



“Trials” and Tribulations—USBC and MUSBC

**A Hand from the Online RoundRobin Qualifying...**

John Schermer and Neil Chambers of the Wildavsky squad have a long standing, super solid partnership. They have fewer bidding misunderstandings than most because they have played together so long and they trust each other hand after hand.

On this hand from the Online RR, they had an excellent auction to arrive in the 6S slam.

x pas 6 Bd 7, Dlr S 6♠ = S W William Watson ♠ 32 ♥ J972 ♦ QJ52 ♣ J75 ♠ Q98764 ♥ A4 ♦ A98 ♣ 64 John Schermer S		♠ A5 ♥ KQ1085 ♦ K43 ♣ AK9 N Neil Chambers Other table 4NT+1 N Amber Lin E ♠ KJ10 ♥ 63 ♦ 1076 ♣ Q10832 W N E S P 2NT* P 2♠* P 4♣* P 3♣* P 6♠ P 4NT* P P	
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Schermer opened 2S showing 10-13 HCP. Chambers responded 2N asking. Schermer showed a minimum and 4C was keycard. Schermer showed 2 with the queen and Chambers bid and made the slam, losing only the SK

At the other table, East/West played in 4NT on the following auction:

Lair Rathi Gerard Hoskins				
W	N	E	S	
			P	2NT=20-21
P	2NT*	P	3♥*	3H=S
P	3♠	P	4NT	4NT choice of strain and choice of level
P	P	P		

In 4NT, declarer took 11 tricks for +660 and a 13 IMP loss.

Online Qualifying continued on pages 13 & 14

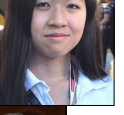
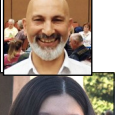
- USBF President**  
Geoff Hampson
- USBF Vice President**  
Christal Henner
- USBF COO & Secretary**  
Jan Martel
- USBF CFO & Treasurer**  
Max Schireson
- USBF Recorder**  
Jack Oest
- USBF Chief**  
Suzi Subeck
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Chris Wiegand
- Tournament Organizer**  
Jan Martel
- Software Expert**  
Al Hollander
- VuGraph Organizers**  
Rob Barrington  
Jan Martel  
Chris Wiegand
- Appeals Administrator**  
Suzi Subeck, Chairman
- Appeals Panel:**  
Wafik Abdou  
David Berkowitz  
Cheri Bjerkan  
Tommy Carmichael  
Rich DeMartino  
Marty Fleisher  
Ron Gerard  
Geoff Hampson  
Marty Hirschman  
George Jacobs  
Ralph Katz  
Chip Martel  
Jeff Meckstroth  
Kerri Sanborn  
Danny Sprung  
Adam Wildavsky
- Bulletin Editor**  
Suzi Subeck
- Hospitality**  
Marie-France Benoit  
Marge Morgan

# Open Teams: Mixed Teams:

\* = KO'd in the 10 team online RR

Bailey	Bill Bailey, Capt Daniel Korbel Joel Wooldridge	Josh Donn Roger Lee David Grainger
Baseggio	Franco Baseggio, Capt Ai-Tai Lo	Jeff Ferro Josh Sher
Bramley	Bart Bramley, Capt Greg Hinze Owen Lien	Adam Kaplan Venkatrao Koneru Aaron Jones
Davinci	Chris Compton Eddie Wold Finn Kolesnik Donna Compton, NPC	Richard Leonardon Adam Grossack Harrison Luba
Fleisher	Marty Fleisher, Capt Brad Moss Kevin Rosenberg	Chip Martel Joe Grue Brian Platnick
Goodman	Mike Passell Eric Rodwell Kevin Dwyer-Rimstedt	Doug Simson Andy Goodman Shan Huang
Han	Yanong Han, Capt Wanfeng Mou	Ming Sheng Jeff Fang
Henner	Christal Henner, Capt Debbie Rosenberg Jeff Wolfson	Uday Ivatury Max Schireson Steve Garner
Jacobs	George Jacobs, Capt Gary Cohler Larry Robbins	Claude Vogel Billy Cohen Alan Sontag
* Kolesnik	Alex Kolesnik, Capt Jiang Gu	Ron Smith Walter Lee
Kovachev	Val Kovachev, Capt Jacob Morgan	Charlie Wilkins Alex Hudson
Nickell	Nick Nickell Bobby Levin Eric Greco Jill Levin, NPC	Ralph Katz Steve Weinstein Geoff Hampson
Parrish	Adam Parrish, Capt Phil Clayton	Greg Humphreys Danny Sprung
Rathi	Anant Rathi, Capt Amber Lin Brent Xiao	Drew Hoskins Will Watson Cornelius Duffie
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken Zach Grossack	Aaron Silverstein Eldad Ginossar Michael Rosenberg
Shourie	Rajath Shourie, Capt John Kranyak John Hurd	Gavin Wolpert Vince Demuy Kevin Bathurst
Wildavsky	Adam Wildavsky, Capt Ron Gerard Neil Chambers	Doug Doub Mark Lair John Schermer
* Woolsey	Kit Woolsey Steve Beatty Mark Feldman	James Holzhauer Fred Stewart Jeff Aker
* Zheng	Vinny Zheng, Capt Ava Donnellan	Nicole Qian David Long

