



Daily Bulletin



Friday, May 13

Houston, Texas

Editor: Donna Compton

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Shawn Quinn

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Tournament Host

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*

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*

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*

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*

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Houston Unit President

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*

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*

Vugraph Coordinator

Bobbi Kaufmann

*

Dream Team Chair

Marsha Bernstein

Bulletin Room

721

WELCOME TO THE 2005 UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

On behalf of the USBF, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2005 Gallery Furniture United States Bridge Championship. The USBC has moved from Memphis to Houston this year because Gallery Furniture of Houston agreed to sponsor the tournament. This is the first time we have ever had a sponsor but we hope it will not be the last. The USBC is being held in conjunction with the USBF Regional for the first time this year. Profits from the Regional and from the Gallery Furniture sponsorship will help USBF provide a larger percentage of the expenses incurred by our international teams.

Hospitality

Although you will find some changes here, many things remain the same. We have brought our great directing staff, Chris Patrias and Sol Weinstein to Houston and I know they will run the USBC as efficiently as ever. Jeff Johnston is working directly for us instead of through the ACBL and will help provide the outstanding playing conditions you are used to. Our hostesses with the mostest, Barbara Nudelman and Joan Gerard also join us here. We will miss Tournament Chair Gary Blaiss and hostess Rena Hetzer, but hopefully their replacements, Shawn Quinn and Jolie Hess, will live up to their high standards. We very much appreciate all of the hard work that Regional Tournament Chair Bert Onstott and his hard working committee from Houston Unit 174 have done to make the Regional, as well as the USBC, an extremely attractive event. I am sure that many of you will want to stay in Houston to compete in the Regional if you are eliminated from the USBC before the finals.

System Information

Just a gentle reminder that you are required to bring to the table and give to your screen mate opponent the following regarding your bidding and carding methods:

- ACBL convention card, completely filled out and identical to your partner's
- USBF System Summary Form, ditto
- Announcement Forms: a separate Announcement Form for each method you employ that is not described on the ACBL General Convention Chart (except defenses to the opponent's opening 1NT)
- Recommended Defenses: a recommended defense for each method requiring an Announcement Form. The defense may be written on the Announcement Form or on a separate sheet of paper. If there is an ACBL approved defense available, you may bring that, but you still have to bring it with you and give it to your screen mate.

Continued on page 2, "Welcome"

BLIND LINEUP SUBMISSIONS FOR ROUND ROBIN

The ITTC made one significant change to the conditions of play for the Round Robin in this year's USBC. In order to prevent teams from choosing to play what they considered their stronger line-up(s) against some teams and their weaker line-up(s) against others, line-up submissions for the Round Robin will be "blind." The draw for team numbers took place at the captains' meeting Thursday evening, however, the rounds will be randomly assigned so that the players will not know in advance which team they are playing for a given match.

As in the past, Round Robin matches will be played in clumps of 2 or 3 matches. Before the start of each clump, team captains will submit their line-ups to the directors. In exchange for the line-up card, each team captain will receive cards telling the pairs where to go (table and direction) for the matches in that clump.

The ITTC hopes that this procedure will work smoothly and will resolve a problem that has occurred in the past. Please check with your captain for further details.

2004 United States Bridge Championship Final



2004 USBC Winners

**Nick Nickell, Paul Soloway, Eric Kokish (coach)
Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman, Eric Rodwell & Jeff Meckstroth**



2004 USBC Runner Up

**Bjorn Fallenius & Roy Welland
Zia Mahmood & Michael Rosenberg**

The 2004 winners were Nick Nickell, Dick Freeman, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Paul Soloway, and Bob Hamman. The runner-up team was Roy Welland, Michael Rosenberg, Zia Mahmood and Bjorn Fallenius. The Nickell team opted to represent the United States in the 2005 Bermuda Bowl World Championships, thereby becoming Team USA I for the year 2005. Accordingly, the Nickell team will not grace our presence for the 2005 USBC.

The Welland team, however, stepped up to represent the United States at the 12th Annual Olympiad in Istanbul, Turkey in November 2004. Unfortunately the team made an early exit in the round of 16 when they lost to the eventual World Champions - a very formidable Italian Team - in a closely contested match. The Welland Team is back in force this year with a bye to the Round of 16.

