

Volume 8, Issue 9  
May 24, 2017

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Old Times — the official newsletter of the USSBC

Results:

## USA2 Semi-Final

2	Hamman, NPC	146	46	10	53	37
5	Falk	114	28	41	12	33
3	Wolfson	143	33	50	15	45
4	Lewis	72	17	14	18	23



**Semis end after  
two sessions tomorrow  
and Finals start!**

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# 2017 USSBC Teams

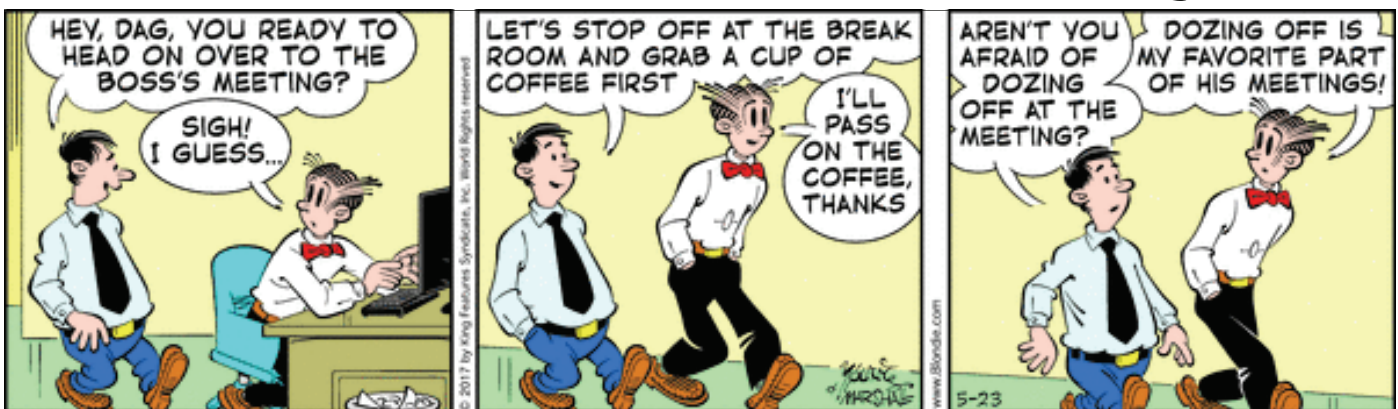
## listed in seeding point order

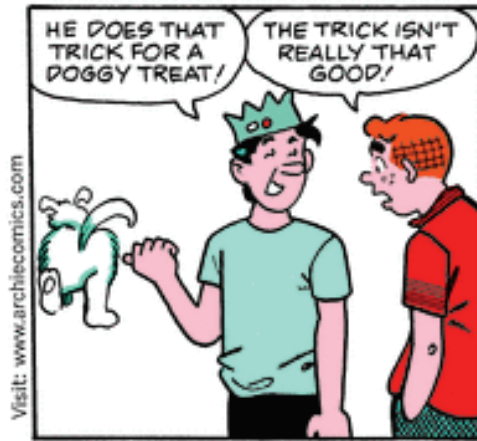
Hamman, NPC	Hemant Lall Zia Mahmood Robert Hamman	Reese Milner Steve Garner Bart Bramley
Wolfson	Jeffrey Wolfson, Capt David Berkowitz Michael Becker	Neil Silverman Alan Sontag Allan Graves
Wold	Eddie Wold, Capt Marc Jacobus Dennis Clerkin	Michael Levine Mike Passell Jerry Clerkin
Gupta	Vinita Gupta, 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

We play a sport. It's a game. At the end of the day, that's all it is, is a game. It doesn't make you any better or any worse than anybody else. So by winning a game, you're no better. By losing a game, you're no worse. I think by keeping that mentality, it really keeps things in perspective for me to treat everybody the same.

