



Volume 3, Issue 11
June 14, 2009

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations

Congratulations to the Robinson team on becoming USA1 in Sao Paulo ... Well done!!



Adam Wildavsky, Fred Stewart, Peter Boyd, Steve Robinson, Doug Doub, Kit Woolsey

Finals										
#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120
1	<u>Fleisher</u>	172	<u>33</u>	<u>44</u>	17	<u>38</u>	21	19		
2	<u>Robinson</u>	280	<u>55</u>	<u>61</u>	53	<u>48</u>	24	39		

SemiFinals							
TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
<u>Welland</u>	89	<u>32</u>	<u>19</u>	26	12		
<u>Nickell</u>	161	34	36	39	52		

USBF President
Bill Pollack

USBF Vice President
Steve Beatty

USBF Secretary
Joan Gerard

USBF Treasurer
Sylvia Moss

USBF Chief Operations Officer
Jan Martel

USBF Chief Financial Officer
Barbara Nudelman

Directors - USBC
Chris Patrias
Sol Weinstein
Alan Miller

Operations Manager
Jeff Johnston
Ken Horwedel

Appeals Coordinator
Joan Gerard
Appeals Administrator
Bill Rosenbaum

Appeals Committee
Ron Gerard
Henry Bethe
Robb Gordon
Jeff Polisner
Howard Weinstein
John Sutherlin
Bart Bramley
Adam Wildavsky

VuGraph Organizers
Jan Martel
Joe Stokes

Bulletin Editor
Suzi Subeck

Hospitality Chairs
Barbara Nudelman
Joan Gerard

Webmaster
Kitty Cooper

In Seeding Order

**"Personally I'm
always ready
to learn,
although I do
not always
like being
taught."
- Winston
Churchill**

Nickell	Bye to SemiFinals	Frank Nickell, Capt Robert Hamman Jeff Meckstroth	Richard Freeman Zia Mahmood Eric Rodwell
Welland	Bye to Rnd of 8	Roy Welland, Capt Steve Garner Billy Cohen	Chris Willenken Howard Weinstein Ron Smith
Jacobs	Bye to Rnd of 16	George Jacobs, Capt Bobby Levin Joe Grue	Ralph Katz Steve Weinstein Curtis Cheek
Diamond	Bye to Rnd of 16	John Diamond, Capt Eric Greco Fred Gitelman	Brian Platnick Geoff Hampson Brad Moss
Strul	Bye to Rnd of 16	Aubrey Strul, Capt David Berkowitz Chip Martel	Michael Becker Larry Cohen Lew Stansby
Cohler		Gary Cohler, Capt Jacek Pszczola Mike Passell	Michael Rosenberg Sam Lev Jim Mahaffey
Meltzer		Rose Meltzer, Capt Alan Sontag Neil Chambers	Kyle Larsen Roger Bates John Schermer
Schwartz		Richard Schwartz, Capt Chris Compton Bjorn Fallenius	Richard Coren Marc Jacobus Fred Chang
Fleisher		Martin Fleisher, Capt Russell Ekeblad Ron Rubin	Michael Kamil Peter Weichsel Matthew Granovetter
Beatty		Steve Beatty, Capt Michael Moss	Bill Pollack Brian Glubok
Weed		Jimmy Cayne Chuck Burger Greg Hinze	Michael Seamon Stephen Landen Nagy Kamel
Lewis		Paul Lewis, Capt Mark Itabashi	Linda Lewis Ross Gabel
Robinson		Steve Robinson, Capt Kit Woolsey Adam Wildavsky	Peter Boyd Fred Stewart Doug Doub
Lall		Hemant Lall, Capt Justin Lall Seymon Deutsch	Nikolay Demirev Kevin Bathurst John Kranyak
Rogoff		Bruce Rogoff, Capt Doug Simson Glenn Milgrim	Josh Parker Walter Johnson Jeff Aker
Ozdil		Melih Ozdil, Capt Jiang Gu Xiaodong Shi	Mark Lair Jonathan Weinstein David Yang
Cole		William Cole, Capt Ai-Tai Lo Jian-Jian Wang	Alan Schwartz Hailong Ao John Adams
Ivatury		Uday Ivatury, Capt Christal Henner	Lapt Chan Ari Greenberg
Blanchard		Robert Blanchard, Capt Gail Greenberg John Hurd	Shane Blanchard Jeffrey Hand Joel Wooldridge
Saxe		Gene Saxe, Capt Victor King Geoffrey Brod	Franklin Merblum Alan Applebaum Glenn Eisenstein
Kahn		Allen Kahn, Capt G.Margie Gwozdziński	Jeffrey Rothstein Ira Herman
McKellar		Arch McKellar, Capt Warren Rosner Franco Baseggio	Chuck Lamprey Stephen Sanborn Andrew Stark

