

Volume 4, Issue 8
June 24, 2010

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations

QuarterFinals										
#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120
1	Nickell	299	16	23	40	29	44	50	57	40
8	Harris	226	44	28	13	28	35	34	17	27
2	Diamond	244	51	39	58	21	42	33		
7	Jacobs	123	16	29	26	9	9	34	wd	
3	Weinstein	271	11	24	55	26	22	34	21	78
6	Welland	197	16	27	43	10	40	28	12	21
4	Fleisher	286	35	35	39	36	56	41	44	
5	Robinson	130	27	8	22	32	8	12	21	wd

Parking Info: Parking in the hotel lot is \$18 for 8+ hours; \$12 for 8 or less hours; BUT there is a free parking garage behind the hotel. It can be accessed from the hotel driveway or off of Zemke Road which is just South of the hotel. To park for free, push the speaker button and explain that you are a guest of the hotel. You will be allowed to enter and park. To leave the garage, simply push the exit button at the gate.

This weekend four teams of Under 21 year old players will be joining us at the Trials site in Chicago to compete for two berths at the Damiani Cup.

The Damiani Cup competition will take place in Philadelphia in October at the World Championships. The competition here will determine USA1 and USA2.

Good luck to all!

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The Quarterfinals Pull to a Close...

Board 67
 E/W Vul.
 Dealer: S

♠ J3
 ♥ KQ63
 ♦ Q97542
 ♣ 4

♠ KQ964
 ♥ A2
 ♦ AT8
 ♣ Q86

♠ AT52
 ♥ J54
 ♦ K63
 ♣ JT7

♠ 87
 ♥ T987
 ♦ J
 ♣ AK9532



West	North	East	South
Diamond	Beatty	Platnick	Jacobs
3NT	All Pass		3♣
Compton	Greco	Bramley	Hampson
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Jacobs was down nearly 100 at this point in the match. He badly needed a swing. Both tables got to 3NT. At Compton's table, without benefit of a club preempt, Greco led his normal fourth best diamond. This was won by the ace and a small club was led to dummy's jack, Hampson DUCKING!! At this point, he could have defeated the hand by WINNING the king and playing a small heart through the ace doubleton to Greco's queen. Greco would have to find a small heart back but the defense would score three hearts and two clubs.

SEMI-FINALS			
THURSDAY JUNE 24TH	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1	BOARDS 1-15
	12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2	BOARDS 16-30
	2:35 - 3:45	1 HOUR 10 MINUTE BREAK	
	3:45 - 5:55	SEGMENT 3	BOARDS 31-45
	6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 4	BOARDS 46-60

At the other table, Jacobs had the same chance. After his opening three club preempt, Beatty led his singleton club. George could shift as explained above and defeat the hand in the same manner.

On the other hand, if his partner had three tricks coming, it was completely possible that stranding his club king would be fatal... and from the lead, he knew Beatty had only a singleton club and he had no legitimate entries.

In the end, George cashed his high club and Diamond had nine tricks.

Thanks to Joan Gerard for her great work with hospitality. Joan is leaving this morning for New York to see her grandchildren off to camp. We will look forward to seeing her in New Orleans.

Beatty announced a pre alert: There will be no unusual bids due to the state of the match. We think we're unusual enough already!

Hospitality Information From Barbara Nudelman

Hospitality for the 2010 USBC is in Suite 1100. Players, kibitzers, friends and supporters are welcome in the Hospitality Suite during the tournament.

Please join us for:

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

Lunch will be served from 2:35-3:45 the first Sunday and thereafter.

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

There is free internet available in the lobby with free printing. If you use the internet in your room there is a charge.

If you need a few items from the store, please let Barbara know and she will pick them up for you.

How To Fix Your Marriage...

After just a few years of marriage filled with constant arguments, a young man and his wife decided the only way to save their marriage was to try counseling. They had been at each other's throats for some time and felt that this was their last straw.

When they arrived at the counselor's office, the counselor jumped right in and opened the floor for discussion. "What seems to be the problem?" Immediately, the husband held his long face down without anything to say. In contrast, the wife began talking 90 miles an hour, describing all the wrongs within their marriage.

After 15 minutes of listening to the wife, the counselor went over to her, picked her up by her shoulders, kissed her passionately and sat her back down. Afterwards, the wife sat speechless.

The marriage counselor looked over at the husband, who stared in disbelief. The counselor said to the husband, "Your wife NEEDS that at least twice a week!"

