



Semi-Finals Halfway...

#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
1	Fireman NPC	104	34	40	7	23
4	Lall	131	19	47	34	31
2	Nickell	138	4	57	36	41
3	Juster	133	32	25	59	17

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Board 19
Segment 4
Dealer: S
E/W Vul.

♠ A84
♥ KT84
♦ QJ96
♣ A2

♠ T5
♥ J75
♦ 54

♠ QJ97632
♥ 9
♦ T2
♣ 983

♠ K
♥ AQ632
♦ AK873
♣ QJ

W	N	E	S
Meckstroth	Z Grossack	Rodwell	A Grossack
Pass	2H	2S	1H
4S	Double	All Pass	4H

At three tables in the Semi Finals, N/S had unimpeded auctions to 4H. At both Fireman/Lall tables, the auction ended in double. One went down one and one went down two.

In Nickell/Juster, Rodwell stuck in a 2S bid knowing his partner held some cards and ended up declaring 4SX. Adam Grossack cashed his three red winners, probably thinking Zack had a trump trick for his double. Adam needed to switch to a club at trick two to defeat this. Rodwell came home free, discarding his two club losers on dummy's red suit winners.

At the other table, Levin and S Weinstein played 4H down two.

12 IMPs to Nickell ... why Meckwell is so successful. Maximum pressure on the opponents at all times...

“Trials” and Tribulations

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Teams Entered... listed in seeding order

Fleisher	Martin Fleisher, Capt Eric Greco	Chip Martel Geoff Hampson Brad Moss
Bye to Rnd of 8	Joe Grue	
Nickell	Nick Nickell, Capt Bobby Levin	Ralph Katz Steve Weinstein Eric Rodwell
Bye to Rnd of 8	Jeff Meckstroth	
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Robert Hamman	Aaron Silverstein David Berkowitz Chris Willenken
Bye to Rnd of 16	Eldad Ginossar	
Petra Hamman, NPC	Reese Milner Justin Lall Zia Mahmood	Hemant Lall Kevin Bathurst Jacek Pszczola
Borker	Jay Borker, Capt Roger Lee	Michael Rosenberg Daniel Korbel
Morris	Michael Levine Mike Passell Greg Hinze	Eddie Wold Marc Jacobus David Grainger
Mahaffey	Jim Mahaffey, Capt John Schermer Billy Cohen	Sam Lev Neil Chambers Gary Cohler
Gupta	Vinita Gupta, Capt Huub Bertens Oren Kriegel	Billy Miller Ron Smith
Fireman	Paul Fireman, Capt John Kranyak Joel Wooldridge	Gavin Wolpert Vincent Demuy John Hurd
Robinson	Steve Robinson, Capt Bart Bramley Mark Feldman	Peter Boyd Kit Woolsey Ross Grabel
Meltzer	Rose Meltzer, Capt Steve Garner Kevin Dwyer	Nik Demirev Owen Lien Shan Huang
Harris	Martin Harris, Capt Matthew Granovetter Miriam Harris-Botzum	Jacob Morgan Pam Granovetter John Botzum
Ozdil	Melih Ozdil, Capt Drew Casen	Brian Glubok Jim Krekorian
Lo	Ai-Tai Lo, Capt Alex Kolesnik Ira Hessel	William Pettis Bob Etter Dan Morse
Juster	Jeffrey Juster Adam Grossack Howard Weinstein	Franklin Merblum Zachary Grossack Adam Wildavsky
Doub	Doug Doub, Capt Karen McCallum Vic King	John Stiefel Geoffrey Brod
Molson	Janice Seamon-Molson, Capt Kerri Sanborn Beth Palmer	Tobi Sokolow Stephen Sanborn Sylvia Shi
Lewis	Paul Lewis, Capt Danny Sprung Robert Cappelli	Linda Lewis JoAnn Sprung Robert Bitterman
Schireson	Max Schireson, Capt Geeske Joel	Debbie Rosenberg William Watson
Sam Dinkin, NPC	Tom Reynolds David Pelka	Lance Kerr William Hall
Cohen	Seth Cohen, Capt James Glickman	Howard Einberg Bill St Clair

Hospitality Information...

