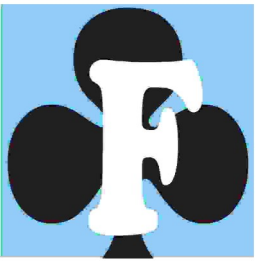


“Trials” and Tribulations—USBC and MUSBC



Volume 19, Issue 4
April 15, 2026

Results:

#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	★
1. Shourie	12.71	8.57	7.91	12.41	10.74	16.75	17.77	12.09	19.11	15.97	0.00	134.03					
2. Kovachev	7.29	11.77	18.87	10.00	18.62	9.62	15.10	10.00	8.57	15.77	0.00	125.61					
3. Nickell	11.43	8.23	11.77	18.21	6.15	17.61	6.15	15.97	16.38	13.01	0.00	124.91					
4. Wildavsky	12.09	1.13	11.43	13.01	15.77	13.01	8.23	20.00	16.18	-1.75	123.21						
5. Fleisher	10.00	8.23	8.57	14.62	10.38	4.03	15.77	16.38	19.54	13.01	0.00	120.53					
6. Rosenthal	7.59	1.79	6.99	5.38	20.00	16.38	13.30	14.11	19.44	15.77	-2.00	118.75					
7. Bailey	9.26	1.79	4.23	16.93	12.09	1.93	8.57	14.37	16.75	6.70	14.62	0.00	105.45				
8. Parrish	1.38	13.85	6.99	9.62	3.07	15.77	7.29	15.77	16.93	13.85	0.00	104.52					
9. Bramley	15.97	0.00	7.91	17.61	1.79	10.38	10.00	1.25	13.85	19.11	0.00	97.87					
10. Rathi	10.38	5.89	3.62	18.07	4.23	2.39	13.30	11.09	9.62	15.10	0.00	93.69					
11. Goodman	3.25	4.90	2.39	6.70	11.43	12.71	18.21	6.70	5.38	17.28	0.00	88.95					
12. Han	2.23	10.00	13.85	11.77	4.23	5.89	5.63	3.25	15.33	0.00	87.46						
13. Jacobs	7.91	11.43	4.03	0.00	3.62	10.00	12.09	13.85	16.75	-3.50	79.43						
14. Baseggio	4.23	0.46	0.56	4.23	18.75	10.38	7.91	0.67	15.55	-2.25	75.11						
15. Davinci	0.89	3.62	3.82	4.23	13.30	3.07	6.15	19.33	0.00	65.46							
16. Henner	4.03	6.99	6.99	5.38	6.15	2.72	4.67	3.25	4.45	0.00	45.52						

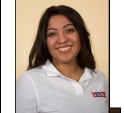
- USBF President**
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- USBF Vice President**
Christal Henner
- USBF COO & Secretary**
Jan Martel
- USBF CFO & Treasurer**
Max Schireson
- USBF Recorder**
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George Jacobs
Ralph Katz
Chip Martel
Jeff Meckstroth
Kerri Sanborn
Danny Sprung
Adam Wildavsky
- Bulletin Editor**
Suzi Subeck
- Hospitality**

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
Round ROBIN (Based on 16 TEAMS) (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
		2:30 - 3:55	80 minute Lunch Break
		4:15 - 5:40	Round 3 Boards 23-33
		6:00 - 7:25	Round 4 Boards 34-44
Tuesday	April 14	10:00 - 11:25	Round 5, Boards 45-55
		11:45 - 1:10	Round 6 Boards 1-11
		2:30 - 3:55	Round 7 Boards 12-22
		4:15 - 5:40	80 minute Lunch Break
		6:00 - 7:25	Round 8 Boards 23-33
Wednesday	April 15	10:00 - 11:25	Round 9 Boards 34-44
		11:45 - 1:10	Round 10, Boards 45-55
		2:30 - 3:55	Round 11 Boards 1-11
		4:15 - 5:40	Round 12 Boards 12-22
		6:00 - 7:25	80 minute Lunch Break
Thursday	April 16	10:00 - 12:00	Round 13 Boards 23-33
		12:15 - 2:15	Round 14 Boards 34-44
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Lunch Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Round 15, Boards 45-55
			Round 16, Boards 56-66
Friday	April 17	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Lunch Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
			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
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Lunch Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
			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
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Lunch Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 11 Boards 31-45
			Segment 12 Boards 46-60
Quarterfinal			
Monday	April 20	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 13 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 14 Boards 16-30
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Lunch Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 15 Boards 31-45
			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
		3:15 - 5:15	60 minute Break
		5:30 - 7:30	Segment 19 Boards 31-45
			Segment 20 Boards 46-60

