

“Trials” and Tribulations

Halfway Through the Finals...

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60
1	Nickell	136	28	22	22	64
2	Diamond	145	37	46	43	19



Happy
4th
Birthday
Scarlett

Thanks to the Local Workers and Wives...

Special thanks to Adrienne and Larry Cohen for being great hosts in the hospitality suite for the past week. When Barbara asked them to assist, they had no idea what was truly involved. They have done famously and I know we all appreciate it.

Also special thanks to Randee Machotka and Mickey Schaffer who were available last weekend while the Regional in Lake Geneva was taking place and local volunteers were tough to arrange.

Thanks to Rao, Jan Churchwell, Carl Sharp, Debbie Hyatt, Stan and Suzi Subeck, Joe Stokes, Jan Martel, Joanna Stansby and anyone else who diligently operated the VuGraph for us this week.

Thanks to Ken Horwedel for his work with the set-up and maintenance.

You all worked together wonderfully and USBF appreciates everyone’s contributions to making this tournament successful.

Joan Gerard, President

USBF President
Joan Gerard

USBF Vice President
George Jacobs

USBF Secretary
Cheri Bjerkan

USBF Treasurer
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Jan Martel

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John Sutherlin
Peggy Sutherlin
Howard Weinstein
Adam Wildavsky

VuGraph Organizers
Jan Martel
Joe Stokes

Bulletin Editor
Suzi Subeck

Webmaster
Kitty Cooper

Photographer
Peggy Kaplan



In Seeding Order

Everywhere is within walking distance if you have the time.

Steven Wright

Nickell	Frank Nickell, Capt Robert Hamman Jeff Meckstroth	Ralph Katz Zia Mahmood Eric Rodwell
Bye to Rnd of 8		
Diamond	John Diamond, Capt Eric Greco Brad Moss	Brian Platnick Geoff Hampson Fred Gitelman
Bye to Rnd of 8		
Fleisher	Martin Fleisher, Capt Bobby Levin Chip Martel	Michael Kamil Steve Weinstein Lew Stansby
Bye to Rnd of 16		
Gordon	Mark Gordon, Capt Alan Sontag Ron Rubin	Pratap Rajadhyaksha David Berkowitz Matthew Granovetter
Spector	Warren Spector, Capt Joe Grue Joel Wooldridge	Gary Cohler Curtis Cheek John Hurd
Wolfson	Jeffrey Wolfson, Capt Bart Bramley Chris Willenken	Larry Cohen Chris Compton Michael Rosenberg
Jacobs	George Jacobs, Capt Eddie Wold John Schermer	Steve Beatty Roger Bates Neil Chambers
Mahaffey	Jim Mahaffey, Capt Mike Passell Sam Lev	Michael Seamon Marc Jacobus Jacek Pszczola
Milner	Reese Milner, Capt Hemant Lall Justin Lall	John Kranyak Gavin Wolpert Kevin Bathurst
Levine	Michael Levine, Capt Peter Weichsel Dennis Clerkin	Dennis McGarry Russell Ekeblad Jerry Clerkin
Lee	Roger Lee, Capt Steve Garner	Nikolay Demirev Howard Weinstein
Falk	Allan Falk, Capt Mark Dahl Lloyd Arvedon	Doug Doub Peter Friedland John McLaughlin
Robinson	Steve Robinson, Capt Fred Stewart Mark Feldman	Peter Boyd Kit Woolsey Bill Pollack
Chan	Lapt Chan, Capt Christal Henner	Uday Ivatury Sheri Winestock
Rogoff	Bruce Rogoff, Capt Jeff Aker	Josh Parker Brady Richter
Weinstein	Jonathan Weinstein, Capt Franco Baseggio Jiang Gu	David Yang Andrew Stark Xiaodong Shi
Becker	Drew Becker, Capt Jeffrey Miller Stephen McConnell	Howard Liu William Wickham Phil Warden
Robbins	Larry Robbins, Capt Jon Sorkin	Jeffry Mandell Joseph Stokes

The Final Round Commences ...

Board 4
 Dealer: W
 All Vul.

