

Volume 7, Issue 4
June 19, 2016

Happy Father's Day! Don't Forget to Call Home!

#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	SET #5	SET #6
3	Koneru, NPC	0						
14	Bitterman	0	WD					
4	Robinson	303	49	64	51	32	47	60
13	Reynolds	116	6	25	27	18	14	26
5	Gupta	162	12	35	44	21	23	27
12	Lewis	150	22	33	21	21	44	9
6	Wolfson	235	38	38	45	51	14	49
11	Bell	105	29	22	15	24	6	9
7	Simson	192	23	26	40	42	39	22
10	Kasle	139	39	23	16	25	24	12
8	Mahaffey	168	23	19	27	51	32	16
9	Pollack	182	46	31	31	1	32	41

The Round of 16 Quarterfinals

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VuGraph Organizers
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Suzi Subeck

Photographer
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Local Hospitality Chairs
Lisa Berkowitz
Martha Katz

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Old Times

#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2
1	Hamman, NPC	72	67	5
8	Pollack	44	12	32
2	Morse, NPC	37	8	29
7	Simson	63	40	23
3	Koneru, NPC	33	27	6
6	Wolfson	56	15	41
4	Robinson	40	14	26
5	Gupta	72	41	31

Teams Entered... In Bracket Order

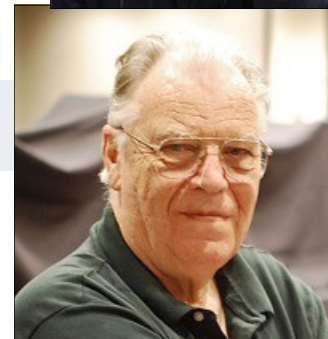
OLD TIMES

Hamman	Reese Milner Mark Lair Zia Mahmood Petra Hamman, NPC	Hemant Lall Robert Hamman Jeff Meckstroth
Morse	John Mohan Lew Stansby Steve Garner Jo Morse, NPC	Rose Meltzer Bart Bramley Ron Smith
Koneru	Eddie Wold Mike Passell Dennis Clerkin	Michael Levine Marc Jacobus Jerry Clerkin
Robinson	Steve Robinson, Capt Kit Woolsey	Peter Boyd Fred Stewart
Gupta	Vinita Gupta, Capt Peter Weichsel Neil Chambers	Billy Miller John Schermer
Wolfson	Jeffrey Wolfson, Capt Chip Martel David Berkowitz	Neil Silverman Michael Rosenberg Alan Sontag
Simson	Doug Simson, Capt Drew Casen	Jeff Aker Jim Krekorian
Mahaffey	Jim Mahaffey, Capt Russell Ekeblad Matthew Granovetter	Sam Lev Roger Bates
Pollack	Bill Pollack, Capt Mark Cohen Steve Beatty	Mark Feldman Peter Friedland Larry Robbins
Kasle	Gaylor Kasle, Capt Fred Hamilton Richard Schwartz	Dan Morse Arnold Fisher J. Allan Graves
Bell	Leo Bell, Capt Rick Roeder Claude Vogel	John Jones George Jacobs Jim Looby
Lewis	Paul Lewis, Capt Mark Itabashi Franklin Merblum	Linda Lewis Doug Doub
Reynolds	W. Thomas Reynolds, Capt David Pelka	Lance Kerr Alan Daniels
Bitterman	Robert Bitterman, Capt David Caprera	Jerry Helms Anne Brenner



For me, the cool thing is doing things that could only be done in gaming.

Warren Spector



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 Senior 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:

- 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.**
- c. **Kibitzers must enter the playing room before play commences. Kibitzers are required to remain until the segment of play is completed at the table they are watching or to leave the playing area entirely. Kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).**
- d. **Except as expressly provided in these conditions and appendices, NPC's shall be subject to the WBF General Conditions, Section 17.**
- e. **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.**
- f. **These rules may be revised in specific instances by the DICs for the orderly running of the event.**

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.



Tournament Schedule:

<i>ROUND OF SIXTEEN</i>			
<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>BOARDS</i>
FRIDAY	JUNE 17	9:45 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
FRIDAY	JUNE 17	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 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
SATURDAY	JUNE 18	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 95 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
<i>QUARTER-FINAL</i>			
SATURDAY	JUNE 18	4:00 - 6:10 6:20 - 8:30	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
SUNDAY	JUNE 19	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30
<i>SEMI-FINAL</i>			
SUNDAY	JUNE 20	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 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
MONDAY	JUNE 21	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 95 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
<i>FINAL</i>			
MONDAY	JUNE 21	4:00 - 6:10 6:20 - 8:30	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
TUESDAY	JUNE 22	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30

Meet the Players...