Bramley	Bart Bramley, Capt Kit Woolsey	Kitty Cooper JoAnna Stansby
Compton	Chris Compton, Capt Gigi Simpson Jeff Meckstroth	Donna Compton Gary Cohler Candyce Pfluger
Ding	Hong Ding, Capt Lin-huan Chen	Ming Sheng Ding-hwa Hsieh
Dinkin	Sam Dinkin, Capt Cenk Tuncok Adam Grossack	Avery Silverstein Lynn Baker Emma Kolesnik
Ge	Xin Ge, Capt Michael Rosenberg Kevin Rosenberg	Disa Eythorsdottir Debbie Rosenberg Amber Lin
Hamman	Kristen Onsgard, Capt Bob Hamman Kerri Sanborn	Mike Passell Jill Meyers Steve Sanborn
Henner	Christal Henner, Capt Steve Garner Adam Wildavsky	Uday Ivatury Shawn Quinn Pam Wittes
Kaplan	Adam Kaplan, Capt Harrison Luba Garth Yettick	Jenni Carmichael Allison Howard
Lewis	Linda Lewis, Capt Raluca Nistor Max Rotaru	Finn Kolesnik Radu Nistor Ljudmila Kamenova
Li	Music Li, Capt Genie Thai-May	Qinqin Zhang Leyi Chen
Millens	Shan Huang, Capt Sandra Rimstedt Kevin Dwyer-Rimstedt	Joan Millens Cecilia Dwyer-Rimstedt
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken Eldad Ginossar	Migry Campanile Olivia Schireson Dana Berkowitz
Rubenstein	Stewart Rubenstein, Capt Joe Grue Zach Grossack	Anam Tebha Jenny Wolpert Giorgia Botta
Smid_Sarnow	Ariel Smid-Sarnow, Capt Philip Wang	Julie Arbit Nicole Qian
Zhang	Sylvia Shi, Capt Susan Zhang Janice Molson	Daniel Korbel Eddie Wold Geoff Hampson



Lovebridge practice sessions IN ROOM 1321			
Day	Date	Time (CDT)	
Sunday	April 12	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	
Tuesday	April 21	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	

PRE-TOURNAMENT CAPTAINS & PLAYERS MEETINGS Live in Room 1321 & On Zoom			
Event	Day	Date	Time (CDT)
Open	Sunday	April 12	9:00 PM
Mixed	Tuesday	April 21	9:00 PM



