

Results...

QuarterFinal (120 boards)			Set score of form "Ax" or "Rx" indicates pending Appeal or Ruling. IMPs Total may change.								
05-Oct-2021			<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	SET #5	SET #6	SET #7	SET #8	Adjustment (IMPs)
1	Nickell - wins tie	198	46	33	46	73					
8	Donner	136	42	37	41	16					
2	Fleisher	168	63	35	35	35					
7	Gu - wins tie	92	25	31	23	13					
3	Spector	184	60	60	24	40					
6	Levine - wins tie	89	7	12	47	26					-3
4	Bramley - wins tie	162	51	78	12	21					
5	Hill	99	17	16	31	35					

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“Trials” and Tribulations

During yesterday’s Knockout, DIC, McKenzie Myers was summoned to Eddie Wold’s table.

“Can you please bring me a Bible?,” Eddie queried.

Eddie needed his tablet raised and he already had it sitting on the Bible from the room in which he was playing.

(Ed. Note: Some might think Eddie is vertically challenged. I do not!! To me, he seems tall!)

Eddie’s screenmate, Gavin Wolpert, chirped up, “He’s in a bad contract and is looking for divine intervention!”

In the Daily Bulletin from the Senior Online Championships on October 3, you may have seen the **In Memoriam** for Jeff Goldsmith. Jeff lost his battle with cancer last week.

Jeff’s family has designated the **USBF Junior Fund**, a 501C-3 charity, for donations in his memory. Donations may be made through the USBF website (USBF.org) and will be properly acknowledged. This was a very kind gesture by Jeff and his family who recognized how important bridge was to Jeff.

QuarterFinalists in Alphabetical Order

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS—PRE-BULLETIN

Bramley	Bart Bramley, Capt Mike Becker Hemant Lall	Kit Woolsey Peter Weichsel Michael Kamil
Donner	Gary Donner, Capt Radu Nistor Ish DelMonte	Sandra Rimstedt Iulian Rotaru Finn Kolesnik
Fleisher	Marty Fleisher, Capt Joe Grue Roger Lee	Chip Martel Brad Moss Daniel Korbel
Gu	Jiang Gu, Capt Ming Sheng Jian-Jian Wang	Hailong Ao Hongji Wei
Hill	Kevin Dwyer, Capt Shan Huang Joel Wooldridge	Joyce Hill David Grainger
Levine	Mike Levine Jeff Meckstroth Mike Passell Bob Morris, NPC	Eddie Wold Steve Garner Mark Lair
Nickell	Frank Nickell Geoff Hampson Bobby Levin Jill Levin, NPC	Ralph Katz Eric Greco Steve Weinstein
Spector	Warren Spector, Capt John Kranyak John Hurd	Gavin Wolpert Kevin Bathurst



Face to Face Tournament Schedule

VACCINATION REQUIRED:

All players in the 2021 Open USBC MUST be vaccinated against CoVid19.

Players must submit proof of vaccination to the USBF Secretary (Jan Martel) before play commences in the event.

This includes the online stages - players are not eligible to enter the event if they do not submit proof of vaccination.

There are no exceptions to this rule.

Ed. Note:

With the delayed broadcasting and the Covid ban on kibitzing, it is especially challenging to write up the hands. If anyone has a hand of interest, please submit it to me at stansubeck@prodigy.net. I also welcome any human interest stories, news or gossip!!

Thanks.

Suzi



No Electronic Devices are Permitted in the Playing Area.

This applies to players AND kibitzers.

Severe penalties will be assessed for violation of this rule.

Please turn off all cell phones and check them at the door.

The USBF reserves the right to wand anyone entering the playing field.



I busted a mirror and got seven years bad luck, but my lawyer thinks he can get me five.

Steven Wright

DAY	DATE	TIME - CDT	BOARDS
<i>QUARTER-FINAL</i>			
MONDAY	OCT. 4	8:00 PM	CAPTAINS' MEETING WITH DIC (ON ZOOM)
TUESDAY	OCT. 5	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45
WEDNESDAY	OCT. 6	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46- 60
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75
		3:45 - 5:55	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90
		6:10 - 8:20	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
<i>SEMI-FINAL & USA2 STAGE 1</i>			
THURSDAY	OCT. 7	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
FRIDAY	OCT. 8	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46- 60
<i>FINAL & USA2 QUARTERFINAL & SEMIFINAL</i>			
SATURDAY	OCT. 9	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105
SUNDAY	OCT. 10	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		3:45 - 5:55	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		6:10 - 8:20	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
<i>USA2 FINAL</i>			
MONDAY	OCT. 11	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46- 60
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75
TUESDAY	OCT. 12	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120

Last night I stayed up late playing poker with Tarot cards. I got a full house and four people died.

Steven Wright

I busted a mirror and got seven years bad luck, but my lawyer thinks he can get me five.

Steven Wright

I went down the street to the 24-hour grocery. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said, 'Hey, the sign says you're open 24 hours.'

He said, 'Yes, but not in a row.'

Steven Wright

FORMAT

The face-to-face USA1 stages will be 2-day, 120-board KO matches.