Mixed Schedule			
Day	Date	Time	Boards
Round Robin (Assumes 13 or 14 teams; with 15 or 16 will be same as open) (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
		3:00 - 4:30	100 minute Break
		4:50 - 6:20	Round 3 Boards 25-36
			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
		2:30 - 4:00	70 minute Break
		4:20 - 5:40	Segment 7 Boards 25-36
		6:00 - 7:30	Segment 8 Boards 37-48
Friday	April 24	10:00 - 11:30	Segment 9 Boards 49-61
		11:50 - 1:20	Round 10 Boards 1-12
		3:00 - 4:30	Round 11 Boards 13-24
		4:50 - 6:20	100 minute Break
			Round 12 Boards 25-36
Saturday	April 25	10:00 - 12:00	Round 13 Boards 37-48
		12:15 - 2:15	Round 14 Boards 49-61
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Lunch Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Round 15 Boards 1-12
			Round 16 Boards 13-24
Sunday	April 26	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 5 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 6 Boards 16-30
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Lunch Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 7 Boards 31-45
			Segment 8 Boards 46-60
Quarterfinal			
Monday	April 27	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 9 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 10 Boards 16-30
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Lunch Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 11 Boards 31-45
			Segment 12 Boards 46-60
Tuesday	April 28	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 13 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 14 Boards 16-30
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Lunch Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 15 Boards 31-45
			Segment 16 Boards 46-60
Semifinal			
Wednesday	April 29	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 17 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 18 Boards 16-30
		3:30 - 5:30	75 minute Lunch Break
		5:45 - 7:45	Segment 19 Boards 31-45
			Segment 20 Boards 46-60
Thursday	April 30	10:00 - 12:00	Segment 21 Boards 1-15
		12:15 - 2:15	Segment 22 Boards 16-30
		3:15 - 5:15	60 minute Break
		5:30 - 7:30	Segment 23 Boards 31-45
			Segment 24 Boards 46-60

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.

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

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.

Puzzle Page ...

Sports

Find and circle all of the Sports that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Vince Lombardi quotation.

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

ARCHERY	CROQUET	JAI ALAI	SOCCER
BADMINTON	CYCLING	LACROSSE	SOFTBALL
BASEBALL	DARTS	POLO	SQUASH
BASKETBALL	FENCING	RACQUETBALL	SURFING
BILLIARDS	FISHING	RUGBY	SWIMMING
BOCCE	FOOTBALL	RUNNING	TENNIS
BOWLING	GOLF	SKATEBOARDING	VOLLEYBALL
BOXING	HANDBALL	SKATING	WRESTLING
CRICKET	HOCKEY	SKIING	

Why are the Irish wealthy? Their capital is Dublin.
A priest became a lawyer. What would you call him? Father-in-law.
Why are mountains funny? They are hill areas.



It's always smart
To bid a heart!

Hard Sudoku

Sudoku Solutions on Page 12

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

Sudoku 1

I can't stand Russian dolls. They're so full of themselves.

Did you hear about the glass blower who accidentally inhaled? He got stomach pane.

Did you hear about the new corduroy pillowcases? They're really making headlines.

Why couldn't the pony sing in the choir? He was a little horse.

Did you hear about the woman who loved making archery supplies? Every day she went to work, she quivered with joy!

Why does Waldo (from Where's Waldo) always wear a striped shirt? He doesn't want to be spotted.

I dropped my toothpaste, I'm crestfallen.

I was was going to tell a joke about a dead parrot, but it was way too Macawbre.

How do trees feel in the Spring? Released.

Why do defense lawyers go out for Mexican food when they're feeling down? To get some case-ideas!

(Continued on page 9)

Sudoku 2

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



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



World Bridge News...

Recommended Hotels for 17th World Bridge Series 2026 in Katowice

The accommodation options listed below are valid for the period of August 19 to September 4 taking into account the duration of the games.

To inquire about availability and prices for other dates, please contact the hotels directly.

Please note that confirming a reservation will require providing credit card details to the selected hotel.

Important information: Mazurkas Travel – Hotel Operator for this event does not handle or take responsibility for accommodation and is not a proxy for contact with hotels.

- ✓ breakfast included
- ✓ flexible cancellation
- ✓ card guarantee only
- ✓ taxes included



Hotel	single room/night	double or twin room/night	distance to event venue
★★★★★ MONOPOL Katowice	700 PLN / ca. 165 EUR	850 PLN / ca. 200 EUR	1200 m 17-minute walk
★★★★☆ Mercure Katowice Centrum	from 450 PLN / ca. 107 EUR	from 540 PLN / ca. 129 EUR	1200 m 17-minute walk
★★★★☆ Novotel Katowice Centrum	20% discount off the daily flexible rate		800 m 12-minute walk
★★★★☆ Q Hotel Plus Katowice	from 502,20 PLN / ca. 120 EUR	from 582,20 / ca. 139 EUR	1400 m 20-minute walk
★★★★☆ Qubus Hotel Katowice	420 PLN / ca. 99 EUR	500 PLN / ca. 118 EUR	700 m 10-minute walk
★★★★☆ Vienna House Easy by Wyndham Katowice	15% discount off the daily flexible rate		1000 m 15-minute walk
★★★★☆ Voco by IHG	from 460 PLN / ca 110 EUR	from 540 PLN/ ca. 129 EUR	600 m 9-minute walk
★★★★☆ Metropol Hotel Katowice	from 420 PLN / ca. 100 EUR	from 480 / ca. 115 EUR	5 km 12-minute drive
★★★★☆ Quality Silesian Hotel	490 PLN / ca. 116 EUR	550 PLN / ca. 130 EUR	4 km 15-minute drive
★★★☆☆ Economy Silesian Hotel	420 PLN / ca. 99 EUR	480 PLN / ca. 113 EUR	4 km 15-minute drive
★★★☆☆ B&B Hotel Katowice Centrum	from 288,15 PLN / ca. 68 EUR	from 334,90 PLN / ca. 79 EUR	1200 m 18-minute walk

From <https://championships.worldbridge.org/2026-world-bridge-series/hotels> on the WBF website

(Continued from page 7)

Did you hear about the sale on paddles? It was quite the oar-deal.

