

Volume 7, Issue 8
June 23, 2016

Thanks to Everyone Who Made this Event Successful

Howie Weinstein, USBF President, extends his thanks to all who participated in this tournament.

Thanks to Jan Martel for making the whole thing happen!

Thanks to Martha Katz and Lisa Berkowitz for the great, much appreciated hospitality... and especially for waking early to accommodate the Seniors who are early risers!

Thanks to McKenzie Myers for being a jack of all trades! You were where we needed you when we needed you.

Thanks to Chris Patrias for keeping us on schedule and keeping everything moving along smoothly.

Thanks to Suzi Subeck for creating and writing the Daily Bulletins.

Thanks to the many VG operators and commentators who did a marvelous job bringing Denver to the world.

You all operate like a well oiled machine and that's what makes these events fun!

Howie Weinstein, USBF President

USBF President
Howie Weinstein

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#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	SET #5	SET #6
1	Hamman, NPC	175	25	45	19	23	7	56
2	Wolfson	147	16	11	64	34	7	15

Congrats Team Hamman! Bob, Reese, Petra, Jeff, Hemant, Mark, Zia



UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Old Times

Teams Entered... In Bracket Order

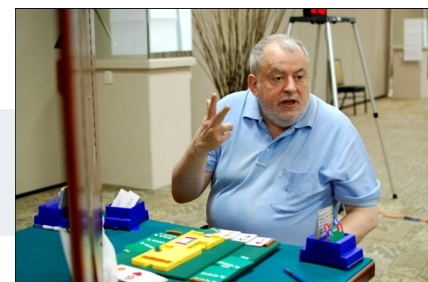
OLD TIMES

Hamman	Reese Milner Mark Lair Zia Mahmood Petra Hamman, NPC	Hemant Lall Robert Hamman Jeff Meckstroth
Morse	John Mohan Lew Stansby Steve Garner Jo Morse, NPC	Rose Meltzer Bart Bramley Ron Smith
Koneru	Eddie Wold Mike Passell Dennis Clerkin	Michael Levine Marc Jacobus Jerry Clerkin
Robinson	Steve Robinson, Capt Kit Woolsey	Peter Boyd Fred Stewart
Gupta	Vinita Gupta, Capt Peter Weichsel Neil Chambers	Billy Miller John Schermer
Wolfson	Jeffrey Wolfson, Capt Chip Martel David Berkowitz	Neil Silverman Michael Rosenberg Alan Sontag
Simson	Doug Simson, Capt Drew Casen	Jeff Aker Jim Krekorian
Mahaffey	Jim Mahaffey, Capt Russell Ekeblad Matthew Granovetter	Sam Lev Roger Bates
Pollack	Bill Pollack, Capt Mark Cohen Steve Beatty	Mark Feldman Peter Friedland Larry Robbins
Kasle	Gaylor Kasle, Capt Fred Hamilton Richard Schwartz	Dan Morse Arnold Fisher J. Allan Graves
Bell	Leo Bell, Capt Rick Roeder Claude Vogel	John Jones George Jacobs Jim Looby
Lewis	Paul Lewis, Capt Mark Itabashi Franklin Merblum	Linda Lewis Doug Doub
Reynolds	W. Thomas Reynolds, Capt David Pelka	Lance Kerr Alan Daniels
Bitterman	Robert Bitterman, Capt David Caprera	Jerry Helms Anne Brenner



The politicians were talking themselves red, white and blue in the face.

Clare Boothe Luce



Down to the Wire...