The face-to-face USA2 stages will be a 2-day, 120-board KO R16 in which the 4 losing USA1 Quarterfinalists will play, followed by a 1-day, 60-board KO Quarterfinal, in which the 2 USA1 Quarterfinal losers will play the 2 USA2 Round of 16 winners; a 1-day 60-board KO Semifinal in which the USA2 Quarterfinal winners will play, and a 2-day 120-board Final between the USA1 Final loser and the USA2 Semifinal winner.

Play Requirements: Each player must play 10 matches in RR 1 and at least one segment against each other team in RR 2 to qualify for the KO stages (a player who does not meet the play requirements can be added back to the team as long as the requirements for roster changes are met. Each player must play 50% of the boards in every KO match to be eligible to continue on the team. See General Conditions of Contest Section XII (at USBF.org) about how to count boards and potential waiver of this requirement.

Closed Notes: Players may not consult their notes at any time during play unless they are dummy.

Withdrawal: A player or team may withdraw at any time.

Play in the KO stages will be on LoveBridge tablets, with either 2 or 4 players in a room.

SETTING THE KO BRACKET: THE KO BRACKET WILL BE BASED ON ACBL SEEDING POINTS, EXCLUDING POINTS AWARDED FOR ONLINE PLAY, PLUS ADDED SEEDING POINTS FOR PERFORMANCE IN EACH STAGE OF THE ROUND ROBIN.

A Godfather in the mob finds out that his bookkeeper has stolen ten million bucks.

This bookkeeper happens to be deaf, so the Godfather brings along his attorney, who knows sign language. The Godfather asks the bookkeeper: "Where is the 10 million bucks you embezzled from me?" The attorney, using sign language, asks the bookkeeper where the 10 million dollars is hidden.

The bookkeeper signs back: "I don't know what you are talking about." The attorney tells the Godfather: "He says he doesn't know what you're talking about."

That's when the Godfather pulls out a 9 mm pistol, puts it to the bookkeeper's temple, cocks it and says: "Ask him again! The attorney signs to the underling: "He'll kill you for sure if you don't tell him!"

The bookkeeper signs back: "OK! You win! The money is in a brown briefcase, buried behind the shed in my cousin Enzo's backyard in Queens!"

The Godfather asks the attorney: "Well, what'd he say?"

The attorney replies: "He says you don't have the guts to pull the trigger."



You know you're living in the twenty-first century when...

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You go home after a long day at work and you still answer the phone in a business manner.
7. You make phone calls from home, you accidentally dial "9" to get an outside line.
8. You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.
10. You learn about your job redundancy on the 11 o'clock news.
11. Your boss doesn't have the ability to do your job.
12. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.
13. Every commercial on television has a website at the bottom of the screen.
14. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go home and get it.
15. You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee.
16. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :-)
17. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
18. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
19. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
20. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list.

KO KIBITZING ON LOVEBRIDGE

You can follow the USBC on the <https://vugraph.lovebridge.com/> website. The stream is delayed; go to the schedule below for starting times for each segment.

Popcorn time! Do you want to listen to commentary? Search for the TV icon! It will send you to the page where you can choose from the available live commentary. If inactive, no one is commenting.

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 personalize the content in your windows. (Not active on mobiles.)

Think together!

When watching a table, click on a name and choose “Kibitz”. Instead of seeing all 4 hands, you will see what the player sees. You can decide what you would do and see whether your chosen player agrees.

More Information:

Be well informed and tell your friends: while following the play, you can click many items. The image of the sticker with the number of the board (upper right) takes you to the results of the board, in the bottom right corner the arrow takes you the scoresheet, the DDS shows the double dummy analyses, beside that there is a button for the other table of the same match, at the top left corner you can see the bidding with alerts and the explanations (mouse over), the tricks already played, and the double dummy analysis for the available number of tricks with the par score.

Navigation icons:

While surfing here and there in the vugraph, or amongst the archive sessions, there are icons to help you. You can always go back to the main page with the “house” or to the standings with the “scores”. If you cannot see the icons, move your mouse, or touch your screen and they pop up immediately. There is also a built-in back button because the back button of your browser will always take you to the starting page. If this is not what you wanted, push next in your browser and you can continue.

Replay:

After the event you can find every board from every table easily. While replaying the hands, the only surprise can be the way “next board” button works. If you have arrived from a scoresheet, it navigates through the scoresheet. If you have arrived from a screen where the results were shown for a given board then the same buttons move you through the list. Push every button and enjoy!

KIBITZING SCHEDULE FOR THE KO (EDT)

Segment 1: 12:00 noon

Segment 2: 2:30 pm

BREAK

Segment 3: 6:00 pm

Segment 4: 8:00 pm

NEXT DAY

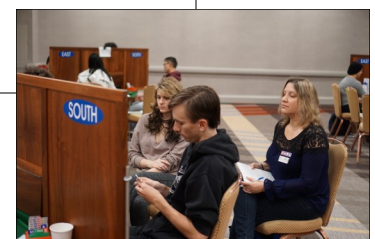
Segment 5: 12:00 noon

Segment 6: 2:30 pm

BREAK

Segment 7: 8:00 pm

Segment 8: 10:15 pm



Mask Rules

Attendees are required to wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth in all public areas in the hotel. That means the hotel lobby, corridors, and elevators, as well as the **Hospitality Suite** and the **Office/Players' Break Room, where masks must be worn at all times. Therefore, there is no eating or drinking in those rooms.**

