

Volume 10, Issue 10

May 14, 2016

# “Trials” and Tribulations

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## The Semis Conclude

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120
1	Coren	267	25	49	33	49	24	16	23	48
4	Fleisher	278	17	31	43	39	68	26	12	42
2	Diamond	248	24	37	68	33	42	44		
3	Fireman	124	37	16	13	28	14	16	WD	

### The Trump Card

Like the trump card, playing cards catchphrases are a key resource in the research of playing cards origins. The trump card in games can be held in reserve until the player wants to utilize the card to win a hand. In society, the common use of catchphrases is now being resourced as a valuable tool in the history of playing cards.

There are dozens of other playing cards catchphrases that pop up in everyday conversation. Playing cards catchphrases have even spread into professional technical lingo.

Computer science, athletics, and legal professional jargons are filled with playing cards catchphrases.

Take a phrase like the wild card. In card games, the wild card refers to a card that the player can determine its value. In sports, a wild card player or team is an outside factor that has suddenly become included for some reason or another and may influence the outcome of a sporting event.

Computer programmers refer to the wild card when discussing a symbol that symbolizes one or more undefined characters in a text. In a legal trial, a wild card witness is a surprise factor that could influence the case. Every time you use playing cards catchphrases, you will be carrying on slogans that have been used for centuries and originated from the invention of the playing cards and their cards games more than a thousand years ago. Don't let these great sayings get lost in the shuffle.

So even if the deck is stacked against you or when you lay your cards on the table, when you call someone's bluff or say you have a card up your sleeve, you'll be carry on a tradition that will continue to be a part of our society. It's in the cards.

**USBF President**  
Howie Weinstein

**USBF Vice President**  
Bob Katz

**USBF COO & Secretary**  
Jan Martel

**USBF Chief Financial Officer**  
Stan Subeck

**Directors - USBC**  
Chris Patrias  
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**Operations Manager**  
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**Appeals Administrator**  
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Adam Wildavsky  
Tom Carmichael  
Danny Sprung  
Ronnie Gerard  
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**VuGraph Organizers**  
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**Bulletin Editor**  
Suzi Subeck

**Photographer**  
Peg Kaplan

**Local Hospitality Chairs**

Lisa Berkowitz  
Susie Miller

# Teams Entered... Ordered by Byes then Alphabetical

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

## Gordon

Bye to Rnd of 8  
Mark Gordon, Capt  
David Berkowitz  
Jacek Pszczola  
Pratap Rajadhyaksha  
Alan Sontag  
Michael Rosenberg

## Diamond

Bye to Rnd of 16  
John Diamond, Capt  
Eric Greco  
Kevin Bathurst  
Brian Platnick  
Geoff Hampson  
Justin Lall

## Fireman

Bye to Rnd of 16  
Paul Fireman, Capt  
John Kranyak  
John Hurd  
Gavin Wolpert  
Vincent Demuy  
Joel Wooldridge

## Coren

Richard Coren, Capt  
Russell Ekeblad  
Matthew Granovetter  
Roger Bates  
Steve Garner

## Dinkin

Sam Dinkin, Capt  
Owen Lien  
Adam Grossack  
Cenk Tuncok  
Zachary Brescoll  
Zachary Grossack

## Fleisher

Martin Fleisher, Capt  
Joe Grue  
Ishmael Delmonte  
Chip Martel  
Brad Moss  
Chris Willenken

## Gupta

Naren Gupta, Capt  
Peter Weichsel  
Neil Chambers  
Billy Miller  
John Schermer

## Harris

Martin Harris, Capt  
George Jacobs  
Jay Barron  
Jacob Morgan  
Claude Vogel

## Humphreys

Greg Humphreys, Capt  
Peggy Ware  
Sheri Winestock  
Spencer Jones

## Jacobus

Marc Jacobus, Capt  
Jan Janitschke  
Brenda Jacobus  
Bonnie Smith  
Jeff Holligan

