

Volume 19, Issue 18  
 April 29, 2026

# “Trials” and Tribulations—MUSBC

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Results:

- USBF President**  
Geoff Hampson
- USBF Vice President**  
Christal Henner
- USBF COO & Secretary**  
Jan Martel
- USBF CFO & Treasurer**  
Max Schireson
- USBF Recorder**  
Jack Oest  
jost@rcn.com  
773-387-9378
- USBF Chief**
- Communications Officer**  
Suzi Subeck
- Directors**  
McKenzie Myers, DIC  
Ken Horwedel  
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  
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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

FINAL SCORE											CROSS IMP	BOARDS
Table	Σ	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	IMP Corr.		
1 Rosenthal	175	17	17	28	28	8	24	29	24	0		
Hamman*	199	32	30	32	41	26	17	16	5	0		
2 Zhang*	200	17	33	5	15	36	18	35	41	0		
Ge	274.80	42.80	12	52	30	32	44	28	34	0		

## It's Ge versus Hamman today and tomorrow!

# 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
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
		3:15 - 5:15	60 minute Break
		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



**There is a  
special place  
in he'll for  
autocorrect**

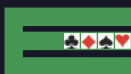
What do we want?  
An end to acronyms.  
When do we want it?  
ASAP!

Cinderella couldn't play soccer  
Because she kept running away from the  
ball!

Why can't people with bladder problems  
print files?  
Because they can't control P!

What's the best present to give? A broken  
drum... No one can beat that!

For the first time in EBL history



## **1<sup>st</sup> European Online Transnational Mixed Teams Championship**



14 - 17 May, 2026  
Online on RealBridge

- ♠ Everybody can play - Team up across the world!
- ♠ Win EBL Medals, Master Points and entry fees to the European Transnational Championships!

**REGISTER BY 7 MAY 2026**

Need a partner or team mates?  
Check the Partnership Desk!

[championships.eurobridge.org/2026-european-online-transnational-mixed-teams-championship](https://championships.eurobridge.org/2026-european-online-transnational-mixed-teams-championship)

For more information, go to:

<https://championships.eurobridge.org/2026-european-online-transnational-mixed-teams-championship>

**Consider your participation here in the Mixed USBC  
as practice for the European Online Transnationals...  
and your participation there will be practice  
for next year's hunt USA2!**



# 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.



To play this hand  
From North is tough...  
So West may get  
A diamond ruff!

**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!

**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.

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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.

**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.

# Puzzle Page ...

## Computer Jargon

Find and circle all of the computer words that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell an additional computer word.

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

ASCII	DISK	HARDWARE	PASSWORD	SOUNDCARD
BANDWIDTH	DOCUMENT	INPUT	PCI	SPYWARE
BIOS	DOWNLOAD	JAVA	PERIPHERAL	TERAFLOP
BUG	DRIVER	JPEG	PORT	TROJAN HORSE
CACHE	EMOTICON	KEYBOARD	PRINTER	UPLOAD
CHIP	ETHERNET	LINUX	REBOOT	USB
COPY	FAQ	MENU	RESOLUTION	USERNAME
CPU	FIREWIRE	MODEM	SAVE	VIRUS
CRASH	FONT	MULTIMEDIA	SCROLL	WEB BROWSER
CYBERSPACE	FREWARE	NETIQUETTE	SERVER	WINDOWS
DATABASE	GIGABYTE	OPEN	SMILEY	ZIP FILE
DESKTOP	HACKER			



I'm a King.  
That's the 2nd  
best thing!

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

Sudoku 1

I asked the IT guy, "How do you make a motherboard?" and he said, "I tell her about my job."

Why are art collectors such big fans of gasoline? Because it makes their Van Gogh.

"Alright lads, a giant fly is attacking the police station. I've called the SWAT team!"

"I usually meet my girlfriend at 12:59 because I like that one-to-one time."

"By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he is too old to go anywhere." — Billy Crystal

"Proof that we don't understand death is that we give dead people a pillow." — Jerry Seinfeld

"Don't talk to me about Valentine's Day. At my age, an affair of the heart is a bypass." — Joan Rivers

"I failed math so many times in school I lost count."

"Employee of the month is a good example of how somebody can be both a winner and a loser at the same time."

"When I was a boy, I laid in my twin-sized bed and wondered where my brother was."

