventually, he decided against it for the same reasons that East decided not to lead the ten in the first place. But declarer, fooled by the opening lead, missed the double-dummy play of the spade ace, which would have landed the contract after a winning club guess.

New York, New York...

A minister dies and, resplendent in his clerical collar and colorful robes, waits in line at the Pearly Gates. Just ahead of him is a guy dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans.

Saint Peter addresses this guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The guy replies, "I'm Joe Green, taxi-driver, of Noo Yawk City."

Saint Peter consults his list, smiles and says to the taxi-driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff, and enter into the Kingdom."

So the taxi-driver enters Heaven with his robe and staff, and the minister is next in line. Without being asked, he proclaims, "I am Michael O'Connor, head pastor of Saint Mary's for the last forty-three years."

Saint Peter consults his list and says, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the preacher, "that man was a New York taxi-driver, and you issued him a silken robe and golden staff. But I get wood and cotton. How can this be?"

"Up here, we go by results," says Saint Peter. "While you preached, people slept -- while he drove, people prayed."

Some Suggestions For Your Dining Pleasure ...

Graziella's Restaurant

Italian

95 S Broadway White Plains, NY

"The portions are hearty and we almost always have something left over to take home."..."As mentioned the portions are quite large and leftovers yummy to have."..."We had a flawless dinner on a crowded evening (which is always a good sign), and the service was friendly and courteous."..."If you are in the mood for GREAT Italian food, in a casual but neat atmosphere, THIS IS THE PLACE to go, and I have been to ALL of the restaurants in the area, for I am a lifelong resident of White Plains."..."The food was great authentic Italian food in a pretty casual but classy atmosphere."...



Reka's Thai Restaurant

Thai

2 Westchester Ave White Plains, NY

"I had crispy duck, it was super, nothing compare to other Thai restaurants who are trying to make homemade duck sauce but turned out tasting like Chinese package sauce."..."Great food and services: I had a wonderful dinner at Reka's."..."It wasn't expensive considering the homemade meal and friendly service we experienced."..."The food came within 45 minutes, which isn't bad since I live on the top floor of my condo unit."...

Antipasti

Italian

1 North Broadway White Plains, NY

"It proved to be an excellent wine, with a wonderful bouquet, good balance good color and tannins, while maintaining the rich fruit aromas characteristic of the Sangiovese grape."..."Overall, a really great place to eat a nice romantic dinner."..."Besides the attentive service, romantic Italian atmosphere with fabulous Italian artwork landscapes, the food is fantastic and tastes as good as it looks!"..."Drinks were well priced and the overall atmosphere was fantastic."..."I forgot to mention the ANTIPASTI bar ... with over 50 choices ... Great place, great people and great atmosphere!"...

Seasons Japanese Bistro

Japanese

105 Mamaroneck Ave White Plains, NY

"Never a wait, and always fresh, delicious sushi."..."Some of the Best Sushi I Have Ever Had!"..."The service is also great: they always convince us to try the specials and the specials are always creative and delicious."..."Fantastic menu, great service and atmosphere."...

Lazy Boy Saloon & Ale House

Bar, Latin American

154 Mamaroneck Ave White Plains, NY

"Favorite place for Friday nights : sometimes have to wait a little while for a table, but it's great for a casual dinner."..."Sometimes have to wait a little while for a table, but it's great for a casual dinner."..."It'll never be like when a good bartender named, Marty, was there."..."There is a reason that every single year this place is voted the best happy hour."..."And then you can wash it all down with a drink during happy hour."...

Niko's Greek Taverna

Greek

287 Central Ave White Plains, NY

"If you like red wines then you must get a bottle of Rapsani."..."They have the best Greek food and excellent wines."..."For great Authentic Greek food and a festive atmosphere, you MUST go here."..."For great Authentic Greek food and a festive atmosphere, you MUST go here."...

Vintage Bar & Restaurant

American

171 Main St White Plains, NY

"The place manages to attract a nice mix of people, has high quality food, an interesting and varied menu, pleasant and attentive waiters and the owner/manager is always on hand and a great person to talk to and know."..."For a pleasant dinner or maybe just a drink with friends Vintage is the place to go in White Plains!"..."Great bar : We had an event there on the weekend and the service was outstanding, the food was fantastic too."...

