

Volume 6, Issue 7
May 2, 2012

“Trials” and Tribulations

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

First Day Round of Eight...

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60
1	Nickell	95	39	28	19	9
8	Spector	153	20	25	41	67
2	Diamond	128	15	51	25	37
7	Jacobs	112	30	17	43	22
3	Fleisher	101	46	25	14	16
6	Lee	121	16	21	46	38
4	Mahaffey	90	27	11	32	20
5	Milner	99	21	42	33	3

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In Seeding Order

*The game of life is
not so much in
holding a good hand
as playing a poor
hand well.*
— H. T. Leslie

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

At the Starting Line ... The Round of Eight...

Board 6	♠ Q53		
Dealer: En	♥		
E/W Vul	♦ K6542		
	♣ AJ984		
♠ J42		♠ T87	
♥ AQ876		♥ KT942	
♦ AJ9		♦ QT	
♣ 53		♣ KQ7	
	♠ AK96		
	♥ J53		
	♦ 873		
	♣ T62		



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Spector	Rodwell	Cohler	Meckstroth
		Pass	Pass
1H	2NT	3C (ht raise)	3S
All Pass			
Open Room			
Nickell	Grue	Katz	Cheek
		Pass	Pass
1H	2NT	3C (ht raise)	Pass
3H	All Pass		

Katz/Nickell stopped in three hearts with a combined ten trumps which seemed like a good decision. There is unfortunately no way to take nine tricks. The defense collected three spades, one diamond and one club for down one.

At the other table, Meckstroth, prepared to play in four of a minor, decided to try a lead directing three spade bid. He was somewhat surprised when Rodwell passed and he found himself declaring. Unfortunately for Nickell, three spades was no more in the cards than three hearts. Spector led the C5, ducked to Cohler's queen. Cohler wanted to return a trump, but actually returned two! Both the ten and eight of spades fell on the table at once. The director was summoned and it was explained that he could play either card, but if he chose the eight, the ten would be a major penalty card to be played at his first opportunity. If he chose to play the ten, the eight would be a minor penalty card with less restrictions. Cohler played the ten. Meckstroth won the ace and played a club to the ace and a club to Cohler's king, Spector pitching a heart. At this point, Cohler went into a huddle over what to do. Meckstroth pointed out that if he'd chosen the S8 instead of the 10, his problem would be solved! Gary responded that it was "restricted choice!" He finally returned a heart, ruffed in dummy. Meckstroth cashed the spade queen and led a club which Gary ruffed, Jeff pitching a heart. Gary cashed a heart and led another on which Jeff pitched a diamond. When the smoke cleared, Meckstroth was down two.

5 IMPs to Spector

*** 2012 Cavendish Moves To Monaco ***

The World Bridge Productions and The Monaco Bridge Federation will co-host **THE CAVENDISH** in Monaco, October 15th - 19th 2012.



Cavendish Teams Tournament : Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th
 Entry fee: 7,500 Euros Auction: no auctions

Cavendish Invitational Tournament: Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th
 Entry fee: 1,500 Euros Auction: minimum 5,000 Euros

Pairs International Tournament: (WBP Pairs) Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th
 Entry fee: 500 Euros Auction: minimum 500 Euro

For more, contact Donna Compton at cdmra@mindspring.com or 214.394.5830.

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.

Board 10

Dealer: E

All Vul.

♠ JT54
♥ A76
♦ 85
♣ Q753

♠ Q87
♥ QJ82
♦ A96
♣ AT4



♠ A3
♥ T543
♦ KJ732
♣ K9

♠ K932
♥ K9
♦ QT4
♣ J862

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Nickell	Grue	Katz	Cheek
		1D	Pass
2NT (GF)	Pass	3C	Pass
3D (hearts)	Pass	4H	All Pass

Closed Room

Spector	Rodwell	Cohler	Meckstroth
		1D	Pass
1H	Pass	2H	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Rodwell led a fourth best spade against 3NT. Spector ducked to Meckstroth's king and a spade was continued, knocking the ace off dummy. Spector tried a diamond to the ace, and took the diamond finesse, losing to Meck's queen. Meck continued spades to Spector's queen, and Warren played off the high diamonds in dummy. He left the dummy with a heart to Rodwell's ace. Rodwell cashed his good spade, and the defense collected two hearts, two spades and one diamond for down one.

In the Open Room, Katz/Nickell did well to reach the 4-4 heart fit ... and even better, they reached it from the side where the tenaces were protected. Cheek led a third best spade from the king. Katz rose with the queen in dummy. He played a heart to the ten and king and Curtis continued spades to Katz's ace. Katz played a heart to Grue's ace, trumped the spade return. He played a diamond to the ace, took the losing finesse and claimed up four hearts, losing only two hearts and one diamond.

12 IMPs to Nickell

Board 8
 Dealer: W
 None Vul.

