

Day 3

07/12/2020

Match Schedule For Knockout (all times PDT)

Monday 7/13

Final and Playoff for 3/4

9:00 AM -10:30 AM

10:40 AM – 12:10 PM

Break

Final

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

2:40 PM – 4:10 PM

Upsets Abound

Dark Horse USBF Juniors Faces Zhang in Finals

In the quarterfinals, EAST SIDE WEST SIDE had a close win against THE DIAMONDS that came down to a grand slam bid on a finesse on the second to last board. Meanwhile, USBF JUNIORS got off to a roaring start against GUNN. GUNN rallied in the second half, but it wasn't enough. On the other side of the bracket, BEST COAST was toppled by THE GATLINBURG GIRLS while ZHANG had a comfortable victory against CALLAHAM.

In next round, USBF JUNIORS cruised to the finals, emerging victorious over number one seed and Round Robin winner EAST SIDE WEST SIDE. ZHANG continued the consistent play by defeating THE GATLINBURG GIRLS in a low scoring match.

ZHANG meets USBF JUNIORS in the 48-board final tomorrow while EAST SIDE WEST SIDE and THE GATLINBURG GIRLS will play off for the bronze.

QF and SF Results

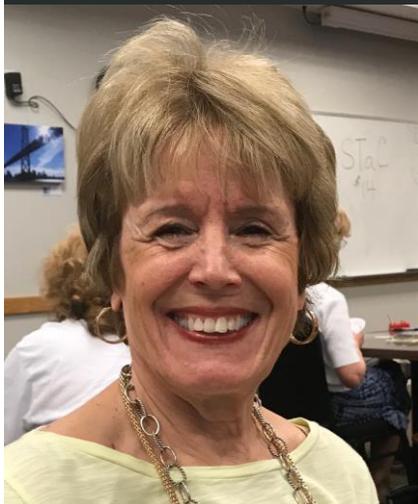
QF	1	2	Total	SF	1	2	Total
ESWS (+.01)	17	55	72	ESWS (+.01)	11	21	32
Diamonds	28	33	61	USBF Jrs	43	34	77
Best Coast (+.01)	18.4	10	28.4	Zhang (+.01)	35	9	44
GatlinGirls	25	20	45	GatlinGirls	16	7	23
Zhang (+.01)	26	37	63				
Callaham	7	19	26				
Gunn (+.01)	4	52	56				
USBF Jrs	39	33	72				

Last call for performance awards!

Remember, we are accepting submissions for the categories of "Best Declared" "Best Defense" and "Best Bidding." You can nominate yourself, your partner, or even your opponents. Send all nominations to onlinebtt@gmail.com Tomorrow is the last day to send in nominations!



Morgan Johnstone



Lori Spaeth

Board Highlights

by Dan Korbel

7		N ngunn		W	N	E	S
D		♠ 853		2♣	P	2♦	P
		♥ AQ52		2NT	P	3♠	P
		♦ 52		3NT	P	4♦	P
		♣ 10832		4♥	X	5NT	P
				6NT	P	P	P
W moga321				E cynthuang			
♠ AK62				♠ Q10			
♥ KJ4				♥ 976			
♦ A64				♦ KQJ1093			
♣ AQJ				♣ K7			
		S saraemily					
		♠ J974					
		♥ 1083					
		♦ 87					
		♣ 9654					
				6NT W		NS: 0 EW: 0	

The first segment of the quarter finals produced two exciting boards back to back. On board 7, E/W are cold for 6♦ or 6NT from the West side – but 6♦ from the East side will go down on a heart lead. Everybody in the field got to a slam, but only four pairs got to a slam from the West side.

If East responds the usual 2♦ to her partner's 2♣ opening, West will rebid 2NT. Vera Baum, sitting East for ZHANG, saw no reason to play in a suit contract with her 6332 flat distribution and solid high cards. She solved the problem pragmatically by jumping to 6NT over 2NT. Short and sweet – and successful!