♠ 83
 ♥ AKQT7
 ♦ AQ2
 ♣ A73

♠ 7542
 ♥ 86
 ♦ 98
 ♣ Q9854

♠ AKQT9
 ♥ J93
 ♦ J764
 ♣ 2

♠ J6
 ♥ 542
 ♦ KT53
 ♣ KJT6



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Katz	Gitelman	Nickell	Moss
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Closed Room			
Hampson	Zia	Greco	Hamman
Pass	1H	1S	2H
Pass	2S	Pass	3C
Pass	4H	All Pass	

The first major swing of the Final Match came on Board 4. There was much controversy among the BBO commentators about Fred's 2NT opening holding five solid hearts and two small spades. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't.

He was most unlucky to have Nickell on lead holding S: AKQT9. Had Katz been on lead, he might have led a spade but he also might have led from his five card club holding.

As it was, Nickell led his spades and the contract failed by a trick.

In the other room, Zia chose to open 1H. Greco overcalled 1S and now there was no danger of Hamman/Zia falling into the NT trap.

Greco led the king of spades against 4H. He cashed a second spade and Zia quickly claimed 11 tricks.

The result: 13 IMPs to Nickell

**Says Howie Doing:
 Go Nickell**



Hospitality Suite Information:

The hospitality suite for the 2012 USBC is Suite 3321. Players, kibitzers, friends and supporters are welcome in the Hospitality Suite during the tournament. Please join us for:

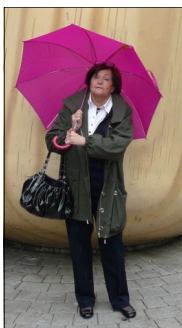


Breakfast each day from 8:30-10:00 am

Lunch on Monday-Sunday from 2:30-4:00.

Vugraph, casual chit chat, drinks & snacks during the rest of the playing hours and for a short time after the end of the day.

Barbara Nudelman, Joan Gerard, Adrienne Cohen and Randee Machotka are working to make this as comfortable as possible for you and your guests. Please stop in and say hello whenever the mood strikes you.



From the President:

Thank you all for participating in the United States Bridge Federation International Team Trials. It has been a long, fun tournament with excellent bridge being played throughout.

Thanks to my incredible staff. Jan Martel works ceaselessly behind the scenes to keep the VuGraph up and running. She coordinates all the tournament activities and we would be lost without her.

Thanks to Barbara Nudelman who negotiated the hotel reservations and was the spirit behind the hospitality suite. Barbara cooked, shopped, and offered her usual help to everyone to keep us fed and happy.

Thanks to Suzi Subeck who produced the Daily Bulletins. Suzi was faced with a difficult task: a District Regional in Lake Geneva overlapping the Trials. Suzi did the bulletins for both tournaments and it was no easy feat.

Thanks to Joe Stokes for being Jan's right-hand man. Joe helped arrange the VuGraph presentations and solicit volunteers for anything that needed doing.

The USBF BOD and I thank all of you for your help.

We look forward to seeing all of you next year in Florida. We have an excellent arrangement down south and hope you will all plan on joining us again.

Have safe trips home.

I hope you enjoyed your stay in the Windy City.

Thanks, too, to the great directing staff: Sol Weinstein and Chris Patrias. Not only do you two lend a touch of class to the tournament, but you do a wonderful job managing all aspects of the bridge operation.

See you next year!!

Joan

Creating a Slam Swing at the TWO Level

The second major swing in the match also went to Nickell. Without Cohler here, the Diamond team had no field protection.

Board 9	♠ A6	Open Room			
Dealer: N	♥ Q32	West	North	East	South
E/W Vul.	♦ KT854	Hampson	Zia	Greco	Hamman
	♣ T97		Pass	1NT	Pass
♠ KJ4	♠ QT8	3C (puppet)	Pass	3D (no 5 crd maj)	Pass
♥ A8765	♥ KJ	3S (5H +3S)	Pass	3NT	Pass
♦ AQ7	♦ 962	4NT	All Pass		
♣ QJ	♣ AK864	Closed Room			
	♠ 97532	Katz	Gitelman	Nickell	Moss
	♥ T94		Pass	1C	Pass
	♦ J3	1H	Pass	1NT	Pass
	♣ 532	2D	Double	Pass	Pass
		Redouble	All Pass		

Redoubled hands: The dream of every newsletter editor on the planet! Thanks guys!!

Katz was checking back for three card heart support, showing his game forcing values, when Gitelman stopped off to double. When Nickell passed, Katz put Gitelman's feet to the fire. He redoubled! Gitelman, having nowhere convenient to go, passed... and Nickell made the right call. He, too, passed. Nick had only three diamonds but he had trick takers in his hand and only two hearts, and a world class declarer across the table. What could be better?

