

Volume 18, Issue 6
April 28, 2025

Trials & Tribulations

United States Bridge Championships

Open USBC USA2 - 2025

Click on name of stage for Bidding & Play Records
USA1 Roundof16 Stage 1

* Wildavsky penalties: Set 1 late arrival 3.00 imps + slow play 7.00 imps = 10.00

* Kovachev slow play penalties 0.25+0.75 = 1.00 imp

Stage1 (120 boards) Set score of form "Ax" or "Rx" indicates pending Appeal or Ruling.
IMPs Total may change.

26-Apr-2025

#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	SET #5	SET #6	SET #7	SET #8	Penalty (IMPs)		
9	Wildavsky	193	15	23	18	51	33	4	27	32	-10		
16	Baseggio	190	35	13	15	37	24	24	17	25			
10	Kovachev	288	35	67	8	41	51	18	35	34	-1		
15	Parrish	270	33	11	39	38	24	30	35	60			
11	Jacobs	275	32	27	37	34	63	7	29	46			
14	Han	235	37	39	30	2	30	5	68	24			
12	Bramley	278	45	45	38	22	32	35	23	38			
13	McNay	226	19	17	32	32	59	9	34	24			

* Bailey Set 1 late arrival imp penalty 3.00

* Segment 5 Wolfson v Goodman: last board only played at 1 table so TD assigned score u:

QuarterFinal (120 boards) Set score of form "Ax" or "Rx" indicates pending Appeal or Ruling.
Total may change.

26-Apr-2025

#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	SET #5	SET #6	SET #7	SET #8	Per (IM
1	<u>Nickell</u>	205	8	35	36	31	30	14	39	12	
8	<u>Kaplan</u>	249	26	19	22	41	50	15	25	51	
2	<u>Fleisher</u>	246	47	51	33	13	21	24	34	23	
7	<u>Bailey</u>	205	29	13	26	30	35	14	38	23	-3
3	<u>Rosenthal</u>	243	9	36	42	49	37	15	26	29	
6	<u>Shourie</u>	252	32	36	18	52	34	21	39	20	
4	<u>Wolfson</u>	207	42	19	35	20	21	39	31		
5	<u>Goodman</u>	179.1	30	27	39	46	19.1	12	6		

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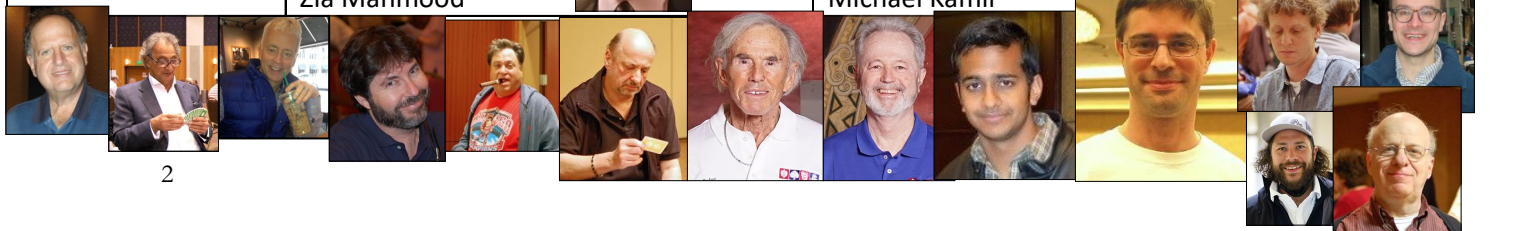
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Bulletin Editor
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Hospitality
Marie-France Benoit
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Open Teams Entered

Bailey	Bill Bailey, Capt Daniel Korbel Kevin Rosenberg		Josh Donn Roger Lee Brian Platnick
Baseggio	Franco Baseggio, Capt Ai-Tai Lo Jiang Gu		Andy Stark Walter Lee Joshua Sher
Bramley	Bart Bramley, Capt Fred Stewart John McAllister		Kit Woolsey James Holzhauer Will Watson
Fleisher	Marty Fleisher, Capt Kevin Bathurst Joe Grue		Chip Martel John Hurd Brad Moss
Goodman	Andy Goodman, Capt Eric Rodwell David Grainger		Mike Passell Doug Simson Joel Wooldridge
Han	Yanong Han, Capt Jeff Fang Ming Sheng		Wanfeng Mou Tien-Chun Yang Jack Zhao
Jacobs	George Jacobs, Capt Gary Cohler Alan Sontag		Claude Vogel Billy Cohen Peter Weichsel
Kaplan	Adam Kaplan, Capt Eddie Wold		Finn Kolesnik Adam Grossack
Kovachev	Val Kovachev, Capt Jacob Morgan		Charlie Wilkins Venkatrao Koneru
McNay	Ewan McNay, Capt Max Schireson Olivia Schireson		Harrison Luba Debbie Rosenberg
Nickell	Nick Nickell Eric Greco Bobby Levin Jill Levin, NPC		Ralph Katz Geoff Hampson Steve Weinstein
Parrish	Adam Parrish, Capt Phil Clayton		Anant Rathi Danny Sprung
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken Michael Rosenberg		Aaron Silverstein Eldad Ginossar Zach Grossack
Shourie	Rajath Shourie, Capt John Kranyak Shan Huang		Gavin Wolpert Vince Demuy Kevin Dwyer
Wildavsky	Adam Wildavsky, Capt Chris Compton		Steve Robinson Ron Smith
Wolfson	Jeff Wolfson, Capt David Berkowitz Zia Mahmood		Steve Garner Jeff Meckstroth Michael Kamil



Mixed Teams Entered

Abernethy	Shawn Abernethy, Capt Mike Christensen	Brian Zaugg Becky Stevens
Bramley	Bart Bramley, Capt Kit Woolsey Cheri Bjerkan	Kitty Cooper JoAnna Stansby Larry Robbins
Caprera	Dave Caprera, Capt Sheila Gabay Carrie Liu	Anne Brenner Maxim Silin Alex Kolesnik
Chow	Helen Chow, Capt Ron Smith	Nicole Qian Philip Wang
Ding	Hong Ding, Capt Lin-huan Chen	Chris Compton Ding-hwa Hsieh
Dinkin	Sam Dinkin, Capt Adam Grossack Radu Nistor	Yoko Sobel Emma Kolesnik Raluca Dobrescu
Ge	Xin Ge, Capt Ming Sheng Michael Rosenberg	Irina Levitina Amber Lin Debbie Rosenberg
Gu	Jiang Gu, Capt Douglas Doub John Miller	Xiaowen Li Yiji Brennan Lynn Shannon
Henner	Christal Henner, Capt Bronia Jenkins Kristen Onsgard	Uday Ivatury Steve Garner Adam Wildavsky
Lewis	Paul Lewis, Capt Jenni Carmichael Disa Eythorsdottir	Linda Lewis Tom Carmichael Mark Itabashi
Li	Music Li, Capt Ann Romeo	Qinqin Zhang Ray Miller
Millens	Shan Huang, Capt Kevin Dwyer Sandra Rimstedt	Joan Millens Cecilia Dwyer Rimstedt
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken Dana Berkowitz	Migry Campanile Olivia Schireson Eldad Ginossar
Rubenstein	Stewart Rubenstein, Capt Zach Grossack Vince Demuy	Anam Tebha Giorgia Botta Jenny Wolpert



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

Bramley	Bart Bramley, Capt Fred Stewart Jeff Aker	Kit Woolsey Larry Robbins Steve Beatty
Cappelli	Bob Cappelli, Capt Mark Aquino	Bob Bitterman Geof Brod
Compton	Chris Compton, Capt Ron Smith Alan Sontag	Richard Leonardon Billy Miller Peter Weichsel
Falk	Allan Falk, Capt Barry Rigal Marc Zwerling	John Lusky Doug Simson Ron Rubin
Goodman	Andy Goodman, Capt Venkatrao Koneru Billy Cohen	Mike Passell Jim Krekorian Gary Cohler
Hamman	Mitch Dunitz, Capt Bob Hamman Mark Itabashi	Ifti Baqai Neil Chambers Neil Silverman
Lall	Hemant Lall, Capt Zia Mahmood Eddie Wold	Reese Milner Bobby Levin Eric Rodwell
Reynolds	Tom Reynolds, Capt Bernie Greenspan	Lance Kerr Fred Schenker
Wildavsky	Adam Wildavsky, Capt Ron Gerard	Douglas Doub Mark Lair
Wolfson	Jeff Wolfson, Capt David Berkowitz	Steve Garner Larry Cohen



