

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



“Trials” and Tribulations

Volume 9, Issue 6
May 12, 2015

Results:

| # | TEAM | TOTAL | 61-75 | 76-90 | 91-105 | 106-120 |
|----|-----------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Diamond | 316 | 5 | 17 | 67 | 46 |
| 16 | Dinkin | 209 | 41 | 17 | 8 | 30 |
| 2 | Hamman | 210 | 17 | 9 | 32 | 28 |
| 15 | Ganzer | 272 | 28 | 51 | 33 | 31 |
| 3 | Cayne | 252 | 14 | 28 | 62 | 35 |
| 14 | Cappelli | 230 | 31 | 35 | 9 | 28 |
| 4 | Fleisher | 237 | 56 | 21 | | |
| 13 | Ivatury | 142 | 28 | 19 | wd | |
| 5 | Gordon | 278 | 78 | 18 | 49 | 41 |
| 12 | Lo | 233 | 34 | 24 | 21 | 30 |
| 6 | Bramley | 232 | 49 | 17 | 45 | 21 |
| 11 | Rigal | 201 | 22 | 45 | 20 | 13 |
| 7 | Fireman | 251 | 30 | 41 | 39 | 40 |
| 10 | Gupta | 247 | 20 | 30 | 35 | 17 |
| 8 | Mahaffey | 284 | 45 | 37 | 39 | |
| 9 | Borker | 176 | 34 | 35 | 14 | wd |

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See Page 4 for Important Information on Table Assignments

Howie Doing ...

Remember way back when I was the first
To pick Dan Zagorin who partnered Bathhurst?

I picked right back then and I'm right still today.
Mahaffey will leave and Diamond will stay!

Ganzer v Fireman, Ganzer's on fire...
Predicting this match will go to the wire.

Thinking that in the end "sane will prevail"
And wild assed preempts doom Woolridge to fail.

Bramley 'gainst Cayne is anyone's call.
Client... no Client... It's Cayne who will fall.

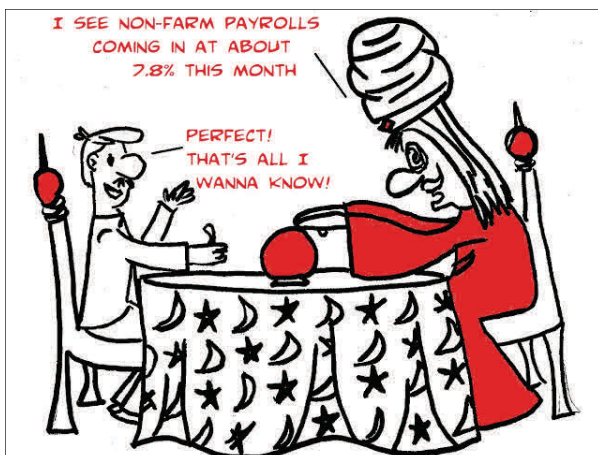
Uday withdrew and Fleisher got rest.
Of all today's matches, this one should be best.

Gordon has Berk and what can I say?
Berk's wife is a hostess ... they need her to stay!

But Jan too remains ... I hate being flip...
Who will depart... is it David or Chip?

Fleisher will fail and Gordon will cruise.
'Cause someone must win
which means someone must lose!

Howie Doing ... Pretty Good!



Limey Jack ...

Greetings Yanks:

The round of eight. This is where the lorry needs good rubber. There were some very tightly woven matches in the round of sixteen but no thud was louder than Hamman falling to Ganzer. They were never even given a proper wake. Howie Dung will be happy to tell you the winners after the conclusion but Limey Jack gives you the goods prior to the nuptials. So here is the straight gen.

Diamond V Mahaffey: Very fine team in Mahaffey's stable but Diamond has some serious battlements. They are playing well and will have the early lead and will not be headed.

Ganzer V Fireman: Had Fireman lost to Gupta there would be a Cinderella team advancing. As it is, there may be one in any event. How can one not pick a team that has a Brady Bunch. Even over here we see that show on the Telly. The Dung cretin will pick Fireman and his laddies, but Ganzer has shown their mettle. Six unknowns advance to the Semis.