Our attorney has told us that the Cook County Mask Mandate forces us to require masks in the playing rooms. Therefore, we have adopted the following policy about that:

*Masks are required in playing rooms. If you are observed not wearing a mask in a playing room, there will be a 2 IMP penalty for the first offense in a segment, a 4 IMP penalty for the second offense, an 8 IMP penalty for the third offense, and a 16 IMP penalty for the fourth and subsequent offenses; however, if you and your opponent agree to something other than both wearing masks, any IMP penalties for not wearing a mask will apply to both of you equally and there will be no other penalties. You may remove your mask briefly to eat or drink. **However, if you call for a director (for any reason), and you are not wearing a mask properly when the director enters the room, the penalty will apply to your team for your next match in the event.** There is no eating or drinking in the playing room when the Director present.*

In addition, anyone who is penalized more than twice (over the course of the entire event) in situations where his/her opponent was wearing a mask while s/he wasn't, or where the director was called, may be subject to additional conduct penalties.

You should bring masks to the tournament with you; we will not be supplying masks.

Covid Waiver

We are going to ask each player in these events to sign a COVID-19 Waiver of Claims. It is being sent to you by email and you may sign it electronically and return it to Jan (marteljan@gmail.com) or you can sign a printed waiver at the site. Waivers will be available to sign in room 1321 starting Oct. 5th at 9:00 am. **Everyone is required to sign the form before the start of play!**

Golf Clubs

There was a businesswoman who just made a million dollars for an Arabian Oil Sheik. When she was leaving the Oil Sheik offered her Diamonds and rubies and a Silver-plated Rolls Royce, but she declined.

The Sheik insisted so she said that she just started to golf and maybe a set of golf clubs would be nice.

A few weeks later she received a telegram from the sheik.

So far I have bought you 3 golf clubs. I hope you aren't disappointed that only 2 of them have swimming pools."

Football Math!

A football coach walked into the locker room before a big game, looked over to his star player and said, "I'm not supposed to let you play since you failed math, but we really need you in there. So, what I have to do is ask you a math question, and if you get it right, you can play."

The player agreed, so the coach looked into his eyes intently and asked, - "Okay, now concentrate hard and tell me the answer to this: What is two plus two?" The player thought for a moment and then answered, "4?"

"Did you say 4?!" the coach exclaimed, excited that he had given the right answer.

Suddenly, all the other players on the team began screaming, "Come on coach, give him another chance!"

Hospitality Information ... the Suite and more ...

Because of Covid, we won't be able to provide the full, wonderful hospitality we have in the past, but we will do what we can.

Hosts Evvie Gilbert and Maya Alela for the Open and Women's and Julie Arbit and Christian Jolly for the Mixed and Seniors will be in our usual hospitality suite (Room 2321). They will provide grab and go breakfast and lunch each day, starting on Tuesday, Oct. 5th.

Breakfast: From 8-10 am. There will be individually packaged cereal, fruit, hard boiled eggs, bagels, and some hot options. Also individual butter, jam, peanut butter, and cream cheese, as well as condiment packages. They will be making coffee and will have individual packages of sugar, sweetener, and dairy & non-dairy creamers. For those of you who prefer Keurig coffee, that will also be available in the hospitality suite. We are limiting access to 6 players at any one time, so we ask that you come to the suite, pick up a large to go container and put the smaller packages in that to take with you as quickly as you can, and then go someplace else to eat. **Masks that cover your nose & mouth must be always worn in the Hospitality Suite.** There will be a hand sanitizer station near the door and we encourage you to sanitize your hands before choosing what to take.

Lunch: From 2-4 pm (the first half of play each day ends at 2:35; we encourage those of you who are sitting out the 2nd quarter to go early). There will be a main dish (sandwiches, chicken, main dish salads, pizza) as well as individually packaged tuna salad, green salad, cheese, fruit, and berries. Also all the individual packages of add-ons we have for breakfast. Water and soft drinks will be available in refrigerators.

Let us know what you want: If there is a menu for a future day's lunch hanging on the wall outside the Hospitality Suite, please mark what you want, so we have a better idea of what to order.

Playing Rooms & Player's Break Room

We will have bottled water in the playing rooms and if there is a refrigerator in a playing room, we'll stock it with soft drinks.

We will also have bottled water in the Player's Break Room (1321), as well as soft drinks, Nespresso, some packaged snacks, and some fruit.

Masks that cover your nose & mouth must be always worn in the Player's Break Room, so you may not eat and drink in the room.



Julie Arbit



Christian
Jolly



Fill your bag.
Fill your tummy.
Hope you find it
Really yummy!

How do you keep a bagel from getting away? Put lox on it.

bid72

Work on your Partnership
Try the App for Free



This app will connect you to bid72. All you need to do is scan it with your phone (Special thanks to my children and grandchildren for explaining how to accomplish this...)