Jim Krekorian, formerly of New York City, now a Pensacolian, graduated from Duke engineering school in 1974 and served as a U.S. Air Force pilot from 1974 to 1981, achieving the rank of Captain, C-130 aircraft commander. Jim traded options on the American Stock Exchange from 1986 to 2003, was a floor official for 5 years, and formed Blue Hercules LLC in 1999. At Duke he was a 3-year letterman in track and is still an avid runner and racer.

Jim is now a full-time bridge professional and consultant and part-time artist, with oils being his favorite medium for his paintings. He won the Life Masters Men's Pairs in 1986 and Life Master Pairs in 2014., the Grand National Open Pairs in 1992 and 2009, the Blue Ribbon Pairs in 1996, the Open BAM Teams in in 1997, and in his renewed partnership with Drew Casen the Cavendish double (pairs in 1987, teams in 2007) and Senior KOs in 2010.

VuGraph Information

The Knockout stages of the 2016 Senior USBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph. We plan to cover all of the tables from the Quarterfinals on. 2 or 4 tables will have streaming video, and the other tables will have video uploaded after the day is over. 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. If you prefer to use the Windows version of BBO, after you log on, click on the button or line labeled VUGRAPH and you'll be able to choose which of the Senior USBC matches you want to watch.

There will usually be a "yellow" user on BBO called USBF. If you have questions, please ask USBF, not one of the hard-working Vugraph Operators, who may not have time to respond to private messages.

Each day's schedule is about the same (these are Denver times; to see the times for your time-zone, go to the **BBO Vugraph schedule site**):

10:00 - 12:10: Segment 1

12:20 - 2:30: Segment 2

3:45 - 5:55: Segment 3

6:10 - 8:20: Segment 4



On Saturday and Tuesday, when a new match starts in the middle of the day, the third and fourth segments will be at:

4:00 - 6:10: Segment 3

6:20 - 8:30: Segment 4

Segments 2 and 4 may start a little earlier or later than they are scheduled depending on when segments 1 and 3 end.

All of the teams in the Semi-Finals will play the same boards. For security reasons, if the matches do not all start at the same time, we will not start the Vugraph broadcast until all matches have started play. The DIC will decide whether all of the Quarter-final teams will play the same boards after looking at any security issues.

Hints for BBO viewers

Useful information is available to browser BBO users [and perhaps some mobile BBO users] click on the name of the table/event name will provide a pop-up that:

*** displays the BBO Schedule for the specific vugraph event – calculated for the time zone of the viewer's electronic device**

*** has a link to the home page for event**

click on a player name will usually provide a pop-up that

*** displays a picture of the player**

*** shows links to System Summary Forms (SSFs), Convention Cards (CCs), and biographical information**

VIDEO: For those who use the original windows BBO - when you enter a room that has video, BBO will welcome you and broadcast the link to video. If video starts after you've entered the room or you forgot to grab the information, then exit the table and re-enter to see the automatic display. All other users will have a "Video" button at the bottom of the table. Just push the button and click on the link provided.

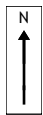
After a session, you can review the Vugraph action on our Web Vugraphs. Take a look at the events currently available to see what we'll have for the 2016 Senior USBC. Web Vugraphs are posted within about an hour of completion of the Vugraph show.

If you are going to be in Denver during the Senior USBC and want to volunteer to help as a Vugraph operator, please **email Jan Martel**.

Board 2
Segment 5
Dealer: E
N/S Vul.

♠ AJ976
♥ AJ74
♦ 3
♣ JT3

♠ Q32
♥ Q53
♦ AJT62
♣ Q2



♠ T85
♥ T962
♦ K85
♣ 975

♠ K4
♥ K8
♦ Q974
♣ AK864

West	North	East	South
Feldman	Granovetter	Friedland	Bates
Lev	Beatty	MaHaffey	Robbins
Pass	2C	Pass	1NT
Pass	3H (Smolen)	Pass	2D
All Pass		Pass	3NT

Both N/S pairs reached 3NT on identical auctions. With spades working so well, the hand is always cold. However, neither declarer planned to play on spades after a diamond lead.