♠ J	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> N ↑ </div>	♠ QT952
♥ QT84		♥ A753
♦ J743		♦ K2
♣ T963		♣ AQ
♠ AK		
♥ J9		

♦ AQT9
 ♣ J7542

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Spector	Rodwell	Cohler	Meckstroth
Pass	Pass	1S	1NT
All Pass			

Closed Room			
Nickell	Grue	Katz	Cheek
Pass	Pass	1S	All Pass

It appears that Cheek made a good decision not overcalling 1NT when Katz opened 1S since 1NT can be defeated two tricks. Cheek led a fifth best club, giving Katz the finesse at trick one. In the fullness of time, Katz scored seven tricks for +80.

At the other table, Meckstroth chose to overcall. Spector led the jack of spades to Meck's king. Meck played a club to the king and ace. Cohler continued spades, Spector pitching a heart, Meckstroth winning with his ace. Meck continued his attack on clubs with a low club toward the eight. Spector attempted to win the trick with the nine of clubs. (Second hand low?) Cohler cashed three rounds of spades, Spector pitching two hearts and a diamond, Meckstroth pitching one club, one diamond and one heart.

Look at the end position:

♠	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> N ↑ </div>	♠
♥ K62		♥ A753
♦ 865		♦ K2
♣		♣
♠		
♥ Q		

♦ J74
 ♣ T6


♠ J
 ♥ J
 ♦ AQT
 ♣ J7

Cohler cashed the heart ace and had to put Meck in dummy or give him the diamond finesse. Cohler chose a low diamond. Meck finessed the queen of diamonds, cashed the ace, and exited a diamond to Spector's jack for down one.

Spector was now endplayed in clubs because of his earlier waste of the nine.

1 IMP to Nickell

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
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

**Tournament
Schedule**

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 SwissTeams 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

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

Sudoku

**Answers to Puzzle
No Peeking!**

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

A Few Chuckles...

At a high school in Montana a group of students played a prank on the school. They let three goats loose in the school building.

Before they let them go they painted numbers on the sides of the goats: 1, 2, 4.

Local school administrators spent most of the day looking for goat #3.

All eyes were on the radiant bride as her father escorted her down the aisle. They reached the altar and the waiting groom; the bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand.

The guests in the front pews, and the minister, responded with ripples of laughter. As her father gave her away in marriage, the bride had given him back his credit card.

One Sunday morning when my son was about 5, we were attending church in our community. It was common for the preacher to invite the children to the front of the church and have a small lesson before beginning the sermon. He would bring in an item they could find around the house and relate it to a teaching from the Bible.

This particular morning, the visual aid for his lesson was a smoke detector. He asked the children if anyone knew what it meant when an alarm sounded from the smoke detector.

My child immediately raised his hand and said, "It means Daddy's cooking dinner."

A biology graduate student went to Borneo to take some samples for his thesis work. He flew there, found a guide with a canoe to take him up the river to the remote site where he would make his collections. About noon on the second day of travel up the river they began to hear drums. Being a city boy by nature, the biologist was disturbed by this. He asked the guide, "What are those drums?" The guide turned to him and said, "Drums OK, but VERY BAD when they stop."

Well the biologist settled down a little at this, and things went reasonably well for about two weeks. Then, just as they were packing up the camp to leave, the drums suddenly stopped! This hit the biologist like a ton of bricks (to coin a phrase), and he yelled at the guide,

"The Drums have stopped, What happens now?"

The guide crouched down, covered his head with his hands and said:

"Bass Solo"

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am." The woman below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist.

"I am," replied the woman, "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is, technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip."

The woman below responded, "You must be in Management."

"I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the woman, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."

Appeal # 1:

Board 58

Dealer:E

Both Vul.

♠ KT852
♥ KJ962
♦ 76
♣ J

♠ A4
♥ 5
♦ AQJ42
♣ QT532



♠ J63
♥ A
♦ KT85
♣ K9876
♠ Q97
♥ QT8743
♦ 93
♣ A4



This appeal results from a ruling on Board 58. The issue was misinformation (MI) when W did not alert South to the 3C bid, which by partnership agreement showed a good D raise. The Auction with E as dealer with both vul was:

W	N	E	S
		P	P
1D	2D*	3C#	4H
4S	P	5H	6H
X	all pass		

* Michaels

E to N "good D raise, I think" W did not alert S.

The contract was defeated by 3 tricks for +800 for E/W. S contended that if that had he been alerted that E was not showing Cs, he would not have bid 6H. The TD ruled that there was MI in the failure to alert 3C, and even though the TD felt that S was somewhat disadvantaged, that after consulting with 7 experts giving them the bidding with and without the alert, none of the experts bid 6H, ruled that the table result stands. N/S appealed.

The Appeals Committee agreed that there was MI, but that it did not damage S as it was clear from the bidding that from the information available to S he concluded that his partner had a 5521 distribution and therefore no matter what the minor suit distribution was in the E/W hands they had 10 Cs. S contended that he was concerned that if W ended up playing in 6Ds, that N might not lead a singleton C; however, he could have bid 6C rather than 6H to insure a C lead.

Considering the fact that all 7 experts consulted did not bid 6H with or without an alert of 3C, this S's decision to bid 6H was not the result of the MI.

