

Volume 18, Issue 5
May 4, 2024

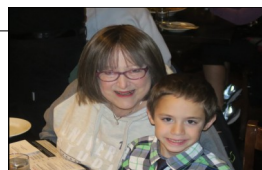
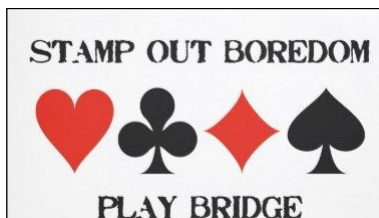
Results:

Open USBC - 2024

* Lebowitz penalized 10imps for having electronic device in the room

QuarterFinal (120 boards)		Set score of form "Ax" or "Rx" indicates pending Appeal or Ruling. IMPs Total may change.									
03-May-2024		<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	Penalty (IMPs)
1	Nickell	87	34	9	7	37					
8	Juster	110	23	45	22	20					
2	Lebowitz	115	34	50	22	19					-10
7	Simson	152	36	47	22	47					
3	Fleisher	206	56	43	65	42					
6	Bailey	61	14	22	14	11					
4	Rosenthal	92	10	5	48	29					
5	Bramley	76	6	22	20	28					

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**
Aaron Silverstein
- USBF Vice President**
Steve Garner
- USBF COO & Secretary**
Jan Martel
- USBF CFO & Treasurer**
Max Schireson
- USBF Recorder**
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George Jacobs
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Josh Stark
Adam Wildavsky
- Bulletin Editor**
Suzi Subeck
- Hospitality**
Julie Arbit
Marie-France Benoit

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations

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.



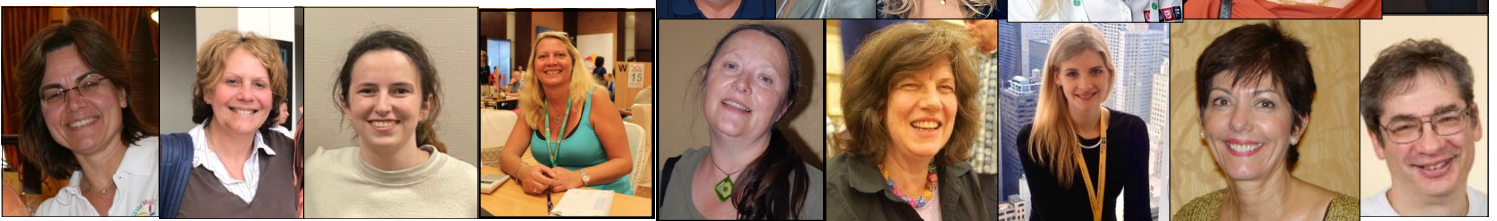
Senior Teams Entered

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

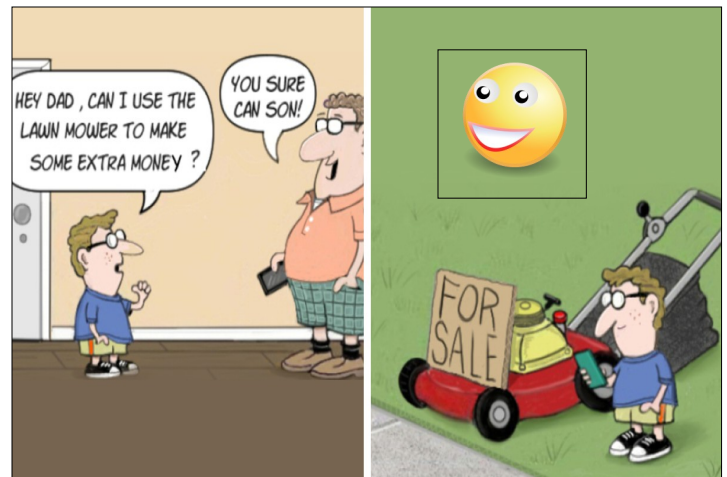
Day	Date	Time (CDT)
Tuesday	April 30	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Thursday	May 9	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Saturday	May 18	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Wednesday	May 22	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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

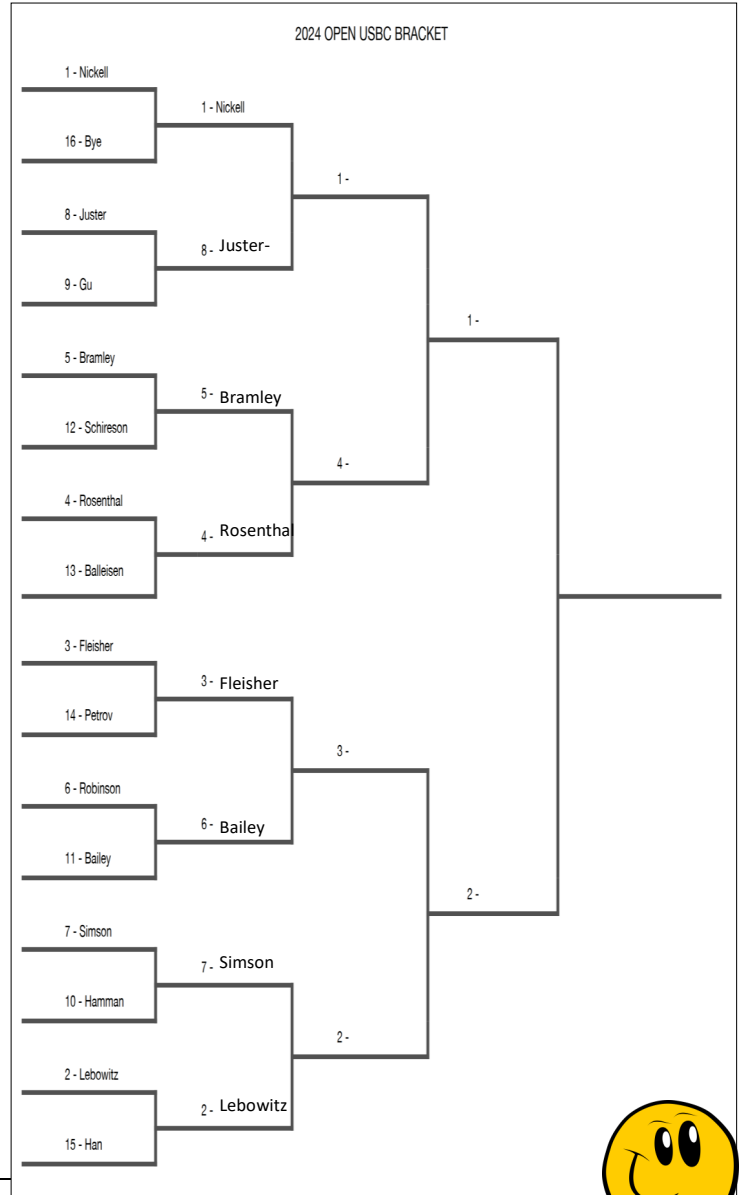
Mixed Schedule			
Round Robin or KO - Schedule will depend on number of teams			
Day	Date	Time	Boards
Friday	May 10		
Saturday	May 11		
Quarterfinal			
Sunday	May 12	10:00 - 12:00 12:15 - 2:15 3:30 - 5:30 5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 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