Gervasi's

Seafood, Italian

324 Central Avenue White Plains, NY

"The menu is a bit pricey but the food and portion size was worth every penny."..."The stuffed shrimp was amazing and the Grey Sole was fabulous."..."Service was extremely professional and attentive."...

(Continued from page 7)

Mario's Pizza & Restaurant Inc

Pizza, Italian, Wraps

118 Mamaroneck Ave White Plains, NY 10601

"GREAT PIZZA: They make the best pizza in White Plains."... "Their chicken parm hero is awesome!"... "Quick and friendly service."...

James Joyce Bar and Restaurant

166 Mamaroneck Ave White Plains, NY

"Dining inside, on the patio or at the bar is always good food and service."... "Come for free food at happy hour 5-7 Mon-Friday with friends or to make acquaintances."...

Magnotta's Restaurant & Pizzeria

Pizza, Italian

194 Maple Ave White Plains, NY

"Perfect pizza : Pizza with delicious homemade sauce and the perfect amount of cheese, cooked to perfection every time, you can't ask for anything more"..."Great pizza at a cheap price."...

Famous Famiglia Pizzeria, Pizza, Italian, 48 Mamaroneck Ave White Plains, NY

The Melting Pot - White Plains, Fondue, 30 Mamaroneck Avenue White Plains, NY

Blue, American, Asian, 99 Church Street White Plains, NY

Elements, American, 161 Mamaroneck Ave White Plains, NY

Turkish Cuisine Westchester, Turkish, 116 Mamaroneck Ave White Plains, NY

Kisco Kosher Deli & Restaurant, Delicatessens, 230 E Post Rd White Plains, NY

Deli Delicious, Delicatessens, 20 Tarrytown Rd White Plains, NY

Dunkin Donuts, American, Bakery, Coffee, Bagels, 81 Knollwood Rd White Plains, NY

Pretzels Special, American, 125 Westchester Ave White Plains, NY

CARVEL

Ice Cream, Dessert

95 Mamaroneck Ave White Plains, NY

419 Central Ave White Plains, NY

95 Mamaroneck Ave White Plains, NY

SUBWAY

Sandwich

100 Main St White Plains, NY

204 Mamaroneck Ave White Plains, NY

NATHAN'S

Hot Dogs, American

125 Westchester Ave White Plains, NY

100 Main St White Plains, NY

SUBWAY

Sandwich

60 S Broadway White Plains, NY

201 Tarrytown Rd White Plains, NY 10607

199 Main St White Plains, NY 10601

From the Editor:

I've truly think I've mastered the technique for doing the bulletins from a remote site (that is, if you consider Chicago "remote!")

I will post the bulletins online as soon as possible each evening, and they will be available in the hospitality suite at the tournament site each morning within the constraints of Kinko's printing and delivery.

Good luck to all of you. I welcome any interesting hands or news items you wish to share. Feel free to contact me, Suzi Subeck, in one of the following ways, either via email at: stan-subeck@prodigy.net

Or by phone at: 847-509-0311 (I'm up fairly late so feel free to call after the evening session if that works for you...) If I am not here, please leave a message and I will receive it.

Or, if you need to speak to me and get the machine, you can phone my cell at: 708-927-6819 or Stan's cell at 708-927-6851.

I will do my best to keep you updated with local information as well as who's doing what in the tournament.

Thanks for your patience.

THURS, JUNE 4TH	10:00 PM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
ROUND ROBIN 1		
FRIDAY JUNE 5TH	10:00 - 12:15 12:30 - 2:45 4:15 - 6:30 6:45 - 9:00	BDS 1-7 & 8-14 CLUMPED BDS 15-21 & 22-28 CLUMPED BDS 29-35 & 36-42 CLUMPED BDS 43-49 & 50-56 CLUMPED
SATURDAY JUNE 6TH	10:00 - 11:05 11:20 - 1:35	BOARDS 57-63 BDS 64-70 & 71-77 CLUMPED
ROUND OF 32		
SATURDAY JUNE 6TH	3:30 - 5:40 5:55 - 8:05	SEGMENT 1, BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2, BOARDS 16-30
SUNDAY JUNE 7TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK
ROUND OF 16		
SUNDAY JUNE 7TH	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1, BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2, BOARDS 16-30
MONDAY JUNE 8TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK
QUARTERFINALS		
MONDAY JUNE 8TH	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
TUESDAY JUNE 9TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90
SEMI-FINALS		
WEDNESDAY JUNE 10TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
THURSDAY JUNE 11TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120
FINALS		
FRIDAY JUNE 12TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
SATURDAY JUNE 13TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120