The husband scratched his head and replied, "I can have her here on Tuesdays and Thursdays."

Board 74
 All Vul.
 Dealer: E

♠ T63
 ♥ KJT
 ♦ 82
 ♣ KJ964

♠ AJ9
 ♥ AQ8752
 ♦ A76
 ♣ 5

♠ K874
 ♥ 43
 ♦ KJ9543
 ♣ T

♠ Q52
 ♥ 96
 ♦ QT
 ♣ AQ8732



West	North	East	South
Compton	Greco	Bramley	Hampson
		Pass	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♣
Double (support)	3♣	Pass	Pass
3♥	All Pass		

Diamond	Beatty	Platnick	Jacobs
		Pass	3♣
3♥	5♣	Double	All Pass

The VuGraph commentators mentioned that East/West could make game with both spades and diamonds behaving, but it might be hard to bid in face of interference. Even without interference, it is a pretty low high card game. Compton and Bramley got to a reasonable three hearts and made four for +170.

At the other table, however, there was far more aggressive action. Apparently Jacobs is going to open three clubs till it works! Diamond overcalled three hearts, and Beatty, looking at five card trump support for partner and well placed heart cards raised to five. Platnick doubled and it was brutal for Jacobs. Diamond led his singleton trump, won in hand by declarer. George led his heart six, West hopping up with his ace. West cashed the ace of diamonds and led a small diamond to his partner's king. With three tricks in, Platnick switched to a low spade and the defense collected three more spade tricks to defeat the contract 1100! 14 IMPs to Diamond.

Board 79
 N/S Vul.
 Dealer: S

♠ AT64
 ♥ 97
 ♦ 972
 ♣ A863

♠ K7
 ♥ AK643
 ♦ KQ85
 ♣ T9

♠ Q8532
 ♥ J85
 ♦ A4
 ♣ K75

♠ J9
 ♥ QT2
 ♦ JT63
 ♣ QJ42



West	North	East	South
Harris	Nickell	Morgan	Katz
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥ (transfer)	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Open Room, Rodwell got to four hearts on a normal auction where he opened one heart and Meckstroth showed a limit raise with three trumps. It easily made, the defense collection one spade, one heart and one club.

In the Closed Room, Harris chose to open one no-trump. Mike Passell, VuGraph commentator in said room, made the comment just before the bid was announced, "I don't like no-trump on this shape. With 4-5 the other way, it is a must, but this hand is very suit oriented."

Clearly, Mike was correct. Nickell led a 4th best club, ducked to Ralph's jack. Ralph returned the queen of clubs, Nickell overtaking with his ace to clear the suit.

The ace and king of hearts were cashed and a heart was continued to Ralph's queen, Nick pitching a low diamond. Ralph led the jack of diamonds to dummy's ace and Harris led a small spade from dummy to his king and Nick's ace. Nick cashed his good club and the contract was down one. 10 IMPs in a close match to Nickell.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in the schools.

Out of mind ... be back in five minutes!

Board 81
 None Vul.
 Dealer: N

♠ KJ9
 ♥ 6
 ♦ T832
 ♣ Q7642

♠ Q63
 ♥ AKQ92
 ♦ J7
 ♣ K53



♠ A542
 ♥ 73
 ♦ A9
 ♣ AJT98

♠ T87
 ♥ JT854
 ♦ KQ654
 ♣

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Landen	Meckstroth	Gerstman
	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦ (transfer)	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Harris	Nickell	Morgan	Katz
	Pass	1♣	1♥
Pass	Pass	1♠!!	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
5♣	All Pass		

Harris was trailing by 6 when this hand was played. Meckstroth arrived in a normal 3NT. Gerstman led the five of diamonds; Meckstroth played dummy's jack and it held. The king of clubs was cashed and the queen finessed. Taking a no cost safety play, Meckstroth led a small heart from hand toward dummy. When Gerstman failed to split, Meck inserted the nine and when the smoke cleared he took 12 tricks for +690.

At the other table, it is unclear why Morgan did not reopen with double after Ralph's one heart overcall. When Morgan bid one spade followed by three clubs, Harris knew he had great heart stoppers, but he wasn't sure his side had a diamond stopper. For lack of anything better to do... and knowing he wanted to be in game, he jumped to five clubs ending the auction. This was a massive failure. Katz led the diamond king won by Jacob's ace. Jacob led a club to the king and finessed the queen. He exited a diamond to Katz who switched to a low heart. Jacob guessed right and inserted the nine, but even that did not help. Morgan cashed the ace and ten of clubs and led a heart to the ace. Nick ruffed with his last trump and played a diamond. Morgan had to ruff it, and play spades for two losers. The contract was down three... 12 IMPs to Nickell.