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Hard Sudoku

## Sudoku Solutions on Page 12

Sudoku 2

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



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



# World Bridge News...

## Fundamental Rationale for the Code and WBF's Anti-Doping Rules

Anti-doping programs seek to preserve what is intrinsically valuable about sport. This intrinsic value is often referred to as "the spirit of sport". It is the essence of Olympism, the pursuit of human excellence through the dedicated perfection of each person's natural talents. It is how we play true.

Principles and Values associated with clean sport seek to maintain the integrity of sport in terms of respect for rules, other competitors, fair competition, a level playing field, and the value of clean sport to the world.

The spirit of sport is the celebration of the human spirit, body and mind, and is reflected in values we find in and through sport, including:

- Ethics, fair play and honesty
- Health
- Excellence in performance
- Character and education
- Fun and joy
- Teamwork
- Dedication and commitment
- Respect for rules and laws
- Respect for self and other *Participants*
- Courage
- Community and solidarity

Doping is fundamentally contrary to the spirit of sport.



**PEOPLE WHO DO NOT USE  
PUNCTUATION DESERVE  
A LONG SENTENCE.**

**Tablets were replaced  
by scrolls. Scrolls were  
replaced by books. Now,  
we scroll through books  
on a tablet. 😊**

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her nameplate that her name is Patty Whack.

"Miss Whack, I'd like to get a \$30,000 loan to take a holiday."

Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it's okay, he knows the bank manager.

Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral.

The frog says, "Sure. I have this," and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed.

Very confused, Patty explains that she'll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office.

She finds the manager and says, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral." She holds up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean, what in the world is this?"

The bank manager looks back at her and says, "It's a knickknack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

Why do we tell actors to "break a leg?" Because every play has a cast.

What do you call it when a snowman throws a tantrum? A meltdown.

My uncle named his dogs Timex and Rolex. They're his watch dogs.

Did you hear about the guy whose left side was cut off? He's all right now.

What did the left eye say to the right eye? Between you and me, something smells.

I'm so good at sleeping I can do it with my eyes closed!

What do you call a pudgy psychic? A four-chin teller.

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims.

What do you call a hippie's wife? Mississippi.

How can you tell it's a dogwood tree? By the bark.

What did the pirate say when he turned 80? Aye matey.

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

What's a ninja's favorite type of shoes? Sneakers.

What's the best smelling insect? A deodor-ant.

I had a joke about paper today, but it was *tearable*.

I made song about tortilla once, now it's more like a wrap.

I found a book called *How to Solve 50% of Your Problems*, so I bought 2.

I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

I was going to tell you a joke about boxing but I forgot the punch line.

I'm not a fan of spring cleaning. Let's be honest, I'm not into summer, fall, or winter cleaning either.

I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know.

I was going to tell a time traveling joke, but you guys didn't like it.

I used to run a dating service for chickens, but I was struggling to make hens meet.

I used to hate facial hair...but then it grew on me.

What's the difference between Iron Man and Aluminum Man?

Iron Man stops the bad guy.

Aluminum Man foils their plans.



	Dolby	Harding	Mann	Richley	Waterby	1 quart	2 quarts	3 quarts	4 quarts	5 quarts	Ate them	Cooked with them	Froze them	Gave them away	Sold them
Fred															
Joshua															
Pete															
Tom															
Will															
Ate them															
Cooked with them															
Froze them															
Gave them away															
Sold them															
1 quart															
2 quarts															
3 quarts															
4 quarts															
5 quarts															

## Answer to Puzzle on page 12 Bottom of Page

First Name	Last Name	Quantity Picked	What was done with them

It's raspberry season! Tom and his friends were out walking in the woods when they discovered a whole hillside of wild raspberry bushes just loaded with ripe delicious raspberries. Tom raced back to his place to get some buckets for picking and all five of them spent the afternoon picking the luscious red berries. Determine each friend's full name, how many quarts of berries each picked, and what each one did with their berries.

- Mr. Harding picked three quarts of raspberries during the afternoon. Fred's last name wasn't Richley and he didn't give his berries away to his neighbors.
- Pete Waterby had two quarts more of berries than the man who cooked them in muffins. Will's last name wasn't Dolby.
- Will ate his berries with supper that night. Fred had more than one quart of berries.
- The man who had four quarts of berries sold his to the local market.
- Tom had more berries than Mr. Dolby but less berries than the one who froze his in the freezer for safekeeping.
- Joshua didn't bring back the least amount of raspberries, which was one quart. Mr. Richley brought back five quarts, which was the largest amount brought back.

