



Results: USA2 Semi Finals

2	<u>Hamman, NPC</u>	214	<u>46</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>30</u>	
5	<u>Falk</u>	162	<u>28</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>26</u>	
3	<u>Wolfson</u>	172	<u>33</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>29</u>		
4	<u>Lewis</u>	87	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>	WD	

USA2 Final... 1/3 way through

2	<u>Hamman, NPC</u>	54	<u>28</u>	<u>26</u>
3	<u>Wolfson</u>	47	<u>22</u>	<u>25</u>

Thanks Everyone!

It was great having all of you at one, two or three of this year's Championships in Schaumburg. Jan Martel did her usual fabulous job and everything went smoothly.

The hospitality was outstanding, thanks to Martha Katz, Lisa Berkowitz and Susie Miller. The directing staff was great. The VuGraph operators did a fine job. Thanks to Suzi Subeck for writing the Daily Bulletins and heading Appeals.

Thanks to those who stood by for and served on appeals... a difficult, thankless task, but a necessary evil at any high level competition.

The spouses and significant others who pitched in to help were amazing. Kate Aker worked really hard assisting Jan and it was well appreciated. Stan Subeck ran errands and took the photographs in Peg Kaplan's absence. Chip Martel was onsite for polling in difficult situations.

Hope to see you all next year in Houston! Safe travels!

The Tournament Committee

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Debbie Rosenberg

Michael Rosenberg

Kerri Sanborn

Aaron Silverstein

Danny Sprung

Lew Stansby

Adam Wildavsky

VuGraph Organizer

Jan Martel

Bulletin Editor

Suzi Subeck

Photographer

Peg Kaplan

Local Hospitality Chairs

Susie Miller

Lisa Berkowitz

Martha Katz

2017 USSBC Teams

listed in seeding point order

Hamman, NPC	Hemant Lall Zia Mahmood Robert Hamman	Reese Milner Steve Garner Bart Bramley
Wolfson	Jeffrey Wolfson, Capt David Berkowitz Michael Becker	Neil Silverman Alan Sontag Allan Graves
Wold	Eddie Wold, Capt Marc Jacobus Dennis Clerkin	Michael Levine Mike Passell Jerry Clerkin
Gupta	Vinita Gupta, Capt Kit Woolsey Steve Robinson	Billy Miller Fred Stewart Peter Boyd
Mahaffey	Jim Mahaffey, Capt Neil Chambers Matthew Granovetter	Sam Lev John Schermer Roger Bates
Lewis	Paul Lewis, Capt Jim Krekorian	Linda Lewis Drew Casen Mark Itabashi
Falk	Allan Falk, Capt Doug Simson Glenn Eisenstein	Jeff Aker John Lusky John Rengstorff
Pollack	Bill Pollack, Capt Mark Feldman Larry Robbins	Ron Rubin Mark Cohen Steve Beatty
Cappelli	Robert Cappelli, Capt David Caprera	Robert Bitterman Anne Brenner
Reynolds	W. Thomas Reynolds, Capt William Hall Sally Woolsey	Lance Kerr Brenda Jacobus

**Winning is not a
sometime thing; it's
an all time thing.
You don't win once
in a while, you don't
do things right once
in a while, you do
them right all the
time. Winning is
habit.
Unfortunately, so is
losing."**

Vince Lombardi

In order to help jump-start the U.S. economy, the INS has announced that this year they will stop focusing on illegal aliens, and begin the deportation of retired people.

It's predicted that this will not only help lower health care entitlement costs, but it turns out that retirees are much easier to catch.

Plus, they rarely can remember how to get back home.



ROUND ROBIN



A busload of retired Americans was touring Switzerland. On the third day, they visited a farm known for its excellent quality goat cheese.

The young farmer’s wife gave them a tour, a cheese making demonstration, and finally some samples. As the retirees were tasting the cheeses, she pointed to a pasture full of goats.

She said, “This is a special pasture where we let our older goats graze happily after they can no longer give milk. In the United States, what do you do with your old goats?”

