

Volume 8, Issue 5
May 20, 2017

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Old Times — the official newsletter of the USSBC

Results: USA2 R of 32

9	Reynolds	107	38	8	15	25	21	WD	
10	Falk	280	53	64	34	43	86		

USA1 Quarterfinal

1	<u>Wolfson</u>	157		<u>46</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>53</u>
8	<u>Cappelli</u>	177.06	3.06	<u>49</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>21</u>
2	<u>Hamman, NPC</u>	177.06	3.06	<u>39</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>21</u>
7	<u>Pollack</u>	146		<u>44</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>25</u>
3	<u>Mahaffey</u>	183		36	<u>26</u>	11	40	51	19
6	<u>Gupta</u>	187.72	2.72	56	<u>23</u>	13	16	34	43
4	<u>Wold</u>	199		<u>84</u>	30	<u>33</u>	<u>52</u>		
5	<u>Lewis</u>	128.16	8.16	<u>28</u>	38	<u>22</u>	<u>32</u>	WD	

Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10	10	21	15.19	4.81	42	18.33	1.67
1	10.31	9.69	22	15.38	4.62	43	18.44	1.56
2	10.61	9.39	23	15.56	4.44	44	18.55	1.45
3	10.91	9.09	24	15.74	4.26	45	18.66	1.34
4	11.20	8.80	25	15.92	4.08	46	18.77	1.23
5	11.48	8.52	26	16.09	3.91	47	18.87	1.13
6	11.76	8.24	27	16.26	3.74	48	18.97	1.03
7	12.03	7.97	28	16.42	3.58	49	19.07	0.93
8	12.29	7.71	29	16.58	3.42	50	19.16	0.84
9	12.55	7.45	30	16.73	3.27	51	19.25	0.75
10	12.80	7.20	31	16.88	3.12	52	19.34	0.66
11	13.04	6.96	32	17.03	2.97	53	19.43	0.57
12	13.28	6.72	33	17.17	2.83	54	19.52	0.48
13	13.52	6.48	34	17.31	2.69	55	19.61	0.39
14	13.75	6.25	35	17.45	2.55	56	19.69	0.31
15	13.97	6.03	36	17.59	2.41	57	19.77	0.23
16	14.18	5.82	37	17.72	2.28	58	19.85	0.15
17	14.39	5.61	38	17.85	2.15	59	19.93	0.07
18	14.60	5.40	39	17.97	2.03	60	20	0
19	14.80	5.20	40	18.09	1.91			
20	15.00	5.00	41	18.21	1.79			

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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

Have no fear of
perfection - you'll
never reach it.

Salvador Dali



ROUND ROBIN			
<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>BOARDS</i>
WEDNESDAY	MAY 17	9:45 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING IN ROOM 1321
WEDNESDAY	MAY 17	10:00 - 11:20 11:30 - 12:50 1:00 - 2:20 3:45 - 5:05 5:15 - 6:35 6:45 - 8:10	BOARDS 1 - 9 BOARDS 10 - 18 BOARDS 19 - 27 85 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK BOARDS 1 - 9 BOARDS 10 - 18 BOARDS 19 - 27
THURSDAY	MAY 18	10:00 - 11:20 11:30 - 12:50 1:00 - 2:20	BOARDS 1 - 9 BOARDS 10 - 18 BOARDS 19 - 27 100 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
* THE FINAL 2 MATCHES ARE SEQUESTERED - ONE PAIR ON EACH TEAM MUST PLAY BOTH MATCHES & MUST REMAIN IN THE CLOSED ROOM FOR BOTH MATCHES. NO SCORE COMPARISON ALLOWED.			
QUARTERFINAL & USA2 ROUND OF 32 (KO ON SAME SCHEDULE)			
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
SEMIFINAL & USA2 ROUND OF 16 (SCHEDULE SOON)			
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
FINAL & USA2 QUARTERFINAL (6 USA2 TEAMS)			
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
USA2 SEMIFINAL			
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
USA2 FINAL			
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

Tournament Schedule

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 playing hours 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.



The Venice Cup...

Like the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup was born out of a challenge match between the women's team from Italy representing Europe and a United States women's team and took the name from the City of Venice where the first edition was held in 1974 and which provided the prestigious trophy awarded to the winners of the World Championship for Women's Teams. The Italian Bridge Federation generously provides the replicas for the winners on each occasion. This contest is of more recent origin than the Bermuda Bowl, but in other respects the development of the two competitions has been remarkably similar.



