

Volume 8, Issue 6
May 21, 2017

Results: USA2 R of 16

Team Name	Total	5	9	7	6	8	BYE
5. Lewis	58.50		6.03	12.55	15.74	14.18	10.00
9. Falk	46.84	13.97		12.03	4.26	16.58	
7. Pollack	45.14	7.45	7.97		11.20	8.52	10.00
6. Mahaffey	36.16	4.26	15.74	8.80		4.81	
8. Wolfson	35.91	5.82	3.42	11.48	15.19		

USA1 Semi-Finals 2/3 Way Through

1	Cappelli	69.24	12.24	5	37	13	2
4	Wold	161		54	21	47	39
2	Hamman, NPC	132.67	8.67	23	26	41	34
3	Gupta	80		39	24	5	12

Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10	10	21	15.19	4.81	42	18.33	1.67
1	10.31	9.69	22	15.38	4.62	43	18.44	1.56
2	10.61	9.39	23	15.56	4.44	44	18.55	1.45
3	10.91	9.09	24	15.74	4.26	45	18.66	1.34
4	11.20	8.80	25	15.92	4.08	46	18.77	1.23
5	11.48	8.52	26	16.09	3.91	47	18.87	1.13
6	11.76	8.24	27	16.26	3.74	48	18.97	1.03
7	12.03	7.97	28	16.42	3.58	49	19.07	0.93
8	12.29	7.71	29	16.58	3.42	50	19.16	0.84
9	12.55	7.45	30	16.73	3.27	51	19.25	0.75
10	12.80	7.20	31	16.88	3.12	52	19.34	0.66
11	13.04	6.96	32	17.03	2.97	53	19.43	0.57
12	13.28	6.72	33	17.17	2.83	54	19.52	0.48
13	13.52	6.48	34	17.31	2.69	55	19.61	0.39
14	13.75	6.25	35	17.45	2.55	56	19.69	0.31
15	13.97	6.03	36	17.59	2.41	57	19.77	0.23
16	14.18	5.82	37	17.72	2.28	58	19.85	0.15
17	14.39	5.61	38	17.85	2.15	59	19.93	0.07
18	14.60	5.40	39	17.97	2.03	60	20	0
19	14.80	5.20	40	18.09	1.91			
20	15.00	5.00	41	18.21	1.79			

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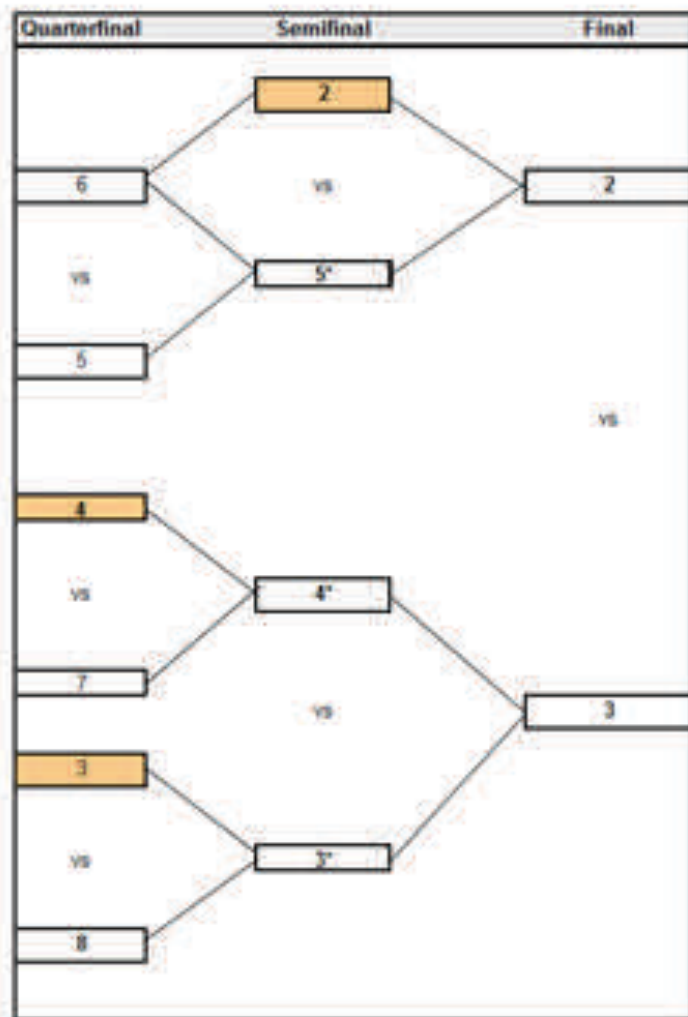
Martha Katz

