

Volume 14, Issue 4
June 2, 2020

Homewords Bound ... USBF Online Invitational Tournament

Results of the 2 Day Round

<u>USBF Invitational #1 - 2020</u>							
QuarterFinal (56 boards)				Set score of form "Ax" is preliminary with a pending Appeal and is not included in TOTAL			
01-JUN-2020				<i>The colored score boxes indicate the team with seating rights for that segment of play.</i>			
#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	Penalty (IMPs)
1	Nickell	68	24	21	6	17	
8	Robinson	107	31	24	18	34	
2	Spector	109	58	43	8	0	
7	Moss	132	30	26	45	31	
3	Gupta (wins tie)	212	62	34	41	75	
6	Donner	41	14	13	7	7	
4	Rosenthal (wins tie)	123	15	21	52	35	
5	Fleisher	62	32	27	3	0	

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Will Watson, online tournament director who straightened out a mess yesterday when two teams were mis-seated! Some people can't follow "directions!"



Al Hollander, THE BEST!! VG commentator and all around computer guru, last year at the USBC, in fun times before social distancing!

Special Pandemic Competition

Teams Entered...

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS—PRE-BULLETIN

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

Nickell

Frank Nickell, Capt
Bobby Levin
Jeff Meckstroth

Ralph Katz
Steve Weinstein
Eric Rodwell

Bye to Rnd of 8

Spector

Warren Spector, Capt
John Kranyak
John Hurd

Gavin Wolpert
Vincent Demuy
Joel Wooldridge

Bye to Rnd of 8

Dinkin

Sam Dinkin, Capt
Finn Kolesnik
Lynn Baker

Michael Shuster
Michael Xu
Karen McCallum

Donner

Gary Donner, Capt
Rachael Moller
Rose Meltzer

Yoko Sobel
David Gurvich
Wayne Stuart

Fleisher

Martin Fleisher, Capt
Joe Grue
Geoff Hampson

Chip Martel
Brad Moss
Roger Lee

Gupta

Naren Gupta, Capt
Curtis Cheek

Huub Bertens
Daniel Korbel

Lebowitz

Laurence Lebowitz, Capt
Zachary Grossack
Kevin Rosenberg

Adam Grossack
Michael Rosenberg
Zia Mahmood

Levine

Michael Levine
Mike Passell
John Diamond
Robert Morris, NPC

Eddie Wold
Marc Jacobus
Brian Platnick

Moss

Sylvia Moss, Capt
Justin Lall
Kevin Dwyer

Ishmael Delmonte
Kevin Bathurst
Shan Huang

Reynolds

W. Thomas Reynolds, Capt
William Hall
George Jacobs

Lance Kerr
John Jones
Claude Vogel

Robinson

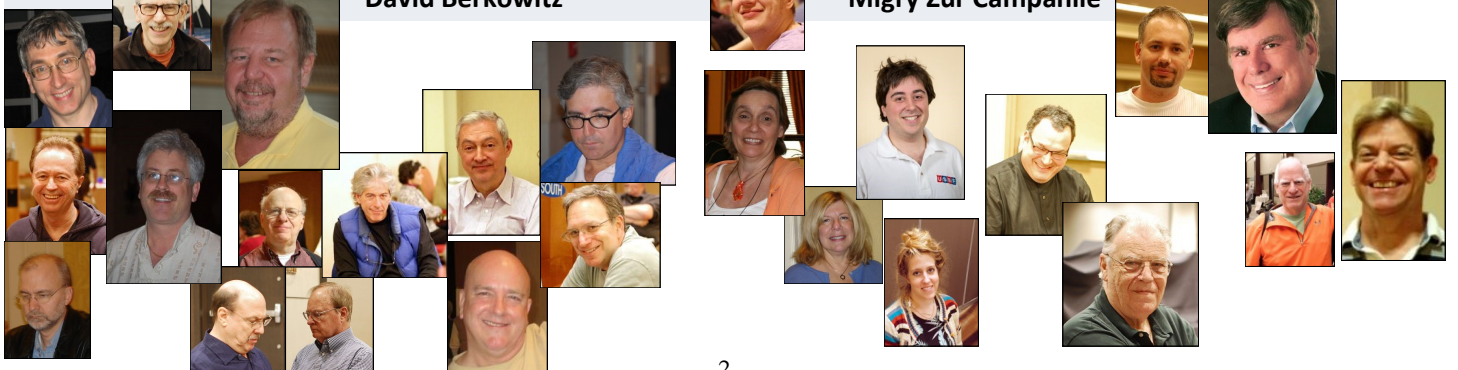
Steve Robinson, Capt
Kit Woolsey

Peter Boyd
Bart Bramley

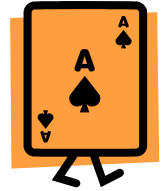
Rosenthal

Andrew Rosenthal, Capt
Chris Willenken
David Berkowitz

Aaron Silverstein
Eldad Ginossar
Migry Zur Campanile



SEMIFINAL - SEGMENTS ON BBO HAVE TO START WITH BOARD 1			
TUESDAY	JUNE 2	4:00 - 5:45	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-14
		5:50 - 7:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 1-14
		BREAK	
		8:05 - 9:50	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-14
		9:55 - 11:40	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 1-14
FINAL - SEGMENTS ON BBO HAVE TO START WITH BOARD 1			
WEDNESDAY	JUNE 3	4:00 - 5:45	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-14
		5:50 - 7:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 1-14
		BREAK	
		8:05 - 9:50	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-14
		9:55 - 11:40	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 1-14



Tournament Schedule

Pun-demic Jokes!

Were you there when the TV repairman got married? The reception was excellent.
 Did you hear about the dentist and the manicurist? They fought tooth and nail.
 My doctor told me I had type A blood... But it was a Type- O.
 Why do ambassadors never get sick? Diplomatic immunity.
 What do you call a veterinarian with laryngitis? A hoarse doctor.
 Did you hear about the cannibal who was late for dinner? He got the cold shoulder.
 If a seagull flies over the sea, what flies over the bay? A bagel.
 What happens to deposed kings? They get throne away.
 What kind of tree do fingers grow on? A palm tree.
 What do you call a baby monkey? A chimp off the old block.
 What has four wheels and flies? A garbage truck.
 What does a spy do when he gets cold? He goes undercover.
 What did the alien dandelion say to the Earth dandelion? "Take me to your weeder!"