Board 2
 Segment 3
 Dealer: E
 N/S Vul.
 ♠ 2
 ♥
 ♦ AKQJ63
 ♣ A876542

♠ Q95
 ♥ QJ43
 ♦ T84
 ♣ JT9
 ♠ A8764
 ♥ 652
 ♦ 75
 ♣ Q63
 ♠ KJT3
 ♥ AKT987
 ♦ 92
 ♣ K



West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Meckstroth	Sontag	Zia
Pass	2D	Pass	1H
Pass	3C	Pass	2S
Pass	3NT	Pass	3H
Pass		All Pass	

Milner	Silverman	Lall	Wolfson
Pass	2D	Pass	1H
Pass	3C	Pass	2H
Pass	4C	Pass	3NT
Pass	4S	Pass	4D
Pass	6D	Pass	5C
Pass		All Pass	

6-5 Come Alive... 6-6 Lots of Tricks (courtesy of Howie Doing!)

In the Closed Room, Meckstroth treated his 6-6 in the minors much more calmly than one would expect. He bid each of his suits only once and picked the no-trump game on his third round of bidding. Sontag led the S6 and Meck collected his expected ten tricks.

In the Open Room, things were more exciting. Wolfson and Silverman, down after yesterday's two segments, were not to be taken lightly. They drove this hand to 6D. Lall led the SA and shifted to hearts. Silverman won the HA and pitched a club. He cashed the CK and led a diamond to his ace. Club ruff, Heart ruff, SK, pitching a club, spade ruffed and it was over.

12 IMPs to Wolfson

Board 3
 Segment 3
 Dealer: S
 E/W Vul.
 ♠ Q752
 ♥ K932
 ♦ T975
 ♣ T

♠ T964
 ♥ AJT
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ Q973
 ♠ J83
 ♥ 865
 ♦ 83
 ♣ KJ842
 ♠ AK
 ♥ Q74
 ♦ AQ642
 ♣ A65



Berkowitz	Meckstroth	Sontag	Zia
Milner	Silverman	Lall	Wolfson
Pass	3C	Double	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3D

On identical auctions, both tables reached 3NT.

In the Closed Room, Berkowitz was traditional in his lead: fourth from his longest and **strongest!** While his clubs are only slightly better than his spades, he trusted the old (it is the Seniors!) adage, and tabled the C3. Zia ducked two rounds of clubs and won the third, pitching a spade and a heart from the dummy. He cashed the SK and SA. He led the H7 toward the dummy, Berkowitz ducking, and the king holding the trick. He led a diamond off dummy, and when the finesse lost, he went down three for -150.

In the Open Room, Milner chose a spade lead. Wolfson won the ace. He should play for the heart ace on his left and the Kx of diamonds in the pocket by leading

a heart toward the dummy. If Lefty rises and shifts to a club, he is down, but rising with AJT is not easy. What he did baffled everyone ... but it worked! He played for singleton K on his left. He played the DA. When the jack fell on his left, he continued with a low diamond to Milner's king. Milner, still not seeing the writing on the wall, continued spades. Wolfson won, led a heart to the king, and found himself with nine big ones: three spades, one heart, four diamonds, and one club! Milner should have worked out the switch when his partner couldn't spare anything higher than the J at trick one. 11 more IMPs to Wolfson

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

Sudoku 1

Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

Puzzle Page ...

At a recent bowling match, two games were played.

Kev beat Stuart in both games, also Richard beat John in both games. The winner in game 1 came second in game 2. Richard won game 2 and John beat Stuart in game 1. No player got the same placing twice.

Can you determine who finished where in each game?



Senior Smiles...

Three old ladies are sitting around a table playing bridge and bragging about their sons.

“My Freddie,” said Margaret, “Everyone should be so lucky to have a son like my Freddie. Once a week he brings me a huge bouquet of flowers, he’s constantly bringing me out to restaurants to eat, if I so much as hint that I want something the next morning it’s on my doorstep.”

“That’s very nice about your Freddie”, says Gertrude. “But with all due respect, when I think about the way my Sammy takes care of me, it just can’t compare. Every morning as soon as I wake up he greets me with bacon and freshly brewed coffee. Every lunch he comes over and cooks me a gourmet lunch, and every supper he brings me to his house for supper, he truly treats me like a queen.”

