



Volume 3, Issue 12
June 15, 2009

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations

USA2 Semi-Finals:

| # | TEAM | TOTAL | 1-15 | 16-30 | 31-45 | 46-60 | 61-75 | 76-90 |
|---|---------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 3 | Welland | 158 | 32 | 19 | 26 | 12 | 38 | 31 |
| 4 | Nickell | 245 | 34 | 36 | 39 | 52 | 23 | 61 |

Finals:

| # | TEAM | TOTAL | 1-15 | 16-30 | 31-45 | 46-60 | 61-75 | 76-90 |
|---|----------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2 | Fleisher | 56 | 36 | 20 | | | | |
| 3 | Nickell | 62 | 8 | 54 | | | | |

There was a lot of action in yesterday's matches. The USA2 Finals is very close and we should see more action today.

We will be featuring one more bulletin tomorrow evening with the final results ... We will feature some of today's hands and more.

Thanks White Plains for offering a great venue for this tournament ... close to the big city without too many distractions.

Good luck to the winners in Sao Paulo!! We look forward to watching you there.

USBF President
Bill Pollack

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Joan Gerard

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Webmaster
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In Seeding Order

"I don't necessarily agree with everything I say."
- Marshall McLuhan

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| 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 | Michael Rosenberg Sam Lev |
| 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 Charlie Weed, NPC | Michael Seamon Stephen Landen Nagy Kamel |
| Lewis | | Paul Lewis, Capt Mark Itabashi Eddie Wold | Linda Lewis Ross Gabel Bart Bramley |
| 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 |

Determining USA2 ...

Board 43
 Dealer: S
 None Vul.
 ♠ Q972
 ♥ J6
 ♦ A974
 ♣ KJ5

♠ 6
 ♥ 7532
 ♦ J5
 ♣ AQT973
 ♠ KJ4
 ♥ Q94
 ♦ KQ832
 ♣ 64
 ♠ AT853
 ♥ AKT8
 ♦ T6
 ♣ 82



| West | North | East | South |
|------|-----------|----------|--------------------|
| Zia | Willenken | Hamman | Welland |
| | | | 1♠ (may be canapé) |
| 3♣ | 3NT | All Pass | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|---------|----------|------------|
| Cohen | Rodwell | Smith | Meckstroth |
| | | | 1♠ |
| Pass | 2NT | Pass | 3♣ |
| Pass | 4♣ | All Pass | |

Sometimes preempts work and sometimes they don't. Zia's preempt on Board 43 drew a road map for declarer. Not only did it lead them to the easier game, but also, it told declarer where the cards were positioned, leaving little to the play.

Welland opened one spade which is frequently a four card suit with a longer side suit. When Zia preempted three clubs, Willenken, holding KJ5 of clubs and a basically flat hand, decided to bury his four card spade support to opt for the nine trick game.

Hamman led the six of clubs. Zia won with his ace and shifted to the jack of diamonds. Willenken took his ace and immediately played for the non-preempter to hold the spade honors. He led the queen of spades from his hand; Hamman covered and Willenken won his ace. Willenken knocked out the jack of spades. Hamman cashed his two diamond tricks, and Willenken claimed nine.

At the other table, Meckwell found the nine card spade fit. In the absence of opponent bidding, Jeff had to work out the position on his own. Cohen led the deuce of hearts, picking up Smith's queen at trick one. Without a lot of quick hand entries, Jeff laid down the ace of spades and another to the queen. When Smith won the king, he shifted to the king of diamonds, establishing the setting trick. The defense collected two spades, one club and one diamond.

10 IMPs to Welland

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-----------|--------|---------|
| Zia | Willenken | Hamman | Welland |
| | | | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| 6♣ | | | |

If you gave the North hand to 100 people, I would venture that all of them would lead the king of clubs against six spades.

We will never know what went through Willenken's mind, but for some reason, he decided to try the ace of hearts. Needless to say, this was fatal.

Zia no longer had to worry about the position of the heart jack. He could pull trumps and claim.

At the other table, Smith and Cohen stopped in five spades. They made that even with the club lead, losing only the ace and jack of hearts... and, of course, 13 IMPs.

