

Volume 3, Issue 10
June 13, 2009

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations

Finals										
12-JUN-2009										
#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120
1	Fleisher	132	33	44	17	38				
2	Robinson	217	55	61	53	48				

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60
3	Welland	113	8	26	56	23
5	Strul	99	19	11	15	54
4	Nickell	116	25	19	34	38
6	Jacobs	91	16	11	30	34

Congratulations to the Welland team and the Nickell team. Today they will playoff to see which team will play the loser of the Fleisher/Robinson match for the USA2 berth in Sao Paolo.

Don't miss any of the action! Today's matches promise to be the most exciting so far.

Safe trips home to Jacobs and Strul. You all played masterfully.

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In Seeding Order

"Wine makes a man more pleased with himself; I do not say that it makes him more pleasing to others."
-Samuel Johnson

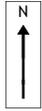
Nickell	Bye to SemiFinals	Frank Nickell, Capt Robert Hamman Jeff Meckstroth	Richard Freeman Zia Mahmood Eric Rodwell
Welland	Bye to Rnd of 8	Roy Welland, Capt Steve Garner Billy Cohen	Chris Willenken Howard Weinstein Ron Smith
Jacobs	Bye to Rnd of 16	George Jacobs, Capt Bobby Levin Joe Grue	Ralph Katz 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 Charlie Weed, NPC	Michael Seamon Stephen Landen Nagy Kamel
Lewis		Paul Lewis, Capt Mark Itabashi Eddie Wold	Linda Lewis Ross Grabel 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 Gwozdzinsky	Jeffrey Rothstein Ira Herman
McKellar		Arch McKellar, Capt Warren Rosner Franco Baseggio	Chuck Lamprey Stephen Sanborn Andrew Stark

Fleisher vs. Robinson...

Board 25
Dealer: N
E/W Vul.

♠ 765
♥ K8643
♦ QT53
♣ 3

♠ QJ43
♥ Q
♦ AK94
♣ T976



♠ AKT982
♥ 5
♦ J8762
♣ 8

♠
♥ AJT972
♦
♣ AKQJ542

West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Ekeblad	Stewart	Weichsel
	Pass	1♠	2♠ (Michaels)
3♥	5♥	5♣	6♥
Double	Pass	Pass	Redouble
6♣	Pass	Pass	7♥
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Granovetter	Doub	Rubin	Wildavsky
	Pass	1♦	2♣
Double	Pass	4♣	5♣
6♣	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, Stewart opened a normal one spade. Weichsel cue bid showing hearts and a minor.

Poor Woolsey! Once Weichsel bid six hearts, he should have realized that his diamond ace and king might not both be cashing. Still, he was afraid he needed to tell partner not to lead a spade in case ... This double backfired terribly.

It gave Weichsel a chance to redouble. Woolsey knew he was in trouble and bid six spades, but Weichsel was not to be deterred. He recognized what a powerful hand he held and relied on the fact that Woolsey had one of the AK combos or the two aces to double six. He knew those weren't cashing and he now placed the one card he needed in partner's hand: the king of hearts. With that knowledge, he forged ahead to seven hearts.

There was nothing to the play and he readily scored up 1510.

In the Open Room, Rubin opened one diamond (canapé). When Wildavsky overcalled two clubs and Granovetter doubled, Rubin jumped to four spades. Wildavsky bid five clubs and Granovetter skipped the auction to six spades. It was too late to introduce the heart suit. Wildavsky doubled and collected his 500.

After the one diamond opening, Wildavsky could no longer bid Michaels... a cue bid would have shown hearts and spades. Perhaps he could have used unusual no-trump to show the two lower unbid... or he could have overcalled hearts first in preparation for the high level interference that his distribution indicated. Overcalling hearts first would allow him to introduce clubs at a lower level and get both of his suits into play.

The result: 14 IMPs to Fleisher!

(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.

Speak To My Lawyer...

A guy phones a law firm and says, "I want to speak to my lawyer."

The receptionist says, "I'm sorry, but your lawyer died last week."

The next day the same guy phones the law firm and says, "I want to speak to my lawyer."

Once again the receptionist replies, "I'm sorry, but your lawyer died last week."

The next day the guy makes his regular call to the law firm and say, "I want to speak to my lawyer."

"Excuse me sir," the receptionist says, "but this is third time I've had to tell you that your lawyer died last week. Why do you keep calling?"

The guy replies, "Because I love hearing it!"

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 diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday, but never remembers her age."

- Robert Frost

"A woman has got to love a bad man once or twice in her life to be thankful for a good one."

