

Volume 7, Issue 8  
June 6, 2013

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

# “Trials” and Tribulations

## Semi-Final Results USA1:

	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60
1	<b>Fleisher</b>	104	<b>13</b>	<b>44</b>	22	25
4	<b>Spector</b>	125	<b>33</b>	<b>37</b>	29	26
2	<b>Nickell</b>	90	<b>10</b>	<b>41</b>	23	16
3	<b>Kranyak</b>	169	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>	40	40

## Semi-Final Results USA2:

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	Penalties
5	<b>Gordon</b>	124	27	16	36	45	
11	<b>Blanchard</b>	103	28	37	19	19	
6	<b>Diamond</b>	123	6	25	54	38	
12	<b>Robinson</b>	62	16	4	19	23	
7	<b>Mahaffey</b>	121	48	25	18	30	
9	<b>Weinstein</b>	99	28	18	53	0	
8	<b>Milner</b>	171	30	52	47	42	
10	<b>Aker</b>	90	21	10	35	24	

### Today's USA2 Matchups:

**Gordon vs. Mahaffey**  
**Diamond vs. Milner**

**Howie and Jack go 2-2 ...**  
**Gotta do better guys!**

**Sorry to say but Diamond's**  
**no gem.**

**I'll pick the two teams**  
**whose names**  
**start with M!!**

**See ya! Howie Doing**

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## Knockout Phase...

Board 107  
Dealer: S  
All Vul.

♠ 95  
♥ J8432  
♦ K83  
♣ T87

♠ QT743  
♥ AK9  
♦ AQ  
♣ AK3



♠ K2  
♥ Q5  
♦ JT74  
♣ QJ954

♠ AJ86  
♥ T76  
♦ 9652  
♣ 62

West	North	East	South
Rigal	Silverstein	Milgrim	Rosenthal
			Pass
2NT (22-24)	Pass	3S (minors)	Pass
3NT (no choice)	Pass	4H (tied to clubs)	Pass
6C	All Pass		

Ivatury	J Clerkin	Henner	D Clerkin
			Pass
2C	Pass	2S	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Ivatury and Henner were conservative to stop in 3NT and not even try for slam. Had Crystal made a move, it is still not a certainty that Ivatury would have accepted. He was, in fact, minimum and lacked length in either of her suits.

In the other room, Rigal and Milgrim did very well to reach 6C from the West hand. It is cold on any lead.

North led a spade, Rigal playing small from dummy. South won his ace and switched to a diamond. Rigal rose with the ace, pulled two rounds of trump ending in dummy, and cleared the king of spades. A club was led to the king and a spade was ruffed. Rigal played the heart queen and returned to his hand with the heart ace. He pitched the losing diamonds on the heart king and the queen-ten of spades.

12 tricks and 10 IMPs to Aker

## USA2 ... Rigal Reports

Board 78  
Dealer: E

♠ J63  
♥ AQJ  
♦ A872  
♣ T72

♠ 952  
♥ 98743  
♦ 3  
♣ A965



♠ AT84  
♥ K52  
♦ QT54  
♣ 83

♠ KQ7  
♥ T6  
♦ KJ96  
♣ KQJ4

West	North	East	South
D Clerkin		J Clerkin	
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Denny Clerkin (West) let a heart to the queen and king. Jerry Clerkin (East) returned a heart. Declarer won in dummy and led a club to the king. Denny ducked to preserve his entry. Now declarer had to decide if East had mistakenly ducked the ace of clubs or if West had made the good play of letting the king hold. In the latter case he must continue clubs and in the former, he must switch to spades in case East holds that ace. This declarer decided to drive out the spade ace before continuing clubs. Now West won and cleared the hearts, while East still held the club ace as an entry.

In retrospect, it is probably better to continue clubs. This play does not depend on West having erred. If East wins the club ace, declarer knows that he doesn't hold both black aces (he would not have ducked the club.) If West wins the club ace and clears hearts, declarer can fall back on the diamond suit. This play is probably better than simply driving out the spade ace. East likely would have opened the bidding with two aces and a king (the Clerkins play Precision).

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Board 10  
 Dealer: E  
 All Vul.