The AC considered the possibility of assessing a procedural penalty against E/W for the failure to alert, but declined to issue one.

Jeffrey Polisner, Chairman
John Sutherlin, Member
Barry Rigal, Member

Board 12
 Dealer: W
 N/S Vul.
 ♠ T975
 ♥ Q32
 ♦ 2
 ♣ QJ853

♠ AQ6
 ♥ 8754
 ♦ QT53
 ♣ K6



♠ J
 ♥ AJT9
 ♦ AKJ7
 ♣ AT92

♠ K8432
 ♥ K6
 ♦ 9864
 ♣ 74

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Lev	Wolpert	Pepsi
1D	Pass	1H	Pass
2H	Pass	2NT (asking)	Pass
3H (min w/4 hearts)	Pass	3S	Pass
4C	Pass	6H	All Pass

Closed Room

Mahaffey	Milner	Seamon	H. Lall
Pass	Pass	1D	Pass
1H	Pass	4H	All Pass

The first segment of the Mahaffey/Milner match produced two major swings. The first was on Board 12. In the Closed Room, Mahaffey chose not to open the balanced 11 point West hand. As a result, Seamon did not visualize slam possibilities and simply raised one heart to four.

In the Open Room, Kranyak opened the flat 11 count. Wolpert drove the hand to slam which can be defeated with the lead of a diamond. Lucky for Gavin, it was unlikely that LHO would lead a diamond on this auction. A club was led and eventually he relied on the spade finesse for his 12th trick.

The alternative line of ruffing two clubs in dummy will also succeed... Win the club, finesse a heart, win the second club and trump a club, finesse a heart and trump a second club. Since Lev and Pepsi play 4th best leads, Wolpert should have been able to determine that North does not hold a doubleton club. This would suggest that ruffing two clubs is a better line than relying on a spade finesse.

In the Open Room, note that the hand was declared from West. North had an easy lead of his singleton diamond... making five.

11 IMPs to Milner

The other big swing came on Board 15. (see page 13)

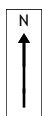


Just like in baseball: A Swing and a Miss!

Board 15
 Dealer: S
 N/S Vul.

♠ A8
 ♥ T87
 ♦ AK863
 ♣ KQJ

♠ QJ9764
 ♥ 4
 ♦ QJ
 ♣ 7532



♠ K32
 ♥ AQ653
 ♦ T752
 ♣ 9

♠ T5
 ♥ KJ92
 ♦ 94
 ♣ AT864

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Mahaffey	Milner	Seamon	H Lall
			Pass
2S	Double	4S	4NT
Pass	5D	Double	5H
Pass	Pass	Double	All Pass

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Kranyak	Lev	Wolpert	Pepsi
			Pass
2S	Double	4S	Double
All Pass			

The first four bids of the auction were the same in both rooms.

In the Open Room, Pepsi made the most flexible bid by doubling 4S. This was passed out and the contract was defeated two tricks... 300 to N/S.

In the Closed Room, Senior Lall attempted to find his side's best fit by bidding 4NT over 4S. He had a blind spot for the hand his partner held. His side's only eight card fit was clubs. Five clubs was a reasonable contract which will even make if the opponents lead the normal singleton heart to the ace and get a heart continuation to ruff.

Declarer can win the ace of spades, cash two rounds of diamonds, and ruff a diamond high. He can cross to the dummy in clubs and ruff another diamond high. He can then draw trumps, cash the high diamond pitching a spade, and take the proven heart finesse.

If the opponents start with a spade, declarer can simply draw trumps, cross to dummy in diamonds, and pick up the heart suit. Declarer should play the seven of hearts for the first finesse and the ten of heart for the second finesse. This holds the lead in dummy where he needs to be.

After Lall's 4NT bid, his side landed in 5H doubled on the above auction, which was defeated five tricks for -1400!!

17 IMPs to Mahaffey

Bidding and making 5C would have gained 7 IMPs instead of losing 17!

All About Games...

Did you know in a deck of cards the king of hearts is the only king without a moustache

Did you know Monopoly is the most played board game in the world

Did you know the opposite sides of a dice always adds up to 7

Did you know the original design of Monopoly was circular

Did you know draughts (checkers) is older than chess

Did you know there are 1,929,770,126,028,800 different color combinations possible on a Rubik's Cube

Did you know a Chinese checkerboard has 121 holes

Did you know a deck of cards should be shuffled at least 7 times before playing

Did you know everyday, more money is printed for Monopoly sets than for the U.S. Treasury

Did you know the dollar values on the board game Monopoly have been the same since 1935

Did you know the makers of the board game Monopoly print over 50 billion dollars worth of Monopoly money every year

Did you know the first crossword puzzle appeared in 1913

Did you know some playing cards in India are round

Did you know the expression to 'knuckle down' originated from playing marbles (players used to put their knuckles to the ground for their best shots)

Did you know the game of Tug-of-war was an Olympic sport from 1900-1920

Did you know Nintendo first produced playing cards

Did you know there are 43,252,003,274,489,856,000 different color combinations possible on a Rubik's Cube

Did you know a pip is one of the spots on dice or domino