Women's Teams Entered

Baker	Lynn Baker, Capt Sandra Rimstedt Debbie Rosenberg	Olivia Schireson Cecilia Dwyer Rimstedt Amber Lin
Lewis	Linda Lewis, Capt Disa Eythorsdottir	Jenni Carmichael Arti Bhargava
Zhang	Susan Zhang, Capt Janice Molson Kerri Sanborn	Sylvia Shi Jenny Wolpert Jill Meyers



Open Team Tournament Schedule

Date	Time (CDT)	Boards
4/24	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
	12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
	3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Lunch Break
	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
4/25	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 4 Boards 46-60
	12:15 - 2:15	Segment 5 Boards 1-15
	3:30 - 5:30	Segment 6 Boards 16-30
	5:45 - 7:45	75 minute Lunch Break
4/26	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
	12:15 - 2:15	Segment 8 Boards 46-60
	3:30 - 5:30	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
4/27	10:00 - 12:00	75 minute Lunch Break
	12:15 - 2:15	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
	3:30 - 5:30	Segment 4 Boards 46-60
	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 5 Boards 1-15
4/28	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 6 Boards 16-30
	12:15 - 2:15	75 minute Break
	3:30 - 5:30	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 8 Boards 46-60
4/29	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 5 Boards 1-15
	12:15 - 2:15	Segment 6 Boards 16-30
	3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Break
	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
4/30	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 8 Boards 46-60
	12:15 - 2:15	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
	3:30 - 5:30	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
	5:45 - 7:45	75 minute Break
5/1	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
	12:15 - 2:15	Segment 4 Boards 46-60
	3:30 - 5:30	Segment 5 Boards 1-15
	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 6 Boards 16-30
5/2	10:00 - 12:00	75 minute Break
	12:15 - 2:15	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
	3:30 - 5:30	Segment 8 Boards 46-60
	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
5/3	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
	12:15 - 2:15	75 minute Break
	3:30 - 5:30	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 4 Boards 46-60
5/4	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 5 Boards 1-15
	12:15 - 2:15	Segment 6 Boards 16-30
	3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Break
	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
5/5	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 8 Boards 46-60
	12:15 - 2:15	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
	3:30 - 5:30	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
	5:45 - 7:45	75 minute Break
5/5	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
	12:15 - 2:15	Segment 4 Boards 46-60
	3:30 - 5:30	Segment 5 Boards 1-15
	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 6 Boards 16-30

Women's Team Schedule

Beth Palmer WOMEN'S SCHEDULE			
3 Team Round Robin			
Saturday	May 3	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1 Boards 1-7 & 8-14
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2 Boards 15-21 & 22-28
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 29-35 & 36-42
Sunday	May 4	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 4 Boards 43-49 & 50-56
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 5 Boards 1-7 & 8-14
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 6 Boards 15-21 & 22-28
		5:45 - 7:45	75 minute break
Monday	May 5	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 7 Boards 29-35 & 36-42
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 8 Boards 43-49 & 50-56
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 9 Boards 1-7 & 8-14
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 10 Bds 15-21 & 22-28
		10:00 - 12:00	75 minute break
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 11 Bds 29-35 & 36-42
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 12 Bds 43-49 & 50-56
		5:45 - 7:45	

Mixed Team Tournament Schedule

Round of 16 (with 14 teams, two teams have byes)			
Day	Date	Time	Boards
Wednesday	May 7	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
Thursday	May 8	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 4 Boards 46-60
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 5 Boards 1-15
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 6 Boards 16-30
		5:45 - 7:45	75 minute Break
		10:00 - 12:00	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 8 Boards 46-60
		3:30 - 5:30	
		5:45 - 7:45	
Quarterfinal (USA2 Stage 1 KO or Round Robin)			
Friday	May 9	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
Saturday	May 10	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 4 Boards 46-60
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 5 Boards 1-15
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 6 Boards 16-30
		5:45 - 7:45	75 minute Break
		10:00 - 12:00	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 8 Boards 46-60
		3:30 - 5:30	
		5:45 - 7:45	
Semifinal & USA2 Stages 2 & 3			
Sunday	May 11	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
Monday	May 12	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 4 Boards 46-60
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 5/1 Boards 1-15
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 6/2 Boards 16-30
		5:45 - 7:45	75 minute Break
		10:00 - 12:00	Segment 7/3 Boards 31-45
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 8/4 Boards 46-60
		3:30 - 5:30	
		5:45 - 7:45	
Final & USA2 Quarterfinal & Semifinal			
Tuesday	May 13	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1 Boards 31-45
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2 Boards 46-60
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 61-75
Wednesday	May 14	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 4 Boards 76-90
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 5/1 Boards 1-15
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 6/2 Boards 16-30
		5:45 - 7:45	75 minute Break
		10:00 - 12:00	Segment 7/3 Boards 31-45
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 8/4 Boards 46-60
		3:30 - 5:30	
		5:45 - 7:45	
USA2 Final			
Thursday	May 15	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
Friday	May 16	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 4 Boards 46-60
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 5 Boards 1-15
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 6 Boards 16-30
		5:45 - 7:45	75 minute Break
		10:00 - 12:00	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 8 Boards 46-60
		3:30 - 5:30	
		5:45 - 7:45	

Tough Tom Swifties...

"That hydroelectric facility is so beautiful I think I'll pass out!" said Tom, fainting with dam praise.

"It's best to find a new word for this," Tom determined.

"I saw that man remove my ballot from the box," said Tom devotedly.

"The eclipse is starting," said Tom darkly.

"My word is final!" Tom dictated to his secretary.

"The lights have gone out," said Tom darkly.

"Of course you graduated," said Tom diplomatically.

"I killed the Greek piper god," Tom deadpanned.

"I was removed from office," said Tom disappointedly.

"I wonder if I'd have better luck if I fished with a net," Tom debated.

"All I want is 20,000 machine guns," said the dictator disarmingly.

"How many dings you got in your door, there, Tom?" "Ten," Tom replied decadently.

"DIS[1], DIS[2], ... DIS[n] ($n > 2$)," Tom said in total disarray.

"Let's play musical chairs," said Tom deceitfully.

"There are no more I/O operations to do today," Tom disclosed. (Or: "This slipped object is hard to find," the surgeon disclosed.)

"What's wrong with a few tea leaves?" asked Tom deceptively.

"I'll not have you punk rockers making music in MY auditorium," said Tom disconcertingly.

"Let me out of this embassy," said Tom disconsolately.

"Well, that tree definitely isn't a conifer," Tom decided.

"Someone stole my computer terminal," said Tom disconsolately.

"X is an integer," Tom declared.

"I'm a frayed knot," said Tom discordantly.

"I'm not going to eat any more of those pastries," Tom de-claimed.

"And dat bay is not green," Tom discovered.

"I've already given you the nominative, vocative, accusative, genitive, dative, and ablative, so I will say no more," Tom declined.

"Dat is not duh @\$%*! way to do it," Tom discussed.

"I don't want a bottle that can exist only in hyper-space," Tom declined.

"Boy, that sure took the wind out of my sails!" said Tom disgustedly.

