

Volume 18, Issue 2
May 1, 2024

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations

Par for the Course!

Practicing on RealBridge, the Nickell teammates were dealt a highly distributional hand. The foursome had a perfect auction through 5D. Levin held a 6/6 in hearts and clubs with just enough cards to present a very tough decision... and Greco's jump to 4H made bidding 5H sound reasonable. 5H might make (what if Greco's SK were the HK?) or it might be a good save. Taking the high road, Levin took the push. When laying down dummy, he said, "I'm going to smoke. I'm sorry if I'm wrong."

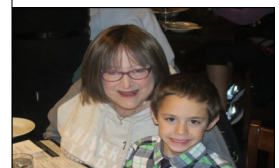
Five hearts failed with the obvious three losers. Nick led the DA and it was over.

Nick judged well to bid 5D over 4H with a silent partner. He had a lot of offense against 5H, holding the trump ace/king and the outside diamond ace. However, even if Nick leads his stiff club and works out how to reach Katz by underleading the DA, his ruff is with a natural trump trick and the contract comes home. 5H went down one.

In the words of Joey Silver, "Next hand!!"

Ed. Note: With delayed broadcasting, it is challenging to watch every hand for write ups. If anyone has a particularly interesting hand, please send me the board # & match # with any important details. I will do my best to review and include it. Email to stansubeck@prodigy.net. Thank you!

- USBF President**
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- USBF Vice President**
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- USBF COO & Secretary**
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Adam Wildavsky
- Bulletin Editor**
Suzi Subeck
- Hospitality**
Julie Arbit
Marie-France Benoit



Open Teams Entered

Nickell	Nick Nickell Bye to QF Bobby Levin Geoff Hampson Jill Levin, NPC	Ralph Katz Steve Weinstein Eric Greco
Lebowitz	Adam Grossack, Capt Zach Grossack Zia Mahmood	Larry Lebowitz Michael Rosenberg Daniel Korbel
Fleisher	Marty Fleisher, Capt Brad Moss Kevin Bathurst	Chip Martel Joe Grue John Hurd
Bailey	Bill Bailey, Capt Aaron Jones Arti Bhargava	Josh Donn Owen Lien
Balleisen	Aaron Balleisen, Capt Nicole Qian	Zhiyu Cheng Philip Wang
Bramley	Bart Bramley, Capt Brian Platnick	Kit Woolsey Kevin Rosenberg
Gu	Jiang Gu, Capt Ai-Tai Lo Josh Sher	Walter Lee Alex Kolesnik Ron Smith
Hamman	Adam Wildavsky, Capt Doug Doub John Schermer	Bob Hamman Neil Chambers Greg Hinze
Han	Yanong Han, Capt Qiang Zhang	Ming Sheng Brian Zhang
Juster	Jeff Juster, Capt Andy Goodman Shan Huang	Jacob Morgan Mike Passell Kevin Dwyer Rimstedt
Petrov	Dian Petrov, Capt Matthew Haag	Val Kovachev Rumen Dimitrov
Robinson	Eric Robinson, Capt Ish DelMonte David Berkowitz	Michael Kamil Finn Kolesnik Steve Garner
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken John Kranyak	Aaron Silverstein Gavin Wolpert Vince Demuy
Schireson	Max Schireson, Capt John McAllister Olivia Schireson	Debbie Rosenberg Will Watson
Simson	Doug Simson, Capt Eddie Wold David Grainger	Eric Rodwell Joel Wooldridge Venkatrao Koneru



Mixed Teams Entered

Carmichael	Tom Carmichael, Capt Christian Jolly	Jenni Carmichael Julie Arbit
Derman	Ethan Derman, Capt George Klemic	Avery Silverstein Maya Jonas-Silver
Ding	Donna Compton, Capt Hong Ding	Chris Compton Adam Wildavsky
Dinkin	Sam Dinkin, Capt Harrison Luba Jeff Ferro	Yoko Sobel Cynthia Huang Jean Barry
Ivatury	Uday Ivatury, Capt Shawn Quinn Lapt Chan	Allan Graves Irina Kislitsyna Christal Henner
Lewis	Paul Lewis, Capt Mark Itabashi Cheri Bjerkan	Linda Lewis Disa Eythorsdottir Larry Robbins
Millens	Shan Huang, Capt Kevin Dwyer Sandra Rimstedt	Joan Millens Cecilia Dwyer Rimstedt
Pollack	Rozanne Pollack, Capt Dave Caprera	Bill Pollack Anne Brenner
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken Michael Rosenberg	Migry Campanile Jenny Wolpert Debbie Rosenberg
Rubenstein	Stewart Rubenstein, Capt Zach Grossack Adam Grossack	Anam Tebha Giorgia Botta Emma Kolesnik
Zhang	Susan Zhang, Capt Eddie Wold Janice Molson	Sylvia Shi Daniel Korbel



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.