- Mae West

"A man likes his wife to be just clever enough to appreciate his cleverness, and just stupid enough to admire it."

- I. Zangwill

"A mother takes twenty years to make a man of her boy, and another woman makes a fool of him in twenty minutes."

- Robert Frost

"A ship is always referred to as "she" because it costs so much to keep one in paint and powder."

- Chester Nimitz

"A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man."

- Lana Turner

"A man who marries a woman to educate her falls a victim to the same fallacy as the woman who marries a man to reform him."

- E. Hubbard

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

Sudoku

Remember:

**Absolutely no Electronic Devices
are Allowed in the Playing Area**

A Message from the USBF President

This was my first team trials in many years (having a "day job" can sometimes get in the way...), and I couldn't help but notice the enormous efforts of our volunteers. There are countless details involved in the logistics of running this tournament, which we only seem to notice when something goes wrong, which, thankfully, did not happen here in White Plains.

Please join me in thanking the people who give so much of their time to the USBF trials: **Joan Gerard**, who negotiates hotel contracts with one hand while making fruit salad with the other; **Jan Martel**, who coordinates all the vugraph action; **Barbara Nudelman**, doing whatever is needed to keep things running smoothly; **Ron Gerard, Bill Rosenbaum**, and our off-site appeals committee (John Sutherland, Henry Bethe, Jeffrey Polisner, Robb Gordon) who have been working overtime; and Suzi Subeck, who edits the Bulletin. Many more folks, including Peggy Kaplan, who took zillions of photos, Glenda Calkins, Jerry Goodman, Steve Arshan, Kassie Munoz, Al Levy, Eva Scatassa, Ed & Karen Zuckerburg, Joe Stokes, who helped keep the Round Robin running smoothly and did Vugraph, Willie Fuchs, Trevor Lumb, Willie Ehlers, Mila Antonova, Matt Meckstroth, Eric Mayefsky, Ilana Seror, Dan Wolkowitz, Steve Beatty, JoAnna Stansby, Bronia Jenkins, along with a fine directing and ACBL support staff: Chris Patrias, Sol Weinstein, Alan Miller, Jeff Johnston, and Ken Horwedel, also deserve our gratitude for enabling these trials to run so well. We should also thanks the good folks here at the Crowne Plaza, who did whatever they could to anticipate and address the USBF's endless list of special needs.



If anyone was omitted, I apologize... It was completely inadvertant... To quote a NY senator: "It takes a Village" to run a tournament like this!

Hope you all had a good time, even though only two teams can win the coveted berths to Sao Paulo.

Bill Pollack

Answers to Puzzle ... no Peeking!!

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

Best of Late Night ...

"Today, Chrysler was taken over by Fiat and the new CEO said, this is a quote, 'Going forward we intend to build on Chrysler's culture of innovation.' Yeah. Yeah, then he laughed for three straight hours." --Conan O'Brien

"Listen to this - listen to how the power of the world is changing. Ahmadinejad may lose his job, and the Korean dictator Kim Jong-Il is stepping down, and before you know it, the only tiny -- because these guys are all petite guys -- the only small control freaks left in the world will be, like, well, Tom Cruise. Is that right?" --David Letterman

"President Obama's in the news, of course. He's put health care back in the news. Yup. President Obama says he wants to create a national health care plan that's both affordable and easy to use. Yup. Yeah, good. Yeah, and the insurance industry says they'll fight the plan with congressmen who are both affordable and easy to use." --Conan O'Brien

"Edward Whitaker, the former chairman of AT&T, was appointed the new chairman of General Motors. I'm not sure about his business plan. He's giving away free cars on nights and weekends. I think that's a bad idea." --Jimmy Fallon

"This is weird. Former President George H.W. Bush is going to celebrate his 85th birthday by once again going skydiving. Yup. And his son, George W. Bush, is going to celebrate his father's birthday the way he always does, giving him a World's Greatest Dad mug and making him a macaroni necklace." --Conan O'Brien

"Scientists are now saying that children under the age of two should not watch television. Apparently, it delays language development. But I say, keep watching, kids. Keep watching." --Jimmy Fallon

"Earlier today, President Obama spoke at a town hall meeting in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Yeah. Yeah, half of the Wisconsin crowd had never seen an African-American, and the other half had never seen a skinny person." --Conan O'Brien

"I am Stephen Colbert, and I am reporting for duty. Folks, right off the top, I want to thank the USO for bringing me and my show to our brave men and women in uniform in Baghdad, Iraq. Thank you so much. I have to say, this place is great. I've always loved the beach, but I hate the ocean, so this is perfect!" --Stephen Colbert

"We're actually broadcasting tonight from one of Saddam Hussein's old palaces, the al-Fah, which is also known as the water palace, because that's the only damn drink you can get around here. Come on! I mean, really. No alcohol? If anyone deserves a beer, it's you people." --Stephen Colbert

There's Only One October...

