

Volume 10, Issue 8  
May 12, 2016

# “Trials” and Tribulations

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Through the Quarterfinals... #1 Gordon: Upset!

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120
1	Gordon	235	0	39	14	18	46	47	50	21
8	Coren	315	66	16	57	22	33	46	43	32
2	Diamond	333	43	40	28	14	73	24	43	68
7	Wolfson	208	15	30	32	28	0	37	39	27
3	Fireman	304.7	37	36.7	26	17	80	43	65	
6	Schwartz	176	28	27	24	26	2	49	20	WD
4	Nickell	207	13	33	19	38	24	27	27	26
5	Fleisher	279	55	9	33	12	14	63	33	60

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# Teams Entered... Ordered by Byes then Alphabetical

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

## Gordon

Bye to Rnd of 8  
Mark Gordon, Capt  
David Berkowitz  
Jacek Pszczola  
Pratap Rajadhyaksha  
Alan Sontag  
Michael Rosenberg

## Diamond

Bye to Rnd of 16  
John Diamond, Capt  
Eric Greco  
Kevin Bathurst  
Brian Platnick  
Geoff Hampson  
Justin Lall

## Fireman

Bye to Rnd of 16  
Paul Fireman, Capt  
John Kranyak  
John Hurd  
Gavin Wolpert  
Vincent Demuy  
Joel Wooldridge

## Coren

Richard Coren, Capt  
Russell Ekeblad  
Matthew Granovetter  
Roger Bates  
Steve Garner

## Dinkin

Sam Dinkin, Capt  
Owen Lien  
Adam Grossack  
Cenk Tuncok  
Zachary Brescoll  
Zachary Grossack

## Fleisher

Martin Fleisher, Capt  
Joe Grue  
Ishmael Delmonte  
Chip Martel  
Brad Moss  
Chris Willenken

## Gupta

Naren Gupta, Capt  
Peter Weichsel  
Neil Chambers  
Billy Miller  
John Schermer

## Harris

Martin Harris, Capt  
George Jacobs  
Jay Barron  
Jacob Morgan  
Claude Vogel

## Humphreys

Greg Humphreys, Capt  
Peggy Ware  
Sheri Winestock  
Spencer Jones

## Jacobus

Marc Jacobus, Capt  
Jan Janitschke  
Brenda Jacobus  
Bonnie Smith  
Jeff Holligan

## Jolly

Christian Jolly, Capt  
Gregory Herman  
Julie Arbit  
Anam Tebha

## Lo

Ai-Tai Lo, Capt  
Sylvia Shi  
Howard Liu  
William Pettis

## McAllister

John McAllister, Capt  
Ron Smith  
Kevin Dwyer  
Oren Kriegel

## Nickell

Frank Nickell, Capt  
Bobby Levin  
Jeff Meckstroth  
Ralph Katz  
Steve Weinstein  
Eric Rodwell

## Reynolds

W. Reynolds, Capt  
David Pelka  
Lance Kerr  
Alan Daniels

## Robinson

Steve Robinson, Capt  
Kit Woolsey  
Bart Bramley  
Peter Boyd  
Fred Stewart  
Robert Hamman

## Schwartz

Richard Schwartz, Capt  
Chris Compton  
Huub Bertens  
J. Allan Graves  
Mike Passell  
Curtis Cheek

## Wildavsky

Adam Wildavsky, Capt  
Steve Beatty  
Migry Zur Campanile  
Larry Robbins

## Wolfson

Jeffrey Wolfson, Capt  
Gary Cohler  
Zia Mahmood  
Neil Silverman  
Billy Cohen  
Michael Kamil

"Life is like a game of cards. The hand you are dealt is determinism; the way you play it is free will."

Jawaharlal Nehru



## Headache, Dr. Robbins?



## Praying for a Miracle?

Board 1     ♠ K3  
 Dealer: N     ♥ QJ  
 None Vul.    ♦ 87642  
                  ♣ T962

♠ Q72     ♠ A854  
 ♥ 642     ♥ AK97  
 ♦ KQ     ♦ JT3  
 ♣ QJ753    ♣ A8

♠ JT96  
 ♥ T853  
 ♦ A95  
 ♣ K4



## Off and Running...

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Grue	Meckstroth	Moss
Willenken	Katz	DelMonte	Nickell
	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In most of the matches, this board created very little swing. In the Fleisher/Nickell match, however, it was significant. In both rooms, the auction and opening lead were the same. Moss and Nickell both led the ST.