Cayne V Bramley: Both squads were heavy favourites and both were lucky to survive. The Irish ends for Bramley. The best player I have sat across from in ages plays for Cayne. Zia will carry them if need be.

Fleisher V Gordon: Fleisher continues to dominate. I fancy that Gordon will withdraw at the proper moment.

Cheers, LJ



Teams in Order by Seeding

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Diamond Bye to Rnd of 16 | John Diamond, Capt Eric Greco Justin Lall | Brian Platnick Geoff Hampson Kevin Bathurst |
| Hamman Bye to Rnd of 16 | Robert Hamman, Capt Ross Grabel Ron Rubin | Roger Lee Howard Weinstein Peter Weichsel |
| Fleisher Bye to Rnd of 16 | Martin Fleisher Brad Moss Michael Rosenberg Jan Martel, NPC | Chip Martel Ishmael Delmonte Chris Willenken |
| Cayne | Jimmy Cayne, Capt Curtis Cheek Michael Kamil | Michael Seamon Joe Grue Zia Mahmood |
| Gordon | Mark Gordon, Capt Alan Sontag Jacek Pszczola | Pratap Rajadhyaksha David Berkowitz Kevin Dwyer |
| Bramley | Bart Bramley, Capt Kit Woolsey Matthew Granovetter | Lew Stansby Fred Stewart Roger Bates |
| Mahaffey | Jim Mahaffey, Capt Gary Cohler Mike Passell | Sam Lev Billy Cohen Brian Glubok |
| Harris | Martin Harris, Capt Neil Chambers | Jacob Morgan John Schermer |
| Gupta | Vinita Gupta, Capt Steve Garner Adam Kaplan | Billy Miller Ron Smith |
| Fireman | Paul Fireman, Capt John Kranyak John Hurd | Gavin Wolpert Vincent Demuy Joel Wooldridge |
| Borker | Jay Borker Larry Robbins | Doug Doub Adam Wildavsky |
| Milner | Reese Milner, Capt Mark Lair David Grainger | Hemant Lall Ira Chorush |
| Lo | Ai-Tai Lo, Capt Jeffrey Miller George Jacobs | David Caprera Steve Beatty Claude Vogel |
| Rigal | Barry Rigal, Capt Allan Falk | Jeff Aker John Lusky |
| Cappelli | Robert Cappelli, Capt Robert Bitterman Joe Harris | Frank Treiber III Jerry Helms Leon Lowe |
| Ivatury | Uday Ivatury, Capt Jon Sorkin | Christal Henner Lapt Chan |
| Denison | Daniel Denison, Capt Jason Feldman | Richard Unger Greg Hinze |
| Ware | Peggy Ware, Capt Greg Humphreys | Spencer Jones Adam Parrish |
| Ganzer | Craig Ganzer, Capt Franco Baseggio William Watson | Robert Brady Brady Richter Howard Liu |
| Dinkin | Sam Dinkin, Capt Adam Grossack | Cenk Tunçok Zachary Grossack |
| Becker | Drew Becker, Capt Kenneth Zuckerberg | Jason Rosenfeld Daniel Wilderman |

By doubting
we are led to
question, by
questioning
we arrive at
the truth.

Peter
Abelard



Nearing the End of The Round of 16 ...

Board 22
 Dealer: E
 E/W Vul.

- ♠ 6543
- ♥ A6
- ♦ 632
- ♣ AJT6

- ♠ KQ7
- ♥ Q97
- ♦ QT4
- ♣ 8752



- ♠ AT82
- ♥ 42
- ♦ AJ98
- ♣ KQ9

- ♠ J9
- ♥ KJT853
- ♦ K75
- ♣ 43

Closed Room:

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| H Weinstein | Baseggio | Grabel | Richter |
| Pass | 2H (pass/correct) | 1NT (14-16) | 2D (1 Major) |
| 3NT | All Pass | Pass | Pass |

Open Room:

| Liu | Lee | Watson | Hamman |
|------|----------|--------|--------|
| Pass | Pass | 1D | 2H |
| 2NT | All Pass | Double | Pass |

Playing 14-16 NT's made East declarer in the Closed Room. Richter thought his suit was good enough to bid so it was good enough to lead. He was correct. He led the heart ten and it held. He continued a heart to his partner's ace and Baseggio returned a diamond. Grabel's had two chances: the diamond king with North... or the singleton diamond king with South. Accordingly, he rose with the diamond ace and when the king did not fall, he played a second diamond hoping for the best. Richter won his king and cashed the hearts, later collecting partner's club ace to score eight tricks for down four.