From the USA2 Semi-Finals ... Nickell vs. Welland ...

Board 11
 Dealer: S
 None Vul.

♠ J65
 ♥ Q52
 ♦ A9874
 ♣ 63

♠ AK873
 ♥ 4
 ♦ KT65
 ♣ KJ5

♠ QT9
 ♥ A98763
 ♦ QJ
 ♣ T2

♠ 42
 ♥ KJT
 ♦ 32
 ♣ AQ9874



West	North	East	South
Garner	Nickell	H Weinstein	Freeman
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♣
Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Zia	Willenken	Hamman	Welland
			1♣
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Freeman passed his ten count and his opponents stopped in a part score. In the Open Room, Welland opened his ten count and his opponents got to game!

In the Closed Room, Garner opened one spade and his partner raised to two spades. Freeman now backed in with three clubs. When Garner passed, his side had very little chance to reach game. Perhaps he should have tried three diamonds over three clubs since he had well-placed club honors and heart shortage. All he really needed was a decent spade fit and a little help in diamonds.

In the Open Room, Welland's opening one club bid actually kept the bidding a level lower by allowing Hamman to make an aggressive cue of two clubs in response to Zia's one spade overcall. Since Welland had already opened the bidding, he did not feel the need to risk competing with a three club bid, and Zia could now show his diamonds at the two level. Hamman jumped to three spades and Zia bid the game.

There was little to the play and both tables made five.

(Continued on page 7)

The Pharmacist...

A lady walked into a pharmacy and told the pharmacist that she needed some cyanide. The pharmacist said, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

The lady then explained she needed it to poison her husband. The pharmacist's eyes got big and he said, "Lord, have mercy -- I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband. That's against the law! I'll lose my license, they'll throw both of us in jail and all kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not, you can NOT have any cyanide!"

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife.

The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, "Well, now. You didn't tell me you had a prescription."

All About Kibitzing

WHEN CAN YOU KIBITZ IN THE PLAYING ROOMS?

You will be able to kibitz at any of the tables during this event. However, except in the Open Room during the Round Robin, you will be subject to the following regulations:

Kibitzers may enter the room **ONLY** at the start of play for a segment. Once play has started, the room will be closed.

A kibitzer who leaves the room may not return until the start of the next session.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in the playing rooms, even if they are turned off. Any kibitzer who is found with a cell phone will be evicted and not allowed to kibitz during the remainder of the tournament.

When a match is being shown on BBO Vugraph, no kibitzer may sit on the same side of the table as the Vugraph operator.

Screens

All of the USWBC is played with screens. If you've never kibitzed at a table with screens before, you need to know that it is quite different from kibitzing at a regular table. You need to be seated at an "open" corner of the table (not next to the screen) in order to see much, and once there are 4 kibitzers at a table it will be very hard for additional kibitzers to see.