## Jolly

Christian Jolly, Capt  
Gregory Herman  
Julie Arbit  
Anam Tebha

## Lo

Ai-Tai Lo, Capt  
Sylvia Shi  
Howard Liu  
William Pettis

## McAllister

John McAllister, Capt  
Ron Smith  
Kevin Dwyer  
Oren Kriegel

## Nickell

Frank Nickell, Capt  
Bobby Levin  
Jeff Meckstroth  
Ralph Katz  
Steve Weinstein  
Eric Rodwell

## Reynolds

W. Reynolds, Capt  
David Pelka  
Lance Kerr  
Alan Daniels

## Robinson

Steve Robinson, Capt  
Kit Woolsey  
Bart Bramley  
Peter Boyd  
Fred Stewart  
Robert Hamman

## Schwartz

Richard Schwartz, Capt  
Chris Compton  
Huub Bertens  
J. Allan Graves  
Mike Passell  
Curtis Cheek

## Wildavsky

Adam Wildavsky, Capt  
Steve Beatty  
Migry Zur Campanile  
Larry Robbins

## Wolfson

Jeffrey Wolfson, Capt  
Gary Cohler  
Zia Mahmood  
Neil Silverman  
Billy Cohen  
Michael Kamil

"One should  
always play fairly  
when one has the  
winning cards."

Oscar Wilde



Board 28 ♠ QT965  
 Dealer: W ♥ 7  
 N/S Vul. ♦ J7  
 ♣ AQT72

♠ AK32 ♠ 4  
 ♥ AQT4 ♥ 9852  
 ♦ AT92 ♦ KQ8643  
 ♣ 4 ♣ J5

♠ J87  
 ♥ KJ63  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ K8763



West	North	East	South
Ekeblad	Grue	Granovetter	Moss
1C (strong)	1S	2C (diamonds)	2S
4C (splinter)	Pass	4D	Pass
5D	All Pass		
Martel	Coren	Fleisher	Garner
1D	1S	5D	Double
Redouble	All Pass		
Platnick	Demuy	Diamond	Kranyak
1C (strong)	2S (S+minor)	Double (6-7)	3S
Pass	Pass	4D	Pass
5D	Double	All Pass	
Hurd	Lall	Wooldridge	Bathurst
1D	1S	5D	All Pass

**Coren/Fleisher Diamond/Fireman**

Both tables in Coren/Fleisher made twelve tricks in diamonds.

Martel declared from West, and Coren led his singleton heart. This made it easy. Being as Martel was redoubled, he scored a happy 1000 and gained 11 IMPs.

Granovetter declared from East; Grue led the S7. Granovetter won the ace and cashed the king, pitching a heart from his hand. A spade was ruffed and two rounds of trump were extracted. A club was led to Grue's ace; a spade was ruffed and a club was ruffed. Granovetter led dummy's last diamond to his king and ran the H9. Because the HKJ were slotted, Granovetter took 12 tricks. Had the KJ of hearts been doubleton with North, he might have gone down.

After a spade lead from South, the best line of play appears to be winning the spade and leading a diamond to the king, exiting a club. If South wins and plays a heart, declarer should safety play against KJ doubleton of hearts by rising ace. If a black suit is returned, declarer pitches a heart on the king of spades, pulls the last trump, and strips the black suits, ending in East. Declarer can now run the H9 and North will be endplayed, insuring 11 tricks.

In Diamond/Fireman, Hurd declared from West, safety played the hearts and made five.

At the other table, in 5D doubled, Diamond declared from East. The auction revealed Demuy's two suiter, and once, Demuy followed to two rounds of diamonds, declarer felt safe in taking the double heart hook to make six.