 Why does lightning shock people? Because it doesn't know how to conduct itself.
 What do prisoners use to call each other? Cell phones.
 How do you tickle a rich girl? Say "Gucci Gucci Gucci!"
 How do crazy people go through the forest? They take the psycho path.
 What did the coach say to his losing team of snakes? You can't venom all.
 What is a mouse's favorite game? Hide and Squeak.
 What do you call a train loaded with toffee? A chew chew train.
 Which president was least guilty? Lincoln. He is in a cent.
 Why are rivers always rich? Because they have two banks.
 What is the purpose of reindeer? It makes the grass grow, sweetie.
 What did the guitar say to the musician? "Pick on someone your own size!"
 What do you call Santa's helpers? Subordinate Clauses.
 What do you call two people in an ambulance? A pair of medics.
 What do you call a rabbit with fleas? Bugs Bunny.
 What time is it when it is time to go to the dentist? Tooth hurty.
 What must you know to be an auctioneer? Lots.
 What do you call a cow who gives no milk? A milk dud.
 What did the toy store sign say? Don't feed the animals. They are already stuffed.
 Did you hear about the dyslexic Satanist? He sold his soul to Santa
 Where did Noah keep his bees? In the ark hives.
 Why are meteorologists always nervous? Their future is always up in the air.
 What musical is about a train conductor? "My Fare, Lady"
 I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
 What do you get from a pampered cow? Spoiled milk.
 What's a three-season bed? One without a spring.
 Why do cows wear cowbells? Because their horns don't work.
 What Disney movie is about a stupid boyfriend? Dumb Beau.
 What is the difference between one yard and two yards? A fence.

Vugraph... Special "PANDEMIC" instructions...

The **2020 USBF Invitational 1** will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting with the Quarterfinals. All of the matches will be listed in the BBO Vugraph Theatre.

To watch the Vugraph online, go to the **BBO website**, log on to BBO, go to "Vugraph" and choose which match to watch. To watch on your smartphone or tablet, install the BBO app and watch using that.

The tables listed in the Vugraph Theatre are not real Vugraph tables, just links to actual tables on BBO where the players are playing. What you will see once you click on a "Vugraph" table is the same thing you would see if you got to the BBO table by searching for your favorite player and clicking on "join" on his or her profile. This means that some things are different from a normal Vugraph table:

1. We aren't able to load a starting score for segments after the first one. Instead, we will be putting the score from previous quarters in the Vugraph Theatre list, and will put (+##) after the name of the leading team in the score box to show how much that team was ahead at the start of the session. You will be able to determine the "real" running score by adding the score shown in the score box to the score after the +.
2. We do not have to have both tables "on Vugraph" to let you choose which table to watch. We only have 4 special Vugraph operators who can set up the links from the Vugraph Theatre to the tables in play. So for the Quarterfinal we will list one table from each match. To get to the other table, click on the blue "hamburger" menu in the upper right of the screen where the hands are shown and select "Other Table."
3. The names you see are the players' BBO names, but all of them will have their real names in the profile you can get by clicking on their name.
4. We will not have the usual pop ups with player pictures and links to convention cards. Instead, each pair has prepared a BBO convention card with links to the pair's USBF System Summary Form and either filled in the BBO convention card or provided a link to an electronic convention card. You can get to the BBO convention card using the hamburger menu, and to the linked system information by selecting the appropriate URL and either copying it and pasting it into a new tab or window, or right-clicking on it and going to it in a new tab or window (the links are not clickable).

