

Volume 6, Issue 9
May 4, 2012

**We Enter the Semis ...
Slams Abound ... Results ...**

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60
1	Nickell	188	29	79	18	62
4	Milner	107	14	25	38	30
2	Diamond	192	46	33	30	83
3	Lee	78	7	15	31	25

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“Trials” and Tribulations

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



These two were looking in the window of the playing room where I was doing VG on Tuesday. Peggy caught their picture ... perhaps the goose was suggesting a duck.



Cheering for Daddy ... the littlest Demirev

In Seeding Order

A joke is a very serious thing.

Winston Churchill

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
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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

Sometimes Analysis is Suite and Sometimes It's Sweeter!

Board 84
 Dealer: W
 All Vul.

♠ KJ
 ♥ KJT
 ♦ KT872
 ♣ AQ3

♠ 4
 ♥ A763
 ♦ 9653
 ♣ KT96

♠ AT97532
 ♥ Q9542
 ♦ 4
 ♣ 4

♠ Q86
 ♥ 8
 ♦ AQJ4
 ♣ J8752



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Cohler	Meckstroth	Spector
Pass	1D	1S	3D
Pass	3NT	4H	All Pass

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Wooldridge	Zia	Hurd	Hamman
Pass	1NT	3S	3NT
All Pass			

This hand appeared in yesterday's bulletin. I'd like to tell you that it was a test to see if anyone really reads the copy, however, that would be a breach of ethics... otherwise known as a lie!

I will tell you that I have learned not to rely on disgruntled teammates in the hospitality suite who become very emotional when they see what they perceive as a teammate error.

I received two emails correcting the analysis on this hand and I must share them with you:

Hi Suzi,

The analysis claimed that after Meckstroth had pitched on the ace of diamonds lead, repeated diamond leads would have defeated 4H.

Declarer ruffs the second diamond and plays ace and ruffs a spade, then leads a low heart. If North ducks declarer wins the queen and ruffs another spade, emerging with an overtrick. If North wins the king and plays a diamond, declarer ruffs, ruffs a spade with the ace of hearts, leads a heart to the queen and runs spades, losing to the high trump and making four.

Regards.

Ronald Gerard

Re: the Meckstroth 4H contract with the 7-5 in majors

The hand is cold, single dummy, on any defense. Declarer simply ruffs a diamond, then ace and ruff a spade, then LOW heart towards Q, ruff diamond return and now the key play: an interesting gambit (gambit , the sacrifice of material for greater gain). You ruff the 3rd spade with the ACE of trumps to unblock the situation, then trump to Q and run the spades, tapping RHO out of his recently established trump winner. You have trump left in hand and enough spade winners for 10 tricks so you lose one club and TWO trumps.

I am sure it would have been found at the table.

All the best

Allan Graves

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.

Good News: Ronnie Smith reports to us that Seymon Deutsch is coming home from the hospital today and is doing much better. I know everyone here at the Trials was concerned and will feel much better reading this.

Board 26

Dealer: E

All Vul.

♠ K97432

♥ T754

♦ K2

♣ 4

♠ QJ

♥ J86

♦ A98763

♣ T3



♠ 6

♥ AKQ

♦ 4

♣ AKQ98765

♠ AT85

♥ 932

♦ QJT5

♣ J2

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	J Lall	Meckstroth	Bathurst
		1C (strong)	Pass
2C (8+ HCP)	Pass	2S	Pass
3S	Pass	4C	Pass
5C	All Pass		

Closed Room

Milner	Zia	H Lall	Hamman
		2C	Pass
2D	Pass	4NT	Pass
6D	Pass	7C	All Pass

Meckwell got extremely lucky on this board. Everyone was predicting a slam swing for Milner. In a rare conservative moment, the arguably best pair in the world stopped short of slam. There was nothing to the play and they made six for +620. One would most assuredly expect to lose 13 IMPs since Blackwood was all that was necessary to bid or not bid the slam.

At the other table, Milner and the Senior Lall saw the wheels come off the bus. Lall opened a strong 2C and, after receiving a positive response from partner of 2D showing game values, he did the obvious thing and asked for aces. What 6D was is a mystery... but it got the pair to 7C off the cashing ace of spades. Hamman led the dreaded ace and got the hand over quickly.

13 IMPs to Nickell

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

Same hand ... other match ... Still the Semi Finals of the United States Bridge Championships ... four of the best teams in the USA ... You would think SOMEONE could get to 6C!!