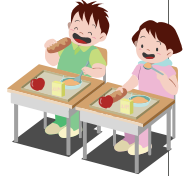
"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

The hospitality suite is in room 1068-70. Lisa Berkowitz and Martha Katz welcome you to the Suite. They are joined by Nancy Strohmmer, Betty Starzec, and Shawn Quinn.

Breakfast is served each day from 8:00-10:30 and lunch from 1:00-4:00.

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.

The "Players' Break Room" (aka Jan's office) will be in the playing area (room 862, around the corner from most of the playing rooms, all of which are on the 8th floor.). It will be available for the entire tournament. We will have coffee, soft drinks and snacks available while you wait for your slow teammates to finish playing.

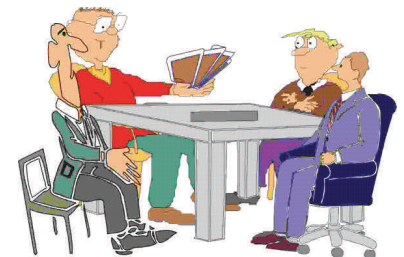


SEMI-FINAL			
THURSDAY	MAY 17	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
FRIDAY	MAY 18	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
FINAL			
SATURDAY	MAY 19	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
SUNDAY	MAY 20	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30

Tournament Schedule

Who in the world am I? Ah, that's the great puzzle.

Lewis Carroll



Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 8 4 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ K 9 7
N						
W						
E						
S						
♥ 7	♥ A K 10 8 3 2					
♦ A K Q 8	♦ —					
♣ 9 8 6 4	♣ K J 10 2					
♠ A 6		♠ A 6				
♥ Q 6 5 4		♥ Q 6 5 4				
♦ J 9 7 6 3 2		♦ J 9 7 6 3 2				
♣ A		♣ A				

West	North	East	South
<i>Moss</i>	<i>Kranyak</i>	<i>Grue</i>	<i>Demuy</i>
	1 ♦	1 ♥	2 ♠ ¹
Pass	3 ♦	Dbl	Rdbl
3 ♥	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	5 ♦	All pass	

1. Strong diamond raise

Trick	Lead	2nd	3rd	4th
1. E	♥ A	4	9	7
2. E	♣ 2	A	5	4
3. S	♠ A	2	3	7
4. S	♠ 6	5	8	9
5. E	♣ J	♦ 2	3	6
6. S	♥ 5	J	♦ 8	2
7. N	♠ 4	K	♦ 3	10
8. S	♥ 6	♣ 7	♦ Q	3
9. N	♣ 8	10	♦ 6	Q

2018 USBC – Appeal 2

At trick 10, dummy (South) held HQ DJ97 and declarer held SJ DAK C9. Declarer, Kranyak, went into a short period of thought (12 seconds) and eventually shrugged. East, Grue, asked "down one?" and showed declarer his cards. All four players put their hands back in the board. After having done so, declarer thought better of it, realizing that at the end position he could play a diamond back to hand and guess what West's remaining black card was to safely ruff back to dummy. Much discussion ensued, and eventually the TD was called.

The directing staff followed two paths to make this ruling.

Was Grue's "down one?" and showing of his cards legally a claim? Law 68A defines a claim:

Any statement to the effect that a contestant will win a specific number of tricks is a claim of those tricks. A contestant also claims when he suggests that play be curtailed, or when he shows his cards (unless he demonstrably did not intend to claim — for example, if declarer faces his cards after an opening lead out of turn, Law 54, not this law will apply).

Grue's "down one?" could well be a suggestion that play be curtailed, and his facing of his hand may not meet the condition of "demonstrably did not intend to claim". Additional testimony was given by the vugraph operator (believed to be an impartial observer) that in his opinion Grue claimed.

(A) First we'll assume that this constitutes a claim.

Kranyak's temporary agreement to down one does not remove any rights. Law 69 defines agreement of a claim: *Agreement is established when a contestant assents to an opponent's claim or concession and raises no objection to it before his side makes a call on a subsequent board or before the round ends, whichever occurs first.*

Since no calls were taken on Board 2 before North rethought the hand, there was no legal agreement to the claim. Law 70A tells us how to adjudicate a contested claim:

In ruling on a contested claim or concession, the Director adjudicates the result of the board as equitably as possible to both sides, but any doubtful point as to a claim shall be resolved against the claimer.