In the Open Room, Watson opened 1D and when Hamman overcalled 2H, Watson reopened with double after two passes and Liu became declarer at 2NT. Lee led the heart ace and a heart to the king. A third heart put Liu in hand to lead toward the club KQ. When the high club held, Liu played a spade to the king and another club toward dummy. Lee won and shifted to diamonds but there was no stopping eight tricks: one heart, two clubs, four spades, and a diamond.

11 IMPs to Ganzer

Table Assignments Starting with the Quarterfinals...

Please note that starting on Tuesday, teams will be playing in the corridor with rooms 12xx and 13xx, two floors down from the hospitality suite corridor.





VuGraph Information

The 2015 USBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting with the Round of 16, in which we will cover 2 or 3 matches. The Round of 16 will start Sunday, May 10th. 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 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 and you'll be able to choose which of the USBC matches you want to watch. There will often 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**)

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.

During the Round of 16, 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. Web Vugraphs are posted about half an hour after completion of the Vugraph show.

You can find the hand records for USBC matches on the USBF site, linked to the scorecards you can get to by clicking on 2015USBC under "Event Results" in the upper left of each page

No Electronic Devices are Permitted in the Playing Area.

This applies to players AND kibitzers.

Severe penalties will be assessed for violation of this rule.

Please turn off all cell phones and check them at the door.

The USBF reserves the right to wand anyone entering the playing field.

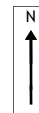


Knockout Schedule

Board 23 ♠ 983
 Dealer: S ♥ 4
 All Vul. ♦ KJT97
 ♣ K642

♠ J65 ♠ AKQT4
 ♥ 652 ♥ QJ97
 ♦ A5 ♦ Q6
 ♣ AJ983 ♣ 75

♠ 72
 ♥ AKT83
 ♦ 8432
 ♣ QT



| Round of Sixteen | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Captains' Meeting in Playing Area at 9:45 AM | | |
| SUNDAY MAY 10TH | 10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 45-60 |
| MONDAY MAY 11TH | 10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120 |
| Quarterfinals | | |
| TUESDAY MAY 12TH | 10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 |
| WEDNESDAY MAY 13TH | 10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120 |
| Semi-Finals | | |
| THURSDAY MAY 14TH | 10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 |
| FRIDAY MAY 15TH | 10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120 |
| Final | | |
| SATURDAY MAY 16TH | 10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 |
| SUNDAY MAY 17TH | 10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120 |

| Closed Room | | | |
|--------------------|--------|---------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Fireman | Garner | Wolpert | Smith |
| Pass | Pass | 1S | Pass |
| 2C (LR in S) | Pass | 4S | All Pass |

| Open Room | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------|------|
| B Miller | Woolridge | A Kaplan | Hurd |
| Pass | 2D | 2S | 4D |
| 4S | 5D | Pass | Pass |
| Double | All Pass | | |

This hand is truly an example of "Why should they suffer when I can suffer instead?"

In the Closed Room, where Fireman/Wolpert reached a normal 4S, they were likely expecting a push. Had the hand on lead held the DK or had hearts split more reasonably, they might have had a chance for a plus score. Unfortunately for them, the cards are positioned such that it was hopeless... still, the cards were positioned the same in the other room!

In the Open Room, the wheels came off the bus. Woolridge opened an aggressive weak two in diamonds on his five card suit. Yes, he held a singleton and a side four card club suit, but VULNERABLE?? Getting older teaches you that some things are just not healthy.

