

Volume 19, Issue 13
 April 24, 2026

“Trials” and Tribulations MUSBC

Results:

#		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.						
1.	Hamman				17.28			14.62	16.18	13.30	14.62	17.61	3.43	12.71	16.18		10.00	-1.00	134.93				
2.	Ge			9.63		15.10		2.39		18.99	9.63	12.71	16.75		16.93	14.62	10.00	0.00	126.75				
3.	Zhang			10.37		5.14	11.77	17.45	12.41		14.11	11.77			13.58	9.63	10.00	0.00	116.23				
4.	Dinkin			2.72		14.86		1.93		6.15	10.00	12.71		18.49	15.97		20.00	10.00	0.00	112.83			
5.	Kaplan			4.90	8.23	18.07		6.70		18.75	2.55			19.74	8.23	7.59	17.11		0.00	111.87			
6.	Smid_Sarnow				2.55		13.30		8.91	12.41	6.15		9.26		16.75	14.86	14.62	10.00	0.00	108.81			
7.	Rubenstein			5.38	17.61	7.59	13.85		11.09			8.23	7.91	4.90			18.07	10.00	0.00	104.63			
8.	Rosenthal			3.82			10.00	1.25	7.59				8.57	17.77		12.09	15.33	14.37	10.00	0.00	100.79		
9.	Lewis			6.70	1.01	5.89	7.29	17.45	13.85	11.77	11.43			9.63			15.55			0.00	100.57		
10.	Ding			5.38	10.37	8.23				12.09	2.23				3.43	8.57	18.35	20.00	10.00	0.00	98.65		
11.	Millens			2.39	7.29				10.74	15.10		10.37					13.01	11.09	3.07	14.11	10.00	0.00	97.17
12.	Bramley			16.57	3.25		1.51	0.26				7.91		16.57	6.99		14.86	6.70	17.77		0.00	92.39	
13.	Compton			7.29		6.42	4.03	11.77	3.25				11.43	8.91	5.14				9.26	10.00	0.00	77.50	
14.	Henner			3.82	3.07	10.37		12.41	5.14		4.67	4.45	1.65	16.93	13.30						0.00	75.81	
15.	Li				5.38		0.00	2.89	5.38	1.93	5.63		0.00	5.89	2.23	10.74					0.00	40.07	
16.	Bye			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		10.00	10.00	10.00		10.00	10.00							0.00	0.00	

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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jost@rcn.com
773-387-9378
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Mixed Schedule:

Mixed Schedule			
Round Robin (15 or 16 TEAMS - with 15, each team has a sit out)			
Day	Date	Time	Boards
Wednesday	April 22	10:00 - 11:25	Round 1 Boards 1-11
		11:45 - 1:10	Round 2 Boards 12-22
		2:30 - 3:55	80 minute Lunch Break
Thursday	April 23	4:15 - 5:40	Round 3 Boards 23-33
		6:00 - 7:25	Round 4 Boards 34-44
			Round 5, Boards 45-55
Friday	April 24	10:00 - 11:25	Round 6 Boards 1-11
		11:45 - 1:10	Round 7 Boards 12-22
		2:30 - 3:55	80 minute Lunch Break
Saturday	April 25	4:15 - 5:40	Round 8 Boards 23-33
		6:00 - 7:25	Round 9 Boards 34-44
			Round 10, Boards 45-55
Sunday	April 26	10:00 - 11:25	Round 11 Boards 1-11
		11:45 - 1:10	Round 12 Boards 12-22
		2:30 - 3:55	80 minute Lunch Break
Monday	April 27	4:15 - 5:40	Round 13 Boards 23-33
		6:00 - 7:25	Round 14 Boards 34-44
			Round 15, Boards 45-55
Quarterfinal			
Tuesday	April 28	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
Wednesday	April 29	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
			Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Thursday	April 30	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
Friday	April 30	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
			Segment 8 Boards 46-60
Semifinal			
Saturday	April 25	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
Sunday	April 26	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
			Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Monday	April 27	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
Tuesday	April 28	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
			Segment 8 Boards 46-60
Final			
Wednesday	April 29	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
Thursday	April 30	5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
			Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Friday	April 30	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 5 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 6 Boards 16-30
		3:15 - 5:15	60 minute Break
Saturday	April 30	5:30 - 7:30	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
			Segment 8 Boards 46-60

Mixed Entries:

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



W	N	E	S
		1♣	1♠
2♥	DBL	3♦	3♥
4♥	PASS	4♠	PASS
6♦	PASS	PASS	PASS

1C=2+ and may have up to 5D if balanced

2H=artificial,
5+diamonds, invitational or better

3D = minimum

On Board 6 of Round 6 of the RoundRobin, only one pair reached the makeable diamond slam.