A chicken said to me, "I can't find my eggs!"
I replied, "You probably mislaid them!!"

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

Physics Humor...

Einstein developed a theory about space. And, it was about time!

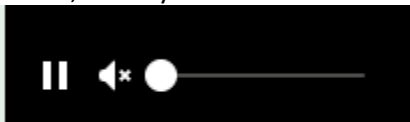
A photon checks into a hotel. The bellhop asks, "Where's your luggage?" The photon replies, "I didn't bring luggage. I'm traveling light."

Q: How many general-relativity theorists does it take to change a light bulb?
A: Two. One to hold the bulb and one to rotate space.

A neutron walks into a bar and asks, "How much for a whiskey?" The bartender smiles and says, "For you, no charge."

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'd have finessed
But Zia played ace.
The stiff king off side
Fell with great grace!

I'd have made less.
Zia made more.
That clearly explains
How he gets the big
score!



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

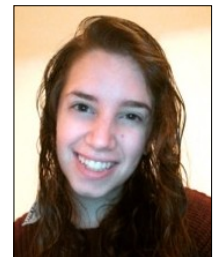
We will have bottled water in the playing rooms and if there is a refrigerator in a playing room we'll stock it with soft drinks.

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

Crushing pop cans is soda pressing!

Should I call you or should we resolve things in a quick 200 texts?

Sign at the car dealer's: Free brake check. Stop here if you can!



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

Sudoku 1

Q: What 5-letter word typed in all capital letters can be read the same upside down?

A: SWIMS.

Q: The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?

A: Footsteps.

Q: What is more useful when it is broken?

A: An egg.

Q: I am easy to lift, but hard to throw. What am I?

A: A feather.

Q: Where do you take a sick boat?

A: To the dock-tor.

Q: Which fish is worth the most?

A: A goldfish.

Q: What goes up, but never comes down?

A: Age.

Q: A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed for three nights and rode out on Friday. How is this possible?

A: His horse's name is Friday.

Q: What has a neck but no head?

A: A bottle

Q: What is full of holes but still holds water?

A: A sponge

Riddles...cont'd on page 16



Hard Sudoku

Sudoku Solutions on Page 16

Sudoku 2

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

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



Puzzle Page ...

Beatles Songs 2

Find and circle all of the songs by The Beatles that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell the name of an additional Beatles song.

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



I'd play up-
side down
but I'm the
same both
ways!!

ALL MY LOVING	GIRL	I'M SO TIRED	PIGGIES
AND I LOVE HER	GLASS ONION	LET IT BE	RAIN
BECAUSE	GOLDEN SLUMBERS	LOVE ME DO	REVOLUTION
BLUE JAY WAY	GOOD NIGHT	LOVE YOU TO	ROCKY RACCOON
COME TOGETHER	HELP	MAGGIE MAE	SAVOY TRUFFLE
DIG IT	HELTER SKELTER	MARTHA MY DEAR	SHE LOVES YOU
DOCTOR ROBERT	HER MAJESTY	NOWHERE MAN	THE WORD
DRIVE MY CAR	I FEEL FINE	OLD BROWN SHOE	THIS BOY
FOR NO ONE	I NEED YOU	PAPERBACK WRITER	WHAT GOES ON
FOR YOU BLUE	I'M A LOSER	PENNY LANE	WILD HONEY PIE

I have a new theory on inertia... but it doesn't seem to be gathering momentum!

Q: What did the male magnet say to the female magnet?

A: Seeing you from the back, I thought you were repulsive. But seeing you from the front, I find you rather attractive.

World Bridge Calendar (could be subject to change... from worldbridge.org)
Apologizing to everyone but Limey Jack that the dates are written in "English!!"

World Bridge News

June 2024

09jun 1st European Online Women's Team Championship
 24jun-27 European Women's & Senior's National Pairs
 24 jun-04 jul European National Team Championships
 24jun-04 jul European National Teams Championship

July 2024

07jul- 12 July European Youth Bridge Team Championships
 18jul-28 July 28 Summer NABC

September 2024

16sep- 21 September The HCL International Teams
 25sep- 30 September 41st Jordan International Bridge Festival
 27sep-29 Vilnius Cup

October 2024

09oct- November 11 European Small Federation Games
22 oct-05nov2024 World Bridge Games
 November 2024
 14nov-16 European Bridge Champions Cup
 28nov-08dec Fall NABC



June 2025

21jun-05jul European Transnational Championships

Event Details

The European Transnational Championships will take place from June 21 to July 5, 2025 and will be hosted at the Poznań International Fair (Międzynarodowe Targi Poznańskie), Poland's largest industrial fair venue.

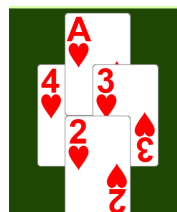
Further information:

<http://www.eurobridge.org/2024/02/11/european-transnational-championships-2025/>

On this hand from pre-USBC practice, Ralph Katz and Bobby Levin combined to reach the par result! After 2 passes, Greco opened a 3rd seat 1D... it could have been better or it could have been worse! Nickell doubled; Levin bid 1H and Katz overcalled 1S on his 4-card, 7-high suit and four-triple-three distribution at unfavorable. Greco passed; and Nick, holding a GREAT hand for spades, jumped to game. Nick was on point as his side could collect exactly ten tricks in spades!