Cynthia Huang and Morgan Johnstone (see diagram) handled the situation accurately using modern science. They were playing a convention where 3♠ over 2NT asks the 2NT bidder to stay out of the way by bidding 3NT, and the 3♠ bidder will clarify her intentions on the next round. (This convention is very popular among experts. If anybody wants a write up, email me at dmkorbel@gmail.com). Cynthia now clarified that she had a diamond slam try by bidding 4♦. West cuebid 4♥, and Nancy Gunn sitting North made a good decision to double this: if the contract was going to end in diamonds, she definitely wanted her partner to lead a heart. East now tried 5NT, Pick-A-Slam, and her partner chose 6NT to protect her heart holding. Well done all around!

Everybody in diamonds made their contracts as well. In fact, one intrepid partnership had a keycard mixup and landed in 7♦. Ironically, the "right" side for this contract was definitely by East – North would be pretty sure



Carrie Touslee



Vera Baum

what to lead! South, after much anguish, tried a spade lead – the only lead to let it make, as East now scooped up the 13th trick with the ♠T.

I wonder if East commented to her partner after the round, “We would never have dreamed of bidding seven without the ten of spades!”

	N judican ♠ AJ1086542 ♥ K7632 ♦ ♣	W N E S 1♦ 4♣ 5♦ P P 5♥ P P P
	W hxlzqx ♠ Q3 ♥ A95 ♦ KQ942 ♣ J62	E verakb ♠ K9 ♥ 108 ♦ AJ1083 ♣ A1073
	S clt1036 ♠ 7 ♥ QJ4 ♦ 765 ♣ KQ9854	5♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0

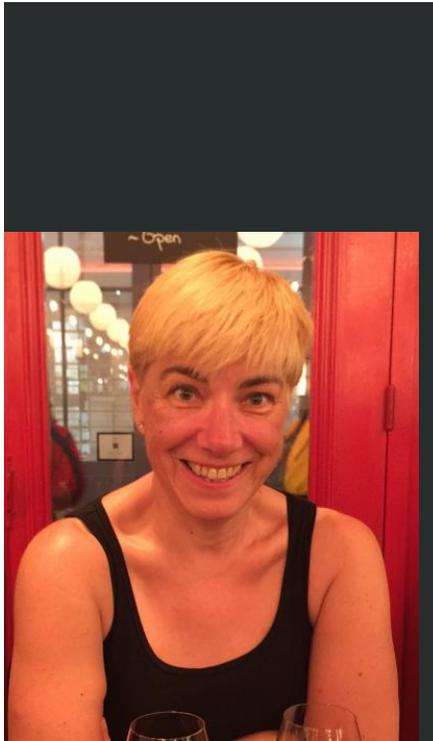
First a ten card suit a couple day ago, and now an 8-5-0-0 freak! Fun.

The first thing North should be thinking after recovering from the shock is that her hand is much more offensively oriented than defensively oriented. Sure, it's possible that her partner might have a horrible misfitting hand with, say, 11 minor suit cards, but the odds heavily favor catching a decent fit in either spades or hearts (or possibly both).

We like the way Judi Callaham handled the North cards. Jumping to 4 ♠ is a practical decision to try to accelerate the auction and describe a distributional freak. Bidding 5 ♥ at her second turn must strongly suggest a 7-5 distribution or more (surely North should not be bidding again at the 5-level with less distribution than that). South got the memo and passed 5 ♥, and a snug contract was reached. Vera Baum made an inspired decision not to double 5 ♥: she reasoned that Judi was likely to have at least 12 cards in the majors and the minor suit aces were suspect as tricks. Or perhaps Judi has a reputation of really having her bid!

Just like Judi, I personally would not sell out to 5 ♦ with the North cards, unless my partner doubled it in front of me. There is too much chance that bidding on is the winning action – either or both contracts could be making. Sometimes when you are wrong, the penalty for being wrong is very small (say, both contracts are down 1 and you lose 3 or 4 IMPs). But when passing out 5 ♦ is wrong, the IMP cost is usually much higher.