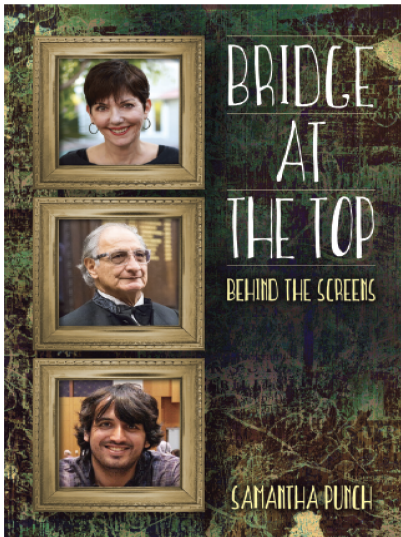
Jan VanCleaf provided this so our readers could use it to improve their bidding and better build partnerships. Bid72 allows users to participate in bidding contests, bid random boards and get a rating based on their bidding, learn about "topic board" hands dedicated to conventions and special agreements, and to create, upload and bid your own boards.

For more information, email info@bid72.com

In addition, Bid72 has an excellent newsletter to which you can subscribe.

Now Available

Bridge at the Top *Behind the Screens* Samantha Punch



The interviews make the names we see on VuGraph come to life. The tips are tricks of the trade that will be useful to players of all levels. It is a fun and informative read.

— Jill Levin

...intimate and revealing pictures of who these stars are, how they got to the top, and what keeps them there. The interviews are absorbing reading and the advice will help players at any level. The suggestions on partnership and mental toughness are of particular note.

— Chip Martel

In the course of her research project, *Bridge: A MindSport for All*, sociologist Dr. Samantha Punch has been able to speak with many of the world's top bridge personalities. The best interviews are collected in this book, and they offer fascinating insight into what it takes to be a top player, coach or even sponsor. As a bonus, each subject offers their favorite bridge tip.

US\$22.95 | GBP 17.95
978-1-77140-064-0

Available to order today from your favourite bookstore.

 Master Point Press

Samantha Punch's book is recently published and ready for your reading pleasure.

Sam is an amazing advocate of the game and while I have not yet read the book, based on her work with "Keep Bridge Alive" and more, I am certain you will want to have this volume in your collection!

Learn about the experts... how they think... what they think... and why they are so driven by a card game.

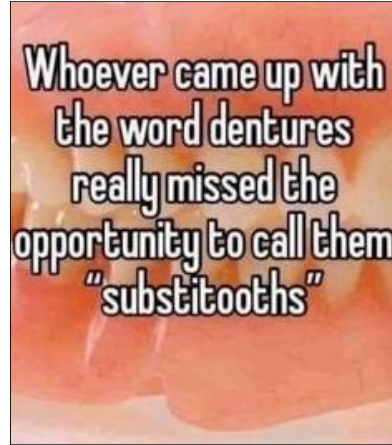
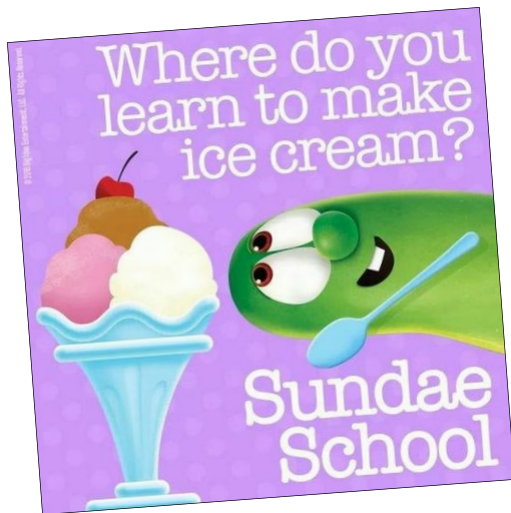
Editor



Samantha

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

Sudoku 1



Sudoku 2



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

Answer to Puzzle on page 10

Thursday	pecans	Julia	Rhoda
Tuesday	peanuts	Susan	Margie
Wednesday	macadamia	Monica	Janice
Friday	almonds	Brenda	Heidi
Monday	walnuts	Denise	Alice
Day of the Week	Type of Nut Added	Sister's Name	Girl's Name

**Hard
Sudoku**

**Sudoku
Solutions
on Page 17**

	Brenda	Denise	Julia	Monica	Susan	almonds	macadamia	peanuts	pecans	walnuts	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Alice															
Heidi															
Janice															
Margie															
Rhoda															
Monday															
Tuesday															
Wednesday															
Thursday															
Friday															
almonds															
macadamia															
peanuts															
pecans															
walnuts															

Puzzle Mania

answers on page 9

Girl's Name	Sister's Name	Type of Nut Added	Day of the Week

Five girls made fudge after school this week. Each girl made fudge on a different day and each had a little sister who insisted that she must help. Although each girl made a basic chocolate fudge, they all decided that plain fudge was boring. So, each decided to add a different nut to their fudge, to make it more interesting. Determine the names of each girl and little sister, the type of nut each added to the fudge, and what day each girl made her fudge (each was made on a different day of the week).

1. Monica's sister made fudge two days after Alice but the day before the girl who added pecans. Julia was Rhoda's little sister.
2. Margie didn't make her fudge on Thursday but she

did make it before the girl who added macadamia nuts.