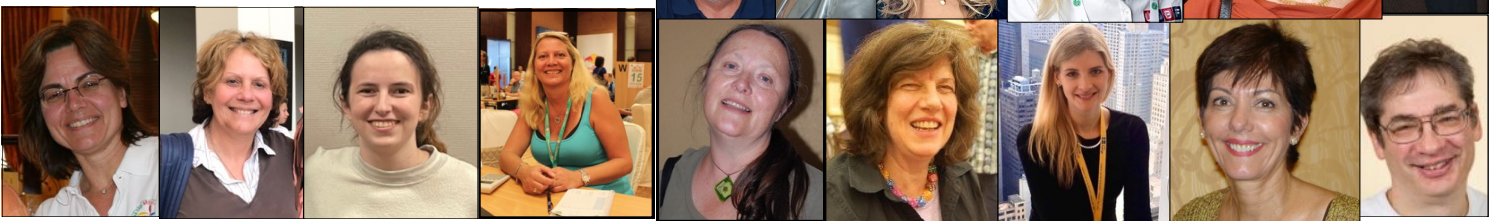
Senior Teams Entered

Aker	Jeff Aker, Capt John Lusky Barry Rigal	Allan Falk Glenn Milgrim Ron Rubin
Cappelli	Bob Cappelli, Capt Bob Bitterman	Mark Aquino Mark Bendure
Goodman	Andy Goodman, Capt Pratap Rajadhyaksha Ron Smith	Mike Passell Venkatrao Koneru Billy Cohen
Hamman	Bob Hamman, Capt Doug Doub	Neil Chambers Adam Wildavsky
Lall	Hemant Lall, Capt Eric Rodwell Zia Mahmood	Reese Milner Eddie Wold Michael Rosenberg
Reynolds	Tom Reynolds, Capt Bernie Greenspan	Lance Kerr Fred Schenker
Simson	Doug Simson, Capt Jim Krekorian Steve Beatty	Curtis Cheek Peter Weichsel Fred Stewart
Tulin	Gary Cohler, Capt Alan Sontag Kit Woolsey	Stanley Tulin Ralph Katz Bart Bramley
Wolfson	Jeff Wolfson, Capt David Berkowitz	Steve Garner Jeff Meckstroth



Women's Teams Entered

Baker	Lynn Baker, Capt Kerri Sanborn Cecilia Dwyer Rimstedt [alternate] Debbie Rosenberg	Olivia Schireson Jill Meyers Sandra Rimstedt [alternate] Migry Campanile
Cooper	Kitty Cooper, Capt Linda Lewis Rozanne Pollack	Lynne Feldman Hjordis Eythorsdottir Cheri Bjerkan
Zhang	Susan Zhang, Capt Janice Molson	Sylvia Shi Irina Levitina



Open Team Tournament Schedule

OPEN SCHEDULE			
Day	Date	Time (CDT)	Boards
Round of 16 (if 14-16 teams enter; fewer than 14 will be rr with different schedule)			
Wednesday	May 1	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Lunch Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Thursday	May 2	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Lunch Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60
Quarterfinal			
Friday	May 3	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Lunch Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Saturday	May 4	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Lunch Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60
Semifinal			
Sunday	May 5	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Monday	May 6	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60
Final			
Tuesday	May 7	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Wednesday	May 8	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60

Location: TBD

Lovebridge practice sessions

Day	Date	Time (CDT)
Tuesday	April 30	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Thursday	May 9	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Saturday	May 18	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Wednesday	May 22	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

PRE-TOURNAMENT CAPTAINS & PLAYERS MEETINGS

On Zoom			
Event	Day	Date	Time (CDT)
Open	Tuesday	April 30	9:00 PM
Mixed	Thursday	May 9	9:00 PM
Senior	Saturday	May 18	9:00 PM
Women's	Monday or Wednesday	May 20 or 22	9:00 PM

Mixed Team Tournament Schedule

Mixed Schedule			
Round Robin or KO - Schedule will depend on number of teams			
Day	Date	Time	Boards
Friday	May 10		
Saturday	May 11		
Quarterfinal			
Sunday	May 12	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Monday	May 13	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60
Semifinal			
Tuesday	May 14	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Wednesday	May 15	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60
Final			
Thursday	May 16	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60 75 minute Break Segment 5 Boards 61-75 Segment 6 Boards 76-90
Friday	May 17	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60

"PUN" ishment...

When I was young, air at the gas station was free. Now they charge \$1.50! That's inflation for you!

8 vowels, 11 consonants, an exclamation mark and a comma appeared in court today. They are due to be sentenced next week!