“WELL!” Says Barbara “I don’t want to make any of you feel bad or anything, but wait until you hear about my Harry. Twice a week he pays someone \$200 an hour just so he can lie on their couch and talk. And, who do you think he speaks about at those prices?”

“ALL HE SPEAKS ABOUT IS ME!”

Hint and Answer to Puzzle

Answer:	
Name	#1
Kev	1
Richard	2
John	3
Stuart	4

Hint: Stuart didn't come first in either game.

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.

Brian, one of the world's greatest hypochondriacs, bumped into his Dr. one day at the supermarket. "Doc!" Brian exclaimed, "I've been meaning to tell you, remember those voices I kept on hearing in my head? I haven't heard them in over a week!" "Wow! What wonderful news Brian! I'm so happy for you!" his Dr. exclaimed. "Wonderful?" asked a dismal looking Brian. "There's nothing wonderful about it. I'm afraid my hearing is starting to go now!"

Due to a job transfer, Brian moved from his hometown to New York City. Being that he had a very comprehensive health history, he brought along all of his medical paperwork, when it came time for his first check up with his new Doctor. After browsing through the extensive medical history, the Doctor stared at Brian for a few moments and said, "Well there's one thing I can say for certain, you sure look better in person than you do on paper!"

David L. (Dave) Berkowitz (born November 23, 1949) is an American professional bridge player. He is from Old Tappan, New Jersey.

In 1998, he came as close as it is possible to come to a world championship without winning it. In the World Open Pairs, he and Larry Cohen led throughout the five-session final, only to be overtaken on the last two boards. He also earned a bronze medal at the 2000 World Team Olympiad in Maastricht, Netherlands. He was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2010.

Berkowitz whose wife, Lisa, is a former women's world champion, often comments, "I am not even the best player in my own house." They reside in Boca Raton, Florida. Their daughter, Dana plays bridge as well.

Awards

Mott-Smith Trophy (Spring NABC) 1982

Fishbein Trophy (Summer NABC) 2011

Herman Trophy (Fall NABC) 1991

Digital Fountain Award (Best Played Hand of the Year) 2001

Romex Award (Best Bid Hand of the Year) 1995, 2000

Precision Award (Best Defended Hand of the Year) 1996

Wins

North American Bridge Championships (29)

 von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs (2) 1987, 1996

 Rockwell Mixed Pairs (2) 1986, 1987

 Silodor Open Pairs (3) 2004, 2006, 2009

 Wernher Open Pairs (2) 1982, 1996

 Blue Ribbon Pairs (2) 1978, 1995

 North American Pairs (1) 1995

 Grand National Teams (6) 1994, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013

Roth Open Swiss Teams (1) 2011

 Vanderbilt (1) 2005

 Keohane North American Swiss Teams (1) 1999

 Mitchell Board-a-Match Teams (3) 1982, 1991, 2007

 Chicago Mixed Board-a-Match (4) 1986, 1993, 1995, 1998

 Reisinger (1) 1991

United States Bridge Championships (1)

 Open Team Trials (1) 2000

Other notable wins:

 Buffett Cup (1) 2006

 Cavendish Invitational Teams (3) 1983, 1985, 1994

 Pan American Open Teams (1) 1992

 Reisinger Knockout Teams (2) 1990, 2001

 Cap Gemini World Top Invitational Pairs (1) 1999

 Cavendish Invitational Individual (1) 1981

Meet the Players



Ed. Note:

I googled David to get this information...

Guess what I got?

Son of Sam!!!

It's not easy being David!

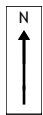
Board 7
 Segment 3
 Dealer: S
 All Vul.