East overcalled two spades and Hurd, holding two quick tricks in hearts and four card trump support jump raised to 4D. The opponents bid the predictable 4S. With Woolridge's hand, one might think he had some defense... a singleton heart and three trump? Woolridge decided to bid again after preempting... a dangerous and often foolhardy precedent.

4S failed two tricks undoubled and 5DX failed three. The result was a resounding 14 IMPs to Gupta!

Seeding Information

The teams in the USBC are seeded based on a combination of Individual Positioning Points & ACBL Performance Points, including masterpoints. The seeding points for an individual player are capped at 65. Teams are seeded based on the average seeding points for the team, except that the three teams with byes are seeded on the basis of their PPs. The teams and their seed positions are listed in the table below. Note that the top 4 finishers in the Round Robin receive additional seeding points, which may change the seeding order for the Knockout stage. Teams may also add or drop players before the USBC, which would change their seeding points.

| Seed | Team Name | Team Average Seeding Points |
|------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Diamond | 70 PPs |
| 2 | Hamman | 46 PPs |
| 3 | Fleisher | 41 PPs |
| 4 | Cayne | 52.13 SPs |
| 5 | Gordon | 43.56 SPs |
| 6 | Bramley | 36.72 SPs |
| 7 | Mahaffey | 30.82 SPs |
| 8 | Harris | 28.54 SPs |
| 9 | Gupta | 25.90 SPs |
| 10 | Fireman | 23.05 SPs |
| 11 | Borker | 17.41 SPs |
| 12 | Milner | 16.00 SPs |
| 13 | Lo | 13.58 SPs |
| 14 | Rigal | 11.59 SPs |
| 15 | Cappelli | 8.74 SPs |
| 16 | Ivatury | 8.21 SPs |
| 17 | Denison | 7.32 SPs |
| 18 | Ware | 5.36 SPs |
| 19 | Ganzer | 4.82 SPs |
| 20 | Dinkin | 4.51 SPs |
| 21 | Becker | 3.38 SPs |



Hospitality Suite Information

The hospitality suite for the 2015 USBC will be room 3321. Our wonderful hostess, Lisa Berkowitz will make the "trek" to Chicago, where she will be joined by Martha Katz & Phyllis Cheek, to welcome you to the Hospitality Suite during the tournament. They will serve breakfast each day from 8:00 -10:30 and **lunch from Sunday-Sunday from 12:30-4:00.***

The hospitality suite will be open for Vugraph, casual chit chat, drinks & snacks during the rest of the playing hours and for a short time after the end of the day.

We will also have a "Players' Break Room" (aka Jan's office) near the playing rooms starting on Tuesday. We will have coffee, soft drinks and some snacks available in that room while you wait for your slow teammates to finish playing.

***Note earlier starting time than originally planned please!**

The problem with math puns is that calculus jokes are all derivative, trigonometry jokes are too graphic, algebra jokes are usually formulaic, and arithmetic jokes are pretty basic. But I guess the occasional statistics joke is an outlier.

I renamed my iPod The Titanic, so when I plug it in, it says, "The Titanic is syncing."

Hear about the statistician who drowned crossing a river?
It was three feet deep on average.

Q: What's the best thing about Switzerland?
A: Not sure, but the flag is a big plus.

As we waited for a bus in the frosty weather, the woman next to me mentioned that she makes a lot of mistakes when texting in the cold.
I nodded knowingly. "It's the early signs of typothemia."

I tried to explain to a client why I couldn't help him with a project that was written in a program code that I didn't know. "Let's say you're asking me to write something in a specific language. Now, I'm fluent in English and Spanish, but your project is in Chinese. Since I don't understand Chinese, I'm not your best option. You need someone who is fluent in this specific language. See?"
He said he did and thanked me.
The next morning, I got a call from another developer asking, "Why is So-and-So asking us if we're fluent in Chinese?"

Humor

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

Sudoku



Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

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

Puzzle Page ... Brain Teasers ...

1. In this puzzle, each letter represents a different number. Can you work out what number (0-9) each letter stands for? The leftmost letter cannot be zero in any word.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{S E R V E} \\
 + \text{S C O R E} \\
 \hline
 = \text{T E N N I S}
 \end{array}$$

2. Graham is related to Raymond, Richard is related to Henrietta, Stephanie is related to Emmanuel and Veronica is related to Marianne. Who is related to Pauline - Leonardo or Winifred and why?