3. Denise wasn't Heidi's little sister. The girl who added pecans didn't make her fudge on Tuesday.
4. The first and last girls to make fudge were the girl who added walnuts and the girl whose little sister was named Brenda, respectively.
5. Janice made fudge two days before the girl who added almonds. Susan's sister added peanuts to her fudge.
6. Heidi didn't make her fudge on Wednesday but she did add almonds to it. Rhoda didn't make her fudge on Friday

Shakespeare: Hamlet

Find and circle all of the words relating to Hamlet that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Hamlet quotation.

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

AMBASSADORS	FRANCISCO	MARCELLUS	REGICIDE
BARNARDO	GERTRUDE	MELANCHOLY	REVENGE
CASTLE	GHOST	MESSENGER	REYNALDO
CHALICE	GRAVEDIGGERS	MURDER	ROSENCRANTZ
CLAUDIUS	GUILDENSTERN	OPHELIA	SKULL
CORNELIUS	HAMLET	OSRIC	SWORD
DEATH	HAUTBOYS	POISON	THE PLAYERS
DENMARK	HORATIO	POLONIUS	TRAGEDY
DUEL	KING	PRIEST	VOLTEMAND
ELSINORE	LAERTES	PRINCE	WINE
FORTINBRAS	MADNESS	QUEEN	YORICK

Mike Becker (born 1943) is an American bridge player. Becker is from Tenafly, New Jersey. He is a son of B. Jay Becker.

As of 1980, Becker and Ron Rubin were partners in a New York City options firm and at the bridge table. At bridge they used a strong one-club, relay bidding system that they called "the Ultimate Club". They played on the last of the "Aces" teams sponsored by Dallas businessman Ira Corn, which won the 1983 Bermuda Bowl world team championship.

In the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) during the 1990s or 2000s, Becker chaired committees governing International Team Trials and the Hall of Fame. He was the founding president of the United States Bridge Federation, established in 2001 primarily to select and support teams that represent the United States in world competition. He was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2006.

Publications

- *The Ultimate Club*, Mike Becker and others (New York: Monna Lisa Precision Corp., 1977)
- *The Ultimate Club*, Michael Becker, Matt Ginsberg, Matthew Granovetter, and Ron Rubin (Livingstone, NJ: Ultimate Club, 1981)

Bridge accomplishments

Honors

- ACBL Hall of Fame, 2006

Wins

- North American Bridge Championships
 - von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs 1990
 - Silodor Open Pairs 1988
 - Grand National Teams 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013
 - Vanderbilt 1977, 1981, 1985, 1989, 2005
 - Mitchell Board-a-Match Teams 2007, 2012
 - Spingold 1972, 1980, 1982, 1992

Runners-up

- North American Bridge Championships
 - von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs 1975
 - Silodor Open Pairs 1998
 - Grand National Teams 1981, 1992
 - Vanderbilt 1978, 1999, 2004
 - Mitchell Board-a-Match Teams 1968, 2008
 - Reisinger 1967, 1983, 2002, 2004, 2007
 - Spingold 1968, 1988



In this event, Becker is playing on the Bramley squad.

Meet the Players...

Updated Information Regarding the Hall Of Fame Inductions in Austin...

The ACBL is necessarily concerned about keeping players and staff safe in Austin this fall. Because of the uncertainty of what will and will not be possible, the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony scheduled for the first Saturday of the tournament, has been postponed. The Ceremony will be rescheduled at one of the NABC's next year.

Austin, being the first NABC, since the start of the Pandemic, is anticipated to be attended "tentatively" by the participants and how much togetherness will be tolerated is unclear.

Your understanding is appreciated. We are as eager as you are to get this underway, but everyone's health and well-being is our first concern.

Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda ...

The screenshot shows a bridge game interface. At the top left is a bidding table:

BIDDING	TRICKS	INFO	DDS
1NT	2♣	3♣	PASS
4♥	PASS	4NT	PASS
5♣	PASS	6♥	PASS
PASS	PASS		

The dealer is North, and the contract is 3♥. The hands are:

- North (Dealer):** ♠ Q J 9 8 6, ♥ K 6 5 4 2, ♦ K 9 6, ♣ 9
- West (Greco):** ♠ A 10 8 6, ♥ 10 5 2, ♦ A 9, ♣ A Q J 4
- East (Hampson):** ♠ K Q 9 4 3 2, ♥ A K, ♦ Q 10 3, ♣ 8 3
- South (Kolesnik):** ♠ J 7 5 7 4 3, ♥ J 8 7 10 7 5 2, ♦ J 8 7 10 7 5 2, ♣ 7

Player names visible: Bobby Levin (North), Julian Rotaru (West), Radu Nistor (East), Steve Weinstein (South). A score table at the bottom right shows: N-S: Nickell 0 IMPs, E-W: Donner 1 IMPs, Other room: W 4♥ +2 -680.

Board 3 of the first segment in Nickell/Donner was exciting. In the Closed Room where DelMonte was North, Hampson was East, F Kolesnik was South, and Greco was West, Hampson/Greco bid a pedestrian 4H which come home with an overtrick.