Levin was having no part of this. His side was at favorable and he took full advantage by bidding 5D. Katz did not want his partner to bid more spades and he held enough defense with his strong club holding to double.

Nickell led the SK. Greco won the ace and played a small heart toward dummy, creating this wish trick! →



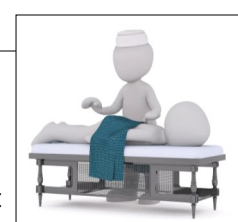
Nickell won the heart ace and led a small diamond, won with dummy's ten. Greco went into a heart/spade cross-ruff, conceding down two for -300 and a good save against the vulnerable game!

x [pen] ♠ KQ1043 Bd 18, Dlr E 5♦ X-2 W W eric greco		♥ AK85 ♦ 5 ♣ K53	N Frickell Robert Levin E
♠ A98 ♥ 4 ♦ AQ73 ♣ 98762		♠ J ♥ QJ973 ♦ KJ1086 ♣ 104	
[score] 0 [score] 0 [arrow]	♠ 7652 ♥ 1062 ♦ 942 ♣ AQJ	W N E S P P P P 1♦ X 1♥ 1♠ P 4♠ 5♦ X P P P	
	Ralph Katz S		

It's Par for the Course

Why shouldn't pigs drive? They hog the road.
 Did you hear about interrupting cow? What interr...MOO!
 How does Darth Vader like his bagels toasted? On the dark side.
 Why can't leopards hide? They're always spotted.
 What's the best way to cook an alligator? In a croc-pot.
 How much do dead batteries cost? Nothing. They're free of charge.
 Why are owls so carefree? Because they don't give a hoot.
 Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. Spring was pretty good, too.
 I never really liked facial hair. But now it's starting to grow on me.
 Why did the pony need a glass of water? Because it was a little horse.
 Did you hear about the book on glue? You can't put it down.
 Did you hear about the frustrated doctor? He lost his patients.
 Why do cows wear bells? Their horns don't work.
 What did one eye say to the other? "Between you and me, something smells."
 What's the best way to attract a squirrel? Act like a nut.
 I'm afraid of escalators, so I take steps to avoid them.
 Why are snowmen so easy to get along with you? Because they're very chill.
 Why do vampires use breath mints? Because they have bat breath.
 Why did the rabbit go to the salon? It was having a bad hare day.
 What's the best way to spot a baby snake? Look for its rattle.
 Why shouldn't you play games with big cats? Because sometimes they're cheetahs.
 I'm on a seafood diet. When I see food, I eat it.
 Why did the invisible man quit his job? He just couldn't see himself doing it.
 What did the credit card say after being arrested? "Guilty as charged."
 Did you hear about baker that got dough for his birthday? It was just what he kneaded.
 What do you call a police officer that won't get out of bed? An undercover cop.
 How should you properly address a hippie's mom? Call her Mississippi.
 Did you hear the one about the peach? It's pitiful.
 What happens to cows that get too much sun? They turn into evaporated milk.
 Did you hear about the rowboat that sank? It was an oar-deal.
 Why shouldn't you tell jokes about pole vaulters? They never go over very well.
 Why should you hang sweaters together in the closet? They're very close knit.
 Did you hear the joke about breakfast? It was eggs-cellent.
 Why can't you send custodians into space? Because they always scrub the mission.
 Why can't you tell pigs secrets? They always squeal.
 Did you hear about the dinosaur car accident? It was a tyrannosaurus wrecks.
 Where can you find horses? In a neigh-borhood.
 Did you hear about the cow that couldn't produce milk? It was an udder disaster.
 Did you hear about the frog that lost its car? Apparently, it got toad.
 Why don't ants get sick? They have anty-bodies.
 What do you give a thirsty crocodile? Gater-aid.
 What do you call a sleeping cow? A bulldozer.
 Why did the cat go to the vet? It wasn't feline well.
 What's weirder than seeing a catfish? Watching a goldfish bowl.
 What did the beaver say to the tree? "It was nice knawing you."
 A diner says to the waiter, "Will the pizza be long?" The waiter replies, "No. It'll be round."
 Where do birds go on vacation? Someplace cheep.
 What's a balloon's least favorite kind of music? Pop.

Pun-ishment!



For those of you who are interested, Ela has agreed to come to the Hyatt to provide massages any day that we have 3 or more people who want her. So if you want a massage, please let me know a day or two in advance, including what your timing is, and I'll try to make things work.

For now, Ela said she could come on April 30th for anyone who wants a post-flight, pre-tournament massage. So if you want one, please let me know and tell me what time(s) would work for you.

I think Ela still charges \$100 for an hour. She'll be setting her table up in my room (5117) and will have a key so she can get in and can the let you in when it's your turn. Any questions, let Jan know!

Massage Therapist message from Jan

Logic Puzzle Page

		First Names				Detectives				Nicknames			
		Arianna	Cali	Eduardo	Jayda	Nancy Drew	Nero Wolfe	Poirot	Sherlock Holmes	Cueball	Shades	Tiny	Wolfman
Ages	25												
	31												
	39												
	68												
Nicknames	Cueball												
	Shades												
	Tiny												
	Wolfman												
Detectives	Nancy Drew												
	Nero Wolfe												
	Poirot												
	Sherlock Holmes												

Answers to Puzzle on Page 16

Ages	First Names	Detectives	Nicknames
25			
31			
39			
68			

- The 68 year-old has the nickname Shades.
- The person whose favorite detective is Nancy Drew is younger than Arianna.
- The person nicknamed Wolfman is younger than Jayda.
- The person nicknamed Cueball is not Cali.
- Of Arianna and the person whose favorite detective is Sherlock Holmes, one has the nickname Wolfman and the other has the nickname Cueball.
- Either the person whose favorite detective is Nancy Drew or the person whose favorite detective is Sherlock Holmes is Cali.
- The 68 year-old is not Eduardo.
- The 31 year-old loves Poirot mysteries.
- The person nicknamed Wolfman doesn't enjoy Sherlock Holmes mysteries.