In the Open Room, Meckstroth played the deuce from dummy; Grue contributed the three; and Meck won the ace. He played the CA and club toward dummy. Moss won his king and continued with the S9. Grue took his king and shifted to hearts. Meck led a diamond. Moss won his ace and continued hearts. Meck ducked the queen and collected 5 clubs, 1 spade, 2 hearts and 2 diamonds.

In the Closed Room, DelMonte covered the ST with the dummy's queen. It followed king and ace. He played the CA and club, Nickell winning his king. Nickell shifted to hearts. DelMonte won the jack with the king; played a spade toward the seven; Nickell won the nine and continued hearts, DelMonte winning the HQ with the ace. DelMonte played a diamond. Nick won his ace and cashed the HT and SJ to defeat the hand. 10 IMPs to Nickell

In Schartz/Fireman, Cheek and Bertens stopped in 1NT and made three for a 6 IMP swing to Fireman when Demuy and Kranyak bid the game and made it.

### 2016 Women's USBC

The 2016 Women's USBC will select the USA teams for the [2016 World Bridge Games](#), to be held in Wroclaw, Poland from September 3 through September 17th.

#### LOCATION & DATES

The 2016 Women's USBC will be held at the [Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento](#) CA starting on Monday, May 30th and ending on Saturday, June 4th. Room rate for the Women's USBC is \$99 per night, including internet. If you have any problem with the hotel, [email Jan](#) and she will try to straighten it out.

#### RELEVANT DATES

**Monday, May 14:** Final day to submit Advance Submission Forms if you are playing a Super Chart method.

**Monday, May 9:** Last day to make hotel reservations and be assured of receiving our hotel rate. The hotel may honor the rate for later reservations, but is not required to do so.

**Monday, May 16th:** Final day to submit System Summary Form and ACBL Convention card. Penalty for late submission of SSF is loss of seating rights in one segment of the team's Semi-final match per day that the form is late.

**Friday, May 27:** Last day for roster changes without Credentials Committee approval.

#### FORMAT

With exactly 5 teams entered (4 in the Quarterfinal), the Round Robin is a "Knock-In" event: on the first day the non-bye team with the highest number of Women's seeding points and the team with the second highest number of Women's seeding points will be teams 2 and 3. The other two non-bye teams will be randomly assigned numbers 4 and 5. Team 2 will play a 60 board match against team 5 and team 3 will play a 60 board match against team 4. The winners of these matches will qualify for the Semifinal and will have a day off on Tuesday. The losers of these matches will play each other in a 60 board match on Tuesday. The winner of that match will qualify for the Semifinal and the loser will be eliminated.

The Semifinal will be a two day, 120 board Knockout, on Wednesday & Thursday, June 1 & 2.

The winning Semifinalists will play a 2 day, 120 board Finals on Friday & Saturday June 3 & 4.

**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.**



# Tournament Schedule

QUARTER-FINAL			
TUESDAY	MAY 10	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
WEDNESDAY	MAY 11	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
SEMI-FINAL			
THURSDAY	MAY 12	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
FRIDAY	MAY 13	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
FINAL			
SATURDAY	MAY 14	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
SUNDAY	MAY 15	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30



# Upcoming Senior USBC Information

## LOCATION AND DATES

The 2016 Senior USBC will be held at the **Grand Hyatt, Denver, CO**, starting on Friday, June 17th and ending on Wednesday, June 22nd. Room rate for the Senior USBC is \$169 per night, including internet. You can make a reservation at the USBF **online reservation page** or by calling the hotel at (303) 295-1234 and mentioning USBF. **NOTE:** The hotel is fully booked on June 20, 21, and 22. The hotel has assured me that when those of you who made reservations for the last few days lose and check out, they will extend the reservations of those of you who are still playing. So please just reserve through 6/20 and we will work out the remaining days if you are still playing. If you have any problems with hotel reservations, **email Jan** and she will try to straighten things out. **The cut-off date to make reservations at our rate is Friday, May 20th.**

## AIRPORT RAIL OPEN

The train goes from the airport to downtown Union Station, which is about 12 blocks from the Grand Hyatt. Cost is \$9 each way.

## ENTRY INFORMATION

Entries are now open and will close at midnight EDT on May 23, 2016; additional entries will be accepted through June 3, but only if those additional teams will improve the format of the event. Any team that is reduced to fewer than 4 players because team members have qualified to represent the USBF in the Women's Teams in Wroclaw can withdraw its entry to the Senior USBC and receive a full refund of the entry fee.