3. ADHERE, BAMBOO, FLIMSY, SHRIEK, STRUCK.
Which one of the following words belongs in the list above and why?
CRINGE, INCOME, MATRIX, NEBULA, ROBUST.

4. Allison is 4 years old, Vincent is 23, Caroline is 19 and Andrew is 18.
How old is Matthew and why?

5. The seven people in this puzzle share the same birthday. Melissa is twice as old as Joan, who is five times older than Sam, who is four years younger than Nancy, who is a quarter the age of Steve, who is half the age of Peter, who is six times older than Bill. How old is each person is their combined ages is 118 years.

Answers to Puzzle:

5. Peter 48, Steve 24, Melissa 20, Joan 10, Bill 8, Nancy 6, Sam 2.

2. The sixth letter of the first name in each pair is the same as the fourth letter of the second name in each pair, so Pauline is related to Leonardo.
3. The second and fourth letters of each of the first set of words are consecutive, so INCOME.
4. The letters in each person's name have numerical values of A-Z=1-26. The sum of the second and third letters of each name is equal to each person's age, so Matthew is 21 years old.

C=8, E=3, I=9, N=2, O=7, R=5, S=6, T=1, V=4

$$\begin{array}{r}
 = \quad 1 \quad 9 \quad 2 \quad 8 \quad 8 \\
 - \quad - \quad - \quad - \quad - \\
 + \quad 8 \quad 8 \quad 7 \quad 6 \quad 3 \\
 8 \quad 9 \quad 5 \quad 4 \quad 3
 \end{array}$$

1.

Breaking News from NewInBridge ... Rumors Confirmed ...

After months of discussions and negotiations it is official: **Lotan Fisher** and **Ron Schwartz** will **not** represent their country Israel in the upcoming **Bermuda Bowl** to be held September/October in Chennai, India. This news may come as a shock for the bridge world as Fisher-Schwartz nowadays is to be considered as one of the world's leading pairs with wins in the last European Team Championships, the 2011 Transnationals, the Monaco Cavendish Pairs and Teams, the North-American Swiss, the Spingold and the Reisinger. Jan van Cleeff, editor of NewInBridge, asked Lotan Fisher to explain this remarkable development.

JvC: Who made the decision that both of you don't play for Israel in India?

LF: Ron and me did after lengthy discussions with our national federation.

JvC: How did you come to this decision? Seems pretty dramatic.

LF: Yes it is. It was not easy for us to withdraw ourselves from our national team. Especially because we love to play for Israel and to win medals for our country. And we are well aware of the fact that as winners of the Europeans we are one of the favorites to win the Bermuda Bowl as well.

JvC: Still you have withdrawn. Why?

LF: Our problem is timing. Chennai in fact includes two world championships: the Bermuda Bowl and the Transnationals. The final stages of the Bermuda Bowl – the second week – clash with the Transnationals. For the latter championships we have a lucrative contract with Vitas Vainikonis a sponsor from Lithuania. So we had to make a choice.

JvC: But if Israel would not have reached the second week in Chennai, there would not be a problem, is it?

LF: True. However, in that case immediately rumors would arise that we deliberately would have tried to avoid the final stages of the Bermuda Bowl. This happened to Fantoni and Nunes some years ago. Moreover, would we have entered the second week with Israel we would have a problem with Vitas because then we could not play in his team.

JvC: So you finally decided in favour of Vainikonis?

LF: Yes we did. The reason is that we have to make a living out of bridge. If there would not have been this time problem, we certainly would have loved to play for Israel, even for free. We are grateful to our federation which did a lot of efforts to find a solution, because they really wanted us to play. The same dilemma overcame Brink-Drijver from The Netherlands, Buras-Narkiewicz from Poland and the players from Lavazza. Besides, you have to know that our contract with Vitas concerns 5 or 6 important tournaments. Anticipating Chennai, Vitas is in the process of forming a very strong team with a good spirit.