If a Wizard uses magic to hold up a camera and take a picture of himself, is that a Spellfie?

Did you hear that the Devil is going bald? Yeah, there's gonna be hell toupee.

What language do bridges speak? Span-ish.

Straws are for suckers.

What do you call a lawyer who can cook? A sue chef

Did you hear about the World War I soldier who survived both pepper spray and mustard gas?
He was a seasoned veteran.

Why do Buddhist monks avoid sending word documents? They're supposed to avoid attachments.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

I went to a dog show the other day. A Yorkie took Best in Show, a Jack Russell took second, and a Scotty took third.
I'm starting to think the judges had some sort of All-Terrier motive.

Did you hear about the actuary who wouldn't make whipped cream? She was whisk-averse.

Why aren't depressed people worried about flat tires? They're always carrying despair.

What do Russian kings order on their pizzas? Czardines.

How do you measure the quality of my puns? A sighsmograph!

A termite walks into the bar. He sits down and asks "hey, is the bartender?"

Did you hear that somebody spiked the punch at a roof designer convention? The next day, everybody had a terrible overhang.

Did you hear about the exorcist who offers a payment plan? Apparently if people fall behind on payments, they'll get repossessed!

Did you hear about the antiques collector who found an old Coca-Cola lamp? She was soda lighted.

Did you hear about the Celiac Disease sufferer who went to a wheat processing plant? She was a real Gluten for punishment.

My friend fell into an upholstery machine. He's fully recovered now.

A Little Humor!



A pun, A two, A three!

	Almond	Bixby	Crawford	Grace	Maxwell	customer service	engineering	finance	manufacturing	marketing	Apple	Apple	Windows	Windows	Windows	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Elliot																					
George																					
Harvey																					
John																					
Michael																					
Monday																					
Tuesday																					
Wednesday																					
Thursday																					
Friday																					
Apple																					
Apple																					
Windows																					
Windows																					
Windows																					
customer service																					
engineering																					
finance																					
manufacturing																					
marketing																					

First Name	Last Name	Department	Operating System	Day of the Week
Elliot				
George				
Harvey				
John				
Michael				

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

Richard works in IT support at Gadgetworks, Inc. and he noticed last Friday that he had several computers in need of updating. He arranged with each user to upgrade their computer this week. Since upgrading operating systems was rarely as simple as the programmers thought it was, Richard planned a full day for each computer and even provided loaners for the users. Determine the full name of each user, which department each worked in, which operating system each used (Windows or Apple), and which day of the week Richard worked on each computer.

1. The Windows users were, in no particular order, the user who worked in finance, Mr. Almond, and Harvey.
2. The computer that Richard took on Wednesday belonged to an Apple user.
3. John's last name wasn't Crawford but he worked in customer service. Mr. Grace didn't work in manufacturing.
4. Mr. Maxwell's Apple computer was taken the day before Elliot's Windows computer but two days after the computer in marketing, which wasn't Harvey's computer.
5. Mr. Crawford, whose first name wasn't Elliot, didn't work in engineering.
6. Michael's computer was taken on Tuesday but he didn't work in marketing. The engineering computer was taken on Friday but George Bixby wasn't the user.

Meet the Players



Roger Lee graduated from the California Institute of Technology with a degree in applied mathematics and economics. Currently living in Las Vegas, he is playing bridge as a full time professional.

Roger has been playing since he was a youth and has won the USA's Junior team trials four times. With Josh Donn, Roger won one of the most prestigious pairs titles in bridge, the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs, at the 2011 fall NABC.

Here in Schaumburg, he is member of the Bailey team. His teammates include Bill Bailey, Josh Donn, Joel Wooldridge, David Grainger and Dan Korbel.

(Continued from page 9)

They say that no two people see color the exact same way, so really, color is just a pigment of your imagination.

Did you hear about the guy who pickpocketed a dwarf? How could anybody stoop so low?!

Why don't chemists like puns? All the best ones argon.

How can you tell when a clock is hungry? It goes back four seconds.

My friend just installed ethernet in his home in Sydney. I can't wait to visit the LAN down under.

My wife and I sometimes disagree about whether to add eggs to cream. Custardy disputes are always rough.

Did you hear about the guy who jumped off a Paris bridge? He was in Seine.

Did you hear the guy making fake \$1 coins? They arrested him in his apartment.

Fiction always talks about the drama and mystery surrounding a departed relative's will. But most of the time, it's a dead giveaway.

What do you call it when a cat wins first place at a dog show? A cat-has-trophy!

Did you hear about the man who left his fortune to the San Andreas nature preserve? He was generous to a fault.

How does Satan like his pasta? Al Dante.

Why don't mathematicians use knives to eat prime rib? They know it can't be divided!

Why do bulls make terrible salesmen? They charge too much.

A neurologist was diagnosing a man who had lost the ability to do basic math.

"What's 9 plus 9?" "12".

"What's 8 and 8?" "10".

The doctor shook his head. "Very interesting. What about 6 times 5?"

The man thought for a second, and answered "1E".

"Aha, I've figured it out!" The doctor said. "Somebody's clearly put a hex on you."