## FORMAT

The Senior USBC will last for 6 days.

The first stage will be a 1.5 day Round Robin. The top 8 teams will qualify for the Quarterfinal. The event will continue with 1.5 day KO matches for the Quarterfinal, Semi-Final & Final.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday, May 20:** Final day to submit Advance Submission Forms if you are playing a Super Chart method.

**Friday, June 3:** Final day to submit System Summary Form & ACBL Convention card. Penalty for late submission of the SSF is loss of seating rights in one segment of the team's first KO match per day that the form is late.

**Friday, May 20:** Last day to make hotel reservations and be assured of receiving our hotel rate. The hotel may honor the rate for later reservations, but is not required to do so.

**Wednesday, June 15:** Last day for roster changes without Credentials Committee approval.

## Hospitality Suite Information

The hospitality suite for the 2016 USBC will be room 2612. Lisa Berkowitz and assistant Susie Miller are your hostesses during your stay. They will serve breakfast each day from 8:00-10:30 and lunch starting on Sunday day from 2:00-4:00.

The hospitality suite will be open for Vugraph, casual chit chat, drinks & snacks during the rest of the playing hours and for a short time after the end of the day.

As we have the last two years, we will also have a "Players' Break Room" (aka Jan's office) near the playing rooms from Tuesday on. We will have coffee, soft drinks and some snacks available in that room while you wait for your slow teammates to finish playing. On Friday and Saturday, we will be serving a buffet lunch catered by the hotel - as soon as we know the location, we'll let you know.



# Quarterfinals ...

Board 21 ♠ 7  
 Dealer: N ♥ AKT75  
 N/S Vul. ♦ AJ9732  
 ♣ K

♠ KT632 ♠ 95  
 ♥ Q92 ♥ J4  
 ♦ QT85 ♦ 4  
 ♣ 3 ♣ AQT97652

♠ AQJ84  
 ♥ 863  
 ♦ K6  
 ♣ J84



West	North	East	South
Weinstein	Grue	Levin	Moss
	1H	4C	4H
All Pass			
Martel	Katz	Fleisher	Nickell
	1D	4C	4S
All Pass			

Opening a diamond did not prove fruitful for Katz. Fleisher jammed the auction, and Nick, not aware that his partner had a concealed five card major, bid 4S.

Martel led a club; Fleisher won and returned a diamond. Declarer won in dummy and led a spade to his queen and West's king. A diamond was ruffed by East. The CQ was cashed and a club to the jack, ruffed with the S2 followed. Martel exited a heart. Nick won in dummy and cashed the DJ followed by the HK. Another heart was ruffed by declarer and overruffed by

West. Seven tricks were claimed ... down three for -300 for Nickell.

At the other table, Grue opened 1H planning to rebid his diamonds later. Levin overcalled 4C and Moss bid the heart game, never mentioning his spades. Levin led his singleton diamond; Grue won the diamond, cashed two high trumps and went about his business, scoring up +680 for 14 IMPs to Fleisher.

In Fireman/Schwartz, Passell opened 1H and got to 5H making. At the other table, Wooldridge opened 1D and Hurd, again boxed, bid 4S over 4C... again down three ... 14 IMPs to Schwartz.

In Wolfson/Diamond, Platnick opened 1H and found himself in slam down two. At the other table, Kamil opened 1D and arrived in 5DX on the following auction, down one for a push:

Lall	Kamil	Bathurst	Zia
	1D	4C	4S
Double	4NT	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble	Pass	5D
Double	All Pass		

And, last but not least, in Gordon/Coren, both Norths opened 1D. The auctions:

Garner	Gordon	Coren	Pratap
	1D	4C	Pass
Pass	4H	All Pass	
Pepsi	Ekeblad	Rosenberg	Bates
	1D	2C	2S
Pass	3H	Pass	3S
Pass	4S	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

Gordon made five hearts for +650.

Bates held 4S doubled to down one for -200.

13 IMPs to Gordon

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

Sudoku 1

# Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

## Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

# Puzzle Page ...

At the recent spring fete, four keen gardeners were displaying their fine roses. In total there were four colours and each rose colour appeared twice. From the clues below can you tell who had which colour roses?