As I put my car into reverse this morning, I thought, "This takes me back!"
 If you get a message from me about canned meat, DO NOT OPEN IT! It's SPAM!!
 When I was younger, I trained to be an Ice Cream Man! I went to Sundae School!!



Meet the Players



Adam Wildavsky, born in 1960, grew up in Berkeley, CA and now resides primarily in New York City. A graduate of M.I.T., he pursued a career as a software engineer and in 2013 retired from a position with Google GmbH in Zürich.

Since 1983, Adam has served in administrative positions in the New England Bridge Conference, the Greater New York Bridge Association, ACBL District 17, the ACBL itself, and the USBF.

He was elected as a member of the Executive Council in 2019 and chairs the WBF Rules and Regulations Committee. He also serves on the WBF Management Committee, the WBF Technology Committee, the WBF Statutes and By-laws Committee, the USBF Conditions of Contest Committee, and the ACBL Laws Commission. In 2022 he was unanimously elected to the position of Honorary Secretary of the WBF by the WBF Executive Council.

Adam has written articles for a number of publications, including *The Bridge World*, *Bridge Today*, and the ACBL Bulletin. He serves as an editor and panellist for the ACBL's appeals casebooks. He was a member of the winning squad in the US Bridge Championships in 2003 and 2009, earning a Bronze medal in the Bermuda Bowl 2003.

In bridge and in life, Adam follows the philosophy of Russian-American author Ayn Rand. He has written about the connection between Rand and bridge on his website, www.tameware.com

In life, Adam has a wonderful girlfriend, an excellent, thoughtful bridge player in her own right, Hong Ding. While Adam is a member of the Hamman team in the Open event at this USBC, he is also a member of the Ding team in the mixed where he will be playing with Hong.

Besides bridge, Adam likes to travel, to ski and to dance. Last year he took a serious fall while skiing, but is back on his feet and is almost certain to return to the slopes!

Adam also does a great job informing the New York Bridge "Group" of breaking news as it's happening.



At the recent European Championships!



Tom Swifties...

"I'm wearing a ribbon round my arm," said Tom with abandon.
"I'm concerned about the number of people not attending," said Tom absentmindedly.
"I like modern painting," said Tom abstractly.
"Now I have the tools to chop down that tree," said Tom with a heavy accent.
"This salad dressing has too much vinegar," said Tom acidly.
"There's room for one more," Tom admitted.
"Here's your allowance for the next two weeks," Tom advanced.
"I'd like to eat seventeen cakes," Tom agreed.
"I'm halfway up a mountain," Tom alleged.
"There's no need for silence," Tom allowed.
"It's a unit of electric current," said Tom amply.
"These propulsion systems were used by NASA on moon rockets," said Tom apologetically.
"I compliment the company that makes the Macintosh computer," said Tom applauding.
"We can't have this and eat it too," said Tom archaically.
"It's an actual parameter, not a formal parameter," was Tom's argument.
"You have the right to remain silent," said Tom arrestingly.
"Someday I'll run the CIA," said Tom aspiringly.
"I've mailed the letter," Tom assented.
"I decided which car to purchase after looking at the pictures," said Tom autobiographically.
"This boat is leaking," said Tom balefully.
"Give me a haircut," Tom said barbarously.
"I've been listening to the Brandenburg Concertos," Tom barked.
"This is the most common language used on micros," said Tom basically.
"I'm losing my hair," Tom bawled.
"Ouch! When I get stung, I want revenge," said Tom begrudgingly.
"I'm sure we can fool them into thinking this is pollen," said Tom beguilingly.
"I wonder why the hive's still empty," said Tom belatedly.
"I have to keep this fire alight," Tom bellowed.
"Why shouldn't I stir my coffee with a ballpoint pen?" Tom bickered.
"These bit patterns will be more readable in groups of 8," said Tom bitingly.
"I've only enough carpet for the hall and landing," said Tom with a blank stare.
"... " said Tom blankly.
"I need a pencil sharpener," said Tom bluntly.
"This wind is awful," blustered Tom.
"I think I'll use a different font," said Tom boldly.
"Are you all governors?" Tom asked, bored.
"I still haven't struck oil," said Tom boringly.
"This is mutiny!" said Tom bountifully.
"I presented my case to the judge," Tom said briefly.
"This blood-sucking insect likes French cheese," said Tom briefly.
"Use your own toothbrush!" Tom bristled.
"Rowing hurts my hands," said Tom callously.
"I have been reading Voltaire," Tom admitted candidly.
"I've been to a film festival in Southern France," said Tom cannily.
"I can't be bothered," said Tom carelessly.
"I don't work here on a regular basis," said Tom casually.



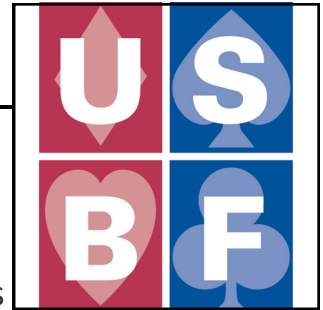
8	2	9	1	4	5	7	3	6
6	1	3	8	2	7	5	4	9
5	7	4	6	3	9	2	8	1
7	8	1	2	5	6	4	9	3
4	6	5	9	7	3	8	1	2
3	9	2	4	1	8	6	5	7
9	3	6	7	8	4	1	2	5
1	5	8	3	6	2	9	7	4
2	4	7	5	9	1	3	6	8

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

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.

Q: How do you spell COW in thirteen letters?

A: SEE O DOUBLE YOU.

Q: Why is Europe like a frying pan?

A: Because it has Greece at the bottom.

Q: I am an odd number. Take away one letter and I become even. What am I?

A: Seven

Q: If 2 is company and 3's a crowd, what are 4 and 5?

A: 9

Answer to Logic Puzzle

On Page 13

68	Jayda	Nero Wolfe	Shades
39	Eduardo	Sherlock Holmes	Cueball
31	Arianna	Poirot	Wolfman
25	Calli	Nancy Drew	Tiny

**THE ONE WITHOUT
A MUSTACHE
IN A STANDARD DECK,
HE'S BEEN SAID
TO HAVE REPRESENTED
CHARLEMAGNE**

On Jeopardy on Wednesday...
Bridge players should know this...