A number of tables defended an undoubled diamond contract – 5 ♦ or 6 ♦. It is hard to see who of North / South should be doubling. I think if East /



Stephanie Culbertson

West find the sacrifice in 6♦, which Cynthia Huang and Morgan Johnstone did, it makes sense that the final contract was undoubled and drifted three down (contributing to an 11 IMP gain for USBF JUNIORS on the board).

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">11</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">D</div>		N pwqn ♠ AK10 ♥ AK ♦ AK954 ♣ AQ8	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>5♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>5NT</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>6♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>7♥</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		W	N	E	S					2♥	P	4NT	P		5♣	P	5NT	P		6♥	P	7♥	P		P					
	W	N	E	S																													
				2♥																													
P	4NT	P		5♣																													
P	5NT	P		6♥																													
P	7♥	P		P																													
W ruffxsluff ♠ Q85 ♥ J92 ♦ QJ832 ♣ 42		E Evie44 ♠ 72 ♥ 104 ♦ 1076 ♣ KJ10953																															
	S bulock ♠ J9643 ♥ Q87653 ♦ ♣ 76		7♥S NS: 0 EW: 0																														

The second last board of the quarter finals was yet another doozy. South has a weird hand to describe, and 7 out of 8 Souths passed as dealer. In all cases, their partners showed a game forcing balanced hand (presumably 25 or more HCP).

Most Norths had to jump to 3NT after 2♣ – p – 2♦ – p – ? in order to show the strength of their hand. Assuming North/South are on the same page, South should definitely not leave her partner in 3NT. Whether South tries 4♣ (Stayman) or 4♦ (transfer) is a matter of judgment. Personally, I would try Stayman, hoping to catch the big fish of a 4-card major opposite (which I would raise immediately to slam). Failing that, if partner responded 4♦ to Stayman, I would bash out 6♥, hoping that my exciting distribution made up for the fact that we only have 3 HCP. After all, partner's 25+ points are probably going to make for quite a nice dummy.

Even if I wanted to be more conservative, I would jump to 5♥, hoping partner would read me for a slam invite with at least 4 spades and 6 hearts (because I started with Stayman instead of a transfer). Holding all five keycards, North should definitely accept the slam invite.

In a match that was coming down to the wire, Patricia Herrera as South was the player who decided that the best approach with her hand was a 2♥ opening bid. Connie Marfell was not to be stopped with her 27 HCP and quite sensibly sailed into 7♥. It turned out this contract was more or less on the spade finesse, and when it worked, that was 17 IMPs to EAST SIDE WEST SIDE in an exciting match they won by only 11 IMPs.



Evelyn Holtz

Featured Match: Best Coast vs Gatlinburg Girls (QF1)

by Sylvia Shi

Second seed BEST COAST selected THE GATLINBURG GIRLS as their quarterfinal opponents. Would they regret their decision?



Tracey Bauer

<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 3 D </div>	N marintlc ♠ A875 ♥ A97 ♦ A105 ♣ QJ10	W N E S P 1NT P P P 2♠ P 2NT P P P	
	W masong ♠ K1064 ♥ J854 ♦ K93 ♣ 98	E janetsher ♠ 93 ♥ K32 ♦ Q74 ♣ A7543	
	S arti_b ♠ QJ2 ♥ Q106 ♦ J862 ♣ K62		2NT N NS: 0 EW: 0