(Continued on page 9)

Senior Schedule

Round robin			Senior Sched		
Day	Date	Time			
Saturday	May 17	10:00 - 8:00			
Sunday	May 18	10:00 - 8:00			
USA1 Semifinal and USA2 Stage 1					
Day	Date	Time	Boards		
Monday	May 19	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1	Boards 1-15	
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2	Boards 16-30	
			75 minute	Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 3	Boards 31-45	
Tuesday	May 20	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 4	Boards 46-60	
		10:00 - 12:00	Segment 5	Boards 1-15	
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 6	Boards 16-30	
			75 minute	Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 7	Boards 31-45	
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 8	Boards 46-60	
		USA1 final and USA2 Quarterfinal			
		Day	Date	Time	Boards
Wednesday	May 21	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1	Boards 1-15	
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2	Boards 16-30	
			75 minute	Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 3	Boards 31-45	
Thursday	May 22	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 4	Boards 46-60	
		10:00 - 12:00	Segment 5	Boards 1-15	
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 6	Boards 16-30	
			75 minute	Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 7	Boards 31-45	
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 8	Boards 46-60	
		USA2 Semifinal			
		Day	Date	Time	Boards
Friday	May 23	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1	Boards 1-15	
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2	Boards 16-30	
			75 minute	Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 3	Boards 31-45	
Saturday	May 24	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 4	Boards 46-60	
		10:00 - 12:00	Segment 5	Boards 1-15	
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 6	Boards 16-30	
			75 minute	Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 7	Boards 31-45	
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 8	Boards 46-60	
		USA2 final			
		Day	Date	Time	Boards
Sunday	May 25	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1	Boards 1-15	
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2	Boards 16-30	
			75 minute	Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 3	Boards 31-45	
Monday	May 26	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 4	Boards 46-60	
		10:00 - 12:00	Segment 5	Boards 1-15	
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 6	Boards 16-30	
			75 minute	Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 7	Boards 31-45	
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 8	Boards 46-60	

Lovebridge practice sessions (Ask at site for location)

Day	Date	Time (CDT)	
Wednesday	April 23	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	
Sunday, Tuesday, or Friday	April 27 or 29, or May 2	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	
Tuesday	May 6	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	
Friday	May 16	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	

PRE-TOURNAMENT CAPTAINS & PLAYERS MEETINGS On Zoom

Event	Day	Date	Time (CDT)
Open	Wednesday	April 23	9:00 PM
Women's	Friday	May 2nd	9:00 PM
Mixed	Tuesday	May 6	9:00 PM
Senior	Friday	May 16	9:00 PM



Delayed Kibitzing Throughout the USBC

[You can watch the Open, Mixed, & Senior USBCs on the LoveBridge website.](#) Live Vugraph is delayed for 30 minutes until all tables have completed play on a board.

Live video commentary of Finals

Rob Barrington will be hosting full day video commentary coverage of the second day of the USA1 & USA2 Finals of each event on the USBF YouTube channel with post-game highlights.

Video commentary will be at 11:30 AM and 5:00 PM EDT, on the following dates:

May 1, Open USA1 Final, and USA2 Quarterfinal, May 5, Open USA2 Final, May 14, Mixed USA1 Final, and USA2 Semifinal, May 16, Mixed USA2 Final, May 22, Senior USA1 Final and USA2 Quarterfinal, May 25, Senior USA2 Final

Highlights after each stage of each event

Experts will join Rob for chat after each session. BridgeCasts will be posted on the USBF YouTube channel the morning after each segment ends:

●● 4/26 - Open Round of 16, 4/28 - Open USA1 Quarterfinal & USA2 Stage 1; 5/1 - Open USA1 Semifinal & day 1 of Final & USA2 Stage 2 & day 1 of Quarterfinal; 5/5 - Open USA2 Semifinal & day 1 of Final.

●● 5/9 - Mixed Round of 16: 5/11 - Mixed USA1 Quarterfinal and USA2 Stage 1; 5/12 - Mixed USA1 Semifinal at the half & USA2 Stage2; 5/19 - Senior Round Robin; 5/21 - Senior USA1 Semifinal & USA2 Stage 1.

5/22 - Day 1 of Senior USA1 Final and USA2 Semifinal 5/25 - Day 1 of Senior USA2 Final

Kibitzing Schedule (EDT) ... For all KO days of the 2025 USBCs, kibitzing times will be :

Segment 1: 11:30 am EDT

Segment 2: 1:45 pm EDT

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.

Play Schedules (CDT):

[Main play schedule.](#)

[Mixed USBC USA2 Round Robin Schedule.](#)

[Senior USBC USA2 Round Robin Schedule.](#)



See how South
Squirms in their chair?
A 9-card suit
Is really rare!

Beth Palmer Women's USBC Kibitzing will be on [RealBridge](#): To watch, log on to the kibitz page, which will take you to the kibitzing lobby. Click on the table you want to watch. For more information, go to [this RealBridge page](#). The Schedule for the Beth Palmer Women's USBC is [here](#). Kibitzing will start 30 minutes after each segment starts.

More information about LoveBridge kibitzing... Set up your screen as you like it best.

You will see a **single table** if you click on the blue arrow on the scores page with buttons for more info.

Match View will show you two tables of a match side by side on your screen;

Split View will give you 4 panes and you can put whatever you want in each of them.

Click on Buttons to get interesting information:

●● The image of the sticker with the number of the board (upper right) takes you to the results of the board;

●● the arrow in the bottom right corner 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.

NEW THIS YEAR: Written commentary will show in a large area on the left of the screen in Single Table view and at the top of the screen in Match View. If you are interesting in providing written commentary, please [email Jan](#) and she will get you authorized.

Navigation icons:

While surfing on the vugraph, or amongst the archives, you can 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. There is also a built-in back button because the back button of your browser will always take you to the starting page. If this is not what you wanted, push next in your browser and you can continue where you were.

How to find System Information: If you want to look at a pair's System Summary Form or ACBL Convention card, just go to the Teams Entered page and click on either player's name.



2025 USBC Hospitality

We have returned to our pre-pandemic hospitality, with the hospitality suite (room 2321) open most of the day for you to hang out, watch Vugraph, get a snack, or whatever. In addition, we will be providing breakfast and lunch each day of play. Marie France Benoit will be our lead hostess, with help from Jacob Morgan, Marge Morgan, Shanika Cunningham, Hal George, and Nancy Booth. If you're at the tournament and can volunteer to help with hospitality (mainly picking up last-minute things at Costco and other local stores) please let Jan or Marie France know.

Breakfast: From 8:30-10:30 am. There will be the usual breakfast food, cereal, bagels, toast, salmon, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. For those of you who prefer Keurig coffee, that will also be available in the hospitality suite. 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 the Open and Mixed USBCs we will be serving a buffet lunch in the hotel restaurant. There should be enough room for you to eat in the restaurant, but you are also welcome to take food from there to an outside table or to your hotel room. Lunch will be served from 1:45-3:45. After the first 4 days of each event and for all of the Seniors, lunch will be available in the hospitality suite from 1:45-3:45. 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.

There is a water dispenser in the room, and we have refillable water bottles for you in room 1321 (we'll put a label with your name on yours). 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 what you want: If you have specific needs, please let our hosts know and they will do their very best to provide food that meets your needs.

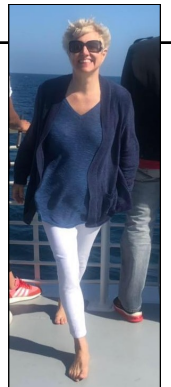
Playing Rooms & Player's Break Room

We have a water dispenser in the Player's Break Room (1321), as well as soft drinks, Nespresso, some packaged snacks, and some fruit. We ask that you recognize that we are working in that room, and others are still playing in the rooms next door and across the hall, so please try to keep voices low.

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 someone to bring you coffee or water or escort you outside to smoke.



Marie France



Massages - Message from Jan Martel...

Once again this year, our wonderful massage therapist Ela come to the hotel any day that there are 3-5 people who want massages. Her schedule will probably be mostly during playing hours, with one or two times after the end of play. I think she's still charging \$100 for an hour's massage. If you let me know a day or two before you want a massage, I will try to make it work.



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

Sudoku 1

(Continued from page 6)

"Adherents of my religion don't all have to believe the same thing," Tom decreed.

"I have to wear this cast for another six weeks," said Tom disjointedly.

"It's time to play my wild card," Tom deduced.

"Oh no, it'll soon be June," Tom said in dismay.

"Now I'll NEVER dance," said Tom defeatedly.

"That's the woman!" Tom said dismissively.

"They had to amputate them both at the ankles," Tom said defeatedly.

"I have to attend my PhD oral examination," said Tom defensively.

"I just got kicked out of China!" said Tom disoriented.

"Sure, I'll get rid of those jewels for you," said Tom defensively.

"Turn the record player down," said Tom disquietingly.