♠ Q8  
 ♥ A876432  
 ♦ QJ  
 ♣ QJ

♠ 632  
 ♥ K  
 ♦ T9853  
 ♣ 7542

N  
 ↑

♠ KT75  
 ♥ Q95  
 ♦ K762  
 ♣ A3

♠ AJ94  
 ♥ JT  
 ♦ A4  
 ♣ KT986

West	North	East	South
Harris	Hampson	Morgan	Greco
		1C (could be 2)	1S
Pass	2H	Pass	3H
Pass	4H	All Pass	

Diamond	Carmichael	Platnick	Grainger
		1D (could be 2)	1S
Pass	2H	Pass	3H
Pass	4H	All Pass	

Looking at all four hands, it is clear that 4H is cold. Both the spade finesse and diamond finesse are working. Declarer can hold his losers to two hearts and one club on any lead... UNLESS...

In the Closed Room, Platnick led a fourth best spade. Carmichael must have feared a singleton after South's overcall. He rose with the ace. Had hearts been 2-2, he would have been fine. With hearts 3-1, however, his timing was destroyed.

He had two sure heart losers and he still had to knockout the club ace. East won his ace at the first opportunity and cashed his spade king for down one.

In the Open Room, Morgan led a diamond. Hampson ducked in dummy and won in hand. He knocked out the club ace but it was too late for the defense. Morgan led the spade and Hampson rose with the ace, but he was able to play two rounds of clubs safely, pitching his losing spade and allowing Morgan to ruff with his natural trump. Making four... 12 IMPs to Diamond

Board 7  
 Dealer: S  
 All Vul.

♠ KJT752  
 ♥ A5  
 ♦ QJ82  
 ♣ 6

♠ 94  
 ♥ QT92  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ AKT873

N  
 ↑

♠ 3  
 ♥ 7643  
 ♦ T976543  
 ♣ 9

♠ AQ86  
 ♥ KJ8  
 ♦ A  
 ♣ QJ542

West	North	East	South
Cheek	Martel	Grue	Zia
			1C
2C (natural)	2S	Pass	3NT
Pass	4S	Pass	6NT
Double	All Pass		

Willenken	Moss	Rosenberg	Gitelman
			1C
Pass	1S	Pass	3S
Pass	3NT (shortness?)	Pass	4D (short ♦)
Pass	4NT	Pass	5S
Pass	6S	All Pass	

It's good to know that age hasn't stifled Zia's imagination... good for the kibitzers and on this hand, good for the opponents.

While Moss and Gitelman played in a sane and reasonable 6S and wrapped it, Zia, with four card support for partner's overcalled suit, refused passionately to raise it... or even use an ace ask before bidding the no-trump slam. He rammed the hand into 6NT even after Martel's pull to 4S over 3NT. Cheek made the sporting double. He led the ace of clubs and the king of clubs and the contract failed by one.

It is hard to imagine any situation where it would be more advantageous to play in 6NT than 6S. If East has one club, he cannot get a promotion unless North is lacking the trump king. If East has a void club, it is better in spades (if North has two clubs, maybe the heart queen is right.) And, if North has a diamond suit, it might ruff up. All the indicators seem to suggest 6S is the place to be. What was Zia thinking?

Board 49  
 Dealer: N  
 None Vul.  
 ♠ T743  
 ♥ 753  
 ♦ AT32  
 ♣ 52

♠ K52  
 ♥ KQJ982  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ Q76  
 ♠ J86  
 ♥ T  
 ♦ KQJ864  
 ♣ T93  
 ♠ AQ9  
 ♥ A64  
 ♦ 97  
 ♣ AKJ84



West	North	East	South
Dwyer	Rodwell	Bathurst	Meckstroth
	Pass	3D	Double
Pass	3S	Pass	4S
Double	All pass		

Levin	Kranyak	S Weinstein	Wolpert
	Pass	3D	Double
All pass			

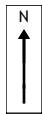
Kranyak's team took great advantage of preemptive bidding by doubling the contracts at both tables, defeating one two tricks and the other four!

Weinstein and Bathurst both opened 3D on the five trick hand in the East. Bathurst was saved by Rodwell's 3S bid. Weinstein wasn't so lucky. Kranyak sat the double with a possible two trump tricks... after all, he is under the diamond bidder. Wolpert led the two top clubs and gave Kranyak a ruff. Kranyak returned a spade and the defense was able to collect all its tricks.

Rodwell is older and more timid. He had a four card major and partner made a takeout double, and he hasn't a lot of defense, so why not bid that major at the three level? Because partner may raise to game and now the opponents can spec a double at little cost?