Tim Tebow

## Comic Strips from the "Old" Days!





**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.**



## Entering the SemiFinal of USA2...

Board 1     ♠ Q  
 Dealer: N    ♥ J7532  
 None Vul.    ♦ 72  
 Segment 1   ♣ AQ985

♠ JT873	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">             N              ↑           </div>	♠ A9652
♥ KT4		♥ 8
♦ 543		♦ AQJ86
♣ 72		♣ K4

This is a really quirky hand. Whatever direction you sit, whichever fit you play, you have one loser in each of the four suits!

In the Falk/Hamman match, Eisenstein/Rengstorff, North/South in the Open Room, played in 5C, going down two after their opponents, Milner/Lall bid to 4S. Eisenstein, declarer, lost one trick in each suit.

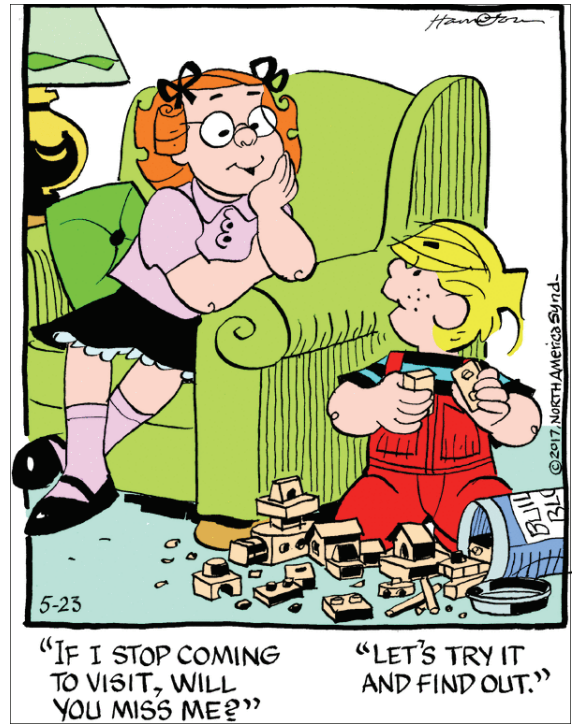
In the Closed Room of this match, Simson/Aker, East/West, played in 4S, going down one when their opponents, Bramley/Hamman bid to 4H but disdained the phantom save at the five level. Aker, declarer, lost one trick in each suit! 4 IMPs to Hamman

♠ K4  
 ♥ AQ96  
 ♦ KT9  
 ♣ JT63

In the Lewis/Wolfson match, Casen/Krekorian, North/South in the Open Room, played in 5H, going down two after their opponents, Berkowitz/Sontag, bid the spade game. Like the others, Casen, declarer, lost one trick in each suit.

In the Closed Room of this match, Linda and Paul Lewis, East/West, played in 4S doubled going down one, after their opponents, Becker/Graves, North/South, bid the heart game. And last but not least, Linda, declarer, lost one trick in each suit! 5 IMPs to Wolfson

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



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

## Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Top

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

Bottom

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

# Hard Sudoku

# Puzzle Page ...

	Cut-away	Day-by-Day	Futurese	New Horizons	On the Edge	child day care	debt reduction	engineering design	hair salon	parts manufacturer	Floor				
											1	1	2	3	3
Hank															
Jim															
Larry															
Marcy															
Sara															
Floor	1														
	1														
	2														
	3														
	3														
child day care															
debt reduction															
engineering design															
hair salon															
parts manufacturer															

Millersville Office Space Specialists were in the business of leasing office space to local businesses. Last month, construction on their newest office building was completed and the company hosted a grand opening of the building, inviting clients and potential clients to tour the new facilities that the company could now offer. Elliot, the owner of Millersville Office Space Specialists, was very pleased to see that as of this week, the building was already half full of new tenants. His sales staff had been very busy! Determine the name of each sales associate that brought in a client for the new building, the name of each company leasing space, what each company does, and what floor each company is leasing space on (each is on a single floor).