(Please note that Law 12C1c – the "weighted ruling" law – does not apply to claims.)

It was deemed a doubtful point that declarer would choose the wrong black suit to ruff back, so (again, on the assumption that Grue's "down one?" and showing his hand constitutes a claim) it's clear to rule eleven tricks.

(continued on page 4)

(B) Now let's go on the assumption that Grue's actions do not constitute a claim.

Play ceased at trick ten. This was either due to an action by the declarer or something else. Could declarer's actions constitute a claim? The video was watched several times, and none of Kranyak's actions were seen to meet the definition of a claim (see above). The staff believed his shrug was not a suggestion to curtail play, as two very similar body actions had occurred earlier in the hand. Kranyak also did not suggest a specific number of tricks.

So neither side claimed, but play ceased, and the directing staff was asked to adjudicate the hand. Play of the last few tricks was projected.

Declarer was credited with playing a diamond next (rather than the immediately fatal heart queen, as if he wasn't already in a guess position for West's remaining black card, playing the heart would put him in one), which would tell him about the diamond break and the need to guess the correct black card. Here Law 12C1c was brought in to the discussion. If declarer was, say, 50-50 to guess correctly, the ruling would be something like 70% of making five and 30% of down one, as it was E-W's irregularity that caused play to be suspended.

Next it was discussed which was more likely – (A) or (B). The directing staff felt that (A) was somewhat more likely to be the case.

With (A) leading to a definite eleven tricks and (B) leading to likely a large percentage of eleven tricks, the score was adjusted to eleven tricks, +400 N-S.

Session: Quarterfinal, segment 3 of 8

Date: May 15th, 2018 (appeal heard the following morning, on May 16th)

DIC: McKenzie Myers



COMMITTEE:

Bart Bramley (chair), Ron Smith, Danny Sprung

A video of the deal was available for observing the players' mannerisms, body language and timing as the deal unfolded at the table.

E/W appealed.

They asserted that declarer's shrug implied a concession and that East's question was merely a confirmation of the concession. They said that declarer had already used up a lot of time during the play, despite which he had not seen the winning line. (This was board 1. Total time was about 14 minutes, of which the play took 9 minutes. Most of that time was used by declarer.) They argued that declarer shouldn't get credit for spotting the winning line when he had failed to do so up to that point. Moreover, the four-card ending was a virtual double-dummy problem for all of the players.

N/S said that declarer's shrug did not constitute a concession. Rather, East's question ("Down one?") was a defensive claim to which declarer acquiesced. However, after a brief interval declarer realized that he had a winning line and attempted to cancel his acquiescence. They said that the timing was well within that allowed to do so.

The committee agreed with the director's assessment of North's shrug followed by East's question. Specifically, while the shrug implied frustration it did not constitute a concession. However, the question, which suggesting curtailing play with a specific outcome, DID constitute a claim. If so, then the director's ruling was clearcut. Declarer's withdrawal of his acquiescence was clearly timely (less than eight seconds, and with the board still on the table), as was his description of the winning line at that time.

The claim laws state that doubtful points should be resolved in favor of the non-claiming side. This meant that declarer was credited with a correct guess for which black suit to ruff in dummy at trick 11. However, the bidding and play up to that point meant that declarer was very likely to get it right anyway.

The committee notes that despite the length of time taken in the play, the defense also did not see that the outcome was still in doubt, else they would have continued to wait. The deal created a blind spot for these four world-class players.

Semi-Final Action

Board 2
Dealer: E
N/S Vul.

♠ 82
♥ 82
♦ QJ986
♣ AQJ7

♠ JT
♥ T543
♦ T54
♣ K864



♠ A96543
♥ A9
♦ A32
♣ 93

♠ KQ7
♥ KQJ76
♦ K7
♣ T52

It has become apparent over the years that which teams play one another and which players are in for a particular segment is what creates the swings.

West	North	East	South	Nickell/Juster
Rodwell	A Grossack	Meckstroth	Z Grossack	
Pass	3NT	1S	1NT	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		
H Weinstein	Levin	Wildavsky	S Weinstein	Lall/Fireman
Pass	3C (diamonds)	1S	2H	
Pass	3C (diamonds)	Pass	3D	
All Pass				
Milner	Wolpert	H Lall	Hurd	Lall/Fireman
Pass	3NT	1S	1NT	
Pass	3NT	All Pass		
Demuy	Pepsi	Kranyak	Zia	
Pass	2S	1S	2H	Lall/Fireman
All Pass		Pass	2NT	

Here, had the teams been rearranged with the partnerships as they are, it could have been two pushes instead of an 11 or 10 IMP swing in two matches.