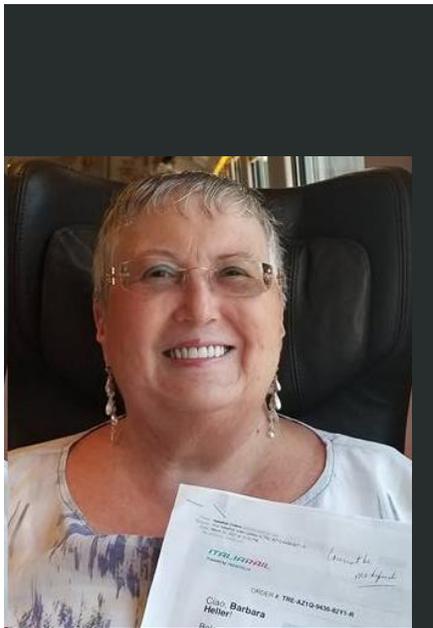
BEST COAST struck first. After a 1NT opener, South, Arti Bhargava exercised good restraint by only inviting with her flat 9 count. North, Tracey Bauer, was happy to pass with her also flat 15 count. At the other table, South, Bonnie Wood (perhaps thinking about a game bonus), blasted into 3NT. 2NT was the limit of the hand, so 7 imps to BEST COAST.



Amy Casanova

<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 5 </div>	N marintlc ♠ J9 ♥ AQ87 ♦ KQ92 ♣ Q94	W N E S P 1♦ 2♠ P P P	
	W masong ♠ ♥ K1053 ♦ A653 ♣ AKJ108	E janetsher ♠ KQ7642 ♥ 64 ♦ J104 ♣ 73	
	S arti_b ♠ A10853 ♥ J92 ♦ 87 ♣ 652		2♠ E NS: 0 EW: 0

There were fireworks on board 5 at many tables, but in this match it was a sedate near-push. After East, Janet Sherwood, preempted 2♠, Tracey had to decide whether to reopen with a double. She elected to pass, which would have been the correct decision if Arti had been planning to respond in a suit to the takeout double. West, GerriAnne Mason, was waiting in the



Barbara Heller

wings and surely ready to double any contract. Today though, double would have worked as Arti held an easy pass. At the other table, after a weak 1NT opener by North, Barbara Heller, West, Amy Casanova freely advanced to 3♣ over her partner's 2♠ overcall. This escaped the axe but was down three for a 2 imp pickup for GATLINBURG GIRLS.

7 D	N hellerbl	W	N	E	S
	♠ 853 ♥ AQ52 ♦ 52 ♣ 10832	2♣ P 2♥ P 2NT P 4NT P	P	2♦ P 2♠ P 4♣ P 6NT P	P
W cricket75		E Irowe			
♠ AK62 ♥ KJ4 ♦ A64 ♣ AQJ		♠ Q10 ♥ 976 ♦ KQJ1093 ♣ K7			
	S bonniewood				
	♠ J974 ♥ 1083 ♦ 87 ♣ 9654				
		6NT W		NS: 0 EW: 0	

E/W had a beautiful auction here to arrive at the cold 6NT from the correct side. East, Laurie Rowe, chose to hide her diamonds with so many points in response to her partner's strong 2♣. This is very sensible, since you know you want to be in slam already, and there's no reason that playing in diamonds would afford you an extra trick. This was a 2 imp gain for BEST COAST opposite 6♦ at the other table.



Marolyn Imaoka

8 D	N hellerbl	W	N	E	S
	♠ AJ1086542 ♥ K7632 ♦ ♣	1♦ P 2NT P P P	2♦ P 4♠ P 5♠ P P	2♠ P 5♦ X	P P
W cricket75		E Irowe			
♠ Q3 ♥ A95 ♦ KQ942 ♣ J62		♠ K9 ♥ 108 ♦ AJ1083 ♣ A1073			
	S bonniewood				
	♠ 7 ♥ QJ4 ♦ 765 ♣ KQ9854				
		5♠ N		NS: 0 EW: 0	

On board 8, it was a one woman show, as Barbara picked up a hand with eight spades and five hearts. She must have heard the old adage – "8-5 come alive and keep bidding until they double you" because that's exactly what she did. East, Laurie Rowe, had a comfortable double of 5♠ and was probably disappointed when no minor suit tricks cashed and the contract made. 11 imps for GATLINBURG GIRLS against 5♦ down two at the other table.