♠ J543
 ♥ 92
 ♦ 9832
 ♣ JT4

♠ A862
 ♥ AT
 ♦ KQJ
 ♣ AQ52

♠ Q
 ♥ Q763
 ♦ A74
 ♣ K9763

♠ KT97
 ♥ KJ854
 ♦ T65
 ♣ 8



West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Meckstroth	Sontag	Zia
			Pass
1C (strong)	Pass	2C	Pass
2D	Pass	2H	Pass
3C	Pass	3D	Pass
4D	Pass	4NT	Pass
5D	Pass	6C	All Pass
Milner	Silverman	Lall	Wolfson
			Pass
2NT	Pass	3C	Pass
3S	Pass	4NT	All Pass

This segment had five double digit swings ... all for Wolfson!

Here, Berkowitz, in the Closed Room, opened a strong, artificial club. He and Sontag used their relays in combination with Blackwood to reach a hard-to-bid slam. Meckstroth led the D2. Berk won in dummy with the ace and led the H3. Zia played the five and David inserted the ten! When that held, he pulled trump and claimed 12 tricks!

In the Open Room, the bidding was far from spirited. Milner opened a 19-21 2NT. Not really being minimum, he could consider going after Lall invited, however, with no 5 card suit or obvious source of tricks... and no great fit with partner's hearts, he declined and played an easy 4NT, collecting the ten top tricks.

12 IMPs to Wolfson

Board 10
 Segment 3
 Dealer: E
 All Vul.

♠ T52
 ♥ T
 ♦ AKJ83
 ♣ QT53

♠ 874
 ♥ KJ6
 ♦ Q74
 ♣ KJ94

♠ AKQ3
 ♥ AQ7543
 ♦ 96
 ♣ A

♠ J96
 ♥ 982
 ♦ T52
 ♣ 8762



Berkowitz	Meckstroth	Sontag	Zia
		1C (strong)	Pass
1NT	Pass	2H	Pass
3H	Pass	3S	Pass
4C	Pass	5H	All Pass
Milner	Silverman	Lall	Wolfson
		2C	Pass
2D	Pass	2H	Pass
2S	Pass	3S	Pass
4C	Pass	4D	Pass
4H	Pass	4S	Pass
6H	All Pass		

Again, in the Closed Room, the strong club auction allowed for exploration at a low enough level to discern there may not be a diamond control. Berkowitz/Sontag stopped in 5H and made it.

In the Open Room, Lall started with 2C on his 19 count 4-6 in the majors. Milner, looking at a ten count, a three card fit with two honors in hearts, probably guessing the state of the match, shot out the heart slam. Wolfson led a low diamond and it was over in two plays.

13 IMPs to Wolfson

Board 12
Segment 3
Dealer: W
N/S Vul.

♠ K765
♥ Q943
♦ JT
♣ K74

♠ A984
♥ 62
♦ A643
♣ T82



♠ JT2
♥ KJ875
♦ KQ
♣ AQJ

♠ Q3
♥ AT
♦ 97652
♣ 9653

West	North	East	South
Milner	Silverman	Lall	Wolfson
Pass	Pass	1NT (14+-17)	Pass
2C	Pass	2H	Pass
2NT	Pass	3H	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Berkowitz	Meckstroth	Sontag	Zia
Pass	Pass	1C (strong)	Pass
1D	Pass	1NT	Pass
2C	Pass	2H	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Both tables arrived in 3NT by East. In both rooms, South led small diamonds. Both declarers won with the queen. Sontag led the ST and Zia ducked. Meckstroth won his king. Meck continued diamonds, Sonty winning in hand with the king. The SJ was led, covered by the queen and won with the ace. Sontag played the CT off dummy and Meck covered with the king. Sontag won the ace and cashed two spades, Zia pitching a diamond and a heart. Sontag cashed the DA, played a club off dummy and had nine tricks.

In the other room, after winning the opening lead, Lall also led the ST. Wolfson covered with the queen Lall ducked! He must have been convinced that this was from KQ. From that point on, the defense was pretty much the same as the other table, however, Lall found himself one trick short and went down one.

10 IMPs to Wolfson

Board 16
Segment 4
Dealer: W
E/W Vul.