Marvelous Management...

A magazine ran a "management quotes" contest. They were looking for people to submit quotes from their real-life dysfunctional managers.

Here were the top ten finalists:

1. "As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday and employees will receive their cards in two weeks."
2. "What I need is an exact list of specific unknown problems we might encounter."
3. "E-mail is not to be used to pass on information or data. It should be used only for company business."
4. "This project is so important, we can't let things that are more important interfere with it."
5. "Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule."

6. "No one will believe you solved this problem in one day! We've been working on it for months. Now, go act busy for a few weeks and I'll let you know when it's time to tell them."

7. Quote from the Boss: "Teamwork is a lot of people doing what I say."

8. My sister passed away and her funeral was scheduled for Monday. When I told my Boss, he said she died on purpose so that I would have to miss work on the busiest day of the year. He then asked if we could change her burial to Friday. He said, "That would be better for me."

9. "We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees."

10. One day my Boss asked me to submit a status report to him concerning a project I was working on. I asked him if tomorrow would be soon enough. He said, "If I wanted it tomorrow, I would have waited until tomorrow to ask for it!"

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

Sudoku

"To me, boxing is like a ballet, except there's no music, no choreography, and the dancers hit each other." - Jack Handey

Solution to today's Sudoku

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

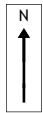
Board 84
 All Vul.
 Dealer: W

♠ AT7652
 ♥ 8
 ♦ K864
 ♣ J8

♠ QJ9
 ♥ AJT93
 ♦ J
 ♣ 9432

♠ 84
 ♥ 542
 ♦ 732
 ♣ KQT76

♠ K3
 ♥ KQ76
 ♦ AQT95
 ♣ A5



West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Landen	Meckstroth	Gerstman
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Harris	Nickell	Morgan	Katz
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
1♥	2♠ (fit showing)	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Landen opened a weak two spades and Gerstman with 18 HCP, four quick tricks and a trump fit, promptly jumped to game. Meckstroth led the club king and the defense took one heart, one spade and one club.

At the other table, Nickell decided against the preempt and passed. Katz opened one diamond; Harris overcalled one heart and Nickell made a fit showing jump shift. Ralph keycarded and found his partner with two key cards and no queen of

trump. He dutifully placed the contract in six diamonds.

Harris made it easy by leading the ace of hearts. But even on a club lead, Ralph is cold. He simply wins the ace of clubs, cashes the ace and queen of diamonds, leads king of spades and a spade to the ace, and ruffs a spade in hand. A diamond to the king pulls the trump and Ralph pitches one club and two hearts on the run of the spades. He concedes the heart ace and makes six. 13 IMPs to Nickell.

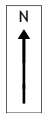
Board 78
 None Vul.
 Dealer: E

♠ AT72
 ♥ AJ42
 ♦ KT83
 ♣ 5

♠ 9
 ♥ Q9763
 ♦ Q6
 ♣ AKQ74

♠ Q8543
 ♥ T
 ♦ 97
 ♣ J9832

♠ KJ6
 ♥ K85
 ♦ AJ542
 ♣ T6



West	North	East	South
Baseggio	Willenken	J. Weinstein	Welland
		Pass	1♣ (clubs or bal.)
1♥	Double	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
3♣	3♦	4♣	All Pass

Garner	Sher	H. Weinstein	Jackson
		Pass	1♦ (could be 2)
2NT	Double	5♣	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

At this point in the Weinstein/Welland match, Weinstein was ahead by 1 IMP.

Looking at all four hands, it is easy to see that North/South can make six diamonds on the lucky lie. No one would claim this is a good contract, but five diamonds is very reasonable. How did both pairs avoid it?

The Jackson/Sher pair plays a Precision Club system. Therefore, the opening one diamond bid only guaranteed a doubleton. North doubled two no trump to show values, generally a defensively oriented hand. If South's diamond bid was known to be natural, North could show a good diamond raise and avoid the nebulous double. At the table, he had no choice but to double again when five clubs came around to him, and settle for a 300 penalty.