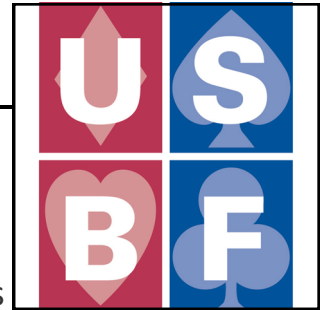
9	8	5	1	7	4	9	2	3	6
6	8	4	6	3	7	8	5	7	8
9	4	1	9	2	3	8	5	7	6
7	2	3	7	9	8	5	4	1	6
3	6	1	9	5	4	8	2	7	3
3	1	6	9	5	4	8	2	7	3
2	9	7	8	1	6	5	4	3	2
4	8	5	2	3	7	8	5	4	1
8	3	4	2	7	9	1	6	5	4
1	9	6	2	3	7	8	5	4	1
5	6	1	7	9	2	3	4	8	5
4	8	2	6	5	3	7	9	1	6
9	7	3	8	1	4	6	2	5	7

Answer to Sudoku 1

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

Answer to Sudoku 2

Sudoku Answers Puzzles on Page 7



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.

Did you hear that Magnesium formed an oxide layer?
OMg!

I stayed on a ranch last weekend, but couldn't really sleep well. Every time I'd drift off, a female horse would whinny and wake me back off. It was a night mare.

Did you hear about all the hidden meanings in the Lion King? Yeah, it's full of Simbalism.

Why did the young horse practice galloping in private?
He didn't want to make a foal of himself.



Answer to Logic Puzzle On Page 10

Michael	Crawford	finance	Windows	Tuesday
John	Maxwell	customer service	Apple	Wednesday
Harvey	Grace	engineering	Windows	Friday
George	Bixby	marketing	Apple	Monday
Elliot	Almond	manufacturing	Windows	Thursday
First Name	Last Name	Department	Operating System	Day of the Week

Deal

BOARD: 5
DEALER: NORTH
VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ 53
♥ AKT42
♦ 842
♣ Q62

♠ A6
♥ 876
♦ KJT9
♣ T543

♠ 98742
♥ QJ3
♦ Q7653
♣

Par: 800

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	12	5	11	8	9
S	:	:	10	:	:
EW	1	8	2	5	1

♠ KQJT
♥ 95
♦ A
♣ AKJ987

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

Bailey	Davinci	Open	5♣	S	♦J	+1	620	13
		Closed	6♣	S	♦J	=	1370	
Baseggio	Jacobs	Open	3N	N	♦5	=	600	3
		Closed	3N	S	♣5	+3	690	
Bramley	Han	Open	5♣	S	♦K	+1	620	1
		Closed	3N	S	♦T	=	600	
Fleisher	Parrish	Open	5♣	S	♠A	+1	620	13
		Closed	6♣	S	♠A	=	1370	
Goodman	Henner	Open	5♣	S	♠A	+1	620	13
		Closed	6♣	S	♦T	=	1370	
Kovachev	Rathi	Open	5♦x	W	♦2	-2	300	8
		Closed	5♣	S	♥6	+1	620	
Nickell	Rosenthal	Open	6♣	S	♦K	=	1370	14
		Closed	5♦x	W	♥K	-2	300	
Shourie	Wildavsky	Open	5♣	S	♦T	+1	620	12
		Closed	5♥	N	♦3	-1	100	

The second day of face-to-face play in the Round of 16 RR is underway.

Board 5 was wild. 12 pairs stopped below the cold slam in clubs. 4 pairs reached the slam.

10 pairs played in clubs. 3 pairs played in NT. 2 pairs played in diamonds... and 1 pair played in hearts... rare to see so many strains.

Except for 5D E/W which is easily defeated off the top, all other contracts can be successful. All successful contracts play from N/S.

In 5 of the 8 matches, there were double digit swings... generally one table reached game and the other reached slam.

The most interesting play problem occurred in Shourie/Wildavsky where Ron Gerard and Mark Lair reached 5H in their 5-2 fit. (see below)

John Hurd led the D3. Gerard won dummy's ace. It looks right to pull trump before someone can ruff a club, however, when considered a bit longer, it is apparent that the result of a trump at trick two is lethal. What can be done instead?

Declarer MUST lead a spade at trick 2, extracting West's ace, to keep control.

At the table, Ron played the H3 off dummy to the 8, T, J. Hurd returned the S2 to Bathurst who shifted to clubs, giving his partner a ruff to defeat the game.

Had Gerard played a high spade from dummy, Bathurst could win and SA and give Hurd his ruff, however, there will be no second heart trick for the defense when the HQ and HJ fall under the HAK.

Had Ron won his HA and cashed his HK, the defense could score 2 diamonds when they ruff the first club. The contract would actually go down 2!

Best play would allow declarer to collect his 11 tricks and win 1 IMP instead of losing 12 since Wolpert/Shourie stopped short of slam in clubs at the other table.