In the Open Room, Rotaru/Nistor bid aggressively to slam. Levin's 2S showed spades and a minor. Nistor's 3D was invitational plus in hearts. Nistor really liked his values and took the "plus" seriously, jumping to the slam over Rotaru's 4H bid. This can be a good approach when playing a strong team like Nickell... but your

play must be up to your bidding to make it work... or you are relying strictly on luck of the lie!

Levin led the SQ. Rotaru won the ace in dummy, played two rounds of trump, played a spade to the king, a heart to the ace and ruffed a spade. He finessed against the CK, losing to Levin. Levin exited a club, Rotaru winning in hand. Rotaru cashed the H6 and H4, but he had to play diamonds on his own and there was no way to escape the loss of the DK. Contract failing!

Rotaru could have made the slam. When he played the ST toward dummy, instead of ruffing, he needed to discard a club. Levin would win the SJ and holding only S:8, D:K52, C:K96 would have no safe exit. A spade would yield a ruff and sluff. A diamond or club from the king would blow a trick and Rotaru would still be able to take the ruffing finesse against the CK to score 12 tricks.

Interestingly, in Hill/Bramley, playing in 4H, Kevin Dwyer found the play to take 12 tricks! He actually cashed the CA before playing the ST and then discarded a club on the SJ, creating the winning endplay position. The line is inferior because it requires LHO to hold C:Kxx and a diamond honor so he is endplayed when he wins the spade trick. In game, declarer will make the hand in any case.

13 IMPs to Nickell

An onion can make people cry but there has never been a vegetable invented to make them laugh.

~ Will Rogers

When I come to one of the forks in the road of life, I don't waste time and energy wishing it was a spoon. ~ Miss Piggy

If all is not lost, where is it?

I went to school to become a wit, only got halfway through.

It was all so different before everything changed.

Some days you're the dog, some days you're the hydrant.

I wish the buck stopped here. I could use a few ...

It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.

When you're finally holding all the cards, why does everyone else decide to play chess?

Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

It's not hard to meet expenses. They're everywhere.



Spirituality Jokes

The Art of Meditation – You Have the Right to Remain Silent

Q: Why did it take the Buddha forever to vacuum his sofa?

A: Because he didn't have any attachments.

Q: What did the Buddhist say to the hot dog vendor?

A: Make me one with everything.

All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my right hand.

My son has taken up meditation - at least it's better than sitting doing nothing.

Did you hear about the yogi who was having a filling put in a tooth? When the dentist asked him if he wanted Novocain, the yogi said, "No. I can transcend dental medication."

While talking about meditation techniques, a Zen master once said to me, "Do the opposite of whatever I tell you." So I didn't.

Dave Barry's 50 Years of Experience

1. Never, under any circumstances, combine a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
2. If you had to specify, in one word, why the human race has not, and will never achieve its full potential, that word would be meetings.
3. It is a fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
4. People who push to share their religious views with you rarely care to have you to share yours with them.
5. One does well to separate one's career from one's life.
6. Nobody cares if you can't dance. Just dance.
7. Regardless of the temptation, don't lick a steak knife.
8. The most devastating force in the world is gossip.
9. You should never say anything to a woman that even hints that you think she's pregnant.
10. The one constant among all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.
11. A person, who is nice to you, but mean to the stranger, is not a nice person.
12. Men are like a fine cheese. They start out as milk, and it's up to women to mold them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

Teams	Room	Contract	Declarer	Lead	N/S	E/W
Nickell/Donner	Open	3NT	W	S5		720
	Closed	3NT	W	H7	100	
Hill/Bramley	Open	3NT	W	S5		720
	Closed	3NT	W	S9		720
Spector/Levine	Open	5C	E	HK	100	
	Closed	3NT	W	H6	100	
Gu/Fleisher	Open	3NT	W	S5		720
	Closed	3NT	W	H7	100	

On Board 16, all but one E/W pair reached 3NT from West.

One pair played in 5C from East.

Against 3NT, a “4th from your longest and strongest” spade was led at four tables. Declarer won the spade in hand with the jack and took 6 club tricks, 3 spade tricks and four diamonds tricks to score +720.