At the other table, Welland/Willenken play an ambiguous one club opening, while one diamond is natural but is only opened on unbalanced hands. The one club opening made for an interesting auction. After North's negative double, South was faced with a problem. He chose to bid one spade on his three card holding. Some players believe that this bid shows only three spades and they can bid two spades on four card holdings even without extra values. It is not clear why Welland rebid two spades after his partner's one no trump call. West introduced his strong club holding. North showed his diamonds but apparently Welland did not think five card support was enough to raise. Four clubs went down one and the Weinstein team gained 6 IMPs.

Jack and Howie pick the Semi-Finals!

My word; those Diamondettes played as though they were seeking to pull Excalibur from the stone. The poor Jacobs team was put to a mercy killing and fell on the sword after 6 stanzas. Limey Jack may have to take a close look in person at these laddies. I shall be on the Trans-Atlantic tomorrow so as to cover the proceedings personally. I hope the Clipper is not too delayed.

The two year fairytale run of the wee lads has ended abruptly as expected.

As scheduled the Nickell juggernaut continued unabated. Do we think this team will ever win the first set?

By the by, I took some time to wander over to the All England Club today and saw a match that will be etched in my memory forever. Imagine two blokes going at it from sunrise till sunset with a no decision. I hope the bridge all ends in regulation.

All three teams with late byes looked well conditioned as they gave a pasting to the Commoners. Not so fast tomorrow. Nickell and Fleisher must exchange blows, but unlike last year when Fleisher won everything but the two finals, they will prevail. It is much like the passing of the torch. It is their due. This time Nickell starts slow, Meckwell play the next 7 sets, but cannot overcome.

As if by legerdemain, Limey Jack may have been the only great bridge mind to know that Welland would succumb to these hopelessly anonymous pretenders to the throne. Limey Jack is matched only by Joseph in the history of knowing what comes ahead. Alas, Weinstein changes their air tickets home for the last time, departing on Saturday next.

So the final will be jousted by two fine and honourable champions; Fleisher and Diamond. Only Limey Jack knows the ultimate winner and you must suffer two more days of drivel by that other character; Howdy Doody. If the Clipper is on time, Limey Jack may take to BBO and pleasure you with some live pearls of wisdom.

Cheers, Limey Jack

While Fleisher did well against the little people, tomorrow he faces the giants! He's no match for Nickell and as I told you last Thursday, everything is "element" al... Don't expect Hamman eggs for breakfast in the suite today, Marty!

Weinstein will Sher the spotlight with Diamond today, but Diamonds are forever and Weinstein is not!

As I predicted the first day of the affair, the USBF will be Nickell and Di-ming you in the final.

I congratulate Weinstein on making it this far. His squad did an admirable job destroying a difficult Welland team in the quarterfinals. They have momentum on their side, but Diamond is well rested by comparison and they rate to steam roll through the semis.

Slimy Jack may not arrive in time for the Finals if the storms head out east. You may miss his silly blathering but for me, well, I am still Howie Doing (better each day) ... not Howdy Doody! And I resent the reference to my fine freckled friend!

Till Friday... I remain...

Howie Doing (not bad!)