DDS

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

Table: CL 8, Round: 6
N-S: Wildavsky 20 IMP
E-W: Shourie 0 IMP

2C=5/5 S/D
2S=natural

♠ 53
♥ AKT42
♦ 842
♣ Q62
N Ron Gerard

♠ A6
♥ 876
♦ KJT9
♣ T543
W Kevin Bathurst

♠ 98742
♥ QJ3
♦ Q7653
♣
E John Hurd

♠ KQJT
♥ 95
♦ A
♣ AKJ987
S Mark Lair

Bailey	Davinci	Open 4♠ W ♠9 +2 680	1	On Board 7 of round 1, day 2, Baseggio/Ferro was the only pair to aggressively bid to slam in spades.
		Closed 4♠ W ♣5 +1 650		
Baseggio	Jacobs	Open 4♠ W ♣5 +2 680	13	If North leads a spade, heart or diamond, declarer will be able to establish his diamonds and come to 12 tricks.
		Closed 6♠ W ♣5 = 1430		
Bramley	Han	Open 4♠ W ♣8 +2 680	2	Only a club lead from North can defeat the slam... and that depends on cooperation from partner.
		Closed 3N E ♥3 +1 630		
Fleisher	Parrish	Open 3N E ♣6 +2 660	-	-
		Closed 4♠ W ♣5 +1 650		
Goodman	Henner	Open 4♠ W ♣5 +1 650	-	-
		Closed 4♠ W ♣5 +1 650		
Kovachev	Rathi	Open 3N W ♣T = 600	2	Larry Robbins led the C5 against Franco Baseggio's 6S contract. Baseggio played the 4 from dummy.
		Closed 4♠ W ♣5 +2 680		
Nickell	Rosenthal	Open 4♠ W ♣5 +2 680	1	-
		Closed 4♠ W ♦6 +1 650		
Shourie	Wildavsky	Open 4♠ W ♣5 +2 680	1	Billy Cohen MUST insert the CJ to come to 2 defensive tricks to defeat the slam. Baseggio will win the CQ in hand but will have no route to dummy to finesse the SK.
		Closed 4♠ W ♠9 +1 650		

DDS

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

Table: CL 2, Round: 6

N-S: Jacobs
13 IMP

E-W: Baseggio
16 IMP

♠ 98
♥ J9842
♦ QT6
♣ T85

N Larry Robbins

♠ AJT7
♥
♦ AK9753
♣ Q92

W Franco Baseggio

♠ K62
♥ K653
♦ 84
♣ AJ76

S Billy Cohen

♠ Q543
♥ AQT7
♦ J2
♣ K43

E Jeff Ferro

LoveBridge

DDS

Whatever declarer tries, South will come to 2 tricks!

Alas, Billy won the CA.

He returned the C6. As anticipated, Baseggio won the CK in dummy and successfully finessed against the SK.

Cohen covered the SQ. Baseggio won his ace. He cashed 2 high diamonds and pulled the last outstanding trump.

Par: -650

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	4	2	5	1	3
S	:	:	:	2	:
EW	9	11	8	11	10

Baseggio claimed 12 tricks and 13 IMPs.

Had N/S defeated the slam, Jacobs would have collected 13 IMPs... a swing of 26 IMPs on the play of one card... why we keep coming back to this game!

BOARD: 22
DEALER: EAST
VULNERABLE: E-W

♠ T94
 ♥ T97542
 ♦ 9432
 ♣

♠ 872
 ♥ 6
 ♦ AQ8765
 ♣ A72

♠ KJ63
 ♥ AQJ8
 ♦ T
 ♣ KJT6

Par: -630

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	4	4	6	4	3
S	:	:	:	3	:
E	9	8	6	9	10
W	:	9	7	:	:

♠ AQ5
 ♥ K3
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ Q98543

The only successful game contract on Board 22 is 3NT E/W.

To its credit, 3NT was reached at one or more tables in each of yesterday's matches.

The most surprising game bid occurred in Jacobs/Wildavsky where Sontag/Cohler reached 5C on their 4-3 fit on the following auction:

Sontag Gerard Cohler Lair

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

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	IMP	
		NS	EW	Home	Visiting

Bailey	Goodman	Open	3♥x	N	♥A	-3	500	4
		Closed	3N	E	♣4	+1	630	
Baseggio	Henner	Open	3N	E	♣5	+1	630	10
		Closed	3♠	E	♣9	=	140	
Bramley	Fleisher	Open	2♦	E	♦K	-1	100	12
		Closed	3N	E	♣3	=	600	
Davinci	Nickell	Open	3N	E	♣4	=	600	11
		Closed	2♥x	N	♦T	-1	100	
Han	Shourie	Open	3N	E	♣5	=	600	16
		Closed	6♠x	E	♣8	-3	800	
Jacobs	Wildavsky	Open	3N	E	♣3	+1	630	14
		Closed	5♣	E	♠A	-3	300	
Kovachev	Parrish	Open	3N	E	♣5	+1	630	-
		Closed	3N	E	♣4	+1	630	
Rathi	Rosenthal	Open	3N	W	♠T	+1	630	1
		Closed	3N	E	♣5	+2	660	

2C=forces 2D
 2D=forced
 3C=inv values

Imagine how Mark Lair, sitting South, felt. He had to be pretty sure there'd been an accident somewhere along the line.

Obviously, there was nothing to the defense. Lair led the SA and the contact failed 3 tricks. 14 IMPs to Wildavsky

A bit of history: In this part of the Midwest at least, from the time he grew up playing cards here, Cohler has carried the reputation of

being a top expert player with absolutely NO FEAR! (This often pertained to a certain blue bidding box card.) On this hand, however, one must wonder if Gary was fazed when he realized that his 5 level 4-3 trump suit was up against a 6-0 break... or did he just think: "no double, no trouble?"

Ed. Note: Impressive... 68 IMPs exchanged hands on this deal at 16 tables!

From Diana Serban at BBO

Update on the Currently Ongoing Women's Online Bridge Festival (It's not too late to play!)