Meet the Players: Barbara Shukov



Team: SOKKS

Favorite Convention:
Transfer Lebensohl

Fantasy Mixed Partner:

Dan Korbel or Eddie Wold –
“they are both amazingly
talented bridge players who
are also very kind”

Best nonbridge talent: “My
kids think I’m a cool
grandmother”

**Favorite place you have
traveled to:**

Antarctica

Dogs or cats?

“Portia Carrera, my 15-year-
old Havanese”

Favorite ice cream:

Toffee Caramel Crunch

Tracey earned BEST COAST a couple of imps for two overtricks in 3NT on board 9, then Bonnie Wood picked up a partial swing by guessing the play to make 2♠ on board 10.

11		N hellerbl	W	N	E	S
D		♠ 8	P	1♣	X	1♥
		♥ K10	1♠	2♣	3♣	P
		♦ QJ8	4♣	5♣	P	P
		♣ AKJ10865	P			
W cricket75	E Irowe	S bonniewood				
♠ A9764	♠ KQJ5	♠ 1032				
♥ 42	♥ A763	♥ QJ985				
♦ 74	♦ A10532	♦ K96				
♣ Q932	♣	♣ 74				
				5♣ N	NS: 0 EW: 0	

On board 11, Amy and Laurie judged well to bid to the cold 4♠ on very few high card points and Barbara took the save. This was undoubled, but still a 5 imp loss when Tracey was allowed to play a peaceful 3♣ at the other table.

GATLINBURG GIRLS led by 6.6 imps going into the second half after a director ruling gave BEST COAST an additional 1.4 imps.

Featured Match: Zhang vs Callaham (QF2)

by Sylvia Shi

ZHANG led CALLAHAM at the half by 19 imps, but there was still plenty of time for a comeback.

3		N aa_00	W	N	E	S
D		♠ A4	2♥	3♣	4♥	1♠
		♥ 4	P	4NT	P	5NT
		♦ KQ109	P	6♣	P	P
		♣ AQJ982	P			
W JulyR	E Humboldt2	S queenqing				
♠ 106	♠ J9	♠ KQ87532				
♥ AK9762	♥ QJ10853	♥				
♦ 6	♦ 874	♦ AJ532				
♣ K1053	♣ 76	♣ 4				
				6♣ S	NS: 0 EW: 0	

South, Qing Lu chose to open her distributional 10 count 1♠. West, July Ratley intervened with 2♥ and East, Suzanne Cook, upped the ante to

Meet the Players: Sara Rothmuller



Team: Gunn

Playing Bridge For:
kitchen bridge since
age 9, duplicate since
1991

**Fantasy Mixed
Partner:**

Mitch Dunitz – “he
explains things well,
stays calm, he’s a true
gentleman, and he’s
not intimidating (well
maybe a little)”

Best nonbridge talent:

Basketball

Random Trivia: “My
triplets are 27!”

Favorite ice cream:

Chocolate chip cookie
dough

4♥. It was no problem to bid 4♠ for Qing and her seven spades and now North, June Hu bid keycard. Qing showed her void and 2 keycards, but June did not have enough information to continue to seven. Still, this was worth 11 imps to ZHANG, as the other table chose to open 4♠.

D		N judican	W N E S				
4		♠ J6	P	1NT	P	2♦	
		♥ AK	P	2♥	P	2NT	
		♦ KJ32	P	3NT	P	P	
		♣ AJ964	P				
W hxlzqx				E verakb			
♠ A742				♠ Q1098			
♥ 763				♥ 1095			
♦ 874				♦ AQ9			
♣ Q82				♣ 753			
		S clt1036					
		♠ K53					
		♥ QJ842					
		♦ 1065					
		♣ K10					
				3NT N		NS: 0 EW: 0	