11 IMPs to Fleisher

6 IMPs to Diamond

# Tournament Schedule

QUARTER-FINAL			
TUESDAY	MAY 10	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
WEDNESDAY	MAY 11	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
SEMI-FINAL			
THURSDAY	MAY 12	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
FRIDAY	MAY 13	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
FINAL			
SATURDAY	MAY 14	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
SUNDAY	MAY 15	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30



# Upcoming Senior USBC Information

## LOCATION AND DATES

The 2016 Senior USBC will be held at the **Grand Hyatt, Denver, CO**, starting on Friday, June 17th and ending on Wednesday, June 22nd. Room rate for the Senior USBC is \$169 per night, including internet. You can make a reservation at the USBF **online reservation page** or by calling the hotel at (303) 295-1234 and mentioning USBF. **NOTE:** The hotel is fully booked on June 20, 21, and 22. The hotel has assured me that when those of you who made reservations for the last few days lose and check out, they will extend the reservations of those of you who are still playing. So please just reserve through 6/20 and we will work out the remaining days if you are still playing. If you have any problems with hotel reservations, **email Jan** and she will try to straighten things out. **The cut-off date to make reservations at our rate is Friday, May 20th.**

## AIRPORT RAIL OPEN

The train goes from the airport to downtown Union Station, which is about 12 blocks from the Grand Hyatt. Cost is \$9 each way.

## ENTRY INFORMATION

Entries are now open and will close at midnight EDT on May 23, 2016; additional entries will be accepted through June 3, but only if those additional teams will improve the format of the event. Any team that is reduced to fewer than 4 players because team members have qualified to represent the USBF in the Women's Teams in Wroclaw can withdraw its entry to the Senior USBC and receive a full refund of the entry fee.

## FORMAT

The Senior USBC will last for 6 days.

The first stage will be a 1.5 day Round Robin. The top 8 teams will qualify for the Quarterfinal. The event will continue with 1.5 day KO matches for the Quarterfinal, Semi-Final & Final.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday, May 20:** Final day to submit Advance Submission Forms if you are playing a Super Chart method.

**Friday, June 3:** Final day to submit System Summary Form & ACBL Convention card. Penalty for late submission of the SSF is loss of seating rights in one segment of the team's first KO match per day that the form is late.

**Friday, May 20:** Last day to make hotel reservations and be assured of receiving our hotel rate. The hotel may honor the rate for later reservations, but is not required to do so.

**Wednesday, June 15:** Last day for roster changes without Credentials Committee approval.

## Hospitality Suite Information

The hospitality suite for the 2016 USBC will be room 2612. Lisa Berkowitz and assistant Susie Miller are your hostesses during your stay. They will serve breakfast each day from 8:00-10:30 and lunch starting on Sunday day from 2:00-4:00.

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.

As we have the last two years, we will also have a "Players' Break Room" (aka Jan's office) near the playing rooms from Tuesday on. We will have coffee, soft drinks and some snacks available in that room while you wait for your slow teammates to finish playing. On Friday and Saturday, we will be serving a buffet lunch catered by the hotel - as soon as we know the location, we'll let you know.





Board 15 ♠ K95  
 Dealer: S ♥ AKJT53  
 N/S Vul. ♦ Q  
 ♣ Q76

♠ AQT832 ♠ 76  
 ♥ Q86 ♥ 97  
 ♦ T5 ♦ AK943  
 ♣ T3 ♣ K952

♠ J4  
 ♥ 42  
 ♦ J8762  
 ♣ AJ84



West	North	East	South
Martel	Coren	Fleisher	Garner
2S	2NT	3S	3NT
Pass	4H	All Pass	

Granovetter	Grue	Bates	Moss
2S	3H	All Pass	Pass

The last board of the seventh segment produced a 10 IMP swing when Coren/Garner bid the vulnerable heart game while Grue/Moss stopped in the part score.

Coren bid 2NT over 2S, apparently thinking it might be easier to play a nine trick game than a ten trick game. After Fleisher raised his partner's preempt to 3S, Garner bid 3NT. Coren decided the better part of valor was to bid 4H since he really had no stopper in either diamonds or clubs.

Fleisher led the DK and shifted to a heart. Coren won the queen with the ace and pulled two more rounds of trump. He played a club to the jack and followed with a small club from dummy to the T, Q, K. Fleisher led a spade to Martel's ace. Martel continued with the spade queen. Coren won the king and claimed ten tricks.

In the other room, Grue disdained the heart finesse and collected his sure nine tricks for +140.