Bathurst led his singleton ten of hearts. Rodwell won in dummy with the ace and cashed one high club. He led a diamond to the ace and back to the king of clubs. He ruffed a club in hand and exited a heart to Dwyer. Dwyer played a heart for Bathurst to ruff. Bathurst cashed the diamond king and followed with the queen, ruffed in dummy. The queen of spades was led to the king and a heart was ruffed, over ruffed, and over ruffed again. A club was ruffed and the hand was two down. 15 IMPs to Kranyak.

Board 27  
 Dealer: S  
 None Vul.  
 ♠ Q8  
 ♥ QJ85  
 ♦ J987  
 ♣ Q54  
 ♠ 952  
 ♥ 764  
 ♦ AT42  
 ♣ J93  
 ♠ AKT7643  
 ♥ T  
 ♦ K  
 ♣ AKT6  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ AK932  
 ♦ Q653  
 ♣ 872



Kamil	Grue	Fleisher	Cheek
			Pass
Pass	Pass	2C	Pass
2H (2 controls)	Pass	2S	Pass
3S	Pass	6S	All pass

Becker	Martel	Spector	Zia
			Pass
Pass	Pass	2C	2H
Pass	3H	Pass	3S
Pass	4S	All Pass	

Fleisher and Kamil had an easy road to slam on Board 27. Kamil's 2H response to the 2C opening showed two controls. Since Fleisher held three kings, he knew his partner held a red ace. The raise to 3S gave him most of the information he needed to bid slam. If Kamil held the queen of clubs or a doubleton club, slam would be a very good proposition. The jack of clubs would produce a finessing position. Fleisher gambled a little and was rewarded.

When Spector opened 2C, Zia stuck in an annoying 2H bid. Becker passed (probably a positive response to 2C) and Martel raised to 3H. Perhaps, Becker should cuebid 4D over 3S. This is not at all clear with a 4-3-3-3 hand and only an ace. Spector had already opened 2C and he didn't visualize a perfect hand to bid this 22 HCP slam. 11 IMPs to Fleisher

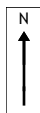
(continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Board 26  
 Dealer: E  
 All Vul.

♠ K98  
 ♥ Q74  
 ♦ Q5  
 ♣ KJ653

♠ QJ64  
 ♥ AK85  
 ♦ 76  
 ♣ A72



♠ A7  
 ♥ JT6  
 ♦ A943  
 ♣ QT98

♠ T532  
 ♥ 932  
 ♦ KJT82  
 ♣ 4

West	North	East	South
Becker	Martel	Spector	Zia
		Pass	Pass
1C	Pass	1D	Pass
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Double
All Pass			

Kamil	Grue	Fleisher	Cheek
		1C (could be 2)	Pass
1D (transfer to ♥)	Pass	1H	Pass
2D (conventional)	Pass	2H	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

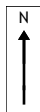
In the Closed Room, Fleisher opened 1C, in preparation for showing a minimum balanced hand. Kamil's 1D response was a transfer to hearts. Fleisher's 1H response showed a minimum and probably denied four card heart support. Presumably, 2D was some sort of investigative bid and 2H denied interest. 3NT ended the auction. A club was led and won by dummy's eight. The heart was finessed and a second club came back. 3NT was an easy make.

In the open room, Spector passed the balanced eleven count and responded 1D to his partner's 1C opening. Now EW had an invitational auction to reach 3NT. With his good diamond holding and knowing the opponents were in a marginal game, Zia doubled for a diamond lead. Declarer guessed wrong in clubs and the contracted was defeated one trick. 13 IMPs to Fleisher

Board 22  
 Dealer: E  
 E/W Vul.

♠ KQJ83  
 ♥ 543  
 ♦ J6  
 ♣ 532

♠ 6  
 ♥ AKJ7  
 ♦ T72  
 ♣ QT986



♠ A972  
 ♥ QT92  
 ♦ K43  
 ♣ A4

♠ T54  
 ♥ 86  
 ♦ AQ985  
 ♣ KJ7

West	North	East	South
Katz	Dwyer	Nickell	Bathurst
Kranyak	Levin	Wolpert	S Weinstein
		1D	Pass
1H	1S	2H	2S
4H	All pass		

After identical auctions, both North players led the king of spades. This was won in dummy with the Ace. Now play diverged.