Moss trusted his partner and hoped for the best. He was looking at a near Yarborough. He had no defense, but he also had no offense.

The opening lead was the CT which rode to Katz's queen. Katz led a spade toward the board and Gitelman won his ace. A second club went to the jack and Katz led a spade to the dummy. He cashed the club ace, pitching a heart. Katz played king of hearts, a heart to the ace and ruffed heart in dummy. He played the ten of spades, ruffed by Gitelman, and it was all over but the shouting. Katz claimed 9 tricks and the little seen score of +1160.

At the other table, Greco opened a weak NT and played 4NT after a slam try by partner. Hamman led a spade and Greco took five clubs, one diamond, three hearts and two spades ... making five.

The result: 11 IMPs to Nickell

Round Robin

Friday April 27th	10:00 - 12:15 12:25 - 2:40 2:40 - 3:50 3:50 - 6:05 6:15 - 8:30	Bds 1-7 & 8-14, clumped Bds 15-21 & 22-28, clumped 1 hour 10 minute break Bds 29-35 & 36-42, clumped Bds 43-49 & 50-56, clumped
Saturday April 28th	10:00 - 12:15 12:25 - 2:40 2:40 - 3:50 3:50 - 4:55 5:00 - 6:05 6:10 - 7:15	Bds 57-63 & 64-70, clumped Bds 71-77 & 78-84, clumped 1 hour 10 minute break Boards 85-91 * Boards 92-98 * Boards 99-105 *

*** NOTE: last 3 matches are "sequestered" - Closed Room pairs must play all 3 matches, no comparisons allowed ***

DRAW FOR BRACKET & CAPTAINS' MEETING FOR ROUND OF 16 WILL BE HELD AT ABOUT 7:30 PM (AS SOON AS QUALIFYING TEAMS ARE DETERMINED).

Round of 16

Sunday April 29th	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	Segment 1, Boards 1-15 Segment 2, Boards 16-30 1 Hour 10 minute break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Monday April 30th	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	Segment 5 Boards 61-75 Segment 6 Boards 76-90 1 Hour 10 minute break Segment 7 Boards 91-105 Segment 8 Boards 106-120

**Tournament
Schedule**

Quarterfinals

Tuesday May 1st	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 1 Hour 10 minute break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Wednesday May 2nd	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	Segment 5 Boards 61-75 Segment 6 Boards 76-90 1 Hour 10 minute break Segment 7 Boards 91-105 Segment 8 Boards 106-120

Semi-Finals

Thursday May 3rd	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 1 Hour 10 minute break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Friday May 4th	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	Segment 5 Boards 61-75 Segment 6 Boards 76-90 1 Hour 10 minute break Segment 7 Boards 91-105 Segment 8 Boards 106-120

Finals

Saturday May 5th	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 1 Hour 10 minute break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
Sunday May 6th	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	Segment 5 Boards 61-75 Segment 6 Boards 76-90 1 Hour 10 minute break Segment 7 Boards 91-105 Segment 8 Boards 106-120

Minnesota USBF Regional (Mon – Sun)

Co-sponsored by Unit 103 and Unit 178 -- Sanction #R1210087



October 8-14, 2012
Holiday Inn St. Paul East , 2201 Burns Ave.