## 2016 Women's USBC

The 2016 Women's USBC will select the USA teams for the [2016 World Bridge Games](#), to be held in Wroclaw, Poland from September 3 through September 17th.

### LOCATION & DATES

The 2016 Women's USBC will be held at the [Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento](#) CA starting on Monday, May 30th and ending on Saturday, June 4th. Room rate for the Women's USBC is \$99 per night, including internet. If you have any problem with the hotel, [email Jan](#) and she will try to straighten it out.

### RELEVANT DATES

**Monday, May 14:** Final day to submit Advance Submission Forms if you are playing a Super Chart method.

**Monday, May 9:** Last day to make hotel reservations and be assured of receiving our hotel rate. The hotel may honor the rate for later reservations, but is not required to do so.

**Monday, May 16th:** Final day to submit System Summary Form and ACBL Convention card. Penalty for late submission of SSF is loss of seating rights in one segment of the team's Semi-final match per day that the form is late.

**Friday, May 27:** Last day for roster changes without Credentials Committee approval.

### FORMAT

With exactly 5 teams entered (4 in the Quarterfinal), the Round Robin is a "Knock-In" event: on the first day the non-bye team with the highest number of Women's seeding points and the team with the second highest number of Women's seeding points will be teams 2 and 3. The other two non-bye teams will be randomly assigned numbers 4 and 5. Team 2 will play a 60 board match against team 5 and team 3 will play a 60 board match against team 4. The winners of these matches will qualify for the Semifinal and will have a day off on Tuesday. The losers of these matches will play each other in a 60 board match on Tuesday. The winner of that match will qualify for the Semifinal and the loser will be eliminated.

The Semifinal will be a two day, 120 board Knockout, on Wednesday & Thursday, June 1 & 2.

The winning Semifinalists will play a 2 day, 120 board Finals on Friday & Saturday June 3 & 4.

**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.**



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

Sudoku 1

# Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

**Answers to Puzzle  
No Peeking!**

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

# Puzzle Page ...

You find yourself playing a game with your friend.

It is played with a deck of only 16 cards, divided into 4 suits:

Red, Blue, Orange and Green.

There are four cards in each suit:

Ace, King, Queen and Jack.

Ace outranks King, which outranks Queen, which outranks Jack - except for the Green Jack, which outranks every other card.

If two cards have the same face value, then Red outranks Blue, which outranks Orange, which outranks Green, again except for the Green Jack, which outranks everything.

Here's how the game is played: you are dealt one card **face up**, and your friend is dealt one card **face down**. Your friend then makes some true statements, and you have to work out who has the higher card, you or your friend. It's that simple!

## Round 1:

You are dealt the **Green Ace** and your friend makes three statements:

1. My card is higher than any Queen.
2. Knowing this, if my card is more likely to beat yours, then my card is Blue. Otherwise it isn't.
3. Given all of the information you now know, if your card is more likely to beat mine, then my card is a King. Otherwise it isn't.

Who has the higher card, you or your friend?

# Answer... no peeking!

**Answer:** Your friend.  
You are dealt the Green Ace.  
By #1: your friend's card is higher than any Queen, so your friend can only have one of these cards: Red Ace, Blue Ace, Orange Ace, Red King, Blue King, Orange King, Green King, Green Jack.  
By #2: 4 of these 8 cards could beat your card, so your friend's card is **not** more likely to beat yours, so your friend's card is not blue. Leaving Red Ace, Orange Ace, Red King, Orange King, Green King, Green Jack.  
By #3: of the remaining 6 cards, your card can beat 3, so your card is **not** more likely to beat your friend's, so your friend's card is not a King. Leaving Red Ace, Orange Ace, Green Ace, Green Jack - all of which beat your card. QED.