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Moss	Lee	Gitelman	Demirev
		2C	Pass
2S (8-11 artificial)	Pass	3C	Pass
3D	Pass	4C	Pass
5C	All Pass		

Open Room			
H Weinstein	Diamond	Garner	Platnick
		4NT	All Pass

Again, the pair using most science got to game ... and made six ... in the Closed Room.

And in the Open Room, the team with the perfect opening bid in this editor's opinion, got the worst result! Garner intended 4NT as Blackwood I am sure, however, Weinstein must have taken it as some sort of quantitative bid or he never would have passed it.

Platnick led a fourth best spade and the defense took the first six tricks for down THREE!!

I find it mind boggling that none of these pairs got to the seemingly normal contract of six clubs. I thought Steven made the best possible opening bid. He needed to know one and only one thing... how many ace does partner hold.

I credit Weinstein and Garner with the best auction... Lall and Milner with the second best auction (Milner explained in the suite that he was simply confused by 4NT without a suit after Lall's 2C opener... was it RKC, 1430 or what?) ... the other two pairs are most experienced with the maximum science. I cannot reconcile how they missed the small slam.

14 IMPs to 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.



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

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

Tournament Schedule

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

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

Sudoku

**Answers to Puzzle
No Peeking!**

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

Did you know the saying "God willing and the Creeks don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creeks don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creeks" it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October) Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig.' Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their Facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt ... therefore, the expression 'losing face.'

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced' wore a tightly tied lace.

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some Ale and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the phrase 'minding your 'P's and Q's'.

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey; Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey

Some Truth ... Some Fiction

Board 2
 Dealer: E
 N/S Vul.

♠ AKJ43
 ♥ T2
 ♦ Q763
 ♣ 96

♠ 2
 ♥ Q8763
 ♦ 85
 ♣ AJ843



♠ T8
 ♥ AKJ5
 ♦ A2
 ♣ KQT52

♠ Q9765
 ♥ 94
 ♦ KJT94
 ♣ 7

It was maximum punishment for Lee when Garner/Weinstein found the save against 6C and their teammates failed to bid the slam.

Instead of gaining 4 IMPs, they lost 9!

In the Milner/Nickell match, there was no swing at all when one table played four hearts making five and the other played five hearts making five.

Note the if you are going to play slam on this hand, you need to be in clubs. In clubs, you can pitch your losing diamond on the long heart in East's hand. In hearts, you are doomed with a spade and a diamond loser.

Interestingly, the only pair to bid the slam, did bid it in clubs.

Best auction award on this hand goes to Hampson/Greco and Garner/Weinstein for bidding the proper slam and taking the save.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Demirev	Gitelman	Lee	Moss
		1C	1D
2D (fit)	2S	3H	4S
5C	All Pass		

Closed Room			
Hampson	Garner	Greco	H Weinstein
		1C (strong)	1NT (S+D or H=C)
2H (5+H, GF)	Pass	3H	Pass
4H	4S	Dble (=forc pass)	Pass
5C	5S	Double	Pass
6C	6S	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

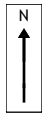
Open Room			
Kranyak	Katz	Wolpert	Nickell
		1C	Pass
1H	1S	4H	4S
5C	Pass	5D	Pass
5H	All Pass		

Closed Room			
Rodwell	Milner	Meckstroth	H Lall
		1C (Strong)	Pass
1S (artificial)	Pass	1NT (artificial)	Pass
2S (artificial)	Pass	4H	All Pass



Board 4
 Dealer: W
 All Vul.
 ♠ JT72
 ♥ T5
 ♦ T87
 ♣ T765

♠ K6
 ♥ QJ87
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ AQ943



♠ AQ54
 ♥ AK643
 ♦ 953
 ♣ 8

♠ 983
 ♥ 92
 ♦ AQ642
 ♣ KJ2

Three out of four rooms reached the heart slam... and all of the four right-sided the contract to protect the tenaces.

The contract is proof with the trumps falling 2-2, the ace and queen of diamonds outside and the K of clubs in the pocket.

What happened in the Open Room in the Lee/Diamond match?

Perhaps Lee was afraid that his side was not safe at the five level, looking at his three small diamonds.

It would most certainly seem like a cue of the spade ace was in order.

On the other hand, maybe Demirev should have asked for aces once his partner made a slam try at all. He certainly has the right controls for that.

Again, no IMPs in the Nickell/Milner match...