An old lady piped up, “Honey, they take us on bus tours.”

Tournament Schedule

<i>QUARTERFINAL & USA2 ROUND OF 32 (KO ON SAME SCHEDULE)</i>			
THURSDAY	MAY 18	4:00 - 6:10 6:20 - 8:30	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
FRIDAY	MAY 19	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30
<i>SEMIFINAL & USA2 ROUND OF 16 (SCHEDULE SOON)</i>			
SATURDAY	MAY 20	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
SUNDAY	MAY 21	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 95 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
<i>FINAL & USA2 QUARTERFINAL (6 USA2 TEAMS)</i>			
SUNDAY	MAY 21	4:00 - 6:10 6:20 - 8:30	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
MONDAY	MAY 22	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30
<i>USA2 SEMIFINAL</i>			
TUESDAY	MAY 23	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
WEDNESDAY	MAY 24	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 95 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
<i>USA2 FINAL</i>			
WEDNESDAY	MAY 24	4:00 - 6:10 6:20 - 8:30	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
THURSDAY	MAY 25	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30

Hospitality Suite

The hospitality suite for the 2017 Senior USBC is Suite 2321, on the level above the playing rooms. Players, volunteers, kibitzers, friends and supporters are welcome in the Hospitality Suite during the tournament. Please join hostesses Susie Miller, Lisa Berkowitz & Martha Katz for:

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

Lunch Friday through Tuesday from 1:30-4:00.

Wednesday & Thursday, lunch will be a buffet served in the hotel restaurant.

The Hospitality Suite will be open for Vugraph, casual chit chat, drinks & snacks during the rest of the day and for a short time after the end of play each day.

The Players' Lounge (room 1321) will also be open throughout the tournament. We will have coffee and snacks there during play.



ALERT!
On many of the boards,
cards slide between pockets
when being carried.
Please count
your cards on
every hand!

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 16 ♠ A
 Dealer: W ♥ 54
 E/S Vul ♦ K862
 Segment 6 ♣ KT9852

♠ 986		♠ KT74
♥ AJ32		♥ QT986
♦ Q953		♦ A
♣ 74		♣ AJ6
♠ QJ532		
♥ K7		
♦ JT74		
♣ Q3		

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simson	Garner	Aker	Zia
Pass	Pass	1H	1S
3D (H raise)	Pass	4H	All Pass

Open Room

Hamman	Eisenstein	Bramley	Rengstorff
Pass	Pass	2D (Flannery)	Pass
2H	3C	3H	All Pass

Those of us who know Bart Bramley... and some who don't but who read bridge magazines, know that Bart's favorite convention is Flannery! Here he had a chance to employ it. Bramley opened 2D showing four spades and five hearts and 11-15 HCP. Rengstorff passed and Hamman, holding a flat seven count with 4-card support for hearts took a simple preference to 2H. Eisenstein bid his 6-card club suit and Bramley, holding a max for the auction, competed to the three level. Spades behaved and the HK was onside. Ignoring everything except spades and hearts, the game is approximately a 40% proposition. This makes the game bid an even money bet at IMPs.

In the Closed Room, down 48 going into the final segment, Simson and Aker were properly aggressive and bid the game. 10 IMPs to Falk

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

**Very
Hard
Sudoku**

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

**Answers to Puzzle
No Peeking!**

Bottom

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

Top

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

Puzzle Page ...

	Atkins	Ford	Foster	McQueen	Slater	back injuries	cancer	DNA mapping	heart disease	mental diseases	Charlotte	Chicago	Dallas	Miami	Seattle	
Amy																
Chet																
Harry																
Michelle																
Patricia																
Charlotte																
Chicago																
Dallas																
Miami																
Seattle																
back injuries																
cancer																
DNA mapping																
heart disease																
mental diseases																

The National Foundation of Medical Research held a highly-attended conference each year in Washington, DC. The Foundation had a series of awards that could be presented during the conference to doctors and medical professionals who had made a significant contribution to furthering medical knowledge in a main area of study. However, the awards were not generally awarded every year as the candidates must have made an outstanding and recognizable contribution to the science of medicine, which probably helped explain why the Foundation's awards were considered some of the most prestigious in the medical industry. This year, several of the awards were given out to candidates scattered across the nation. Determine the full name of each recipient (one had a last name of Foster), the area of medical research each recipient contributed to (one area was back injuries), and the city where each recipient lived.