- Mr Green had a yellow rose.
- Mr Yellow did not have a red one.
- Mr Red had a blue rose but not a green one.
- Mr Blue did not have a yellow one.
- One person with a red rose also had a green one.
- One person with a yellow rose also had a blue one.
- One of the persons with a green rose had no red.
- Neither of the persons with a yellow rose had a green one.
- No person has two roses of the same colour.

No two persons had the same two colour roses and their names provide no clues.

**Answer:**  
 Name    Rose1    Rose2  
 Mr Blue    red    green  
 Mr Green    yellow    red  
 Mr Red    blue    yellow  
 Mr Yellow    blue    green

At the recent spring fete, four keen gardeners were displaying their fine roses. In total there were four colours and each rose appeared in two colours. Mr Green had a yellow rose (1). Mr Yellow did not have a red one (2). Mr Red had a blue rose but not a green one (3), whilst Mr Blue did not have a yellow one (4). One person with a red rose also had a green one (5). One person with a yellow rose also had a blue one (6). One of the persons with a green rose had no red (7). Neither of the persons with a yellow rose had a green one (8). No person has two roses of the same colour (9) and no two persons had the same two colour roses (10) and their names provide no clues. Can you tell who had which colour roses?

Firstly we label the clues. If we now create a grid for each person that has the two possible flowers they could have. Initially they each have the possibility of BGRY (blue, green, red, yellow) and as we work our way through the clues we can eliminate certain options.

Person F1    F2  
 Blue    BGRY    BGRY  
 Green    BGRY    BGRY  
 Red    BGRY    BGRY  
 Yellow    BGRY    BGRY

From (1), (2), (3) and (4) we can reduce the options to:  
 Blue    BGR BGR  
 Green    Y BGRY  
 Red    B BRY

By (8), Yellow can't be Y.  
 Blue    R G  
 Green    Y BR  
 Red    B RY  
 Yellow    G BY

Only Blue can satisfy (5), and Yellow is the only person who can have the other G.  
 Blue    R G  
 Green    Y BR  
 Red    B RY  
 Yellow    G BY

By (9) this becomes:  
 Blue    BGR BGR  
 Green    Y BGR  
 Red    B RY  
 Yellow    BGY BGY

By (8) we get:  
 Blue    BGR BGR  
 Green    Y BR  
 Red    B RY  
 Yellow    BGY BGY

Only Blue can satisfy (5), and Yellow is the only person who can have the other G.  
 Blue    R G  
 Green    Y BR  
 Red    B RY  
 Yellow    G BY

Since there are only two of each colour, we can reduce further:  
 Blue    R G  
 Green    Y R  
 Red    B Y

## Meet the Players



Eric Alan Greco was born July 21, 1975, in England, Florida. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in Finance and Accounting and now lives in Philadelphia and works as an equity options trader on the Philadelphia Options Exchange.

In 1991, Eric won the North American Non-Life Master Pairs playing with his father, Philip Greco. Two years later, they won the Flight 'B' Grand National Teams.

Eric first represented the USA at the 1993 World Junior Teams in Denmark, aged just 18. He collected a Bronze medal there and, six years later, added a Silver medal from the same event. In January 2000, while still technically a Junior, he finished fifth in the World Transnational Teams in Bermuda. In 2005, he added a bronze in the Bermuda Bowl to his medal collection. Away from the table, Eric follows most sports.



# 2016 Mixed USBC

In 2016, the [World Bridge Games](#), to be held in Wroclaw, Poland from September 3 through September 17th, will include a Mixed Teams event. USBF will hold a hybrid online & face-to-face selection event, the 2016 Mixed United States Bridge Championship. The USBF Tournament Committee is working on the details of the competition, but what we expect is that it will be in 3 stages:

1. An online Swiss Teams event to be held on BBO on Saturday & Sunday, July 9 & 10, 2016. Any USBF member who has paid dues for 2016 may enter this event. The exact format will be determined by the number of teams. Each player will be required to provide a monitor, who will sign a statement that the player did not communicate with anyone during play and did not have any window other than the BBO playing window open during play.
2. Online Knockout Rounds of 16 and 8 on BBO on Saturday & Sunday, July 16 & 17 (teams in the Round of 16 may arrange to play their match earlier than July 16). The top 16 teams from the Swiss stage will participate, and they will be seeded in the order of finish in the Swiss. Each match will probably be 64 boards long, but that has still to be finally determined. Each player will be required to have a monitor, who will have to be approved in advance and may have to be an ACBL certified director. The monitor will sign a statement that the player did not communicate with anyone during play and did not have any window other than the BBO playing window open during play. Arrangements may be made for multiple players to compete at a local bridge club.
3. Face to face Semi-Final and Final matches to be played in Washington, DC on Aug. 1-3 (the three days after the Summer NABC). These matches will be 90 boards long. We hope to arrange space for this stage of play at the NABC tournament hotel, but are still working on that.