Time	9:15 am Tuesday – Saturday 10 am Sunday	1:30 pm	7:00 pm
Mon. 10/8			KO #1 (1 st session of 4) Stratified Charity Pairs I/N Single Session Charity Pairs (0-5 mps free)
Tues. 10/9	KO #1 (2 nd session of 4) Morning Side Game Series I/N Single Session	KO #1 (3 rd session of 4) KO #2 (1 st session of 4) Open Pairs (0-2000, 2000+) Gold Rush Pairs (0-300, 300-750) Afternoon Side Game Series I/N Single Session	KO #1 (final) KO #2 (2 nd session of 4) Open Pairs (0-2000, 2000+) Gold Rush Pairs (0-300, 300-750) Evening Side Game Series Single Session Swiss Team I/N Single Session
Wed. 10/10	Morning Swiss #1 (1 st session) Choice Pairs (play any 2 of 3) Morning Side Game Series I/N Single Session	KO #2 (3 rd session of 4) KO #3 (1 st session of 4) Choice Pairs (play any 2 of 3) Afternoon Side Game Series I/N Single Session	KO #2 (final) KO #3 (2 nd session of 4) Choice Pairs (play any 2 of 3) Evening Side Game Series Single Session Swiss Team I/N Single Session
Thurs 10/11	Morning Swiss #1 (2 nd session) Morning Side Game Series I/N Single Session	KO #3 (3 rd session of 4) KO #4 (1 st session of 4) Open IMP Pairs (0-2000, 2000+) Gold Rush Pairs (0-300, 300-750) Afternoon Side Game Series I/N Single Session	KO #3 (final) KO #4 (2 nd session of 4) Open IMP Pairs (0-2000, 2000+) Gold Rush Pairs (0-300, 300-750) Evening Side Game Series Single Session Swiss Team I/N Single Session
Fri 10/12	Morning Swiss #2 (1 st Session) Choice Pairs (play 2 of 3) Morning Side Game Series I/N Single Session	KO #4 (3 rd session of 4) KO #5 (1 st session of 4) Choice Pairs (play 2 of 3) Afternoon Side Game Series I/N Single Session	KO #4 (final) KO #5 (2 nd session of 4) Choice Pairs (play 2 of 3) Evening Side Game Series Single Session Swiss Team I/N Single Session
Sat 10/13	Morning Swiss #2 (2 nd Session) Morning Side Game Series I/N Single Session	KO #5 (3 rd session of 4) Compact KO (1 st session) Open Pairs (0-2000, 2000+) Gold Rush Pairs (0-300, 300-750) Afternoon Side Game Series I/N Single Session	KO #5 (final) Compact KO (final) Open Pairs (0-2000, 2000+) Gold Rush Pairs (0-300, 300-750) Evening Side Game Series Single Session Swiss Team I/N Single Session
Sun 10/14 10 am	Roger Anderson Aide-de-camp Stratiflighted Swiss Teams play through Flight A/AX (3000+ and 0-3000) Strats B/C/D (1000-2000. 500-1000. 0-500)		

KO= 4 session Knockout Team Games CKO= 2 session Compact Knockout Team Games
 Strats/Brackets are determined by the average of the pair's or team's MPs.

Patti Stuhlman, Co-chair pstuhlman123@comcast.net 952-829-7382
 Sue Jackson, Unit 178 Co-Chair sjackson@smumn.edu 651-636-4446

Minnesota USBF Regional (Mon- Sun)

Co-sponsored by Unit 103 and Unit 178 Sanction # R1210087

October 8-14, 2012



Site: Holiday Inn St. Paul East

2201 Burns Ave. (Exit I-94 at McKnight Road-- turn south to Burns Ave – hotel is on corner of Burns Ave. and McKnight Road) , St. Paul, MN 55119 , 651-731-2220

Room Rates: \$90 single/double - \$110 Junior Suite - \$135 Innovation Suite

www.holidaymn.com

Reserve rooms by Sept. 10, 2012 (by phone 651-731-2220 or on the web)

Free Parking -- Free Coffee –Free Lunches– Dinner Shuttle for out of town guests

Entries: \$12/session for ACBL Members; \$9/session for single session I/N games; \$6/session for students under 25 with proper ID (non ACBL members and unpaid members: \$2 more per session)

Flights: Stratified Events: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750 (based on pair's MP average)
Stratiflighted Teams (Sunday) A: unlimited A/X 0-3000 B: 1000-2000 C: 500-1000 D: 0-500
I/N Strats: 0-50, 50-100, 100-200, 200-300

All Knockouts are bracketed

KO = 4 session Knockout Team game CKO = 2 session Compact Knockout Team game

Intermediate - Newcomer Program (0-300)

Monday 7:00 pm (Free for 0-5 master points)

Tues. through Saturday 9:15 am 1:30, 7:00 single session pairs

Sunday Swiss Team 10 am and TBA (approx 1:45 pm)

I/N Strats: 0-50, 50-100, 100-200, 200-300

A separate 0-49 section will be played if there are sufficient tables for a game.

Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday afternoon and evening play in the Gold Rush Pairs (\$12/session)

Partnerships: Call or email Maureen Weiman at 603-882-9424 or jhnsnmaur@aol.com

(Do not call once the tournament has started.)

Go to the partnership desk at the hotel 45 minutes before game time.)

