

Volume 3, Issue 9
June 12, 2009

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations

SemiFinals										
#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120
1	Nickell	226	44	7	16	13	27	33	42	44
4	Fleisher	233	31	53	35	29	35	34	12	4
2	Welland	239	35	9	31	37	29	24	46	28
3	Robinson	256	40	65	15	23	16	45	35	17

In today's action we will see Robinson vs. Fleisher in the Finals of the USA1.

Roundof16										
#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60				
5	Ozdil	71	15	21	35					
10	Strul	169	17	71	81					
6	Jacobs	128	43	20	36	29				
7	Cohler	102	22	25	23	32				

And Jacobs vs Nickell and Welland vs. Strul in the USA2 Quarterfinals.

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In Seeding Order

**"Love is much nicer to be in than an automobile accident, a tight girdle, a higher tax bracket, or a holding pattern over Philadelphia."
-Judith Viorst**

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 Jacobs/Cohler Match ...

Board 15
Dealer: S
N/S Vul.

♠ K82
♥ JT9732
♦ 87
♣ 96

♠ 9754
♥ AKQ64
♦ K2
♣ 75



♠ AJT6
♥ 8
♦ QT954
♣ AK2

♠ Q3
♥ 5
♦ AJ63
♣ QJT843

West	North	East	South
Lev	Grue	Pepsi	Cheek
			Pass
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
S Weinstein	Passell	Levin	Mahaffey
			Pass
2♦ (Flannery)	Pass	2NT (more info)	3♣
Pass (2-2 minors)	Pass	Double	All Pass

In the Open Room, Cheek led a high club against 3NT. Pepsi ducked, won the club continuation, led a diamond to the king, and a spade to the jack and queen. Cheek cleared the club suit, but Pepsi played a heart to dummy and cashed the AKQ. He finessed against the spade king and when that worked, he collected three hearts, three spades, one diamond and two clubs to make his contract.

In the Closed Room, things were more interesting. Weinstein opened Flannery. Levin bid 2NT asking for a further description of Weinstein's hand, and Mahaffey bravely stepped into the auction. Levin doubled three clubs but had to defend well not to get squeezed and endplayed.

Weinstein led the ace of hearts, and seeing dummy, switched to a small club. Levin won his ace and continued with king and another.

Mahaffey won his queen and played the jack to see what would be discarded. Weinstein threw a heart and Levin threw a spade. Mahaffey exited his hand with a low diamond to the seven in dummy and nine in Levin's hand. Levin continued diamonds. Mahaffey ducked and Weinstein won his king.

Weinstein played a spade to Levin's ACE! And Bobby continued with his jack to Mahaffey's queen.

At this point, Mahaffey had two good trump and the good ace of diamonds and still had to yield a trick to Levin's diamond queen.

Nice defense.

9 IMPs to Jacobs.

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.

Managerial Mishaps...

The manager of a large corporation got a heart attack, and the doctor told him to go for several weeks to a farm to relax. The guy went to a farm, and after a couple of days he was very bored, so he asked the farmer to give him some job to do.

The farmer told him to clean up all of the cow manure. The farmer thought that to somebody coming from the city, working the whole life sitting in an office, it will take over a week to finish the job, but for his surprise the manager finished the job in less than one day.

The next day the farmer gave to the manager a more difficult job: to cut off the heads of 500 chickens. The farmer was sure that the manager will not be able to do the job, but at the end of the day the job was done.

The next morning, as most of the jobs in the farm were done, the farmer asked the manager to divide a bag of potatoes in two boxes: one box with small potatoes, and one box with big potatoes. At the end of the day the farmer saw that the manager was sitting in front of the potatoes bag, but the two boxes were empty.

The farmer asked the manager: "How is that you made such difficult jobs during the first days, and now you cannot do this simple job?"

The manager answered: "Listen, all my life I'm cutting off heads and dealing with crap, but now you ask me to make decisions!"

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!

I Want To Suck Your Blood...

A vampire bat came flapping in from the night covered in fresh blood and parked himself on the roof of the cave to get some sleep.

Pretty soon all the other bats smelled the blood and began hassling him about where he got it.

He told them to go away and let him get some sleep but they persisted until finally he gave in.

"OK, follow me" he said and flew out of the cave with hundreds of bats behind him.

Down through the valley they went, across a river and into a forest full of trees.

Finally he slowed down and all the other bats excitedly milled around him.

"Now, do you see that tree over there?" he asked.

"Yes, Yes, Yes!" the bats all screamed in a frenzy.

"Good" said the bat, "Because I sure as heck didn't!"

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!

Fleisher Pours It On ...

Board 80
 Dealer: W
 E/W Vul.