Julie Arbit and Ariel Smid-Sarnow had a good auction to get there against Donna Compton and Jeff Meckstroth.

Meck led the CJ to Donna's king and Ariel's ace. Ariel played a diamond to the ace and a diamond back (snaky?) to the jack, queen and king with Meck.

Meck tried spades. Ariel won the queen with his ace.

12 tricks and 12 IMPs to Sarnow

Looking at the traveler, it is apparent that one pair stopped in a diamond partscore.

Hsieh and Chen of the Ding team had the following auction to rest in 3D:

Hsieh Hamman Chen Meyers

W	N	E	S
		1♦	PASS
1♠	PASS	1NT	PASS
3♦	PASS	PASS	PASS

1D=4+ diamonds

1NT=11-13 balanced

3D=invite

Once East opens the hand, West's hand seems too strong for an invite... especially vulnerable in IMPs. Admittedly, they could have been right and even game could have failed had the SQ not been so easily found or the diamonds 2-2... or the CK on-side...

At the other table in that match, Passell and Onsgard played in the popular 3NT game making 5. 11 IMPs to Hamman

BOARD: 6
DEALER: EAST
VULNERABLE: E-W

Par: -1370

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	5	1	6	5	2
EW	7	12	6	7	9

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	IMP			
					NS	EW	Home	Visiting
Bramley	Millens	Open 3N	W	♣2	+2	660	-	-
Compton	Smid_Sarnow	Open 6♦	E	♣J	=	1370		12
Ding	Hamman	Open 3N	W	♣6	+2	660		11
Ge	Li	Open 3N	E	♥4	=	600	1	
Henner	Zhang	Open 3N	W	♠Q	+2	660		1
Kaplan	Rosenthal	Open 3N	E	♥4	+1	630		1
Lewis	Rubenstein	Open 3N	E	♥4	+1	630		2

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.



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.

Wonder what the hand's about.
Did the double show some doubt?

Helpful Information for Players On Site!

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.



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.

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.

NEW: The hotel has requested we use coupons for the in restaurant lunches we are providing. Please see your team captain to get a coupon on days when meals are being provided in the hotel dining room.

Chocolate

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining 55 letters spell a secret message.

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

ADDICTIVE
BAKING
BARS
BITTERSWEET
BROWNIES
CAKES
CANDY
CHIPS
CHOCOLATIERS
COCOA

CONFECTIONERY
COOKIES
CREAM PIE
CUPCAKE
DARK
DECADENT
DELICIOUS
DESSERT
DRINKS

FILLING
FONDUE
FOOD
FUDGE
ICE CREAM
ICING
INGREDIENT
MILK
MOUSSE

PUDDING
SEMISWEET
SUGAR
SWISS
SYRUP
TREAT
TRUFFLES
UNSWEETENED
WHITE



I'm not a bard!
I am a card!

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

Sudoku 1

When I was young, I wanted to be a dolphin, but as I got older, my sense of porpoise faded away.

Did you hear that Rudolph and Dasher got sponsored by a coffee company this year? It actually makes sense, because they're Santa's Star Bucks.

I bought some shoes from a drug dealer the other day. I don't know what he laced them with, but I've been tripping all day.

Did you hear about the Army commander who planted 1500 saplings near the North Korean border? Yeah, he felt the key to security in the region was more infant-tree on the ground.

If you're considering working in a prison library, you'll need to consider both the prose and the cons.

What'd the pirate say on his 80th birthday? Aye matey!

It turns out that Diet Mountain Dew is the same price in vending machines on campus as it is at local grocery stores, so I'm not losing any money buying it cold and fresh. Nobody can say I haven't done my Dew diligence.

Why are Lab-Collie crosses so good in teams? They're natural Collaboradors!

Hard Sudoku

Sudoku Solutions on Page 12

Sudoku 2

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



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



World Bridge News...