First Name	Last Name	Area of Research	City
Amy			
Chet			
Harry			
Michelle			
Patricia			

-----	Atkins	back injuries	Charlotte
-----	Ford	cancer	Chicago
-----	Foster	DNA mapping	Dallas
-----	McQueen	heart disease	Miami
-----	Slater	mental diseases	Seattle

1. The doctor who came from Chicago was given an award for his research into cancer.
2. Patricia was researching heart disease but she didn't live in Miami.
3. Harry's last name wasn't Atkins. Amy didn't live in Charlotte.
4. Ms. Ford's award was for her work in DNA mapping.
5. Michelle Slater wasn't researching mental diseases.
6. Chet lived in Dallas. The doctor whose last name was McQueen worked in Seattle.

Puzzle

Answer:

Seattle	heart disease	McQueen	Patricia
Charlotte	back injuries	Slater	Michelle
Chicago	cancer	Foster	Harry
Dallas	mental diseases	Atkins	Chet
Miami	DNA mapping	Ford	Amy
City	Area of Research	Last Name	First Name

Getting old is hard but the alternative is worse!



Meet the Players:



**Nick
Nickell**

Since the early Nineties, Frank (Nick) Nickell has been captain of one of the most successful and dominating teams in organized bridge. Nickell and company have won three Bermuda Bowls and earned the silver medal in two others.

The Nickell team practically owns the Spingold Knockout Teams, having won the event nine times since the squad was assembled. For many years, until his death in 2009, Richard Freeman was Nickell's partner on the team.

Nickell has won other major championships, including the Cavendish Invitational Pairs and the Blue Ribbon Pairs, but he has also distinguished himself as a businessman and a behind-the-scenes supporter of the game he loves.

In nominating Nickell for the ACBL Honorary Member of the Year award for 2003, former ACBL President Joan Gerard said much of what Nickell does for bridge goes unnoticed because he doesn't seek publicity. "He gives and gives," Gerard said. "There isn't anything he won't do."

Nickell is president and chief executive officer of Kelso & Company, a private equity investment firm. He lives in New York City. Nickell and his wife, Carol, have two sons – Joey and Thomas.

(Nick was on his way to the Senior Championships when he stopped off and won the Open USA1 Trials here in Schaumburg a few weeks ago. He will be in Lyon representing the USA along with the winners of this competition and the winners of the Women's competition.)

The Beginning of the End of the SemiFinals...

Board 2 ♠ 965
 Dealer: E ♥ 75
 N/S Vul. ♦ AQT976
 Segment 5 ♣ J8

♠ 3 ♠ KJ72
 ♥ Q9842 ♥ KJT3
 ♦ J84 ♦ K5
 ♣ 9542 ♣ K73

♠ AQT84
 ♥ A6
 ♦ 32
 ♣ AQT6



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Casen	Wolfson	Krekorian	Silverman
		1C	1S
Pass	2S	Pass	4S
All Pass			

Open Room			
Berkowitz	P Lewis	Sontag	L Lewis
		1NT (14-16)	Double
2D (transfer)	Double	3H	3S
Pass	4S	All Pass	

Wolfson/Lewis

In Wolfson/Lewis, both tables reached the spade game.

Casen led a third best club against Silverman, to the jack, king, ace. Silverman cashed the CQ and the CT pitching dummy's H5. He played the HA and ruffed a heart in dummy. He cashed the DA, and taking no chances, he thoughtfully played a spade to his ACE!

He ruffed a club with dummy's nine, overruffed with the jack. The king of hearts was ruffed in his hand and he claimed his ten tricks, losing two spades and a diamond.

