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**UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**“Trials” and Tribulations**

Finals								
#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
2	Fleisher	169	36	20	42	41	3	27
3	Nickell	218	8	54	20	41	42	53

**Congratulations Team Nickell  
on Becoming USA2**

The United States Bridge Championships come to an end with two teams heading to Sao Paulo to represent us in the World Championships.

USA1 is the Robinson team and USA2 is the Nickell team.

Good luck to all of you. We know you will make us proud.



Photos courtesy of Peggy Kaplan!!

Top: Freeman, Rodwell, Nickell

Bottom: Meckstroth, Hamman, Zia

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## Press Release from the World Bridge Federation!!

The World Bridge Federation is pleased to announce that the next World Bridge Series will be held from October 1 – 16, 2010 at the Marriott Hotel in Philadelphia. This will be the first time this Championship has been held in the United States for 16 years, although of course, everyone will remember other great championships held in the USA, like New Orleans in '78 Miami in '86, Albuquerque '94 and the special IOC Grand Prix staged in Salt Lake City in 2002.

Thousands of the world's best bridge players will compete for world titles, with events for players of varied skill levels. A special Junior programme is being planned and will be specially designed to encourage the participation of young players in the world's greatest card game. It is likely to include the Ortiz Patiño Trophy and José Damiani Cup. In addition a great Regional Championship will be staged throughout the event with ACBL and WBF Master Point Awards.

Up to 100 different nations are expected to participate in this exciting and challenging event. A special invitation is being planned for bridge players from Cuba, with the very real possibility that an official Cuban delegation may visit the US for the first time in 50 years.

José Damiani, WBF President, stated: "Philadelphia will be an ideal location for the 2010 World Bridge Series. We greatly appreciate the welcome that is being provided by local Philadelphia bridge players, the city, convention bureau, and the Mayor's office. This warm welcome was a major factor in our selecting Philadelphia. My warm personal thanks go to the ACBL and the USBF for their support and encouragement."

"We look forward to hosting the 2010 World Bridge Series in Philadelphia," responded Bill Pollack, USBF President, "and providing a magnificent site, good value, and world class competition for thousands of players from all over the world."

For more information please contact:

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**"A good novel tells us the truth about its hero; but a bad novel tells us the truth about its author."**

- G. K. Chesterton

### **It Takes Fifty Years To Learn...**

1. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
2. If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved and never will achieve its full potential, that word would be "meetings."
3. There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
4. People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.
5. You should not confuse your career with your life.
6. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
7. Never lick a steak knife.
8. The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.
9. You will never find anybody who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe daylight savings time.
10. You should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging from her at that moment.
11. There comes a time when you should stop expecting other people to make a big deal about your birthday. That time is age eleven.
12. The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.
13. A person who is nice to you but rude to a waiter is not a nice person.
14. Your friends love you anyway.
15. Men are like fine wine. They start out as grapes, and it's up to the women to stomp the crap out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.



Tower: "Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock, 6 miles."  
Delta 351: "Give us another hint! We have digital watches!"

"TWA 2341, for noise abatement turn right 45 degrees."  
"Center, we are at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?"  
"Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"

O'Hare Approach Control to a 747:  
"United 329 heavy, your traffic is a Fokker, one o'clock , three miles, Eastbound."  
United 239: "Approach, I've always wanted to say this...I've got the little Fokker in sight."

A DC-10 had come in a little fast and thus had an exceedingly long roll out after touching down.  
San Jose Tower Noted: "American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able. If you are not able, take the Guadalupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport."

A Pan Am 727 flight waiting for start clearance in Munich overheard the following:  
Lufthansa (in German): "Ground, what is our start clearance time?"  
Ground (in English): "If you want an answer you must speak in English."  
Lufthansa (in English): "I am a German, flying a German airplane, in Germany . Why must I speak English?"  
Unknown voice from another plane (in a beautiful British accent): "Because you lost the bloody war."