# Meet the Players



**Janice Seamon-Molson**, from Hollywood, Florida, is a member of the WBF High Level Players Commission since 2014. She was elected to the Executive Council in 2015 and re-elected in 2018, as a representative of the HLPs.

Janice is a WBF World Grand Master, 7th in the WBF Women's Ranking and a 5 times World Champion, Montecarlo 2003, Verona 2006, Beijing 2011, Bali 2013 and Wroclaw 2016 She won the SportAccord Minds Games in 2011 in Beijing.

Janice is playing in the Mixed USBC as a member of the Zhang team with teammates: Eddie Wold, Geoff Hampson, Susan Zhang, Sylvia Shi, Daniel Korbel.

Janice is the mother of a beautiful daughter named Jennifer who is an amazing vocalist.

*(Continued from page 7)*

"My drug test came back negative. My dealer sure has some explaining to do."

"My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that."

"I looked up my family tree and found out I was the sap."

"I was playing chess with my friend and he said, 'Let's make this interesting'. So we stopped playing chess."

"Crime in multi-story car parks. That is wrong on so many different levels."

"I was raised as an only child, which really annoyed my sister."

"People who use selfie sticks really need to have a good, long look at themselves." — Abi Roberts

"A thesaurus is great. There's no other word for it." — Ross Smith

I saw a documentary on how ships are kept together. Riveting!

People who like trance music are very persistent. They don't techno for an answer.

Whiteboards are remarkable.

How do you make holy water? You boil the hell out of it.

What has a spine but no bones? A book.

What would happen if you threw all the books in the ocean? It would cause a title wave.

Did you hear that I'm reading a book about anti-gravity? It's impossible to put down.

Why did the man put his money in the freezer? He wanted cold, hard cash.

Where does 007 invest his money? In the bond market.

**A Little Humor!**

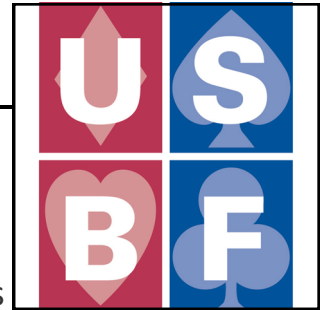
8	4	6	1	2	5	3	9	7
1	2	7	3	9	6	4	5	8
9	5	3	8	4	7	2	6	1
6	3	4	7	5	8	9	1	2
2	8	9	4	3	1	5	7	6
7	1	5	2	6	9	8	4	3
5	6	8	9	7	2	1	3	4
3	7	1	5	8	4	6	2	9
4	9	2	6	1	3	7	8	5

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

**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.

**How do you measure the quality of a pun?**



**You use a sighsmograph...**



## Answer to Logic Puzzle On Page 10

Will	Mann	1 quart	Ate them
Tom	Harding	3 quarts	Gave them away
Pete	Waterby	4 quarts	Sold them
Joshua	Richley	5 quarts	Froze them
Fred	Dolby	2 quarts	Cooked with them
First Name	Last Name	Quantity	What was done with them



# World Bridge Series

KATOWICE, POLAND  
20 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER, 2026



OPEN TO PLAYERS FROM  
ALL OVER THE WORLD

ALL INFORMATION AT:  
[championships.worldbridge.org/2026WBS](https://championships.worldbridge.org/2026WBS)

## 8 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

### TEAMS

- Open Teams
- Women's Teams
- Senior Teams
- Mixed Teams

### PAIRS

- Open Pairs
- Women's Pairs
- Senior Pairs
- Mixed Pairs



What did 20 do when it was hungry? Twenty-eight.

Why is grass so dangerous? Because it's full of blades!

Why are mountains so funny? They're hill areas.

Why wasn't the cactus invited to hang out with the mushrooms? He wasn't a fungi.

Why shouldn't you fundraise for marathons? They just take the money and run.

Why does it take pirates a long time to learn the alphabet? Because they can spend years at C!

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

Why can't you put two half-dollars in your pocket? Because two halves make a *hole*, and your money will fall out!

Why does a moon rock taste better than an Earth rock? It's a little meteor.

What kind of job can you get at a bicycle factory? A *spokesperson*

What does a condiment wizard perform? Saucery

What's the difference between spring rolls and summer rolls? Their *seasoning*.