# 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.

## Meet the Coach



Canadian Eric Kokish has been coaching the Nickell team since 1998. Eric was born in 1947 in Montreal, and now lives in Toronto with his wife Beverly Kraft, son Matthew, dog Jackie Robinson, and latest addition Kitten, of that ilk). After his Canadian team lost the final of the 1995 Bermuda Bowl to the Nickell team, Eric was not expecting to be asked to work with Hamman and Soloway to develop a viable bidding system for their new partnership. However, a week with them at Duke University's weight-loss clinic (for Hamway, not the coach, much to Hamman's chagrin, as he was sharing an apartment with Eric, who was free to cook wonderful meals that Bob was not allowed to eat) proved to be a positive experience that segued into a full-time coaching position with the team. Eric claims his biggest failure was not being able to convince Bob to give up four-card majors for a weak notrump/five-card major base before it was too late, but the results haven't been completely disappointing. Eric rarely gets to play any more, but most of his time is devoted to bridge: coaching, writing, commentary, analysis, and consulting. His other hobbies are as space consuming as his bridge library – collecting baseball cards and rock 'n roll records/CDs/concert tapes. He was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2012.

Board 16 ♠ A764  
 Dealer: W ♥ A2  
 E/W Vul. ♦ A92  
 Segment 8 ♣ AK98

♠ J95                      ♠ KT8  
 ♥ T987                    ♥ KJ653  
 ♦ T8                        ♦ J76  
 ♣ T432                    ♣ 65

♠ Q32  
 ♥ Q4  
 ♦ KQ543  
 ♣ QJ7



West	North	East	South
Willenken	Bates	Delmonte	Garner
Pass	2NT	Pass	6NT
All Pass			

Granovetter	Grue	Ekeblad	Moss
Pass	1C (strong)	Pass	1H (positive)
Pass	1S	Pass	2C
Pass	2D	Pass	3S
Pass	4C	Pass	4D
Pass	4H	Pass	4S
All Pass			

Bates opened a 19 point 2NT and Garner was a quick 6NT bidder. Ekeblad led a club. All suits behaved. Twelve tricks were easy.

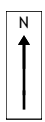
In the other room, Grue opened a strong club. Moss showed a positive response and the relays began. When the smoke cleared, Grue/Moss apparently had too much information and stopped in 4S. Everything worked and the Moysian yielded eleven tricks.

11 IMPs to Coren

Board 22 ♠ 92  
 Dealer: E ♥ QJ83  
 E/W Vul. ♦ AT63  
 Segment 8 ♣ AK2

♠ 5                              ♠ KQT8  
 ♥ AK9742                    ♥ 65  
 ♦ 85                            ♦ KQ74  
 ♣ Q984                      ♣ J53

♠ AJ7643  
 ♥ T  
 ♦ J92  
 ♣ T76



Willenken	Bates	Delmonte	Garner
		1C (clubs or bal)	3S
4D (hearts)	Pass	4H	Pass
Pass	Double	4NT	Pass
5C	Double	All Pass	

Granovetter	Grue	Ekeblad	Moss
		Pass	2S
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Delmonte/Willenken's stated agreement is to open all 12 point hands when vulnerable and 11 points hands when not vulnerable. Delmonte apparently decided to stray from this agreement when he opened 1C showing either a natural club opener or a balanced 12-14 point hand.

The idea of opening a suit that one doesn't want led with subminimum values seems questionable at unfavorable vulnerability. 1C doesn't preempt the auction and gives one's partner a poor picture of the opening hand. Garner took advantage of the favorable vulnerability when he jumped to 3S. This put Willenken's feet to the fire. Thinking partner actually had an opening hand, he transferred to 4H.

Bates was thrilled. Holding three side tricks and one or two trump tricks, he doubled. The running started and E/W reached an ugly Moysian 5CX contract. The defense may not have been perfect, but EIGHT IS ENOUGH.

In the other room, East passed and Moss opened a weak two spades, played it there and made eight tricks.