♠ AT543
 ♥ 76
 ♦ J
 ♣ KQ943

♠ KQJ876
 ♥ K2
 ♦ AKT
 ♣ 86

♠ 92
 ♥ Q84
 ♦ 964
 ♣ AJT72

♠ 5



Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Granovetter	Hamman	Rubin	Zia
Pass	2♥ (hearts and another)	2♠	4♣ (pass or correct)
Double	4♥	4♠	Pass
4NT	6♥	6♠	All Pass

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Freeman	Ekeblad	Nickell	Weichsel
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
4♦ (splinter)	4♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♦	Double	5♥
Double	All Pass		

Another slam off two cashing aces comes home? The stuff of which newsletter editor's dreams are made!!

There was so much interference in the Closed Room that no one was sure who could make what or how high to save... but everyone thought they should keep on bidding.

When Rubin and Granovetter arrived in six spades, Zia thought he might be able to give Bob a ruff. He dutifully led his club ace. He thought he was rewarded when Bob played the five which Zia could read as a singleton. He continued clubs and was most unhappy when Rubin won dummy's king and Hamman discarded the jack of hearts.

Rubin ruffed a low club with the king of spades, played the queen of spades and a spade to the ten, cashed the queen of clubs discarding a heart, ruffed the last club, and ran the spades ending in dummy.

Poor Hamman, he was squeezed. On the last spade, he couldn't pitch the heart ace lest the king in Rubin's hand turn good and he couldn't pitch a diamond or the AKT all cash. He held the ace of hearts and the Q8 of diamonds.

Rubin cashed the ace and king of diamonds and watched the ten turn good for the twelfth trick.

Yes, it was a show-up squeeze. Rubin could have made the hand by finessing diamonds earlier... but the moral of the story is that good players never take finesses when a squeeze will do!!

In the Open Room, there was less bidding and Weichsel was allowed to play five hearts doubled. This failed by two tricks for -300 and a 15 IMP swing for Fleisher.

What a run this team is having!!

THURS. JUNE 4TH	10:00 PM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
ROUND ROBIN 1		
FRIDAY JUNE 5TH	10:00 - 12:15 12:30 - 2:45 4:15 - 6:30 6:45 - 9:00	BDS 1-7 & 8-14 CLUMPED BDS 15-21 & 22-28 CLUMPED BDS 29-35 & 36-42 CLUMPED BDS 43-49 & 50-56 CLUMPED
SATURDAY JUNE 6TH	10:00 - 11:05 11:20 - 1:35	BOARDS 57-63 BDS 64-70 & 71-77 CLUMPED
ROUND OF 32		
SATURDAY JUNE 6TH	3:30 - 5:40 5:55 - 8:05	SEGMENT 1, BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2, BOARDS 16-30
SUNDAY JUNE 7TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK
ROUND OF 16		
SUNDAY JUNE 7TH	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1, BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2, BOARDS 16-30
MONDAY JUNE 8TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK
QUARTERFINALS		
MONDAY JUNE 8TH	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
TUESDAY JUNE 9TH	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
SEMI-FINALS		
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
THURSDAY JUNE 11TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120
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
SATURDAY JUNE 13TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 2:35 - 3:45 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120

USA1
Schedule of Events

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

Sudoku

So what have we learned in 2 millennia?

"The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance."

Cicero - 55 BC

Answers to Puzzle ... no Peeking!!

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

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

Fun and Games...



Who is She ...

Hint: She's Russian!!

Think about it before you turn over the page and see the answer at the bottom!!

A teacher noticed that a little boy at the back of the class was squirming around, scratching his crotch, and not paying attention. She went back to find out what was going on. He was quite embarrassed and whispered that he had just recently been circumcised and he was quite itchy.

The teacher told him to go down to the principal's office. He was to telephone his mother and ask her what he should do about it. He did and returned to his class. Suddenly, there was a commotion at the back of the room. She went back to investigate only to find him sitting at his desk with his "private part" hanging out.

'I thought I told you to call your mom!' she said.

'I did,' he said, 'And she told me that if I could stick it out till noon, she'd come and pick me up from school.'

Answer: No Peeking!! What did you expect???

While sitting at your desk, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles. Now, while doing this draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction and there's nothing you can do about it.



You Win Some ... You Lose Some ... a Cohler-ful Swing!

Board 23
Dealer: S
All Vul.

♠ Q75
♥ K
♦ K763
♣ KJT65

♠ A63
♥ AJT4
♦ QT82
♣ 82



♠ KJT82
♥ Q75
♦ 54
♣ AQ4

♠ 94
♥ 98632
♦ AJ9
♣ 973

West	North	East	South
Lev	Levin	Pepsi	S Weinstein
Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass
Redouble	Pass	Pass	Double
Double	All Pass		2♥

In the Closed room, Katz/Jacobs bid to four spades E/W and went down one when Cohler, South, led the nine of hearts and Katz ducked to the singleton king. A diamond came back to the ace and a heart ruff followed by the cash of the diamond king. Katz was down before he's even gained the lead.