"I ignore that French 'No Smoking' sign," fumed Tom.

"Out, out, damned spot!" said Lady Macbeth distainfully.

"Look what you did to the rug, you naughty dog!"

"But I thought forts were a good idea," whined Tom defensively.

"Okay, you can have the gloves without lining," Tom deferred.

"I'm tearing my hair out over this problem," said Tom distressingly.

Hard Sudoku

**Sudoku Solutions
on Page 15**

Sudoku 2

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

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



Pet Dog

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining 26 letters spell a secret message.

**For Maz ...
the Nickell Team Mascot!**

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

BARK
BATH
BONE
BOWLS
CANINE
CHASE
CHEW TOY
COLLAR
COMPANION
FAITHFUL

FEED
FETCH
FOOD
FRIEND
GROOM
GROWL
GUARD
HAIR
HARNESS
HOUSE

ID TAG
JUMP
KENNEL
LEASH
LICK
LOYAL
OWNER
PANT
PAWS
PLAY

PUPPY
ROLL OVER
SHAMPOO
SLEEP
TRAIN
TREATS
TRIM NAILS
WAG TAIL
WALK
WATER



Whole"heart"edly

World Bridge Federation Open Ranking as of 12/2024... Top 80 (many here!)

Rank	OpenTitle	Player	OpenMp	OpenPP
1	WGM	Pierre ZIMMERMANN (Switzerland)	4121.80	47.5
2	WGM	Michal KLUKOWSKI (Switzerland)	3642.40	36.5
3	WGM	Sjoert BRINK (Switzerland)	3369.55	36.5
4	WGM	Bas DRIJVER (Switzerland)	3364.45	36.5
5	WGM	Jacek KALITA (Switzerland)	3306.65	28.0
6	WGM	Michal NOWOSADZKI (Switzerland)	3278.60	26.5
7	WGM	Geir HELGEMO (Norway)	3166.50	59.0
8	WGM	Krzysztof BURAS (Poland)	2988.15	22.5
9	WGM	Alfredo VERSACE (Italy)	2445.70	57.5
10	WGM	Bauke MULLER (Netherlands)	2216.80	31.0
11	WGM	Simon DE WIJS (Netherlands)	2204.05	23.0
12	WGM	Antonio SEMENTA (Italy)	2090.40	31.0
13	WGM	Brad MOSS (U.S.A.)	2079.20	22.3
14	WGM	Piotr GAWRYS (Switzerland)	2079.10	43.5
15	WGM	Nick NICKELL (U.S.A.)	2022.15	48.5
16	WGM	Ralph KATZ (U.S.A.)	1960.95	32.5
17	WGM	Boye BROGELAND (Norway)	1939.30	25.0
18	WGM	Jeff MECKSTROTH (U.S.A.)	1933.75	66.3
19	WGM	Bobby LEVIN (U.S.A.)	1899.75	32.3
20	WGM	Steve WEINSTEIN (U.S.A.)	1898.05	25.3
21	WGM	Ricco VAN PROOIJEN (Netherlands)	1893.85	19.5
22	WGM	Joe GRUE (U.S.A.)	1849.70	15.0
23	WGM	Chip MARTEL (U.S.A.)	1822.50	51.3
24	WGM	Geoff HAMPSON (U.S.A.)	1778.30	24.3
25	WGM	Martin FLEISHER (U.S.A.)	1778.30	13.8
26	WLM	Michael WHIBLEY (New Zealand)	1739.05	9.0
27	WGM	Louk VERHEES Jr (Netherlands)	1720.40	19.5
28	WLM	Andrea MANNO (Italy)	1707.05	6.5
29	WGM	Agustin MADALA (Argentina)	1695.50	17.0
30	WGM	Fredrik NYSTROM (Sweden)	1648.45	19.5
31	WLM	Giovanni DONATI (Italy)	1639.05	6.0
32	WLM	Massimiliano DI FRANCO (Italy)	1638.20	6.5
33	WLM	Rafal JAGNIEWSKI (Poland)	1614.55	5.0
34	WGM	Zia MAHMOOD (U.S.A.)	1605.65	35.5
35	WLM	Wojciech GAWEL (Poland)	1602.65	5.0
36	WGM	Tor HELNESS (Norway)	1579.30	56.5
37	WGM	Franck MULTON (Monaco)	1573.35	41.5
38	WLM	Tor Eivind GRUDE (Norway)	1565.10	6.0
39	WLM	Giacomo PERCARIO (Italy)	1550.65	6.0
40	WLM	John HURD (U.S.A.)	1536.05	12.8

Rank	OpenTitle	Player	OpenMp	OpenPP
41	WGM	Eric GRECO (U.S.A.)	1521.50	21.3
42	WLM	Bart NAB (Netherlands)	1517.30	9.0
43	WGM	John KRANYAK (U.S.A.)	1516.25	12.0
44	WLM	Przemyslaw JANISZEWSKI (Poland)	1511.70	6.0
45	WLM	Terje AA (Norway)	1504.90	22.5
46	WGM	Gavin WOLPERT (U.S.A.)	1436.35	11.0
47	WLM	Allan LIVGARD (Norway)	1408.00	9.0
48	WLM	Vincent DEMUY (U.S.A.)	1380.25	9.5
49	WLM	Christian BAKKE (Norway)	1368.95	6.5
50	WLM	Mikael RIMSTEDT (Sweden)	1328.85	4.5
51	WLM	Ola RIMSTEDT (Sweden)	1294.00	4.5
52	WLM	Dror PADON (Israel)	1289.70	5.0
53	WLM	Bob DRIJVER (Netherlands)	1282.70	9.0
54	WLM	Cedric LORENZINI (France)	1274.65	9.0
55	WGM	Peter BERTHEAU (Sweden)	1272.75	15.0
56	WLM	David GOLD (England)	1269.25	10.0
57	WIM	Simon HULT (Sweden)	1267.65	4.0
58	WLM	Kevin BATHURST (U.S.A.)	1259.80	8.5
59	WGM	Krzysztof JASSEM (Poland)	1258.85	24.0
60	WGM	Thomas BESSIS (France)	1243.20	11.0
61	WLM	Alon BIRMAN (Israel)	1226.80	5.0
62	WLM	Wojciech STRZEMECKI (Poland)	1215.05	5.0
63	WGM	Grzegorz NARKIEWICZ (Poland)	1202.75	12.5
64	WGM	Giorgio DUBOIN (Italy)	1174.60	50.0
65	WGM	Joel WOOLDRIDGE (U.S.A.)	1164.70	13.5
66	WLM	Alejandro BIANCHEDI (Argentina)	1160.00	8.0
67	WLM	Fernando PIEDRA (Switzerland)	1143.25	8.0
68	WGM	Johan UPMARK (Sweden)	1113.80	13.0
69	WIM	Oren TOLEDANO (Israel)	1097.00	1.0
70	WIM	Ami ZAMIR (Israel)	1084.25	1.0
71	WLM	Kamil NOWAK (Poland)	1075.65	5.5
72	WLM	Matthew BROWN (New Zealand)	1056.50	5.0
73	WLM	Bartosz CHMURSKI (Poland)	1053.05	5.0
74	WGM	Roy WELLAND (Germany)	1039.55	11.0
75	WGM	Eric RODWELL (U.S.A.)	1021.70	63.0
76	WIM	Joris VAN LANKVELD (Netherlands)	1009.00	4.5
77	WLM	Andrew ROBSON (England)	1005.40	8.0
78	WLM	Sabine AUKEN (Germany)	989.40	8.0
79	WGM	Jacek PSZCZOLA (U.S.A.)	986.85	20.8
80	WIM	Berend VAN DEN BOS (Netherlands)	984.35	4.5

		Customers						Cheeses						Meats					
		Carol	Irene	Juan	Peter	Verna	Warren	cheddar	colby jack	havarti	muenster	provolone	swiss	bologna	corned beef	ham	liverwurst	roast beef	salami
Prices	\$2.75																		
	\$3.75																		
	\$4.75																		
	\$5.75																		
	\$6.75																		
	\$7.75																		
Meats	bologna																		
	corned beef																		
	ham																		
	liverwurst																		
	roast beef																		
	salami																		
Cheeses	cheddar																		
	colby jack																		
	havarti																		
	muenster																		
	provolone																		
	swiss																		

Logic Puzzle

**Answer to Puzzle
on page 15
Bottom of Page**

Prices	Customers	Cheeses	Meats
\$2.75			
\$3.75			
\$4.75			
\$5.75			
\$6.75			
\$7.75			

1. The order with colby jack cheese costs more than Warren's order.
2. Carol's order doesn't include swiss cheese.
3. The \$3.75 order doesn't include roast beef.
4. The sandwich with muenster cheese costs 1 dollar less than the order with ham.
5. Neither the \$5.75 order nor the sandwich with cheddar cheese is Carol's sandwich.
6. The \$7.75 order doesn't include salami.
7. Verna's order doesn't include bologna.
8. Of the order with colby jack cheese and the \$6.75 sandwich, one includes bologna and the other is Juan's.