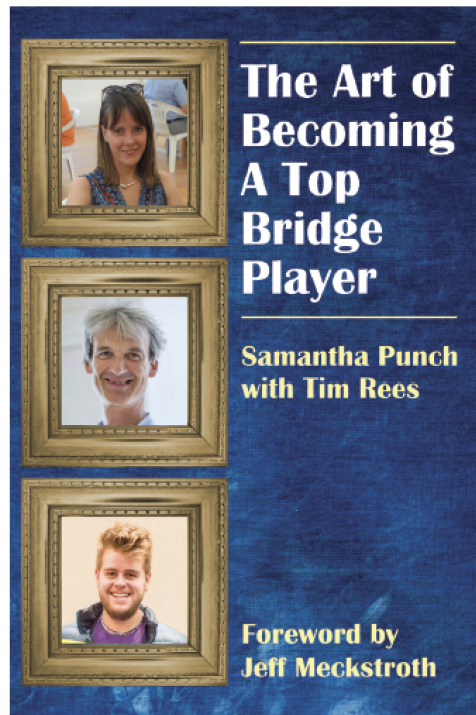
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Master Point Press

2024 Open United States Bridge Championship - Round of 16 Day 2

Board 42, Closed Room, Segment 7 of the 2024 Open USBC USA match between Gu and Juster

Table Director: Chris Wiegand

Table Result: 4S N -3 -300

Committee Result: Table result stands. 4S N -300

Appeal #1 2024 USBC

The play to 4S was as follows:

- DK, 3, 5 S5
- C2, 7, K, 6
- S2, 3, J, 8
- SA, H2, 6, 4
- CA, 4, 3, ST
- SK, 7, H5, SQ
- D4, **S9**, D5 DJ
- CT, **CJ**, C5*, D6



At this juncture, the director was summoned to the table. Declarer claimed that he misclicked because he could not see (declarer does suffer from vision issues) and intended to play the CQ, not the C5.

Director's Determination of Facts:

- The card played (C5) was not immediately adjacent to the card asserted as intended (CQ) on the screen.
- Declarer was using a mouse rather than the touchpad or a stylus on the touchscreen.
- Declarer has our recommended settings of Drag-and-Drop turned on. This means that declarer clicked on the C5 and dragged it to the target in the middle of the table, waited until the target changed color, and released the card. (It is similar in face-to-face play to a declarer reaching across to pick up the C5 and put it in the "middle" of the table.)

Table Director's Ruling:

Prior to making the table ruling, the Director inquired as to how declarer would play the hand if the card played were changed to the CQ. Declarer gave his assertions about the play at that point and his intended line (see second bullet below).

(Continued on page 19)

Per Law 45.C.3 [CARD PLAYED.Card Deemed to be Played]

A card in the dummy is played if it has been deliberately touched by declarer except for the purpose either of arranging dummy's cards, or of reaching a card above or below the card or cards touched.

The director ruled that the actions required to maneuver the card into the middle of the table showed "deliberate touching." Further, since they were not adjacent (a card to the left or right of intended card when the Law is translated to the playing environment), it was determined that the C5 was played.

Director resumed play with the C5 played at that point.

Appeal: Appellant Smith (in consultation with partner, Kolesnik and team captain Gu) asked for an appeal of the director's determination about intent of the card played. Smith asserted the following:

- Recent eye problems (well-documented) make vision difficult, and he has trouble seeing the cards.
- At the time of the incident, he had already solved the problem of the hand ("run the clubs in dummy then end East (opening bidder) with the DA so that he would have to lead from his HK").
- This makes the declarer's intent clear that he intended the CQ not the C5

Committee's Decision*: The committee analyzed that there were two items to consider. 1) The applicable laws for the ruling of whether the CQ or the C5 should be played (slip of the hand vs slip of concentration), subject to USBF Conditions of Contest and 2) only IF they would allow the CQ play, what the likely result would be, and potentially weighted results based upon likely play at that point.

The committee reviewed relevant laws and asked about prior rulings/case law about the way these situations were handled. DiC Myers asserted that as a general rule, we would allow the adjacent card to be changed, but not a card that was two or more away from the intended card. Further, they practiced the action of dragging and dropping with a mouse on a device. It was the determination of the committee that the play of C5 was more likely to be a slip of concentration than a slip of the mouse.

Table result stands. The appeal was considered to have merit.

*Note that since the incident occurred relatively late in the 7th segment of 8, play resumed for 8th segment while the Committee held their deliberations. TD McKenzie Myers asserted the above bullet points with complainant Smith's permission.

USBF General Conditions

XIV.SPECIAL RULES FOR ELECTRONIC FACE-TO-FACE PLAY

D. Undos for Misclicks Will be Allowed

Any player who accidentally clicks on the wrong bid or card ("misclick") may ask for an undo and shall summon the director to rule on whether it should be allowed. The request for an undo must be made before the partner of the person requesting the undo has acted.

G. Modification of Laws

LAW 45, 46, and 47: An unintended played card ("misclick") by declarer or a defender will be treated as in Law 45D1: The card must be withdrawn if attention is drawn to it before each side has played to the next trick; cards played subsequent to the unintended played card may be withdrawn. Information from all such withdrawn cards is deemed to be unauthorized to the side with the unintended played card, and authorized to the other side.

Appeal Committee: Brad Moss, Will Watson, Chip Martel

BOARD: 2
 DEALER: EAST
 VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ KJ
 ♥ 5
 ♦ A9843
 ♣ KQJ75

♠ AQ74
 ♥ 6
 ♦ J75
 ♣ AT963

♠ 965
 ♥ Q8743
 ♦ KT
 ♣ 842

Par: 600

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	8	10	9	8	9
S	7	:	:	7	:
EW	5	3	4	5	4

♠ T832
 ♥ AKJT92
 ♦ Q62
 ♣

Game was a given on Board 2 of the first day of the Quarterfinals (Welcome Team Nickell!). Which game was the question. 3 pairs found the cold 3NT while 5 of their counterparts found the doomed 4H.

Against 3NT, Greco, E, led the S6 to Hampson's ace. Hampson tried the CT, declarer winning the king. Declarer played a small diamond toward the queen, effectively setting up four diamond tricks when the suit split 3-2.

	Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	IMP	
						NS	EW
1	Nickell	Juster	Open	4♥	N ♠5	-1	100
			Closed	3N	N ♠6	=	600
2	Lebowitz	Simson	Open	3N	N ♣2	+1	630
			Closed	4♥	S ♥6	-1	100
3	Fleisher	Bailey	Open	4♥	S ♣A	=	620
			Closed	3N	N ♣8	+1	630
4	Rosenthal	Bramley	Open	4♥	S ♦J	-2	200
			Closed	4♥	S ♠A	-1	100

Greco won his DK and tried another small spade. Declarer won the king and played a high club to Hampson's ace. Hampson cashed his high spade but that was the last trick for the defense. Declarer collected 4 diamonds, two spades, three hearts, and a club for nine!

Play was similar at the other 3NT tables. However, when declarer received the club lead, they scored ten for +630.

Lien	Grue	Jones	Moss
W	N	E	S
		PASS	1♥
DBL	RDBL	1NT	2♥
PASS	4♥	PASS	PASS
PASS			

One only declarer was successful in 4H and that was Brad Moss in Fleisher/Bailey. It wasn't so much the declarer play as it was the opening lead.

Following the auction on the left, Owen Lien, W, chose to lead the CA!! Only two of his 13 choices would allow declarer to succeed: one was the SQ... and that wasn't happening!! The other was the CA. Brad ruffed CA played a small spade to dummy's king. He played the SJ to Lien's ace and Lien tracked his singleton trump. Moss won the H9, cashed the HA getting the news! He played a diamond to the ace, cashed the king and queen of clubs, pitching his spades. He played the CJ and when Jones ruffed, Brad overruffed.

Brad ducked a diamond around to Jones's king and Jones played a spade which Moss ruffed in hand. At this point, Brad had 9 tricks in and was still holding the good king of trump!

Push board when N/S in the other room played in 3NT.

BOARD: 3
 DEALER: SOUTH
 VULNERABLE: E-W

♠ AQ98
 ♥ J
 ♦ AKQ2
 ♣ KT73

♠ K763
 ♥ AKQ
 ♦ T63
 ♣ QJ5

♠ 54
 ♥ 9642
 ♦ J987
 ♣ 982

Par: 420

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	10	9	9	10	9
S	:	:	10	:	:
E	3	4	3	2	3
W	:	:	:	:	4

♠ JT2
 ♥ T8753
 ♦ 54
 ♣ A64

What a diabolical hand on Board 3!

Four E/W pairs went 1100 at the two-level!

It would seem likely there would be crazy distribution to see such scores, but in this case, it was the HCP between West and North... not so much the distribution... that did it!

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	NS	EW	Home	Vis	IMP
1 Nickell	Juster	Open	1N	W	♦Q	-3	300		4
		Closed	2♠	N	♠4	+2	170		
2 Lebowitz	Simson	Open	2♥x	W	♥J	-4	1100		13
		Closed	1N	W	♦A	-3	300		
3 Fleisher	Bailey	Open	2♦x	E	♦4	-4	1100		13
		Closed	1N	W	♦Q	-3	300		
4 Rosenthal	Bramley	Open	2♦x	E	♦4	-4	1100		-
		Closed	2♥x	E	♥3	-4	1100		

North has a strong enough hand to double almost anything... hearts for takeout or spades, diamonds and clubs for penalty.

And when North doubled hearts for takeout as in Lebowitz/Simson (see auction below left), South happily sat for penalty with his 5-card trump holding.

Rodwell	Michael R	Simson	Zach G
W	N	E	S
1NT	DBL	PASS	PASS
RDBL	PASS	2♦	PASS
2♥	DBL	PASS	PASS
PASS			

1NT=14-16
 P=NOT pointed or rounded
 XX=forced or any suit bid is at least 5 cards long

In this match, Lebowitz/Simpson, Michael Rosenberg led the HJ to Rodwell's ace. Rodwell played the S7 to Zach's ten. Zach continued the heart attack. Rodwell played the S6 yielding to Zach's SJ. Zach played another heart. The S3 went to Michael's queen and dummy trumped. The D9 rode to the queen and the DAK were cashed. Rosenberg played the SA and Rodwell cried, "Uncle!"

Contract down 4 for -1100 E/W
 13 IMPs to Lebowitz

In Rosenthal/Bramley, Woolsey/Bramley found themselves in 2DX on this auction:

Woolsey	Demuy	Bramley	Kranyak
W	N	E	S
			PASS
1NT	DBL	2♦	DBL
PASS	PASS	PASS	

1NT=14-16
 2D=diamonds + a major

Kranyak led the D4. Demuy won the king and cashed his ace and queen. He played the C7 to Kranyak's ace. John tracked the SJ which held. The ST maintained the lead with South who continued with the S2 to North's queen, ruffed with the last trump standing. Bramley played a heart to dummy and claimed 4 total tricks!

Different contract... same result... down 4 for -1100 E/W

Push board when Platnick/K Rosenberg played in 2HX at the other table!

Poor Kevin defeated Mom in the round of 16 to get Dad in the Quarterfinals!

BOARD: 6
 DEALER: EAST
 VULNERABLE: E-W

♠ AK3
 ♥ 87
 ♦ T9542
 ♣ KT6

♠ 9842
 ♥ A954
 ♦ AJ
 ♣ A42

♠ QJT7
 ♥ KQ6
 ♦ Q87
 ♣ QJ7

Par: -620

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	5	6	4	3	4
EW	8	7	9	10	8

♠ 65
 ♥ JT32
 ♦ K63
 ♣ 9853

Board 6 is the antithesis of Board 2. Here, 3NT fails while 4S is cold!

Interestingly, the choice between strains was split evenly at 4 for NT and 4 for spades in this scenario.

Note: both tables in Nickell/Juster chose the successful 4S while both tables in Rosenthal/Bramley chose the doomed 3NT.

And both Lebowitz/Simson and Fleisher/Bailey swung 12 IMPs when the counterparts were inconsistent with one another!

	Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	IMP				
						NS	EW			
1	Nickell	Juster	Open	4♠	E	♣5	=	620	-	-
			Closed	4♠	E	♣3	=	620	-	-
2	Lebowitz	Simson	Open	4♠	E	♣5	=	620	-	-
			Closed	3N	E	♦3	-1	100	-	12
3	Fleisher	Bailey	Open	3N	E	♦3	-1	100	-	12
			Closed	4♠	W	♦2	=	620	-	-
4	Rosenthal	Bramley	Open	3N	E	♦3	-1	100	-	-
			Closed	3N	E	♦3	-1	100	-	-

The play in spades is simple. N/S will collect the two high spades and the CK because the finesse in clubs fails. Trumps split. N/S has all the boss hearts and the diamond finesse for works. Success!

The diamond lead against the NT game squelches all hope for 9 tricks with the DAJ lying doubleton. Before E/W can set up 9 tricks, N/S has enough entries to set up their diamonds. 12 IMPs to Simson and Fleisher; Pushes in the other 2 matches.

Identical auctions in Nickell/Juster, both pairs playing Precision:

Dwyer Weinstein Huang Levin			
W	N	E	S
		1♦ ⁺	PASS
1♥	PASS	1♠	PASS
4♠	PASS	PASS	PASS

Hampson Passell Greco Goodman			
W	N	E	S
		1♦ ⁺	PASS
1♥	PASS	1♠	PASS
4♠	PASS	PASS	PASS

The auctions in Rosenthal/Bramley, the other push match. Non-identical systems but equally effective (or ineffective in this case??):

Woolsey Demuy Bramley Kranyak			
W	N	E	S
		1♦	PASS
1♥	PASS	1NT	PASS
2♦ ⁺	PASS	2♥	PASS
2♠ ⁺	PASS	3♣	PASS
3♦ ⁺	PASS	3♥	PASS
3NT	PASS	PASS	PASS

2D=GF relay
 2H=3 hearts
 2S=relay
 3C=one of several shapes
 3D=relay
 3H=4-3-3-3

Wolpert Platnick Willenken Kevin R			
W	N	E	S
		1♣	PASS
1♥	PASS	1NT	PASS
2♦ ⁺	PASS	2♥	PASS
2NT	PASS	3NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

2D=GF



If you ask me, Here's what me thinks...
 Winning IMPs sweet!
 Losing IMPs stinks!

BOARD: 9
DEALER: NORTH
VULNERABLE: E-W

♠ 86
 ♥ J2
 ♦ QJ642
 ♣ J853

♠ KJ42
 ♥ 843
 ♦ KT753
 ♣ 6

♠ A97
 ♥ AKT5
 ♦ 98
 ♣ KQ42

Par: -140

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

♠ QT53
 ♥ Q976
 ♦ A
 ♣ AT97

Home team		Visiting team		Room	By	=	★	IMP			
								NS	EW	Home	Visiting
1	Nickell	Juster		Open	2♥	E	♥6	=	110	-	-
				Closed	2♥	E	♠3	=	110		
2	Lebowitz	Simson		Open	2♣x	S	♣6	-1	100	2	
				Closed	1N	E	♠3	+2	150		
3	Fleisher	Bailey		Open	3N	E	♠3	=	600		10
				Closed	2♥	E	♦A	+2	170		
4	Rosenthal	Bramley		Open	2♦	E	♦A	-1	100		6
				Closed	2♥	E	♦A	+1	140		

Only one (E/W) pair in eight bid game on this hand. The others stopped at the 2-level. Owen Lien and Aaron Jones of the Bailey squad had the following auction to game versus Fleisher:

Lien Grue Jones Moss

W	N	E	S
	PASS	1NT	PASS
2♣	PASS	2♥	PASS
2NT ⁺	PASS	3NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

To legitimately defeat 3NT, Moss needed to lead either the DA or one of his two high spades... and that is not realistic! Moss led the S3 and Jones scored his 9 in hand. He knocked out the DA and won the club return with the king. He played a diamond to the king and a small heart to the ten and queen. Moss played the CA followed by the CT. At this point, Jones had 4 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond, and 2 clubs... nine cashers... home free!

10 IMPs to Bailey

2NT=may or may not have 4 Spades

At the other table in Fleisher/Bailey, Hurd and Bathurst stopped in 2H and must have played it well... Hurd was the only one to take 10 tricks in any contract! Bailey led the DA followed by the H6. Hurd won the HA and played a diamond which Bailey ruffed. At this point any heart or spade... or event the CA would have held declarer to 9 winners. Bailey chose the C9 and that afforded Hurd to collect his tenth trick! As the IMPs go, it would have made no difference.

Cross IMPs...

1.	Brad Moss - Joe Grue	Fleisher	2.05	61.57	30
2.	John Hurd - Kevin Bathurst	Fleisher	1.73	77.71	45
3.	David Grainger - Joel Wooldridge	Simson	1.36	61.00	45
4.	John Kranyak - Vince Demuy	Rosenthal	0.98	44.00	45
5.	Jacob Morgan - Jeff Juster	Juster	0.69	20.14	29
6.	Eric Greco - Geoff Hampson	Nickell	0.66	29.14	44
7.	Daniel Korbel - Zia Mahmood	Lebowitz	0.56	16.71	30
8.	Michael Rosenberg - Zach Grossack	Lebowitz	0.53	15.86	30
9.	Chip Martel - Marty Fleisher	Fleisher	0.48	21.71	45
10.	Kevin Dwyer - Shan Huang	Juster	0.42	25.43	60
11.	Bart Bramley - Kit Woolsey	Bramley	0.17	10.14	60
12.	Eddie Wold - Venkatrao Koneru	Simson	-0.17	-5.00	30
13.	Aaron Silverstein - Andrew Rosenthal	Rosenthal	-0.26	-7.86	30
14.	Bobby Levin - Steve Weinstein	Nickell	-0.28	-12.71	45
15.	Chris Willenken - Gavin Wolpert	Rosenthal	-0.39	-17.71	45
16.	Doug Simson - Eric Rodwell	Simson	-0.48	-21.71	45
17.	Brian Platnick - Kevin Rosenberg	Bramley	-0.48	-28.57	60
18.	Andy Goodman - Mike Passell	Juster	-0.85	-25.57	30
19.	Arti Bhargava - Josh Donn	Bailey	-0.89	-26.71	30
20.	Adam Grossack - Larry Lebowitz	Lebowitz	-1.11	-66.86	60
21.	Nick Nickell - Ralph Katz	Nickell	-1.21	-36.43	30
22.	Aaron Jones - Owen Lien	Bailey	-1.43	-85.86	60
23.	Josh Donn - William Bailey	Bailey	-1.61	-48.43	30