Deirdre O'Halloran

Deirdre O'Halloran (Ireland), playing under the BBO username Madra1, has won the **32nd WBF Women's Online Bridge Festival**.

With a strong final sprint, she surged to the top of the leaderboard, securing first place!

As overall winner, Deirdre receives a prestigious prize: free entry for herself and a partner of her choice to the Women's Pairs Championship at the [WBF World Bridge Series 2026](#), to be held in Katowice, Poland.

All details about the Festival and prizes are available here: <https://news.bridgebase.com/womens-online-festival-prizes/>

The next edition of the **WBF Women's Online Festival** on BBO will take place **9 – 15 November 2026**.

Article written by Francesca Canali and published on the WBF site: worldbridge.org



Tongue-Twister champion arrested. D.A. seeking tough sentence.

I've started a chicken dating site. Not full time, but enough to make hens meet.

The largest mountains are always tired. It seems they don't Everest.

Local apartment building has one unit left. It's last, but not leased.

Man injured in bizarre Peek-A-Boo accident. He's in ICU.

Butterflies are not what they used to be.

I can't believe it has been a year since I didn't become a better person.

Life and Beer are very similar. Chill for best results.

I'm not bossy. I just know what you should be doing.



(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 12)

What's made of leather and sounds like a sneeze? A shoe!!

Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut? He needed some space.

What kind of grades do pirates get in school? High C's

Why don't cows drive? Because they can't steer!

What do you call a cow that jumps from tree to tree like Tarzan? A Bovine.

Did you hear about the Scottish hydrology student preparing for final exams? She really locked in.

I had a great pun lined up about cheddar, but it was way too cheesy.

Did you hear the police found a misspelled message written in blood? Yeah, they suspect it was a type-o.

Trigonometry is so confusing. I wish I understood sine language.

How do you catch a one-of-a-kind rabbit? Unique up on it.

I just can't stop putting things in the storage underneath my roof. I'm attic-ted.

What do you call a small soda *without* a tiny apple floating inside? Miniappleless Minisoda

Did you hear about the fish who got surprised by the Gulf Stream? Yeah, he hadn't stayed abreast of current affairs!

I fired my masseuse today. He just rubbed me the wrong way

Why are two helium isotopes so funny? HeHe!

What do you call the lettuce left over after you make a salad? The Remainder!

Did you hear about the man who lost the ability to hear low and midrange frequencies? He was in a world of treble.

Why did the ghost cross the road? To get to the Other Side.

Ever wonder about the origins of the phrase "In a pickle"? Well, else would you call such a Dill-emma?

If you're ever attacked by a group of clowns, go for the juggler.

What do you call having too many dogs? A roverdose.

What's the difference between Batman and a shoplifter? Batman can go into a store without Robin.

Why did the patron at the Indian restaurant ask so many questions about the menu? He was just curry-ous.



	Barbara	Deborah	Martha	Nancy	Wanda	Bates	Jones	Parnell	Robinson	Smith	1 week	1 week	2 weeks	2 weeks	3 weeks	bird watching	fishing	hiking	photography	rock climbing	4 years	6 years	8 years	10 years	12 years
Edward																									
John																									
Michael																									
Stewart																									
Tom																									
4 years																									
6 years																									
8 years																									
10 years																									
12 years																									
bird watching																									
fishing																									
hiking																									
photography																									
rock climbing																									
1 week																									
1 week																									
2 weeks																									
2 weeks																									
3 weeks																									
Bates																									
Jones																									
Parnell																									
Robinson																									
Smith																									

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

First Name	First Name	Last Name	Vacation Time	Favorite Activity	# of Years Married

Michael rented his cabin in the mountains to five couples over the course of the summer months. Each couple stayed at least a week; some stayed as long as three weeks. By coincidence, this year each of the couples celebrated their anniversary during their stay and each couple had a passion for a different recreational activity. Determine each couple's full name, how long they stayed, what each couples' favorite recreational activity was, and how many years of marriage each couple celebrated on their anniversary.