Kranyak crossed to his hand in hearts and ran the king of clubs. This seemed like a reasonable avoidance play to keep North from leading a diamond through the king. Declarer had a blind spot. He kept North off lead, but when the club jack didn't drop, he was short a trick.

At the other table, Katz played a small club from dummy at trick two. South won the king, but was defenseless. He tapped declarer with a spade. Now Katz cleared the club ace, drew trumps and took ten tricks, four clubs, five hearts and a spade.

It is very late here on the Continent and I will quickly give you the winners of the USA II Bracket. It remains to be seen if Howie Dung will even get one pick right. Give the bloke credit for being willing to look completely foolish in front of millions of folks. All fine teams remain in the duck hunt.

In the main event, Spector continues to achieve apace and will triumph tomorrow. All of the USA II is pulling for Nickell to win so they do not face a bear with a thorn in its paw, but the wee lads sans sponsor continue to maul the better team. At what point will they waken and realize what they have done?

Mahaffey-Gordon: It is hard to pick here, even for Limey Jack. Mahaffey's team is comprised of odds and sods with no firm footing to their pairs, but Gordon is in this bracket for just cause. Mahaffey by a pint.

Diamond-Milner: Four handed VS Milner. Again the Diamond team has solid twosomes but it is approaching a week now. Diamond must feel like the underside of a lorry. Milner<sub>5</sub> by half the size of Howie Dung's bum, still substantial.

Cheers, LJ

JACK

## The Laws of Golf

1. If you really want to get better at golf, go back and take it up at a much earlier age.
2. The game of golf is 90% mental and 10% mental.
3. Since bad shots come in groups of three, a fourth bad shot is actually the beginning of the next group of three.
4. When you look up, causing an awful shot, you will always look down again at exactly the moment when you ought to start watching the ball if you ever want to see it again.
5. Any change works for a maximum of three holes - - or at a minimum of not at all.
6. No matter how bad you are playing, it is always possible to play worse.
7. Never try to keep more than 300 separate thoughts in your mind during your swing.
8. When your shot has to carry over a water hazard, you can either hit one more club or two more balls.
9. If you're afraid a full shot might reach the green while the foursome ahead of you is still putting out, you have two options: you can immediately shank a lay-up, or you can wait until the green is clear and top a ball halfway there.
10. The less skilled the player, the more likely he is to share his ideas about the golf swing.
11. The inevitable result of any golf lesson is the instant elimination of the one critical unconscious motion that allowed you to compensate for all of your many other errors.
12. If it ain't broke, try changing your grip.
13. Golfers who claim they don't cheat, also lie.
14. Everyone replaces his divot after a perfect approach shot.
15. A golf match is a test of your skill against your opponent's luck.
16. It's surprisingly easy to hole a 50-foot putt when you lie 8.
17. Counting on your opponent to inform you when he breaks a rule is like expecting him to make fun of his own haircut.
18. Nonchalant putts count the same as chalang putts.
19. It's not a gimme if you're still away.
20. The shortest distance between any two points on a golf course is a straight line that passes directly through the center of a very large tree.
21. There are two kinds of bounces: unfair bounces, and bounces just the way you meant to play it.
22. You can hit a 2-acre fairway 10% of the time, and a 2-inch branch 90% of the time.
23. Every time a golfer makes a birdie, he must subsequently make two triple bogeys to restore the fundamental equilibrium of the universe.
24. If you want to hit a 7-iron as far as Tiger Woods does, simply try to lay up just short of a water hazard.
25. To calculate the speed of a player's downswing, multiply the speed of his backswing by his handicap. Example: backswing 20 mph, handicap 15, downswing 600mph.
26. There are two things you can learn by stopping your backswing at the top and checking the position of your hands: how many hands you have, and which one is wearing the glove.
27. Hazards attract; fairways repel.
28. You can put "draw" on the ball, you can put "fade" on the ball, but no golfer can put "straight" on the ball.
29. A ball you can see in the rough from 50 yards away is not yours.
30. If there is a ball in the fringe and a ball in the bunker, your ball is in the bunker.
31. If both balls are in the bunker, yours is in the footprint.
32. Don't buy a putter until you've had a chance to throw it.