# Play, Practice, Captains' Meetings Open & Mixed Schedules

OPEN SCHEDULE			
Day	Date	Time (CDT)	Boards
<b>Round ROBIN (Based on 16 TEAMS)</b> (Click Here for Playing Room Assignments WHEN AVAILABLE)			
Monday	April 13	10:00 - 11:25	Round 1 Boards 1-11
		11:45 - 1:10	Round 2 Boards 12-22
		80 minute Lunch Break	
		2:30 - 3:55	Round 3 Boards 23-33
		4:15 - 5:40	Round 4 Boards 34-44
Tuesday	April 14	6:00 - 7:25	Round 5, Boards 45-55
		10:00 - 11:25	Round 6 Boards 1-11
		11:45 - 1:10	Round 7 Boards 12-22
		80 minute Lunch Break	
		2:30 - 3:55	Round 8 Boards 23-33
Wednesday	April 15	4:15 - 5:40	Round 9 Boards 34-44
		6:00 - 7:25	Round 10, Boards 45-55
		10:00 - 11:25	Round 11 Boards 1-11
		11:45 - 1:10	Round 12 Boards 12-22
		80 minute Lunch Break	
Thursday	April 16	2:30 - 3:55	Round 13 Boards 23-33
		4:15 - 5:40	Round 14 Boards 34-44
		6:00 - 7:25	Round 15, Boards 45-55
		Quarterfinal	
		Friday	April 17
12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2 Boards 16-30		
75 minute Lunch Break			
3:30 - 5:30	Segment 3 Boards 31-45		
5:45 - 7:45	Segment 4 Boards 46-60		
Saturday	April 18	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
Sunday	April 19	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 9 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 10 Boards 16-30
		75 minute Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 11 Boards 31-45
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 12 Boards 46-60
Semifinal			
Monday	April 20	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 13 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 14 Boards 16-30
		75 minute Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 15 Boards 31-45
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 16 Boards 46-60
Tuesday	April 21	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 17 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 18 Boards 16-30
		60 minute Break	
		3:15 - 5:15	Segment 19 Boards 31-45
		5:30 - 7:30	Segment 20 Boards 46-60

Mixed Schedule			
Day	Date	Time	Boards
<b>Round Robin (Assumes 13 or 14 teams; with 15 or 16 will be same as open)</b> (Click Here for Playing Room Assignments WHEN AVAILABLE)			
Wednesday	April 22	10:00 - 11:30	Round 1 Boards 1-12
		11:50 - 1:20	Round 2 Boards 13-24
		100 minute Break	
		3:00 - 4:30	Round 3 Boards 25-36
		4:50 - 6:20	Round 4 Boards 37-48
Thursday	April 23	10:00 - 11:30	Segment 5 Boards 1-12
		11:50 - 1:20	Segment 6 Boards 13-24
		70 minute Break	
		2:30 - 4:00	Segment 7 Boards 25-36
		4:20 - 5:40	Segment 8 Boards 37-48
Friday	April 24	6:00 - 7:30	Segment 9 Boards 49-61
		10:00 - 11:30	Round 10 Boards 1-12
		11:50 - 1:20	Round 11 Boards 13-24
		100 minute Break	
		3:00 - 4:30	Round 12 Boards 25-36
Saturday	April 25	4:50 - 6:20	Round 13 Boards 37-48
		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
Sunday	April 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
Semifinal			
Monday	April 27	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 8 Boards 46-60
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 9 Boards 1-15
		75 minute Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 10 Boards 16-30
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 11 Boards 31-45
Tuesday	April 28	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 12 Boards 46-60
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 13 Boards 1-15
		75 minute Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 14 Boards 16-30
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 15 Boards 31-45
Final			
Wednesday	April 29	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 16 Boards 46-60
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 17 Boards 1-15
		75 minute Break	
		3:30 - 5:30	Segment 18 Boards 16-30
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 19 Boards 31-45
Thursday	April 30	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 20 Boards 46-60
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 21 Boards 1-15
		60 minute Break	
		3:15 - 5:15	Segment 22 Boards 16-30
		5:30 - 7:30	Segment 23 Boards 31-45

# Delayed Kibitzing Throughout the USBCs on the LoveBridge site!

There will be delayed kibitzing for both of the 2026 USBCs on the LoveBridge website. Live Vugraph is delayed 30 minutes or until all tables have completed play on a board, whichever is later.

## Live video commentary of Finals

In addition to your opportunity to watch the 2026 USBC play on LoveBridge Vugraph, Rob Barrington, Ewan McNay, and Adam Parrish will be hosting full day video commentary of the 2nd day of both Finals on the USBF YouTube channel at 11:30 AM and 5:00 PM EDT, on the following dates:

- April 21, Open Final, April 30, Mixed Final.