Feldman led the D6. Friedland won the king and returned the D8. Bates covered with the nine and Feldman won the ten and exited with a heart. Leaving himself the maximum possible plays for the hand, Bates won the ace in dummy and

finessed the club. Feldman won the queen of clubs and can do no better than hold the contract by cashing the DA. At the table, he exited a heart and declarer had ten tricks without a guess. On the run of the clubs, Feldman is squeezed in three suits.

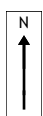
At the other table, Lev led the DJ. Mahaffey made a great play. He gave his side the only chance to defeat the contract. He ducked the king! Robbins won the diamond, cashed a high club and crossed to dummy in hearts. Now Robbins ran the jack of clubs and Lev won the queen. A diamond to Mahaffey's king and a diamond back will defeat the unbeatable 3NT. Alas, Lev played partner for the spade king and declarer for the diamond king. He returned a spade and declarer took 12 tricks.

What happened here? At trick one Mahaffey's duck was brilliant, but he fell from grace by following with the discouraging D5. A diamond continuation from Lev would only be correct if Mahaffey started with exactly K54. On the other hand, Mahaffey might have played a higher diamond from a four card holding. It appears that declarer is 2-2-4-5. Without the SK, declarer might not want to bank everything on the club finesse by leading to the heart ace and giving up on the hearts as a possible source of tricks. 2 IMPs to Pollack

Board 23
Segment 6
Dealer: S
All Vul.

♠ 93
♥ J7
♦ T5432
♣ KQ64

♠ J862
♥ KQT98
♦ AKQ6
♣



♠ AQ754
♥
♦ J97
♣ AJ987

♠ KT
♥ A65432
♦ 8
♣ T532

Bates	Pollack	Granovetter	Cohen
Pass	Pass	Double	2H All Pass

Feldman	Lev	Friedland	Ekeblad
1H 4C (splinter)	Pass Pass	1NT (5+ Spades) 6S	Pass All Pass

It's not often that you collect 1100 defending at the two level and lose 8 IMPs. With a bad suit (a six-card straight flush headed by the six) and good distribution, Cohen opened a vulnerable weak 2H. Bates was waiting...Granovetter reopened with double. Bates led three rounds of hearts. Cohen won, played a club to the king and Granovetter's ace. A diamond put Bates in to draw two more rounds of trump. Bates played a second diamond to Granovetter and Cohen refused to

ruff. A third round of diamonds was played, Cohen ruffed, played a club to the queen and exited with a club. Granovetter cashed the SA and Cohen scored the SK at trick thirteen.

At the other table, Ekeblad passed in first seat. Feldman opened 1H and Friedland responded 1NT (showing 5+ spades). Feldman splintered and Friedland jumped to slam. Ekeblad led his singleton diamond. Friedland won in hand and trumped a club, trumped a heart trumped a club, trumped a heart and trumped a club. Now Friedland led the SJ from dummy, overtaking with the queen. Ekeblad won the king and exited a trump. Making 6S for +1430 and a gain of 8 IMPs for Pollack.

Into the QuarterFinal...

Board 27

Segment 2

Dealer: S

None Vul.

♠ T6
♥ Q63
♦ KQ542
♣ AJ7

♠ J8432
♥ 2
♦ JT98
♣ Q52



♠ Q75
♥ 9874
♦ 76
♣ T983
♠ AK9
♥ AKJT5
♦ A3
♣ K64

West	North	East	South
Boyd	Schermer	Robinson	Chambers
			2C
Pass	2S (10+ HCP)	Pass	2NT
Pass	4C	Pass	4NT
Pass	6NT		

Gupta	Stewart	Miller	Woolsey
			1C (Strong)
Pass	2C (Art)	Pass	2H
Pass	3H	Pass	4S (RKC)
Pass	5C (1)	Pass	5D (Q ask)
Pass	5NT	Pass	7H
All Pass			

Woolsey and Stewart had an excellent strong club auction to reach the cold 7H contract. After Stewart's 2C response (likely showing a diamond positive), Woolsey bid a natural 2H and Stewart raised. At this point, Woolsey was able to find out all he needed using Blackwood. +1510 to Robinson

At the other table, strangely enough, Schermer/Chambers never bid hearts and settled for +1020 in 6NT.

10 IMPs to Robinson

Howie Doing ...