Board 39
 Dealer: S
 All Vul.
 ♠ 98
 ♥ AJ4
 ♦ T93
 ♣ KQ752

♠ AJ7642
 ♥ KT82
 ♦
 ♣ AJ3



♠ KQ53
 ♥ Q75
 ♦ A6542
 ♣ T

♠ T
 ♥ 963
 ♦ KQJ87
 ♣ 9864

(Continued on page 7)

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.

Last Rites...

A lawyer was on his deathbed in his bedroom, and he called to his wife.

She rushed in and said, "What is it, honey?"

He told her to run and get the bible as soon as possible. Being a religious woman, she thought this was a good idea.

She ran and got it, prepared to read him his favorite verse or something of the sort. He snatched it from her and began quickly scanning pages, his eyes darting right and left.

The wife was curious, so she asked, "What are you doing, honey?"

He shouted back:

"I'm looking for loopholes!"

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!

Am I Mental?

Darryl and Harold were in a mental institution. The place had an unusual annual contest, picking two of the best patients and giving them two questions. If they got them correct, they were deemed cured and free to go.

Darryl was called into the doctor's office first and asked if he understood that he'd be free if he answered the questions correctly. Darryl said "Yes" and the doctor proceeded. "Darryl, what would happen if I poked out one of your eyes?"

Darryl said, "I'd be half blind."

"That's correct. What if I poked out both eyes?"

"I'd be completely blind." The doctor stood up, shook Darryl's hand, and told him he was free to go.

On Darryl's way out, as the doctor filled out the paperwork, Darryl mentioned the exam to Harold, who was seated in the waiting room. He told him what questions were going to be asked and gave him the answers.

So Harold went into the doctor's office when he was called. The doctor went thru the formalities and then asked, "What would happen if I cut off one of your ears?" Remembering what Darryl had told him, he answered, "I'd be half blind."

The doctor looked a little puzzled, but went on. "What if I cut off the other ear?"

"I'd be completely blind," Harold answered.

"Harold, can you explain how you'd be blind?"

"My hat would fall down over my eyes."

(Continued from page 3)

Board 47 ♠ QJT
Dealer: S ♥ 84
N/S Vul. ♦ KJ853
♣ A75

♠ 542 ♠ AK9
♥ AKJT9 ♥ 65
♦ A2 ♦ QT
♣ 862 ♣ KJT943

♠ 8763
♥ Q732
♦ 9764
♣ Q



Whoever thought of fourth from your longest and strongest must have been thinking of this hand.

| West | North | East | South |
|-------|---------|--------|------------|
| Cohen | Rodwell | Smith | Meckstroth |
| Zia | Garner | Hamman | Weinstein |
| | | | Pass |
| 1♥ | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 2NT | Pass |
| 3NT | | | |

The auction was the same in both rooms. Look at the South hand. What would you lead? Only one suit legitimately beats the contract... yes, 4th from your longest and strongest. It might seem that your spades and diamonds are equal, but the pips in the diamond suit make it slightly more attractive... and, on this hand, it works like a charm.

If you lead any other suit, declarer can make the hand double dummy by taking a first round heart finesse and leading to the king of clubs. He could repeat the heart finesse and collect five hearts, one club, one diamond, and two spades.

At Hamman's table, Weinstein led a spade. Hamman ducked and Garner continued spades. Hamman played a heart to the ace and a small club off dummy. Garner made it easy for declarer by rising with the ace, felling his partner's queen, and allowing Hamman to score ten tricks.

At Smith's table, Meckstroth found the diamond lead. Smith ducked; Rodwell won his king, but shifted to the queen of spades. At this point, Smith could have won the spade, hooked a heart, and played a club to his king to score nine tricks. Not being double-dummy, however, he took the more normal line of winning the spade, crossing to the ace of hearts and leading toward his clubs. Eric ducked and Smith put in the jack, losing to Meckstroth's queen. Jeff played another spade, removing Smith's hand entry to the not-yet-set-up club suit. Smith won the ace of spades and played the king of clubs. Rodwell alertly ducked. When hearts didn't split, Smith was forced to go down one for a 10 IMP loss.

(Continued on page 11)

Thanks to Everyone for a Great Trials!

Bill Pollack, USBF President, thanked the many volunteers who contributed to the success of the event by name in Saturday's bulletin. Now he wants to thank all of you who participated in the competition.

White Plains is a great location for a Team Trials. Hopefully everyone had a memorable experience.

Not everyone could win a berth in Sao Paulo, but, in the eyes of the USBF, you are all winners and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Thanks also to those who inquired about my dad. I am happy to report that he is doing much better.