## Highlights after each stage of each event

Teams of experts, including some of the players in the USBCs, will join Rob, Ewan, and Adam for round ups of each stage of play. These BridgeCasts will be posted on the USBF YouTube channel the morning after each segment airs:

- 4/16 - Open Round Robin;
- 4/18 - Open Quarterfinal;
- 4/20 - Open Semifinal;
- 4/25 - Mixed Round Robin;
- 4/27 - Mixed Quarterfinal;
- 4/29 - Mixed Semifinal.



South bid a grand  
On the very last hand!  
Will West get a read  
And make the best lead?  
The players complain'  
While AI is explainin'!

**Kibitzing Schedule (EDT) For all KO days** of the 2026 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.

**To view a Single Table**, click on the blue arrow on the scores page. It provides the largest view of one table, with buttons to get to other information.

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

**Split View** will give you 4 panes of your window and you can put whatever you want in each of them to watch 2 side-by-side matches at once, or one match and the scores of others.

**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. Besides 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 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”. 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.

# Helpful Information for Players On Site!

## LOVEBRIDGE PRACTICE

There will be a LoveBridge practice session on Sunday, April 12 from 5-7 pm in room 1321. Players are welcome to attend. Whether you've played on LoveBridge before and just want a quick review, or are new to LoveBridge and want to become familiar with the interface, this is recommended for your comfort using this platform.

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## MASSAGES

Our wonderful massage therapist, Ela, will come to the hotel whenever there are enough people who want a massage. Hopefully, she will be coming on Sunday, April 12.

Please let Jan Martel (on site) know if you want a massage that Sunday or on any other day and Jan will arrange it.

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## HOSPITALITY

The hospitality suite (room 2321) will be open most of the day. You may watch Vugraph or get a snack when there. We are providing breakfast and lunch each day of play. **Marie France Benoit** will be our lead hostess, with help from **Jacob** and **Marge Morgan**. If you can volunteer to help with hospitality (mainly picking up last-minute things at Costco and other local stores) please let Jan Martel or Marie France know and they will put you to work!!

**Breakfast:** From 8:00-10:00 am. There will be the usual breakfast food: cereal, bagels, toast, salmon, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. Keurig coffee will be available in the hospitality suite. So long as the suite doesn't become too crowded, you are welcome to eat there.

**Lunch:** On the first three days of the Open and Mixed USBCs we will be serving a buffet lunch in the hotel restaurant. The hotel is unwilling to have people take food out of the restaurant to eat someplace else. Lunch will be served from 12:30-2:30. The second Round Robin match each day is scheduled to end at 1:10 and the third match starts at 2:30.

After the first 3 days of each event, 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 hospitality suite. Please bring a water bottle to use. 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:** please make our hosts aware of your needs and they will do their best to accommodate you.

## Playing Rooms & Player's Break Room

We have a water dispenser in the Office/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 playing in the rooms next door and across the hall, so please try to keep voices low.

# Puzzle Page ...

## What's the Point?

Find and circle all of the things with points that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell a secret message.

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

ANTENNA  
ANTLER  
ARGUMENT  
ARROW  
BACKGAMMON BOARD  
BALLPEN  
BEAK  
BIRD TALON  
COMPASS  
CONE  
CORKSCREW  
CRAYON

DART  
DECIMAL  
FINGER  
FISH HOOK  
FORK  
ICE PICK  
ICICLE  
JAVELIN  
KNIFE  
NAIL  
NOSE  
PENCIL

PINE NEEDLE  
POINTER STICK  
PYRAMID  
QUILL  
RHINOCEROS HORN  
ROCKET  
SCALPEL  
SCISSORS  
SEWING NEEDLE  
SHARK TOOTH  
SHERIFF'S BADGE  
SPEAR

SPIKE  
STAPLE  
STAR  
STYLUS  
SWORD  
THORN  
THUMB TACK  
TOOTHPICK  
TRIANGLE  
TRIDENT  
VULCAN EAR  
WOODEN STAKE



Do your part.  
Bid one heart!

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

Sudoku 1

### Interesting Facts about Sudoku

- What is Sudoku? 'Su' in Japanese means numbers while 'Doku' means single. Sudoku means single numbers. Therefore, in the sudoku game, we have to fill in numbers without repetition.