Two ninety-year old men, Moe and Sam, have been friends all their lives.

It seems that Sam is dying, so Moe comes to visit him. "Sam," says Moe, "You know how we have both played and loved baseball all our lives.

Sam, you have to do me one favor. When you go, somehow you've got to tell me if there's baseball in heaven."

Sam looks up at Moe from his death bed and says, "Moe, you've been my friend many years. This favor I'll do for you." And with that, Sam passes on.

It is midnight a couple nights later. Moe is sound asleep when a distant voice calls out to him, "Moe.... Moe...."

"Who is it?" says Moe sitting up suddenly. "Who is it?"

"Moe, it's Sam."

"Come on. You're not Sam. Sam died."

"I'm telling you," insists the voice. "It's me, Sam!"

"I'm in heaven," says Sam, "and I've got to tell you, I've got some good news and some bad news."

"Tell me the good news first," says Moe.

"The good news," says Sam "is that there is baseball in heaven."

"Really?" says Moe, "That's wonderful! What's the bad news?"

"You're pitching Tuesday!!!"

From the Welland/Strul match...

Board 55
Dealer: S
All Vul.

♠	QT9
♥	KJ85
♦	853
♣	865

♠	873	♠	J654
♥	Q9	♥	AT632
♦	J94	♦	KT6
♣	KJT32	♣	4

♠	AK2
♥	74
♦	AQ72
♣	AQ97



West	North	East	South
Garner	Martel	Weinstein	Stansby
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Smith	L Cohen	B Cohen
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Double	All Pass

Against Stansby's 3NT, Garner made the normal lead of a fourth best club. This did not fare well when Stansby was able to win his eight in dummy, and knowing not to play on clubs, led a small diamond, finessing the queen. When that held, Lew played a small diamond from his hand, hoping for a 3-3 split and keeping communication open between his hand and dummy.

Garner won the jack of diamonds and exited with a diamond. Lew won this, cashed the thirteenth diamond, played a heart to the jack and ace, and claimed his nine tricks.

At the other table, Larry Cohen doubled 3NT and Berkowitz dutifully led the queen of hearts. Larry allowed the king to hold in dummy.

Put yourself in Billy Cohen's position. Looking at the club and diamond suits, they appear pretty even ... however, unlucky for Billy, the club suit was better by just a few pips. For that reason, he chose to play on clubs rather than diamonds to produce three tricks.

He finessed the club king, losing to Berkowitz who played a second heart. Larry won the jack with the ace and switched to a spade. Billy won this in hand and cashed the club ace, getting the bad news. He cashed his spades, played a club to Berkowitz, and conceded down two. This resulted in a 15 IMP swing for Strul.

Board 51
Dealer: S
E/W Vul.

♠	K
♥	
♦	AK972
♣	AQJ9875

♠	T98743	♠	QJ52
♥	JT94	♥	632
♦	64	♦	Q53
♣	2	♣	T64

♠	A6
♥	AKQ875
♦	JT8
♣	K3



North	South
Smith	B Cohen
	1♥
2♣	2♥
3♦	3♥
4♣	4♠
5♦	6♣

North	South
Martel	Stansby
	1♥
2♣	3♥
4♣	4♠
5♦	6♣
7♣	

Seven clubs is a claim without a finesse. Billy Cohen dropped the ball when he rebid two hearts instead of three... The principle of fast arrival only works if when you have the good hand, you make sure you show it. How could Smith envision a 17 count with four quick tricks AND the king of trump in his partner's hand?

The result: 11 IMPs to Strul.

(Continued from page 12)

Board 60 ♠ A
 Dealer: W ♥ AJ86532
 N/S Vul. ♦ KT2
 ♣ 64

♠ J9872 ♠ KQT65
 ♥ KQ74 ♥ 9
 ♦ AJ ♦ Q5
 ♣ K5 ♣ Q9732



♠ 43
 ♥ T
 ♦ 987643
 ♣ AJT8

Sometimes the most innocuous boards can matter the most... and this one mattered big time to Strul.

Strul was leading by nine IMPs going into the final board of the set.