- Martha Jones stayed one week less than the couple who enjoyed nature photography. Wanda didn't like rock climbing. Barbara loved fishing and was married six years less than Mr. and Mrs. Bates.
- The two couples who stayed for two weeks were the couple celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary and the Parnells. The couple who had been married for 12 years didn't like hiking, but they stayed at the

- cabin longer than the Stewart and his wife did.
- Edward wasn't married to Martha, but he did enjoy bird watching. Tom and his wife Nancy had been married six years longer than the Robinsons.
- The couple who enjoyed rock climbing were celebrating an anniversary four years longer than John's anniversary, but two years shorter than the couple whose last name was Bates.
- Barbara and her husband stayed at the cabin for three weeks, but they were not the couple who had been married for 6 years. Mr. and Mrs. Smith stayed for one week, but rock climbing wasn't their favorite activity.
- Stewart was celebrating his 8th anniversary but Deborah wasn't his wife. Michael and his wife, who wasn't Deborah, loved nature photography. The couple who enjoyed hiking celebrated their 10th anniversary.

Meet the Players



Joe Grue from Minneapolis, Minnesota is a gamesman extraordinaire. He claims that his backgammon is better than his bridge. He loves high stakes poker and baseball. His teammates refer to him affectionately as "Joe Boo".

From Joe's BridgeWinners Profile:

3 World Junior Championships, Blue Ribbon pairs (3) 2015,2017,2018, Mitchell Bam 2018, Bermuda bowl 2017, Reisinger 2006, Spingold 2016, Vanderbilt 2012 , North American Swiss 2008,NAP A 2011, 2nds: GNT championship flight 2009,Vanderbilt 2011, Spingold 2013,Jacoby swiss 2015, Blue ribbon pairs 2016, GNT championship flight 2019, North American Swiss 2021

Joe is playing in the Open as a member of the Fleisher team. He is also registered in the Mixed as part of the Rubenstein team.

Don't spell part backward. It's a trap.

I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

Thanks for explaining the word "many" to me, it means a lot.

Did you hear they arrested the devil? Yeah, they got him on possession.

I got a new pair of gloves today, but they're both lefts which, on the one hand, is great, but on the other, it's just not right.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

I was addicted to the hokey pokey... but thankfully, I turned myself around.

The man who created autocorrect has died. Restaurant in peace.

The first time I got a universal remote control, I thought to myself, "This changes everything."

I refused to believe the road worker was stealing from his job, but when I went to his home, all the signs were there.

I recently decided to sell my vacuum cleaner — all it was doing was gathering dust.

Keep the dream alive — hit your snooze button.

It sure takes a lot of balls to golf the way I do.

For a while, Houdini would use a trap door in every single one of his shows. I guess you could say he was going through a stage.

I didn't like my beard at first, but it grew on me.

Give me the calculator. Friends don't let friends derive drunk.

I doubt, therefore, I might be.

I used to have a handle on life, but then it broke.

I had an "hourglass" figure, but then the sand shifted.

When everything is coming your way — you're in the wrong lane.

I once saw two people wrapped in a barcode and had to ask, "Are you an item?"

I, for one, like Roman numerals.

A termite walks into the bar and asks, "Is the bar tender here?"

Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.

What vitamin helps you to see? Vitamin C.

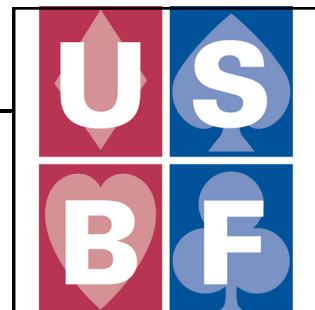
A Little Humor!

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

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

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.

(Continued from page 8)

Underwear bandit caught. Admits brief crime spree.

Eat alphabet soup. Have a vowel movement.

Dr. Pepper is a fizzicist.

The Pillsbury Doughboy is my roll model.

Alaskan Eye Doctors are Optical Aleutians



(Continued on page 9)

Answer to Logic Puzzle On Page 10

First Name	First Name	Last Name	Vacation Time	Favorite Activity	# of Years Married
Tom	Nancy	Bates	2 weeks	hiking	10 years
Stewart	Martha	Jones	1 week	rock climbing	8 years
Michael	Wanda	Farnell	2 weeks	photography	12 years
John	Barbara	Robinson	3 weeks	fishing	4 years
Edward	Deborah	Smith	1 week	bird watching	6 years

BOARD: 9
DEALER: NORTH
VULNERABLE: E-W

♠ T7
♥ KQT75
♦ 74
♣ J943

♠ Q82
♥ 964
♦ Q62
♣ QT65

♠ AK9543
♥ A2
♦ JT3
♣ 72

Par: 420

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	8	8	10	5	6
EW	4	4	3	7	7

♠ J6
♥ J83
♦ AK985
♣ AK8

Home team Visiting team Room By = IMP

NS EW Home Visiting

4H is makeable on Board 9 and at 7 tables, it was bid and played successfully.