Always be sure that someone in the relationship has good credit... That's why it's called a "significant" other: SIGN-IF-I-CANT!

Why do I do my best proofreading AFTER I hit "send?"

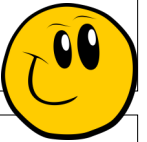
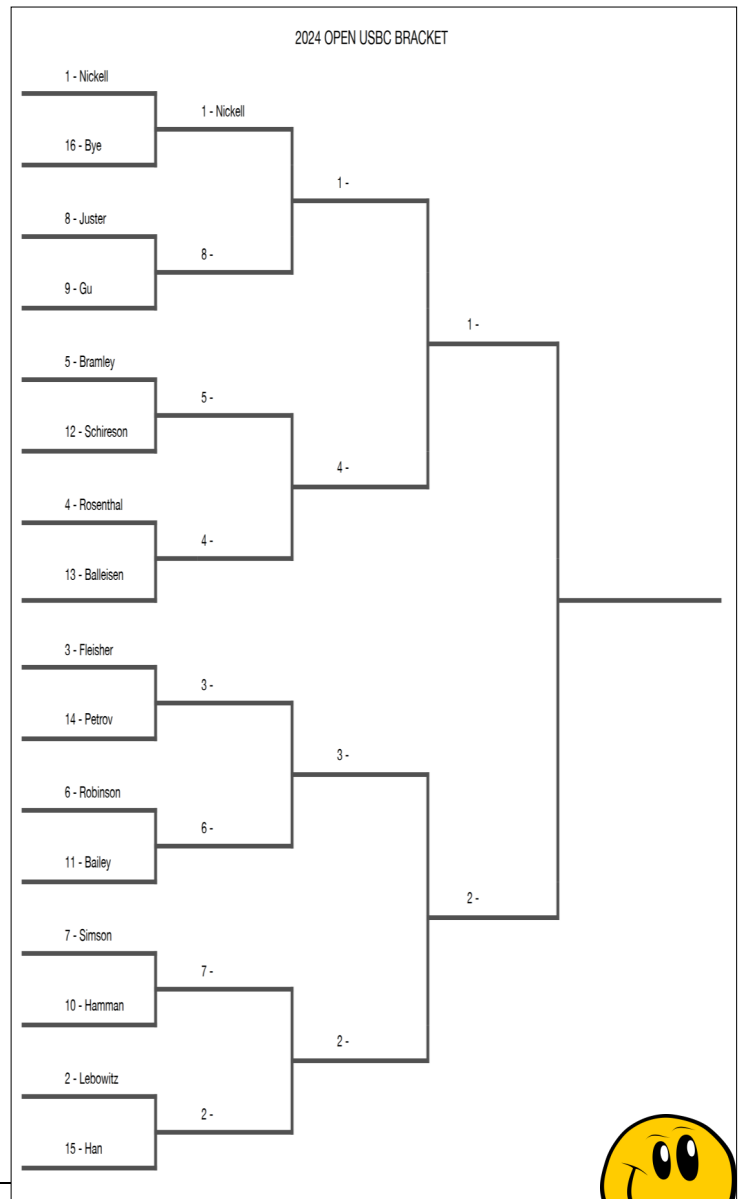
Charles Dickens walks into a bar and orders a martini. The bartender asks, "Olive or Twist?"

The creator of the ballet skirt was struggling for a name until he put "tu and tu" together!



Senior Schedule

SENIOR SCHEDULE			
Round Robin or KO - Schedule will depend on number of teams			
Day	Date	Time	Boards
Sunday	May 19		
Monday	May 20		
Quarterfinal			
Tuesday	May 21	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Wednesday	May 22	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60
Semifinal			
Thursday	May 23	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Friday	May 24	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60
Final			
Saturday	May 25	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Sunday	May 26	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60



Beth Palmer WOMEN'S SCHEDULE			
Round Robin or Quarterfinal if 5-8 teams enter - schedule will depend on number of teams			
Day	Date	Time	Boards
Tuesday	May 21		
Wednesday	May 22		
Semifinal			
Thursday	May 23	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Friday	May 24	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60
Final			
Saturday	May 25	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Sunday	May 26	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15 Segment 6 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 7 Boards 31-45 Segment 8 Boards 46-60

Beth Palmer Women's Schedule

Sign in a fast food restaurant:

RESTROOM IS FOR EATING CUSTOMERS ONLY!

Yard sticks can't be made anymore... they can't make them any longer!

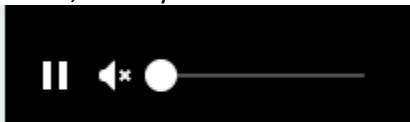
How does a deer know which is the proper teller at the bank? He looks for the sign that says, "THE BUCK STOPS HERE!"