USA1

Schedule of Events

SUNDAY JUNE 7TH	3:00 PM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
ROUND OF 128 ROUND ROBIN (7 LOSING TEAMS FROM USA 1 R32)		
SUNDAY JUNE 7TH	3:30 - 6:15 6:30 - 7:20	BOARDS 1-9 & 10-18, CLUMPED BOARDS 19-27
MONDAY JUNE 8TH	10:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 3:45	BOARDS 28-36 & 37-45, CLUMPED BOARDS 46-54 & 55-63, CLUMPED
ROUND OF 64 (5 USA1 R16 LOSERS + 5 TEAMS FROM R128)		
MONDAY JUNE 8TH		EVENING OFF TO REGROUP, PARTY OR PREPARE
TUESDAY JUNE 9TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
ROUND OF 32 (3 USA1 R8 LOSERS + 5 USA2 R64 WINNERS)		
WEDNESDAY JUNE 10TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
ROUND OF 16 (4 ROUND OF 32 WINNERS)		
THURSDAY JUNE 11TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
QUARTER-FINALS		
FRIDAY JUNE 12TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
SEMI-FINALS		
SATURDAY JUNE 13TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 1 HOUR 15 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
SUNDAY JUNE 14TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK
FINALS (USA1 LOSING FINALIST VS USA2 SEMI WINNER)		
SUNDAY JUNE 14TH	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
MONDAY JUNE 15TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90

*USA2
Schedule of Events*

A Grand-y From the Vand-y by Stan Subeck

Board 51

Dealer: S

E/W Vul.

♠ J85
♥ QJT76
♦ J5
♣ Q76

♠ AQ97
♥ A42
♦ 43
♣ JT43

N
↑
♠ KT6
♥ K3
♦ AK96
♣ AK92

♠ 432
♥ 985
♦ QT872
♣ 85

This hand was played in quarterfinals of the Vanderbilt at the recent Houston NABC.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♦	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

After a less than precise Precision Club auction, the Chinese pair, Ming—Xin arrived in the club grand slam and received the lead of the heart nine. 6NT which Hampson—Greco bid on a similar Precision auction requires eight tricks from clubs and spades. This contract is not much better than the aggressive seven club contract. Both West players attempted to stop in the good six club contract, but both East players pushed on with 20 HCP opposite a one diamond opener.

In 6NT, declarer won the heart, cashed a high club, crossed to dummy and finessed clubs. When this worked he cashed his clubs and ducked a diamond around in preparation for the spade/diamond squeeze. If the club finesse had failed, he would need spades to work and a highly unlikely heart/diamond squeeze (one opponent must have two or less diamonds and two or less hearts.)

In seven clubs, one could adopt the philosophy that you don't want to go down when 6NT makes (i.e. the club queen is onside and spades produce four tricks plus a diamond ruff for the 13th trick.) An alternative play is to hope the club queen is doubleton, or possibly even singleton, and to trump two diamonds in dummy.

Let's take a quick look at the initial success percentages for these lines of play. (This preliminary look ignores squeeze possibilities and assumes side suits behave reasonably.)

Plan 1: The club queen will fall doubleton 27.13% of the time and singleton 5.65% of the time, a combined 33% chance.

Plan 2: The club finesse will work 50% of the time and the offside queen will drop singleton 2.83% of the time, but we probably can't handle the 5-0 break with the queen onside (a 1.96% chance). So, the clubs will "work" 51% of the time. BUT, we also need the spades to produce four tricks. A 3-3 spade break will occur 35.53% of the time. The jack will drop doubleton 16.15% of the time and singleton 2.42% of the time. If we draw trumps before playing spades, we can also pick up Jxxxx on our left, an additional 6.05% chance. We will ignore the 6-0 break where RHO might have doubled for an unusual lead. Thus, the spades will produce four tricks 60% of the time if we draw trumps first.