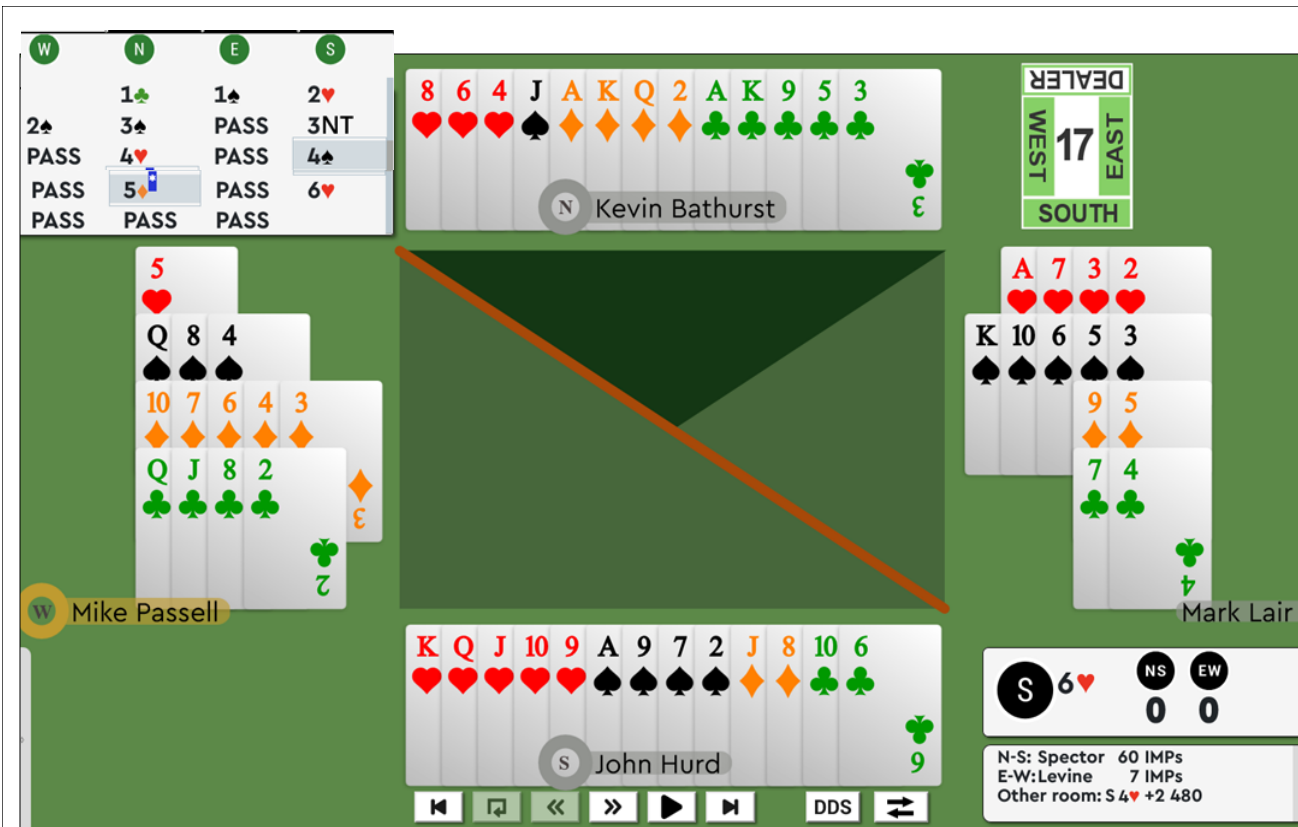
At three of the tables, North led from their three small hearts and defeated the contract when South won the king, cashed the ace and took their three remaining tricks in the heart suit. Contract down one for -100.

Some modern theorists support the heart lead while traditionalists support the spade. In Nickell/Donner, it was 13 IMPs to Donner. In Hill/Bramley, it was a push. In Gu/Fleisher, it was 13 IMPs to Fleisher.

In Spector/Levine, the hybrid in the group, after the common 1NT/3NT auction, John Hurd doubled.

When it went Pass, Pass to Lair, he must have feared something resembling the existing heart situation and ran to 5C, hoping to hold his losers to the A/K of hearts.

Hurd started with the HAK and a heart. Lair ruffed in hand and pulled trump. He led the ST to the king and cashed the SA. The S7 was ruffed and Lair played the D4 go the king (oops!). He finessed the DQ through the AT and when that trick lost, he was down one. 13 IMPs to Spector



Three pairs bid 6H on Board 17. Only one declarer took twelve tricks. The two declarers who failed won the black suit opening lead and played on hearts before ruffing any spades. On the surface, declarer has seven side-suit tricks (four diamonds, two clubs and one spade). With four natural trump winners in his hand, one spade ruff in dummy would produce the twelfth trick. This is well and good as long as the side winners all cash and trumps behave. Holding Axxx of trumps, it is usually right to duck the first round of the suit. There's no exception here. At both tables where declarer played trumps early, the East hand ducked the HA and declarer was left with a choice of losing lines. Since East held a doubleton diamond and four trumps, declarer was unable to score all of his diamond tricks.

In the Levine/Spector match, John Hurd combined his chances and found the winning line. Recognizing the strength of his trump spots, Hurd won the opening spade lead and immediately trumped a spade in dummy. Hurd played a diamond to the jack and took a second spade ruff. Hurd played two high diamonds. East trumped the third round of diamonds, preventing declarer from discarding a spade. Hurd overruffed and played the ace and king of clubs. Dummy's last high diamond was next. East ruffed and Hurd over-ruffed to produce this position:



Hurd trumped the S9 with dummy's H8 and the defenders could only take the HA. At the other table, Mike Levine declared 4H and took twelve tricks on the same line of play.

11 IMPs to Spector

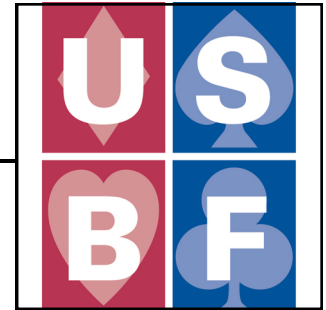
8	3	5	1	7	9	2	4	6
6	4	9	2	5	3	8	7	1
7	1	2	8	6	4	3	5	9
5	2	3	6	8	7	1	9	4
9	6	4	3	1	2	7	8	5
1	8	7	9	4	5	6	2	3
2	5	1	4	3	8	9	6	7
3	7	8	5	9	6	4	1	2
4	9	6	7	2	1	5	3	8

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

Sudoku Answers

Answer to Sudoku 1

Answer to Sudoku 2



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.