At 2 tables, it was bid and failed... one in Compton/Sarnow and one in Ge/Li.

At both of those tables, the play followed suit!!

Both East players led the SA followed by the SK. They exited their hands with the C7 to dummy's ace.

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	IMP
					NS EW Home Visiting
Bramley	Millens	Open	3♠	E ♦A	-2 200
		Closed	4♥	N ♠K	= 420
Compton	Smid_Sarnow	Open	3♥	N ♠A	+1 170
		Closed	4♥	N ♠A	-2 100
Ding	Hamman	Open	4♥	N ♠A	= 420
		Closed	4♥	N ♠K	= 420
Ge	Li	Open	4♥	N ♣7	= 420
		Closed	4♥	N ♠A	-2 100
Henner	Zhang	Open	3♠	E ♦A	-1 100
		Closed	3♥	N ♣7	= 140
Kaplan	Rosenthal	Open	4♥	N ♠A	= 420
		Closed	3♥	N ♠K	= 140
Lewis	Rubenstein	Open	4♥	N ♠K	= 420
		Closed	4♥	N ♠A	= 420

6 The DA and DK were cashed.

At this juncture, ruffing a third diamond makes the hand easy with the diamond suit splitting 3-3.

Declarer can knock out the HA, wins whatever East returns, and pull the last trump.

If East returns a heart, declarer will win in dummy with the jack and run the diamonds, now established for two discards. Declarer will throw away their losing clubs.

If East returns a club, declarer can win the club in dummy with the king, draw the last trump with dummy's jack and run the diamonds, throwing away their losing clubs.

At both of the tables, the declarers played a small heart to the king and East's ace. In both cases, East returned a small club giving declarer a losing option should they choose to take it!

Both declarers took the losing option and ducked the club in dummy allowing East to win with their CQ and adding insult to injury, East was able to return a third club and give West a club ruff to defeat the contract not one, but two tricks!

Contract down 2... 7 IMPs to Compton and 7 IMPs to Kaplan

W	N	E	S
		PASS	2♣
PASS	2♦	PASS	2NT
PASS	3♣	DBL	3♥
PASS	4♥	PASS	PASS

3H=C stopper

DDS

♠ A52
♥ T542
♦ 963
♣ T76

N Jenni Carmichael

♠ J874
♥ 8763
♦ A72
♣ Q8

W Chris Willenken

Open Room

♠ T6
♥
♦ QJT84
♣ AJ5432

E Olivia Schireson

♠ KQ93
♥ AKQJ9
♦ K5
♣ K9

S Adam Kaplan

OTHER ROOM:
W 4♦^x = -710

SOUTH 4♥ NS 0 EW 0

There was a big 16 IMP swing on Board 10 in Kaplan/Rosenthal.

In the Open Room, with almost no opponent interference in the auction, Carmichael/Kaplan played in 4H, easy to make with the CA onside.

Eight other pairs bid the same game, some taking 11 tricks and some taking 10... Two pairs failed to make the game.

W	N	E	S
		PASS	2♣
PASS	2♦	3NT	DBL
PASS	PASS	4♣	PASS
PASS	DBL	PASS	PASS
4♦	DBL	PASS	PASS
PASS			

2C=strong
2D=GF
3NT=undiscussed
Dbl=penalty

DDS

♠ A52
♥ T542
♦ 963
♣ T76

N Andrew Rosenthal

♠ J874
♥ 8763
♦ A72
♣ Q8

W Allison Howard

Closed Room

♠ T6
♥
♦ QJT84
♣ AJ5432

E Garth Yettick

♠ KQ93
♥ AKQJ9
♦ K5
♣ K9

S Migry Campanile

WEST 4♦^x

In the Closed Room of Kaplan/Rosenthal, things went quite differently.

After South's strong 2C opener and North's game forcing response, Yettick, East, bid a bold, explained as "undiscussed" 3NT, obviously intending it for the minors.

Migry doubled and Yettick ran to 4C. This passed around to Rosenthal. Andrew's doubled and everyone passed.