2017 USSBC Teams listed in seeding point order

Hamman, NPC	Hemant Lall Zia Mahmood Robert Hamman	Reese Milner Steve Garner Bart Bramley
Wolfson	Jeffrey Wolfson, Capt David Berkowitz Michael Becker	Neil Silverman Alan Sontag Allan Graves
Wold	Eddie Wold, Capt Marc Jacobus Dennis Clerkin	Michael Levine Mike Passell Jerry Clerkin
Gupta	Vinita Gupta, Capt Kit Woolsey Steve Robinson	Billy Miller Fred Stewart Peter Boyd
Mahaffey	Jim Mahaffey, Capt Neil Chambers Matthew Granovetter	Sam Lev John Schermer Roger Bates
Lewis	Paul Lewis, Capt Jim Krekorian	Linda Lewis Drew Casen Mark Itabashi
Falk	Allan Falk, Capt Doug Simson Glenn Eisenstein	Jeff Aker John Lusky John Rengstorff
Pollack	Bill Pollack, Capt Mark Feldman Larry Robbins	Ron Rubin Mark Cohen Steve Beatty
Cappelli	Robert Cappelli, Capt David Caprera	Robert Bitterman Anne Brenner
Reynolds	W. Thomas Reynolds, Capt William Hall Sally Woolsey	Lance Kerr Brenda Jacobus

Just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn't mean he lacks vision.

Stevie Wonder



USA2 Bracket Sheet

<i>ROUND ROBIN</i>			
<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>BOARDS</i>
WEDNESDAY	MAY 17	9:45 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING IN ROOM 1321
WEDNESDAY	MAY 17	10:00 - 11:20 11:30 - 12:50 1:00 - 2:20 3:45 - 5:05 5:15 - 6:35 6:45 - 8:10	BOARDS 1 - 9 BOARDS 10 - 18 BOARDS 19 - 27 85 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK BOARDS 1 - 9 BOARDS 10 - 18 BOARDS 19 - 27
THURSDAY	MAY 18	10:00 - 11:20 11:30 - 12:50 1:00 - 2:20	BOARDS 1 - 9 BOARDS 10 - 18 BOARDS 19 - 27 100 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
* THE FINAL 2 MATCHES ARE SEQUESTERED - ONE PAIR ON EACH TEAM MUST PLAY BOTH MATCHES & MUST REMAIN IN THE CLOSED ROOM FOR BOTH MATCHES. NO SCORE COMPARISON ALLOWED.			
<i>QUARTERFINAL & USA2 ROUND OF 32 (KO ON SAME SCHEDULE)</i>			
THURSDAY	MAY 18	4:00 - 6:10 6:20 - 8:30	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
FRIDAY	MAY 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>SEMIFINAL & USA2 ROUND OF 16 (SCHEDULE SOON)</i>			
SATURDAY	MAY 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
SUNDAY	MAY 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 & USA2 QUARTERFINAL (6 USA2 TEAMS)</i>			
SUNDAY	MAY 21	4:00 - 6:10 6:20 - 8:30	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
MONDAY	MAY 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
<i>USA2 SEMIFINAL</i>			
TUESDAY	MAY 23	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 24	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 95 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
<i>USA2 FINAL</i>			
WEDNESDAY	MAY 24	4:00 - 6:10 6:20 - 8:30	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
THURSDAY	MAY 25	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

Tournament Schedule

Hospitality Suite

The hospitality suite for the 2017 Senior USBC is Suite 2321, on the level above the playing rooms. Players, volunteers, kibitzers, friends and supporters are welcome in the Hospitality Suite during the tournament. Please join hostesses Susie Miller, Lisa Berkowitz & Martha Katz for: Breakfast each day from 8:00-10:30 am.

Lunch Friday through Tuesday from 1:30-4:00.

Wednesday & Thursday, lunch will be a buffet served in the hotel restaurant.

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 1321) will also be open throughout the tournament. We will have coffee and snacks there during play.



ALERT!
On many of the boards,
cards slide between pockets
when being carried.
Please count
your cards on
every hand!

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.