BBO welcomed around 800 entries across 12 games on Day 1, with approximately 600 unique players. The biggest tournament was, as expected, the very popular Women's Daylong, which attracted around 400 players. We expect participation to continue growing as the Festival progresses.

The current rankings are available here:

<https://news.bridgebase.com/womens-online-festival-leader/>

After Day 1, Connie Marfel of the United States is in first place, followed by Sviatlana Badrankova of Lithuania in second, and Melanie Kakalec of the United States in third.

More information about the Festival is available here:

<https://newsbridgebase.com/womens-online-festival-home/>

For any woman who would still like to participate, there are 12 games each day through Sunday. The Daylong is a most convenient option for players with a busy schedule.

There is also a free Pairs tournament with video chat (optional) every day at 7 PM Central European Time (1 PM New York) for those who prefer a more social game.

**THE 32nd WBF WOMEN'S
ONLINE BRIDGE FESTIVAL**

Spring 2026

April 13-19, 2026

Win a free entry the Women's Pairs Championship at the WBF World Bridge Series 2026 in Katowice, plus lots of points and other prizes.

BBO

WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION
1958-2026
"Bridge for Peace"

Play at bridgebase.com

"On behalf of the WBF Women's Committee, we hope you consider playing in this event and we hope you enjoy it. Bringing Women's Bridge to the forefront is key right now with declining numbers of players. After the highly successful WBF Women's Online Teams just a short time ago, this event serves to build momentum in the growing Women's Bridge Community. Drop by BBO anytime through April 19th and take a look-see!"

Suzi Subeck, Chairman, WBF Women's Committee

Mary Kelly Rogers, Co Chair, WBF Women's Committee

Supporting these events will encourage the advocates (WBF, BBO, RealBridge, and more) to find and provide more platforms for women-specific challenges to make us a force in the game.

Good luck if you play... we'll be watching your progress and working with you to build "the women's" game...
We matter!

Thanks, ladies, for your support!!

BOARD: 27
 DEALER: SOUTH
 VULNERABLE: NONE

♠ A32
 ♥ QT65
 ♦ K7
 ♣ QT82

♠ 985
 ♥ 43
 ♦ 9863
 ♣ J765

♠ KT764
 ♥ AKJ
 ♦ QT4
 ♣ 93

Par: 420

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	9	9	10	7	9
S	:	:	9	:	:
EW	4	4	3	6	4

♠ QJ
 ♥ 9872
 ♦ AJ52
 ♣ AK4

Board 27 from round 8 is "one of those boards." What does that mean?

It's means that right-siding the contract matters. Playing in the heart game from North, declarer can collect 10 tricks and be successful... but playing in the heart game from South, not so much. West CAN and MUST lead a spade on the go.

If West leads anything else, South can establish a spade pitch on the clubs, holding their losers to trump tricks (ace, king and jack)!

After the opening, the only one to gain the lead for East/West is East and they are hopelessly endplayed.

In Bailey/Henner, Grainger led the S5 against Steve Garner. Poor Steve took his best shot, ducking the spade in dummy.

Wooldridge won the SK, sat back and waited for the setting tricks in the trump suit.

Lien/Jones in Bramley/Baseggio found their 4-4 heart fit and still decided to play in NT. (see auction below) NT can be successful but it takes work. Baseggio, W, led the S5. Jones ducked to East's king. East continued spades. Jones lost a heart to the ace and returned a spade, eliminating the SA. A club to the ace was followed by a heart to the jack. East cashed out the spades and hearts and declarer claimed 7 tricks for down 2.

Home team		Visiting team		Room	By	=	IMP
NS	EW	Home	Visiting				
Bailey	Henner	Open 4♥ N ♥K =	420				10
		Closed 4♥ S ♠5 -1	50				
Baseggio	Bramley	Open 4♥ S ♦6 =	420				11
		Closed 3N S ♠5 -2	100				
Davinci	Jacobs	Open 4♥ S ♠9 -1	50				-
		Closed 4♥ S ♠5 -1	50				-
Fleisher	Rosenthal	Open 3N S ♦3 =	400				1
		Closed 4♥ S ♦6 =	420				
Goodman	Shourie	Open 4♥ N ♥A =	420				10
		Closed 4♥ S ♦3 -1	50				
Han	Rathi	Open 4♥ S ♠5 -1	50				-
		Closed 4♥ S ♠5 -1	50				-
Kovachev	Nickell	Open 4♥ S ♠5 -1	50				-
		Closed 4♥ S ♦6 -1	50				-
Parrish	Wildavsky	Open 4♥ S ♠9 -1	50				10
		Closed 4♥ N ♣9 =	420				

In Fleisher/Rosenthal, where Martel/Fleisher bid 3NT on a simple 1NT-3NT auction, Zach Grossack, with no information about the opponents' hands, led his 4th best diamond. Fleisher won the ace and went about establishing a heart trick. Marty played a heart to Michael and Michael returned a club. Marty won the club in dummy and played the C8 to his hand. He cashed the H9, and having the rest of the tricks if the SK was onside ... at no cost if it wasn't, he finessed against the SK. The finesse lost, but Rosenberg had to return a spade to dummy's ace and declarer cashed the good CQ for trick 9!!