In Hamman vs. Pollack,
Hamman's gonna frolic!
On Oldsters, playoff's can be tough...
And Meckstroth's barely old enough...
Simson needs a little luck,
But at the moment, Morse is stuck.
Doug and crew's come through before.
Look for them to score some more!
I've already made the call
That Wolfson's gonna take it all!
Robinson is very wise,
You cannot put your faith in size.
They're gonna strike a blow today.
And Gupta's gonna go away!

Yours till the Semis...
Howie Doing!!

Limey Jack...

Gadzooks, you Yanks are putting on a fine show. The round of 8 is starting and Limey Jack needs to tell you how to win a few bob.

Hamman-Pollack: Hamman is simply invincible: Pollack had to go to extra times to escape the round of 16 and may be out of petrol.

Morse-Simson: Morse comes in from the cold while Simson has had time to get in stroke. Simson wants it more.

Koneru-Wolfson: While Wolfson has the early lead, the Colonel has the better troops and upholds the honour of the Empire.

Robinson-Gupta: What is it about these Robinson lads? They are fine players all; but refuse to win. Howie Dung will pick them as Gupta lacks experience, but they may have witnessed their final changing of the guard.

Limey Jack will be back tomorrow to get you through the semi-finals.

7 Cheers, LJ

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

Sudoku 1

Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

What's wrong with the picture?

Bridge Base Online - Live broadcast - C 2016 Senior USBC R16 - Segment 5 of 6

Board 15
D

Pollack: 141 IMPs
Mahaffey: 152 IMPs

W Lev
Open Room: 3NT S +2 +660

N Beatty
S Robbins
E Mahaffey

3NT Robbins NS 3 EW 2

jiang_gu (Automated): jiang_gu has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.
p531745 (Automated): p531745 has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.
jiang_gu (Automated): jiang_gu has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.
ronsmithsf (Automated): ronsmithsf has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.
medwards (Automated): medwards has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.
stacy (Automated): stacy has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.
vagabond3 (Automated): vagabond3 has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.
Vugraphzfc: table is asleep, even me, except West who can't go fast enough
sam lev (Automated): sam lev has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.

Chat
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Answer to Puzzle

How can Sam Lev be playing at West and logging in as a Kibitzer?
No certain answer... however, the clue would be that it's Board 15 and maybe play has finished and Sam is really fast at getting online to see the scores once his table is done!
Thought it was funny and made for a somewhat different puzzle.

2016 Mixed USBC

In 2016, the [World Bridge Games](#), to be held in Wroclaw, Poland from September 3 through September 17th, will include a Mixed Teams event. USBF will hold a hybrid online & face-to-face selection event, the 2016 Mixed United States Bridge Championship. The USBF Tournament Committee is working on the details of the competition, but what we expect is that it will be in 3 stages:

1. An online Swiss Teams event to be held on BBO on Saturday & Sunday, July 9 & 10, 2016. Any USBF member who has paid dues for 2016 may enter this event. The exact format will be determined by the number of teams. Each player will be required to provide a monitor, who will sign a statement that the player did not communicate with anyone during play and did not have any window other than the BBO playing window open during play.
2. Online Knockout Rounds of 16 and 8 on BBO on Saturday & Sunday, July 16 & 17 (teams in the Round of 16 may arrange to play their match earlier than July 16). The top 16 teams from the Swiss stage will participate, and they will be seeded in the order of finish in the Swiss. Each match will probably be 64 boards long, but that has still to be finally determined. Each player will be required to have a monitor, who will have to be approved in advance and may have to be an ACBL certified director. The monitor will sign a statement that the player did not communicate with anyone during play and did not have any window other than the BBO playing window open during play. Arrangements may be made for multiple players to compete at a local bridge club.
3. Face to face Semi-Final and Final matches to be played in Washington, DC on Aug. 1-3 (the three days after the Summer NABC). These matches will be 90 boards long. We hope to arrange space for this stage of play at the NABC tournament hotel, but are still working on that.

ENTRY INFORMATION

Entries are now open and will close on June 27th, 2016; additional entries will be accepted after June 27th, but only if those additional teams will improve the format of the event.

ENTRY FEES

Entry fees for this event will be lower than for the Open, Senior & Women's events, because USBF costs will be lower. The tournament committee has not yet determined the exact entry fees. Best guess right now is that there will be an event entry fee of \$240 per team, and no additional fees until the Semi-Final. Players will, however, be required to compensate their monitors and to pay any fees that local bridge clubs may charge if they play at a local club. Session fees for the Semi-Final and Final will be the same as for other USBF events - \$150 per team per session, so \$450 for each stage.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Please [email Jan](#) if you have any suggestions, comments or questions about this event.