JvC: Who will play for Vainikonis?

LF: In Chennai it is likely Lauria-Versace and us. And Vitas with his regular partner Orlanski. However Lorenzo and Alfredo are also under contract with Angelini. If Angelini decides to play there, Lauria-Versace will be replaced by Skrzypczak-Gierulski from Poland.

JvC: And what about the Open European Champions in June in Tromsøe?

LF: We play there with Skrzypczak-Gierulski and Vainikonis-Orlanski.

JvC: You had two highly successful years with the team of Richie Schwarz (-Graves, Brogeland-Lindqvist). Might that contract conflict with your contract of Vainikonis?

LF: Not at all. The nationals in North-America don't clash with the tournaments Vitas wants us to play. By the way, we switched teams in America. In the new cycle (starting Chicago Summer NABC 2015) we will play for Jimmy Cayne (-Seamon and Lauria-Versace).

JvC: Which pair will replace you in the Israel Bermuda Bowl team?

LF: Ehud Friedlander and Inon Liran, the pairs world champions from Sanya 2014. This weekend they won the Israeli trials. The other two pairs remain Ilan and Ophir Herbst and Alon Birman with Dror Padon.

JvC: Anything else you want to share?

LF: Well yes. Something delicate. I know that there are arumours about us. That is the fate of being succesfull. I hear quite some gossips. That the main reason not going to the Bermuda Bowl is that we cheat. I feel very sad about that, because it is simply not true. We were monitored intensively by kibitzers and directors during the last years. And they found nothing.

JvC: A final word?

LF: I hope one day to fulfill my dream: to play in the Bermuda Bowl for my country Israel.


Board 13
 Dealer: N
 All Vul.

♠ 9
 ♥ K94
 ♦ KQJ95
 ♣ T765

♠ KJ862
 ♥
 ♦ T82
 ♣ KJ943

♠ QT4
 ♥ QJ753
 ♦ 764
 ♣ Q8

♠ A753
 ♥ AT862
 ♦ A3
 ♣ A2



| Open Room: | | | |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Rubin | Baseggio | Weichsel | Richter |
| | Pass | Pass | 1H |
| 2H | 3D (unusual/Michaels showing limit or better in hearts) | Pass | 3NT |
| Pass | 4H | Double | All Pass |

| Closed Room: | | | |
|--------------|------|----------|--------|
| Liu | Lee | Watson | Hamman |
| | Pass | Pass | 1H |
| 1S | 4D | Pass | 4NT |
| Pass | 5C | Pass | 5D |
| Pass | 5H | All Pass | |

Both tables made an overtick! Against Richter's doubled game, the D2 was led. Richter won the ace, played a heart to the king, and cashed the K and Q of diamonds to pitch dummy's C2. He led the DJ and overruffed Weichsel's 7 with the 8. He cashed the SA and ruffed a spade, led the D9 and overruffed the J with the A. He ruffed another spade, led a club to the A, a spade off dummy, and claimed 11 tricks. +990

In the Closed room, the great Bob Hamman is apparently scarier as declarer. He bid all the way to the five level, trying for the slam, and Watson still did not double! Hamman made 6 (see... he really is scarier!) but the 7 IMPs in question went to Ganzer.

Differences in View!


Board 1
 Dealer: N
 None Vul.

♠ KQT85
 ♥ AK72
 ♦ A4
 ♣ 62

♠ AJ73
 ♥ Q9
 ♦ QJ2
 ♣ KQ84

♠ 62
 ♥ J5
 ♦ 985
 ♣ AJT953

♠ 94
 ♥ T8643
 ♦ KT763
 ♣ 7



The first board of the second day in the Hamman/Ganzer match provided a swing large enough to reverse the leaders ... of course, Hamman was only down one IMP entering the day!

| Closed Room: | | | |
|--------------|-------|----------|--------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Liu | Lee | Watson | Hamman |
| | 1S | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2H | Pass | 3H |
| Pass | 4H | All Pass | |

| Open Room: | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Rubin | Baseggio | Weichsel | Richter |
| | 1S | Pass | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 3C | Pass |
| 3D | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| Pass | Double | 4C | All Pass |

In the Closed Room, Lee opened the North hand 1S and the master responded 1NT on his 3 count and a singleton. When his partner bid 2H, Hamman raised freely. Lee had no trouble bidding or making the game.