In Seeding Order

"I had a monumental idea this morning, but I didn't like it."
- Samuel Goldwyn

Nickell	Bye to Rnd of 8	Frank Nickell, Capt Robert Hamman Jeff Meckstroth	Ralph Katz Zia Mahmood Eric Rodwell
Diamond	Bye to Rnd of 8	John Diamond, Capt Eric Greco Brad Moss	Brian Platnick Geoff Hampson Fred Gitelman
Fleisher	Bye to Rnd of 8	Martin Fleisher, Capt Bobby Levin Chip Martel	Michael Kamil Steve Weinstein Lew Stansby
Meltzer	Bye to Rnd of 16	Rose Meltzer, Capt Alan Sontag Michael Rosenberg	Kyle Larsen David Berkowitz Mark Feldman
Robinson	Bye to Rnd of 16	Steve Robinson, Capt Kit Woolsey Adam Wildavsky	Peter Boyd Fred Stewart Doug Doub
Schwartz		Richard Schwartz, Capt Russell Ekeblad Drew Casen	Matthew Granovetter Ron Rubin Jim Krekorian
Welland		Roy Welland, Capt Steve Garner Ron Smith	Chris Willenken Howard Weinstein Billy Cohen
Jacobs		George Jacobs, Capt Chris Compton Marc Jacobus	Steve Beatty Bart Bramley Eddie Wold
Mahaffey		Jim Mahaffey, Capt Peter Weichsel Sam Lev	Mike Passell Michael Seamon Jacek Pszczola
Gordon		Mark Gordon, Capt Curtis Cheek John Hurd	Pratap Rajadhyaksha Joe Grue Joel Wooldridge
Milner		Reese Milner, Capt John Mohan Robert Blanchard	Gary Cohler Roger Bates Shane Blanchard
Rogoff		Bruce Rogoff, Capt Doug Simson Xiaodong Shi	Josh Parker Walter Johnson Jiang Gu
Deutsch		Seymon Deutsch, Capt Justin Lall Kevin Bathurst	John Kranyak Hemant Lall
Harris		Martin Harris, Capt Stephen Landen V. Koneru	Jacob Morgan Dan Gerstman Ira Chorush
Chan		Lapt Chan, Capt Renee Mancuso	Christal Henner Sheri Winestock
Cohen		Mark Cohen, Capt Jeff Aker Greg DeFotis	Milt Rosenberg Brady Richter Harold Mouser
Miller		Jeffrey Miller, Capt Jeffrey Schuett David Yang	William Wickham Dick Bruno Greg Hinze
Demirev		Darina Demirev, Capt Will Engel Nik Demirev	Howard Liu Daniel Levin William Watson
Stauber		Allan Stauber, Capt Kerri Sanborn	Stephen Sanborn Lewis Finkel
Weinstein		Jonathan Weinstein, Capt Clement Jackson Bob Etter	Franco Baseggio Josh Sher Alex Kolesnik
Todd		Robert Todd, Capt Les Bart	McKenzie Myers Gloria Bart
Rosenfeld		Jason Rosenfeld, Capt Victor Chubukov	Drew Becker Eric Mayefsky
Zeller		Michael Zeller, Capt Matthew Meckstroth	Kelley Zeller Cameron Shunta

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 USBC 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.

VuGraph Information

The 2010 USBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting with the Round of 16, in which we will probably cover 3 or 4 matches (there will be 5 matches in the Round of 16). The Round of 16 starts in the afternoon of Monday, June 21st. From the Quarterfinals on, we will cover all of the tables in play. To watch the Vugraph online, go to the **BBO website (www.bridgebase.com)** 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 VUGRAPH THEATRE and you'll be able to choose which of the USBC matches you want to watch. For cell phone logon, go to **www.bridgebase.com/mobile**.

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, who may not have time to respond to private messages. Thank you.

Each day's schedule is the same (these are Chicago times; to see the times for your time-zone, go to the **BBO Vugraph schedule site <http://www.bridgebase.com/vugraph/schedule.php>**)

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

During the 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 match, in which case, for security reasons, they will play different boards.

During the Rounds of 32, 16 & 8, each team will play a different set of 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 2010 USBC. Web Vugraphs are posted within about half an hour of completion of the Vugraph show.

You can usually find the hand records for Vugraph matches on the PSBRIDGE website at <http://psbridge.gotdns.com/bbo/allvug/>, linked to the scorecards you can get to by clicking on 2010USBC under "Event Results" in the upper left of each page.

A man who had been in a mental home for some years finally seemed to have improved to the point where it was thought he might be released.

The head of the institution, in a fit of commendable caution, decided, however, to interview him first.

"Tell me," said he, "if we release you, as we are considering doing, what do you intend to do with your life?"

The inmate said, "It would be wonderful to get back to real life and if I do, I will certainly refrain from making my former mistake. I was a nuclear physicist, you know, and it was the stress of my work in weapons research that helped put me here. If I am released, I shall confine myself to work in pure theory, where I trust the situation will be less difficult and stressful."

"Marvelous," said the head of the institution.

"Or else," ruminated the inmate. "I might teach. There is something to be said for spending one's life in bringing up a new generation of scientists."

"Absolutely," said the head.

"Then again, I might write. There is considerable need for books on science for the general public. Or I might even write a novel based on my experiences in this fine institution."

"An interesting possibility," said the head.

"And finally, if none of these things appeals to me, I can always continue to be a teakettle."

"A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies." - Oscar Wilde

Workplace Negotiations...

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asked a young Engineer fresh out of MIT, "And what starting salary were you looking for?"

The Engineer replies, "In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The interviewer enquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of 5-weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, a company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every 2 years say, a red Corvette?"

The Engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?"

And the interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

"Things are more like they are now than they have ever been."

-Gerald R. Ford

"My doctor told me to stop having intimate dinners for four. Unless there are three other people."

-Orson Welles

Thursday, June 24 & Friday, June 25: Semifinal (120 board matches)
Saturday, June 26 & Sunday, June 27: Final (120 board matches)