USBF KIBITZING RULES

The USBF **General Conditions of Contest** contain specific rules about kibitzers. They are designed to promote security at the tournament and are set forth in the conditions of contest section labeled "Security." They are:

1. General Rules
 - a. During any use of duplicated boards across multiple matches, Kibitzers must select one table for kibitzing and may not move to any other table during a session or segment.
 - b. Kibitzers may not speak with players, must watch only one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see more than one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see a computer screen in use for Internet broadcast, must check communication devices with the Director, cannot call attention to irregularities other than a board being placed incorrectly on the table (arrow positioning), but may serve as witnesses to a possible irregularity.
2. In the Open Room:
 - a. If there is a live, or nearly live Internet broadcast of any match in the Open Room, kibitzers shall abide by the same rules as those applicable to the Closed Room.
 - b. If there is no live, or nearly live Internet broadcast of any match in the Open Room then kibitzers, media, and NPC's may enter and return until such time as any table from the closed room has finished the segment. Once any table in the Closed room has finished, no one may return to the Open room after leaving unless escorted while absent.
 - c. In either event, Open Room kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room and returning (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).
3. In the Closed Room:
 - a. Kibitzers must enter the Closed Room before play commences. Kibitzers in the closed room are required to remain until the segment of play is completed at the table they are watching or to leave the playing area entirely. Closed Room kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).
 - b. Except as expressly provided in these conditions and appendices, NPC's shall be subject to the WBF General Conditions, Section 17.
 - c. No one other than the Internet broadcast personnel and Tournament Directors may watch any computer screen or any other mechanism for enabling the Internet broadcast at any time in either the Closed or the Open Room.

Sprung	Danny Sprung, Capt Abraham Pineles Michael Massimilla	Hal Mouser Alex Allen Louis Glasthal
Mclaughlin	John McLaughlin, Capt Pamela Miller Ljudmila Kamenova	Lloyd Arvedon Jim Rasmussen Stephen Gladyszak
Nussbaum	Daniel Nussbaum, Capt Robert Heitzman David Rowntree	Mark Aquino Michael Prahin Dougin Walker
Meckstroth	Matthew Meckstroth, Capt Kevin Dwyer Michael Zeller	Owen Lien Zachary Brescoll
Yates	David Yates, Capt Michael McNamara	Daniel Wolkowitz Sylwia McNamara

VuGraph Information

The 2009 USBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting with the Round of 32. In the Rounds of 32 and 16 we will be covering 1, 2 or 3 of the matches being played. From the Quarterfinals on, we will cover all of the tables in play.

To watch the Vugraph online, go to the **BBO website** where you can either log on directly from your browser, go to "Vugraph" and choose which table to watch or download the BBO software to run BBO on your computer.

If you choose the latter approach, after downloading, install the software on your computer, log on, follow the directions to become a BBO member and you'll be magically transported to the Lobby of the largest bridge club in the world.

Click on the button labeled EXPLORE BRIDGE and then on the button labeled VUGRAPH THEATRE and you'll be able to choose which of the USBC matches you want to watch.

There will usually be a "yellow" user on BBO called USBF. If you have general questions, please ask USBF, not one of the hard-working Vugraph Operators, some of whom may prefer not to respond to private messages. Thank you.

Each day's schedule is the same (these are New York times; to see the times for your time-zone, go to the **BBO Vugraph schedule site**)

10:00-12:10
12:25-2:35
3:45-5:55
6:10-8:20

During the Quarterfinals, Semifinals and Finals, all of the teams will play the same boards, unless one or more matches gets sufficiently far behind that they have to start later than the other matches, in which case, for security reasons, they will play different boards.

During the Rounds of 32 & 16, all of the teams shown on Vugraph will play the same boards in the first and third segments each day. In the second and fourth segments, those matches that start on time will play the same boards.

After a session, you can review the Vugraph action on our Web Vugraphs, which show each hand played with a link to bidding and play records. Take a look at the older events currently available (under Archived Results) to see what we'll have for the 2009 USBC.

Web Vugraphs are posted within about half an hour of completion of the Vugraph show.

Shave and a Haircut...

A man enters a barber shop for a shave. While the barber is foaming him up, he mentions the problems he has getting a close shave around the cheeks.

"I have just the thing," says the barber taking a small wooden ball from a nearby drawer. "Just place this between your cheek and gum."