Closed Room			
Lusky	Garner	Falk	Zia
		1C	1S
Pass	2D	Pass	3NT
Pass	4S	All Pass	

Open Room			
Milner	Aker	Lall	Simson
		1NT (14+-17)	2C (C+M)
All Pass			

Hamman/Falk

Linda Lewis had it tougher when Berkowitz found the lead of a heart. Linda won the HA, led a diamond to the ace and played the CJ to the king and ace. She cashed the CQ, and ruffed her C6 in dummy. She played a spade to the queen, finessing against the king. Hoping spades were originally 3-2, Linda cashed the SA and got the bad news. Now it was impossible to avoid losing two spades, one heart and one diamond for down one. 12 IMPs to Wolfson.

In Hamman/Falk where Zia was in 4S, Lusky found the heart lead. Zia won in hand, played a diamond to the ace, played the CJ to the king and ace, cashed the CQ and CT pitching dummy's small heart and played a diamond to the ten and king. Falk returned a heart which Zia ruffed in dummy. Now Zia led the DQ; Falk discarded a heart and Zia tossed his little club. Zia ran dummy's S9 and when that held, he repeated the finesse and took 11 tricks.

Last, but not least, in the Open Room of this match, Lall opened a 14+-17 NT and Simson overcalled 2C showing clubs and a major. Aker's hand tilted the odds slightly that Simson's major was hearts. The pair wasn't doubled in 2C and it was likely Simson held a five or more, so passing seemed the better part of valor. Dutifully, Aker passed and they played it there in the 4-2 fit. Milner led his singleton spade, picking the king out of Lall's hand. N/S had enough fire power and well positioned high cards to bring home 2C even with the opponents holding the majority of the trump.

12 IMPs to Wolfson

11 IMPs to Hamman

Board 22 ♠ AKQ43
 Dealer: E ♥ QT
 E/W Vul. ♦ J
 Segment 5 ♣ K9632

♠ T986 ♠ J72
 ♥ KJ6 ♥ 932
 ♦ 73 ♦ K9864
 ♣ JT87 ♣ AQ

♠ 5
 ♥ A8754
 ♦ AQT52
 ♣ 54



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Simson	Garner	Aker	Zia
Pass	1S	Pass	2H
Pass	3C	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Open Room

Hamman	Eisenstein	Bramley	Rengstorff
		Pass	1H
Pass	1S	Pass	2D
Pass	3C	Pass	3D
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Both tables reached 3NT.

In the Closed Room, 3NT was played from South after Zia chose to pass in second seat. Simson led the CT to the deuce, queen, four. Aker played the DK smothering dummy's jack, ducked by declarer. Aker continued diamonds and Zia won his ace. He played a club to Aker's ace. Aker got out with the D9 to Zia's queen. Zia cashed the DT, played a spade to the dummy, cashed two more spades, producing this position:

♠
 ♥ QT
 ♦
 ♣ K6

♠
 ♥ KJ ♠
 ♦ ♥ 932
 ♣ J7 ♦ 8
 ♣

♠
 ♥ A87
 ♦ 5
 ♣

If Zia cashes the CK, Aker is forced to discard a heart and Zia will discard one too. A club exit to Simson will endplay him.

At the table, Zia, playing for the HK on his right, led a small club off of dummy. Misguessing resulted in down one.

In the Open Room where Eisenstein played 3NT from North, Bramley led his fourth best diamond. Eisenstein won the jack in his hand and played the S3 to Bramley's S7. Bramley switched to the H2 to Hamman's king. Hamman exited with the HJ to Eisenstein's queen. Glenn cashed four rounds of spades and played a small club off dummy. Seeing that he was doomed to be endplayed, Bramley rose with the CA while a diamond was discarded from dummy. Bart played the CQ and Eisenstein DUCKED! Bramley was forced to lead a diamond to dummy and dummy was good.