2015, Chennai - INDIA
2013, Nusa Dua, Bali - INDONESIA
2011, Veldhoven - THE NETHERLANDS
2009, São Paulo - BRAZIL
2007, Shanghai - CHINA
2005, Estoril - PORTUGAL
2003, Monte Carlo - MONACO
2001, Paris - FRANCE
2000, Hamilton - BERMUDA
1997, Hammamet - TUNISIA
1995, Beijing - CHINA
1993, Santiago - CHILE
1991, Yokohama - JAPAN
1989, Perth - AUSTRALIA
1987, Ochos Rios - JAMAICA
1985, São Paulo - BRAZIL
1981, Port Chester - USA
1978, New Orleans - USA
1976, Monte Carlo - MONACO
1974, Venice - ITALY

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

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

Medium Sudoku

Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Top

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

Bottom

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

There was once an island kingdom whose people were all fabulously wealthy. Even though they could have afforded to live anywhere they wanted, tradition dictated they stay on their tiny island home. Eventually, their king became frustrated and called a meeting of the tribe's elders. He said he wanted them to figure out a way he could enjoy his wealth, and stay within traditional guidelines. After much consideration, the elders suggested he build a magnificent throne. When he objected there was not enough room in his hut for a throne, the elders suggested he call in an engineer to solve the problem. Soon, the king's tiny hut was rigged with an elaborate system of ropes and pulleys. He could lower the huge throne for use during the day, and at night, he could haul the throne up, and lower his bed. This was truly the best of both worlds for the king. Unfortunately, after a few months of constant use the ropes frayed, and one night, the throne slipped and came crashing down on the king, killing him. The wise men of the island recognized a lesson in this experience and added to the lore of their people this statement: "People who live in grass houses should not stow thrones."

Puzzle Page ...

Five American couples headed to Europe this week for a two-week vacation. While their flights all left from New York on the same day, each couple's flight left at a different time. None of these couples were traveling together and once in Europe, their travel plans differed greatly. In fact, each couple even lived in a different state. Determine the full name of each couple, what US state each couple lived in, and the flight number and departure time for each couple's flight.

1. Patricia lived in Ohio. Sally didn't take the 3:00pm flight. Veronica, who wasn't married to Phil, lived in Virginia. Mr. & Mrs. Brennan left on flight 645. Rhoda's last name wasn't Malken.
2. Albert, who wasn't married to Rhoda, left before the couple on flight 212, but after Mr. & Mrs. Collins. The couple who lived in Florida left at 1:00pm. The couple from Ohio took flight 349.
3. Norm and his wife, Brenda, didn't live in Florida. Flight 417 left at 9:00am. The couple who lived in Oregon left on the 5:00pm flight. Norm's last name wasn't Brennan.
4. The afternoon flights were taken by the following couples, in no particular order: Mr. and Mrs. Malken, the couple who took flight 756, and the couple from Virginia.
5. The five couples are represented by: Mr. and Mrs. Brennan, the couple who left at 11:00am, Rhoda, Phil, and the couple who lived in New York.
6. Edward Weed and his wife weren't on an afternoon flight. Stan and his wife left four hours after the couple whose last name was Sawyer.

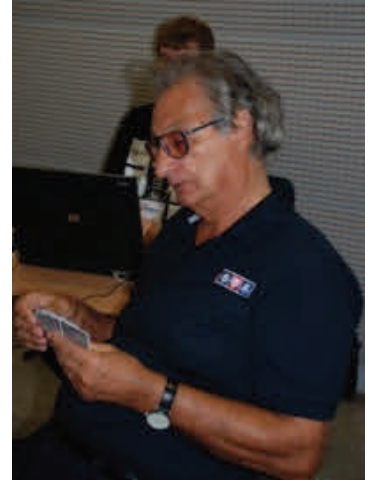
	Brenda	Patricia	Rhoda	Sally	Veronica	Brennan	Collins	Malken	Sawyer	Weed	Florida	New York	Ohio	Oregon	Virginia	212	349	417	645	756	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
Albert																									
Edward																									
Norm																									
Phil																									
Stan																									
9:00 AM																									
11:00 AM																									
1:00 PM																									
3:00 PM																									
5:00 PM																									
212																									
349																									
417																									
645																									
756																									
Florida																									
New York																									
Ohio																									
Oregon																									
Virginia																									
Brennan																									
Collins																									
Malken																									
Sawyer																									
Weed																									