In the Closed Room of Nickell/Juster, Meckstroth opened 1S. Zack Grossack, with 14 HCP and good spade cards, overcalled 1NT. His brother, with 10 HCP of his own, jumped to the game. Rodwell led the SJ; Meckstroth ducked. Zack won the king and played the DK ducked. Diamonds were continued and Meckstroth won his ace. The ace of spades and a spade followed. In his hand for the last time, Zack took the club finesse. When that worked, he collected four diamonds, two spades and three clubs for nine tricks.

In the Open Room, Steve Weinstein overcalled 2H instead of 1NT after Wildavsky's opening 1S. Howie Weinstein passed and Levin bid 3C as a transfer to diamonds. Steve took the transfer and Levin passed. 3D made.

The key here is getting to the game. Clearly, the NT overcall made it easy. If Levin's transfer is constructive, however, perhaps Weinstein should bid 3NT holding an opening hand, a double spade stopper and Kx of diamonds. It is not a great contract. In fairness, it requires the club finesse combined with diamonds behaving.

11 IMPs to Juster

In Fireman/Lall, the Closed Room played the partscore... this time in 2NT while the Open Room played the game. Both tables collected nine tricks.

10 IMPs to Fireman

Memorial Day

WORD LIST:

Z
E
F
W W C
I R E
R E C
S J I I U
T M D F U
R L L I W
H I Q O R H X
O P O S C I G
Q E B R A T U
F O S P C S E Q G
H G H U N I T E D
N T V Z E Z D I U
E V R E D I S E V A R G B R S N S B U J Y C D R T D U L Z E G K M H C D C I U
X U V I I U Y Z S R A T S F R E E D O M C E S X E T U B I R T L U Z C W Y
T I G H O A T H S D Q Z U H P L B Z D I R O N O H F U Y B P A V T
K E J W H N A R E T E V J H U H L L J M T M X S D B L U G B C
P T M X H R E M E M B E R I H A E L I Y F E A I U D A X B
N O Z R K O Q G R X X P N N C M A F Z J W E K O D
A H R S P B O Y I G O E M I D B F A X J G S T
M M X F E V R U I L S L I N H Y M M X E D
A S Y Q V T L Z I L E A S A E R Z
X F S A A E T O A T F U D R C
N I N F U A H S M G M I N I D
I R U G R N E G T N H K O C J
G A L Y V L K Y A N F P M A X
M D W G C U N B N B L E T V N A L
K U D M I F V Y U O N F M R N J I
A A L Y Y S L N I J W O R U C B V
M A Y R M J I L W F W N I Y N P B C
Z X P O X W M Z U L T F O U V
U V T W P T P I C R M M
J V R H P Q V B E T U D
U I U X N R E L I I
V N G R F K
J N C T E R P
G D Y
Q

- AMERICAN
- BLUE
- FALLEN
- FLAG
- FREEDOM
- GRAVESIDE
- HEROES
- HOLIDAY
- HONOR
- LIBERTY
- MAY
- MILITARY
- MONDAY
- MONUMENTS
- NATIONALIST
- OATH
- RED
- REFLECTION
- REMEMBER
- SACRIFICE
- SOLDIER
- STARS
- STRIPES
- TRIBUTE
- UNITED
- UNKNOWN
- VETERAN
- VIETNAM
- WHITE
- WORLDWAR



This lesson is on Upside Down Signals!



I won't mind
One bit at all
If you lead
My overcall!

Though results,
They may be worse.
I promise I will
Cease to curse!

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 (excepting those with pace makers or like equipment) entering the playing field.



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

Evil Sudoku



Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

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



Puzzle Page ...