Bill



| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 9 | F | 1 | | | | 2 | 3 | | | | | C |
| | 5 | D | 6 | 9 | | 7 | | | | | C | | 3 | | 4 |
| | | | 0 | B | | | | A | | | | | F | 9 | |
| | 7 | 2 | | | | C | 3 | | 8 | 6 | | | | | |
| | | 3 | | | | 6 | | | E | D | | 8 | 2 | | |
| F | C | | E | | | | | | 9 | | 7 | | D | 0 | |
| | | B | | | | 0 | | | 1 | | | | E | | |
| | | A | | E | B | D | F | 4 | | | | C | | | |
| | | | A | | | | 4 | 1 | C | 5 | 2 | | 9 | | |
| | D | | | | 3 | | | | B | | | | 5 | | |
| B | 3 | | 4 | | 7 | | | | | | | F | | 0 | 6 |
| | 1 | 0 | | C | D | | | | 9 | | | | B | | |
| | | | | | 8 | 2 | | 6 | E | | | | D | B | |
| | 0 | 4 | | | | | 5 | | | | 3 | 6 | | | |
| 9 | | E | | 1 | | | | | 0 | A | 3 | 7 | 4 | | |
| D | | | | | C | 9 | | | | 4 | B | 1 | | | |

Sudoku

Remember:
Absolutely no
Electronic Devices are
Allowed in the Playing Area

Casual Confessions...

To celebrate their 50th anniversary, a husband booked a round of golf for his wife and himself on a trip to famous old St. Andrews' Golf Course in Scotland.

On the third tee, the husband hesitated in teeing off and turned slowly to his wife and said contritely, "Darling, I have to confess something. Twenty years ago I had a brief affair. It meant nothing. I hope you can forgive me."

His wife was hurt but said, "Dearest, those days are long gone. What we have now is far more valuable. I forgive you."

They embraced and kissed.

On the seventeenth tee, the husband was starting his back swing when the wife blurted out, "I'm sorry, darling, I've been so conscience-stricken since you told me, but since we're being honest with each other, I have something to tell you also. Fifty-two years ago I had a sex change operation; I was a man before I met you. I hope you can forgive me."

The husband, froze at the top of his back swing, then threw a fit! He slammed the driver into the ground, kicked the ball into the woods, stormed off the tee, pushed the golf cart over on its side, broke the rest of his clubs one by one, then started on his wife's clubs.

He screamed and ranted, "You liar...you cheat ... you despicable deceiver! How could you? I trusted you with all my heart and soul..."

....and all these years you've been playing off the ladies' tees?!"

Answers to Puzzle ... no Peeking!!

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | 8 | 9 | F | 1 | 4 | D | E | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 7 | C |
| 1 | 5 | D | 6 | 9 | E | 7 | 8 | F | 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | A | 4 | |
| 3 | E | C | 0 | B | 2 | 5 | 6 | A | 4 | D | 7 | 8 | F | 9 | 1 |
| 4 | 7 | 2 | F | A | 0 | C | 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 1 | D | E | 5 | B |
| 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | C | 5 | A | E | D | B | 8 | 2 | F |
| F | C | 5 | E | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | B | 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 | A | D | 0 |
| 2 | 6 | B | D | 8 | 5 | 0 | A | C | 7 | 1 | F | 9 | 4 | E | 3 |
| 8 | 9 | A | 7 | E | B | D | F | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | C | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 6 | 8 | 7 | A | 0 | F | B | 4 | 1 | C | 5 | 2 | E | 9 | 3 | D |
| E | D | F | C | 6 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 7 | B | 0 | 4 | A | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| B | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | D | A | E | F | C | 0 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | C | D | A | E | 3 | 9 | F | 6 | 4 | B | 8 | 7 |
| C | F | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 6 | E | 7 | 9 | 5 | D | B | A |
| 7 | 0 | 4 | B | D | A | E | 5 | F | 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | C | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | E | 5 | 1 | 6 | F | B | D | 0 | C | A | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 9 | 2 | E | 5 | 1 | 6 | F | B | D | 0 | C | A | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| D | A | 6 | 8 | 3 | C | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | B | 1 | 0 | F | E |

Doubtful Deductions...