Perhaps he should have read the position after the lead of the nine and risen with the ace of hearts. He would have been well rewarded. He would have collected four hearts, four or five spades, and two clubs.

As it was, down one did not seem extraordinary on the board.

In the Open room, things went quite differently. Weinstein negative doubled where Cohler passed, and then was forced to back in with two hearts when Levin didn't save him with two clubs after Lev's redouble. This proved lethal.

Lev doubled and led the eight of clubs to Pepsi's queen. Pepsi shifted to a diamond which Weinstein won with the king in dummy. A club went to Pepsi's ace and he knocked out the diamond ace. Weinstein led a good club which Lev ruffed. Lev cashed the diamond queen, and when the smoke cleared, Weinstein was down FIVE for -1400.

The result: 17 IMPs to Cohler.

From the Welland/Robinson Semi-Final...

Board 103
Dealer: S
All Vul.

♠ AKJT98653
♥
♦ 9
♣ A94

♠ 2
♥ AQ82
♦ KQJT
♣ KQ62



♠ 74
♥ J974
♦ 43
♣ JT853

♠ Q
♥ KT653
♦ A87652
♣ 7

A routine day at the bridge table... just another push board. You are comparing with your teammates and say: Plus 1190.

Teammates: Push

The auctions were almost the same at both tables. In the Open Room, Woolsey, West, opened one club; Ronnie Smith jumped to four spades... and it went pass, pass, double.

In the Closed Room, Steve Garner opened one diamond; Doug Doub jumped to four spades ... and it again went pass, pass, double.

Making six... a stripe tail? NOT! Can't be doubled in the pass out seat!!

Funny result!

From the Nickell/Fleisher Match...

Board 109 ♠ KJ75
 Dealer: N ♥ QT8
 All Vul. ♦ Q98
 ♣ QJ2

♠ T82		♠ Q9643
♥ 7532		♥ AKJ9
♦ JT32		♦
♣ 86		♣ A974

♠ A
 ♥ 64
 ♦ AK7654
 ♣ KT53

In the final set of the semi-finals of Nickell vs. Fleisher, a few boards had to be substituted since it was too late to have said teams switch teammates. Believe it or not, both teams carried seeding rights a bit too far and chose to sit the same direction as their own teammates!! And you think this only happens in Women's events!!

Once the segment got started, the Nickell team put on a great performance. They trailed by 47 IMPs and recovered 40 to lose by only 7.

The first big swing came on Board 109.

Against Hamman and Zia, Rubin, East, opened a canapé one heart. Zia overcalled two diamonds and Hamman played in 3NT (his favorite contract) from North.

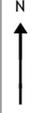
In the other room, Meckstroth, East, opened a more conventional one spade. Weichsel overcalled two diamonds, and Ekeblad bid 3NT which Meckstroth doubled.

Meckstroth led the ace of hearts and switched to a spade. Dummy won the ace and played a club to the jack. Meckstroth won this and returned the suit. Ekeblad can still make 3NT by leading a small club or diamond to dummy. This will set up an intricate squeeze position on Meckstroth's hand. Ekeblad, however, made the fatal error of playing the queen of diamonds first and ultimately was forced to concede down one.

At the other table, the opening lead was a spade and Hamman immediately played a club to the queen and ace. No return by East can succeed in defeating the contract. East actually returned a spade to Hamman's jack, making nine tricks easy: three spades, three clubs and three diamonds.

If East does not exit a spade, the world's greatest three no-trump player will undoubtedly find the squeeze and make it on his own.

Board 116 ♠ 9642
 Dealer: W ♥ J743
 All Vul. ♦ A8
 ♣ AK5

♠ AK75		♠ T83
♥ Q8		♥ A72
♦ Q742		♦ T3
♣ T73		♣ J9862

♠ QJ
 ♥ KT95
 ♦ KJ965
 ♣ Q4

On board 116, both tables played in four hearts from the South hand. The opening lead was a high spade.

Not envisioning the actual position, both Wests discontinued spades in favor of clubs. Declarer was now able to cash two more clubs and shed his spade loser.

Peter Weichsel played a small heart from dummy, inserted the ten, losing to West's queen. Spades were continued, tapping declarer's hand and he ultimately lost five tricks.

In the other room, Zia played brilliantly. After the three rounds of clubs, Zia cashed the ace of diamonds. At this point, a heart to the king would have guaranteed his contract. He made a small slip when he played a diamond to the king and a third diamond which he ruffed with the jack of hearts. Rubin, East, discarded a club.