# A TRULY FLAT Board from the third quarter on Monday!

**BOARD:** 33  
**DEALER:** NORTH  
**VULNERABLE:** NONE

♠ AK93  
♥ A985  
♦ KJT52  
♣

♠ J5  
♥ QJT643  
♦ 4  
♣ J832

♠ 7  
♥ 72  
♦ Q9876  
♣ QT764

♠ QT8642  
♥ K  
♦ A3  
♣ AK95

Par: 1520

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	9	11	9	13	13
EW	3	2	4	0	0

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP
						NS EW Home Visiting
Rosenthal	Hamman*	Open	7♠	S	♥Q	= 1510
		Closed	7♠	S	♥Q	= 1510
Zhang*	Ge	Open	7♠	S	♥Q	= 1510
		Closed	7♠	S	♥Q	= 1510

Look at that:

Same contract at every table... and it's a Grand Slam!

Same declarer at every table!

Same opening lead from West at every table!

Same result all around!

Well done!

This is Good Bridge!

And on Board 31 from Tuesday afternoon's second quarter, everyone played in NT.

Game is there.

Two tables bid the game and two disdained it.

The amazing part is that it generated no swing whatsoever with the two who bid game in Rosenthal/Hamman and the two who missed game in Zhang/Ge.

**BOARD:** 31  
**DEALER:** SOUTH  
**VULNERABLE:** N-S

♠ 8743  
♥ KJ94  
♦ 94  
♣ KT5

♠ KT  
♥ A832  
♦ A75  
♣ 9863

♠ AQ5  
♥ T7  
♦ KQT82  
♣ J74

♠ J962  
♥ Q65  
♦ J63  
♣ AQ2

Par: -400

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	5	4	6	6	4
EW	8	9	7	6	9

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP
						NS EW Home Visiting
Rosenthal	Hamman*	Open	3N	W	♠8	= 400
		Closed	3N	W	♥4	= 400
Zhang*	Ge	Open	2N	E	♠2	+1 150
		Closed	2N	W	♠8	+1 150

**BOARD:** 26  
**DEALER:** EAST  
**VULNERABLE:** ALL

♠ A43  
♥ 5  
♦ AQJT65  
♣ 832

♠ QJ52  
♥ AJ98743  
♦  
♣ QJ

♠ T976  
♥ KT  
♦ K92  
♣ 9765

♠ K8  
♥ Q62  
♦ 8743  
♣ AKT4

**Par: 600**

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	8	11	4	5	6
EW	4	2	8	7	7

On Board 26, 3 pairs played in the doomed 3NT. Berkowitz/Gino in Hamman/Rosenthal found the minor suit game and could have been successful.

They had just enough interference in the auction to avoid the 3NT pitfall. West overcalled 1H and East doubled North's 3H bid. HQxx did not look like a stopper.

Passell led the HK and a heart. Berkowitz ruffed. She played a spade to the king and a small diamond off dummy. When Onsgard discarded the H9, Dana inserted the queen and Passell won his king. Passell played the D2, to dummy's D7.

Home team		Visiting team		Room	By	=	★	IMP
NS	EW	Home	Visiting					
Rosenthal	Hamman*	Open	5♦ N	♥K	-1	100	3	
		Closed	3N S	♠2	-2	200		
Zhang*	Ge	Open	3N S	♥8	-3	300	14	
		Closed	3N S	♠Q	+2	660		

DDS

W	N	E	S
		PASS	1♣
1♥	2♦	PASS	3♦
PASS	3♥	DBL	PASS
PASS	5♦	PASS	PASS

**Table: OP 1, Round: 6**

N-S: Rosenthal  
117 IMP

E-W: Hamman\*  
178 IMP

♠ A43  
♥ 5  
♦ AQJT65  
♣ 832

**N Dana Berkowitz**

♠ QJ52  
♥ AJ98743  
♦  
♣ QJ

**W Kristen Onsgard**

♠ T976  
♥ KT  
♦ K92  
♣ 9765

**E Mike Passell**

♠ K8  
♥ Q62  
♦ 8743  
♣ AKT4

**S Eldad Ginossar**

DDS

Dana played a spade to her ace and ruffed a spade in dummy. She returned to hand, extracting the last trump. She cashed the DJ. The defense had 2 tricks in at this point. Passell pitched a spade; dummy, a club, and Onsgard, a heart.