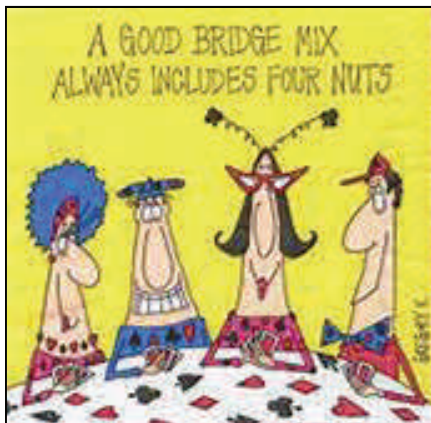
To add a little fun to the sweltering summer heat, Bella's Bath and Body Boutique in downtown Millersville (commonly known as the 4Bs by her clientele) announced that they were sponsoring a swimsuit contest. Prizes would be awarded to the winners and judging would be held the following weekend at Settler's Pond, a favorite local hang-out that featured a public beach and town-funded restroom facilities. Interested contestants could sign up inside and the 4Bs clientele set up quite a buzz over it all, with speculation running high for both who would sign up and who would win, if they did sign up. Determine the full name of the five winning contestants (one first name was Sarah and one last name was Sanford), the color of each winner's bathing suit, if the winners wore a 1-piece suit or a 2-piece, and what place each won (1st to 5th).

- Rachel Travers didn't wear a red bathing suit but she did place one higher than the woman wearing the white 1-piece bathing suit.
- Melony's last name wasn't James but she won 1st place.
- The three who wore 1-piece suits were the woman in 2nd place, the one who wore the yellow bathing suit, and Amelia, whose last name wasn't West.
- Rachel placed one higher than Ms. Couch but two places lower than the one who wore the blue bathing suit.
- Julia's last name wasn't Couch. Ms. James wore a 2-piece bathing suit.
- The five women were, in no particular order, Ms. James, Julia, the woman who placed 5th, the woman who wore the black 2-piece bathing suit, and Ms. West.

	Couch	James	Sanford	Travers	West	black	blue	red	white	yellow	1-piece	1-piece	1-piece	2-piece	2-piece	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	
Amelia																					
Julia																					
Melony																					
Rachel																					
Sarah																					
1st																					
2nd																					
3rd																					
4th																					
5th																					
1-piece																					
1-piece																					
1-piece																					
2-piece																					
2-piece																					
black																					
blue																					
red																					
white																					
yellow																					

First Name	Last Name	Suit Color	Suit Type	Place Won
Amelia				
Julia				
Melony				
Rachel				
Sarah				

-----	Couch	black	1-piece	1st
-----	James	blue	1-piece	2nd
-----	Sanford	red	1-piece	3rd
-----	Travers	white	2-piece	4th
-----	West	yellow	2-piece	5th



Answer to Puzzle

3rd	2-piece	red	James	Sarah
4th	2-piece	black	Travers	Rachel
1st	1-piece	yellow	West	Melony
2nd	1-piece	blue	Sanford	Julia
5th	1-piece	white	Couch	Amelia
Place Won	Suit Type	Suit Color	Last Name	First Name

Meet the Players

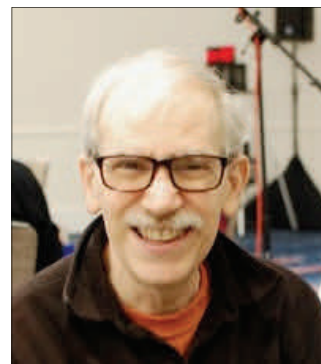


Born in the Big Apple, Marty Fleisher learned to play bridge at the age of eight by observing his parents and uncle. His biggest bridge thrill was either winning the 2017 Bermuda Bowl, the 2010 Team Trials, the 2011 Vanderbilt, the 2013 Platinum Pairs or the 2016 Spingold. However, he considers his "greatest achievement" a toss up between his marriage to his wife of twenty-eight years and getting to the finals of the Grand Nationals in 1976 (at age 17 still the youngest player to reach a National Championship final). But there was a famine of over twenty-eight years until he won the Swiss Teams at the 2004 Fall Nationals. It is interesting to note it may have been the longest stretch between 1st and 2nd for anyone. Indeed, it took Marty's teammates in the National Swiss (Gavin Wolpert and Vince Demuy) only one National to transcend from bridesmaid to bride! Marty enjoys few leisure moments for hobbies other than bridge as his professional commitments as a manager of life insurance investments and attorney are very time-consuming.