9. Carol's sandwich doesn't include bologna.
10. The order with liverwurst costs 1 dollar less than Verna's sandwich.
11. Peter's order is either the order with provolone cheese or the \$2.75 order.
12. The six sandwiches are the order with roast beef, the \$5.75 sandwich, the sandwich with cheddar cheese, the \$7.75 order, the \$4.75 sandwich and the \$6.75 sandwich.
13. Of Juan's order and Warren's order, one costs \$4.75 and the other includes muenster cheese.

Meet the Players

Michael Kamil is a many-time North American Champion. He credits his love of the game to his first bridge partner, his mother. She professed to him as a young lad that every hand is an adventure. Together they won several New York area Regionals, but their most meaningful victory happened in 1980 in the Las Vegas NABC Flight B Mixed Pairs (beating over 1300 pairs)! This was by far Michael’s biggest thrill.

From 1985-2003 Mike traded stock options before retiring to his current status as a "sometimes" professional player.

Michael and his wife, Gabby, have a home in the north suburbs of Chicago and split their time between that home and other seasonal venues around the country. Michael has twin daughters by a previous marriage while he and Gabby share two adorable dogs.

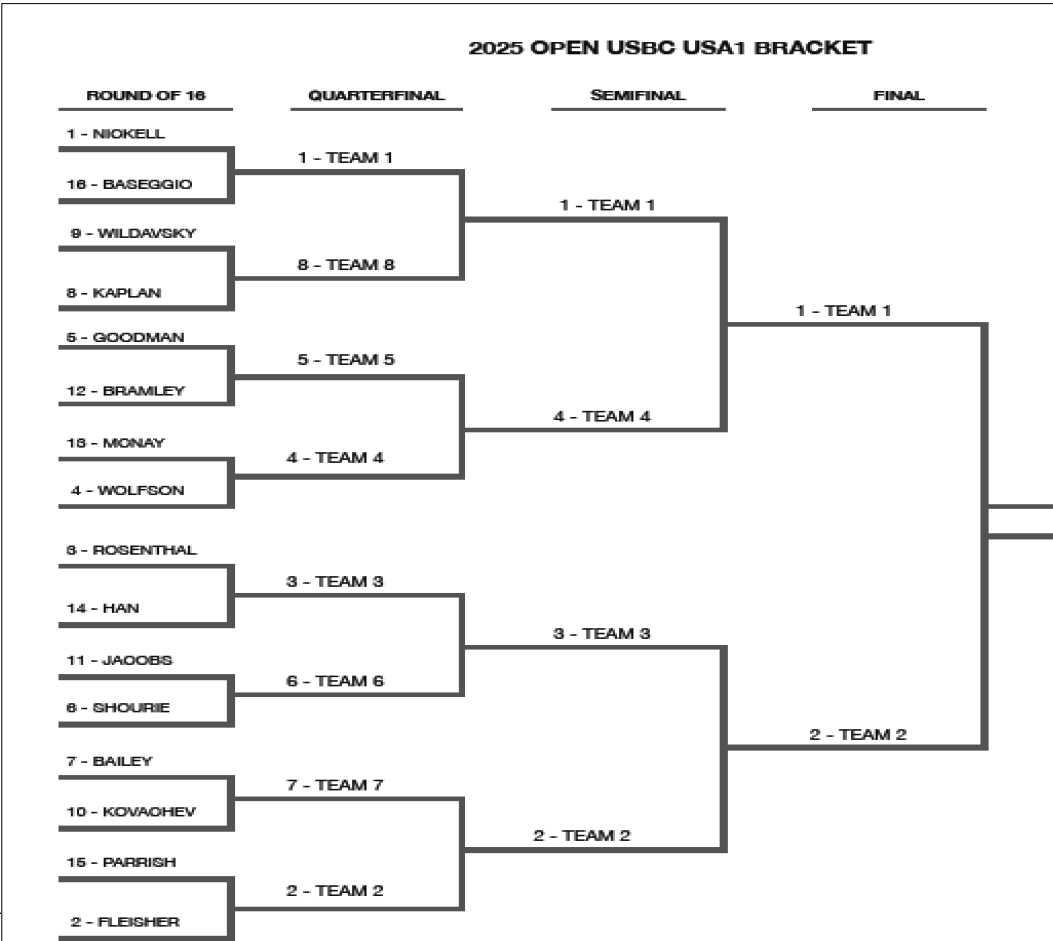
In Michael’s own words, he “loves playing regardless of partner's or teammates' abilities” ... and surely that contributes to his being the well sought after professional he is today. He is known for impeccable ethics, winning the coveted Sidney Lazard Award in 2012.

Michael has written bridge articles for Bridge Winners, which have included the popular featured titles: Lessons Learned , The Unexpected , From the Cheap Seats.

- BBO name: mikam1
 - Born: November 3rd, 1960
- Favorite Convention: Multi when played in conjunction with sound weak-2 bids.



Michael is playing in this USBC as a member of the Wolfson team. His teammates are Jeff Wolfson, Steve Garner, Zia, David Berkowitz, and Jeff Meckstroth.



USA 1

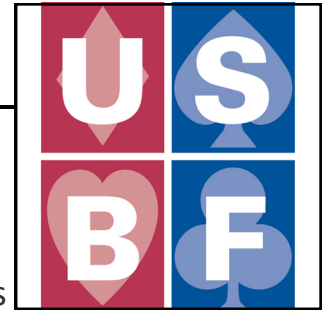
5	7	8	9	1	3	2	4	6
9	1	9	2	4	6	7	8	3
3	6	3	4	5	2	8	9	1
1	2	1	6	3	8	4	5	7
8	4	8	5	1	7	3	2	9
7	9	7	3	6	5	1	8	4
6	3	6	7	8	2	5	1	4
4	8	4	9	1	3	7	6	5
2	5	2	4	9	6	8	3	7

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

THE ONLY
MYSTERY IN
LIFE IS WHY
THE
KAMIKAZE
PILOTS WORE
HELMETS



Answer to Logic Puzzle On Page 13

Roast beef	Muenster	Warren	\$2.75
Ham	Cheddar	Irene	\$3.75
Liverwurst	Colby jack	Juan	\$4.75
Salami	Swiss	Verna	\$5.75
Bologna	Provolone	Peter	\$6.75
Corned beef	Havarti	Carol	\$7.75

As I get older, I remember all of the people I lost along the way. Maybe a career as a tour guide wasn't the right choice.

Went to the bar tonight. Good times. Only a 15-minute walk. But the walk home took 45 minutes, the difference was staggering.

I recently took a pole. And found that 100% of the people in the tent were angry when it collapsed.

Son: "Dad, can you please explain to me what a solar eclipse is?" Dad: "No sun."

Where do you take someone who's been in a peek-a-boo accident? The ICU.

Did you hear about the explosion at the cheese factory? There was nothing left but debris.

What did the blanket say when it fell off the bed? Oh, sheet.

What was even more useful than the first telephone? The second telephone.

I'm afraid for the calendar. Its days are numbered.

Have you heard of the new sport called quiet tennis? It's like normal tennis but without the racket.

Why did the god of thunder need to stretch his legs? He was a little Thor.

What's the least spoken language? Sign language.

What building in your town has the most stories? The public library.