Board 4, CALLAHAM struck back immediately. North, Judi Callaham, and South, Carrie Touslee, bid to the normal 3NT contract. A club lead would have the interesting effect of messing up N/S’s entries but East, Vera Baum, sensibly led from her longest suit. Still, there was work to do. West, Susan Zhang, won the ♠ A and continued with the ♠ 7, simulating a doubleton remaining. Judi won the third round of spades and knew she had to find the ♣ Q to make the contract. Since the entry situation made playing a club to the ♣ 10 unproductive, she chose to play Susan for the critical card. She unblocked the ♥ A-K, crossed in clubs and cashed the hearts, discarding all her diamonds. It was all or nothing – she overtook the ♣ 10 with her ♣ J, and when the clubs broke 3-3, she had an overtrick. At the other table, June played in 4♥, and chose to attack diamonds for tricks. Suzanne found the critical spade shift to set up two spades for the defense before they could be discarded on June’s fourth diamond. 13 imps back to CALLAHAM.

D		N judican	W N E S				
5		♠ 43		P	P	P	
		♥ Q4	1♥	P	1NT	P	
		♦ Q8742	4♥	P	P	P	
		♣ KQJ5					
W hxlzqx				E verakb			
♠ AQ				♠ K96			
♥ AK10982				♥ J6			
♦ J96				♦ AK1053			
♣ A4				♣ 976			
		S clt1036					
		♠ J108752					
		♥ 753					
		♦					
		♣ 10832					
				4♥ W		NS: 0 EW: 0	

Meet the Players: Sigrid Price



Team: The Diamonds

Favorite Convention:
Support Double

**Fantasy Mixed
Partner:**

Bruce Ferguson – “he seems like a magician at the table”

**Best Nonbridge
Talent:**

“I am a decent organizer... whether it’s business or domestic”

Cats or dogs? “I have one of each”

Favorite ice cream:
Pistachio

On board 5, Susan declared 4♥ and took a perfect line at imps. She gave up on the heart finesse, simply taking her ♥ A-K from the top and was rewarded when the doubleton ♥ Q fell and she was able to take all the tricks. At the other table, declarer was brutally punished when she tried to cross in diamonds to take her discard and then finesse the heart – South was able to ruff and return to partner for a second ruff to defeat the contract.

7 D	N aa_00	W N E S
	♠ K1063 ♥ AK ♦ Q9876 ♣ QJ	P 1NT 2♣ P P P
W JulyR	E Humboldt2	
♠ AJ9 ♥ 73 ♦ 543 ♣ A8742	♠ 85 ♥ J10942 ♦ AJ ♣ K1093	
	S queenqing	
	♠ Q742 ♥ Q865 ♦ K102 ♣ 65	2♣ E NS: 0 EW: 0

Suzanne did well to come in with 2♣, clubs and a higher suit. July was happy to let her partner play in clubs and the friendly club layout meant 10 tricks for E/W. This was 6 imps to CALLAHAM when teammates were allowed to play 2♠ making after Carrie made a creative garbage stayman call over her partner’s 1NT opener.

11 D	N aa_00	W N E S
	♠ AK10 ♥ AK ♦ AK954 ♣ AQ8	P 2♣ P 2♦ P 3NT P 4♦ P 4♥ P 6♥
W JulyR	E Humboldt2	
♠ Q85 ♥ J92 ♦ QJ832 ♣ 42	♠ 72 ♥ 104 ♦ 1076 ♣ KJ10953	
	S queenqing	
	♠ J9643 ♥ Q87653 ♦ ♣ 76	6♥ N NS: 0 EW: 0

Any hopes of a comeback were dashed on the this board. June opened 2♣ and showed her massive balanced hand by jumping to 3NT. Qing transferred to hearts, and might have tried 4♠ if that was natural, but chose the practical jump to 6♥. This was great evaluation, as opposite partner’s 25+ balanced hand, slam is likely to be cold or have good play. 11 imps to ZHANG, who won the match and advanced to the semifinals.