"It's tax time. I know this because I'm staring at documents that make no sense to me, no matter how many beers I drink." -- Dave Barry

"The number of words dealing with income taxes in the Internal Revenue Code and IRS regulations rose nearly tenfold between 1955 and 2005, from 718,000 to more than 7 million

How is a mugger different from the Internal Revenue Service? Both take your money, but the mugger doesn't make you fill out forms." --Jacob Sullum

"More than ever before, Americans are suffering from back problems: back taxes, back rent, back auto payments." -- Robert Orben

"To tax and to please, no more than to love and to be wise, is not given to men." -- Edmund Burke, 18th Century Irish political philosopher and British statesman

"Taxation with representation ain't so hot either." -- Gerald Barzan, humorist

"The term "tax humor" is no doubt an oxymoron to many people; to the more cynical, it is an apt description of the entire tax code." -- John F. Lelak

"You must pay taxes. But there's no law that says you gotta leave a tip." -- Advertisement

"If a person is an economic being and figures out the odds, then there is a very high incentive to cheat. That is, of course, putting aside honor, duty and patriotism." -- Jerome Kurtz, former Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service

"The wages of sin are death, but by the time taxes are taken out, it's just sort of a tired feeling." -- Paula Poundstone

Called in for an audit, Mr. Briggs was confronted by a surly IRS agent. "It says here, Mr. Briggs, that you are a bachelor; yet you claim a dependent son. Surely this must be a mistake." Looking him straight in the eye, Mr. Briggs replied, "Yup, it surely was."

"A fool and his money are soon parted. It takes creative tax laws for the rest." -- C Bob Thaves

"The question is: What can we, as citizens, do to reform our tax system? As you know, under our three-branch system of government, the tax laws are created by: Satan. But he works through the Congress, so that's where we must focus our efforts." -- Dave Barry

"Worried about an IRS audit? Avoid what's called a red flag. That's something the IRS always looks for. For example, say you have some money left in your bank account after paying taxes. That's a red flag." -- Jay Leno

"If you are truly serious about preparing your child for the future, don't teach him to subtract - teach him to deduct." -- Fran Lebowitz

"Day in and day out, your tax accountant can make or lose you more money than any single person in your life, with the possible exception of your kids." -- Harvey Mackay

"In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other." -- Voltaire

"Our party has been accused of fooling the public by calling tax increases 'revenue enhancement'. Not so. No one was fooled." -- J. Danforth Quayle V.P.

The more you earn, the less you keep, And now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to take, If the tax collector hasn't got it before I wake. -- Ogden Nash

This guy walks into the tax auditor's office, the auditor looks at him and says, "Please Mr. Johnson, take a seat. We already own a piece of yours."

(Continued from page 7)

Board 61
 Dealer: N
 All Vul.
 ♠ JT32
 ♥ 75
 ♦ J9864
 ♣ J8

♠ KQ
 ♥ Q2
 ♦ Q5
 ♣ AKQ9732

N
↑

♠ A984
 ♥ KJT86
 ♦ 32
 ♣ 64

♠ 765
 ♥ A943
 ♦ AKT7
 ♣ T5

| Open Room: | | | |
|------------|---------|-----------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Garner | Freeman | Weinstein | Nickell |
| | Pass | Pass | 1♦ |
| Double | 2♦ | Double | Pass |
| 3♦ | Pass | 4♥ | All Pass |

In the Closed Room, Hamman and Zia found 3NT from West. Willenken had no trouble finding the diamond lead and the contract was down two before it started.

In the Open Room, Weinstein/Garner found four hearts. Nickell did well to find the defense to beat it. He cashed ace of diamonds, king of diamonds and a third diamond. The ruff/sluff was useless for declarer. Weinstein ruffed the third diamond in dummy, discarding a club from his hand. He cashed the ace of clubs, king of spades, queen of spades, and then led the king of spades which he ruffed in hand. He cashed the ace of spades and led the nine of spades. Nickell pitched and Weinstein ruffed in dummy with the queen.

Weinstein exited dummy with the queen of clubs and Nickell had himself two trump tricks and a gain of 9 IMPs!

In the Open Room, Weinstein/Garner played two hearts East/West. Garner lost two spades, one diamond and two stray tricks to make his contract.

In the Closed Room, Hamman and Zia found their way to four spades. Willenken led the queen of diamonds. When that held, he shifted to the jack of hearts. Zia won the heart ace and tried the deuce of spades. Willenken took all guesswork out of the hand by rising with the king.