Puzzle

Answer:

First Name	Last Name	Home State	Flight #	Departure
Albert	Veronica	Virginia	645	3:00 PM
Edward	Patricia	Ohio	349	11:00 AM
Norm	Brenda	New York	417	9:00 AM
Phil	Sally	Oregon	212	5:00 PM
Stan	Rhoda	Florida	756	1:00 PM

Meet the Players: Zia



Zia is one of the most colorful and recognizable personalities in the bridge world. He is a 14-time North American champion and four-time ACBL Player of the Year. As of October 2006, Zia was ranked 21st among all World Open Grand Masters.

Zia first came to the attention of the bridge world when he led his team from Pakistan to a silver medal in the most prestigious bridge event on the schedule — the Bermuda Bowl. The lightly regarded team came from nowhere to make the championship round of the tournament in Port Chester NY. Zia's flair attracted immediate attention, and he was back in the limelight five years later in the Rosenblum Cup in Miami Beach. Playing four-handed and led again by Zia, the Pakistani team earned another silver medal in a world championship.

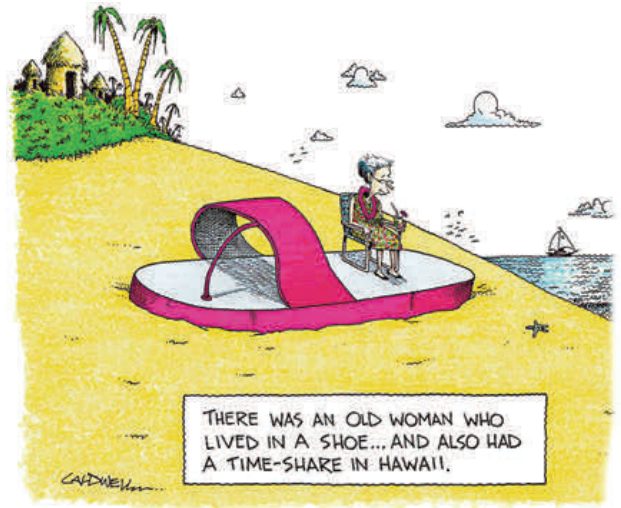
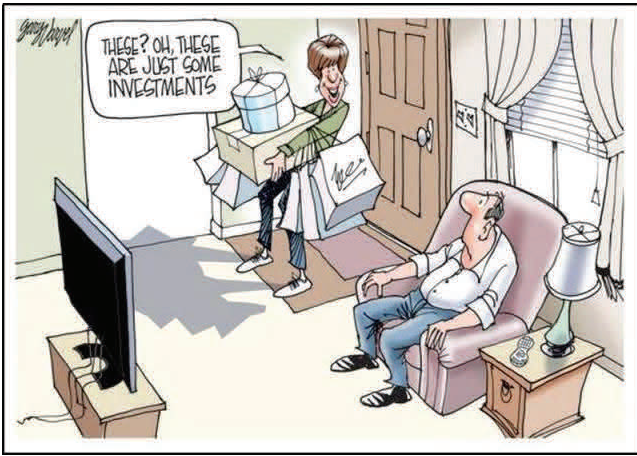
His reputation solidified, Zia started winning championships in North America. Playing with a wide variety of partners, he has earned an unprecedented four ACBL Player of the Year awards. The title is given to the ACBL member who earns the most masterpoints in national championships during a calendar year. Zia earned the accolade in 1991, 1996, 2000 and 2005. He has more than a dozen North American championships to his credit, including two victories in the Spingold Knockout Teams and the Vanderbilt Knockout Teams. He is a three-time winner of the Reisinger B-A-M Teams, one of the toughest events on the bridge calendar.

The ACBL Board of Directors selected Zia as Honorary Member of the Year in 2005. This top award is given to recognize a player's long and meritorious service to the organization.

He is the author of "Bridge My Way," an autobiography written in 1999. He has also hosted many television shows.