Headline: **Archeologists Uncover Cache of Pencils Once Belonged by William Shakespeare**

... A spokesperson for the dig says "the ends are so badly chewed, we can't tell if they're 2B or not 2B!"

2024 USBCs Kibitzing - There will be delayed kibitzing for all of the 2024 USBCs on LoveBridge

You can follow the USBC on the <https://vugraph.lovebridge.com/> website. If you get to the voice commentary and there is no sound, you need to "unmute." When you first get to the page, there is a small icon of a speaker in the middle of your screen with an x on it. Click there to unmute. If you miss that icon, move your cursor to the bottom left of the screen and you should see a something like this:



Click on the speaker to unmute.

Vugraph is delayed for 30 minutes or until all tables have completed play on a board, whichever is later.

Kibitzing Schedule (EDT)

For all KO days of the 2024 USBCs, kibitzing times will be :

Segment 1: 11:30 am EDT; Segment 2: 1:45 pm EDT

BREAK

Segment 3: 5:00 pm EDT; Segment 4: 7:15 pm EDT

For Round Robin days, each kibitzing segment will start 30 minutes after play starts. No voice for RR's.

To listen to commentary, search for the TV icon! It will send you to the page where you can choose from the available live commentators. If it doesn't do anything, no one is commenting.

Deep Involvement: Choose the "Match view" at the starting page of your event. Your screen will be divided into 4 small screens – 2 of them showing the 2 tables of the match you choose, the other 2 having the scoresheet for your match and the current scores of the other matches. In the 2x2 view you can personalize the content in all your windows. (The 2x2 view is not available 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, and you can decide what you would do.

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 to 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 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 where you were.

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, the same buttons move you through the list.



I listened to Howie.

I listened to Jack.

I'm signed in online
And I'm not going
back.

I picked all the dogs.
But I think that it's
funny.

THEY give advice,
While risking
MY money!

If the dogs win,
I'll feel no stress.
So please, players,
Think before
you finesse!



Kibitzing...

2024 USBCs Hospitality

We are returning to our pre-pandemic hospitality, with the hospitality suite (room 2321) open most of the day for socializing, Vugraph, and snacks. We will be providing breakfast and lunch each **day of play**. Marie-France Benoit will be our lead hostess, with help from Jacob Morgan and Julie Arbit, who makes the best guacamole. If you're at the tournament and can volunteer to help with hospitality (pick up items at Costco or nearby stores or restaurants, preparing food) please let Jan or Marie-France know.

Breakfast: From 8-10 am. There will be the usual breakfast food: cereal, bagels, toast, salmon, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. For those who prefer Keurig coffee, that will be available. So long as the suite doesn't become too crowded, you are welcome to eat there. No masking requirement.

Lunch: On the first four days of each event we will be serving a buffet lunch in a hotel banquet room, usually the Slate and Cyan rooms at the front of the hotel; we will have signs in the Player Break Room and Hospitality Suite with daily location. The hotel will be supplying what they do best: salads and chips. We will be bringing in 2 or 3 hot dishes from a local restaurant each day. There should be enough room for you to eat in the hotel banquet room, but you are welcome to take food from there to an outside table or to your hotel room. Lunch will be served from about half an hour before the morning session is supposed to end until about half an hour after the afternoon session starts. After the first 4 days of each event, lunch will be available in the hospitality suite at the break. There will be a main dish (sandwiches, chicken, main dish salads, pizza) as well as tuna salad, green salad, cheese, fruit, berries, cookies or other desserts. Water and soft drinks will be available in refrigerators. As with breakfast, you are welcome to eat in the hospitality suite unless it is too crowded.

Let us know if you have specific needs. Our hosts will do their very best to accommodate you.

Playing Rooms & Player's Break Room

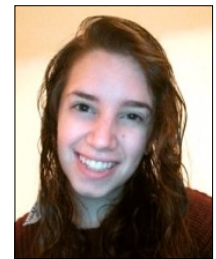
We will have bottled water in the playing rooms and if there is a refrigerator in a playing room we'll stock it with soft drinks.

We will have bottled water in the Player's Break Room (1321), as well as soft drinks, Nespresso, some packaged snacks, and some fruit. Please keep your voices down in the Break Room where we are working.

Masks will be required in playing rooms **only if your screenmate asks you to wear one**. You do not have to put on a mask when you summon a director or ask for coffee, water or an escort outside to smoke.



Marie-France



Julie Arbit

The Boomers name honors the Greater Prairie Chicken, a native bird of Illinois.

The word "boomer" is a nickname for the male Greater Prairie Chicken. It refers to the loud booming sound the bird makes as it "dances" to assert its dominance over other males during mating season.