Some old rules still work with the newfangled systems people play... Like fourth from your longest and strongest (*see story on page 7*), "Second Hand Low" would at least have given declarer a losing option.

Once Willenken hopped with his king, the hand was over.

All Zia had to lose were two spades and a diamond.

There's no question that Zia is a great player... and maybe he would guessed the position himself... but even great players don't always place the cards exactly as they are. Willenken should have played small in tempo and let Zia make his own mistakes ... or at least let Zia himself earn the recognition in the Bulletin!!

7 more IMPs to Nickell

Board 63
 Dealer: S
 N/S Vul.
 ♠ K7
 ♥ JT
 ♦ QJ9862
 ♣ Q54

♠ Q65432
 ♥ AK96
 ♦ 5
 ♣ A9

N
↑

♠ J8
 ♥ Q74
 ♦ KT3
 ♣ KT763

♠ AT9
 ♥ 8532
 ♦ A74
 ♣ J82

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Board 71 ♠ 75
 Dealer: S ♥ AQT4
 All Vul. ♦ KT6
 ♣ QT92

♠ AK9 ♠ QJ84
 ♥ J76 ♥ K952
 ♦ AQ932 ♦ 875
 ♣ AJ ♣ 74



♠ T632
 ♥ 83
 ♦ J4
 ♣ K8653

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|----------|-------------------|---------|
| Garner | Freeman | Weinstein | Nickell |
| | | | Pass |
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♦ (shows hearts) | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | Pass |
| 2♦ | Pass | 2♠ | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-----------|--------|----------|
| Zia | Willenken | Hamman | Welland |
| | | | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3♣ | Double |
| 3♦ | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| Pass | Double | 4♦ | All Pass |

In the Closed Room, the thought of a club lead worried Bob Hamman. When Willenken doubled,

Hamman wisely ran to four diamonds. On the lead of a club, 3NT would easily be defeated.

Willenken led the ten of clubs against four diamonds. Zia won in hand and played a small diamond, losing to Welland's jack. Welland shifted to spades. Zia won and played the ace of diamonds. When everyone followed, he played the ace of spades and a spade to the dummy's queen and jack, shedding his losing club. He ruffed a club in hand, played a heart, ducked by Willenken, to the king, and claimed nine tricks for down one.

In the Open Room, Garner/Weinstein were unmolested in 3NT. No one doubled any artificial calls and with no suggestion of a club lead, Freeman led the spade seven from shortness. Garner won the king, cashed the ace, and continued with a spade to dummy's queen, Freeman pitching a heart. Garner now played the spade jack, pitching a heart while Freeman tossed a diamond. This was fatal.

Garner was able to take the losing diamond finesse... and still score four diamonds, four spades and the ace of clubs, as well as the king of hearts... making four! This was worth 12 badly needed IMPs to Nickell, trailing 126-184 after 75 boards.

Introductory Chemistry has been taught at Duke for about a zillion years by professor Bonk...he has been around forever. One year these two guys took the class and did pretty well on all the quizzes and mid-terms-so much so that going into the final, they each had a solid A.

These two friends were so confident going into the final, that the weekend before finals week (even though the final was on Monday), they decided to go to U of VA and party with some friends up there.

So they did this and had a great time. However, with their hangovers and everything, they overslept all day Sunday and didn't make it back to Duke until early Monday morning.

Rather than taking the final then, they found professor Bonk after the final and explained to him how they missed the final...they told him they went up to UVA for the weekend and had planned to come back in time to study, but that they had a flat tire on the way back and didn't have a spare and couldn't fix it for a long time and so were late getting back to campus.

Bonk thought this over and agreed that they could take the final the following day. The two guys, elated and relieved, studied that night and went in the next day at the time that Bonk had told them. He placed them in separate rooms and handed each of them a test booklet and told them to begin. They looked at the first problem which was something simple about molarity and solutions and was worth 5 points.

"Cool," they thought, "this is going to be easy."

They then turned the page. They were unprepared, however, for what they saw on the next page. It said only... (95 points) Which tire?