In the Open Room, Baseggio also opened the North hand 1S, however, Richter thought better of bidding and quietly passed. Rubin, not dreaming his opponents had a game, balanced with 1NT. East/West got pretty spirited, but when they reached 3NT, Baseggio doubled and Weichsel calmly retreated to 4C. 4C went light two. 8 IMPs to Hamman and a new match leader!

7th EUROPEAN OPEN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Tromsø, Norway

27th June – 11th July 2015

Organised by the European Bridge League
In cooperation with the Norwegian Bridge Federation

We are delighted to inform you that many players have already registered for this event open to all players worldwide.

Details of the Championships:

Format, schedule of play, Rules & Regulations, entry fees available at: www.eurobridge.org.

Registration

All entries to the medal competitions must be submitted electronically by 15th June 2015 via the EBL Website (not by email) at

<http://www.eurobridge.org/repository/competitions/15Tromso/microsite/Participants.htm>

Please note that on-site registrations will be closed the day before the event. No registrations will be accepted the day that any competition begins.

Bridge players from all WBF zones are entitled to participate in the Championships provided they are members in good standing of a National Bridge Federation (NBO).

To be eligible for participation in the 2015 European Open Championships a player must comply with the EBL Rules & Regulations and the EBL Eligibility Code under the control of the EBL Credentials Committee.

Entries received will be automatically forwarded to the NBO of each proposed player, and are subject to their NBO's approval. Entry applications submitted after the deadline will be accepted only if technically convenient. Withdrawals of accepted entries are subject to the same deadline.

For Open, Women and Seniors Teams the players must only apply to participate in one event. No player may be registered in two teams. The same also applies to Open, Women and Seniors Pairs.

Hotel accommodation

Special prices have been negotiated with hotels in Tromsø (valid up to end of May). All details and reservations are available on the following link:

www.tromso2015.no


Reservation code: embridge

Contact

For technical information, please send an e-mail to tromso2015@eurobridge.org

For logistical information (accommodation, travel, etc...) on www.tromso2015.no or e-mail post@tromso2015.no or you can contact the EBL Secretariat, Catherine Vitry at: secretariat@europeanbridge.org

Board 19
 Dealer: S
 E/W Vul.

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| ♠ 9862 |  | ♠ AKQT |
| ♥ AT6 | | ♥ K43 |
| ♦ AKQ5 | | ♦ 73 |
| ♣ AK | | ♣ 8542 |
| ♠ 754 | | |
| ♥ 9752 | | |
| ♦ 9842 | | |
| ♣ T9 | | |

| Closed Room: | | | |
|--------------|-------|------|-------------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Rigal | Bates | Aker | Granovetter |
| | | | Pass |
| 2C | Pass | 2S | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3C | Pass |
| 3D | Pass | 3H | Pass |
| 3S | Pass | 4NT | Pass |
| 5D | Pass | 5NT | Pass |
| 7D | Pass | 7S | All Pass |

You don't see a 20 IMP swing very often.

In the Closed Room, Rigal and Aker did well to bid the grand slam in spades.

Granovetter led a trump and Aker won the jack with his ace. Aker played a club to the king and cashed the ace. A trump to hand followed and a club was ruffed. Another trump to hand and three rounds of diamonds pitching a heart from hand...

| Open Room: | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------|-------|
| Woolsey | Falk | Stewart | Lusky |
| | | | Pass |
| 1C (strong) | Pass | 1S | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2C | Pass |
| 2D | Pass | 2H | Pass |
| 2S | Pass | 3D | Pass |
| 3H | Pass | 4C | Pass |
| 6NT | All Pass | | |

The defense was done. Granovetter couldn't keep the heart guard and the diamond guard so he pitched a heart.

Bates couldn't keep the heart guard and the club guard so he pitched a heart. Aker took the last two tricks with the ace and ten of hearts.