The client places the ball in his mouth and the barber proceeds with the closest shave the man has ever experienced.

After a few strokes the client asks in garbled speech, "And what if I swallow it?"

"No problem," says the barber.

"Just bring it back tomorrow like everyone else does."

Important Message:

The Crowne Plaza Hotel will pick up anyone arriving at the White Plains train station daily if you call upon arrival at the station. The number for the front desk is: **1-914-682-0050**.

We want to accommodate the players in any way we can.

In the words of Alfred Hitchcock: "**The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder.**"

Remember: Bridge, too, is a timed event!

Hospitality Information

The hospitality suite for the 2009 USBC is in **Rooms 1206 & 1208** in the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Players, kibitzers, friends and supporters are always welcome in the Hospitality Suite during the tournament. Please join us for:

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

Lunch on Friday from 2:45-4:15

Lunch on Saturday from 1:35-3:30

Lunch, for the rest of the tournament, from 2:35-3:45

Vugraph, casual chit chat, drinks and snacks at any other time, **except from 4:00-5:30 each afternoon**, when the suite will be closed for refreshing.

FYI: There is an extensive restaurant guide available in the Hospitality Suite. Come anytime the suite is open and take one!!

Joan and Barbara are looking forward to seeing you there!

A Lesson From A Lawyer...

Our research shows that out of a yearly income of at least \$500,000, you give not a penny to charity. Wouldn't you like to give back to the community in some way?"

The lawyer mulled this over for a moment and replied, "First, did your research also show that my mother is dying after a long illness, and has medical bills that are several times her annual income?"

Embarrassed, the United Way rep mumbled, "Um ... no."

The lawyer interrupts, "or that my brother, a disabled veteran, is blind and confined to a wheelchair?"

The stricken United Way rep began to stammer out an apology, but was interrupted again.

"...or that my sister's husband died in a traffic accident," the lawyer's voice rising in indignation, "leaving her penniless with three children?!"

The humiliated United Way rep, completely beaten, said simply, "I had no idea..."

On a roll, the lawyer cut him off once again, "So if I don't give any money to them, why should I give any to you?"

SUNDAY JUNE 7TH	3:00 PM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
ROUND OF 128 ROUND ROBIN (7 LOSING TEAMS FROM USA 1 R32)		
SUNDAY JUNE 7TH	3:30 - 6:15 6:30 - 7:20	BOARDS 1-9 & 10-18, CLUMPED BOARDS 19-27
MONDAY JUNE 8TH	10:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 3:45	BOARDS 28-36 & 37-45, CLUMPED BOARDS 46-54 & 55-63, CLUMPED
ROUND OF 64 (5 USA1 R16 LOSERS + 5 TEAMS FROM R128)		
MONDAY JUNE 8TH		EVENING OFF TO REGROUP, PARTY OR PREPARE
TUESDAY JUNE 9TH	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
ROUND OF 32 (3 USA1 R8 LOSERS + 5 USA2 R64 WINNERS)		
WEDNESDAY JUNE 10TH	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
ROUND OF 16 (4 ROUND OF 32 WINNERS)		
THURSDAY JUNE 11TH	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
QUARTER-FINALS		
FRIDAY JUNE 12TH	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
SEMI-FINALS		
SATURDAY JUNE 13TH	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 15 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
SUNDAY JUNE 14TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK
FINALS (USA1 LOSING FINALIST VS USA2 SEMI WINNER)		
SUNDAY JUNE 14TH	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
MONDAY JUNE 15TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90

USA2
Schedule of Events

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

Sudoku

Daring Drinking...

"Two rednecks, Bubba and Earl, were driving down the road drinking a couple of bottles of Bud. The passenger, Bubba, said "Lookey thar up ahead, Earl, it's a poll-ice roadblock. We're gonna get busted fer drinkin' these here beers!"

"Don't worry, Bubba", Earl said. "We'll just pull over and finish drinkin' these beers, peel off the label and stick it on our foreheads, and throw the bottles under the seat."