Claustrophobia is the fear of closed spaces. For example: I'm going to the beer store and I'm scared it will be closed.

What has five toes but isn't your foot? My foot.

What looks like half a tree? The other half.

What do you call a Frenchman who has been attacked by a cat? Claude.

My 6-year-old daughter has lined up all of her dolls towards the outdoor grill. Looks like she's preparing some kind of barbie queue.

How can you tell the difference between a crocodile and an alligator? Easy, one will see you later, the other will see you in a while.

Someone told me that it's impossible to make a pun about vegetables. I said that's not nececelery true.

My friend Jack claims he can communicate with vegetables. Jack and the beans talk!

Where do fruits go on vacation? Pear-is!

What did Baby Corn say to Mama Corn? Where's Pop Corn?

What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho cheese.

How do you make an apple turnover? Push it downhill.

I used to play piano by ear. Now I use my hands.

Why did the kid bring a ladder to class? Because she wanted to go to high school.

I asked the librarian if she knew of any authors who wrote dinosaur novels. She said, "Yes, try Sarah Topps."

What did the ocean say to the beach? Nothing, it just waved.

Why can't a nose be 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot.

I was addicted to the Hokey Pokey.... but I turned myself around.



A-Pun, A-Two, A-Three!

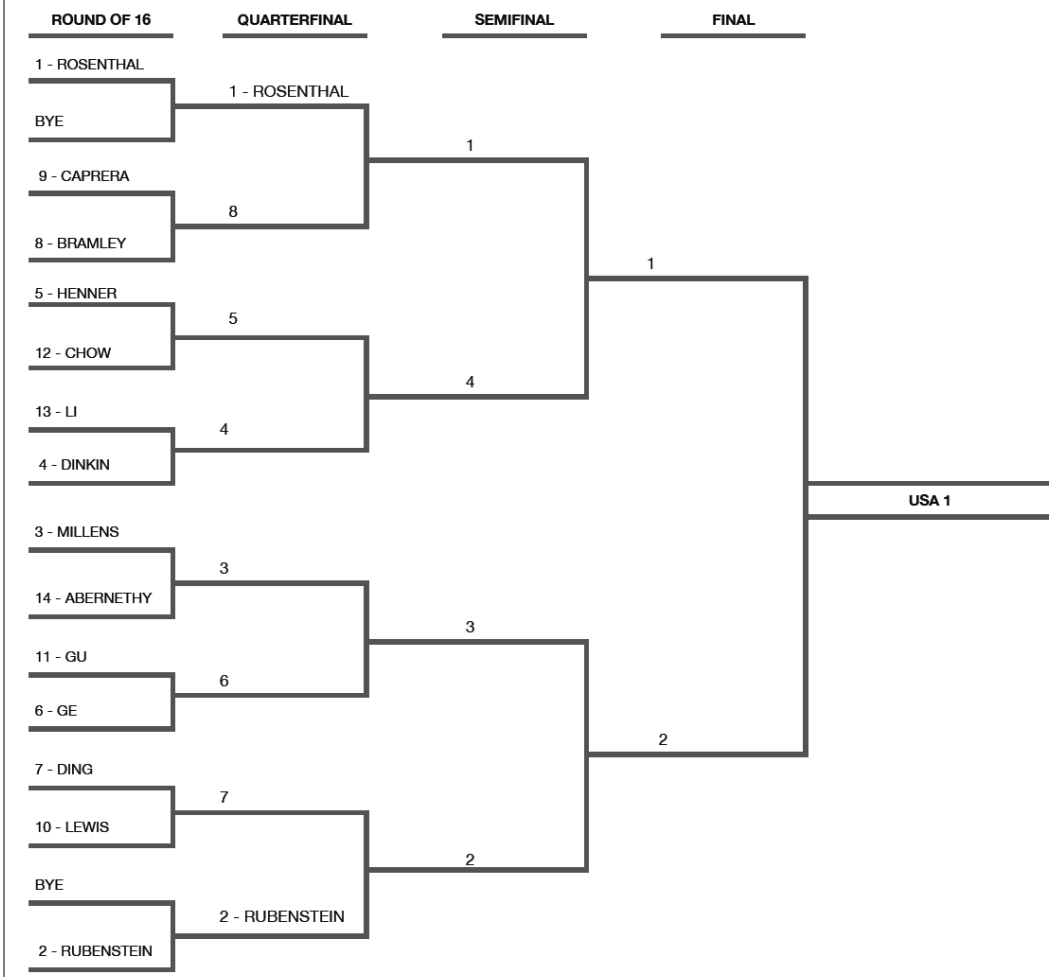
**AS A KID, I USED TO
WATCH THE WIZARD OF
OZ AND WONDER HOW
SOMEONE COULD TALK
IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE A
BRAIN. THEN I GOT
SOCIAL MEDIA.**

**I HATE IT WHEN YOU CAN'T
FIGURE OUT HOW TO OPERATE
THE IPAD AND THE RESIDENT
TECH EXPERT IS ASLEEP.**

BECAUSE HE'S 5.

AND IT'S PAST HIS BEDTIME.

2025 MIXED USBC USA1 BRACKET



Deep thought of today:

When you clean out a vacuum cleaner.

You become a vacuum cleaner.

It helps if you imagine auto correct as a tiny little elf in your phone who's trying so hard to be helpful but is in fact quite drunk.



Sometimes I wonder what happened to the people who asked me for directions...

Knowledge is knowing a Tomato is a fruit.

Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Philosophy is wondering if that means Ketchup is a smoothie.

Did you know that "Dammit I'm Mad" spelled backwards is "Dammit I'm Mad"

BOARD: 29
DEALER: NORTH
VULNERABLE: ALL

Deal

♠ 75
 ♥ KJT63
 ♦ KJT63
 ♣ KQJ942

♠ T642
 ♥ AQT4
 ♦ A
 ♣ A875

♠ 8
 ♥ K987652
 ♦ 8752
 ♣ 6

♠ AKQJ93
 ♥ J3
 ♦ Q94
 ♣ T3

Par: -500

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	11	9	1	9	4
E	2	3	12	3	7
W	:	:	:	4	:

Late on Saturday night, Ralph Katz called to report a great hand from the second segment of the USA1 quarterfinals. He was very excited because if anyone played in 6H, they could have executed an “entry shifting” squeeze! Katz/Nickell bid to 6H but their opponents sacrificed in 6S so we will never know if Ralph would have found the squeeze or not! For declarer to play on the squeeze,” North must accurately pattern out in the bidding. Sadly, no one in USA1 or USA2 played in 6H.

Assuming the obvious lead of a high spade and the obvious spade continuation, declarer must ruff the second spade, play a heart to the ace, ruff a third spade, play ace of

clubs and a club. Next, must be a diamond to the ace and ruff the last spade. Ruff a diamond and lead the HQ.

RHO will come down to xx in both minors. LHO will hold one diamond, two spades and one heart. If RHO pitches clubs, declarer must win the queen and ruff out the club. If RHO pitches diamonds, then declarer must overtake and ruff out the diamonds.

There are other lines that could succeed.

Interestingly, in USA2, Ming Shen played this hand in 5HX against Jacobs/Vogel, taking 12 tricks.

BUT... Jacobs led the SQ and shifted to the CT. Ming won dummy's ace, cashed the HA and DA, yielding this wish trick

Ming ruffed a spade, ruffed a diamond, and claimed 12 tricks.

	W	N	E	S
1	♦	2	♥	2
4	♦	PASS	4	♥
5	♥	PASS	PASS	5
	PASS	PASS	6	♣
6	♥	6	♣	PASS
	DBL	PASS	PASS	PASS

W Nick Nickell

♠ T642
♥ AQT4
♦ A
♣ A875

E Ralph Katz

♠ 8
♥ K987652
♦ 8752
♣ 6

N Adam Kaplan

♠ 75
♥ KJT63
♦ KJT63
♣ KQJ942

S Finn Kolesnik

♠ AKQJ93
♥ J3
♦ Q94
♣ T3



Hand from Ralph Katz

BOARD: 1
DEALER: NORTH
VULNERABLE: NONE

♠ K72
♥ K74
♦ AQJ8
♣ AKQ

♠ AJT843
♥ JT
♦ 43
♣ T84

♠ Q
♥ 932
♦ T9765
♣ 9732

Par: 990

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	10	10	11	8	12
EW	2	3	1	5	1

♠ 965
♥ AQ865
♦ K2
♣ J65

Sometimes results are just unlucky.