The birds gather on flat prairie land, which is known as a "lek" or more commonly as the "booming grounds". As they strut, stomp, flutter, and fight one another, the chickens display a few remarkable traits.

Greater Prairie Chickens have orange patches on each side of their faces, around their jowls. These patches inflate, as they are in our Boomers logo, and it's from here that the chickens produce their signature sounds. The male chicken also has a yellow-orange comb of feathers above his eyes and a ring of feathers around his neck. Both rise when the bird is performing its courtship display.



Prairie Chicken Facts

- They were prevalent in Schaumburg within the last 100 years.
- They used to be served as a delicacy at fine restaurants.
- Numbers of them declined significantly in the 20th century as the amount of unfarmed prairie land has diminished.
- Listed on the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, there is a Prairie Chicken Recovery Plan.
- Members of the grouse family, they weigh between one and two pounds.
- Legally, they cannot be hunted in the State of Illinois.
- Populations live mostly in the Great Plains states, especially Kansas and Nebraska, with much smaller populations in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota.
 - Prairie Ridge State Natural Area in Newton and Salem, Illinois is the only area where Prairie Chickens currently live in our state.
 - Only about 100 Greater Prairie Chickens remain in Illinois—there were once between 5-12 million in the era of Abraham Lincoln!



Just
What
Is A
Schaumburg
Boomer?



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

Sudoku 1

We will be playing the Open USBC on Chromebooks using Love-Bridge software. The Chromebooks all have wired mice, which you may use or not. They have touch screens and integrated keyboards. You will not be able to go to any websites other than LoveBridge from the playing room Chromebooks.

There will be 2 players in each room, one from each team in the match - N & E together and S & W together. The NE rooms are on the first floor; The SW rooms are on the second floor.

There will be signs in the break room and on the walls on both floors with playing room information and maps of playing room locations. May 1 & 2 assignments, First floor map, and Second floor map, are on the website.

Because some of you prefer the opponents' system information on paper in addition to being available on the Chromebooks, we ask each player to bring a copy of their SSF, convention card, and if relevant the ACBL Multi defense to the table for their opponent. If you need help printing anything, just come to room 1321 before you play and one of us will print for you.

After you have finished a segment and scored up with your teammates, please check the score on LoveBridge and if you disagree with it, come to room 1321 and tell us so we can agree.

Sudoku 2

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

Hard Sudoku Solutions on Page 16

Please be "scent" sitive! Many players have allergies and have trouble breathing when perfumed aromas are present! Thank you!!



Alert! The procrastinators meeting was postponed!

A man was detained by TSA for having a calculator, a protractor and a compass. He was accused of holding weapons of math instruction!

Prison is just one word for you, but to some people, it is a whole sentence.

I was so unpopular in high school, they nicknamed me, "Batteries." I was never included in anything!

I saw a man fall off the roof last night.

"Oh yeah, who was he?"

"I don't know who he was but he wasn't the bouncer!"

I never took up golf. Chasing a small ball from tee to the cup was not my cup of tee!!

At an Indian restaurant, I remarked how good the butter was.

"It's ghee," said the waiter.

"Oh," said I, "Thanks for clarifying."



If Mediums can communicate with the dead, imagine what a Large can do!

A joke about paper? That's tearable!!

Puzzle Page ...

W O R D
S E A R C H F O R
B R I D G E
 F A N S

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

A foursome was playing golf in a tournament when a storm broke out. Play was suspended for the storm to pass. The foursome was bored and decided to play bridge in the clubhouse.

The first guy bid 2H.

The second bid 3D.

The third and most creative, took out a piece of paper and wrote, "FORE Clubs!"

I thought about joining an Apathy Group... but Why Bother?

I was attacked by a group of mimes. They did unspeakable things to me and they left me speechless!



Don't think it is all that hard To recognize my calling card!



I'm not always brilliant And sometimes I'm tense. But my every reaction, Is known to make scents!

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Aggressive
Baron
Blackwood
Ceiling | Count
Deal
Duck
Dummy | Gambling
Kibitzer
Mess
Opener | Redouble
Side
Stayman
Trump |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|

National Teams and National Pairs Championships, Pablo Lambardi Transnational Open Teams and BAM Transnational Open Teams.

We regret to advise that due to circumstances beyond our control, the dates for the World Bridge Games have changed. The championships will start 1 day earlier, and finish 2 days earlier, than originally planned:

**The Opening Ceremony will now be on 21 October and play will start on 22 October
The final day of play, and the Closing Ceremony, will now be 3 November**

A revised programme will be published shortly.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused

Buenos Aires, Argentina

The World Bridge Games will be held at the [Centro de Convenciones de Buenos Aires](#), Argentina.