Contract making. Great play by Eisenstein! 10 IMPs to Falk

Board 28 ♠
 Dealer: W ♥ Q986
 N/S Vul. ♦ KQJ9763
 Segment 2 ♣ KJ

♠ AKQT95 ♠ 87643
 ♥ K5 ♥ T32
 ♦ A ♦ 5
 ♣ 9542 ♣ T873

♠ J2
 ♥ AJ74
 ♦ T842
 ♣ AQ6



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Zia	Berkowitz	Garner	Sontag
1S	2D	4S	Double (cards)
Pass	5D	Pass	Pass
5S	Pass	Pass	6D
All Pass			

Open Room			
Silverman	Bramley	Wolfson	Hamman
1S	3D (intermediate)	4S	5D
5H	Pass	5S	Double
All Pass			

Making the right decision at the five level is never easy. In both rooms East/West put the pressure on North/South by bidding 5S.

In the Closed Room, Sontag was faced with a dilemma. He had shown cards with his double of 4S and his partner had bid a vulnerable 5D. He had more than just cards with four card trump support. It was unlikely 5S was making, but 6D looked to have a play. 6D seemed like reasonable insurance that could payoff big. As it was 5S was going down two and 6D fails because the hearts are placed unfavorably.

In the Open Room, Bramley bid his hand to the maximum when he made an intermediate 3D call. He could rest easy with whatever 5 level decision Hamman made. In addition, Silverman's 5H call was intended to show Wolfson where his side values were. This can be a good defensive tactic, however, it also helped Hamman and Bramley to know that the heart finesse was unlikely to succeed. Hamman could comfortably double 5S showing that he had a good 5D bid and defense. Bramley could happily sit.

9 IMPs to Hamman

Into the Final

Board 17 ♠ J
 Dealer: N ♥ Q42
 None Vul. ♦ K9653
 Segment 2 ♣ KJT5

♠ KQ9743 ♠ A8652
 ♥ A965 ♥ J3
 ♦ Q2 ♦ 87
 ♣ Q ♣ 9832

♠ T
 ♥ KT87
 ♦ AJT4
 ♣ A764



Closed Room			
Silverman	Bramley	Wolfson	Hamman
	Pass	Pass	1H
1S	2S	3S	4H
4S	All Pass		

Open Room			
Zia	Berkowitz	Garner	Sontag
	Pass	Pass	1D
1S	3C	4S	All Pass

Both tables bid 4S and were defeated one trick. Hamman was thrilled (at least according to the BBO commentators) to once again open a 4-card major. The VG operator posed the question, "Would 4H make?" It looks like not with the 4-2 split as long as the defense continues spades at trick two giving declarer the useless ruff and sluff. Five diamonds is easy on normal play. No one bid it ... a

small blown opportunity by both teams for a non-vulnerable game.

Limey Jack...

Blimey, it is almost over across the pond. You Colonials have put on quite a show. Limey Jack has done his job and made you a few quid. On the other hand, that Howie Dung is daft as a brush and will lead you directly to debtor's prison.

As predicted, Zia squares off against Wolfson for the USA 2 title and the honour of representing both the Colonies and The British Isles.

Unless Hamman does a Devon Loch (Ed note: A collapse as one is nearing the finish line) form must prevail. This is Robert Hamman's final Championship and Zia has promised to carry him to the moors. Wolfson has done a right honourable job getting to this point, but it will turn black as Newgate's knocker should they prevail.

Limey Jack needs a kip and will not stay on post to see the end of this fray. Hamman reigns supreme. Limey Jack will return when next the bugler sounds the call to arms. Howie Dung will go back to being a bag chequer at the local shop as e'er.

Cheers, LJ



The hospitality at the Championships is beyond compare. It promotes camaraderie and everyone loves it!

Howie Doing...

It's been fun in Schaumburg,
But 'nuff is enough.
Flying from Midway...
And traffic is rough!

Spent all my money
At Woodfield Mall,
Better pick winner,
'Cause winner takes all!

I'm betting with Slimey
And winning's my plan.
Jack's gonna make me
A wealthy old man.

Tonight after playing
When all of it's through,
Wolfson emerges
As USA2!

C'est la vie, Hamman.
It isn't your chance.
Bon Voyage Wolfson
It's August in France!

