

Volume 8, Issue 12  
May 19, 2014

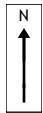
UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

# “Trials” and Tribulations

Board 46  
Dealer: E  
None Vul.

♠ A2  
♥ JT9762  
♦ K98  
♣ 93

♠ J987  
♥ K4  
♦ AQ54  
♣ Q54



♠ T  
♥ Q853  
♦ J72  
♣ AKJT2

♠ KQ6543  
♥ A  
♦ T63  
♣ 876

West	North	East	South
Bathurst	Meckstroth	Moss	Rodwell
		1D	1S
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Greco	Levin	Hampson
		1C	1S
3D	Pass	3S	Pass
5C	All Pass		

Against 5C, Hampson led his singleton heart ace and followed it with a spade to his partner's ace. Greco gave him a heart ruff. Hampson led a diamond and the contract failed by two tricks.

At the other table, there was the chance for brilliance. Meckstroth led the heart ten against 3NT. Rodwell won his ace and found the diamond shift. Bathurst ducked and Meck won his king.

He was at the crossroads. If he finds the spade ace, the contract is defeated a trick before declarer gains the lead.

Alas, he continued diamonds and Bathurst came to two hearts, three diamonds, and five clubs... making four! 11 IMPs to Diamond

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120	Penalties
1	Nickell	270	28	40	58	39	15	41	6	43	
2	Diamond	262	30	32	33	46	34	32	47	8	

## Congratulations Team Nickell!!



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Board 53  
Dealer: N  
N/S Vul.

♠ K432  
♥ AJT753  
♦ A8  
♣ T

♠ QT765  
♥ K4  
♦ 632  
♣ 753



♠ 8  
♥ 96  
♦ KQJT74  
♣ KJ92  
  
♠ AJ9  
♥ Q82  
♦ 95  
♣ AQ864

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Greco	Levin	Hampson
	1H	2D	2NT
Pass	3D	Pass	3S
Double	4S	Pass	5H
Pass	6H	All Pass	

Bathurst	Meckstroth	Moss	Rodwell
	1H	2D	4H
All Pass			

At both tables, East led his singleton spade. Meckstroth played safe for his game and made four.

Greco had a lot of work to do to make the slam... and he needed some luck. Indeed, the cards were perfectly placed and he brought it home.

He won the opening spade in hand with the king. He immediately finessed the club king, and when that won, he pitched a diamond on the club ace.

He wasn't out of the woods yet. He still needed the trump finesse and needed to be able to trump a spade in the dummy. When all of that worked he claimed his slam and 13 IMPs.

# Thank You All!

Jan Martel, USBF Chief Operating Officer, wants to thank all the volunteers who made this tournament a success.

Thanks also to all of the players who traveled some distances to come to Phoenix.

The directing staff did a great job and everything ran as it should. Sol Weinstein and Chris Patrias work well with us and know the routine.

Thanks to the VuGraph operators who make the bridge world a much closer place. Thanks to the VuGraph commentators as well... and, of course, to Fred Gittleman and his staff at BridgeBaseOnline.

Thanks to Suzi Subeck for doing the newsletters and Peg Kaplan for taking great photos.

We hope you all had a wonderful time and will return next year to compete for USA2.

Next year's competition will be in Schaumburg, IL at the Hyatt Hotel. It will again encompass Mother's Day weekend. The exact dates rate to be May 8th to May 17th.

Next year's Women's competition will be at the Bahai Mar Doubletree in Fort Lauderdale, FL, starting on April 12th and ending on April 18th.

Next year's Senior's competition will be held at the Hyatt Hotel in Schaumburg, IL, from June 5th to June 13th.

Safe trips home to all! Thanks again for coming.