1. Marcy represented the child day care company, which wasn't called Cut-away.
2. Sara didn't represent a company that rented space on the third floor.
3. The only company currently leasing space on the second floor, which wasn't On the Edge, was the parts manufacturer.
4. Day by Day was not the name of the engineering design company. Larry represented Futurese.
5. The two companies renting space on the third floor were Cut-away and the company that Jim represented.
6. Hank represented the debt reduction company, which didn't rent space on the first floor. New Horizons was a hair salon but the company didn't rent space on the third floor.

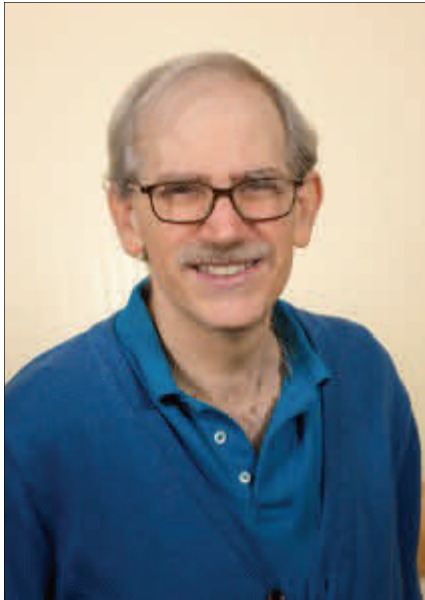
First Name	Company Name	Product	Floor
Hank			
Jim			
Larry			
Marcy			
Sara			

-----	Cut-away	child day care	1
-----	Day-by-Day	debt reduction	1
-----	Futurese	engineering design	2
-----	New Horizons	hair salon	3
-----	On the Edge	parts manufacturer	3

## Puzzle

## Answer:

1	hair salon	New Horizons	Sara
1	child day care	Day-by-Day	Marcy
2	parts manufacturer	Futurese	Larry
3	engineering design	On the Edge	Jim
3	debt reduction	Cut-away	Hank
Floor	Product	Company Name	First Name



# Meet the Staff:

*(Chip would have been playing in the competition had he not won the USA2 berth in the Open. He is onsite helping out with the tournament while his wife is running the show.)*

*He functions as a polled expert when we need him on Appeals Panels, and when not polled, he functions as a committee member when necessary.*

Chip Martel began playing bridge seriously while in high school in Urbana IL. He was fortunate to be near the University of Illinois campus where they had good campus games and several strong players willing to help him improve.

Later, Martel studied computer science — and bridge — at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning a B.S. in 1975. In 1980, he earned a Ph.D. from University of California at Berkeley where he met his wife, Jan, and great long-time partner, Lew Stansby.

In 1981, Martel won his first North American title, the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, with Stansby. The following year they won their first world title, the Open Pairs, and also finished second in the Rosenblum teams (fittingly, Martell Cognac sponsored the tournament). Subsequently, Martel and Stansby won four additional world championships and more than 20 North American titles together. Martel has also won NABC titles with Jan, Zia, Kit Woolsey and Eric Rodwell.

After playing with Stansby for 35 years, Martel recently started a new partnership with his old friend Marty Fleisher.

Martel served as captain and coach of the world champion Junior team in 1991 and was coach of the world champion Senior team in 2005. He is also the chair of the ACBL Laws Commission, a member of the World Bridge Federation Laws and System Committees and was on the drafting committee for the 1997 laws. Additionally, he won the Bols Tip Competition and was named ACBL Honorary Member in 2000.

Before he retired in 2013, Martel was a professor of computer science at the University of California at Davis. He helped found the computer science department there and served as one of its first department chairs. In the 1985-86 academic year, he achieved a rare double of winning a world championship and achieving tenure. He continues to work at the college as an emeritus professor.

A favorite hobby is refining his bidding system (“Chip abhors a bid without a meaning,” friends say) and devising defenses to methods played most commonly outside the United States. Other hobbies include reading (mostly science fiction and mysteries) and bicycling.

Martel has one step-son, Rick, and two grandchildren, Maya and Eli (neither plays bridge yet).

## WE ALL GET OLD IN THE END....

I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone? That's common sense leaving your body.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Old age is coming at a really bad time. When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is..."I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have gray hair; I have "wisdom highlights." I'm just very wise.