- The Times in London helped spread Sudoku to Western culture by publishing its first daily sudoku in 2004.

- Can you imagine that there are 5,472,730,538 possible sudoku puzzles?

- Playing sudoku daily can boost your concentration, ease depression and even prevent Alzheimer's disease.

Why did the football coach go to the bank? To get his quarter back.

Why can't a leopard hide? He's always spotted.

Air used to be free at the gas station, now it costs 2.50. You want to know why? Inflation.

I tried to get a smart car the other day but they sold out too fast. Why? I guess I'm just a bit slow.

Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut? He just wanted a bit more space.

Why did the orange lose the race? It ran out of juice.

How you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch.

# Hard Sudoku

## Sudoku Solutions on Page 12

Sudoku 2

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



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



# World Bridge News...



Site of the **World Bridge Series 2026, Katowice, Poland...**

**August 20-September 3, 2026**

The event will be hosted at the spectacular MCK – International Congress Centre, one of the most important venues for major events in Poland. Designed by JEMS Architekci, the Congress Centre offers vast, flexible spaces and a striking atmosphere that feels both futuristic and industrial, an ideal setting for a world-class international championship.

For complete information including the schedule of events, go to:

<https://championships.worldbridge.org/2026-world-bridge-series>



**Mazhar Jafri**, a stalwart of World Bridge, a member of the WBF Executive Council from his election in 1980 until 2018, a WBF Vice-President from 1991-2018, passed away on March 14th in Karachi.

His enormous contributions to world bridge were recognized by the World Bridge Federation and in 1998 in Lille, France, he was elected to the WBF Committee of Honor and awarded the WBF Gold Pin. In 2004 in Istanbul, he was awarded the WBF Gold Medal.

Mazhar was a Founder Member of the Bridge Federation of Asia and the Middle East (BFAME) and a Zone IV Representative to the WBF Council for four decades from 1979 to 2019. His a record of service speaks for itself.

As President of BFAME from 1995 to 2003 and subsequently as President Emeritus, he shaped the development of bridge across an entire zone with vision, integrity, and quiet determination.

The World Bridge Federation is deeply grateful to have counted Mr. Jafri among its most dedicated ambassadors and greatest volunteers. His influence on the governance and international growth of our sport will not be forgotten.

The world bridge community will miss Mr. Jafri's enthusiastic approach to growing the game as well as his kindness and respect to both players and administrators throughout his years of service on the WBF Executive Council.



# A Little Humor!

Did you hear about the circus fire? It was in tents!  
How do you catch a squirrel? Climb a tree and act like a nut!  
Did you hear about the guy who invented Lifesavers? They say he made a mint!  
I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug.  
Why don't eggs tell jokes? They might crack up!  
What did the big flower say to the little flower? "Hi, bud!"  
I went to buy some camouflage pants, but I couldn't find any.  
What did the grape say when it got stepped on? Nothing, it just let out a little wine.  
I used to have a job at a calendar factory, but I got fired because I took a couple of days off.  
What do you call a snowman with a six-pack? An abdominal snowman!  
Why don't skeletons fight each other? They don't have the guts!  
Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food, no atmosphere!  
What did one wall say to the other wall? I'll meet you at the corner!  
Why did the math book look sad? Because it had too many problems!  
What did one hat say to the other hat? You stay here, I'll go on ahead!  
Why did the coffee file a police report? It got mugged!  
I used to be a baker, but I couldn't make enough dough.  
Did you hear about the guy who got hit in the head with a can of soda? He was lucky it was a soft drink.  
I'm writing a book about glue, but I'm stuck on the first chapter.  
What did one plate whisper to the other plate? Dinner is on me.  
Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants? In case he got a hole in one.  
Two sheep walk into a—baaaa.  
Stop looking for the perfect match; use a lighter.  
Try the seafood diet—you see food, then you eat it.  
Did you hear the rumor about butter? Well, I'm not going to go spreading it!  
What's Forrest Gump's password? 1forrest1  
What state is known for its small drinks? Minnesota.  
What does a nosey pepper do? It gets jalapeño business.  
If two vegetarians get in an argument, is it still called a beef?  
I have a clean conscious—it's never been used.  
I love telling Dad jokes. Sometimes, he even laughs.  
What's the difference between a man's wallet before and after kids? There are pictures where the money used to be.  
I haven't spoken to my wife in four years. I thought it would be rude to interrupt her!  
I wish my gray hair started in Las Vegas because what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.  
How do you follow Will Smith in the Mud? Follow the fresh prints.  
My kid is blaming me for ruining their birthday. That's ridiculous, I didn't even know it was today!  
When a toddler reaches the "why?" stage, it's like opening a bottle of champagne—it's uncorked and there's no going back.  
What's 90 degrees but covered with ice? The North and South Poles.  
What happened when the blue ship and the red ship collided at sea? Their crews were marooned.