Note that Aker could have disdained the squeeze and ruffed a second club in dummy. Had he done that, he would have needed to cash two rounds of diamonds and ruffed a diamond to hand. He was likely concerned that the third round of diamonds could be overruffed when he came off dummy.

Well done!

In the Open Room, Falk led the DJ against 6NT. Woolsey could have made the hand on a heart club squeeze. However, that looked remote.

Basically the board was lost in the bidding. At both the six and seven levels, playing in spades is more logical.

20 IMPs to Rigal

Board 18
 Dealer: E
 N/S Vul.

♠ Q4
 ♥ 65
 ♦ AJ642
 ♣ J843

♠ T73
 ♥ KJ43
 ♦ 7
 ♣ KQT92



♠ AK95
 ♥ AQ9
 ♦ QT985
 ♣ 5

♠ J862
 ♥ T872
 ♦ K3
 ♣ A76

Closed Room:

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|----------|------|-----------|
| Caprera | Sontag | Lo | Berkowitz |
| | | 1D | Pass |
| 1H | Pass | 1S | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 3H | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

Open Room:

| Dwyer | Beatty | Pepsi | Jacobs |
|-------|--------|-------|----------|
| | | 1D | Pass |
| 1H | Pass | 1S | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 2H | All Pass |

In the Open Room, Pepsi took a conservative position in bidding only 2H over 1NT. Dwyer, not being vulnerable, aware that his partner could be a lot worse for this bid, saw no reason to bid any higher. He passed Pepsi in the partscore.

Beatty led a small trump and Dwyer won in dummy. He played a club to the ten, losing to the jack. Beatty continued his heart attack, Dwyer winning in hand and taking a ruffing finesse against the CA. Jacobs won the ace and played a third heart. Dwyer, wanting to be in hand to play clubs, won the heart king, hoping for a 3-3 in hearts. This resulted in Jacobs promoting his own heart 8! In the fullness of time, Dwyer collected eight tricks for +110.

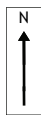
In the Closed Room, things were more fast paced. Lo chose to bid 3H over 1NT and this propelled Caprera into the no-trump game.

Sontag led a club to Berkowitz's ace, and Berkowitz continued a club to Caprera's ten and Sontag's jack. Sontag shifted gears and led the D2 to the eight and king. A club was led to Caprera's king followed by two rounds of high hearts and a high spade. A heart was led back to hand and nine tricks were claimed. 7 IMPs to Lo

Board 19
 Dealer: S
 E/W Vul.

♠ KQ6
 ♥ AQ75
 ♦ AK973
 ♣ 7

♠ J95
 ♥ KJT963
 ♦ 654
 ♣ 6



♠ T84
 ♥ 4
 ♦ QJT8
 ♣ T9853

♠ A732
 ♥ 82
 ♦ 2
 ♣ AKQJ42

Closed Room:

| Bitterman | Grue | Helms | Cheek |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------------|
| | | | 2C (Precision) |
| Pass | 2D (asks) | Pass | 2H |
| Double | Redouble | All Pass | |

Open Room:

| Zia | Treiber | Kamil | Cappelli |
|----------|---------|-------|----------|
| | | | 1C |
| 1H | 2D | Pass | 3C |
| Pass | 4NT | Pass | 6C |
| All Pass | | | |

What a way to win 3 IMPs! In the Open Room. Zia led a small spade. Cappelli pulled five rounds of trump, Kamil winning the last. Kamil continued spades but with the heart in the pocket and spades 3-3, there was nothing to the play.

In the Closed Room, Bitterman led a small diamond against 2HXX. Cheek won the ace in dummy and played four rounds of clubs pitching three rounds of diamonds while Bitterman pitched two diamonds and a spade. Cheek finessed the HK, followed by the king of diamonds, ruffing with the eight, Bitterman overruffing with the ten. A spade went to the king, followed by the SQ. A spade to the ace followed, ruffed by West. Bitterman played his HK which was allowed to hold while Cheek claimed ten tricks for the little known score (except at tax time) of 1040!

3 IMPs to Cayne