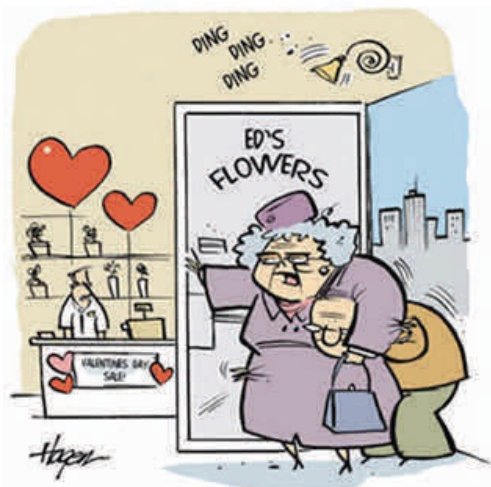
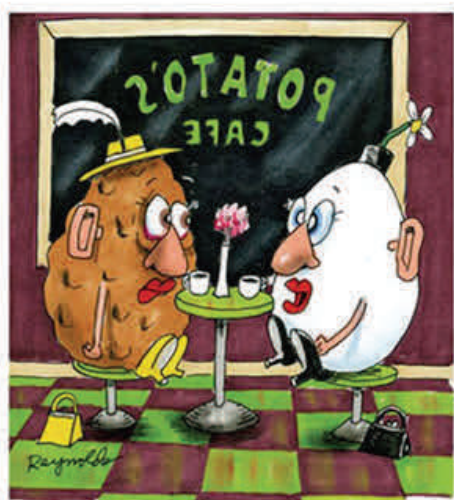
In recent years, Zia has settled down as a family man. He and Emma, his wife of five years (2007), have two sons. It doesn't take much prodding to get Zia to talk at length about the pleasures of fatherhood and his life at home in London.

In late 2005, Zia turned his attention to his native Pakistan, which was devastated by an earthquake in October of that year. He spent much of the next 18 months or so in a fund-raising effort aimed at producing enough cash to build a school in one of the hardest-hit areas. He announced at the 2007 Spring NABC in St. Louis that sufficient funds had been raised to build that school.



"Before you take me away, I just want to update my profile picture."

"In my day, Virginia was for people who were just friends."



"No, Ida, it wasn't a chemical peel. I went under the knife."

"He'll take a dozen long-stemmed roses."

USA1 Quarterfinal

Board 12 ♠ JT9643
 Dealer: W ♥ AQ
 N/S Vul ♦ AK
 Segment 1 ♣ QJ5

♠ A2 ♠ KQ5
 ♥ 853 ♥ KJ9
 ♦ QJ86432 ♦ T7
 ♣ 3 ♣ T9876

♠ 87
 ♥ T7642
 ♦ 95
 ♣ AK42



Board 12 was a really interesting hand. Wolfson/Silverman and Miler/Lall played successfully in the spade game. In both cases, the game could have been defeated.

Both Easts led the DT. Both declarers won and played on trump. Again, both Easts rose with the queen and continued diamonds. Had they ducked to their partner's ace, West could have put a heart through the AQ to defeat the hand.

In the Open Room of the Wold/Lewis match, Levine/Wold stopped in 3S and played it there. Again East led the DT. Levine won and played a spade. Itabashi found the duck, allowing Lewis to win the SA and shift to hearts. Levine won his HA and continued pulling trump. Itabashi won his SQ but neglected to cash his heart and Levine took ten tricks. Of course, Mark was trying to defeat three and that was hopeless.

Robbins/Beatty lost their way in the auction and played the Moysian club fit going down 3 when trump broke badly. Perhaps they were dazzled by Zia's opening a weak 2D and taking a free rebid of 3D during the auction. Clearly something confused things and it showed.

In the two rooms where 3NT was the final contract, diamonds were led, giving the defense the timing to set up the diamond suit before the spades were cleared. One declarer went light two and the other three as a result of good and mediocre judgment discarding on the run of the clubs.