12 IMPs to Coren

## 2016 USBC Appeal #5 - Semifinal - Coren vs Fleisher

Board	North (Coren)		East (Fleisher)
Vul:	♠ K 8 2		
Dealer:	♥ 10 9		
	♦ K Q 10 9 7 6		
	♣ 5 3		
West (Martel)			
			♠ 10 9
♠ Q 6 4			♥ J 6 2
♥ A Q 8 3			♦ A 5
♦ 8 4 3			♣ A K Q 10 7 4
♣ J 9 6			
	South (Garner)		
	♠ A J 7 5 3		
	♥ K 7 5 4		
	♦ J 2		
	♣ 8 2		

### Bidding

N	E	S	W
	1NT <sup>1</sup>	DBL <sup>2</sup>	P
2♦ <sup>3</sup>	3♣	P	3NT
P	P	P	

<sup>1</sup> 14-16

<sup>2</sup> Clubs or Diamonds or Majors (Meckwell)

<sup>3</sup> North to East: Diamonds

South to West: "I think it's pass or bid major" written note

Lead: ♠ 5

Spade Q played from dummy

**Table Result:** NS +50

Director was called after the play. East said that he chose to play the Queen based on a consideration of why South had not led partner's suit. South's explanation showed that there was not an agreement about what the bids meant after Meckwell. North said that they had not discussed what they play other than agreeing to play Meckwell.



### Director's Ruling:

Since there had in fact been no discussion or agreement beyond "Meckwell", the explanation of "Diamonds" by North was MI, as it did not convey the actual partnership situation or the assumptions made on the other side of the screen.

7 experts were polled. Asked first with the 2♦ explanation of "we didn't discuss it", 4 played low, 3 played the Queen. When asked with the explanation of "Diamonds", 5 played the Queen. Five of the 7 said that knowing the explanation that partner may or may not be on the same wavelength does tilt the odds towards playing low. Some said it tilts it entirely, others said tilts it some.

Result was changed to: 7 out of 10 playing low, making 3NT

3 out of 10 playing the Queen, down 1 in 3NT

(continued on page 12)

### Appeals Committee Ruling:

We heard testimony from the director concerning what was said at the table and the polling procedures. The North player (Coren) speaking for the appealing side felt that his explanation was not misinformation because he was not even aware of a different possible interpretation of the 2D bid. The East declarer (Fleisher) said that given the diamond explanation that the spade lead (in his view) only made sense in the context of South having an extremely strong (AK) spade suit and therefore went wrong at trick 1. If he knew that there was no agreement he might well have played a low spade. The explanation discrepancy was discovered in the post-mortem since there was no legal opportunity for declarer to have the answers from both sides of the table.

The director's ruling was based on misinformation (that NS had NO agreement).

The committee discussed the situation at length. A majority of committee members felt that the natural interpretation of the 2 diamond bid was implicit in the agreement to play "Meckwell".

A minority of the committee was not persuaded that some form of "pass or correct" wasn't a legitimate interpretation of the 2 diamond bid, with discussion necessary to have an agreement (which obviously didn't take place).

Since a majority of the committee members felt that there was no misinformation, therefore the committee ruled that there was no infraction. Therefore there was no reason to adjust the table result.

### Appeals Committee

Robb Gordon, Chairman  
Cheri Bjerkan, Member  
Ralph Katz, Member  
Beth Palmer, Member  
Kerri Shuman, Member



## Limey Jack ...

Well Yanks:

You are putting on a better show than when Lady Donovan left the shade a wee bit aflutter when we were in the sixth form. Blimey, what fun.

Diamond turned Fireman into yesterday's biscuits, whilst Fleisher prevailed in a match that had everything, including a late ruling to decide the match, Coren played much over their heads but is to be saluted. They achieved near bridge nirvana.

Diamond-Fleisher: In a final between two fine teams, Limey Jack will tell you the difference; adrenaline. Fleisher had many highs and lows last night, while Diamond was feasting on Yorkshire pudding. The intensity factor will turn the tide in Diamond's favour and Fleisher will have a useless second sitting. Howie Dung will certainly run afoul of the odds makers here.

Limey Jack has been pleased to have spent this time with his favorite subjects.

Cheers, L.J.

## Howie Doing ...

I think it's so sad,  
It's truly a pity,  
That so many rulings  
End up in committee.

Here are my thoughts.  
Not knowing who's in  
Whoever plays Diamond  
Is going to win!

Trust my predictions.  
I know what I say.  
Jack knows far less  
And I like it that way!

Till the Women's... I remain... the Great Howie... Doing!