The combined probability of success on this line is 60% of 51% or approximately 31%. (According to Table 89 of the Borel book, The Mathematical Theory of Bridge, the diamond/spade squeeze will occur about 7% of the time.) Including this squeeze possibility increases our success rate to about 34.5%. The two lines of play are very near equal. Only a rare of expert would be able to calculate, at the table, which line is better percentage play. That is the key! An Expert will not commit to a single line of play at trick one. He will try to improve his knowledge BEFORE committing.

First, what does declarer know at trick one?

1. LHO had a seemingly safe heart lead.
2. LHO did not lead a trump.

(Continued on page 12)

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

sudoku

(Continued from page 11)

The safe heart lead is not much help, but many players would say that the absence of a trump lead against a grand slam means Lefty has the missing honor... or has guessed from the bidding that that the trump holding is shaky. If declarer believes that LHO holds the club queen, the only hope is to drop it by playing the ace and king of clubs. Kudos to the declarer who successfully makes this play.

Zia is well known for advocating this sort of action. (e.g. lead an honor—if your opponent doesn't cover, play for the drop). These actions may work against inexperienced players, but they do not work as well against expert opponents who are ready for these plays and who are capable of deciphering flaws in the auction.

Plan the play! Consider where to win the first trick. If declarer is going to trump two diamonds or play for a spade/diamond squeeze, he may need the king of hearts as a late entry to his hand so he should play the ace of hearts and win the first trick in dummy. Now declarer should play a club to the ace. If the queen drops on his right, he should play to negotiate two diamond ruffs in dummy. If the queen drops on his left, one high diamond ruff and four spade tricks may be a better option, especially given the squeeze possibility.

If the club queen doesn't drop, declarer cashes the spade king. If the jack drops, he should use a diamond ruff to enter dummy for the club finesse. Otherwise he can lead a spade to the queen. If the jack of spades drops, he takes the mathematically favored club finesse. If the jack of spades does not drop, he leads a club from dummy. Assuming the queen is not played by RHO, he is at the crossroads—drop or finesse?

The drop wins only if RHO started with three small clubs (4 cases). The finesse wins in 10 cases (RHO started with Qxxx or Qxx). If the finesse wins, we still need a 3-3 spade division. We know spades are either 3-3 or 4-2, and we can calculate that these divisions are now equally likely. Comparing the probabilities, the drop works 4/14 of the time and the finesse works 10/14 times 1/2 = 5/14 of the time. Therefore, he should now finesse for the queen of clubs.

As it was, the clubs were 3-2 with the queen onside and spades were 3-3. Declarer played immediately for the drop of the club queen and lost 17 IMP's instead of gaining 12! The China team would have been leading 85-64 after this board instead of trailing 73-81. The Diamond team ultimately beat China by 30 IMP's in a low scoring (117-87) match. If they'd gotten this board right, they still would have lost by 1 IMP. I'll bet they couldn't find one IMP anywhere!

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

Solution to today's Sudoku

Limey Jack Returns ... Pablo Steps in for Natasha

Cheers to my Colonial friends as they get set to do battle on their side of the pond to determine who shall have the honour of representing the U.S. of A in the World Championships in one of my favourite places; Sao Paulo, Brazil.

As New York is a hotbed of Bridge, they have many participants this year; some contenders and some pretenders. Let's begin with just the round robin, shall we?

Some of the favourites will do quite well, starting with Cohler, Beatty, Schwartz and Rogoff. In a rare reversal of form, the Robinson team, which usually disappoints, will come out strongly and will even have the lead at the 3rd furlong. The most amazing performance, however, will be turned in by the Ozdil team. Having observed Melih play over here on numerous occasions, he will single handedly prevail over this somewhat inept field.

On a sad note, none of the lovely damsels who have entered this event shall remain when the final roll call is sounded; not Meltzer, Lewis, Ivatory nor Blanchard. Even sadder is the bad luck of the Weed team. With the Fire Marshall looking over their shoulder to prevent similar evacuations of the Hotel, Jimmy will have to face the opponents "cold turkey" and won't like it a bit.

Fleisher, with its never before seen lineup of three (3) pro-am's is anyone's guess. Not even Limey Jack can help you with this one.

Well, let the Games begin! I will be here every night recapping the Faux's and the Pas's as our combatants wield the swords and armour of the Bridge Jousting marathon that is the United States Bridge Championships.