Continued from page 1, "Welcome"

Dream Team Extravaganza Charity Event

Monday afternoon after the conclusion of the Round of 16, the first ever Dream Team Extravaganza Charity Event will take place. The Dream Team is an IMP pairs event in which the comparison data, instead of being the average score achieved by the participants, will be the score achieved when Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell played the hands against Bob Hamman and Paul Soloway a few weeks ago. After the bridge, there will be an "all American" barbecue dinner and a panel show where some of you will discuss the hands. Each player will also receive a booklet with the hands analyzed by Eric Kokish. Local players have purchased entries in the event that allow them to play with one of the USBC participants. Many of you have already agreed to play with local players who asked for you by name and I'd like to add my thanks to those I know you received from Shawn when she spoke with you. Others of you have agreed to have your names placed in a pool from which expert partners will be drawn for local players who purchased an entry and an unknown partner. Because the event has proved so popular with the local players, Shawn Quinn will be asking others of you to agree to be in the "partner pool." Thank you to all who have already volunteered or will do so later this week. Finally, if you don't want to play with a local player, all of you are of course welcome to purchase an entry and play with your favorite partner. Entries are \$100 per pair, and you can purchase yours from either Shawn Quinn or Marsha Bernstein, the two main organizers of the Dream Team Extravaganza Charity Event.

Vugraph

From the Round of 16 on, we will be broadcasting the USBC on BBO. In addition, there will be a projector showing one table from the BBO broadcast outside the Regional playing areas. We are indebted to Bobbi Kauffman for organizing the Vugraph and finding enough volunteer Vugraph operators to allow us to cover two matches in the Round of 8 and Semi-finals as well as one match from the Round of 16 and Finals. If anyone wants to help with this project, either as an operator or as a "live" commentator in the Regional area, please let Bobbi know.

Good Luck And Have Fun!

I know that all of you, like me, are looking forward to the opportunity to play in the best event on the United States tournament calendar. I wish all of you the best of luck and hope you will all have a wonderful time here in Houston.

**Jan Martel
USBF President**

United States Bridge Championship 2005 Team Rosters

Bye teams are ranked by Positioning Points (PP). All other teams are ranked by average Seeding Points (SP).

Team number randomly drawn at Thursday Evening's Captains' Meeting.

Schwartz

(Bye to Quarterfinals)

Richard Schwartz
Michael Becker
David Berkowitz
Larry Cohen
Jim Krekorian
Drew Casen
(83.50 PPs)

Welland

(Bye to Round of 16)

Roy Welland
Bjorn Fallenius
Michael Rosenberg
Zia Mahmood
45.50 (PPs)

Simson (1)

Doug Simson
Walter Johnson
Dennis Clerkin
Jerry Clerkin
Mark Tolliver
Marc Zwerling
20.27 (SPs)

Cayne (2)

Jimmy Cayne
Michael Seamon
Bobby Levin
Steve Weinstein
Charlie Weed, NPC
59.73 (SPs)

USA Jr Team II (3)

Noble Shore
Charlie Garrod
Andrew Hurd
Tim Crank
Mike Rice
Jon Rice
3.26 (SPs)

O'Rourke (4)

Lou Ann O'Rourke
Mike Passell
Eddie Wold
Joe Grue
Curtis Cheek
44.28 (SPs)

Jacobs (5)

George Jacobs
Ralph Katz
Steve Garner
Howard Weinstein
Billy Cohen
Ron Smith
Ralph Cohen, NPC
56.54 (SPs)

Rogoff (6)

Bruce Rogoff
Josh Parker
Jeff Aker
Michael Kopera
(4.49 (SPs)

Robinson (7)

Steve Robinson
Peter Boyd
Kit Woolsey
Fred Stewart
Mark Feldman
Bart Bramley
(32.71 (SPs)

Lynch (8)

Dennis Dawson
Roger Bates
Bobby Wolff
Dan Morse
Pratap Rajadhyaksha
Steve Landen
Venkatrao Koneru, NPC
41.19 (SPs)

Lall (9)

Hemant Lall
Ira Chorush
Allan Falk
Peter Friedland
7.24 (SPs)

USA Jr Team I (10)

Kevin Bathurst
John Kranyak
Joel Wooldridge
John Hurd
Justin Lall
Ari Greenberg
Robert Rosen, NPC
5.13 (SPs)

Mahaffey (11)

Jim Mahaffey
Barnet Shenkin
Mark Lair
Garey Hayden
Gary Cohler
Chris Willenken
29.39 (SPs)

Colchamiro (12)

Mel Colchamiro
Janet Colchamiro
Steve Bloom
Betty Bloom
Jan Martel
Sally Woolsey
7.47 (SPs)

Kamel (13)

Nagy Kamel
Greg Hinz
Alexander Kolesnik
Ira Hessel
Shawn Quinn
Joe Quinn
5.77 (SPs)

Milner (14)