USBC Open Trials Appeals Case 5

Committee: Henry Bethe, Bart Bramley, John Sutherlin

Players: Matt Granovetter, Ron Rubin (Appellants), Doug Doub, Adam Wildavski

USBC1 Finals

Board 30 Dealer East Neither Vul

NE and SW are screenmates

North

Doub

♠ - K4

♥ - 1053

♦ - A4

♣ - K108542

West

East

Granovetter

Rubin

♠ - J9652

♠ - A87

♥ - Q

♥ - KJ8764

♦ - J965

♦ - K10x

♣ - J97

♣ - Q

South

Wildavsky

♠ - Q103

♥ - A92

♦ - Q732

♣ - A63

North

East

South

West

--

1♥*

P

1♠*

2♣

2♥

2♠

All Pass

Result: Down 3, N-S -150

The facts: Both the opening 1♥ bid and the response of 1♠ were alerted on the NE side of the screen: 1♥ because it is either one-suited or has a longer second suit; 1♠ because it may be a 3 card suit and because it may be very weak and is limited. Any alert of 1♠ on the SW side of the screen was not received by South. The discrepancy was not discovered until after the session.

Director's Ruling: The director found that there had been a violation of the alert procedure in that West had not made sure that South had received the alert. The subsequent auction was affected by this. The contract was changed to 3♣ making four; N-S +130.

Additional Testimony: E-W testified that it was West's normal practice to point to bids that were alertable. South stated that he was not aware of an alert to 1♠, and that it was his habit to ask on all alerts. NS said that it was their normal agreement (1) that 1-level overcalls are sound, and (2) that any call that could reasonably be treated as natural is natural.

Committee Ruling: The committee found that West had not ensured that South had seen the alert of 1S, and that this was a violation of the alert procedure. The committee then considered whether the lack of that information affected South's call. It accepted North's testimony that it did. It then considered whether North's decision to treat 2S as natural in context was reasonable. While the 2S call could have been interpreted as a cue bid, the committee felt that within the structure of sound overcalls there was room for South to have a long spade suit and inadequate values for an overcall. It therefore found damage. The committee therefore changed the contract to 3C. In considering he likely result at 3C, the committee found that the most likely result was making three, and changed the result to +110 N-S.

Pablo Prattles On ... Jack's Off for the Night

Beunos Dias ...

The last day of the tournament? I cannot believe it... I thought it was going to go forever. Yesterday a semi-final with two teams... and today a final with two teams... You Americanos confuse me with your colloquialisms.

I'm sticking with Nickell even though one of their team members was a late scratch. I hope Dick is doing better by the time he has to leave for Sao Paulo.

Fleisher beat Meckwell earlier in the week and lightning never strikes twice in the same location. Coming off the heels of the Welland match, Meckwell's smokin' (off site please!) Factor a little momentum into equation, and we don't need the 30 IMPs, Jack.

Thanks for a great show senors and senioritas!

Time for my siesta... see you in Sao Paulo!!

Pablo

From the Fleisher/Nickell Final for USA2 ...

Board 11
Dealer: S
None Vul.

♠ KJ97
♥ KJ86
♦ KT4
♣ J8

♠ T2
♥ A942
♦ AJ93
♣ 432



♠ 865
♥ 3
♦ 87652
♣ KQ95

♠ AQ43
♥ QT75
♦ Q
♣ AT76

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Zia | Ekeblad | Hamman | Weichsel |
| Pass | 2♣ (artificial g.f.) | Pass | 1♦ (could be short) |
| Pass | 4♠ | All Pass | 3♦ |

One of the VuGraph commentators remarked a few boards ago that the last time Zia made a mistake was in 1984.

It looks like history repeats itself 25 years later!

Hamman led his singleton heart against four spades.

Zia won his ace and cashed his ace of diamonds. He then exited his hand with a club.

Poor Bob! If Zia wins the heart, leads another heart... Hamman ruffs, leads a diamond to Zia's ace ... and another heart ... Hamman ruffs and the contract fails before declarer gains the lead.

On this defense, Ekeblad took ten tricks for +420.

At the other table, Meckwell made four hearts with a spade lead for a push.