Teach your daughter how to shoot, because a restraining order is just a piece of paper.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

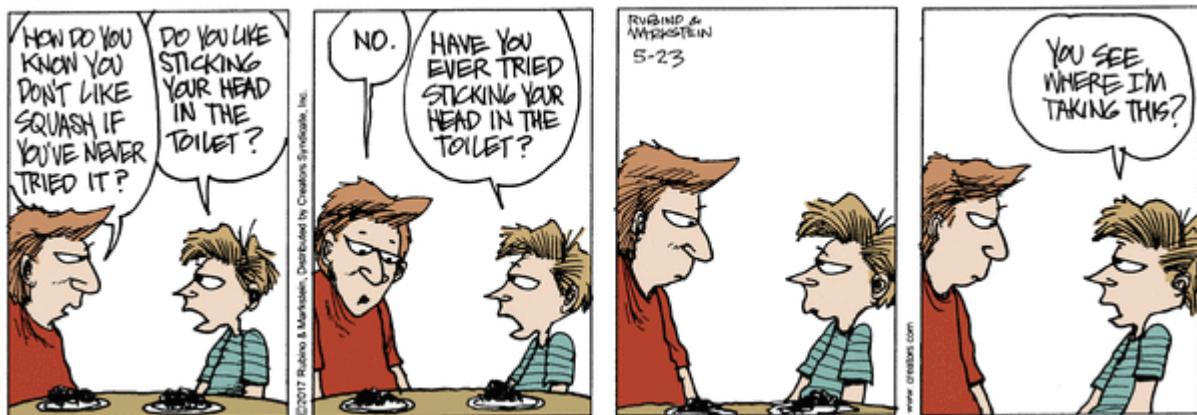
Of course I talk to myself; sometimes I need expert advice.

At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

Life is great. I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names.

# Senior

# Moments!



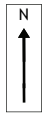


Board 4  
 Dealer: W  
 All Vul.  
 Segment 1

♠ T98  
 ♥ A8  
 ♦ T2  
 ♣ AKT973

♠ AQ75  
 ♥ J52  
 ♦ A96  
 ♣ 864

♠ K63  
 ♥ QT976  
 ♦ KJ4  
 ♣ Q5



Three of the four tables in the USA2 Semifinals played in 3C.

Milner made 10 tricks while Paul Lewis and Jeff Aker made 11.

At the fourth table, Berkowitz and Sontag took a calculated risk bidding 3NT. On a red suit lead from South, they needed clubs to behave. Knowing

his partner held a six-card suit and a non-minimum made the risk worth it. Vulnerable at IMPs is the best time to push for close games. When clubs split 2-2, Berkowitz was home with six clubs and three outside aces. He actually took 10 tricks and the +630 scored a well-earned 11 IMP swing for team Wolfson.

Board 5  
 Dealer: N  
 N/S Vul.

♠ 43  
 ♥ KT53  
 ♦ J7542  
 ♣ 94

♠ AK9  
 ♥ 942  
 ♦ A6  
 ♣ KQJT7

♠ JT52  
 ♥ A86  
 ♦ KT3  
 ♣ A53

♠ Q876  
 ♥ QJ7  
 ♦ Q98  
 ♣ 862



Open Room				<b>Lewis/Wolfson</b>
Berkowitz	Casen	Sontag	Krekorian	
West	North	East	South	
2C (Precision)	Pass	2D (asking)	Pass	
2S (non-min; no shortness)	Pass	2NT	Pass	
3NT	All Pass			

Closed Room				<b>Falk/Hamman</b>
P Lewis	Becker	L Lewis	Graves	
1C	Pass	1S	Pass	
2C	Pass	3C	All Pass	

Closed Room				<b>Falk/Hamman</b>
Aker	Bramley	Simson	Hamman	
2C (Precision)	Pass	2D (asks)	Pass	
3C	All Pass			