BOARD: 20
 DEALER: WEST
 VULNERABLE: ALL

♠ Q75
 ♥ 943
 ♦ T84
 ♣ A932

♠ J4
 ♥ AKQJ52
 ♦ K2
 ♣ JT6

♠ AK96
 ♥ T
 ♦ AQJ753
 ♣ 75

Par: -650

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	5	0	0	3	0
EW	8	11	11	9	9

♠ T832
 ♥ 876
 ♦ 96
 ♣ KQ84

Home team		Visiting team		Room	By	=	IMP		
							NS	EW	
1	Nickell	Juster		Open	4♥	W ♣3	+1	650	13
				Closed	6♥	W ♣3	-1	100	
2	Lebowitz	Simson		Open	3N	E ♣Q	=	600	2
				Closed	4♥	W ♣A	+1	650	
3	Fleisher	Bailey		Open	5♦	E ♣Q	=	600	2
				Closed	4♥	W ♣3	+1	650	
4	Rosenthal	Bramley		Open	4♥	W ♠5	+3	710	-
				Closed	4♥	W ♠5	+3	710	

Board 20 was unexciting anywhere but Nickell/Juster where Nickell/Katz bid to slam.

The screenshot shows a bridge game interface with the following elements:

- Top Left:** Navigation buttons for HOME, CARDS, and SPLIT.
- Top Center:** LoveBridge logo.
- Top Right:** Dealer's hand: ♠ Q75, ♥ 943, ♦ T84, ♣ A932.
- Center:** A large green envelope icon representing a card being played.
- Bottom Left:** Bidding log:

W	N	E	S
1♥	PASS	2♦	PASS
3♥	PASS	4NT	PASS
5♠	PASS	6♥	PASS
PASS	PASS		
- Bottom Left (Text):** 4NT=BW for hearts, 5S=2 with the SQ.
- Bottom Left (Other Room):** OTHER ROOM W 4♥ +1 -650, Other table >
- Bottom Left (Score Card):** NORTH DEALER 20 EAST SOUTH, Score card >, Frequency >
- Bottom Center:** West's hand: ♠ J4, ♥ AKQJ52, ♦ K2, ♣ JT6. Player: W Ralph Katz.
- Bottom Right:** East's hand: ♠ AK96, ♥ T, ♦ AQJ753, ♣ 75. Player: E Nick Nickel.
- Bottom Right (Bottom):** South's hand: ♠ T832, ♥ 876, ♦ 96, ♣ KQ84. Player: S Kevin Dwyer.

Only a club lead will defeat the slam. Huang found the club lead... but it wasn't the ace as expected!!

He trusted Nick to hold second round club control when he inquired about keycards. As such, Shan led the C3.

He hoped that if the CK was in dummy, Katz would play small and just maybe Dwyer would hold the CQ to defeat the contract!

As it was, Katz played small and Dwyer played the queen as hoped, however, it was irrelevant since Dwyer held the both the king and queen. Down 1

BOARD: 21
DEALER: NORTH
VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ Q5
 ♥ KT85
 ♦ QJT8632
 ♣

♠ AJ2
 ♥ 732
 ♦ 754
 ♣ Q874

♠ 8
 ♥ AQJ96
 ♦ AK9
 ♣ JT93

Par: 100

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	5	6	4	9	4
S	:	5	:	:	3
E	8	6	7	3	7
W	7	7	:	:	8

♠ KT97643
 ♥ 4
 ♦
 ♣ AK652

Board 21 is another hand only interesting at one table. This time that table was in Lebowitz/Simson.

At 7 tables, E/W either doubled or passed it out once N/S reached game.

At some tables, North opened 3D. At others, North passed and East opened 1H. Only Koneru bid Michaels. Others just jumped to 4S.

Adam G had a tough choice on the auction below. X, pass, or bid on? He chose 5H which Wold doubled. It failed 4 tricks for 14 IMPs to Simson.

	Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	IMP				
						NS	EW	Home	Visiting	
1	Nickell	Juster	Open	4♠x	S	♥2	-1	200	-	-
			Closed	4♠x	S	♥2	-1	200	-	-
2	Lebowitz	Simson	Open	4♠x	S	♥2	-1	200	-	14
			Closed	5♥x	E	♣K	-4	800	-	-
3	Fleisher	Bailey	Open	4♠	S	♥2	-1	100	-	-
			Closed	4♠	S	♥2	-1	100	-	-
4	Rosenthal	Bramley	Open	4♠x	S	♥2	-1	200	-	-
			Closed	4♠x	S	♥2	-1	200	-	-

In Fleisher/Bailey, both Fleisher & Donn (sitting North) were endplayed into bidding 4S. They both opened 3D. Both Easts overcalled 3H. Both Souths bid 3S. The only option left for the Norths was to bid 4S.

Apparently, the auction sounded strong enough at both tables that the opponents disdained doubling in favor of passing.

Another boring push!?!?

The screenshot shows the LoveBridge app interface. On the left, a bidding sequence is displayed:

W	N	E	S
	PASS	1♥	2♥
3♥	PASS	4♥	4♠
PASS	PASS	5♥	PASS
PASS	DBL	PASS	PASS

Table: CL 2, Round: 2
 N-S: Simson 50 IMP
 E-W: Lebowitz 29 IMP

OTHER ROOM: S 4♠x -1 -200

Score card, Frequency, Live scores options are visible.

The card hands are shown for four players:

- North (Eddie Wold):** ♠ Q5, ♥ KT85, ♦ QJT8632, ♣
- West (Larry Lebowitz):** ♠ AJ2, ♥ 732, ♦ 754, ♣ Q874
- East (Adam Grossack):** ♠ 8, ♥ AQJ96, ♦ AK9, ♣ JT93
- South (Venkatrao Koneru):** ♠ KT97643, ♥ 4, ♦, ♣ AK652

The current bid is 5♥x by East.