Board 9 ♠ Q5432
 Dealer: N ♥ Q95
 E/W Vul. ♦ T
 ♣ QJ42

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| ♠ AKT7 ♥ KJ6 ♦ AKQ5 ♣ K9 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> N ↑ </div> | ♠ 9 ♥ 87 ♦ J832 ♣ AT8763 |
| ♠ J86 ♥ AT432 ♦ 9764 ♣ 5 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Rubin | Rodwell | Granovetter | Meckstroth |
| | Pass | Pass | 1♥ |
| Double | 2♦ (reasonable heart raise) | 3♣ | Pass |
| 3♥ | Pass | 4♣ | Pass |
| 4NT | Pass | 5♣ | Pass |
| 5♦ | Pass | 5♥ | Pass |
| 5NT | Pass | 6♦ | All Pass |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|----------|----------|
| Zia | Ekeblad | Hamman | Weichsel |
| | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 2♣ | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3♠ (MSS) | Pass |
| 4♦ | Pass | 4♥ | Pass |
| 4♣ | Pass | 5♣ | Pass |
| 6♦ | All Pass | | |

In the Open Room, Hamman played six diamond from East. Weichsel led a trump. This seems sensible given his shortage of clubs combined with the fact that he knows declarer probably has both minors and may need to establish his clubs by trumping in dummy or playing on a crossruff line.

Hamman continued trumps, getting the bad news. He then played the king of clubs and a club to his ace. This was trumped by Weichsel who exited with his last trump. Since North had split his club honors, Hamman conceded a club trick to North who led a heart to South's ace. Six diamonds was defeated two tricks.

In the Closed Room, things were much more interesting. Meckstroth opened a very light one heart in third seat. The subsequent bidding was very revealing to declarer. Rubin declared six diamonds from the West hand.

Rodwell led a small heart to Meckstroth's ace. Meckstroth won and returned a spade. Rubin played two high trumps and ruffed a spade in dummy. He cashed the jack of diamonds and led a club to his hand. He drew the last trump and North was caught in a three suit progressive squeeze.

Rodwell sensibly discarded a heart hoping his partner held the jack. Rubin was now able to cash the king and jack of hearts. On the jack of hearts, Rodwell was caught in a black suit squeeze.

Six diamonds making was worth 17 IMPs to Nickell.

Nice play Rubin.

For those of you who noticed that Dick Freeman is not playing in this match, he became ill and was forced to fly home. We wish him the best and hope he will return to action as quickly as possible.

From the Fleisher/Robinson Final...

Board 28
Dealer: W
N/S Vul.

♠ A864
♥ KJ9865
♦
♣ A73

♠ 97
♥ 74
♦ AKQ963
♣ KT6



♠ KJT
♥ AQT2
♦ T8752
♣ 5

♠ Q532
♥ 3
♦ J4
♣ QJ9842

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|--------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Granovetter | Doub | Rubin | Wildavsky |
| 1♦ | 1♥ | Double (card showing) | Pass |
| 2♦ | Double | 2♥ | 3♣ |
| 3♦ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | 4♣ | Double (don't lead clubs) |
| Redouble | Pass | 4♠ | Double (lead spades) |
| Pass | Pass | 5♦ | All Pass |

Adam Wildavsky's use of the doubles on this hand enabled his side to get off to the right lead, giving declarer very little chance to make five diamonds. Since Wildavsky had bid clubs and would normally expect a club lead from his partner, his double of his opponent's cue says, "Don't lead

clubs."

Since it was unlikely that the opponents were going to attempt to play in four spades, he felt safe doubling four spades which would keep his partner from leading a heart.

Doub dutifully led a small spade and declarer naturally misguessed and played low.

North/South took the first three tricks in spades and clubs.

At the other table, Kit Woolsey played five diamonds doubled and received the lead of the heart nine. He played the ten. When this held, he drew trumps and finessed hearts to discard a spade and avoid the spade guess.

From the Editor:

I want to thank all of you who have helped me with the bulletins for this tournament. I appreciate the contributions of Flash Gordon, Adam Wildavsky, Bart Bramley, Judy Bramley, Jeff Miller and the ladies in the hospitality suite who took the time to point out interesting hands from various matches.

It is not easy to work remotely and having extra eyes and ears makes the job a lot easier.

I enjoy the writing, but it is easy to miss a good hand when you are watching one match and not watching all three at one time.

I know it sometimes appears that we are illustrating hands where someone has made a mistake. It is reasonable that readers do not want to read about hands where one heart made at one table and two clubs went down one at the other. I look for swing boards because those are the most interesting... and unfortunately, swings are very often the result of one or another's error.

I do not mean to "pick on" any of you "big" guys ... I just assume you are playing in the big leagues and can handle it.

Suzi