1NT=14-17
 3C=puppet
 3D=no 5 card M
 3S=4 hearts

Franco Lien Ferro Jones

	W	N	E	S
				1NT ⁺
PASS		3♣ ⁺	PASS	3♦
PASS		3♠ ⁺	DBL	PASS
PASS	RDBL	PASS		3NT

BOARD: 29
DEALER: NORTH
VULNERABLE: ALL

♠ QJ743
 ♥ 75
 ♦ 7
 ♣ KJ764

♠ AK9
 ♥ Q32
 ♦ AQT32
 ♣ 83

♠ 8
 ♥ AJT86
 ♦ K865
 ♣ Q92

Par: -500

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	8	3	3	8	4
E	5	10	10	4	9
W	:	:	:	:	8

♠ T652
 ♥ K94
 ♦ J94
 ♣ AT5

Every East/West pair bid to the heart game on Board 29. The game is cold but it takes careful play. If greed rears its ugly head, declarer will be punished.

Out of the 16 pairs playing the hand, 14 were successful.

What happened in Fleisher/Rosenthal and Baseggio/Bramley?

In Fleisher/Rosenthal, Zach Groszack was declarer and in Baseggio/Bramley, Adam Kaplan was declarer. Both declarers fell prey to the same fate.

Home team Visiting team Room By = IMP

						NS	EW	Home	Visiting
Bailey	Henner	Open	4♥	W	♦7	=	620	-	-
		Closed	4♥	W	♦7	=	620	-	-
Baseggio	Bramley	Open	4♥	W	♦7	-1	100		12
		Closed	4♥	W	♦7	=	620		
Davinci	Jacobs	Open	4♥	W	♦7	=	620	-	-
		Closed	4♥	W	♦7	=	620	-	-
Fleisher	Rosenthal	Open	4♥	W	♦7	-1	100		12
		Closed	4♥	W	♦7	=	620		
Goodman	Shourie	Open	4♥	W	♦7	=	620	-	-
		Closed	4♥	W	♣4	=	620	-	-
Han	Rathi	Open	4♥	W	♠Q	=	620		1
		Closed	4♥	E	♠5	+1	650		
Kovachev	Nickell	Open	4♥	W	♦7	+1	650		1
		Closed	4♥	W	♦7	=	620		
Parrish	Wildavsky	Open	4♥	E	♠5	+1	650	-	-
		Closed	4♥	W	♠Q	+1	650	-	-

Martel led the D7 for Fleisher and Lo led the D7 for Baseggio.

Both declarers won the first trick with their DQ. They wanted to pull trump in case one or the other opponent had started with a singleton diamond (a not unlikely holding given that E/W have 9 diamonds between them.)

In IMPs, declarer must decide how many tricks they can afford to lose and maintaining a positive score... Plus score are really key in this circumstance.

On this hand, declarer can afford to safely lose one trump and two clubs... making their timing very important.

If declarer concedes the trump trick too soon, they still risk the loss of a diamond ruff... and that's exactly what happened yesterday in Schaumburg!!

Both unsuccessful declarers won trick one and finessed against the HK. When that lost, they were out of luck! South won the HK, gave their partner a diamond ruff and when partner shifted to clubs, collected their ace and king for down one!! Going up with the HA might yield one trick less when the HK was onside (matters in matchpoints, but not so in IMPs). As it is, so long as the opponent with the singleton diamond also had the doubleton heart, declarer was guaranteed their contract. 12 IMPs to Baseggio and 12 IMPs to Fleisher

BOARD: 23
 DEALER: SOUTH
 VULNERABLE: ALL

♠ J73
 ♥ A7652
 ♦ Q87
 ♣ K6

♠ AKT964
 ♥ 84
 ♦ T3
 ♣ AQ4

♠ Q2
 ♥ KT3
 ♦ AJ954
 ♣ 875

Par: -620

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
N	6	4	6	3	3
S	5	2	:	:	2
EW	7	9	7	10	9

♠ 85
 ♥ QJ9
 ♦ K62
 ♣ JT932

On Board 23 of round 8 yesterday, most tables played in 4S East/West. Of those tables, several took 11 tricks and only two took 9. Ironically, those two tables were in the same match.

4S is always cold but requires really good play on the lead of a heart. In Nickell/Kovachev BOTH opening leaders... Nickell for Nickell and Kovachev for Kovachev led the best suit.

Nick led the HA. Ralph signaled with the HJ and Nick continued with the H2 to dummy's king. Alex Hudson, West, was declarer. According to Ralph Katz, Alex needed to win that heart in dummy and play a spade to his hand and lead a diamond to be successful. Instead, he cashed the SQ and played a spade to his ace and cashed the SK.

A diamond was led toward dummy. Ralph says that Nick needed to pop with the DQ which he did to defeat the game. Alex won the DA. He played a low club from dummy and when Ralph followed with the jack, Alex hoped the CK was onside and took the finesse. That doomed the contract to 9 tricks. Katz exited with the HQ. Hudson had to ruff this and was stuck in his hand with a club loser (the defense's 4th trick), unable to enjoy dummy's diamonds.