Cheerio;

Limey Jack

Natasha (Tasha to me) is sunning herself on the Riviera. We ran into one another last week and she lamented the fact that she has no access to electronic transmission on the beach (nude beach so no where to carry her I-phone). Being gallant, I said I would replace her for this tournament. She was most appreciative and allowed me to slather her with sun tan lotion while dishing on the personalities in play.

She assured me that Limey Jack was a fine lad with whom to work, but warned me that his picks, while well considered, were prejudiced. He always picks the studs and leaves the fillies at the gate. Fool!

So much for that, let me introduce myself... I call myself Pablo... I'm an expert at anything South of the Border. Since this tournament climaxes in Sao Paolo, I'm your guy! (*And, Bramley, FYI, in case you find yourself on Jeopardy or Millionaire and they ask this question: like the Smurfs, I am BLUE on the Backyardigans! Private joke!*)

Smart money picks Cohler, Meltzer (I, myself, like the fillies), and Schwartz to perform as expected. The top seeds will emerge on top.

For long shots, gamble on Lall (I'm a fan of the Kranyak lad ... learned play from his mother and bidding from his father or he'd be a very scary choice), Blanchard (three generations of card players on one team... you don't see that often), Sprung (the little woman's success is a great motivator and motivation plays a role), and young Meckstroth (great blood lines plus youth and stamina ... go Matt!)

Remember, the long shots ARE just that! Still, on any given day, it's anyone's game. When percentage plays fail, long shots come in. Here's to a great show! Hats off to the Americans...

A disclaimer: I would have picked Lewis as a long shot, but with Bramley cheering for the Yankees and playing in the Mets, it reeks of Pete Rose! Watch for the excitement to build in the Subway Series Bridge-style!

Siesta time in Sao Paolo! Buenos Tardes!

Pablo

Round Robin Divisions ...

The DICs have randomly assigned pairs of teams to the two Round Robin brackets as follows. The numbers listed are the numbers that will be used for the Round Robin not the teams' original seed numbers or the numbers the qualifying teams will have for the Round of 32 Knockout.

METS	YANKEES
1. COHLER	21. MELTZER
2. SCHWARTZ	22. FLEISHER
3. WEED	23. BEATTY
4. LEWIS	24. ROBINSON
5. ROGOFF	25. LALL
6. OZDIL	26. COLE
7. BLANCHARD	27. IVATURY
8. KAHN	28. SAXE
9. MCKELLAR	29. SPRUNG
10. NUSSBAUM	30. MC LAUGHLIN
11. MECKSTROTH	31. YATES

Important Message:

The Crowne Plaza Hotel will pick up anyone arriving at the White Plains train station daily if you call upon arrival at the station. The number for the front desk is: **1-914-682-0050**.

We want to accommodate the players in any way we can.

Setting the Bracket for the KO

After the Round Robin, the teams will be assigned numbers that establish the bracket for all of the Knockout rounds.

We're often asked how the assignment is done, so here is what will happen. First, the team seeding points will be adjusted by adding 6 seeding points to the totals for each of the two team that won their Round Robin divisions and 2.25 seeding points to the totals for each of the two second place teams.

Then the teams qualifying from the Round Robin will be ranked based on their current seeding point totals.

The teams will then be assigned KO team numbers as follows, subject to one other adjustment - the team that scored the highest Victory Point total in the Round Robin has the right, after the assignments have been done, to request that it be "re-shuffled" with its original shuffle group.

1	Nickell
2	Welland
3/4	Diamond or Jacobs randomly assigned
5/6	Strul or Highest Ranked Team from Round Robin, randomly assigned
7	Second ranked team from Round Robin
8-9	Bye (lose to Nickell in Quarterfinal)
10/11/12	Third, Fourth & Fifth ranked teams from Round Robin, randomly assigned
13/14	Sixth & Seventh ranked teams from the Round Robin, randomly assigned
15-18	Bye (lose to Nickell & Welland in Round of 16)
19/20	Eighth & Ninth ranked teams from the Round Robin, randomly assigned
21/22/23	Tenth, Eleventh & Twelfth ranked teams from the Round Robin, randomly assigned
24-25	Bye (lose to 8 & 9 in Round of 32)
26/27/28	One of these is the Bye team that loses to Strul in the Round of 32. The other 2 are the 13th & 14th teams from the Round Robin, randomly assigned.
29-32	Byes (lose to teams 1-4 in Round of 32)

Good Luck to All... May the Best Teams Win!