

Volume 10, Issue 9  
May 13, 2016

# “Trials” and Tribulations

## UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60
1	Coren	156	25	49	33	49
4	Fleisher	130	17	31	43	39
2	Diamond	162	24	37	68	33
3	Fireman	94	37	16	13	28

## Halfway Through the Semis

Some interesting facts (or possibly fiction) about playing cards.

It is said that each of the suits on a deck of cards in a card game represents the four major pillars of the economy in the Middle Ages: Hearts represented the Church, Spades represented the military, Clubs represented agriculture, and Diamonds represented the merchant class.

Each face card in a deck of playing cards is said to represent a great person from history:

**King of Spades** – David

**King of Hearts** – Charles (possibly Charlemagne, or Charles VII, where Rachel would then be the pseudonym of his mistress, Agnès Sorel)

**King of Diamonds** – Julius Caesar

**King of Clubs** – Alexander the Great

**Queen of Spades** – Pallas

**Queen of Hearts** – Judith

**Queen of Diamonds** – Rachel (either biblical, historical (see Charles above), or mythical as a corruption of the Celtic Ragnel, relating to Lancelot below)

**Queen of Clubs** – Argine (possibly an anagram of regina, which is Latin for queen, or perhaps Argea, wife of Polybus and mother of Argus)

**Knave (Jack) of Spades** – Ogier the Dane/Holger Danske (a knight of Charlemagne)

**Knave (Jack) of Hearts** – La Hire (comrade-in-arms to Joan of Arc, and member of Charles VII’s court)

**Knave (Jack) of Diamonds** – Hector

**Knave (Jack) of Clubs** – Judas Maccabeus, or Lancelot

The King of Hearts is the only king without a mustache and is the only king with a sword through his head, otherwise known as the “Suicide King”.

The Face Cards (King, Queen & Jack) are referred to as the “Court”.

## Improve Your “Card”ing

**USBF President**  
Howie Weinstein

**USBF  
Vice President**  
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**Photographer**  
Peg Kaplan

**Local Hospitality  
Chairs**  
Lisa Berkowitz  
Susie Miller

# 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

"Don't get  
lost in the  
shuffle!"



# The Trouble with 14-16

Board 1     ♠ AJ742  
 Dealer: N     ♥ 43  
 None Vul.     ♦ K943  
                  ♣ Q8

♠ Q5                     ♠ K963  
 ♥ KQT5                ♥ A762  
 ♦ J87                    ♦ Q6  
 ♣ J652                   ♣ AK7

                                  ♠ T8  
                                   ♥ J98  
                                   ♦ AT52  
                                   ♣ T943



West	North	East	South	Diamond/Fireman Coren/Fleisher
Hampson	Wolpert	Greco	Fireman	
	Pass	1NT (14-16)	Pass	
Pass	2S	Pass	Pass	
Double	Pass	3H	All Pass	
Hurd	Platnick	Wooldridge	Diamond	
	1S	1NT	Pass	
2C	Pass	2H	Pass	
3NT	All Pass			
Bates	Grue	Garner	Moss	
	1S	1NT	Pass	
2C	Pass	2H	Pass	
4H	All Pass			
Delmonte	Ekeblad	Willenken	Granovetter	
	Pass	1NT (15-17)	Pass	
2C	Pass	2H	Pass	
4H	All Pass			

In Coren/Fleisher, both teams reached the normal heart game and made it.

In Diamond/Fireman, however, both tables reached contracts you would not expect.

Hampson, facing a 14-16 NT, did not know how high to bid. If Greco held 14 or 15, 3H was probably high enough. His theory was sound.

Once, however, the opponents balanced and Hampson showed something ... a feeble game try of sorts (?) by doubling, perhaps Greco should have taken the middle road and passed, collecting 300 for his effort. He would still have lost some IMPs, but not as many.