Hospitality: Free coffee; Free lunches; Dinner shuttle for out of town guests

Special Events: Lecture Series 12:45-1:15 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

Gold Point Events:

Consult the director for criteria to earn gold points. (Two or more session events)

Choice Pairs; Stratified Pairs; Gold Rush Pairs

Four-session KOs and two- session Compact Knockouts (CKO)

Morning Side Game Series (must play in 2 morning sessions to be eligible for gold points)

Afternoon Side Game Series (must play in 2 afternoon sessions to be eligible for gold points)

Evening Side Game Series (must play in 2 evening sessions to be eligible for gold points)

Sunday Stratiflighted Swiss Team play-through

Car Name Origins:

David Dunbar Buick—America's oldest surviving marque was founded in 1899 by the man who developed the process for affixing porcelain to cast iron, giving the world the white porcelain bathtub. Buick was the first company to join General Motors in 1908. Oddly enough: David Buick left Buick in 1908 and never created another successful car brand. He died impoverished in 1929.

Louis Chevrolet—William C. Durant created GM in 1908 and lost the company to bankers in 1910. To get back in the game, Durant had a member of Buick's racing team create a new car. Louis Chevrolet obliged but left the company shortly after the car was launched in 1912. Oddly enough: The first V8-powered Chevrolet was produced in 1917, not 1955 as is commonly thought.

Walter P. Chrysler-Walter Percy Chrysler rose through the ranks of GM until 1919, when he quit his job as Buick's president. Walking out with \$10 million, he landed at Willys-Overland before taking over Maxwell Motors. There, in 1924, he launched the Chrysler. Oddly enough: Willys built the Jeep during World War II. Jeep is now owned by Chrysler.

John and Horace Dodge - The Dodge brothers had made a fortune producing engines and transmissions for Oldsmobile and Ford. As Henry Ford moved production in-house, John and Horace decided to build their own car, which debuted in 1914. Oddly enough: In 1920, both brothers died: John of pneumonia, Horace of cirrhosis.

Edsel Ford—Henry Ford's only son, Edsel, imbued Fords of the '20s and '30s with a sense of style that his father, Henry, lacked. Edsel died of cancer and undulant fever in 1943. His son, Henry Ford II, named a line of cars in his memory in 1958. Oddly enough: A car derided for its ungainly looks was named for a man with an impeccable taste in design.

Henry Ford—Until Henry Ford gave the world its first affordable car, the Model T, automobiles were playthings for the wealthy. The T changed that. Fifteen million were built from 1908 to 1927. Prices dropped to \$290 in 1924 from \$850 in 1909. Oddly enough: Ford Motor Co. was Henry's third company. The second was renamed Cadillac after Ford left.

Soichiro Honda—Soichiro Honda started as an auto mechanic in the 1920s, and he built engines for bicycles before manufacturing motorcycles. The first bikes hit the U.S. market in 1959. Car production started in 1963 with the S500, a two-seat roadster. Oddly enough: Honda, not Toyota, was the first Japanese automaker to build cars in the U.S.

Wilhelm & Karl Maybach—Wilhelm Maybach engineered the first Mercedes. Son Karl topped him, producing a series of more exclusive, more expensive Maybach luxury cars. Production ended in the 1930s. Mercedes-Benz revived the brand in 2004. Oddly enough: Father and son first teamed up to produce engines for airships built by Graf Ferdinand von Zeppelin.

Mercedes Jellinek, Karl Benz—The world's oldest car company dates to 1886, when Karl Benz produced the first modern car – the Benz Patent Motorwagen. A separate company, Daimler, introduced the Mercedes in 1901, named for the daughter of Daimler dealer Emil Jellinek. The companies merged in 1926. Oddly enough: Mercedes-Benz cars were sold in the U.S. by Studebaker dealers during the 1950s and '60s.

Ransom E. Olds—Ransom Eli Olds' future was assured when a fire ripped through the Olds Motor Works in 1901. The only car rescued – the 7-horsepower Curved Dash Oldsmobile – was a huge hit and became the first mass-produced car in America. Oddly enough: Olds left Oldsmobile in 1904 to start Reo, builder of the Reo Speedwagon truck. The rock band came later.

Charles Stewart Rolls, Frederick Henry Royce—When a Decauville automobile he had bought proved unreliable, Henry Royce decided to build a better one. By spring 1904, he produced his first car, which caught the attention of Charles Rolls, who locked up the rights to sell it. Oddly enough: The Rolls-Royce hood ornament, named the Spirit of Ecstasy, was modeled after actress/model Eleanor Thornton.