Each WBF member NBO in good standing is invited to send one National team in each category (The Vanderbilt Open Teams, The Torlontano Women's Teams, Seniors' and Mixed Teams) to the Team Championships. Each WBF member NBO in good standing is invited to send any number of Pairs, in good standing, to the National Pairs Championships (Open, Women's, Seniors' and Mixed).

NBOs and Players are reminded that by registering for and entering any WBF event they accept to play against all other NBOs/Players in the event. There will be no special "arrangements" done to avoid certain encounters. Registering/Entering and not respecting this Statutory rule will result in immediate disqualification from the rest of the competition as well as further severe consequences for the NBO and/or Players, as the case may be.

The Pablo Lambardi Transnational Open Teams and the BAM Transnational Open Teams are open to all players in good standing from a WBF member NBO.

Accommodation: Our local partner, "Popart", is a major organiser of large international events in Argentina and will offer a range of accommodation alternatives at very attractive prices. Further details will be published soon.



Anti-Doping

All players are required to comply with the [WBF Anti-Doping Regulations](#). Please ensure that all team members and partnerships have checked the latest [WADA Prohibited List](#) which came into force on 1 January 2024. If they are required to take any medication detailed there, they must apply for a [Therapeutic Exemption Certificate \(TUE\)](#) in good time – at least 30 days before the start of the event. Please ensure they read the guidelines for completion of the TUE which must be in English and must also have diagnostic information – also in English – from their physician.

Please note that the use of any form of diuretic is banned. This is medication that is commonly prescribed in conjunction with other, non-prohibited medications.

For the World Bridge Games, players from the Open, Women's and Mixed events (Teams or Pairs) are liable for testing. Players taking part in the Senior Teams or Pairs need not register a TUE unless they are also playing in an Open, Women's or Mixed event (Teams or Pairs).

Failure to comply with the Anti-Doping Regulations may result in the player testing positive for a banned substance in which case they could face a four year ban from international or national bridge.

Some countries are required to present Visas. The United States is **NOT** one of those countries... however, be sure your passport is current if you are playing in this USBC.



My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.
I failed math so many times at school, I can't even count.
When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic.
I know they say that money talks, but all mine says is 'Goodbye.'
My father has schizophrenia, but he's good people.
Most people are shocked when they find out how bad I am as an electrician.
My wife just found out I replaced our bed with a trampoline. She hit the ceiling!
I used to think I was indecisive. But now I'm not so sure.
Maybe if we start telling people their brain is an app, they'll want to use it.
If a parsley farmer gets sued, can they garnish his wages?
I didn't think orthopedic shoes would help, but I stand corrected.
I was riding a donkey the other day when someone threw a rock at me and I fell off. I guess I was stoned off my ass.
People who take care of chickens are literally chicken tenders.
I just got kicked out of a secret cooking society. I spilled the beans.
What's a frog's favorite type of shoes? Open toad sandals.
Just got fired from my job as a set designer. I left without making a scene.
What's the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don't know and I don't care.
One of the cows didn't produce milk today. It was an udder failure.
Adam & Eve were the first ones to ignore the Apple terms and conditions.
Refusing to go to the gym is a form of resistance training.
If attacked by a mob of clowns, go for the juggler.
The man who invented Velcro has died. RIP.
Despite the high cost of living, it remains popular.
The rotation of Earth really makes my day.
Well, to be Frank with you, I'd have to change my name.
My friend was explaining electricity to me, but I was like, 'Watt?'
Are people born with photographic memories, or does it take time to develop?
The world champion tongue twister got arrested. I hear they're going to give him a tough sentence.
My friend's bakery burned down last night. Now his business is toast.
Four fonts walk into a bar. The bartender says, 'Hey! We don't want your type in here!'
If you don't pay your exorcist, do you get repossessed?
When the cannibal showed up late to the buffet, they gave him the cold shoulder.
A Freudian slip is when you mean one thing and mean your mother.
The first time I got a universal remote control, I thought to myself, 'This changes everything.'
How do you make holy water? You boil the hell out of it.
'I have a split personality,' said Tom, being Frank.
My teachers told me I'd never amount to much because I procrastinate so much. I told them, "Just you wait!"