And, 13 IMPs to Diamond in the Diamond/Lee set.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Hampson	Garner	Greco	H Weinstein
1NT (14-16)	Pass	2C	Pass
2H	Pass	3S (slam try +	Pass
3NT (asking)	Pass	4C (shortness)	Pass
4S (RKC)	Pass	4NT	Pass
6H	All Pass		

Open Room			
Demirev	Gitelman	Lee	Moss
1NT	Pass	2C	Pass
2H	Pass	3S (slam try)	Pass
4C	Pass	4H	All Pass

Closed Room			
Rodwell	Milner	Meckstroth	H Lall
1NT	Pass	2C	Pass
2H	Pass	3D (slam try)	Double
Redouble (2nd	Pass	4C	Pass
4S	Pass	4NT	Pass
6H	All Pass		

Open Room			
Kranyak	Katz	Wolpert	Nickell
1NT	Pass	2C	Pass
2H	Pass	3S (slam try)	Pass
3NT	Pass	4C	Pass
4NT	Pass	5C	Pass
6H	All Pass		

Board 47
 Dealer: S
 N/S Vul.

♠ QT5
 ♥ T862
 ♦ AQT6
 ♣ KT

♠ AK64
 ♥ Q954
 ♦ 974
 ♣ 87



♠ J9832
 ♥ J7
 ♦ 32
 ♣ J943

♠ 7
 ♥ AK3
 ♦ KJ85
 ♣ AQ652

Moss made six diamonds on a dummy reversal. Demirev led a high spade and switched to a trump. Moss won the trump in dummy with the 6. He ruffed a spade, played another trump to the ten, ruffed another spade, played a club to the king and pulled the last trump. He ruffed out the jack fourth of clubs and claimed his 12 tricks.

In the Nickell/Milner match, the slam was played from North. Hamman led a spade to Zia's ace and Zia exited with a club to dummy's king. Wolpert played on the same line as Moss and produced the same result.

Weinstein and Garner settled for game and lost 13 IMPs... Weinstein intended 4H to be double key card kickback for clubs and diamonds. Based on the 4S response, they were off 2 key-cards.

The scariest auction goes to Meckwell on this one. They are playing Precision and when the auction ended, they were in the dark about one another's hands.

Young Lall led a spade to his partner's king. Bathurst won and returned the S4. Meckstroth had to guess. He inserted the ten and was down before he even gained the lead.

16 IMPs to Milner
 13 IMPs to Diamond

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Bathurst	Rodwell	J Lall	Meckstroth
			1C (strong)
Double (majors)	1NT	3S	3NT
All Pass			

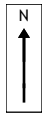
Open Room			
Zia	Wolpert	Hamman	Kranyak
			1C
Pass	2NT	Pass	3S (3 suited with spade)
Pass	4D	Pass	4H
Pass	4NT	Pass	5C
Pass	6C	Pass	6D
All Pass			

Open Room			
Hampson	Garner	Greco	H Weinstein
			1C
Pass	1NT	Pass	2D
Pass	3D	Pass	3H
Pass	4C	Pass	4H
Pass	4S	Pass	5D
All Pass			

Closed Room			
Demirev	Gitelman	Lee	Moss
			1C
Pass	1H	Pass	2D
Pass	3D	Pass	3H
Pass	4C	Pass	4H
Pass	4S	Pass	6D
All Pass			

Board 53
 Dealer: N
 N/S Vul.
 ♠ 9832
 ♥ 65
 ♦ JT84
 ♣ J73

♠ AKJ64
 ♥ J82
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 9842



♠ Q
 ♥ KT93
 ♦ AK75
 ♣ AKQT

♠ T75
 ♥ AQ74
 ♦ 9632
 ♣ 65

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Wolpert	Hamman	Kranyak
	Pass	1D	Pass
1S	Pass	2H	Pass
2S	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Closed Room

Bathurst	Rodwell	J Lall	Meckstroth
	Pass	1C	Pass
1S	Pass	2NT	Pass
3C	Pass	4D	Pass
4H	Pass	6C	All Pass

Moss found the killing lead against 6NT. He led a fourth best diamond. Lee won the singleton queen in dummy but he could no longer collect his five spades tricks. He tried the heart finesse in case there was queen doubleton in the slot (his only real chance for success). When the heart finesse lost to the queen in Moss's hand, Lee failed by a trick.

In the Open Room of this match, Weinstein led the ace of hearts and switched to a spade. Greco won the spade, pulled trump and took 12 tricks.