*(Continued on page 11)*



		Players						Colors						Numbers								
		Alford	Dean	Ingram	Jacobson	Moore	Oliver	Quinn	black	blue	green	orange	red	white	yellow	24	28	30	37	38	45	49
Sizes	6																					
	7																					
	8																					
	9																					
	10																					
	11																					
	12																					
Numbers	24																					
	28																					
	30																					
	37																					
	38																					
	45																					
	49																					
Colors	black																					
	blue																					
	green																					
	orange																					
	red																					
	white																					
	yellow																					

**Answer to Puzzle  
on page 12  
Bottom of Page**

Sizes	Players	Colors	Numbers
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

1. Moore's shirt is 2 sizes larger than number 38.
2. Dean's jersey is blue.
3. Quinn's shirt isn't red.
4. Neither the size 7 jersey nor the black shirt is number 30.
5. Of the size 10 shirt and Ingram's jersey, one is green and the other is number 49.
6. Jacobson's jersey isn't number 24.
7. The red shirt is 2 sizes larger than number 37.
8. Number 24 is larger than the black jersey.
9. The size 11 jersey isn't number 30.
10. Oliver's jersey is a size 7.
11. The blue shirt is 1 size smaller than Oliver's shirt.
12. Number 28 is either Oliver's shirt or the orange shirt.
13. Number 45 is 1 size larger than Dean's shirt.
14. Number 45 isn't white.
15. Number 30 is either Moore's shirt or the green shirt.
16. Quinn's jersey isn't a size 11.
17. The blue shirt is 2 sizes smaller than number 37.
18. Neither the size 6 shirt nor the red jersey is Jacobson's shirt.
19. Ingram's shirt isn't a size 9.

# Meet the Players



John is playing in this USBC as a member of the Shourie team.

**John Hurd** graduated from Charleston College as a geology major. He started playing bridge at the age of eleven with his father. John is a super steady player. When he doubles, declarers go down!

From John's BridgeWinners profile:

Favorite Bridge Memory: Yeh brothers victory or any game I play with my father :)

Bridge Accomplishments: 2 World Junior Titles, 12 NABC wins, 8 NABC seconds, 4 USA team trials wins, 2 bronzes/1 Silver in Worlds... and many more since this was posted!

Regular Bridge Partners: Kevin Bathurst, Gillian Minitier, Vince Demuy, John Kranyak, Gavin Wolpert, Joe Grue, Melanie Tucker, Susan Schnelwar, Joel Wooldridge

Favorite Tournaments: Yeh Brothers, Charleston/Greenville/Hawaii regionals, Biarritz summer bridge festival

BBO Username: Johnhurd

ACBL Ranking: Grand Life Master

What's the difference between the bird flu and the swine flu? One requires tweetment and the other an oinkment.

What do you call a line of men waiting to get haircuts? A barberqueue.

Why do seagulls fly over the sea? If they flew over the bay, they would be bagels.

I'm thinking I should do lunges to stay in shape. That would be a big step forward.

What did the baby corn say to the mama corn? Where's popcorn?

What vegetable is cool, but not *that* cool? Radish.

What do you call two monkeys who share an Amazon Prime account? Prime mates.

You can't spell par entry without "try."

What do you call a beehive without an exit? Un-bee-lievable.

Why did the football coach go to the bank? To get his quarter back.

Why can't a leopard hide? He's always spotted.

Air used to be free at the gas station, now it costs 2.50. You want to know why? Inflation.

I tried to get a smart car the other day but they sold out too fast. I guess I'm just a bit slow.

Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut? He just wanted a bit more space.

Why did the orange lose the race? It ran out of juice.

How you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch.

Why are fish so smart? They live in schools!

What's the best thing about Switzerland? I don't know, but the flag is a big plus.

Why did the man fall down the well? Because he couldn't see that well!

Why do peppers make such good archers? Because they habanero.

What did the sink tell the toilet? You look flushed!

Where do boats go when they're sick? To the dock.

What has ears but cannot hear? A cornfield!

Can February March? No, but April May!

Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7 *ate* nine!

I'm so good at sleeping that I do it with my eyes closed.

What do you call a pencil with two erasers? Pointless.

Did you hear the one about the roof? Never mind, it's over your head.

I hated facial hair but then it grew on me.

It really takes guts to be an organ donor.

What did the plumber say to the singer? Nice pipes.

Humor, continued from p. 9



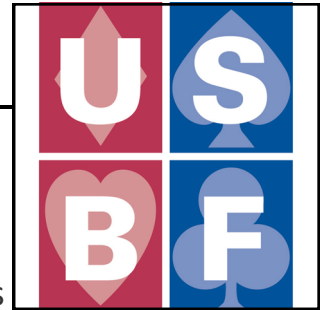
9	3	1	6	8	4	7	2	5
8	7	4	5	3	2	6	9	1
5	2	6	1	7	9	4	3	8
1	5	7	2	6	8	3	4	9
4	8	3	7	9	5	1	6	2
6	9	2	3	4	1	8	5	7
2	6	8	4	5	7	9	1	3
3	1	9	8	2	6	5	7	4
7	4	5	9	1	3	2	8	6

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

# Sudoku Answers Puzzles on Page 7

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.

I'm thinking I should do lunges to stay in shape. That would be a big step forward.  
 What did the baby corn say to the mama corn? Where's popcorn?  
 What vegetable is cool, but not *that* cool? Radish.  
 What do you call two monkeys who share an Amazon Prime account? Prime mates.  
 What do you call a beehive without an exit? Un-bee-lievable.



## Answer to Logic Puzzle On Page 10

12	Ingram	Green	30
11	Jacobson	Orange	28
10	Alford	Red	49
9	Quinn	White	24
8	Moore	Black	37
7	Oliver	Yellow	45
6	Dean	Blue	38

In Match 20, April 1, Rathi faced Woolsey.

## 2026 Open USBC Qualification Stage Match 20, 4/1 at 7:00 pm

26

**RATHI**  
Brent Xiao & Cornelius Duffie  
William Watson & Amber Lin

0

**WOOLSEY**  
fred stewart & Steve Beatty  
Jeff Aker & Mark Feldman

Bd	Table 1	Lead	NS	EW	Table 2	Lead	NS	EW	IMP	IMP	
1	2♣-2 N	♦J		100	1NT-2 S	♦2		100	-	-	
2	3NT-1 E	♠3	50		3NT= E	♠3		400	10		
3	4♠+1 S	♣J	450		4♠+1 S	♥K	450		-	-	
4	4♥+1 N	♦7	650		4♠-2 E	♦J	200		10		
5	3NT-1 W	♥3	50		3NT-1 W	♣8	50		-	-	
6	3NT-1 W	♦2	100		2NT= W	♦2		120	6		
7	4♠= E	♥A		620	4♠= E	♦5		620	-	-	
8	1NT= W	♦6		90	1NT= W	♦6		90	-	-	
									<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>
									<b>VP</b>	17.69-2.31	

The Woolsey team must have felt they were victims of an April Fool’s prank. Rathi scored 26-0 against them over the course of eight boards. That is a big score when you consider that the Rathi squad includes 3 “young” players (with Will Watson) while Woolsey was fielding 4 seniors with many more years of experience. The first of the two 1 IMP swings occurred on Board 2. Both tables arrived in 3NT from East and received the lead of the S3.