Late Night Lecture

An elderly man driving erratically was stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and was asked where he was going at that time of night.

The man replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer then asked, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"

The man replied, "That would be my wife."



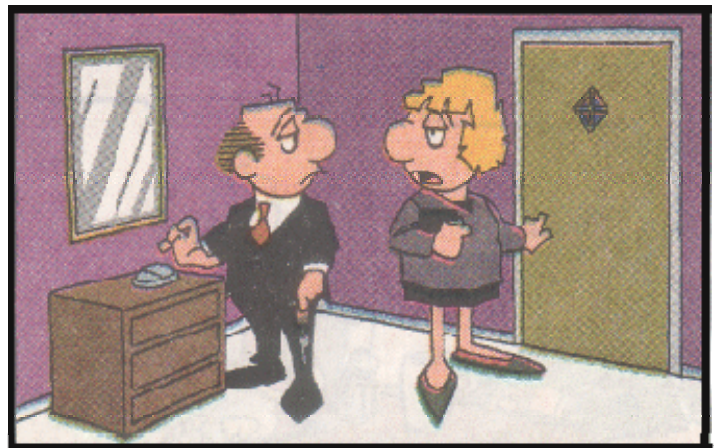
© Dave Coppermer

"...and just when I had begun to understand Medicare, Part D."

At the Salon

I overheard the receptionist admit to another customer, "I haven't taken my vitamins today. I'm walking around unprotected."

The customer commiserated with her, but then added, "I haven't taken my Prozac today—*everyone's* walking around unprotected."



"Leave the cell phone . . . if it rings, people will see you don't know how to answer it."

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

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

Medium Sudoku

Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Top

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

Bottom

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



Puzzle Page ...

The local bagel shop is a busy place first thing in the morning as people get their coffee and bagels on the way to work. For these five regular customers, the bagel shop stop is a routine part of every morning. Each gets a medium coffee and a bagel to go. While they do occasionally change the flavors or toppings of the coffee or bagel, today each ordered their favorite combination. Determine the full name of each customer (one has the last name of Manor), the flavor of the coffee and bagel each bought, and what topping each ordered on the bagel.

1. Joe liked his coffee plain, but not his bagel. Mr. White didn't buy a cinnamon bagel nor did he buy a hazelnut coffee.
2. Karl, whose last name wasn't Smith, didn't get a cheddar bagel but did have peanut butter on his bagel. Mr. Smith didn't order his bagel with cream cheese.
3. The man who ordered the French vanilla coffee also had a bagel with egg and bacon on it. The onion bagel wasn't ordered by Mike, whose last name wasn't Russell.
4. Zachary White didn't order his bagel with butter. Mr. Bartley, whose first name wasn't Karl, ordered a Columbian coffee. The one with the hazelnut coffee ordered his bagel plain.
5. The man whose last name is Russell got a sesame bagel. Allen didn't get the cinnamon bagel with butter.
6. The man who got amaretto coffee also got a whole grain bagel. Allen, whose last name isn't Bartley, ordered an onion bagel, but not with egg and bacon.

	Bartley	Manor	Russell	Smith	White	Amaretto	Columbian	French vanilla	Hazelnut	Plain	Cheddar	Cinnamon	Onion	Sesame	Whole grain	Butter	Cream cheese	Egg & bacon	Peanut butter	Plain	
Allen																					
Joe																					
Karl																					
Mike																					
Zachary																					
Butter																					
Cream cheese																					
Egg & bacon																					
Peanut butter																					
Plain																					
Cheddar																					
Cinnamon																					
Onion																					
Sesame																					
Whole grain																					
Amaretto																					
Columbian																					
French vanilla																					
Hazelnut																					
Plain																					

Puzzle

Answer:

First Name	Last Name	Coffee Flavor	Bagel Flavor	Bagel Topping
Allen	Smith	Hazelnut	Onion	Plain
Joe	Russell	Plain	Sesame	Cream cheese
Karl	Manor	Amaretto	Whole grain	Peanut butter
Mike	Bartley	Columbian	Cinnamon	Butter
Zachary	White	French vanilla	Cheddar	Egg & bacon

Meet the Players:



In his book, “The Bridge Bum,” Alan Sontag wrote the following: “Thirty million people play the game in this country alone, but few of them have any idea what life – and bridge – is for the ‘internationalists,’ those rare few who have achieved world-class status in a sport that is one of the most intellectually demanding and rewarding on earth. The champion’s way of life, and especially his expertise, is vastly different from that of the suburbanite who plays social bridge with friends on Saturday night. It can be exciting and lucrative, but there is no security.”