Logic Puzzle Page

		Winners					Butterflies					Countries				
		Brandon	Christopher	Derek	Tommy	Yvette	atlas	clearwing	emperor	grayling	torturix	Australia	Denmark	Georgia	Luxembourg	Norway
Prices	\$60															
	\$75															
	\$90															
	\$105															
	\$120															
Countries	Australia															
	Denmark															
	Georgia															
	Luxembourg															
	Norway															
Butterflies	atlas															
	clearwing															
	emperor															
	grayling															
	torturix															

**Answer to Puzzle
on page 16**

Prices	Winners	Butterflies	Countries
\$60			
\$75			
\$90			
\$105			
\$120			

- Neither the grayling butterfly nor the clearwing butterfly was Christopher's purchase..
- Of the grayling butterfly and the specimen from Georgia, one sold for \$105 and the other sold for \$120..
- Christopher's purchase sold for \$60..
- Of the insect that sold for \$60 and the grayling butterfly, one was from Denmark and the other was won by Derek..
- The insect that sold for \$75 wasn't the torturix butterfly..
- The specimen from Luxembourg cost 15 dollars more than Christopher's purchase..
- The atlas butterfly was either the specimen from Australia or Brandon's purchase..
- Yvette's purchase wasn't from Luxembourg..
- The butterfly that sold for \$120 was from Australia..
- Tommy's purchase, the grayling butterfly, the clearwing butterfly and the butterfly that sold for \$105 were all different butterflies..

Meet the Players



Ralph Katz was born in May of 1957 in Pittsburgh, PA. He grew up 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 was King of Bridge in 2006... a clear family tradition of Bridge success.

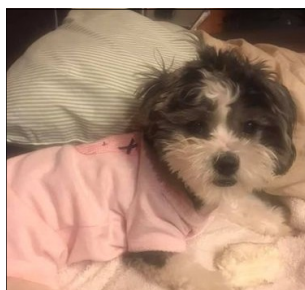
Ralph's partnership with Nick Nickell began in 2009 and produced a win in the USBC Trials a few months later resulting in a victory over Italy in the 2009 Bermuda Bowl final in Sao Paulo. In addition to that stunning gold medal, Ralph has won three silver medals at the world level: 1990 World Open Pairs;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

With a multitude of North American titles with many different partners and teammates, Ralph has earned a reputation as a great partner and teammate himself, the ultimate compliment attainable from peers.

The above is Ralph's slightly edited BBO profile. Since it was written, he has continued to perform very well and has attained more and more championship titles. Perhaps the most significant title he has obtained though is "Grandpa!" Ralph's son, Sam, and his wife, Jenni, have a one year old son, Benny. Ralph is ready to teach Benny to play bridge in the same way he and Martha's dad, Dick Benson, taught Sam years ago.

Ralph and Martha never go anywhere without an adorable, tiny pup named Maz after Bill Mazeroski.

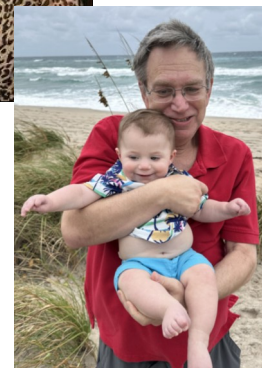
TEAM# after seeding	TEAM	SEEDING POINTS	Seed # Before Shuffle
1	Nickell		1
2	Lebowitz		2
3	Fleisher		3
4	Rosenthal	70.00	4
5	Bramley	53.65	5
6	Robinson	53.61	6
7	Simson	46.35	7
8	Juster	45.22	8
9	Hamman	32.62	9
10	Gu	24.24	10
11	Bailey	12.83	11
12	Schireson	9.15	12
13	Han	7.43	13
14	Petrov	6.22	14
15	Balleisen	0.01	15
16	Bye		16