## ENTRY INFORMATION

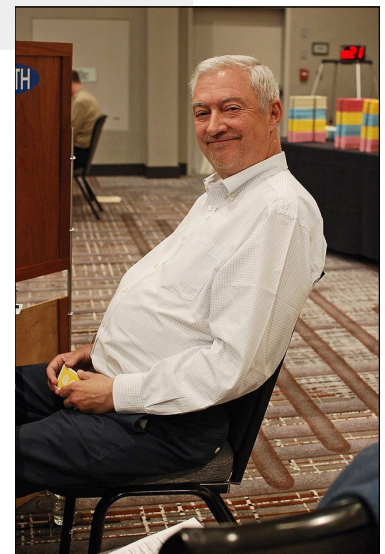
Entries are now open and will close on June 27th, 2016; additional entries will be accepted after June 27th, but only if those additional teams will improve the format of the event.

## ENTRY FEES

Entry fees for this event will be lower than for the Open, Senior & Women's events, because USBF costs will be lower. The tournament committee has not yet determined the exact entry fees. Best guess right now is that there will be an event entry fee of \$240 per team, and no additional fees until the Semi-Final. Players will, however, be required to compensate their monitors and to pay any fees that local bridge clubs may charge if they play at a local club. Session fees for the Semi-Final and Final will be the same as for other USBF events - \$150 per team per session, so \$450 for each stage.

## COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Please [email Jan](#) if you have any suggestions, comments or questions about this event.



## Howie Doing...

I want to pick Fleisher...  
 But Coren's been roarin'.  
 They ousted the one seed,  
 And may keep on scorin'.  
 While Diamond's the two seed  
 If I were to call,  
 The youth are just fearless  
 And Paul takes it all!  
 Jack will pick favorites.  
 That's been his game.  
 But you can't believe him.  
 He's Limey and Lame!  
  
 See you in two!  
 I'm the great Howie Do'

## Limey Jack ...

Hallo Yanks:

Twice yet we have to hear the senseless ravings of the Dung lunatic. Fortuitously, Limey Jack has what you need to turn a tidy sum-up at the punters'.

Fleisher took the strong measure of the previously vaunted Nickell team. Limey Jack smells change in the air as the failures come more often than e'er afore.

Coren continues to amaze as the lads are 5 handed and injured to boot. Gordon is another team for whom the bell has tolled.

Diamond crushed Wolfson, and Limey Jack's heart, by sending Zia back home to us prematurely.

Fireman toyed with Schwartz as expected. The Horse will need to do some serious rearranging to get back in any race.

Diamond-Fireman: As well as Diamond and his Knights are playing, this shan't be played at a round table. The 5 Fireman wee ones have no fear and seek redemption from a poor showing last year after finding the golden chalice at the Colonial Jousts. Fireman wins by a ha'pence.


Coren-Fleisher: With Zia in the wind, Ishmael needs to uphold the honour of The British Empire. Coren is turning out to be a formidable foe, but Limey Jack cannot be put asunder by a quintet. Fleisher will be playing in the final, two days hence.

As Little John learned to his dismay when he taunted Robin Hood, so shall Howie Dung learn that he cannot hide behind the Parsonage when the owl is in flight.

Cheers, L.J.

## Comic 2NT?

Segment 8 ♠ AQ75  
 Board 26 ♥ T85  
 Dealer: E ♦ A9  
 All Vul. ♣ AK98

♠ T4 ♥ AKQ732 ♦ 3 ♣ Q764		♠ 9832 ♥ ♦ KQJ7652 ♣ J5
♠ KJ6 ♥ J964 ♦ T84 ♣ T32		

West	North	East	South
Zia	Bathurst	Kamil	Lall
		2NT!!	Pass
4C	All Pass		

Down 100 IMPs, with 5 boards to go, Kamil psyched 2NT with a heart void and long diamonds. He knew partner was likely to transfer to hearts. I am guessing that he planned to pass 3D and see what what happened.

Zia caught him by surprise when he bid 4C (Gerber?). Now Kamil had no choice but to pass and pray!