Zia led a trump from the dummy. There would be no story if Rubin had risen with the ace. Since he hoped Zia would have a trump guess, he ducked and Zia played the king of hearts and a heart to West's queen... making four hearts and winning 13 IMPs.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Board 117 ♠ T82
 Dealer: N ♥ T875
 N/S Vul. ♦ 96432
 ♣ 6

♠ 94
 ♥ AK92
 ♦ T75
 ♣ AQJT



♠ AKQJ765
 ♥ Q3
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 732

♠ 3
 ♥ J64
 ♦ AKQJ
 ♣ K9854

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Ekeblad	Meckstroth	Weichsel
	Pass	1♠	Double
Redouble	2♦	3♠	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	All Pass

In their usual aggressive manner, Meckwell attempted to reach slam when Eric cued four diamonds. Meckstroth turned down the slam try, but commented that a club cue might have actually gotten him to bid the slam which just happens to make on the finesse.

At the other table, the opponents did not even sniff at slam. North passed over the redouble and East simply jumped to four spades, giving his side no chance to reach six since this auction showed a very limited hand in the Rubin/Granovetter strong club system.

On the penultimate board, Hamman and Zia had a chance to pull out the match.

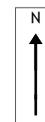
In both rooms, West opened one heart. East responded one spade. South made a takeout double and West rebid three hearts. Playing old fashioned penalty double methods, it would be easy for North to double three hearts with confidence that he would be beating the contract.

Unfortunately Hamman and Zia (and most of the world's modern experts) would play this double to be cooperative in nature. North certainly is not anxious to have his partner bid above three hearts.

Three hearts went down three tricks at both tables for a push. The double would have paid off huge for Nickell. They would have gained 11 IMPs and won the match.

Board 119 ♠ A5
 Dealer: S ♥ K932
 All Vul. ♦ A97
 ♣ T742

♠ K8
 ♥ AQJT864
 ♦ K43
 ♣ 5



♠ JT743
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 652
 ♣ KJ98

♠ Q962
 ♥ 7
 ♦ QJT8
 ♣ AQ63

The good news is that neither of these teams goes home. Fleisher plays Robinson today and tomorrow for the USA1 berth. Nickell plays Jacobs today for the chance to play off for USA2.

Zero Tolerance, Limey... no gloating please!

Dear me:

All over London is sadness. The vaunted Zia, who single handedly brought the Nickell team back from the precipice just as he predicted in a late morning chat with Limey Jack, just could not finish the deal. They left 5 additionalimps at the tram stop and drop into the dreaded, never ending repechage. But as Limey Jack predicted the three Amigos deserved their accolades. Can the triple double (in honour of the Yanks Basketball fetish) team continue by beating the Wee Ones? Indeed they can. Ekeblad, who has knocked on the door so many times, may finally be able to pass through it.

Oh, Welland! As written here first they lost to the Diminutive Folks, but in a heartbreaking way, with anyone to win with just two hands remaining. Those Tiny, Elfin, Lads will need to stand quite tall tomorrow and will give Fleisher quite a tussle.

Cohler came close but "no cigar" as Jacobs pulled a sneak maneuver and played Levin and Weinstein at all times. Jacobs, which is on a roll, plays Nickell, which got "rolled" yesterday. All of London is pulling for Zia to bid a slam off three Aces and bring it home on the last board. Alas, I must go with Jacobs who seem to have the better karma.

All the Turkish baths in London are closed in mourning as Melih and his band of merry men have finally been laid to rest. Strul coaxed a withdrawal at the 3rd stanza as the pair of Cohen and Berkowitz are not quite ready to retire. They will have their hands full with the hostile Welland team tomorrow. Limey Jack says that Welland still has more petrol left in his tank and will make the retirement official.

Smoke that, Pablo old chap.

Cheers, Limey Jack

Pablo Pushes On...

How many IMPs are you spotting me today, amigo? I was right picking Jacobs plus thirty... and I was right about the car wash fiasco.

Today we'll see Jacobs over Nickell. Nickell is well worn from playing the extra boards last night when his whole team sat North/South. And there's no penalty for that... but 3 IMPs if your cell phone rings? Strange customs in the US of A.

And Strul will continue on its roll... having sent the "Turk"ey home. Beware, Aubrey, Welland will still have a chance if excitement plays a factor.

In the main event, the little people will prevail. I'm going to brazenly predict that Fleisher will fail in only seven segments. Robinson will join me in my home country for the World Championships after winning this "short"ened match.

Interestingly, Granovetter has more hair than the entire Robinson team. Like Samson, we will see Granovetter lose his strength when he gets his hair cut by the little guys.

See you all tomorrow!!

Pablo the Great