There will often be a "yellow" user on BBO called USBF. If you have general questions, please ask USBF, although she will also be dealing with tournament issues and may not respond promptly.

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

4:00-5:45
5:50-7:35
8:05-9:50
9:55-11:40

All of the teams will play the same boards throughout the event.



Recipes For Your Home Dining Pleasure ... Pandemic Pleasures...

Ingredients

9 lasagna noodles
1-1/4 pounds bulk Italian sausage
3/4 pound ground beef
1 medium onion, diced
3 garlic cloves, minced
2 cans (one 28 ounces, one 15 ounces) crushed tomatoes
2 cans (6 ounces each) tomato paste
2/3 cup water
2 to 3 tablespoons sugar
3 tablespoons plus 1/4 cup minced fresh parsley, divided
2 teaspoons dried basil
3/4 teaspoon fennel seed
3/4 teaspoon salt, divided
1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper
1 large egg, lightly beaten
1 carton (15 ounces) ricotta cheese
4 cups shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Olive Garden

Lasagne



Directions

Cook noodles according to package directions; drain. Meanwhile, in a Dutch oven, cook sausage, beef and onion over medium heat 8-10 minutes or until meat is no longer pink, breaking up meat into crumbles. Add garlic; cook 1 minute. Drain.

Stir in tomatoes, tomato paste, water, sugar, 3 tablespoons parsley, basil, fennel, 1/2 teaspoon salt and pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

In a small bowl, mix egg, ricotta cheese, and remaining parsley and salt.

Preheat oven to 375°. Spread 2 cups meat sauce into an ungreased 13x9-in. baking dish. Layer with 3 noodles and a third of the ricotta mixture. Sprinkle with 1 cup mozzarella cheese and 2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese. Repeat layers twice. Top with remaining meat sauce and cheeses (dish will be full).

Bake, covered, 25 minutes. Bake, uncovered, 25 minutes longer or until bubbly. Let stand 15 minutes before serving.

Lasagna Tips

What side dishes go with lasagna?

A simple side salad is a classic side for lasagna, as well as garlic bread.

Is lasagna better with ricotta or cottage cheese?

It's a personal preference! Some prefer the richness and creaminess of ricotta cheese, while others like the lower-in-fat cottage cheese option that is chunkier due to the curds. Try our traditional lasagna for the perfect combo of both. Be sure to check out our secret tricks to making the best lasagna ever.

Why is my lasagna watery?

To avoid watery lasagna, make sure your lasagna noodles are drained properly before layering. Once they are cooked

(Continued from page 5)

and drained, do not rinse with water but immediately place in a single layer on a lightly oiled tray. Not rinsing in water will allow the sauce to cling to the starches on the noodle. If using cottage cheese, drain it for an hour or so before using. Simmer the sauce for at least 30 minutes uncovered to allow excess water to evaporate. Also, uncover the lasagna during the last 25 minutes of baking to release any extra moisture in the pan.

Nutrition Facts

1 piece: 519 calories, 27g fat (13g saturated fat), 109mg cholesterol, 1013mg sodium, 35g carbohydrate (10g sugars, 4g fiber), 35g protein.

Ingredients

6 to 6-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

6 large eggs

3/4 cup water

2 teaspoons olive oil

SAUCE:

1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes

1-1/2 cups tomato puree

1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1/3 cup water

1/3 cup tomato paste

3 tablespoons sugar

2 tablespoons minced fresh basil

1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley

1 tablespoon minced fresh oregano

1 garlic clove, minced

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon pepper

FILLING:

1 carton (15 ounces) ricotta cheese

2 cups shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1 large egg, lightly beaten

2 teaspoons minced fresh basil

1 teaspoon minced fresh parsley

1 teaspoon minced fresh oregano

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/8 teaspoon salt



Olive Garden Cheese Ravioli

Directions

Place 6 cups flour in a large bowl. Make a well in the center. Beat the eggs, water and oil; pour into well. Stir together, forming a ball. Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, about 8-10 minutes, adding remaining flour if necessary to keep dough from sticking. Cover and let rest for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a Dutch oven, combine the sauce ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 1 hour, stirring occasionally.