Hurd's 3NT as opposed to 4H is a little strange once the 4-4 fit is found, but North's Qx of clubs combined with East's lucky S9 vindicated his decision. Even on a diamond lead, his side could come to nine tricks.

3NT requires the fall of the CQ. 4H is, of course, easier once this occurs.

Push in Coren/Fleisher  
7 IMPs to Fireman

## 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.

# 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.



# Into the Semis...

Board 16 ♠ K94  
 Dealer: W ♥ T7642  
 E/W Vul. ♦ K54  
 ♣ J7

♠ AJ53 ♠ 8762  
 ♥ K ♥ J3  
 ♦ QT6 ♦ 8732  
 ♣ Q8643 ♣ AT9

♠ QT  
 ♥ AQ985  
 ♦ AJ9  
 ♣ K52



West	North	East	South
Platnick	Wolpert	Diamond	Fireman
1D	Pass	Pass	1H
Pass	2H	All Pass	
Kranyak	Lall	Demuy	Bathurst
1D	1H	Pass	2D
Pass	2H	Pass	4H
All Pass			

In the Open Room where Fireman balanced and declared 2H, Platnick led a fourth best club. Diamond won the ace and shifted to a diamond through the AJ9. Fireman won dummy's king and finessed against the trump king. This lost to West, and in the fullness of time, the defense collected a club, a heart and two spades... South making three for +140.

In the Closed Room, Lall overcalled 1H in direct seat. This struck a nerve with Bathurst who held 16 HCP and five card trump support to two honors. Bathurst cued and Lall tried to sign-off. Bathurst would not be denied and bid the non-vulnerable game.

Demuy led the S6, not best for his side. It went T, J, K. Lall played another spade, knocking out the ace and establishing the nine for a diamond pitch. Kranyak continued spades and Lall took the pitch. Since he could afford a loser in hearts, he played to the HA. When the king fell singleton offside, he not only scored his game, but an overtrick.

7 IMPs to Diamond

In Coren/Fleisher, it was similar. In the Open Room, Moss, North, overcalled in direct seat, producing the same auction as Lall/Bathurst. Accordingly, the play and result were also the same.

Coren/Garner had a different auction:

Martel	Coren	Fleisher	Garner
1C	Pass	1H (transfer to	2H
2S	3H	All Pass	

Martel, like Platnick, led a club. Fleisher won the ace. Fleisher, like Diamond, shifted to a diamond. Garner won the DT in dummy with the king. He knew he could not lose more than one trick in each suit. He led a heart to the ace, and when the king fell, he, like Lall made eleven tricks for +200.

6 IMPs to Fleisher

**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.**



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

Sudoku 1

# Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

## Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

## Puzzle Page ...

After the recent BrainBashers annual marathon, the judges were comparing notes to determine who finished where. From their notes, can you help them to reconstruct the final result?

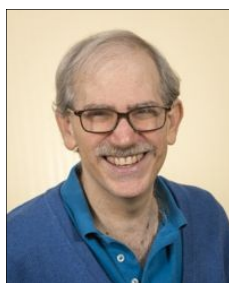
- Matthew Merryman beat Tom Trent and Jimmy James.
- Peter Piper beat Jimmy James, Tom Trent and Alan Ardman.
- Zach Zebra lost to Peter Piper.
- Graham Goodfellow beat Tom Trent
- Zach Zebra beat Frank Flintbone.
- Graham Goodfellow lost to Frank Flintbone and Peter Piper.
- Tom Trent beat Brian Brick.
- Alan Ardman beat Zach Zebra, Kevin Kingfisher and Graham Goodfellow.
- Kevin Kingfisher lost to Graham Goodfellow and Matthew Merryman.
- Brian Brick beat Kevin Kingfisher.
- Matthew Merryman lost to Alan Ardman and Zach Zebra.
- Frank Flintbone beat Tom Trent, Matthew Merryman and Brian Brick.
- Tom Trent lost to Jimmy James and Alan Ardman.
- Jimmy James beat Graham Goodfellow and Brian Brick