Al Harper, downhill skis, dishware, #4  
Ed Campbell, automotive tools, golf clubs, #3  
Harry Bates, dishware, Television set, #1  
Roger Weiseman, Television set, downhill skis, #2  
Tom Smith, golf clubs, automotive tools, #5  
Roger doesn't live in apartment #1 or apartment #5 (1) and Ed lives in apartment #3 (3). Neither Tom nor Al live in apartment #1 (4) so by elimination, Harry lives in apartment #1. Mr. Weiseman is in apartment #2 and the man who ordered the downhill skis lives in apartment #4 (2). Roger isn't in apartment #4 since he ordered the television set (1) so by elimination he lives in apartment #2. Since Ed didn't receive the television set (5), the television set was received by Harry (4). Tom lives in apartment #5 (6) so by elimination Al lives in apartment #4. The dishware was delivered to Al (1) and it was ordered by Harry (4). Since he ordered downhill skis, Al's last name isn't Campbell (3) or Bates (5). Mr. Smith doesn't live in apartment #4 (3), so by elimination Al's last name is Harper. Since Ed's last name isn't Smith (3) and Mr. Smith ordered golf clubs (3) by elimination Mr. Smith must be Tom and Ed ordered the automotive tools. Roger didn't receive automotive tools (2), nor did Ed (3), so by elimination the automotive tools were delivered to Tom. Since Roger didn't receive the golf clubs (4), by elimination the golf clubs were delivered to Ed and the downhill skis were delivered to Roger. Since Tom received the item that Mr. Campbell ordered (3), Mr. Campbell is Ed and by elimination, Harry's last name is Bates.

## Answers to Puzzle 8

### Hospitality Suite Information:

The hospitality suite for the 2013 USBC is room 1122 in the Tower building. Players, kibitzers, friends and supporters are welcome in the Hospitality Suite during the tournament. Please join hostesses Lisa Berkowitz & Molly O'Neill there.

#### Hospitality suite hours are:

**8:00-10:30 for breakfast**

**1:00 - 4:00 for lunch**

**Otherwise there will be snacks in the Players' Lounge.**



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

Sudoku 1

# Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

**Answers to Puzzle  
No Peeking!**

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

# Puzzle Page ...

Five bachelors who all lived in the same apartment building each ordered an item from the same catalog. Unfortunately, the shippers got confused and each item was delivered to the wrong apartment. Can you determine each man's full name, what each man ordered and what was actually delivered, and which apartment each man lived in.

Roger, who doesn't live in an end apartment, ordered the Television set. Tom lived next door to the man who received the dishware.

Mr. Weiseman, who didn't receive the automotive tools, lives two apartments from the man who ordered the downhill skis and one apartment from Harry.

Ed, whose last name isn't Smith, lives in apartment #3 but he didn't receive the automotive tools. Mr. Smith, who doesn't live in apartment #4, ordered the golf clubs but he received the item that Mr. Campbell ordered, which wasn't downhill skis.

The bachelor in apartment #1, which isn't Tom, ordered what Al received. The man in apartment #2, who didn't receive the golf clubs, lives next door to where what he ordered was delivered.

Mr. Bates didn't order the downhill skis. The television set was not delivered to Ed's apartment.

Tom lives in apartment #5.

#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
----	----	----	----	----

							Ordered					Received					Apartment					
		Bates	Campbell	Harper	Smith	Weiseman	automotive tools	dishware	downhill skis	golf clubs	television set	automotive tools	dishware	downhill skis	golf clubs	television set	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	
	Al																					
	Ed																					
	Harry																					
	Roger																					
	Tom																					
Ordered Apartment	#1																					
	#2																					
	#3																					
	#4																					
	#5																					
Ordered Received	automotive tools																					
	dishware																					
	downhill skis																					
	golf clubs																					
	television set																					
Ordered	automotive tools																					
	dishware																					
	downhill skis																					
	golf clubs																					
	television set																					

**Answer  
on Page 6**

### Next year's USBC ...

The 2014 USBC to select USA1 for the 2015 Bermuda Bowl, will be held from May 9 through May 18 at the Embassy Suites in Scottsdale. Room rate is \$139 including free internet, a hot breakfast, and an afternoon "Managers' Reception." The hotel is situated on a golf course with special rates for hotel guests.

Phoenix is the largest Southwest hub in the country, so there are flights from anyplace that Southwest flies, with the huge advantage that you can change the date of your return flight with no extra fee.