In a large bowl, combine the filling ingredients. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Divide pasta dough into fourths; roll one portion to 1/16-in. thickness. (Keep pasta covered until ready to use.)

Working quickly, place rounded teaspoonfuls of filling 1 in. apart over half of pasta sheet. Brush around filling

with water to moisten. Fold sheet over; press down to seal. Cut into squares with a pastry wheel. Repeat with remaining dough and filling.

Bring a soup kettle of salted water to a boil. Add ravioli. Reduce heat to a gentle simmer; cook for 1-2 minutes or until ravioli float to the top and are tender. Drain. Spoon sauce over ravioli.

Test Kitchen Tips

Common olive oil works better for cooking at high heat than virgin or extra-virgin oil. These higher grades have ideal flavor for cold foods, but they smoke at lower temperatures.

In Europe, Parmigiano-Reggiano and Parmesan are considered the same cheese. But in the U.S., Parmesan is a generic term that may not come from Italy's Parmigiano-Reggiano region. Using the authentic Italian cheese (in a lesser amount than the original's ½ cup) ensures a cheesy richness in the makeover with less fat and calories.

Nutrition Facts

10 each: 901 calories, 25g fat (13g saturated fat), 307mg cholesterol, 963mg sodium, 124g carbohydrate (17g sugars, 7g fiber), 45g protein.

Ingredients

- 8 ounces uncooked fettuccine
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, cubed
- 1 jar (4-1/2 ounces) sliced mushrooms, drained
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 2-1/2 cups cubed cooked chicken
- **TOPPING:**
- 1/3 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 to 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

Olive Garden 4-Cheese Chicken Fettuccine

Directions

- Cook fettuccine according to package directions.
- Meanwhile, in a large kettle, combine the soup, cream cheese, mushrooms, cream, butter and garlic powder. Stir in cheeses; cook and stir until melted. Add chicken; heat through. Drain fettuccine; add to the sauce.
- Transfer to a shallow greased 2-1/2-qt. baking dish. Combine topping ingredients; sprinkle over chicken mixture. Cover and bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Uncover; bake 5-10 minutes longer or until golden brown.

Nutrition Facts

1 serving: 641 calories, 47g fat (27g saturated fat), 167mg cholesterol, 895mg sodium, 29g carbohydrate (3g sugars, 2g fiber), 28g protein.

Sudoku

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

Sudoku 1

Sudoku 2

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

Answers to Puzzle on Page 12:

Online Ethics -

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

Fun and Games Page

Weather

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell an additional weather word.

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

BAROMETER	FLOOD	ICE	STORM
BLIZZARD	FLURRIES	LIGHTNING	SUNNY
CELSIUS	FOG	MIST	TEMPERATURE
CLOUDS	FORECAST	MONSOON	THERMOMETER
COLD	FREEZE	OVERCAST	THUNDER
CYCLONE	FROST	RAIN	TORNADO
DOWNPOUR	HAIL	SHOWER	TSUNAMI
DRIZZLE	HOT	SLEET	TYPHOON
DROUGHT	HUMIDITY	SNOW	VISIBILITY
FAHRENHEIT	HURRICANE	SQUALL	WINDY

Word Find Puzzle

Logic Puzzle Page

	Clam Chowder	Cream of Mushroom soup	Cuban Black Bean soup	Split Pea soup	Vegetable Orzo soup	Chicken Tandoori	Country Fried Steak	Italian Sausage	Roasted Pork Loin	Southwest Turkey Burger	Apple Pie	Chocolate Cupcakes	Gourmet Cookies	Mini Bundt Cakes	Puttting Parfaits
Monday															
Tuesday															
Wednesday															
Thursday															
Friday															
Apple Pie															
Chocolate Cupcakes															
Gourmet Cookies															
Mini Bundt Cakes															
Puttting Parfaits															
Chicken Tandoori															
Country Fried Steak															
Italian Sausage															
Roasted Pork Loin															
Southwest Turkey Burger															

Chef Express ran the cafeteria at the Gadgetworks, Inc. corporate offices. Along with their normal daily offerings, each day they offered specials that changed from week to week. The specials, which included a soup, entrée, and dessert, were posted each Friday for the following week. Determine the specials (soup, entrée, and dessert) for each day of this week (Monday through Friday).

- The clam chowder was the soup special two days before the mini Bundt cakes but a day after the roasted pork loin entrée.
- On Friday, the soup special was split pea but the gourmet cookies were not available. One day, two of the specials were the vegetable orzo soup and the southwest turkey burger but it wasn't on Monday.
- Each day is represented by one of the following, in no particular order: Italian sausage entrée, Cuban black bean soup, pudding parfaits, Wednesday, and country fried steak entrée.
- The cream of mushroom soup wasn't served with the gourmet cookies. The apple pie was the dessert special on Monday.
- The pudding parfaits were the dessert special on the day after the clam chowder and the day before the Italian sausage entrée.
- The chicken tandoori entrée wasn't served on the same day as the chocolate cupcakes.