## Answer... no peeking!



Answers:  
Peter Piper  
Alan Ardman  
Zach Zebra  
Frank Flintbone  
Matthew Merryman  
Jimmy James  
Graham Goodfellow  
Tom Trent  
Brian Brick  
Kevin Kingfisher

## Meet the Players



Chip Martel is a retired Professor of Computer Science at the University of California, Davis. A World Grand Master, Chip has won five world championships and placed second three times. He has won 30 North American championships and has won the U.S. Bridge Championships 5 times, most of these in partnership with Lew Stansby. Chip also has an outstanding record with other partners, including wife, Jan... the human dynamo responsible for this tournament!! Chip was elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2014.



# 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.



Board 10 ♠ QT84  
 Dealer: E ♥ 5  
 All Vul. ♦ KT8652  
 ♣ J8

♠ K532 ♠ A  
 ♥ KJT9873 ♥ A2  
 ♦ J ♦ Q94  
 ♣ 5 ♣ AKQT643

♠ J96  
 ♥ Q64  
 ♦ A73  
 ♣ 972



West	North	East	South	
Martel	Coren	Fleisher	Garner	<b>Coren/Fleisher</b>
2H (2 Controls)	Pass	2C	Pass	
3H	Pass	3C	Pass	
3H	Pass	6C	All Pass	
Granovetter	DelMonte	Bates	Willenken	<b>Diamond/Fireman</b>
2H	Pass	2C	Pass	
4H	All Pass	3C	Pass	
Hurd	Hampson	Wooldridge	Greco	<b>Diamond/Fireman</b>
2D	Pass	2C	Pass	
5NY	Pass	3NT	Pass	
6C	Pass	6C	All Pass	
Bathurst	Wolpert	Lall	Fireman	<b>Diamond/Fireman</b>
1H (8-11 not 5 spades)	Pass	1C (16+)	Pass	
2H	Pass	2C	Pass	
4H	All Pass	3C	Pass	

This board from Segment 3 produced swings of 13 IMPs in both of yesterday's semi-final matches.

One table in each match played in 4H by East/West while the other table played in 6C.

Both 4H declarers took an easy eleven tricks.

In the Coren/Fleisher match, Fleisher opened 2C and jumped to 6C after Martel showed 2 controls and a natural heart suit. Garner led the DA and switched to a trump. Fleisher won and ran his clubs.

Put yourself in the South seat. Fleisher didn't check for aces and bid a slam without the ace of diamonds. One possibility is that Fleisher's distribution is 4-0-2-7 with AQxx of spades and Kx of diamonds. In that case, you must hold all of your spades. Another possibility is that Fleisher's distribution is 3-0-3-7 with Axx of spades and KQx of diamonds. In that case, partner will appear to be squeezed and will undoubtedly save the HA and SQx, so you must save the Jxx of spades.

In the actual play, Garner discarded diamonds on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> rounds of clubs. Then he discarded hearts to protect against either of the aforementioned positions. As soon as Garner pitched two hearts, Fleisher claimed. His gamble paid off ... partner had a singleton diamond and the defenders were faced with a tough guess and got it wrong. The slam made even though the hearts were ill positioned.

In the Fireman/Diamond match, Wooldridge opened 2C and rebid 3NT, before landing in 6C. Again the opening lead was the DA and this was followed by a trump switch. Now, South had an easy time protecting hearts, since he was virtually certain that declarer did not hold a heart void or worthless singleton for the 3NT rebid. Declarer played for the 2-2 and went light one trick.