Andrew led the D3 to the queen, king, and Howard's ace. Howard played a diamond to the jack and cashed the DT, Migry making sure there was no ambiguity as to what she wanted, discarded the HA!! The C2 was led off dummy and Migry won her king. She cashed the SK and led a spade to Andrew's SA. Andrew played a heart, ruffed in dummy. The C3 went to declarer's good queen. Howard played the S7 and claimed 10 her tricks.

Double game swing for Kaplan ... good for 16 IMPs!

Things were less exciting at the other tables where most bid and made 4H. Two pairs took the good 5DX sacrifice while two other pairs went down in 4H. In Millens/Bramley, it was 7 to Bramley when Cooper led the CQ against the heart game to Bramley's ace. Bramley played back the DQ to the K and A and Cooper continued diamonds to Bramley's D8. Millens declaring from South, ruffed the 3rd diamond and pulled 4 rounds of trump. When spades split 4-2, she was faced with a 4th loser in the spade suit... Had Millens tested spades before pulling the last round of trump, she could have ruffed a spade in dummy and made the game. At the other table in that match, the Dwyer-Rimstedts saved in 5DX going down 1. 7 IMPs to Bramley.

BOARD: 33
 DEALER: NORTH
 VULNERABLE: NONE

♠ KJ83
 ♥ AK7
 ♦ 83
 ♣ QT62

♠ Q765
 ♥ 862
 ♦ QJ42
 ♣ J3

♠ A2
 ♥ JT9543
 ♦ 5
 ♣ K974

Par: 430

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	10	11	8	10	10
S	:	:	7	:	:
EW	3	2	5	3	3

♠ T94
 ♥ Q
 ♦ AKT976
 ♣ A85

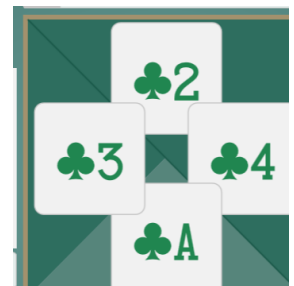
On Board 33, 11 pairs reached 3NT. With the SQ in the pocket, there are 9 tricks for the taking... but spades need to be played while there is still transportation between the North and South hands.

Eight pairs were successful.

In Hamman/Lewis, in the Open Room where Hamman was declarer, Radu Nistor led the HJ. Hamman won the HQ in dummy and ran the ST to Radu's ace. Radu shifted to a small club, trying to cut an entry to the dummy. Hamman ducked to his queen and followed with a diamond to the king followed by the S9 to the SQ, SK, S2. Hamman continued with a small club to the ace and the C8 off dummy, ducked to Radu's king. Radu played a heart and Hamman claimed 11 tricks.

In the Closed Room of that match where Linda Lewis was declarer, Onsgard led the HT won with dummy's queen. Lewis played a low diamond off dummy. Passell won his jack. Passell shifted to hearts and Lewis won her ace. The D8 went to the queen and a third heart cleared the suit. Lewis led the C2 producing this wish trick:

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP
					NS	EW Home Visiting
Bramley	Li	Open	3N	N ♥5	+1	430
		Closed	3N	N ♥T	-1	50
Ding	Zhang	Open	3N	N ♥T	=	400
		Closed	3N	N ♥J	+2	460
Dinkin	Rubenstein	Open	5♣x	N ♥J	-2	300
		Closed	3N	S ♥2	+1	430
Ge	Kaplan	Open	3N	N ♥T	+1	430
		Closed	4♠	N ♦5	+1	450
Hamman	Lewis	Open	3N	N ♥J	+2	460
		Closed	3N	N ♥T	-1	50
Henner	Rosenthal	Open	5♦	S ♥2	-1	50
		Closed	3N	N ♥J	=	400
Millens	Smid_Sarnow	Open	3Nx	N ♥J	+1	650
		Closed	3N	N ♥J	+1	430



On the very next trick, Lewis played her DA and look what happened... Two in a row!

This one was low & multi-colored... well done, everyone:

The DK was cashed but East/West had the rest of the tricks! Contract down one!