13 IMPs to Wolfson

14 IMPs to Hamman

10 IMPs to Wold

Open Room				Hamman/Pollack
West	North	East	South	
Pollack	Milner	Rubin	Lall	
3D	4D	Pass	4H	
Pass	4S	All Pass		

Closed Room				Hamman/Pollack
Zia	Robbins	Garner	Beatty	
2D	Double	Pass	2H	
3D	3S	Pass	4C	
All Pass				

Open Room				Wold/Lewis
P Lewis	Levine	Itabashi	Wold	
3D	3S	All Pass		

Closed Room				Wold/Lewis
Passell	Casen	Jacobus	Krekorian	
3D	3NT	All Pass		

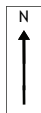
Open Room				Wolfson/Cappelli
Bitterman	Wolfson	Cappelli	Silverman	
3D	Double	Pass	3H	
Pass	3S	Pass	4S	
All Pass				

Closed Room				Wolfson/Cappelli
Becker	Caprera	Graves	Brenner	
Pass	1C	Pass	1H (8-11 5♥)	
3D	3NT	All Pass		

Board 8 ♠ 963
 Dealer: W ♥ 76
 None Vul. ♦ JT62
 Segment 3 ♣ J982

♠ KQ85 ♠ AT
 ♥ Q54 ♥ AJT98
 ♦ AK98 ♦ Q754
 ♣ AK ♣ 74

♠ J742
 ♥ K32
 ♦ 3
 ♣ QT653



(continued on next page with auctions in other 2 rooms of USA1)

Only in the Closed Room of Hamman/Pollack, where Feldman and Cohen, where East/West was slammed.

Everyone in hearts or no-trump collected the 12 obvious tricks.

In Wolfson/Cappelli, Berkowitz/Sontag (West/East) had a scientific auction to play in 6D as opposed to 6H. On the auction, it might have seemed safer to be in diamonds where you would have pitches on the long hearts if you needed them. However, the lack of the diamond jack/ten combined with the 4-1 break made 6D impossible while 6H/NT was cold.

In Hamman/Pollack, Garner/Zia had a similar auction, but with bad diamonds and good hearts, Garner opted to play in the winning 6H.

As it turns out, Berkowitz/Sontag judged correctly that a pitch was needed. They just didn't realize they had that pitch in spades already... and the pitch was needed from diamonds!

Essentially the operation was a success but the patient died.

14 IMPs to Cappelli

Push in Wold/Lewis

Push in Gupta/Mahaffey

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zia	Rubin	Garner	Pollack
2C	Pass	2D	Pass
2NT	Pass	3D	Pass
3H	Pass	4D	Pass
4H	Pass	4S	Pass
4NT	Pass	5H	Pass
6D	Pass	6H	All Pass

Hamman/Pollack

Closed Room			
Cohen	Milner	Feldman	Lall
2NT	Pass	3D (transfer)	Pass
3H	Pass	4D	Pass
4H	All Pass		

Open Room			
Brenner	Becker	Caprera	Graves
1C (strong)	Pass	1H	Pass
2NT	Pass	3D	Pass
3H	Pass	5NT	Pass
6H	All Pass		

Wolfson/Cappelli

Closed Room			
Berkowitz	Cappelli	Sontag	Bitterman
1C (strong)	Pass	1 H nat, GF	Pass
1NT	Pass	2D	Pass
3D	Pass	3S	Pass
4H	Pass	5D	Pass
5H	Pass	6D	All Pass

Mahaffey/Gupta

Closed Room			
Bates	Gupta	Granovetter	Miller
2NT	Pass	3D (transfer)	Pass
3H	Pass	4NT	Pass
6H	All Pass		

Open Room			
Woolsey	Lev	Stewart	Mahaffey
1C (strong)	Pass	2D	Pass
2H (asking)	Pass	3C	Pass
3D	Pass	3NT	Pass
4D	Pass	4S	Pass
4NT	Pass	5D	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Wold/Lewis

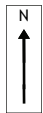
Open Room	Pass	6D	All Pass
Casen	J Clerkin	Krekorian	D Clerkin
2NT	Pass	3D (transfer)	Pass
3H	Pass	4NT	Pass
6NT	All Pass		

Closed Room			
Passell	L Lewis	M Jacobus	P Lewis
1C (strong)	Pass	1H (8-11 <5♠)	Pass
2NT	Pass	3D (transfer)	Pass
4H	Pass	4S (RKC)	Pass
5H	Pass	6H	All Pass

Board 8

(continued from page 10)

Board 6 ♠ T942
 Dealer: E ♥ 743
 E/W Vul. ♦ 63
 Segment 5 ♣ J975

♠ AQ85 ♥ KQ ♦ AK742 ♣ T6		♠ KJ ♥ T5 ♦ J85 ♣ AQ8432
♠ 763 ♥ AJ9862 ♦ QT9 ♣ K		

Three of the six tables played in diamonds: two in game, one in slam, all collecting ten only tricks. One played in 3NT down one. The other two, Stewart/Woolsey and Caprera/Brenner, both reached 5C after Precision 2C openers.