West	North	East	South
Garner	Martel	Weinstein	Stansby
1♠	3♥ (intermediate)	4♠	Double (responsive)
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Smith	L Cohen	B Cohen
1♠	2♥	4♠	Pass
All Pass			

If only ... Smith had a terrible hand from which to lead. A club lead works best, but he thought he might be able to beat the contract with a heart ruff in his partner's hand.

Ronnie led the ace of hearts, and getting the ten from partner, he couldn't tell if it was a singleton or doubleton. If it was a singleton, Billy would need a high trump anyway and that seemed unlikely. If Billy had a high diamond, Ronnie was afraid their diamond tricks would be pitched on the king and queen of hearts. He switched to the king of diamonds in hopes of collecting two diamonds, one heart and one spade.

All of this was for naught. A club lead is the only lead to beat the hand.

At the other table, Martel, not holding a four card minor, sat Stansby's responsive double.

Perhaps he should have considered the lead of a minor suit once his partner showed them both. Maybe he would have led the right one and maybe not... but at least he would have had a fighting chance.

Martel, like Smith, had visions of beating this with partner's heart shortness. Like Smith, he couldn't read the ten. And like Smith, he shifted to a diamond at trick two.

Sadly for Strul, this ended their run. They lost five IMPs on the board instead of winning eleven ... and lost the match by fourteen! This board could have created a sixteen IMP swing.

If only ... if only Martel had led the club ...

Note that once the heart ace holds, a club switch is futile. If South wins it and shifts to a diamond, Declarer wins it with the ace, cashes the king of clubs, ruffs a heart in dummy and plays the queen of clubs ditching his diamond jack while North ruffs with the ace of trump or pitches... either way, there are only three losers.

Good run Aubrey ...

And good luck to Lew in the Seniors!

(Continued from page 7)

Board 51 ♠ 94
 Dealer: S ♥ T9853
 E/W Vul. ♦ 64
 ♣ KJ84

♠ Q87532
 ♥ AQJ
 ♦ AQ87
 ♣



♠ AKT
 ♥ K762
 ♦ KJ93
 ♣ 73

♠ J6
 ♥ 4
 ♦ T52
 ♣ AQT9652

West	North	East	South
Ekeblad	Stewart	Weichsel	Woolsey
			3NT (four of a minor preempt)
Double	4♣ (pass or correct)	Double	All Pass

One more time, aggressive preempting paid off big on this hand from the Robinson-Fleisher Finals match.

Kit Woolsey's 3NT (four of a minor) preempt was difficult to handle. The opponents are cold for seven spades, but they settled for a two trick set and a loss of 13IMPs.

After doubling 3NT, Ekeblad could bid four spades over four clubs doubled to give his partner a better idea of his hand shape. The vulnerability makes this bid even more attractive since any cards his partner holds rate to be useful on offense. You have sympathy for East/West in this situation, but you would think their teammates would also preempt at the other table.

Instead Ron Rubin tried a semi-psyhic precision two club bid. This may have kept his opponents from finding their grand, but it this hardly kept them out of the bidding. Boyd-Robinson bid easily to six spades and scored 1100 when North South sacrificed in seven clubs.

(Continued on page 15)

A Hand from the Katz/Nickell Match...

Board 5 ♠ 92
 Dealer: N ♥ AKQJT8
 N/S Vul. ♦
 ♣ A5432

♠ KQ3
 ♥ 9432
 ♦ AQT9
 ♣ K6



♠ AT87
 ♥
 ♦ KJ8732
 ♣ J87

♠ J654
 ♥ 765
 ♦ 654
 ♣ QT9

West	North	East	South
Levin	Freeman	Weinstein	Nickell
	1♥	Double	Pass
2♥	4♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♦	All Pass		
West	North	East	South
Hamman	Jacobs	Zia	Katz
	1♥	2♦	Pass
2♥	3♣	Pass	4♥
5♦	5♥	6♦	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Jacobs scored a big swing of 14 IMPs on this board when Freeman led the ace of clubs instead of the ace of hearts against the slam.

After Jacobs' double of six diamonds, I might not have led the heart from Ralph's hand, but that's why he's in this event and I'm left writing the bulletins. He stayed off the club lead and beat the slam one trick.

Nice lead, Ralph.

Board 59 ♠ 943
 Dealer: S ♥ KT42
 None Vul. ♦ A2
 ♣ AK32

♠ AQT ♠ J8652
 ♥ J63 ♥ 87
 ♦ KOT65 ♦ 87
 ♣ T8 ♣ J954



West	North	East	South
Ekeblad	Stewart	Weichsel	Woolsey
			1NT (10-12)
Double	Pass	2♠	Pass
2NT	Double	3♣	Double
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Boyd	Granovetter	Robinson	Rubin
			1♦ (could be canapé)
Pass	2♣ (artificial game force)	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣ (checkback Stayman)	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Board 59 is a lesson on the danger of competing too aggressively against weak no-trumps.