11 IMPs to Hamman

BOARD: 35
DEALER: SOUTH
VULNERABLE: E-W

♠ A973
 ♥ J76
 ♦ 876
 ♣ AKQ

♠ T8
 ♥ 94
 ♦ J53
 ♣ J96532

♠ J54
 ♥ AKT83
 ♦ 942
 ♣ T8

Par: 460

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	8	10	9	10	11
EW	5	2	4	2	2

♠ KQ62
 ♥ Q52
 ♦ AKQT
 ♣ 74

Home team		Visiting team		Room	By	=	IMP	
NS	EW	Home	Visiting					
Bramley	Henner	Open	4♠ S	♣6 +1	450			11
		Closed	5♠ S	♥9 -1	50			
Compton	Li	Open	3N S	♠T +2	460			
		Closed	3N S	♣5 +2	460			
Ding	Ge	Open	3N S	♠T +2	460			
		Closed	3N S	♣2 +2	460			
Dinkin	Zhang	Open	4♠ N	♥A =	420			
		Closed	4♠ N	♥A =	420			
Hamman	Rubenstein	Open	3N S	♠T +2	460			
		Closed	3N S	♣5 +2	460			
Kaplan	Smid_Sarnow	Open	3N S	♣2 =	400			3
		Closed	3N S	♥9 +3	490			
Lewis	Rosenthal	Open	4♠ N	♥A =	420			
		Closed	4♠ S	♥9 =	420			

Board 35 is one of those hands where North/South can collect 11 tricks in NT but only 10 tricks in spades because of the pending heart ruff. In Henner/Bramley, trying for a spade slam, Wittes, North, cued 5D and Wittes/Wildavsky found themselves one level too high in 5S. During the auction, Bramley had doubled the 3H response to Puppet Stayman and Cooper respectfully led her doubleton heart. Bramley won the HK and cashed the HA and gave Kitty her heart ruff for down one ... 11 IMPs to Bramley when at the other table, Bramley's teammates played in 4S making five.

BOARD: 38
DEALER: EAST
VULNERABLE: E-W

♠ 83
♥ QJT93
♦ Q4
♣ KT75

♠ AT7654
♥ K86
♦ T7
♣ 83

♠ Q92
♥ 75
♦ A98632
♣ 42

♠ KJ
♥ A42
♦ KJ5
♣ AQJ96

Par: 420

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	10	6	10	5	7
EW	3	7	3	8	3

There's one in every crowd!

On Board 38, every N/S pair save one played is in 4H.

Only in the Open Room of Ding/Ge did North/South, Sheng and Ding respectively, stop short of game in 2NT.

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	IMP
				NS EW Home Visiting
Bramley	Henner	Open	4♥ N ♠2 = 420	- -
		Closed	4♥ N ♠2 = 420	- -
Compton	Li	Open	4♥ S ♠A +1 450	1
		Closed	4♥ N ♠2 = 420	- -
Ding	Ge	Open	2N S ♠6 -2 100	11
		Closed	4♥ S ♦T = 420	- -
Dinkin	Zhang	Open	4♥ N ♦A = 420	- -
		Closed	4♥ N ♠2 = 420	- -
Hamman	Rubenstein	Open	4♥ S ♣8 = 420	- -
		Closed	4♥ N ♠2 = 420	- -
Kaplan	Smid_Sarnow	Open	4♥ S ♣8 = 420	- -
		Closed	4♥ N ♠2 = 420	- -
Lewis	Rosenthal	Open	4♥ S ♠A = 420	- -
		Closed	4♥ S ♦T = 420	- -

Perhaps it was the combination of West's 1S overcall and East's constructive raise that led them to think there was no making game their direction.

2NT not only fails two tricks on the lead of a spade from West, but it turned into a massive boondoggle with game cold in hearts.

Amber Lin led the S6. Ding won Kevin Rosenberg's queen with the king. Ding cashed the CQ and played a club to dummy's ten. She took the losing heart finesse to Lin's king. Lin cashed 5 rounds of spades and exited her hand with the D7 to Rosenberg's ace.

Rosenberg won his ace and declarer claimed 2 down.