"What?," asked Bubba. "Just let me do the talkin', okay?," said Earl.

They finished their beers, threw the empty bottles under the seat, and each put a label on their forehead. When they reached the roadblock, the sheriff said, "You boys been drinkin'?"

"No, sir", said Earl. "We're on the patch!"

Worry Wort ...

Fresh out of business school, the young man answered a want ad for an accountant. Now he was being interviewed by a very nervous man who ran a small business that he had started himself.

"I need someone with an accounting degree," the man said. "But mainly, I'm looking for someone to do my worrying for me."

"Excuse me?" the accountant said.

"I worry about a lot of things," the man said. "But I don't want to have to worry about money. Your job will be to take all the money worries off my back."

"I see," the accountant said. "And how much does the job pay?"

"I'll start you at eighty thousand."

"Eighty thousand dollars!" the accountant exclaimed. "How can such a small business afford a sum like that?"

"That," the owner said, "is your first worry."

Answers to Puzzle ... no Peeking!!

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

25 Reasons You Owe Your Mother...

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.
"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
2. My mother taught me RELIGION.
"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL.
"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
4. My mother taught me LOGIC.
"Because I said so, that's why."
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC.
"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT.
"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
7. My mother taught me IRONY.
"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about.."
8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.
"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.
"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA.
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
11. My mother taught me about WEATHER.
"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."
12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY.
"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"
13. My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.
"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out.."
14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.
"Stop acting like your father!"
15. My mother taught me about ENVY.
"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.
"Just wait until we get home."
17. My mother taught me about RECEIVING.
"You are going to get it when you get home!"
18. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.
"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to stay that way."
19. My mother taught me ESP.
"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"
20. My mother taught me HUMOR.
"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
21. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.
"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."
22. My mother taught me GENETICS.
"You're just like your father."
23. My mother taught me about my ROOTS.
"Shut that door behind you. Were you raised in a barn?"
24. My mother taught me WISDOM.
"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."
25. My mother taught me about JUSTICE.
"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you."

(Continued from page 7)

Board 19
 Dealer: S
 E/W Vul.

♠ AJ74
 ♥ QJ93
 ♦ 9
 ♣ JT65

♠ T85
 ♥ K
 ♦ A75
 ♣ K98743

♠ KQ
 ♥ AT7642
 ♦ KJ84
 ♣ A

♠ 9632
 ♥ 85
 ♦ QT632
 ♣ Q2



West	North	East	South
Meckstroth	Willenken	Rodwell	Welland
Pass	1♣	Double	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Redouble (transfer to dia-)
3NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
			All Pass

West	North	East	South
B Cohen	Nickell	Smith	Freeman
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♣	All Pass		

In the Open Room where Cohen played three clubs, it was not very interesting. Nickell led his singleton diamond to the jack, queen, ace. Cohen played a club to the ace; a heart to the queen; the club king ... noted the four-two split and claimed his nine tricks.

In the Closed Room, things heated up. Once again, we see Welland's team opening the bidding and the opponents getting to game while in the other room, Nickell's team passed and their opponents stopped in a part score (see page 3).

For most declarers, game would be a tad rich on this hand with a bad heart split, however, Rodwell, one more time, played Houdini.

Welland led the deuce of clubs from his Q2 (Roy is the tricky one and it's worked for him in the past) to the seven, six, ace. Rodwell played the deuce of hearts to the ace and a diamond to his king. He cashed the ace of hearts and played the ten of hearts to Willenken's jack, getting the bad news.

Willenken cashed his heart queen and if he played his ace of spades, Eric had no chance... however, everyone had false-carded everyone else so much that Willenken got caught up in the action and underled his AJxx of spades, successfully fooling only himself.

Rodwell could win the king of spades and play a high diamond toward the dummy. If Welland covered, Eric would win the ace in dummy and pitch the spade loser on the club king... if Welland ducked, he could let it ride and play a second diamond to the ace and take his pitch.