Kiichiro Toyoda—The success of the Toyoda Automatic Loom Works led Sakichi Toyoda to nurture son Kiichiro in a different line of business. Kiichiro decided to build automobiles in the 1930s under the name Toyota. Oddly enough: Why the name change? Toyota in Japanese takes eight brush strokes, Toyoda requires 10. Eight is considered lucky; 10 is not.

Board 40
 Dealer: W
 None Vul.

♠ A76432	♠ Q
♥ Q72	♥ K8643
♦ 2	♦ AK64
♣ AT9	♣ KQ2
♠ JT	
♥ AT	
♦ J9875	
♣ 8653	



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Katz	Hampson	Nickell	Greco
Pass	Pass	1H	Pass
2C (Drury)	Pass	2D	Pass
2S	Pass	3C	Pass
4D	Pass	5C	Pass
6H	All Pass		

Closed Room			
Diamond	Rodwell	Platnick	Meckstroth
1S	Pass	2H	Pass
3H	Pass	3S	Pass
3NT	Pass	4D	Pass
4H	All Pass		

It's ironic that when East opened the bidding, his side got only to game. Yet, when East passed the hand and simply used Drury, his side got to slam.

Because of the poor trump spots, the requires Ax of hearts in the South hand and a favorable spade position... not a very good percentage.

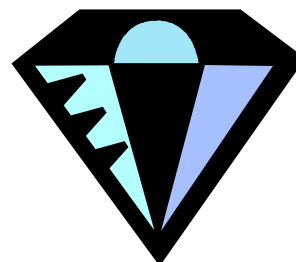
Greco led the jack of spades and Nick won in dummy with the ace. He ruffed a spade to hand, led a heart to the queen, and ducked a heart around. Even with the AT of hearts coming down, there was no play with spades 4-2.

Greco won his ace of hearts and played a diamond to Nickell's ace. Nick ruffed a diamond in dummy.

This was really not the best line, but in point of fact, the ematiated trump spots left him no play from trick one.

The result: 11 IMPs to Diamond

*Limey Jack
 says:
 Go Diamond*



**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.**



Board 60
Dealer: W
N/S Vul.

♠ 963
♥ KT9732
♦ 9754
♣

♠ 87
♥ Q6
♦ JT62
♣ Q8632



♠ AQ
♥ A5
♦ K8
♣ AKT9754

♠ KJT542
♥ J84
♦ AQ3
♣ J

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Hampson	Hamman	Greco	Zia
Pass	Pass	1C (strong)	1S
Pass	2H	3NT	4H
4NT	Pass	5C	All Pass

Closed Room

Rodwell	Moss	Meckstroth	Gitelman
Pass	Pass	1C (strong)	2D (one major)
Pass	2S	3NT	All Pass

Despite the strong club opening by Greco, Hamman and Zia found their ice cold major suit game: 4H. Hampson assumed that 3NT was cold and bid 4NT. This, indeed, would have been a good sacrifice against the North/South game.

Greco converted to five clubs. The opening lead was a heart to the queen, king, ace. Greco played two rounds of trump ending in dummy. He led a diamond to his king, losing to the ace and was down two.

At the other table, Gitelman overcalled two diamonds showing one major. Moss bid two spades, pass or correct, showing better hearts than spades. Meckstroth jumped to 3NT and bought the contract.

There was nothing to the play. He actually made four when Gitelman, knowing he needed to lead a red suit, chose to lead a diamond.

The result: 11 IMPs to Nickell

Board 54
Dealer: E
E/W Vul.

♠ K85
♥ 5
♦ AK63
♣ AKT43



♠ Q
♥ KQ987
♦ T42
♣ J862

♠ JT964
♥ 632
♦ 975
♣ 97

♠ A732
♥ AJT4
♦ QJ8
♣ Q5

Open Room

Rodwell	Moss	Meckstroth	Gitelman
Pass	2D (inverted)	Pass	1D
Pass	4D (KC)	Pass	5C (2 with Q)
Pass	6C	Pass	7D
All Pass			

Closed Room

Hampson	Hamman	Greco	Zia
Pass	2C	Pass	1D
Pass	3D	Pass	2NT
Pass	4D	Pass	3NT
Pass	4S	Pass	4H
Pass	6D	All Pass	5C

Both tables found a Moysian slam. 6D was cold, but 7D was a massive failure and way too aggressive... a badly needed 14 IMP swing to Nickell who was down 54 going into the final segment.

Board 43
 Dealer: S
 None. Vul.