One day the pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the active runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out turned around, and taxied back past the Cherokee.  
Some quick-witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said, "What a cute little plane. Did you make it all by yourself?"  
The Cherokee pilot, not about to let the insult go by, came back with a real zinger: "I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like yours and I'll have enough parts for another one."

German air controllers at Frankfurt Airport are renowned as a short-tempered lot. They not only expect one to know one's gate parking location, but how to get there without any assistance from them. So it was with some amusement that we (a Pan Am 747) listened to the following exchange between Frankfurt ground control and a British Airways 747, call sign Speedbird 206.  
Speedbird 206: "Frankfurt , Speedbird 206 clear of active runway."  
Ground: "Speedbird 206. Taxi to gate Alpha One-Seven."  
The BA 747 pulled onto the main taxiway and slowed to a stop.  
Ground: "Speedbird, do you not know where you are going?"  
Speedbird 206: "Stand by, Ground, I'm looking up our gate location now."  
Ground (with quite arrogant impatience): "Speedbird 206, have you not been to Frankfurt before?"  
Speedbird 206 (coolly): "Yes, twice in 1944, but it was dark, and I didn't land."

While taxiing at London's Gatwick Airport, the crew of a US Air flight departing for Ft. Lauderdale made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a United 727.  
An irate female ATC ground controller lashed out at the US Air crew, screaming:  
"US Air 2771, where the hell are you going?  
I told you to turn right onto Charlie taxiway!  
You turned right on Delta! Stop right there. I know it's difficult for you to tell the difference between C and D, but get it right!"  
Continuing her rage to the embarrassed crew, she was now shouting hysterically:  
"God! Now you've screwed everything up!  
It'll take forever to sort this out! You stay right there and don't move till I tell you to!  
You can expect progressive taxi instructions in about half an hour and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how tell you! You got that, US Air 2771?"

"Yes, ma'am," the humbled crew responded.

Naturally, the ground control communications frequency fell terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air 2771. Nobody wanted to chance engaging the irate ground controller in her current state of mind. Tension in every cockpit out around Gatwick was definitely running high.

Just then an unknown pilot broke the silence and keyed his microphone, asking,  
"Wasn't I married to you once?"

Eric Rodwell has won most every award and every event in bridge... excepting the Women's events, of course!!

He is an amazing player and has played so much, he has held some version of almost every hand.

He once mentioned to me that he was waiting for the time when he would hold a hand that contained one card of each number. He said he'd come close but never held the "perfect" ten count.

I'm not sure he noticed... since he was concentrating on getting to Sao Paulo, but he held the hand on the first board yesterday.

He certainly was not pleased with his result on this board. He chose to open three clubs on the West cards. South balanced with a double and Eric was defeated three tricks.

Board 31     ♠ J7  
Dealer: S     ♥ A9874  
N/S Vul.     ♦ 97  
                 ♣ AQJ3

♠ A8  
♥ J  
♦ Q43  
♣ KT97652



♠ Q9654  
♥ QT62  
♦ KJ52  
♣

In the Closed Room, his teammates bid to four hearts, were doubled and went down one for a loss of 13 IMPs.

He will never want for this hand again!

♠ KT32  
♥ K53  
♦ AT86  
♣ 84

Speaking of rare spot card holdings ... or rarely-spotted spot card holdings ... Eric sat North on board 49. He passed in first seat. East opened one diamond. Meckstroth jumped to four spades and played it there.

When Eric laid down dummy, the VuGraph operator reported that he said, "He hoped his spot cards would be good for Jeff."

Board 49     ♠ 432  
Dealer: N     ♥ K542  
None Vul.     ♦ 43  
                 ♣ K743

♠ T76  
♥ Q7  
♦ Q92  
♣ J9852



♠ 9  
♥ JT8  
♦ AJT865  
♣ AQT

With hearts 3-2 and the ace of diamonds on sides, four spades was an easy make at both tables for a push.

Note that among Eric's fine spots, he held two twos, three threes, and four fours!!

A twist to the law of symmetry?

♠ AKQJ85  
♥ A963  
♦ K7  
♣ 6



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

# Sudoku

Answers to Puzzle ... no Peeking!!

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