Rodwell won the spade, played the jack of diamonds (Welland ducked). Eric ducked and played a second diamond and claimed ten tricks.

Once Willenken cashed the queen of hearts and exited with a low spade, it was all over but the shouting.

11 IMPs to Nickell.

From the Robinson/Fleisher Finals for USA1 ...

Board 89	♠ AK53		♠ 642
Dealer: N	♥ 86542		♥ AT
E/W Vul.	♦ QT		♦ A8732
	♣ K3		♣ J87
		↑ N	
♠ QJ87			♠ T9
♥ KQ9			♥ J73
♦ 9			♦ KJ654
♣ AQT52			♣ 964

West	North	East	South
Wildavsky	Ekeblad	Doub	Weichsel
	1♠ (canapé)	Pass	2♣ (artificial)
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Rubin	Robinson	Granovetter	Boyd
	2♥ (Flannery)	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Both tables arrived in 3NT ... Wildavsky from West and Granovetter from East.

Knowing little or nothing about partner's hand, Ekeblad decided to make the aggressive, but thoughtful lead, of the spade ace. Weichsel's ten looked encouraging and he continued with a small spade to Wildavsky's jack. Wildavsky played the ace of clubs and a club toward the jack, claiming ten tricks: two spades, three hearts, four clubs, and a diamond.

Unfortunately for Ekeblad, once he tabled the spade, the hand was cold.

In the other room, knowing his partner held five hearts and four spades, Boyd led the three of hearts. A heart lead is magic. Granovetter does not have the time to set up his tricks without setting up five for the opponents: two spades, two hearts and a club.

Matt won the heart in hand and finessed against the king of clubs, losing to North. North continued the heart attack. Granovetter won, played off his clubs, tried the queen of spades, again losing to North. Robinson cleared the heart suit and sat back to wait for his spade king to cash.

12 IMPs to Robinson

Pablo's Pontifications...

I, Pablo was close when he predicted Robinson in seven... it was actually Robinson in six. Fleisher took my advice, quit early for a siesta before the grand finale today.

I'm resting on the beach in Sao Paulo ... planning to make my final pick tonight ... Sadly it looks like things will not be so "well-and" good and Nickell may overrun Welland with Zia, of course, taking credit for the whole fiasco... It's all about Zia!

In any event, the winner of the Welland/Nickell match will prevail even against a well rested Fleisher team... Ekeblad's strong but screwy club can only last for 12 days before it goes up in smoke. Meckwell's strong but steady club will last a lifetime... Meckwell in eight!

Board 87
 Dealer: S
 All Vul.

♠ KJ642
 ♥ J42
 ♦ A8
 ♣ AJ8

♠
 ♥ T83
 ♦ JT62
 ♣ QT7643



♠ Q983
 ♥ A975
 ♦ 94
 ♣ K95

♠ AJT5
 ♥ KQ6
 ♦ KQ753
 ♣ 2

West	North	East	South
Wildavsky	Ekeblad	Doub	Weichsel
			1♠ (canapé)
Pass	2♣ (g.f. relay)	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥ (asking)	Pass	3♣ (artificial)
Pass	3♦ (asking)	Pass	3♥ (artificial)
Pass	3♠ (forces 3NT)	Pass	4♠ (mild slam
Pass	4NT (1 or 4 KC)	Pass	6♣
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, Boyd/Robinson bid to five spades from the North and East led the heart ace. North simply guessed spades to take 12 tricks.

In the Open Room, it was much more interesting. Ekeblad/Weichsel bid to six spades from the South on a totally artificial relay auction.

Wildavsky led a club taken by the ace in dummy. Weichsel cashed the king of spades and got the bad news. His only hope was to finish drawing trumps and find 3-3 diamonds so he could discard his clubs and drive out the ace of hearts. When the diamonds didn't split, he conceded down one.