In the other match, Meckstroth led a club against six clubs. Justin pulled trump and collected 12 tricks much as Greco did.

In the Open Room of that match, Hamman opened a normal one diamond. Zia responded with one spade and Hamman reversed into hearts. Zia rebid two spades and Hamman jumped to 3NT. Funny how they never mentioned their best suit... the one that makes slam.

Open Room

Hampson	Garner	Greco	H Weinstein
	Pass	1C	Pass
1S	Pass	1NT	Pass
2C	Pass	2D	Pass
2H	Pass	2S	Pass
2NT	Pass	4D	Pass
4S	Pass	6C	All Pass

Closed Room

Demirev	Gitelman	Lee	Moss
	Pass	2NT	Pass
3H (transfer)	Pass	3S	Pass
4NT	Pass	6NT	All Pass

Still, since Hamman opened one diamond, Kranyak led the ten of spades through the spade bidder. This did not have the same devastating impact that the diamond lead did in the other match. Hamman won the spade in hand with the queen and played three rounds of high clubs. He led a diamond to the queen and cashed the spades. He returned to his hand with a club and scored up six for +490.

10 IMPs to Milner

14 IMPs to Diamond

Board 60
 Dealer: W
 N/S Vul.

♠ K5
 ♥ AK65
 ♦ A
 ♣ KQ6532

♠ 84
 ♥ 2
 ♦ KJT942
 ♣ JT98



♠ J3
 ♥ T874
 ♦ Q7653
 ♣ A4

♠ AQT9762
 ♥ QJ93
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 7

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Wolpert	Hamman	Kranyak
3D	Double	5D	6S
Pass	7D	Pass	7H
Pass	7S	Double	Pass
Pass	7NT	Double	All Pass

Closed Room

Bathurst	Rodwell	J Lall	Meckstroth
3D	Double	6D	6S
All Pass			

Clearly this was a day of wild and crazy slams. The players were extremely tired and many of their decision reflected this.

When this ultimate hand was bid on VuGraph, Chip Martel, commentating in the Open Room of the Nickell/Milner match, made the observation that this was third time today that Hamman was on lead against a grand slam holding an ace. He said it must be some kind of record in 30 boards. Anyone know differently?

At all the tables, West opened 3D and North doubled. At three of the tables, East furthered the preempt with a 5D call.

Open Room

Demirev	Gitelman	Lee	Moss
3D	Double	5D	5S
Pass	6C	Pass	6S
All Pass			

Closed Room

Hampson	Garner	Greco	H Weinstein
3D	Double	5D	6S
Pass	7D	Pass	7H
Pass	7S	Double	Pass
Pass	7NT	Double	All Pass

Over 5D, Moss bid a conservative 5S and his partner raised to six. At the other table, Howie Weinstein jumped to 6S and Garner cued the ace of diamonds in an attempt to find the best grand. Unfortunately, there is no best grand slam when you're off a cashing ace.

In the Nickell/Milner match, Justin Lall jumped to 6D over the double. Meckstroth bid 6S, and Rodwell wisely did not push on knowing his partner might be stretching in a strained auction.

At the other table in this match, the auction was identical to the Weinstein/Garner auction, ending in 7NT doubled.

Had the teammates been dispersed differently, these results could have produced two routine pushes!!

The par contract of 7D E/W was bid was not bid in any of the four rooms.

Did you know...

Did you know the first Burger King was opened in Florida Miami in 1954

Did you know in 1878 the first telephone book made contained only 50 names

Did you know Coca Cola launched its 3rd product Sprite in 1961

Did you know instant coffee was invented in 1901

Did you know the naming of tropical storms and hurricanes officially began in 1953

Did you know Madonna and Michael Jackson were both born in 1958

Did you know Halley's comet passes the Earth every 76 years (the next time it will return will be 2062)

Did you know the Olympic flag was designed in 1913

Did you know the electric toothbrush was invented in 1939

Did you know the doorbell was invented in 1831

Did you know The first English dictionary was written in 1755

Did you know the tea bag was invented in 1908

Did you know plastic bottles were first used for soft drinks in 1970

Did you know the \$ sign was introduced in 1788

Did you know the term 'disc jockey' was first used in 1937

Did you know volleyball was invented in 1895

Did you know Hawaii officially became apart of the US in 1900

Did you know New York's Central Park was opened in 1876

Did you know the first rugby club was formed in 1843

Did you know New Zealands first hospital was opened in 1843