Day of the Week	Soup Special	Entrée Special	Dessert Special
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

-----	Clam Chowder	Chicken Tandoori	Apple Pie
-----	Cream of Mushroom soup	Country Fried Steak	Chocolate Cupcakes
-----	Cuban Black Bean soup	Italian Sausage	Gourmet Cookies
-----	Split Pea soup	Roasted Pork Loin	Mini Bundt Cakes
-----	Vegetable Orzo soup	Southwest Turkey Burger	Puttting Parfaits

Answer to Puzzle

Day of the Week	Soup Special	Entrée Special	Dessert Special
Monday	Cream of Mushroom soup	Country Fried Steak	Apple Pie
Tuesday	Cuban Black Bean soup	Roasted Pork Loin	Chocolate Cupcakes
Wednesday	Clam Chowder	Chicken Tandoori	Gourmet Cookies
Thursday	Vegetable Orzo soup	Southwest Turkey Burger	Puttting Parfaits
Friday	Split Pea soup	Italian Sausage	Mini Bundt Cakes



Originally from Raleigh, North Carolina, **Frank T "Nick" Nickell** now lives in New York most of the time. Nick is the driving force behind the composition of one of the strongest ever bridge teams. An investment banker and entrepreneur, Nick wanted to put together a very good team in the early nineties. His partner, Dick Freeman, suggested that Bob Hamman/Bobby Wolff and Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell were the two pairs needed. How right he was!

This group (with Paul Soloway replacing Wolff in 1998, Zia replacing Soloway in 2008, and most recently Ralph Katz replacing Dick Freeman after his death) proceeded to reel off an amazing run of results. From 1995 to 2009, they reached the final of five of six Bermuda Bowls - beating Canada in the 1995 final in Beijing, Brazil in Bermuda in January, 2000, and Italy in Monte Carlo in 2003 and Sao Paulo in 2009, losing to the French in Hammamet in 1997 and to Italy in Estoril in 2005. They have also won too many US titles to list. Playing with Hamman, Nick won the Cavendish Invitational Pairs in 1998. He is a WBF Grand Master, ranking 10th in the current standings.

Business and family commitments leave Nick very little time to play between major tournaments, but he and Ralph Katz have been working on their partnership online between tournaments.

Ralph was born in 1957 in Pittsburgh, PA and raised in Steubenville, OH. He was 22 when he won his first National Championship, the Life Master Pairs, and 24 when he won both the Spingold and Master Mixed Teams at the Summer Nationals. Not long after graduating college he moved to Chicago to trade options, but his loyalty to the Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers has never waned.

His wife Martha won the World Junior Championship in 1991 and their son Sam, married last year, was King of Bridge in 2006, so there is a family tradition of Bridge success.

Ralph's partnership with Nick began in 2009, a win in the Trials leading a few months later to victory over Italy in the 2009 Bermuda Bowl final in Sao Paulo. In addition to that gold medal, Ralph has won three silver medals at the world level: 1990 World Open Pairs; 2007 Bermuda Bowl; 2010 Rosenblum Teams.

With 21 North American titles with many different colleagues, Ralph has earned a reputation as a great partner and teammate, perhaps the ultimate compliment attainable from peers.



Meet the Players ... A Great Partnership

Puzzle Answers:

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

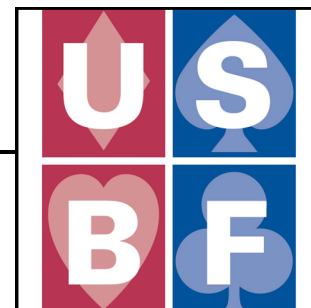
Sudoku

on page 8

Puzzle 1 on left

Puzzle 2 on right

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



USBF Supporting Membership

If you don't want to play in the USBF Championships that choose teams to represent the USA in the World Bridge Federation Championships, but do want to aid our events, a **Supporting Membership** can be the perfect way for you to be involved. As a Supporting Member, you are eligible to:

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

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years) and the ACBL now offers you the chance to become an USBF Supporting Member when you renew your ACBL membership. If you don't want to wait that long, you can join by choosing the red Donate Now button on the USBF website. Your donation will be used to cover inevitable expenses: attorney fees, accounting fees, website support services, tournament directors, insurance, WBF dues, and vugraph operators. The USBF is an all-volunteer organization. Our meetings are by conference call and at NABCS. Board members and the organization's officers are not compensated for meetings, travel, or hotel expenses.

We hope you will join us.