At the other table, East opened a normal 3D and N/S played 3NTX down 2... another 14 IMPs to Diamond.

My fear of roses is a thorny issue. I'm not sure what it stems from, but it seems likely I'll be stuck with it.

Pencils could be made with erasers at both ends, but what would be the point?

My new theory on inertia doesn't seem to be gaining momentum.

Why did the pig stop sunbathing? He was bacon in the heat.

Did you hear about these new reversible jackets? I'm excited to see how they turn out.

There was a big paddle sale at the boat store. It was quite an oar deal.

Two peanuts were walking in a tough neighborhood and one of them was a-salted.

Jill broke her finger today, but on the other hand she was completely fine.

John Deere's manure spreader is the only equipment the company won't stand behind.

The magician got so mad he pulled his hare out.

My tailor is happy to make a pair of pants for me, or at least sew it seams.

There is a special species of bird that is really good at holding stuff together. They are called velcrows.

I took a picture of a field of wheat, it was grainy.

A hungry traveler stops at a monastery and is taken to the kitchens. A brother is frying chips. 'Are you the friar?' he asks. 'No. I'm the chip monk,' he replies.

If you lose your hearing, is it ear replaceable?

I should have been sad when my flashlight batteries died, but I was delighted.

People are choosing cremation over traditional burial. It shows that they are thinking out of the box.

England doesn't have a kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool

I was going to tell you a joke about infinity, but it didn't have an ending!

I was struggling to figure out how lightning works then it struck me.

**Pun  
"dits"**

# The Swing of the Tournament ... 17 IMPs ...

Segment 8 ♠ QJ86  
 Board 22 ♥ Q765  
 Dealer: E ♦ A  
 E/W Vul. ♣ A863

♠ T952      ♠ 3  
 ♥ 43      ♥ JT982  
 ♦ T92      ♦ 8765  
 ♣ KT54      ♣ Q92

♠ AK74  
 ♥ AK  
 ♦ KQJ43  
 ♣ J7



West	North	East	South
Zia	Bathurst	Kamil	Lall
Pass	2S (3 suiter, 12+)	Pass	1C (strong)
Pass	3D (4-4-1-4)	Pass	2NT (asks)
Pass	4C	Pass	3S
Pass	5S (2 with Q)	Pass	4NT (RKC)
Pass	6S (no kings)	Pass	5NT
All Pass			7S

Hampson	Cohler	Greco	Cohen
		Pass	1D
Pass	1H	Pass	2S
Pass	3S	Pass	4H
Pass	4NT (RKC)	Pass	5C (3 KC)
Pass	5NT	Pass	6NT
Pass	7S	All Pass	

Both tables reached 7S on this board. Note that as long as diamonds are 4-3, there are 13 easy tricks in no-trump. However, spades is probably a slightly better slam since declarer can handle a 5-2 diamond split.

In the Open room, Bathurst/Lall declared 7S from the North hand after North responded to a strong club opening with an artificial 2S call. The opening lead was the D6. Bathurst won the diamond cashed the SQ and led to the SA in dummy. He guarded against a bad diamond break by trumping a low diamond in hand. He cashed the SJ and crossed to dummy with a heart. Bathurst drew the last trump, cashed dummy's winners and lead a club to the ace. The last trick was his HQ.

It was a different story in the Closed room. After a Standard American auction Cohen declared 7S from the South hand and Hampson found the aggressive lead of the C4. This lead tangles declarer's transportation. Cohen won the CA and cashed the DA followed by SQ. Next, he led a spade to his ace. Cohen cashed the DK and DQ. At this point, declarer was at the crossroads. To make the hand he needs to cash the SK followed by the HA and HK producing this position:

♠ J  
 ♥ Q7  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ 8

♠ T  
 ♥  
 ♦  
 ♣ KT5

♠ JT  
 ♥ JT  
 ♦  
 ♣ Q9

♠ 7  
 ♥  
 ♦ J4  
 ♣ J

Next, declarer leads the DJ. If West ruffs, he over-ruffs, cashes the HQ pitching a club and takes the last two tricks with the S7 and D4. If West doesn't ruff, he pitches a club and plays the diamond 4. Again West is faced with no winning option.

If West discards, declarer discards a heart and leads to dummy's SJ taking the last trick with the HQ. Alas, Cohen didn't cash the hearts and SK. Instead, he played the DJ. Hampson trumped and Cohen could no longer untangle his thirteen tricks.

17 IMPs to Diamond.