Reese Milner
Marc Jacobus
John Mohan
Sam Lev
Mark Molson
Jacek Pszczola
32.60 (SPs)

Lewis (15)

Paul Lewis
Linda Lewis
Jim Robison
Arnie Fisher
Doug Doub
Adam Wildavsky
20.35 (SPs)

Deutsch (16)

Seymon Deutsch
Chris Compton
Gaylor Kasle
Grant Base
Ross Gabel
Jon Wittes
26.10 (SPs)

Meltzer (17)

Rose Meltzer
Kyle Larsen
Alan Sontag
Peter Weichsel
Lew Stansby
Chip Martel
56.12 (SPs)

Ekeblad (18)

Russ Ekeblad
Ron Rubin
Geoff Hampson
Eric Greco
Fred Gitelman
Brad Moss
44.98 (SPs)

Schedule of Play

Friday, May 13: Round Robin

- 10:30 - 1:30 Three 6-board matches (*clumped)
70 minute break
- 2:40 - 4:40 Two 6-board matches (*clumped)
15 minute break
- 4:55 - 7:55 Three 6-board matches (*clumped)

Saturday, May 14: Round Robin

- 10:00 - 1:00 Three 6-board matches (*clumped)
15 minute break
- 1:15 - 3:15 Two 6-board matches (*clumped)
60 minute break
- 4:15 - 8:15 Four 6-board matches. (*clumped)

*No score comparisons during a clump

**Captains' Meeting immediately after
the conclusion of Round Robin**

Sunday, May 15: Round of 16

- Segment 1 10:00 am – 12:15 pm Boards 1-15
Segment 2 12:30 pm – 2:45 pm Boards 16-30
1 Hour 15 minute break
- Segment 3 4:00 pm – 6:15 pm Boards 31-45
Segment 4 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm Boards 46-60

Monday, May 16: Round of 16

- Segment 5 10:00 am – 12:15 pm Boards 61-75
Segment 6 12:30 pm – 2:45 pm Boards 76-90

**Captains' Meeting immediately after
conclusion of the round of 16.**

USBF Charity Gala

4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

followed by light dinner and panel show

Tuesday, May 17: Quarter-final

- Segment 1 10:00 am – 12:15 pm Boards 1-15
Segment 2 12:30 pm – 2:45 pm Boards 16-30
1 Hour 15 minute break
- Segment 3 4:00 pm – 6:15 pm Boards 31-45
Segment 4 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm Boards 46-60

Wednesday, May 18: Quarter-final

- Segment 5 10:00 am – 12:15 pm Boards 61-75
Segment 6 12:30 pm – 2:45 pm Boards 76-90
1 Hour 15 minute break
- Segment 7 4:00 pm – 6:15 pm Boards 91-105
Segment 8 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm Boards 106-120

Thursday, May 19: Semifinal

- Segment 1 10:00 am – 12:15 pm Boards 1-15
Segment 2 12:30 pm – 2:45 pm Boards 16-30
1 Hour 15 minute break
- Segment 3 4:00 pm – 6:15 pm Boards 31-45
Segment 4 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm Boards 46-60

Friday, May 20: Semifinal

- Segment 5 10:00 am – 12:15 pm Boards 61-75
Segment 6 12:30 pm – 2:45 pm Boards 76-90
1 Hour 15 minute break
- Segment 7 4:00 pm – 6:15 pm Boards 91-105
Segment 8 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm Boards 106-120

Saturday, May 21: Final

- Segment 1 10:00 am – 12:15 pm Boards 1-15
Segment 2 12:30 pm – 2:45 pm Boards 16-30
1 Hour 15 minute break
- Segment 3 4:00 pm – 6:15 pm Boards 31-45
Segment 4 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm Boards 46-60

Sunday, May 22: Final

- Segment 5 10:00 am – 12:15 pm Boards 61-75
Segment 6 12:30 pm – 2:45 pm Boards 76-90
1 Hour 15 minute break
- Segment 7 4:00 pm – 6:15 pm Boards 91-105
Segment 8 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm Boards 106-120

USBC Hospitality Room 577

Open Daily

Breakfast: 8:45 am - 10:15 am

Lunch: 1:15 pm - 2:40 pm (Fri & Sat)

Drinks: 5:30 - ???



Friday's Lunch

Beef, Chicken, and Pork Barbeque

Entry Fees: \$115 per team, per session

REMINDER!

NO CELL PHONES IN THE PLAYING AREA

*(According to Patrias you will not be frisked.
However, it is advisable that you to turn off your phone
if you must have it with you in the playing rooms.)*