3

aarons
 ♠ AKQ104
 ♥ AKQ2
 ♦ 109
 ♣ Q10

chip
 ♠ 63
 ♥ J9
 ♦ QJ865
 ♣ J874

mfleisher
 ♠ 9852
 ♥ 4
 ♦ K432
 ♣ K962

andrew
 ♠ J7
 ♥ 1087653
 ♦ A7
 ♣ A53

NS: 0
 EW: 0

chip	aarons	mfleishe	andrew
			Pass
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦
Dbf	Pass	Pass	7 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Rosenthal
 v
Fleisher

junior	rogercle	eldad	ghampsc
			2 ♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

kit	ralphk	bbramlej	fnickell
			2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Nickell
 v
Robinson

Stev0	robinswr	levin	pab1
			2 ♦
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

wstuart	nareng	rcm	H Berter
			Pass
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Donner
 v
Gupta

dank	Rabid	curtis	Obliviact
			Pass
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

warrens	sylvie	gavin	Isld
			Pass
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Spector
 v
Moss

kdwyer	jkran	preciseb	okvince
			1 ♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	7 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Board 3 from the first segment produced a variety of results. Thirteen tricks are there for the taking, but there are only 29 HCP albeit with perfect fits in two suits.

In Nickell v Robinson, the result was a push when both North/South pairs stopped in 4H after the South player showed a weak two (Nickell opened 2H while Boyd bid a multi 2D). In both cases the North player placed the contract in 4H. After Nickell's 2H opening, it is surprising that Katz did not bid "special keycard 0-1-1-2-2" unless their weak twos don't normally contain two outside features. Since Nickell could only hold 0 or 1 without or 2 without, Katz would be safe in any circumstance. It would seem that at the other table, Robinson should have been able to set trumps and employ something like "special keycard."

In Donner v Gupta, Gurvich/Moller played in 6H on a strong club auction. In the other room, Gupta/Bertens played in game. 11 IMPs to Donner

In Rosenthal v Fleisher, Rosenthal/Silverstein had a good auction to arrive in the grand. Martel doubled the diamond cue for the lead of a diamond. The double likely convinced Rosenthal that his partner had no waste in diamonds and probably had BOTH major suit ace/kings making the grand attractive. The other table took eight bids to land in game. 14 IMPs to Rosenthal

In Spector v Moss, Moss/DelMonte had the same auction as Gupta/Bertens to stop in 4H. At the other table, Kranyak and Demuy, who rarely miss slams, took six bids to arrive in the grand. Why don't they miss slams? Perhaps opening 1H on the nine count made the difference. 2NT was game forcing in hearts. 4S was KC. It would seem that 5H showed 2 WITH the queen. If so, Kranyak probably figured with all the aces, the king of trump and TWO queens of trump, the grand should have a play! 14 IMPs to Spector

4

fnickell
 ♠ AJ9
 ♥ A42
 ♦ AJ52
 ♣ KQ3

kit
 ♠ K762
 ♥ KJ93
 ♦ 987
 ♣ 72

bbramley
 ♠ 1084
 ♥ Q10765
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A1086

ralphk
 ♠ Q53
 ♥ 8
 ♦ KQ1063
 ♣ J954

NS: 0
 EW: 0

kit	fnickell	bbramley	ralphk
Pass	1♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

bumpport	robinswr	jjmeck	pab1
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Nickell
 v
Robinson

Berkowitz	Chip	Migry	Fleisher
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Rosenthal
 v
Fleisher

B Moss	Rosenthal	Grue	Silverstein
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Bathurst	Kranyak	Lall	Demuy
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Spector
 v
Moss

Wooldridge	Moss	Hurd	DelMonte
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	6♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Stuart	Gupta	Meltzer	Bertens
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Donner
 v
Gupta

Korbel	Sobel	Curtis	Donner
West	North	East	South
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Board 4 in the second segment was truly a hand for experts. Chip Martel exhibited great declarer skill, bringing home 3NT on a squeeze where a finesse would have failed!

Chip faced a heart lead from East to the king and the ace. Martel ran three rounds of diamonds, East discarding two clubs and one spade. Martel played the SQ to the king and ace and continued his run of the diamonds. East pitched the CT on the DQ but when the DT was cashed, poor Migry had to discard a spade to avoid discarding a winner. Chip could have played for a finesse of the ST which would have failed... and he would have suffered the same pain as several of his counterparts who went down one in game, but he didn't!! He played a spade to the jack, hoping the squeeze worked and brought home the contract. Nice play Chip. After the hand, Chip pointed out that the squeeze is the percentage play since if it fails, he is only down one while a failing finesse is down two!!