Board 40  
 Dealer: W  
 None Vul.  
 ♠ AKT9  
 ♥ A42  
 ♦ T6543  
 ♣ 2

West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Moss	Rodwell	Bathurst
Pass	1D	Pass	1H
Double	Redouble (sup)	3C	3H
Pass	4H	All Pass	

♠ J8763  
 ♥ J7  
 ♦ Q7  
 ♣ KQ73  
 ♠ Q2  
 ♥ K53  
 ♦ A98  
 ♣ JT864  
 ♠ 54  
 ♥ QT986  
 ♦ KJ2  
 ♣ A95



Kevin Bathurst demonstrated excellent declarer technique to bring home this tough 4H contract. He took advantage of the bidding to work out all of the right plays.

Meckstroth led the club queen (Rusinow). Kevin won and trumped a club. Now, he made a key play. He led a diamond to his king, probably assuming that if Meckstroth held KQ of clubs, ace of diamonds and a spade honor or two, he would have opened the bidding on a hand containing nine or ten black cards. Bathurst continued with three rounds of spades trumping the third round in his hand. Next he trumped a club in dummy and trumped dummy's last spade. Kevin exited with a diamond. Meckstroth won and returned a trump to dummy's ace. The third round of diamonds was led to Rodwell's ace. Eric returned a low heart.

Since, Meckstroth had already shown 8 HCP in the other suits, Bathurst reasoned that Jeff probably would have opened the bidding on a 5-2-2-4 eleven count. Kevin played the queen of hearts and scored-up 4H, winning 10 IMPs.

In the other room there was no E/W bidding and declarer did not time the hand as perfectly.

Board 6  
 Dealer: E  
 E/W Vul.  
 ♠ K973  
 ♥ A4  
 ♦ QJ542  
 ♣ Q4

Katz	Greco	Nickell	Hampson
		Pass	2NT
Pass	3C	Pass	3S
Pass	4H (sp. slam try)	Double	4S
Pass	4NT	Pass	5H
Pass	6NT	All Pass	

♠ QJ6  
 ♥ 86  
 ♦ A8763  
 ♣ 963  
 ♠ 42  
 ♥ QJ9532  
 ♦ T9  
 ♣ 852  
 ♠ AT85  
 ♥ KT7  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ AKJT7



Hampson decided to open an off-shape/off-strength 2NT (19-21HCP). He did have good spot cards and his singleton was a king. Greco bid Stayman. When Hampson showed spades, Greco set trump and made a slam try with his 4H bid. Hampson signed off, but Greco pressed on with Keycard Blackwood. When Hampson showed two without the queen of spades, Greco realized slam in spades would be, at best on a finesse for the queen of trump and an even trump division. There was a chance that this finesse and/or break would not be needed in no-trump. Possibly his diamond suit would provide the needed tricks. Greco backed his thinking with his jump to 6NT.

Katz led the H8, which Hampson won in hand with the king. He led the DK which was ducked around, followed by a club to the board and a second diamond. If Katz wins this trick, the count is rectified and Hampson will simply play off his diamond, club and heart winners squeezing Katz in diamonds and spades. Katz recognized the position and ducked again!

Hampson ran his club winners on which Katz pitched a diamond and a heart. Dummy discarded a diamond followed by a spade and a second diamond. Now Hampson led a heart to dummy and Katz was forced to discard his remaining small diamond. Hampson had a perfect count, but did not know the position of the spades honors. He exited dummy with a diamond.

Katz won the diamond and played the jack of spades. While it is true that an expert would usually play the jack from Jxx and the queen from Qxx, those plays carry some risk that partner has QT or JT doubleton. Hampson reasoned that Katz would always play an honor from QJx. He won the ace of spades in his hand and finessed Katz for the queen of spades. Making 6NT and gaining 11 IMPs.

In the other room, Weinstein opened 1C and jumped to 2NT after Levin responded 1D (usually a five card suit). The spade fit was found and a slam try was made. When, South bid Keycard Blackwood and discovered he was missing the queen of trumps, he settled for bidding 5S.

Greco made a good bidding decision, Katz defended well and Hampson's fine declarer play was rewarded.

June 10-15, 2014

Sanction #R1406069

# Come to the USBF Regional in Eau Claire!!

The Plaza Hotel & Suites, 1202 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI

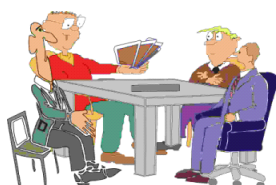
For room reservations, please call: 715-834-3181

\$89 + tax...