Hospitality Suite Information

The hospitality suite for the 2016 Senior USBC is Suite 2612. Players, volunteers, kibitzers, friends and supporters are welcome in the Hospitality Suite during the tournament. Lisa Berkowitz and Martha Katz, being the good sports they are, have agreed to awaken even earlier than usual to accommodate the early risers... Early Bird Senior Breakfast will be served from 7:30 going forward! Thank you ladies!! You are the best!

Breakfast each day from 7:30-11:00 am.-Lunch Sunday through Wednesday from 2:30-4:00.

On Friday & Saturday, lunch will be a buffet served in the Aspen foyer, outside the Aspen Ballroom playing area.

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 play each day. The Players' Lounge (room 1901) will also be open on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. We will have coffee and snacks there for you during play.

A PRAYER ANSWERED

We all know how cruel the bridge gods can be and we often bemoan our fate at their hands. Every once in awhile, however, they smile down on us in a moment of great peril. Board 7 from the 1st quarter of the Ortega - Chagas Open Semi-final was a classic case of their beneficence.

Demuy

Q1093
A10874
102
97

Bianchedi
J82
2
Q874
A10852

Madala
75
Q963
AK9653
Q

Ekeblad

AK64
KJ5
J
KJ643

The auction:

Ekeblad: 1♠ [Canape style]
Demuy: 2♥ Artificial Constructive 2♠ raise promising 4♠s
Ekeblad: 4♠

Canape often has the advantage of concealing longer side suits, thus making it far more difficult for the opponents on opening lead and in the defense. On this deal the concealment actually worked against Ekeblad.

Bianchedi led the ♥ 2 and Ekeblad was, of course, delighted.

After ♥4, ♥6 and ♥J, 3 rounds of ♠s were drawn ending in dummy and then a ♥ to the K getting the bad news. The prospects are now grim. Ekeblad must ruff out the ♥ Q now or the opponents will be able to tap declarer's hand with ♦s even if Ekeblad leads a ♣ off dummy and guesses who has the Q and who has the Ace. With a hint of resignation Ekeblad ruffed out the ♥ Q with his last trump and was now stuck in his hand. His only hope now was to find either the ♣ Q or the ♣ Ace singleton.

He guessed to lead the ♣ K and was rewarded with the ♣ Q from Madala. Nirvana!

At the other table, the auction proceeded 1♣ - 1♥ - 1♠ - 2♠ - 4♠.

When the ♥ 2 was lead it was far more likely to be a singleton than from Q 3rd.

After ♥ 8, ♥ 9 and ♥ J, drawing trump and playing the ♥ 10 and riding it produces 10 tricks even if ♣s are mis-guessed later. Ekeblad could have played the ♥ 8 at trick one and pursued the same line. However, explaining to your teammates that they led a ♥ from Q 3rd and you went down may not have garnered a great deal of sympathy.

For those of you who do not know Russ, he was born and raised in Evanston, Illinois and attended Brown University as an undergraduate and Columbia University as a graduate student. After a 3 year stint as an officer in the US Coast Guard, he returned to Providence [home of Brown University], met his wife Sheila and raised 3 children while operating a jewelry manufacturing business founded by Sheila and Russ.

He retired 9 years ago to pursue the far more exalted avocations of bridge, golf, and boating. He splits the year between Rhode Island in the summer months and Florida in the winter months. Their two eldest children now operate the business and he is blessed with one grandson and one granddaughter.

While flying under the radar, his bridge successes have been considerable.

His US National Championships include three Spingold Cups, one Grand National Teams, and one Open Pairs. In World competition he has twice represented the US in the Bermuda Bowl, winning the Bronze medal in Estoril in 2005. He also won a Bronze medal in the 1990 Rosenblum teams in Geneva and the Gold medal in the Cara World IMP pairs in Lille in 1998. He also garnered a Silver medal in the Senior Bowl in Beijing in 2008 playing for the US team captained by Reese Milner.

He has thoroughly enjoyed his stay here in Medellin and looks forward to attending another South American Championships in the near future. The hosts and hotel staff have been amazingly gracious and the competition has epitomized sportsmanship. He would like to extend a special thanks to Sonia Prieto for her above-and-beyond help both before his arrival and while here at the Intercontinental.