Dana played the C2 from hand. Passell played the C7. Dana played for QJ7x with East and inserted the ten! This lost to West's jack and game went down one.

Had Dana gone up with a high club in dummy, the queen or jack would have fallen from West. She would still have to guess the suit position since she could ruff the HQ to her hand and lead another club toward the

honor/ten. Since restricted choice fails, she was likely to go down one in either case. 3 IMPs to Rosenthal when 3NT went light 2 tricks in the other room.

Debbie Rosenberg made 3NT in the Closed Room of Zhang/Ge. Wold, after overcalling 1H and still seeing the opponents bid 3NT in his face, he wisely led the SQ. Rosenberg won the ace, played a club to the ace, and played a diamond to the queen and Zhang's king. Zhang might have worked out from the lead of the SQ, that spades could not be established in time to defeat 3NT in which case a shift to partner's bid suit would be E/W's best chance. (As it is, it would produce a 3 trick defeat!). Zhang continued spades and Debbie collected 11 tricks and 14 IMPs when 3NT failed in the other room!!

**BOARD:** 16  
**DEALER:** WEST  
**VULNERABLE:** E-W

♠ AQJ7  
 ♥ A97  
 ♦ 53  
 ♣ AQ76

♠ 942  
 ♥ QT532  
 ♦ T4  
 ♣ K94

♠ T85  
 ♥ 64  
 ♦ K72  
 ♣ JT832

Par: 1520

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	10	13	11	13	13
S	:	:	12	:	:
EW	3	0	1	0	0

♠ K63  
 ♥ KJ8  
 ♦ AQJ986  
 ♣ 5

7D, 7S, and 7NT are all makeable with the DK inside three times with East and the CK on side with West. There are 4 spades, 2 hearts, 6 diamonds and 2 clubs... A grand with an over-trick??  
 3 of the 4 pairs reached a small slam.

Home team Visiting team Room By = ★ IMP  
 NS EW Home Visiting

Rosenthal	Hamman*	Open	5♦	S	♦4	+2	440	11
		Closed	6♦	S	♥2	+1	940	
Zhang*	Ge	Open	6N	N	♣J	+1	1020	2
		Closed	6♦	S	♣4	+1	940	

In the Open Room of Rosenthal/Hamman, however, Gino and Berkowitz stopped in 5D. Every bid except their final 5D bid was alerted.

W	N	E	S
PASS	1NT	PASS	2NT
PASS	3♣	PASS	4♦
PASS	4♥	PASS	4♠
PASS	4NT	PASS	5♣
PASS	5♦	PASS	PASS

1NT=24+-17  
 2NT=diamonds  
 3C=bad diamonds  
 4D=diamond slam-mish  
 4H=cue for diamonds  
 4S=cue  
 4NT=-KC  
 5C=1

♠ AQJ7  
 ♥ A97  
 ♦ 53  
 ♣ AQ76

N Dana Berkowitz

♠ 942  
 ♥ QT532  
 ♦ T4  
 ♣ K94  
 W Kristen Onsgard

✉

♠ T85  
 ♥ 64  
 ♦ K72  
 ♣ JT832  
 E Mike Passel

♠ K63  
 ♥ KJ8  
 ♦ AQJ986  
 ♣ 5

S Eldad Ginossar

SOUT  
 5♦

It is a little surprising, off but one key-card, that Gino did not bid the slam.  
 There was nothing to the play in game... and little to the play in slam.  
 Against Gino, Onsgard led the D4 and Gino won the king with the ace. He played the DQ and claimed 13 tricks.  
 At the two tables where 6D was the final contract, South asked for keycards and when North showed one, they stopped at the 6-level.  
 11 IMPs to Hamman  
 2 IMPs to Zhang when in the Open Room, Hampson and Molson played in NT instead of their minor suit fit.

**BOARD:** 43  
**DEALER:** SOUTH  
**VULNERABLE:** NONE

♠ KQ732  
 ♥ J5  
 ♦ T987  
 ♣ Q6

♠ T  
 ♥ AKQ7  
 ♦ AKJ5  
 ♣ A943

♠ 985  
 ♥ T98643  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ KJ7

Par: -980

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	0	5	0	6	0
EW	10	7	12	6	8

♠ AJ64  
 ♥ 2  
 ♦ Q643  
 ♣ T852

Only one pair out of the four tables bid the heart slam on Board 43.