On Board 1 of the second day of play in the USA1 Quarterfinals and the USA2 Stage 1, 6NT is a better contract than 6H because there's no possibility of a ruff defeating the slam.

MOST of the time it doesn't matter but when it does, it's devastating.

Home team		Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP			
							NS	EW	Home	Visiting
5	Wildavsky	Baseggio	Open	6N	N	♠Q =	990	11		
			Closed	5♥	S	♠A =	450			
6	Kovachev	Parrish	Open	6N	N	♦9 =	990		-	-
			Closed	6N	N	♦9 =	990			
7	Jacobs	Han	Open	6N	N	♠Q =	990		-	-
			Closed	6N	N	♦9 =	990			
8	Bramley	McNay	Open	6♥	N	♠Q -1	50			14
			Closed	6N	N	♦T =	990			

Holzhauser/Stewart were the only pair in USA2 to play in slam in hearts as opposed to NT.

McNay had no trouble leading his singleton SQ especially after his partner's 2S overcall.

W N E S

2♣ PASS 2♦

2♠ 2NT PASS 3♦

PASS 3♥ PASS 5NT

PASS 6♥ PASS PASS

Table: OP 8, Round: 5

N-S: Bramley 150 IMP

E-W: McNay 100 IMP

♠ K72
♥ K74
♦ AQJ8
♣ AKQ

N James Holzhauser

♠ AJT843
♥ JT
♦ 43
♣ T84

W Harrison Luba

♠ Q
♥ 932
♦ T9765
♣ 9732

E Ewan McNay

♠ 965
♥ AQ865
♦ K2
♣ J65

S Fred Stewart

DDS

LoveBridge

Luba won the SA, gave McNay his ruff. 14 IMPs to McNay

In NT, declarer can take 5 hearts, 4 diamonds and 3 clubs without so much as a finesse!

USA1 had more random results than USA2 on this Board.

Only 4 of the 8 tables played in 6NT.

2 tables played in 4NT!!

1 table played in 5H!!

1 table played in 4H!!

Deal

BOARD: 2
DEALER: EAST
VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ A
♥ AKJ54
♦ T7642
♣ Q5

USA1

♠ KT84
♥ 97
♦ Q5
♣ KT842

♠ J762
♥
♦ AJ98
♣ AJ973

Par: 100

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	2	7	11	3	7
EW	11	5	2	10	6

♠ Q953
♥ QT8632
♦ K3
♣ 6

	Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP
						NS EW Home Visiting	
1	Nickell	Kaplan	Open	5♠x	E ♥8	-2 300	11
			Closed	5♥x	S ♥7	= 850	
2	Fleisher	Bailey	Open	5♠x	E ♥8	-2 300	11
			Closed	5♥x	S ♠8	= 850	
3	Rosenthal	Shourie	Open	5♠x	E ♥8	-1 100	11
			Closed	5♥	S ♠8	= 650	
4	Wolfson	Goodman	Open	5♥	S ♠8	= 650	11
			Closed	5♠x	E ♥8	-1 100	

What an interesting traveler!! In every match, one table played in 5H (doubled or undoubled) and the other table sacrificed in 5S (always doubled!!) You see 4 11 IMP swings in USA1! Mix and Match and it would be a flat board!! It was definitely correct to take the 5S save... At favorable, it is surprising more pairs did not take it. USA2 results varied.

Wildavsky	Baseggio	Open	5♠x	E ♥8	-2 300	5
		Closed	4♠x	E ♥8	-1 100	
Kovachev	Parrish	Open	5♠x	E ♥8	-5 1100	10
		Closed	5♥	S ♠8	= 650	
Jacobs	Han	Open	5♥	S ♠8	= 650	5
		Closed	5♥x	S ♠8	= 850	
Bramley	McNay	Open	5♠	W ♥K	-1 50	13
		Closed	5♥x	S ♥7	= 850	

<div>BOARD: 6</div> <div>DEALER: EAST</div> <div>VULNERABLE: E-W</div>		<div>♠ A</div> <div>♥ T72</div> <div>♦ QJ3</div> <div>♣ QT8753</div>																									
<div>♠ QT876532</div> <div>♥ KJ54</div> <div>♦ 7</div> <div>♣</div>		<div>♠ J9</div> <div>♥ A9</div> <div>♦ KT9862</div> <div>♣ K62</div>																									
<div>Par: 200</div> <table><tr><td></td><td>♣</td><td>♦</td><td>♥</td><td>♠</td><td>N</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>8</td><td>3</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>:</td><td>6</td><td>:</td><td>:</td><td>:</td></tr><tr><td>EW</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>10</td><td>3</td></tr></table>			♣	♦	♥	♠	N	N	9	5	8	3	10	S	:	6	:	:	:	EW	3	6	5	10	3	<div>♠ K4</div> <div>♥ Q863</div> <div>♦ A54</div> <div>♣ AJ94</div>	
	♣	♦	♥	♠	N																						
N	9	5	8	3	10																						
S	:	6	:	:	:																						
EW	3	6	5	10	3																						

Home team	Visiting team		Room		By	1	=	★	IMP		
								NS	EW	Home	Visiting
Wildavsky	Baseggio	🕒	Open	4♠	W	♣8	=	620		-	-
		🕒	Closed	4♠	W	♣8	=	620			
Kovachev	Parrish	🕒	Open	4♠	W	♥2	+1	650		-	-
		🕒	Closed	4♠	W	♥2	+1	650			
Jacobs	Han	🕒	Open	4♠	W	♣7	=	620			11
		🕒	Closed	5♣x	N	♠J	-1	100			
Bramley	McNay	🕒	Open	5♣	N	♠J	-1	50		11	
		🕒	Closed	4♠	W	♦Q	=	620			

Board 6 is an example of a “waste of time” ... “perhaps dangerous” double!?!

In Jacobs/Han, Sheng and Zhao played in 5CX going down one while their teammates played in 4S making which resulted in an 11 IMP swing for Han!

In Bramley/McNay, Holzhauser/Stewart played in 5C UNdoubled down one while their teammates played in 4S making which resulted in the same 11 IMP swing.

In essence, the double was worthless while defeating the contract one trick, but IF the contract had MADE, the double would have been costly... weighing the risk and reward, it is probably better to simply defend!

BOARD: 20

DEALER: WEST

VULNERABLE: ALL

♠ AT8
♥ AJT6
♦ QT8
♣ J98

♠ K9763
♥ Q54
♦ K4
♣ A32

♠ QJ54
♥ 93
♦ AJ753
♣ 75

♠ 2
♥ K872
♦ 962
♣ KQT64

Par: -140

NS	♣ 9	♦ 3	♥ 9	♠ 3	N
EW	4	8	4	9	6

Bidding aggressive vulnerable games can pay handsomely in IMPs.

Woolsey, known to be aggressive in his style of preempting, shows on Board 20, that he is also aggressive accepting invitations to game when vulnerable once a fit is established.

Home team	Visiting team		Room		By		=		IMP		
								NS	EW	Home	Visiting
Wildavsky	Baseggio		Open	3♠	W	♦8	+1		170		1
			Closed	3♠	W	♣8	=		140		
Kovachev	Parrish		Open	3♠	W	♠8	+1		170	-	-
			Closed	3♠	W	♠8	+1		170		
Jacobs	Han		Open	3♠	W	♠8	=		140	1	
			Closed	3♠	W	♠8	+1		170		
Bramley	McNay		Open	3♠	W	♦8	+1		170	10	
			Closed	4♠	W	♦8	=		620		

At every table in both the USA1 and USA2 competitions, West opened 1S. East consistently responded showing a limit or mixed raise.

Every West, looking at a 5-3-3-2 12 count turned down the invite to play in a spade partial... except Kit!