Eight ever, Nine never,
As a rule, very clever!



Nickell/Donner

Hill/Bramley

Spector/Levine

Gu/Fleisher

Open	2♠	S	♦8	+2	170
Closed	4♠	S	♦8	=	420
Open	4♠	S	♠4	=	420
Closed	3♠	S	♠4	+1	170
Open	4♠	S	♠4	=	420
Closed	2♠	S	♠4	+2	170
Open	4♠	S	♥3	=	420
Closed	2♠	S	♦8	+2	170

19	♠ J 8 5	
SOUTH	♥ J 6	
E-W	♦ J T 7 2	
	♣ K 9 6 4	
♠ T 7 4		♠ 6 3
♥ 8 5 3		♥ A T 9
♦ Q 9 8 3		♦ A K 5 4
♣ T 8 7		♣ A J 3 2
	♠ A K Q 9 2	
	♥ K Q 7 4 2	
	♦ 6	
	♣ Q 5	

Looking at the traveler, do you notice anything odd? In every match of the quarterfinals, one table played in the spade game and one table played in the spade partscore. There was a 6 IMP swing in every match on this board where it could have been all pushes had the matchups been different!

How good is the game? With hearts breaking 3-3, the game is unstoppable. However, the odds of a 3-3 break are only 36%! Declarer may also be able to succeed against many of the 4-2 breaks. If East holds four hearts, it will be easy to trump a heart in dummy. If West has the four card heart holding, declarer will be able to trump with the SJ as long as spades are 3-2.

Assuming that the opponents start by tapping declarer in diamonds, trumps will need to be 3-2. The odds of a 3-2 split are 68%. Combining the 3-2 trump split with the probability of the heart suit coming home, the game is a little over 50%. Not vulnerable, to bid or not to bid the game, is as neutral as it gets.

These numbers are not precise because of positional considerations... for example, if the defenders start with two high diamonds and East wins the HA to continue diamonds, declarer will be down to a 3-3 in trump and will still need to establish a club trick.



Ralph Katz has expounded on the merits of bidding at a high level when you don't need much from partner to make your contract, especially when you don't have much defense and the opponents might be cold for game or slam.

Donner opened 1S and Katz jumped to 6D, putting Sandra Rimstedt to the test. Probably, Rimstedt should "take the money and run," but she played Katz to be stealing or maybe he was bidding to make.

At favorable vulnerability, Rimstedt took the push. She bid 6H and Katz balanced with a double, likely hoping for a spade lead.

Nickell led the D3, Katz won the DA and continued with the DQ. Katz played the DK, Rimstedt ruffed with the H9 and Nickell overruffed with the HT. Nickell returned the S5 and Katz ruffed with the H4. Katz played another diamond. Rimstedt trumped with the H8 and Nickell discarded his last spade. Rimstedt played the HJ followed by the SK. Nickell trumped and N/S scored +1100.

At the other table, Geoff Hampson opened 1S with the East hand and Finn Kolesnik jumped to 5D with the South cards. Eric Greco doubled, and Greco/Hampson took the obvious three tricks for down one.

16 IMPs to Nickell

If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

Whose cruel idea was it for the word "lisp" to have a "S" in it?

If the "black box" flight recorder is never damaged during a plane crash, why isn't the whole airplane made out of that stuff?

Carlin Quotes

"Pun"ting...



What's Irish and stays out all night? Paddy O'Furniture.

Why didn't the turkey cross the road? Because he wasn't chicken.

Where do you find chili beans? At the North Pole.

Who don't penguins fly? They're not tall enough to be pilots.

What do you call a woman who stands between two goal posts? Annette.

What must you know to be an auctioneer? Lots.

The problem with money is that it is tainted. It taint yours and it taint mine.

When a clock is still hungry, it goes back four seconds.

She broke into song when she couldn't find the key.

Who runs the Keebler elves' answering service? The Tree-ceptionist.

When a marathon runner had ill fitting shoes, he suffers the agony of defeat.

How do you define a will? It's a Dead Giveaway.

Your debt will stay with you if you can't budge it.

She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.

Calendar days are numbered.

What do you call a train loaded with toffee? A chew chew train.

What is the world's most popular wine? I don't like Brussels sprouts.

How do chickens dance? Chick to chick.

What kind of tree do fingers grow on? A palm tree.

What did the Mexican fireman name his twin sons? Hose A and Hose B.

What do you call a country where everyone drives a red car? A red carnation.

Energizer Bunny arrested - charged with battery.

The man who had fallen into an upholstery factory is now said to be fully recovered.

A pessimist's blood type is always B-.

A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

What did the grape say when the elephant stepped on it? Nothing, it just let out a little whine.

Corduroy pillows are making headlines.

Why can't a bicycle stand on its own? Because it's two tired.

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

Sea captains don't like crew cuts.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?