Against Caprera, the opening lead was a spade to his jack. He immediately made the safety play of the CA. When the king dropped, he had some work to do. He led a heart to Sonty's ace. Sontag exited a heart to dummy's king. Caprera needed to shorten his trumps. He played the SA followed by the SQ, discarding a diamond. He led another spade and trumped with the deuce. He led a diamond to dummy's ace and king and played another diamond. At this point, the opponents conceded 11 tricks.

If Berkowitz discards his heart, Caprera ruffs low and leads a club to the ten. Berkowitz is endplayed.

Stewart took a similar line. Mahaffey led the HA and shifted to a spade. Stewart played the CA dropping the singleton king. He cashed the SK and led a diamond to dummy, cashed the SA, pitching a diamond, played the DK and trumped a diamond. He returned to dummy with a heart and played the SQ. Lev discarded a heart. Stewart trumped and led a small club to dummy's ten, endplaying Lev.

12 IMPs to Gupta
 12 IMPs to Cappelli
 3 IMPs to Hamman

Board 3 ♠ J8
 Dealer: S ♥ KQ976
 E/W Vul. ♦ J864
 Segment 5 ♣ 74

♠ Q6543 ♠ A2
 ♥ AT5 ♥ J2
 ♦ T92 ♦ AK53
 ♣ JT ♣ KQ962

♠ KT97
 ♥ 843
 ♦ Q7
 ♣ A853



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hamman	Robbins	Bramley	Beatty
			Pass
Pass	2H	3C	3H
3NT	All Pass		

Hamman/Pollack

Closed Room			
Cohen	Garner	Feldman	Zia
			Pass
Pass	2H	3C	3H
All Pass			

In all three of the matches, 3NT was played E/W in one room and 3H N/S in the other. 3H always failed 2 tricks.

In Hamman/Pollack, Hamman was declarer from West. Robbins led the HQ. Hamman won, drove out the CA, and the opponents cleared hearts. Hamman had an easy nine tricks: 4 clubs, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 spade.

In Gupta/Mahaffey, Chambers declared 3NT from East and had no chance after a heart lead through dummy's AT. Robinson won the heart and played the SJ. Chambers won the ace and drove out the CA. A second heart was ducked to Robinson's king and he played the S8. Boyd won and endplayed dummy with a club return.

In Wolfson/Cappelli, it was more interesting. Silverman was declarer from West. Cappelli led a fourth best diamond which was ducked to Bitterman's queen. Bitterman returned a heart ducked to Cappelli's queen. Cappelli exited with the S8 to dummy's ace. Silverman led a club to the jack and tried to keep his communication by leading the DT for the

Open Room			
Silverman	Cappelli	Wolfson	Bitterman
			Pass
Pass	1H	Double	2C
2S	Pass	3C	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Wolfson/Cappelli

Closed Room			
Brenner	Berkowitz	Caprera	Sontag
			Pass
Pass	2H	3C	3H
All Pass			

Open Room			
Schermer	Robinson	Chambers	Boyd
			Pass
Pass	2D (multi)	2NT	3D
3NT	All Pass		

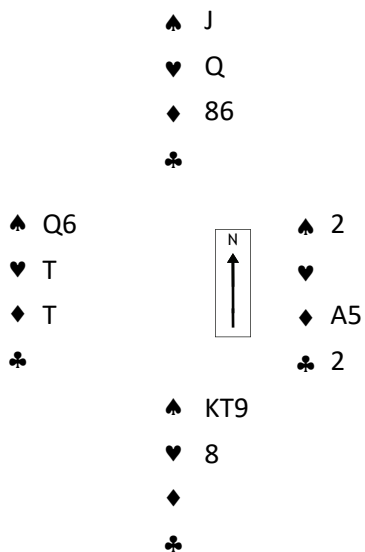
Mahaffey/Gupta

Closed Room			
Woolsey	Lev	Stewart	Mahaffey
			Pass
Pass	2H	3C	3H
All Pass			

finesse against Cappelli's jack. This was covered and won by the ace in dummy. Silverman continued clubs. Bitterman ducked once and won the third round. He played a heart. Silverman had no choice but to rise with the ace. The hand could no longer be made.