**2016 USBC Appeal #4 - Quarterfinal - Fireman vs Schwartz**

Board 22

North (Passell)

Vul:

♠ A K Q J 9 5 2

Dealer

♥ J 4

♦ -----

♣ K 9 3 2

West (Demuy)

East (Kransyak)

♠ 10 4 3  
♥ A 10 8  
♦ A Q 6  
♣ J 10 8 6

♠ 7  
♥ 9 7  
♦ K J 10 9 5 2  
♣ A Q 7 5

South (Compton)

♠ 8 6  
♥ K Q 6 5 3 2  
♦ 8 7 4 3  
♣ 4

**Bidding**

N	E	S	W
	1♦	2♥*	2♠**
4♠	4NT	P	5♣
5♠	6♣	P	P
6♠	DBL	P	7♣
DBL	P	P	P



\* South to West: Natural; North to East: Majors

\*\*West to South: Negative DBL without 4 spades

In discussion at the table after the hand, with the director present, South acknowledged that their agreement was Majors and that he forgot.

Over 2♥ as Majors, to East, West's 2♠ was a good hand with minors.

**Table Result:** 7♣x - 3, NS +800

*(continued on page 12)*

(continued from page 11)

### Director's Ruling:

There was discussion about whether or not the 7♣ bid was “a serious error or a wild or gambling action”. Polling determined that while it was not an action chosen by most players, it did not rise to that level.

The differing explanations did affect the auction.

An initial ruling was made that the overwhelmingly likely final contract would be 4♠. E/W contributed that they were unlikely to double that and the result was adjudicated to be down one on a likely trump lead or on various lines after a Diamond lead.

In discussion thereafter, the directors considered that while 4♠ was the contract at five of the eight tables in the event, none of the defenders led a trump and the contract went down 1 three times, made 4 once and made 5 once. After re-weighting subjective probabilities, including the chance that 5♠ doubled might be the contract some small percent of the time and E/W buying the hand in something going down might also occur some small percent of the time, the ruling was changed to 4♠ making one-third of the time and going 1 down two-thirds of the time.

### Appeals Committee Ruling:

N/S appealed. They asserted that West’s 7♣ was an egregious error, undeserving of protection. After East had doubled 6♠, the chance of a spade loser was very high. The N/S bidding accident had given E/W a chance at a very good result, but the 7♣ call was a “failure to play bridge”.

West observed that from his perspective East had driven to a minor-suit slam opposite a club preference. West had shown a hand of approximately his actual shape and high-card strength, but he had perfect holdings in all four suits: No spade waste, the heart ace, a strong diamond holding and club interiors. West thought that East must have, say, twelve minor-suit cards. He assumed that partner must have a spade void but might be worried about a heart loser or a slow minor-suit loser. For his part, East was bidding opposite what he thought was a good hand with both minors, not a balanced 10-11 count. The different explanations caused East to overvalue his hand, which in turn caused West to overvalue HIS hand. West claimed that he had already considered raising to seven on the previous round.

The committee first considered whether West’s 7♣ was a serious enough error to deprive his side of protection. While perhaps not a percentage action, 7♣ had sufficient merit not to rise (or sink) to the level of “serious error”. Therefore, damage was established. To determine a result, the committee, as the director had done, considered how the auction would have gone if West had received the proper explanation. Instead of bidding 2♠, West would have doubled to show a more balanced, defensive hand type, such as he actually held. North would still bid 4♠. Then East would either defend, or bid once more at the five-level before subsiding when North continued to 5♠. Given that 2 out of 5 other tables in 4♠ were successful, the committee found that the director’s assignment of a 1 in 3 weighting for 4♠ making was fair. The committee strongly agreed with the director’s basic judgment. Though there was some quibbling over the exact percentage, it was not enough to disturb the director’s assignment. Note that West was entitled to know N/S’s agreement, but E/W were not entitled to know that N/S were having an accident. For purposes of adjudication, assume that South had given the correct explanation after he had bid 2♥ but before West had called.

#### Appeals Committee

Bart Bramley, Chairman  
Robb Gordon, Member  
Steve Robinson, Member  
Ron Smith, Member  
Danny Sprung, Member