♠ QJT932
♥ KT3
♦
♣ AT54

♠ 4
♥ A8
♦ JT82
♣ KQJ963



♠ 85
♥ 752
♦ AKQ7543
♣ 2

♠ AK76
♥ QJ964
♦ 96
♣ 87

Zia	Silverman	Meckstroth	Wolfson
1C	1S	2D	3D
5D	5S	All Pass	

Martel	Milner	Rosenberg	Lall
1C	1S	2D	4S
5D	5S	6D	6S
Double	All Pass		

Up by two coming into the second segment of the day, covering all of Tuesday's deficit and then some, the momentum is still on Wolfson's side.

In the Open Room, Wolfson/Silverman stopped on a dime in 5S.

In the Closed Room, Martel and Rosenberg took the push to 6D over 5S. Rosenberg couldn't tell if he was sacrificing or making with his sold seven card suit. When Lall bid 6S, Martel took control and doubled.

Rosenberg led his singleton club. Milner won with the ace and pulled two rounds of trump ending in dummy. He played a heart toward his hand but Martel was ready. He flew with the ace, cashed a club, and in the words of Joey Silver: NEXT!

11 IMPs to Wolfson... still rolling!

Board 17
Segment 4
Dealer: N
None Vul.

♠ K93
♥ 543
♦ AKT53
♣ T2

♠ A87
♥ A98
♦ Q87
♣ QJ85



♠ T
♥ KJT76
♦ J4
♣ AK973

♠ QJ6542
♥ Q2
♦ 962
♣ 64

West	North	East	South
Zia	Silverman	Meckstroth	Wolfson
	Pass	1H	Pass
2C	Pass	3S	Pass
4D	Pass	5C	Pass
6C	All Pass		

Martel	Milner	Rosenberg	Lall
	Pass	1H	1S
2S	3D	4C	Pass
4D	Pass	4H	All Pass

In the Open Room, Zia, with no opposition bidding, en route slam, cleverly cued diamonds on his Qxx. He forgot that Silverman was at the table on Board 10 (see hand on page 8) when Lall did the same thing on his two small. Silverman, having nothing better to do, led the diamond ace/king and in the fullness of time, Zia took the heart hook and went light two.

At the other table, Martel/Rosenberg, in a far more competitive auction, stopped in the solid heart game, losing two diamonds and a heart for +420.

11 IMPs to Wolfson

Board 24
Segment 4
Dealer: W
None Vul.

♠ J83
♥ A9765
♦ AQ5
♣ 84

♠ 965
♥ KJT3
♦
♣ KT7653



♠ KQT742
♥ Q4
♦ J4
♣ A92

♠ A
♥ 82
♦ KT987632
♣ QJ

Zia	Silverman	Meckstroth	Wolfson
Pass	1H	1S	2D
2S	Pass	3S	4D
Pass	5D	All Pass	

Martel	Milner	Rosenberg	Lall
Pass	1H	1S	2D
2S	3D	3S	5D
All Pass			

In both rooms, West led the S9. Both declarers put up the jack from dummy covered by the queen and won with the ace. At trick two, Wolfson led a diamond to the ace followed by a heart from dummy toward his eight. Zia won the ten and not knowing which black suit held the setting tricks, he continued spades. Wolfson ruffed, played a heart to the ace and ruffed a heart. Contract succeeding. +400

In the other room, at trick two, Lall led the H8 from hand toward the A9765. When Martel played the ten, Lall ducked. Rosenberg, certain of what to do, overtook the ten with the queen and played back a small club. If Lall held the KJ, this would give him a chance to guess wrong... and if he held, as he did, the QJ, it would grab the setting tricks before they went away.

Marel won the CK and played a club to Rosenberg's ace... down one

10 IMPs to Wolfson

Ed. Note: I truly admire Rosenberg's play here. It is no cost and, when playing IMPs, it is important not to give partner a losing option. Overtaking when he knew a spade was futile deserves notice!