Please call by May 4, 2014 to insure bridge rate

## Tuesday, June 10

- 9:00 Morning Side Game, session 1  
299er Pairs  
Tuesday/Wednesday Compact KO, session 1
- 1:30 KO-A session 1  
Gold Rush Pairs, session 1  
A/X Pairs (X=0-2000, A=2000+), session 1  
299er Pairs  
Afternoon Side Game, session 1
- 7:30 KO-A session 2  
Gold Rush Pairs, session 2  
A/X Pairs, session 2  
Single Session BAM  
Evening Side Game, session 1  
299er Pairs



- 9:00 Swiss Teams, session 2  
Choice Pairs, session 1\*  
299er Pairs  
Morning Side Game, session 4
- 1:30 KO C, session 3  
Choice Pairs, session 2\*  
299er Pairs  
KO D, session 1  
Afternoon Side Game, session 4
- 7:30 KO C, session 4  
Choice Pairs, session 3\*  
299er Pairs  
KO D, session 2  
Evening Side Game, Session 4

## Wednesday, June 11

- 9:00 Choice Pairs, session 1\*  
299er Pairs  
Tuesday/Wednesday Compact KO, session 2  
Morning Side Game, session 2
- 1:30 KO A, session 3  
KO B, session 1  
Choice Pairs, session 2\*  
299er Pairs  
Afternoon Side Game, session 2
- 7:30 KO A, session 4  
KO B, session 2  
Choice Pairs, session 3\*  
299er Pairs  
Single Session Swiss Teams  
Evening Side Game, session 2



## Saturday, June 14

- 9:00 Morning Side Game, session 5  
299er Pairs
- 1:30 KO D, session 3  
Stratified Open Pairs, session 1 B, C, D  
(B: 1500, C: 750, D: 300)  
A/X Pairs, session 1  
Swiss Teams Qualifying  
(2 days), session 1  
299er Pairs  
Afternoon Side Game, session 5
- 7:30 KO D, session 4  
Swiss Teams Q, session 2  
Stratified Open Pairs, session 2  
A/X Pairs, session 2  
299er Pairs  
Evening Side Game, session 5

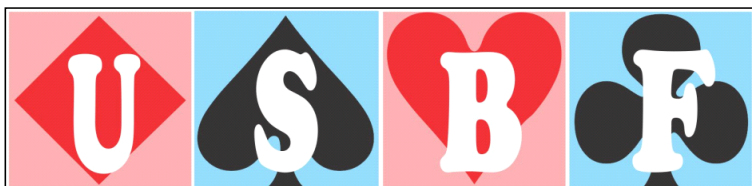
## Thursday, June 12

- 9:00 Swiss Teams, session 1 (Th/Fr AM)  
Morning Side Game, session 3  
299er Pairs
- 1:30 KO B, session 3  
KO C, session 1  
Gold Rush Pairs, session 1 (B=300-750; C=0-300)  
A/X Pairs, session 1  
299er Pairs  
Afternoon Side Game, session 3
- 7:30 KO B, session 4  
KO C, session 2  
Gold Rush Pairs, session 2  
A/X Pairs, session 2  
299er Pairs  
Evening Side Game, session 3

## Sunday, June 15

- 9:00 Swiss Teams Stratified  
Swiss Teams Q, session: 1st final  
299er Swiss Teams
- 2:00 Swiss Teams Q, session: 2nd final  
Stratified Swiss, Session 2  
299er Swiss Teams  
  
A=3,000 +, B=750-3,000, C=0-750  
299er Strats: 300/200/100

\*Choice Pairs: Players designate which sessions they will play at the time of purchase of entry Friday, June 13



**Tournament Chairman: Dennis Ryan**  
715-231-4490  
**Partnership Chairman: Tom Kite**  
715-835-4764

**We abide by the standard ACBL handicapping policy.**  
**Master point Averaging when possible.**  
**Great site, Great Hospitality, Great Fun!!**