In the other room of this match, Rosenthal, also in 3NT, ducked two rounds of hearts, pitching spades from dummy and won his ace. He ran the diamonds and played a club to the king. Grue won his ace and cashed two hearts to defeat the contract. 12 IMPs to Fleisher

In the Nickell/Robinson match, Robinson won the opening heart lead in 3NT and immediately played the CQ. Meckstroth does not know his heart suit is running so he ducked the club!! Robinson now ran the diamonds and took the spade finesse for nine tricks!

At the other table in this match, Nickell, also in 3NT, chose to duck two rounds of hearts, revealing the heart position. He played on the same line as Martel, but in the end game, he finessed for the ST and went light one, not realizing that Bramley had been squeezed! It wasn't simple for Nickell. Bramley pitched a spade rather than a club on the third round of diamonds!! This may have given Nickell the impression that Bramley did not hold the ST. Nice play, Bart! 12 IMPs to Robinson

(continued on page 15)

(continued from page 14)

In Spector/Moss, both tables found diamonds, a better game than NT. Basically 5D is cold without a finesse. Six diamonds requires the spade finesse and a little more. Moss/DelMonte bid the slam while Kranyak/Demuy stopped in game.

Moss opened 1D and DelMonte's 2H bid was invitational in NT or diamonds. 2S asked which. 4H was KC in diamonds and 5C asked for the trump queen. DelMonte showed the queen of trump and no side kings.

The opening lead was a heart. Moss won and played three rounds of diamonds on which Hurd discarded one heart and the S8. Moss played a spade to the jack and continued with the CK. Hurd won and exited with a heart. Moss ruffed in dummy and led a club to the queen and ruffed a heart. Sylvia led a spade to the ace and cashed the DJ, both opponents pitching hearts. She guessed correctly and led a club to the nine, collecting 12 tricks.

At the other table, Demuy showed a mixed raise in diamonds with heart shortness. Kranyak stopped in game and took 12 tricks. 13 IMPs to Moss

Donner/Gupta was interesting. Sobel played 3NT. She received the usual heart lead and ducked two rounds, winning the third, discarding a spade and a club from dummy. She played five rounds of diamonds on which she discarded the S9 while Cheek discarded three clubs and the ST. Sobel led a club to the king which lost to the ace and Curtis took two more hearts for down one.

In the other room, Bertens declared from South in Blackwood! He received a spade lead, playing the jack from dummy. This is important since if East wins the SK, he will probably continue spades rather than switching to hearts. Next came five rounds of diamonds followed by a club to the king and ace. East made the fatal exit of the ST!! Since East had discarded a club earlier, Bertens took the rest of the tricks, making 690 and 13 IMPs to Gupta!

2020 USBCs CANCELLED

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

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

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

For new teams, the entry pages for the 2021 USBCs will be online soon at the USBF website: USBF.org. Closing date for guaranteed entries is currently March 31, 2021. By then we should have firm dates for the events and will adjust those dates appropriately.



Limey Jack...

Cheerio Colonials:

Limey Jack made you a fortune today if you followed him closely. That wackadoodle Dung threw darts and had the obvious results. Limey Jack promised you that Nickell would need more time to recover and so it came to pass, while Monsieur Dung fawned over them and suggested strongly that Robinson would be hoisting a pint of ale after being shown to the bar.

Of course Limey Jack told you that Rosenthal would cross the bridge afore Fleisher, But the Dung one tried to lead you past the cemetery as the moon went ere the clouds.

Gupta was an easy pick and if Spector hadn't made an about turn leading by 50 at the 8 furlong mark and gone completely Baltic, Limey Jack would have swept the board. Line up outside the punter's window on the morrow and make some bob.

Robinson-Rosenthal: Robinson takes full advantage of the "short" matches and being 6 handed winds up being for naught as the favourite Rosenthal squad comes a cropper.

Moss-Gupta: Two sponsors who have never been this far advanced in an Open Trials. Moss has far more experience but Gupta will scarpers with the goods and there will be a 4 handed finale.

Cheers
Limey Jack

Howie Doing...

If preempts pay off,
Woolsey's a hit.
No one bids lighter
Than Sally's guy, Kit!

Bart is nonplussed.
He takes it in stride.
He sits in his chair,
Goes along for the ride!

If four triple threes
Are what's in the deal,
Then I would pick
Ms. Campanile

The match will be close,
Both teams in the fight.
But Andrew and Aaron
Will get it all right!

Who should I choose
In Gupta v Moss?
Anyone got a coin
I can toss?

It will be Gupta
Hitting the sauce
When his team of four
Succumbs to a loss!

I will be watching.
You will be too.
Jack will pretend he has
Nothing to do.

You can trust Howie.
I'm right on the money.
Relying on Jack
Is nothing but funny!

Howie Doing!!