The hand CAN still be made on the club lead, but it requires that declarer take an immediate spade finesse to the ten. He can then drive out the heart ace by playing the king and queen. This permits him to trump the club return and use heart and diamond entries to his hand to pick up the trumps... giving him six spades tricks, two heart tricks, three diamond tricks and a club.

Board 78
 Dealer: E
 None Vul.

♠
 ♥ AKJT974
 ♦ 432
 ♣ Q43

♠ K542
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 87
 ♣ KT8765



♠ A97
 ♥ 852
 ♦ QJT65
 ♣ A9

♠ QJT863
 ♥ 63
 ♦ AK9
 ♣ J2

West	North	East	South
Wildavsky	Ekeblad	Doub	Weichsel
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ (g.f. relay)	2♦	2♠
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Rubin	Robinson	Granovetter	Boyd
		Pass	2♠ (10-13 + 6 spades)
Pass	3♦ (long hearts)	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

In the Closed Room, Boyd/Robinson bid quickly to four hearts on a totally natural auction. This cannot be defeated as long as declarer guesses the club lie. At the table, the opponents played three rounds of clubs. Robinson discarded the nine of diamonds when East ruffed with his eight. Now the defenders were helpless. A diamond was returned to dummy's ace. Robinson pulled one round of trump, cashed the other high diamond, ruffed a spade, ruffed a diamond and claimed.

At the other table, science seems to have backfired. Ekeblad's two club response to one spade started an artificial relay sequence. Relay systems are a memory test and work great until someone interferes. At that point, partnerships are required to adjust their methods to compensate. Not infrequently, disasters such as this occur. We do not know what Weichsel thought four hearts was, but he certainly would have passed if he believed it to be natural, long hearts. Four spades could have been beaten three tricks, but the defenders settled for down one ... 10 IMPs to Robinson.

Jack of All Trades...

Good Morning, USA.

The small have become large. Man has bitten dog. You get the picture. Team Fleisher, trailing by a large margin, did the honourable thing and withdrew after the 6th chucker, thereby crowning the Robinson team winners of the United States Bridge Federation, henceforth known as USA 1.

It seems to me that we could have saved 2 weeks of blather from that Pablo fellow had we simply listened to Limey Jack, who consistently informed you that Robinson would ultimately be anointed. Well done lads and well done Limey Jack.

There was a touch of panic in London as Zia's teammates briefly played as if they were lorry drivers, but our boy was there to salvage things and make it right. At the 67% mark, team Zia has things "WELL IN" hand as that Pablo cur likes to say and is a monumental favourite to play in the second final against Fleisher.

This is quite interesting in that it is a rematch. Fleisher was well in front last time but was limping badly as it crossed the wire. Team Amigos is depressed having lost their first and only match thus far. Nickell, on the other hand has been living on borrowed time and should be quite up for this affair. It is highly dependant on the three Amigos' attitude and fortitude and some other "tudes" as well to see if they can defeat the greatest U.S. team in history, twice in one week. The laws of human nature, statistics and probabilities say no, but Limey Jack says yes. Nickel reminds me of a water buffalo I saw in the bush once that was badly wounded but wouldn't go down. The three Pro-Ams need to apply the Coup de Gras.

Cheers, Limey Jack

An Affair To Remember...

A man returning home a day early from a business trip got into a taxi at the airport.

It was after midnight. While en route to his home, he asked the cabby if he would be a witness. The man suspected his wife was having an affair and he intended to catch her in the act.

For \$100, the cabby agreed. Quietly arriving at the house, the husband and cabby tiptoed into the bedroom.

The husband switched on the lights, yanked the blanket back and there was his wife in bed with another man. The husband put a gun to the naked man's head.

The wife shouted, "Don't do it! This man has been very generous! I lied when I told you I inherited money. He paid for the Corvette I bought for you. He paid for our new cabin cruiser. He paid for our house at the lake.

He paid for our country club membership, and he even pays the monthly dues!" Shaking his head from side-to-side the husband slowly lowered the gun.

He looked over at the cab driver and said, "What would you do?" The cabby said, "I'd cover him up with that blanket before he catches a cold."