Open Room				<b>Falk/Hamman</b>
Milner	Eisenstein	Lall	Rengstorff	
1C	Pass	1S	Pass	
2C	Pass	3C	All Pass	

Closed Room				<b>Falk/Hamman</b>
Aker	Bramley	Simson	Hamman	
	Pass	1D	Pass	
2C	Pass	2H	Pass	
2S	Pass	2NT	Pass	
3S	Pass	4C	Pass	
6C	All Pass			

All three other tables in the event played in 3NT. Only Aker/Simson tried for the club slam. Had the SQ been onside with spades 3-3 or had the SQ been falling singleton or had the SQ been onside doubleton, this would be a great triumph.

Had a squeeze been operational...

The road to Hell is paved with good intentions. This is just one of them. The SQ was onside but fourth! Both opponents held the proper red guards.

Aker tried it all. He ducked the first heart and won the second. He cashed one round of trump, laid down a high spade, pulled the remaining trump and took the spade hook to the nine. He ran his clubs to see what he'd get. Nothing worked and the slam failed.

11 IMPs to Hamman

Board 15  
 Dealer: S  
 N/S Vul.  
 Segment 1

♠ AKQJ  
 ♥ AK  
 ♦ Q984  
 ♣ Q76

♠ 983  
 ♥ T  
 ♦ KT9532  
 ♣ KT98

♠ T76542  
 ♥ Q3  
 ♦ AJ76  
 ♣ J



This certainly rates to be the most bizarre hand of the tournament!

Closed Room				<b>Falk/Hamman</b>
West	North	East	South	
Aker	Bramley	Simson	Hamman	
1C (strong)	4H	Double	All Pass	

Open Room				<b>Falk/Hamman</b>
West	North	East	South	
Milner	Eisenstein	Lall	Rengstorff	
2NT	3H	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room				<b>Lewis/Wolfson</b>
West	North	East	South	
P Lewis	Becker	L Lewis	Graves	
2NT	3H	Double (T/O)	Pass	
3S	Pass	4D	Pass	
4H	Pass	4S	All Pass	

In Falk/Hamman, Bramley jumped to game on his 8-5 freak over Aker's strong, artificial club bid. Simson doubled, and at this vulnerability, sitting seemed a no-brainer for Aker.

Simson, on lead, had no idea how important it was to lead a trump. He knew his partner had the lion's share of the points and really didn't know he was 6-4 in the minors. He didn't want to let anything get away so he led a small diamond hoping to cash whatever aces and kings his side could.

This was fatal. Only one lead matters. If a trump is led, no tricks disappear. As it was, Bramley won the DA, discarding a club from his hand. He led a club to his ace and ruffed a club in dummy. He ruffed a diamond in hand, a second club in dummy and another diamond in hand. He played the HJ to Aker's HK. All he could lose at this point was one club and one more heart. Contract making

If Simson had thought a little longer, he might have concluded that a trump was best. Cutting one ruff could be really important. Cutting two... as on this hand is invaluable. In addition, leading a trump doesn't help declarer establish anything in a side suit.

In the other room of this match, Eisenstein led a fourth best club to the jack and Milner's queen. Milner now had an easy route to 9 tricks, and in fact, took 11. 15 IMPs to Hamman

Berkowitz, in Lewis/Wolfson, also took 11 tricks in no-trump.

Lewis had a bit more trouble with the Moysian spade fit with the 6-0 split. He won the opening heart lead, cashed the SA and got the news, and ultimately went down three tricks in 4S. 12 IMPs to Wolfson

Onto Segment 2...

Board 17 ♠ A87  
 Dealer: N ♥ T7  
 None Vul. ♦ KJ2  
 Segment 2 ♣ AKQJ9

♠ T62 ♠ 9  
 ♥ A9643 ♥ 52  
 ♦ 95 ♦ AQ8643  
 ♣ 764 ♣ 8532

♠ KQJ543  
 ♥ KQJ8  
 ♦ T7  
 ♣ T



In the Falk/Hamman match, this board was a push when 5C made six in the Open Room on a spade lead to the ace followed by four rounds of clubs and one round of hearts ducked.