Board 6

Rabid
 ♠ AKJ3
 ♥ A642
 ♦ Q754
 ♣ 9

dank
 ♠ 64
 ♥ 85
 ♦ K92
 ♣ AQJ865

curtis
 ♠ 1087
 ♥ KQ10
 ♦ A1083
 ♣ K102

Obliviator
 ♠ Q952
 ♥ J973
 ♦ J6
 ♣ 743

NS: 0
EW: 0

dank	Rabid	curtis	Obliviator
		1♦	Pass
3♣	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

gdonner	nareng	yokosob	H Berten
		1♦	Pass
2♣	Dbl	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Redoubled contracts, like squeezes, always attract a newsletter editor's attention!

Poor Donner! He deserved better!!

He and Sobel reached an unmakeable 3NT on Board 6 from the third segment. The defense is clearly entitled to four spade tricks and the HA off the top. Most tables that played 3NT, played it from East after the opponents showed hearts. Unlike those tables, Donner found himself playing 3NT from West!!

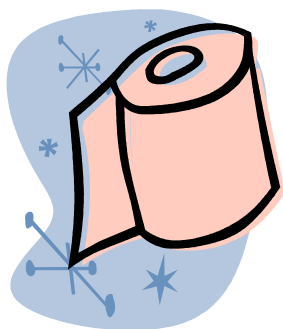
Gupta, having three four card suits, could have led the ace or king of spades and bought a look at dummy. That would have worked well when his partner encouraged. Instead, he chose to lead through strength, tabling the D4, dummy's first bid suit. For Donner, this made the hand easy. Donner played the three from dummy; Bertens covered with the jack and Donner won his king. He cashed six rounds of clubs and finessed against the DQ. Nine tricks in the bag! Surely he expected to win IMPs for this vulnerable effort.

Meanwhile at the other table... Cheek opened 1D; Korbel responded an invitational 3C; Gurvich made a takeout double; Cheek redoubled and they played it there!!!

Gurvich led the SA followed by the SK and a spade to his partner's queen which Korbel ruffed. Trumps were eliminated and a heart toward the KQT drew the ace from Gurvich. Korbel claimed ten tricks for +1240... a rarely seen score!

The comparison could not have been fun for Donner, already down over 100... LOSE 12! Some days it isn't worth getting out of bed!

In some large stores it is now illegal to buy more than one package of toilet paper. The police have named it 'The Big Crack Down'.



Hope you are "roll"ing on the floor laughing.

Stay Safe
Stay Home
Play Cards!!

3

robinswr
 ♠ AK85
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ 64
 ♣ KJ832

levin
 ♠ 2
 ♥ 2
 ♦ Q108732
 ♣ Q10765

Stevo
 ♠ QJ76
 ♥ AK9876
 ♦ AK5
 ♣

pab1
 ♠ 10943
 ♥ 10543
 ♦ J9
 ♣ A94

NS: 0
EW: 0

levin	robinswr	Stevo	pab1
Pass	1♣	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

kit	bumpor	bbramle	jjmeck
2NT	Dbl	Rdbl	Pass
3♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Nickell
v
Robinson

On Board 3 in the final segment yesterday, in Robinson/Nickell, Woolsey/Bramley had a handy convention that fit the hand.

Woolsey, West, opened 2NT showing both minors on his 6-5 distribution with four HCP!! Bramley had no trouble placing the contract in 5D.

At the other table, Robinson opened 1C on the North hand. Weinstein doubled for takeout, and with his 6-5 in the minors, Levin tapped the table.

The defense collected two hearts, three trumps and the ace/king of diamonds. Contract failing by one.

Five diamonds was a claim with diamonds 2-2 and QJ of hearts doubleton. 11 IMPs to Robinson

In Rosenthal/Fleisher, Berkowitz and Migry found 5D. Lee opened 1C with the North hand. Migry doubled. Berkowitz bid his six card diamond suit rather than passing for penalty as Levin did. Migry revealed her great holding and the partnership easily reached 5D.

At the other table, Eldad opened a 14-17 NT. Grue overcalled 2C for the majors. Moss was faced with a dilemma. Probably 2D would ask for his partner's longer major??

He chose to pass 2C, his second best suit! Grue now had the pleasure of declaring 2C in his 0-5 fit!! He received a diamond lead and could have held this to down one, but it's hard to be enthusiastic about declaring in your void. He ultimately conceded down 2... 13 IMPs to Rosenthal

B Moss	Eldad	Grue	Willenken
West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	2♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Berkowitz	Lee	Migry	Hampson
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Dbl	Pass
1♦	1♠	2♥	3♠
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

So many of you have asked me to reveal who Jack and Howie are... well...

Here they are!!

Note that they are properly masked!

Now please don't ask again!!