Holding the West cards, Russ Ekeblad was justifiably punished for bidding over a weak no trump with a shortage of values. He might have survived if he had passed his partner's two spade bid, but he inexplicably chose to bid again and now the ceiling collapsed on his head.

Kit Woolsey opened a 10-12 NT in first seat. (Woolsey and Stewart play a 10-12 no trump in first and second seats non-vulnerable). With no long suit and only 12 HCP, Ekeblad can safely pass and await developments. His worst risk is a part score loss when his partner can't enter the auction on mediocre values.

If West passes, North/South will probably reach four hearts, as they did at the other table, where South (Ron Rubin) opened a precision one diamond bid and East/West were silent throughout. The king of diamonds was led and those of you who are double dummy aficionados are challenged to work out the solution before reading the rest of the article.

At the table, Rubin won the diamond ace and drew three rounds of trumps, ending in dummy. He exited with a diamond to his nine and West's ten. West now returned a club. Had West been in the bidding, Rubin might have made the hand on the following line of play.

Win the club in dummy, cash dummy's other high club and lead a third club to the queen. West will likely discard a diamond on the third club and will be holding: the spade AQT and the diamond Q6 tenace over South. South should trump a diamond and trump a club bringing West down to the spade AQ and the diamond Q. Declarer would exit with a diamond and endplay West.

If West discards the spade ten on the third club, declarer can play a spade, forcing West to lead away from his diamond tenace, while both dummy and declarer each still have a trump. If West attempts to avoid the endplay by pitching the spade queen, declarer can play the spade king. West is forced to lead a diamond establishing a trick for declarer or he can play the spade ten. If East overtakes, dummy's nine of spades will be the tenth trick for declarer. If declarer found this line without opponent bidding, he might receive a brilliancy prize. As it was, Rubin had no way to diagnose the actual layout. He won the club with the queen, trumped a diamond and played for a club split or an onside spade ace.

Making the hand would have been genius but would have only saved 3 IMPs against his teammates' disaster.

Pablo Prepares for Perfection ...

Senors and Senioritas and Senoras,

If nothing else, I'm consistent. I can't pick a USA2 team for my life, but I'm hell on wheels in the real event.

Strul came close, but close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades ... and Jacobs was racing a limousine against a Ferrari. It's sad when I lose, but...

On the other hand, I am looking good in the Robinson/Fleisher match-up... Maybe Fleisher won't quit in seven, but maybe he should. A little rest before the USA2 playoff couldn't hurt!

Nickell vs. Welland? Looks like the finals of a lot of major US events... and it's only the semis here. Tough pick. Still, I think all will be "Well and" good. And Roy will have "Ham an" Zia for breakfast! And Nickell will be a "free man" heading home tomorrow.

For me, it's still Robinson in seven and Welland in the Semis!!

See you tomorrow...

Adios!

Pablo

Jack Be Humble, Jack Be Quick, Jack Jump Over the Bull and Schtick!

Good Gracious me; and then there were four.

London rejoiced today when Zia took on the Jacobs team and bested them. Certainly he had a little help from his mates to go with a spot of luck, but as Zia himself would say; "It was all Zia, all the time".

There were reports that he had to cancel a flight he had booked yesterday, but those were unconfirmed. A fine run for team Jacobs and one of two partnerships to end today. Katz and Jacobs will no longer play together. We wish them well.

The other partnership disbanding today is Berkowitz-Cohen who were nipped on the very last hand as Welland got his reprieve and a chance for glory against Nickell in a 90 board tussle.

Strul, like Jacobs performed admirably, but suffered the same slings and arrows. We wish Larry, who is retiring, and David, who will soldier on, all the best.

In the main event, those tiny tots of terror, those pint size preemptors, those small statured slam subscribers are doing it again. Somehow this team which seems to lose before the round of 16, has become the huge favourite to represent Auld Lang Syne. And win they will as the team of three Pro-Ams is withering under the assault.

This marks the first time in history that two round robin teams have faced one another for the gold. It also marks the first time in memory that 9 Am's are in the final. Good for you, lads.

Oh, I am afraid that Zia's days are numbered; at 1 and 1/2. Welland by lots.

Cheers,

Limey Jack.