♠ A954

Bd 2, Dlr E

♥ Q962

3NT-1 E

♦ 1032

♣ J10

W Steve Beatty

N Brent Xiao

Other table

3NT= E

fred stewart E

♠ 82

♥ K84

♦ KJ84

♣ AQ85

Open Room

♠ KQ7

♥ J75

♦ AQ6

♣ 9432

♠ J1063

♥ A103

♦ 975

♣ K76

Cornelius Duffie S

W	N	E	S
		1♠*	P
1♦	P	1NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

♠ A954

Bd 2, Dlr E

♥ Q962

3NT= E

♦ 1032

♣ J10

W Amber Lin

N Jeff Aker

Other table

3NT-1 E

William Watson E

♠ 82

♥ K84

♦ KJ84

♣ AQ85

Closed Room

♠ KQ7

♥ J75

♦ AQ6

♣ 9432

♠ J1063

♥ A103

♦ 975

♣ K76

Mark Feldman S

W	N	E	S
		1♣	P
1♦	P	1NT	P
3NT	P	P	P

In the Closed Room where 3NT yielded nine tricks, Aker won the SA and continued spades to Watson’s K. Watson played a club to dummy’s 8 and Aker’s 10. Aker continued spades, clearing the suit. Watson finessed against the CK. He cashed the CA, led a D to the A, cashed the C4 and claimed his 9 tricks! +400

In the Open Room, where 3NT yielded 8 tricks, Xiao won trick one with the SA. He continued spades to Stewart’s K and Stewart led a club to the ace. Stewart played a diamond from dummy to the Q and was at the crossroads. He played the C9 from hand and when South played small, he needed to play the Q to capture North’s jack. To be successful, he could only afford one loser in clubs to go along with the obvious 2 spades and 1 heart. Sadly for team Woolsey, Stewart chose to run his C9 to Xiao’s Jack, enabling the defense to collect 2 clubs, two spades and 1 heart, defeating the cold game.

The second 10 IMP swing in Rathi/Woolsey came two boards later on Board 4.

Bd 4, Dlr W 4♥+1 N		♠ — ♥ QJ975 ♦ AK10654 ♣ KQ		N Brent Xiao Other table 4♠-2 E	
W Steve Beatty ♠ AK109 ♥ 86 ♦ Q832 ♣ A92		Open Room		fred stewart E ♠ Q8654 ♥ K4 ♦ 7 ♣ J10876	
0 0 < > ↻		♠ J732 ♥ A1032 ♦ J9 ♣ 543		W N E S 1♦ 1♥ 1♠ 2♥ 2♠ 4♥ P P P	
Cornelius Duffie S					

While the auctions in both rooms started out the same, they ended very differently.

In the Open Room, North/South was allowed to play peacefully in 4H making 5.

The D7 went to the Q and A. Duffie disdained the heart finesse, playing a heart to the ace and a heart back to the J and East's K. He conceded the CA and claimed his 11 tricks. +650

Bd 4, Dlr W 4♠-2 E		♠ — ♥ QJ975 ♦ AK10654 ♣ KQ		N Jeff Aker Other table 4♥+1 N	
W Amber Lin ♠ AK109 ♥ 86 ♦ Q832 ♣ A92		Closed Room		William Watson E ♠ Q8654 ♥ K4 ♦ 7 ♣ J10876	
0 0 < > ↻		♠ J732 ♥ A1032 ♦ J9 ♣ 543		W N E S 1♦ 1♥ 1♠ 3♥ 3♠ 4♦ 4♠ P P	
Mark Feldman S					

In the Closed Room, Aker/Feldman made a try for a heart slam on the N/S cards. Watson muddied the waters by bidding 4S over the 4D cue and Feldman, with only one defensive trick, didn't double. When the auction passed around to Aker, he'd based his slam try largely on his own distribution. Being unsure of defeating 4S, he quietly agreed to defend.

The DJ went to the K with North. Aker shifted to the HQ to the K and A. Watson ruffed the diamond shift in hand, played to dummy's SA noting the 4-0 split, and continued the C2 to Aker's CK. Aker cashed the HJ, insuring defeat and gave Feldman a diamond ruff for 2 down. Watson collected the rest of the tricks. -200

Note: Had South doubled with the 4 card spade holding, Watson could have held the loss to the same 200 by finessing against the SJ. And had South doubled, Watson might have considered that play... the double making it sound like the spade length was with South.

As it was, Rathi went on to Schaumburg. Woolsey was knocked out and will have a second chance next year!