Silverman needed to change his timing. The diamond finesse could have waited. He needed to continue clubs. Bitterman will win the CA and play a heart. Now Silverman could win the HA and play the DT. Cappelli must cover the diamond but he will be in trouble on the run of the clubs.

The four card end position will be:



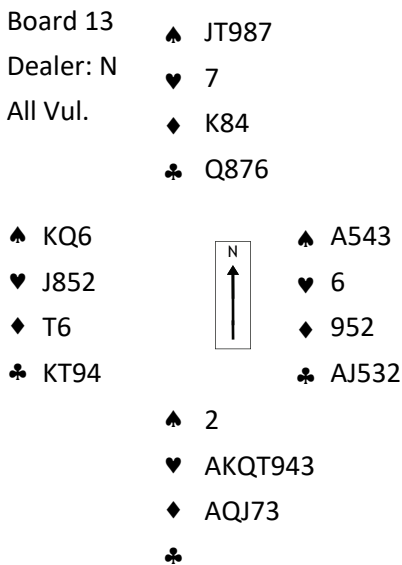
On the play of the C2, South and West will discard spades.

North must hold the good heart and two diamonds so he will also discard a spade.

Now Silverman can cross to the DT and exit with a heart. Cappelli will be end-played.

It would have been a better story if Silverman had visualized this end position and realized that the defenders would be forced to untangle his transportation for him.

- 5 IMPs to Mahaffey
 - 5 IMPs to Cappelli
 - 11 IMPs to Hamman
- Before this segment, Lewis withdrew.



Certainly South's hand qualifies as the most exciting hand of the day.

Three pairs reached the doomed 6H contract. One stopped short of slam.

Beatty/Robbins reached 6D from North after a 2C opener and a 2D response. The opening trump lead made declarer's life simple. He cashed 2 trumps, played the HA, and ruffed a heart with the DK. Now he had an easy 12 tricks.

David Berkowitz, North, responded 1D to 1 strong club and became declarer at his table. He was faced with a much tougher proposition. David Caprera led the CA. Dummy was tapped at trick one. Berkowitz could have played along the same line as Robbins did, cashing two diamonds followed by the HA, planning to ruff a heart high if diamonds were 3-2. The problem occurs when both suits are breaking 4-1. In that case, Berkowitz would lose all the tricks other than his five diamonds and three hearts.

Down 4 vulnerable isn't desired.

If hearts are 4-1, 6H is doomed so down one in 6D would be no worse than a push.

Berkowitz decided to play the ace of hearts and ruff a heart with the D8!! East was able to overruff with the nine and 6D was down one for a push board.

Limey Jack...

Blimey but Limey Jack has the ointment. Only Limey Jack could predict with certainty that Cappelli would send Wolfson to bed without porridge. The rhyming rube, Howie Dung, only knows how to pick the favourites.

'pon the morrow in USA 1:

Hamman-Gupta: You would have to be bent as a nine-bob note to pick Gupta over Zia. Even the Dung one will survive this one.

Cappelli-Wold: Cappelli is short-handed, inexperienced, and inferior to Wold in every way, but by Her Majesty's mittens, they have a real chance. On the back of a 5 pound note Wold has a creamy texture, but Limey Jack steps out here to call the upset.

In USA 2 there are 5 able bodies, but 4 chairs in the parlour. Falk gets to catch a long kip.

Cheers, LJ



Howie Doing...

Five teams are left in USA2.

Falk got a rest when Reynolds withdrew.

**A day and a half, and one team will be
Out of contention completely home free.**

**Who is that team? Which one will balk?
Is it Mahaffey or Lewis or Falk?**

**Falk will remain. Lewis will too.
Mahaffey's a goner when this round is through!**

**On to the headups... Wold v Cappelli...
Who stands on their feet or flops on their belly?**

**Cappelli's done great, but their fate is cast.
Luck isn't something forever will last.**

**Annie and David are playing their best,
But soon will be packing and heading back West.**

**Hamman v Gupta... not a close call.
USA2, it's Hamman take all.**

**Zia's still great, maintaining his cheer.
Steven is almost too young to be here.**

**The great Bob Hamman is still off the chart.
As long as he's South or West, with Sir Bart!**

**Watch all the action. Be in the know.
See you today at the BBO show!**

Howie Doing... the BEST!