W N E S

1♣ PASS 2NT PASS

4♣ PASS PASS PASS

Table: CL 8, Round: 6

N-S: McNay 159 IMP

E-W: Bramley 183 IMP

♠ AT8
♥ AJT6
♦ QT8
♣ J98

N Ewan McNay

♠ K9763
♥ Q54
♦ K4
♣ A32

W Kit Woolsey

♠ QJ54
♥ 93
♦ AJ753
♣ 75

E Bart Bramley

♠ 2
♥ K872
♦ 962
♣ KQT64

S Harrison Luba

4S is not cold. It can be defeated on the lead of a round suit. If North leads a club, the defense will collect 1 spade, 2 hearts, and a club for down 1.

If North leads a heart, N/S will hold the lead and can shift to the club without having lost any timing.

McNay had no helpful information from the auction. He chose a diamond lead and he was instantly toast! Woolsey won the king and played the SK ducked.

McNay won the ace. McNay found the club shift now but it was too late. Woolsey could win the club, pull the last trump and play on diamonds for 5 tricks including three helpful pitches.

Do you notice anything unusual about this board? Look at the traveler... **At all EIGHT tables, the OPENING LEADER IN USA 2 STAGE ONE CHOSE TO LEAD AN EIGHT!!!** Some led the S8; some led the D8; and one led the C8. That's almost as cool as a Wish Trick!!

Cross IMPs

1.	Michael Kamil - Zia Mahmood	Wolfson	0.49	42.43	87
2.	Chip Martel - Marty Fleisher	Fleisher	0.44	26.29	60
3.	David Grainger - Joel Wooldridge	Goodman	0.33	39.33	120
4.	Adam Grossack - Eddie Wold	Kaplan	0.27	32.45	120
5.	Nick Nickell - Ralph Katz	Nickell	0.21	12.43	60
6.	John Hurd - Kevin Bathurst	Fleisher	0.20	17.64	90
7.	Adam Kaplan - Finn Kolesnik	Kaplan	0.18	21.36	120
8.	Doug Simson - Eric Rodwell	Goodman	0.10	5.43	56
9.	John Kranyak - Vince Demuy	Shourie	0.07	6.14	90
10.	Chris Willenken - Eldad Ginossar	Rosenthal	0.05	4.67	90
11.	Gavin Wolpert - Rajath Shourie	Shourie	0.04	2.19	60
12.	Jeff Wolfson - Steve Garner	Wolfson	0.03	1.93	60
13.	Michael Rosenberg - Zach Grossack	Rosenthal	0.01	1.29	90
14.	Daniel Korbel - Roger Lee	Bailey	-0.02	-1.36	90
15.	David Berkowitz - Jeff Meckstroth	Wolfson	-0.04	-3.98	89
16.	Brian Platnick - Kevin Rosenberg	Bailey	-0.05	-4.69	90
17.	Kevin Dwyer Rimstedt - Shan Huang	Shourie	-0.05	-4.79	90
18.	Brad Moss - Joe Grue	Fleisher	-0.07	-6.10	90
19.	Bobby Levin - Steve Weinstein	Nickell	-0.09	-7.74	90
20.	Aaron Silverstein - Andrew Rosenthal	Rosenthal	-0.16	-9.50	60
21.	Josh Donn - William Bailey	Bailey	-0.53	-31.79	60
22.	Eric Greco - Geoff Hampson	Nickell	-0.65	-58.50	90
23.	Andy Goodman - Mike Passell	Goodman	-1.42	-85.14	60

USA1

1.	Alan Sontag - Peter Weichsel	Jacobs	0.65	58.86	90
2.	Billy Cohen - Gary Cohler	Jacobs	0.51	46.24	90
3.	Bart Bramley - Kit Woolsey	Bramley	0.48	42.48	89
4.	Charlie Wilkins - Valentin Kovachev	Kovachev	0.43	51.19	120
5.	Jack Zhao - Ming Sheng	Han	0.27	28.48	105
6.	Adam Wildavsky - Steve Robinson	Wildavsky	0.27	32.40	119
7.	Debbie Rosenberg - Olivia Schireson	McNay	0.22	12.71	59
8.	Jiang Gu - Walter Lee	Baseggio	0.06	5.52	89
9.	Fred Stewart - James Holzhauer	Bramley	-0.01	-0.57	75
10.	Adam Parrish - Anant Rathi	Parrish	-0.08	-9.17	120
11.	John McAllister - Will Watson	Bramley	-0.10	-7.19	75
12.	Chris Compton - Ron Smith	Wildavsky	-0.10	-11.48	120
13.	Ai-Tai Lo - Joshua Sher	Baseggio	-0.11	-8.55	75
14.	Jacob Morgan - Venkatrao Koneru	Kovachev	-0.16	-19.69	120
15.	Jeff Fang - Tien-Chun Yang	Han	-0.17	-12.76	75
16.	Ewan McNay - Harrison Luba	McNay	-0.18	-21.43	120
17.	Danny Sprung - Phil Clayton	Parrish	-0.19	-22.33	120
18.	Andy Stark - Franco Baseggio	Baseggio	-0.24	-17.90	75
19.	Debbie Rosenberg - Max Schireson	McNay	-0.43	-26.00	60
20.	Wanfeng Mou - Yanong Han	Han	-0.97	-58.19	60
21.	Claude Vogel - George Jacobs	Jacobs	-1.04	-62.62	60

USA2

Limey Jack...

Egads, Yanks:

Reminiscent of Robin of Luxley meeting Friar tuck on the bridge, there were some heavy weights tossed off said bridge into the water.

None fell more heavily than Nickell, who lost to a foursome with three juniors and Eddie Wold, who is older than all three of them combined. A dispirited Nickell squad will have to crawl back though the dregs

In a second remarkable upset, Shourie handled Rosenthal. If Shourie keeps winning, Limey Jack will be obliged to find out who they are.

Of the four stallions remaining in USA one, there is the obvious choice of Wolfson who has Zia on his team and really that is all that is necessary. Alas, the rules prohibit coronations prior to the actual play of the cards.

In USA one:

Wolfson must overcome the giant killers on the Kaplan team, quite the onerous task. However, Zia assures Limey Jack that they will relegate Kaplan back to the future.

In Fleischer versus Shourie as predicted Fleischer had the only easy match all day and will dispatch of Shourie without much difficulty.

In USA two:

Rosenthal-Bramley: both squads attempted to lose their matches. Only Rosenthal was successful. However, Bramley is over their quota of clients and is dispatched to an early exit to the pub.

Goodman-Jacobs: Goodman also has two sponsors, seemingly the new way to go, but they also have a lot of wood on this team. Jacobs has reconstituted the old partnership of Weichsel and Sontag. They have struggled in the early going, but if they get their act together, they could make a match of it. Likely Goodman gets the W at the 16th pole.

Nickell-Kovachev: Nickell is steaming like a Lorry that has overheated. If Kovachev has any sense, they will withdraw after the first quarter. It will only be a matter of time.

Wildavsky-Bailey: Wildavsky probably has 300,000 master points and no partnerships. Mr. Robinson, who is nearing 90, is playing every hand every day and that must be grinding. Limey Jack has a difficult time picking four handed teams to win, however Bailey, while fielding a reasonable sextet, is still raw. Limey Jack will go against his own judgment and won't you go home Bill Bailey.

And thus, you have what you need to go to the punter and make a few bob. That dunderhead Howie dung is simply not capable of getting you where you need to be. Follow him at your own risk

Ta, LJ.

Kaplan v Wolfson? I'm in a pickle.
I was all ready rhyming with Nickell!

It's one of those days when all things are through...
Bad luck and bad timing ... Oops... USA2!

I'm picking Wolfson... He will prevail.
4-handed teams are more likely to fail.

Fleisher v Shourie won't end in a tie!
Fleisher is steady, not ready to die!

Fleisher v Wolfson when Final is done,
One of those teams will be USA1!

Rosenthal/Bramley? Bart's gonna rule...
Kitty's good luck and Bart is no fool!

Jacobs takes Goodman ... it won't be ethereal.
George needs more hands for his column material.

Nickell v Val? Nickell will win.
Val will be lucky to leave with his skin!

Wildavsky v Bailey? Anyone's game...
Put the teams in a hat and pull out a name!

Howie Doing... not bad... good luck today
everyone!

Howie Doing...