And 4S made four on the lead of a diamond through the KJx to the queen and ace followed by a heart to the ace.

Lewis/Wolfson was more interesting. In the Closed room, Krekorian declared 4S and made five when it went diamond, diamond, diamond... declarer ruffing the third diamond high in dummy and pulling trumps.

In the Open Room, Wolfson/Silverman got carried away... and it paid off for them.

Silverman loved his sold spade suit missing only the ace and his eleven count once Wolfson jumped to 3NT over his negative double of 2D. He invited slam with 4NT and Wolfson thought 6C would be better than 6NT. Of course, as one can see when one sees all four hands, both contracts are the same since there are two cashing red aces in the opponents' hands... making neither contract any good.

However, as often happens in bridge when one can't see all the hands, Linda Lewis led the H5 against 6C. Clearly, it could be from a doubleton... or it could be from a singleton. Her partner had no clue. If it was a singleton, he likely needed to give her the ruff to defeat the slam. He can see the running spade suit in dummy. If it was a doubleton, he needed to shift diamonds... the suit partner bid in the auction.

Mark could have gone right, but he really didn't know which way WAS right. He returned the heart and Wolfson had 12 tricks. 10 IMPs to Wolfson.

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Itabashi	Wolfson	L Lewis	Silverman
	1C	2D	Double
Pass	3NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	6C	All Pass	

Closed Room			
Berkowitz	Casen	Sontag	Krekorian
	1C	2D	2S
Pass	2NT	Pass	3H
Pass	3S	Pass	4S
All Pass			

Open Room			
Rengstorff	Milner	Eisenstein	Lall
	1C	2D	2S
Pass	3D	Pass	3H
Pass	3S	Pass	4C
Pass	4NT	Pass	5C
All Pass			

Closed Room			
Zia	Falk	Garner	Lusky
	1C	1D	1S
Double	Redouble	2D	4S
All Pass			

**Lewis/Wolfson**

**Falk/Hamman**

Board 3 ♠ AJ62  
 Dealer: S ♥ AK8  
 E/W Vul. ♦ AKT975  
 Segment 3 ♣

♠ K5 ♠ 93  
 ♥ J7643 ♥ QT52  
 ♦ 62 ♦ J84  
 ♣ Q953 ♣ AT82

♠ QT874  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ Q3  
 ♣ KJ764



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Zia	Falk	Garner	Lusky
			Pass
Pass	1D	Pass	1S
Pass	4C (splinter)	Pass	4S
All Pass			

**Falk/Hamman**

Closed Room			
Aker	Bramley	Simson	Hamman
			Pass
Pass	1D	Pass	1S
Pass	5NT	Pass	6C
Pass	6S	All Pass	

At three of the four tables in play, the final contract was 6S. Each of those tables scored 1010 when the SK was in the pocket.

In the Open Room of the Falk/Hamman match, Falk picked the wrong time to go conservative.

It is unclear what he expected to learn over his 4C splinter. He had first and second round control of both red suits, first round control of clubs and very good spade support.

In the Closed Room of Lewis/Wolfson, in the same situation, Graves chose a 4D call, likely a filler in partner's opened suit.

Open Room			
Silverman	P Lewis	Wolfson	Itabashi
			Pass
Pass	1D	Pass	1S
Pass	2H	Pass	2NT
Pass	3S	Pass	4S
Pass	5NT	Pass	6S
All Pass			

**Lewis/Wolfson**

Closed Room			
Casen	Becker	Krekorian	Graves
			Pass
Pass	1D	Pass	1S
Pass	4C (splinter)	Pass	4D
Pass	5NT	Pass	6S
All Pass			

In any case, Falk cannot pass over 4S. His partner cannot envision all the controls in his hand and make any sort of reasonable decision.

It's one thing not to have made a try for the grand slam, but to stop short of the small slam is truly strange.

Lusky won the opening heart lead. He played the deuce of spades to the queen and king, making only six.

11 IMPs to Hamman