Chip Martel is a retired Professor of Computer Science at the University of California, Davis. A World Grand Master, Chip has won seven 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. Chip was elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2014.

Chip is chair of the ACBL Laws Commission.



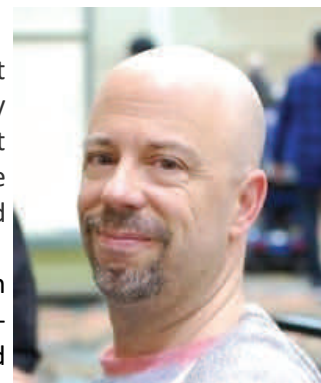
Eric Alan Greco was born July 21, 1975, in Englund, Florida. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in Finance and Accounting and now lives in Philadelphia and works as an equity options trader on the Philadelphia Options Exchange. In 1991, Eric won the North American Non-Life Master 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.

Geoffrey Hampson was born October 11, 1968 in Toronto, Ontario. He learned to count points at the kitchen table on his father's knee at around six years old, but didn't start to play until high school. "A teacher taught the entire class how to play by issuing a printout of most basic rules," explained Geoff. "The class quickly became addicted, and I never found the cure." Geoff has been a full time professional bridge player for over 20 years. Now engaged to Lindsay Pearlman, Geoff lives in Las Vegas with his Newfoundland dog Atlas.

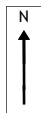
Geoff's first WBF medal came when he finished second in the 1991 World Junior Teams in Ann Arbor, Michigan, playing for Canada. A year later, he finished second in the Pan-American Games Open Teams in partnership with John Gowdy. After moving to the United States, Geoff added a gold medal in the 2010 Rosenblum and bronze medals in the 2005 Bermuda Bowl and 2014 Rosenblum. Geoff won his first major domestic event at just 22 - the Canadian National Teams Championship, playing with John Gowdy. A year later, he claimed his first NABC title - the North American Swiss, playing with Mark Molson. He has since added 15 NABC titles to that one, including 2 Spingolds, the Reisinger and the Life Master Pairs. Away from the table, Geoff is a serious movie buff and cyclist, who keeps in shape with time in the gym and on the golf course. His return to the Squash court was cut short when he ruptured his Achilles Tendon in 2013.



Board 16
 Dealer: W
 E/W Vul.

♠ T763
 ♥ JT84
 ♦ J5
 ♣ JT3

♠ AKQJ42
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 7642
 ♣ Q7



♠ AKQ962
 ♥ AKQ962
 ♦ AT9
 ♣ 8542

♠ 985
 ♥ 73
 ♦ KQ83
 ♣ AK96

West	North	East	South
Merblum	Levin	Juster	S Weinstein
1S	Pass	2H	Pass
2S	Pass	3H	Pass
4S	All Pass		

Katz	A Grossack	Nickell	Z Grossack
2S	Pass	3H	Pass
3S	All Pass		

Milner	Wolpert	H Lall	Kranyak
1S	Pass	2H	Pass
3S	Pass	4D	Pass
4S	All Pass		

Wooldridge	J Lall	Hurd	Bathurst
1S	Pass	2H	Pass
2S	Pass	3H	Pass
3S	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Nickell/Juster

Lall/Fireman

In the Closed Room of Nickell/Juster, Katz opened a chunky weak two with 12 HCP and a solid 6-card spade suit... plus a singleton heart. Nickell bid a forcing 3H and Katz, not certain where this was heading, bid only 3S and the auction ended.

In the Open Room, Merblum opened 1S. Juster made the 2/1 in hearts and the “mama-papa” auction got them to game.

There is nothing to the play in spades. You cannot help but take six spades, three hearts and one diamond for 10.

10 IMPs to Juster

In the Lall/Fireman match, it was a little different. Milner, in the Open Room, opened 1S and got to the spade game, again collecting his 10 tricks.

In the Closed Room, however, another version of a “mama-papa” auction landed Wooldridge and Hurd in 3NT. This was not so easy without entries to the West hand.

Bathurst led the CA, followed by the king and a third club to Justin’s jack. Justin switched to the D5, ducked to Bathurst’s king. Bathurst led another diamond to the jack and ace. Hurd cashed his C8 and claimed for 8 tricks. Contract failing by a trick.

13 IMPs to Lall