In the Closed Room of Ding/Ge, Debbie and Michael Rosenberg, N/S, played in the easy heart game on the auction below, losing 1 spade, 1 heart, and 1 diamond. 11 IMPs to Ge

Hsieh Michael Chen Debbie

W	N	E	S
		PASS	2NT
PASS	3♦	DBL	3♥
PASS	4♥	PASS	PASS
PASS			

3D=hearts
3H=3 pieces

W	N	E	S
		PASS	1♣
1♠	DBL	2♥	2NT
PASS	PASS	PASS	

2H=constructive raise in spades

♠ 83
♥ QJT93
♦ Q4
♣ KT75

N Ming Sheng

♠ AT7654
♥ K86
♦ T7
♣ 83

W Amber Lin

Open Room

♠ Q92
♥ 75
♦ A98632
♣ 42

E Kevin Rosenberg

♠ KJ
♥ A42
♦ KJ5
♣ AQJ96

S Hong Ding

OTHER S 4♥

SOUTH 2NT

Cross IMPs

1.	Kristen Onsgard - Mike Passell	Hamman	1.28	112.23	88
2.	Adam Grossack - Emma Kolesnik	Dinkin	1.23	121.85	99
3.	Sandra Rimstedt - Shan Huang	Millens	1.01	33.31	33
4.	Dana Berkowitz - Eldad Ginossar	Rosenthal	0.99	76.00	77
5.	Daniel Korbel - Sylvia Shi	Zhang	0.78	68.23	88
6.	Debbie Rosenberg - Michael Rosenberg	Ge	0.77	76.00	99
7.	Anam Tebha - Stewart Rubenstein	Rubenstein	0.75	41.46	55
8.	Ariel Smid Sarnow - Julie Arbit	Smid_Sarnow	0.54	53.92	99
9.	Disa Eythorsdottir - Xin Ge	Ge	0.51	27.92	55
10.	Allison Howard - Garth Yettick	Kaplan	0.47	26.00	55
11.	Hong Ding - Ming Sheng	Ding	0.46	45.85	99
12.	Bob Hamman - Jill Meyers	Hamman	0.40	22.23	55
13.	Geoff Hampson - Janice Molson	Zhang	0.36	19.77	55
14.	Adam Kaplan - Jenni Carmichael	Kaplan	0.33	36.54	110
15.	Allison Howard - Harrison Luba	Kaplan	0.28	15.15	55
16.	JoAnna Stansby - Kit Woolsey	Bramley	0.21	23.62	110
17.	Chris Willenken - Olivia Schireson	Rosenthal	0.16	10.85	66
18.	Finn Kolesnik - Linda Lewis	Lewis	0.13	8.77	66
19.	Ljudmila Kamenova - Max Rotaru	Lewis	0.11	8.38	77
20.	Giorgia Botta - Zach Grossack	Rubenstein	0.10	7.77	77
21.	Kerri Sanborn - Steve Sanborn	Hamman	-0.04	-2.31	55
22.	Avery Silverstein - Sam Dinkin	Dinkin	-0.06	-3.31	55
23.	Donna Compton - Jeff Meckstroth	Compton	-0.08	-7.23	88
24.	Christal Henner - Uday Ivatury	Henner	-0.10	-7.92	77
25.	Radu Nistor - Raluca Nistor	Lewis	-0.15	-11.54	77
26.	Nicole Qian - Philip Wang	Smid_Sarnow	-0.16	-16.23	99
27.	Joan Millens - Shan Huang	Millens	-0.19	-12.46	66
28.	Amber Lin - Kevin Rosenberg	Ge	-0.25	-11.15	44
29.	Ding-Hwa Hsieh - Lin-Huan Chen	Ding	-0.31	-30.92	99
30.	Cecilia Dwyer-Rimstedt - Kevin Dwyer-Rimstedt	Millens	-0.33	-32.62	99
31.	Jenny Wolpert - Joe Grue	Rubenstein	-0.42	-27.85	66
32.	Bart Bramley - Kitty Cooper	Bramley	-0.47	-51.23	110
33.	Adam Wildavsky - Pam Wittes	Henner	-0.50	-33.08	66
34.	Gary Cohler - Gigi Simpson	Compton	-0.57	-31.54	55
35.	Eddie Wold - Susan Zhang	Zhang	-0.67	-37.08	55
36.	Shawn Quinn - Steve Garner	Henner	-0.73	-56.15	77
37.	Candyce Pfluger - Chris Compton	Compton	-0.79	-43.23	55
38.	Cenk Tunçok - Lynn Baker	Dinkin	-1.09	-47.77	44
39.	Genie Jiang - Leyi Chen	Li	-1.31	-144.23	110
40.	Music Li - Qinqin Zhang	Li	-1.32	-145.46	110
41.	Andrew Rosenthal - Migry Campanile	Rosenthal	-1.50	-82.54	55