Chris Willenken and Olivia Schireson, in the Closed Room of Hamman/Rosenthal, had a good auction to get there.

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP
					NS	EW
					Home	Visiting
Rosenthal	Hamman*	Open	4♥	E ♠A +2	480	11
		Closed	6♥	W ♦T =	980	
Zhang*	Ge	Open	4♥	W ♦T +2	480	-
		Closed	4♥	E ♠A +2	480	-

Notably, they had no competition from the opponents which two of the other tables did.

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface. On the left, a bidding sequence is displayed: 1♣, 1♦, 3♣, 4NT, 6♥, with responses of PASS, 1♦, 4♣, 5♦, PASS, PASS, PASS. Below this, contract information is shown: 1C=2+, 1D=hearts, 3S=splinter, 5D=0-3. The main area shows four hands: North (Bob Hamman) with ♠ T, ♥ AKQ7, ♦ AKJ5, ♣ A943; West (Chris Willenken) with ♠ KQ732, ♥ J5, ♦ T987, ♣ Q6; East (Olivia Schireson) with ♠ 985, ♥ T98643, ♦ 2, ♣ KJ7; and South (Will Mevers) with ♠ AJ64, ♥ 2, ♦ Q643, ♣ T852. A 'DDS' button is visible at the bottom left.

The play was simple:

Hamman led the DT to the 2, Q, A.

Willenken pulled trump, played a club to the king and a club to the ace, felling the queen.

He claimed 12 tricks. 11 IMPs to Rosenthal.

# Limey Jack

Hallo Colonials:

Please treat His Majesty and the Queen Consort with respect and dignity. If you get a chance to see him, he is not an avid shaker of hands. This is quite exciting to have the Royals paying a visit.

As always, Limey Jack has made you lots of shillings at the punter and hopes you will remember him come St. Swithin's Day.

The final pick of 2026 awaits. The white coats await the arrival of Howie Dung, to wit.

Hamman-Ge:

As Limey Jack and Zia were hoisting a pint, Zia opined that the system is broken. Had Zhang prevailed, they would have an ineligible player. Zia said that no way would M. Hampson be able to play as he is committed to Nickell for the 2027 Open. So a player or players can help a squad qualify but then fade out. He assured Limey Jack, however, that is not the reason he took this double fortnight away.

While Ge has 2 European players on their roster in M. Rosenberg and Disa, and Limey Jack has a special place for his own; this event belongs to M. Hamman. He brilliantly bypassed the Open USBC in order to give all to the Mixed. He is hunting for his final gold medal and Limey Jack is assured that he will find it. Whether the match is decided at the 16<sup>th</sup> pole or well before is pish tosh in the grand scheme of things. M. Hamman needs to pace himself and have the honour of hoisting the trophy.

It has been an entertaining month, and Limey Jack is fagged. It is off to the flat to catch a kip for 2 days. We will resume in a year hence.

Ta Ta

Two days ago,  
I called it for Ge.  
Nothing has changed  
In my thinking you see!

**Howie Doing**

So many Rosenbergs,  
All on one team...  
Seems like their teammates  
Are living a dream!

Till next year... Howie Doing... not bad thanks!

## Cross IMPs

1.	Amber Lin - Kevin Rosenberg	Ge	0.74	44.33	60
2.	Debbie Rosenberg - Michael Rosenberg	Ge	0.36	43.00	119
3.	Chris Willenken - Migry Campanile	Rosenthal	0.33	5.00	15
4.	Kristen Onsgard - Mike Passell	Hamman*	0.26	27.33	105
5.	Bob Hamman - Jill Meyers	Hamman*	0.14	8.33	60
6.	Disa Eythorsdottir - Xin Ge	Ge	0.12	7.00	60
7.	Kerri Sanborn - Steve Sanborn	Hamman*	0.02	1.33	75
8.	Andrew Rosenthal - Migry Campanile	Rosenthal	-0.06	-3.67	60
9.	Geoff Hampson - Janice Molson	Zhang*	-0.11	-11.33	105
10.	Chris Willenken - Olivia Schireson	Rosenthal	-0.14	-10.33	75
11.	Dana Berkowitz - Eldad Ginossar	Rosenthal	-0.31	-28.00	90
12.	Daniel Korbel - Sylvia Shi	Zhang*	-0.61	-45.00	74
13.	Eddie Wold - Susan Zhang	Zhang*	-0.63	-38.00	60