♠ T832
 ♥ 43
 ♦ A9874
 ♣ AQ

♠ QJ97
 ♥ AKJT86
 ♦ J
 ♣ K8

♠ A
 ♥ Q9752
 ♦ T652
 ♣ T63

♠ K654
 ♥
 ♦ KQ3
 ♣ J97542



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Diamond	Rodwell	Platnick	Meckstroth
			Pass
1H	Pass	4H	All Pass

Closed Room			
Katz	Hampson	Nickell	Greco
			Pass
1H	Pass	4H	Double
Pass	4S	All Pass	

This is the second double game swing of the tournament. Hampson and Greco bid and made four spades on a combined 19 HCP, losing only three spade tricks, when Greco decided to make a takeout double with his 4-0-3-5 distribution over 4H at even vulnerability.

Nickell led a heart and Hampson ruffed. Hampson hooked a club, ruffed another heart, and ducked a spade around to the ace. He scored ten tricks for +420.

At the other table, Meckstroth declined to make a takeout double and chose to defend the 21 point heart game. With no major suit losers, it was easy for Diamond to score up the game for +420.

The result: 13 IMPs for Diamond

Board 45
 Dealer: N
 All Vul.

♠ AKJ63
 ♥ K
 ♦ QT
 ♣ QT765

♠ T5
 ♥ Q5
 ♦ KJ876
 ♣ AJ42

♠ 987
 ♥ AJ632
 ♦ 953
 ♣ 93

♠ Q42
 ♥ T9874
 ♦ A42
 ♣ K8



Diamond	Rodwell	Platnick	Meckstroth
Katz	Hampson	Nickell	Greco
	1S	Pass	2S
Pass	4S	All Pass	

Both tables got to the spade game on this hand.

Nickell found the best lead against Hampson... a trump!! To counter this lead, Hampson needed to win the trump in hand and immediately play the heart king. This has two effects: It establishes communication between his hand and dummy, and most importantly, it cuts off the defending hand that holds three trumps. This is by no means a clear line of play... maybe even being an inferior line to the line Hampson took.

Hampson won the trump in hand and led a club to the king and ace. Katz led a second trump, won in dummy with the queen. Hampson tried a club to the queen, hoping to find a favorable 3-3 split in clubs. He led a club to ruff in dummy and Nick ruffed in with the trump seven.

Hampson had to lose one trick in each suit for down one.

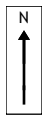
At the other table, Platnick led a club against the game. That lead made it easy for Rodwell to score up ten tricks. Eric ducked the club and Diamond won the ace. He shifted to a heart, won by Platnick's ace. Platnick tried another another heart but Rodwell ruffed in hand, pulled three rounds of trump, and played on clubs to score ten tricks.

The result: 12 IMPs to Nickell

Board 59
 Dealer: S
 None Vul.

♠ KJ3
 ♥ 54
 ♦ AKJ86
 ♣ Q95

♠ AQ7654
 ♥ J87
 ♦ Q52
 ♣ 2



♠ T982
 ♥ QT96
 ♦ T74
 ♣ A3

♠
 ♥ AK32
 ♦ 93
 ♣ KJT8764

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Moss	Meckstroth	Gitelman
			1C
1S	2D	3S	4C
Pass	5C	All Pass	

Closed Room			
Hampson	Hamman	Greco	Zia
			1C
1S	2D	3S	4C
Pass	4S	Pass	6C
All Pass			

Zia and Hamman did well to bid the minor suit slam. Hampson and Greco did their best to interfere, but Zia was undaunted.

Hampson led the ace of spades. Zia ruffed in hand. He played a club to the nine, Greco winning the ace and leading a heart. Zia rose and claimed his slam.

At the other table, Moss made no attempt to go slamming. He and Gitelman settled in an easy club game. They received the same opening lead and claimed 12 tricks.

Another 11 IMPs to the hungry Nickell team.

The margin at the end of the day was a trivial nine IMPs. Today's action should be very exciting and well worth watching.

Good luck to both the Nickell and Diamond teams.

This finish supports the seeding. The one and two teams are in the finals.

It also goes to show that the long ten days of play is grueling. Both of these teams had byes to the Round of Eight and came in fresh. Rest can be a real advantage.

Safe Trips Home to Everyone.

We hope to see many of you return for the Women's and Senior's Trials

The first week in June

Here at the Hyatt Schaumburg!!

Team registration closes shortly!