The Double Dummy analysis says that Hudson could have succeeded in any case had he gone up with the CA instead of taking the finesse. Still, Nick is to be congratulated because

Home team	Visiting team	Room	By	=	★	IMP		
					NS	EW Home Visiting		
Bailey	Henner	▶	Open	4♠ W ♦7	+1	650	-	-
			Closed	4♠ W ♠3	+1	650	-	-
Baseggio	Bramley	▶	Open	4♠ W ♠3	=	620	-	-
			Closed	4♠ W ♣K	=	620	-	-
Davinci	Jacobs	▶	Open	4♠ W ♠3	+1	650	-	-
			Closed	4♠ W ♠7	+1	650	-	-
Fleisher	Rosenthal	▶	Open	4♠ W ♦7	+1	650		1
			Closed	4♠ W ♠3	=	620		1
Goodman	Shourie	▶	Open	4♠ W ♣K	+2	680		10
			Closed	2♠ W ♦7	+3	200		10
Han	Rathi	▶	Open	4♠ W ♣K	=	620		1
			Closed	4♠ W ♥A	+1	650		1
Kovachev	Nickell	▶	Open	4♠ W ♥2	-1	100		-
			Closed	4♠ W ♥A	-1	100		-
Parrish	Wildavsky	▶	Open	2♠ W ♥2	+1	140		10
			Closed	3N E ♣T	=	600		10

he gave declarer the only chance to fail both by opening leading a heart and by rising with the DQ. Well done, Nick.

At the other table in this match, Val was being tricky and led the H2. Greco, declarer, ducked in dummy and Wilkins won his H9. He played back the CJ and Greco made the same mistake that Hudson made and finessed. As a result, he suffered the same fate.

4S at both tables down 1 ... Push board.

1.	John Kranyak - Vince Demuy	Shourie	1.27	98.00	77
2.	Michael Rosenberg - Zach Grossack	Rosenthal	0.98	75.67	77
3.	Mark Lair - Ron Gerard	Wildavsky	0.97	74.47	77
4.	Brian Platnick - Kevin Rosenberg	Fleisher	0.80	70.20	88
5.	Bobby Levin - Steve Weinstein	Nickell	0.68	52.53	77
6.	Finn Kolesnik - Harrison Luba	Davinci	0.66	50.67	77
7.	Alex Hudson - Jacob Morgan	Kovachev	0.65	71.20	110
8.	Chip Martel - Marty Fleisher	Fleisher	0.51	33.33	66
9.	Doug Simson - Eric Rodwell	Goodman	0.48	26.53	55
10.	Nick Nickell - Ralph Katz	Nickell	0.46	25.27	55
11.	Chris Willenken - Eldad Ginossar	Rosenthal	0.45	39.40	88
12.	John Schermer - Neil Chambers	Wildavsky	0.43	33.13	77
13.	John Hurd - Kevin Bathurst	Shourie	0.41	35.73	88
14.	Daniel Korbel - Roger Lee	Bailey	0.33	29.20	88
15.	Charlie Wilkins - Valentin Kovachev	Kovachev	0.31	34.20	110
16.	Eric Greco - Geoff Hampson	Nickell	0.28	25.07	88
17.	Greg Hinze - Venkatrao Koneru	Bramley	0.24	16.13	66
18.	Adam Parrish - Greg Humphreys	Parrish	0.15	16.20	110
19.	Gavin Wolpert - Rajath Shourie	Shourie	0.11	6.20	55
20.	Brent Xiao - Cornelius Duffie	Rathi	0.08	6.07	77
21.	Josh Donn - William Bailey	Bailey	0.06	3.53	55
22.	Adam Wildavsky - Doug Doub	Wildavsky	0.01	0.33	66
23.	Aaron Jones - Owen Lien	Bramley	-0.02	-1.47	66
24.	Danny Sprung - Phil Clayton	Parrish	-0.05	-5.87	110
25.	Billy Cohen - Larry Robbins	Jacobs	-0.06	-4.00	66
26.	Brad Moss - Joe Grue	Fleisher	-0.09	-6.27	66
27.	David Grainger - Joel Wooldridge	Bailey	-0.10	-7.33	77
28.	Jeff Fang - Wanfeng Mou	Han	-0.13	-13.80	110
29.	Claude Vogel - George Jacobs	Jacobs	-0.15	-9.93	66
30.	Amber Lin - Will Watson	Rathi	-0.16	-10.60	66
31.	Kevin Dwyer-Rimstedt - Shan Huang	Goodman	-0.17	-18.87	110
32.	Ming Sheng - Yanong Han	Han	-0.26	-28.47	110
33.	Anant Rathi - Drew Hoskins	Rathi	-0.29	-22.60	77
34.	Aaron Silverstein - Andrew Rosenthal	Rosenthal	-0.45	-24.73	55
35.	Franco Baseggio - Jeff Ferro	Baseggio	-0.50	-54.93	110
36.	Ai-Tai Lo - Joshua Sher	Baseggio	-0.57	-62.67	110
37.	Adam Kaplan - Bart Bramley	Bramley	-0.58	-50.93	88
38.	Andy Goodman - Mike Passell	Goodman	-0.67	-37.07	55
39.	Adam Grossack - Eddie Wold	Davinci	-0.75	-49.33	66
40.	Debbie Rosenberg - Max Schireson	Henner	-0.78	-51.53	66
41.	Alan Sontag - Gary Cohler	Jacobs	-0.89	-78.67	88
42.	Jeff Wolfson - Steve Garner	Henner	-0.96	-73.87	77
43.	Christal Henner - Uday Ivatury	Henner	-1.15	-88.47	77
44.	Chris Compton - Richard Leonardon	Davinci	-1.39	-92.07	66
45.	Chris Compton - SUB	Davinci	-2.69	-29.60	11

Cross IMPS