Maz



Sam
Jenni
Ralph
Martha



Individual Player/Team Seeding Points and Positioning Points

Team Name	Player Name	IPPs	ACBL SPs	Total SPs	USBC SPs ≤70	Team SPs
Bailey	Bill Bailey		9.17	9.17	9.17	12.83
	Josh Donn		21.93	21.93	21.93	
	Aaron Jones		10.15	10.15	10.15	
	Owen Lien		22.91	22.91	22.91	
	Arti Bhargava		9.63	9.63	9.63	
Balleisen	Aaron Balleisen		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
	Nicole Qian		0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Zhiyu Cheng		0.05	0.05	0.05	
	Philip Wang		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Bramley	Bart Bramley	8.00	31.90	39.90	39.90	53.65
	Brian Platnick	31.75	43.04	74.79	70.00	
	Kevin Rosenberg	31.75	38.93	70.68	70.00	
	Kit Woolsey	8.00	26.69	34.69	34.69	
Gu	Jiang Gu	8.00	14.64	22.64	22.64	24.24
	Walter Lee	8.00	7.48	15.48	15.48	
	Ai-Tai Lo	8.00	8.49	16.49	16.49	
	Alex Kolesnik	8.00	14.47	22.47	22.47	
	Josh Sher		4.78	4.78	4.78	
	Ron Smith	35.00	28.57	63.57	63.57	
Hamman	Bob Hamman	12.00	33.67	45.67	45.67	32.62
	Neil Chambers	12.00	14.64	26.64	26.64	
	Greg Hinze		28.60	28.60	28.60	
	John Schermer		14.50	14.50	14.50	
	Doug Doub	12.00	24.91	36.91	36.91	
	Adam Wildavsky	20.00	23.41	43.41	43.41	
Han	Yanong Han		7.98	7.98	7.98	7.43
	Ming Sheng		14.10	14.10	14.10	
	Brian Zhang		3.54	3.54	3.54	
	Qiang Zhang		4.10	4.10	4.10	
Juster	Jeff Juster	22.00	13.50	35.50	35.50	45.22
	Jacob Morgan	22.00	23.85	45.85	45.85	
	Andy Goodman	23.50	31.42	54.92	54.92	
	Mike Passell	23.50	41.72	65.22	65.22	
	Shan Huang	8.00	25.69	33.69	33.69	
	Kevin Dwyer Rimstedt	8.00	28.12	36.12	36.12	
Petrov	Dian Petrov		6.49	6.49	6.49	6.22
	Val Kovachek		13	13.00	13.00	
	Matthew Haag		3.3	3.30	3.30	
	Rumen Dimitrov		2.08	2.08	2.08	
Robinson	Eric Robinson		9.81	9.81	9.81	53.61
	Mike Kamil		41.17	41.17	41.17	
	Ish Delmonte	25.50	36.61	62.11	62.11	
	Finn Kolesnik	34.50	34.08	68.58	68.58	
	David Berkowitz	32.75	50.63	83.38	70.00	
	Steve Garner	29.50	44.16	73.66	70.00	
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal	30.75	60.73	91.48	70.00	70.00
	Aaron Silverstein	30.75	63.11	93.86	70.00	
	Chris Willenken	30.75	65.57	96.32	70.00	
	Gavin Wolpert	35.00	44.18	79.18	70.00	
	John Kranyak	35.00	52.62	87.62	70.00	
	Vince Demuy	35.00	52.77	87.77	70.00	
Schireson	Max Schireson		3.59	3.59	3.59	9.15
	Debbie Rosenberg		11.84	11.84	11.84	
	John McAllister		17.8	17.80	17.80	
	Will Watson		9.45	9.45	9.45	
	Olivia Schireson		3.07	3.07	3.07	
Simson	Doug Simson	20.00	13.93	33.93	33.93	46.35
	Eric Rodwell	12.00	52.16	64.16	64.16	
	Eddie Wold	26.00	28.78	54.78	54.78	
	Venkatrao Koneru	12.00	27.43	39.43	39.43	
	Joel Wooldridge	11.00	36.60	47.60	47.60	
	David Grainger	11.00	27.21	38.21	38.21	

Individual Positioning Points

IPPs are the Positioning Points earned by individual players from events with teams that did not earn byes. The Individual Positioning Point Spreadsheet shows IPPs for those players entered in the Open USBC. Those players will have IPPs added to ACBL Seeding Points for seeding in all USBCs **Byes for Open USBC**

Nickell, with 160 deep bye Positioning Points, has a bye to the Quarterfinal. Lebowitz, with 62 PP's, and Fleisher, with 51 PP's have earned byes to the Round of 16.

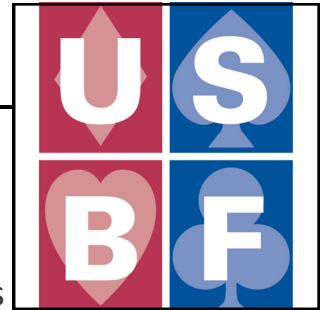
5	6	7	4	9	3	8	2	1
4	3	2	8	1	7	9	6	5
1	8	9	5	6	2	7	4	3
6	9	3	2	4	1	5	8	7
8	4	5	9	7	6	1	3	2
2	7	1	3	8	5	6	9	4
7	1	8	6	2	4	3	5	9
3	2	6	1	5	9	4	7	8
9	5	4	7	3	8	2	1	6

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

Sudoku Answers Puzzles on Page 9

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.

A weasel walks into a bar. The bartender says, "Wow! I've never served a weasel before. What can I get you?"
"Pop!!" goes the weasel!

Someone just called my phone, sneezed and hung up!
I'm getting sick and tired of cold calls!

When Lord Nelson died, he was 5 feet tall. His statue in London is 15 feet tall. That's Horatio of 3:1!

I was feeling down one day & my brother whispered,
"plethora."
It meant a lot!



Answer to Logic Puzzle

On Page 13

\$120	Derek	Grayling	Australia
\$105	Brandon	Atlas	Georgia
\$90	Yvette	Clearwing	Norway
\$75	Tommy	Emperor	Luxembourg
\$60	Christopher	Torturix	Denmark