That book was published 30 years ago, and Sontag must have made a lot of right moves over the years because he is still one of the top bridge players in the world and successful, full-time player.

Now a resident of Gaithersburg MD, Sontag has a trophy chest filled with honors and championships, most recently the Rosenblum Cup, which he earned as part of the Rose Meltzer team at the World Bridge Championships in Verona, Italy.

His bridge accomplishments are the stuff of legend.

In 1973, he and Steve Altman became the first Americans to win the Sunday Times Invitational, at the time the toughest and most esteemed invitational tournament in the world. Two years later, Sontag returned to London and won the tournament again, this time with Peter Weichsel, with whom he would have a long and successful run of bridge achievements.

The two were partners in 1983 in Stockholm, Sweden, when the USA defeated the vaunted Italian team in one of the most exciting Bermuda Bowls in the history of the event. He returned to the final of the Bermuda Bowl in 2001 in Paris to help Rose Meltzer become the first woman ever to win that championship.

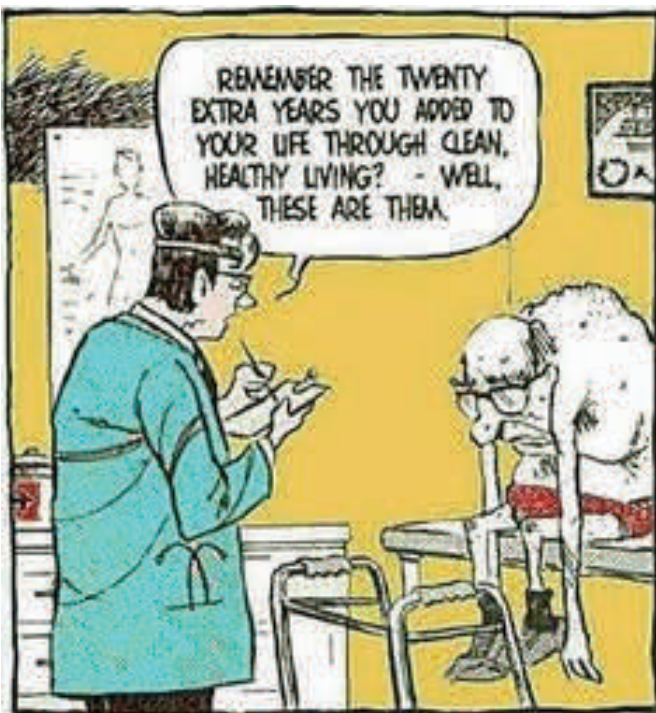
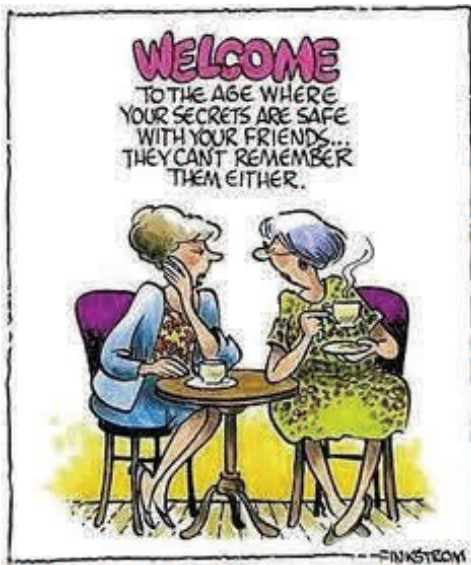
Known for his lightning-fast play, Sontag seems brimming over with energy nearly all the time. Still in his prime as a player, Sontag has an impressive list of victories and achievements in high-level bridge competition, including two victories in the Cavendish Invitational Pairs.

He is an ACBL Grand Life Master with more than 28,000 masterpoints to his credit. He is a World Bridge Open Grand Life Master and is ranked 23rd by the WBF among the top players in the world. Besides the Bermuda Bowl victories, Sontag has won the World Transnational Open Teams (2000) and the World Senior Team Championship (2005).

He has won the Vanderbilt Cup three times (1972, 1988 and 1999), the Reisinger Trophy in 1973 and the Spingold Trophy in 1980, 1982 and 2000.

Other victories in the NABC + category include winning the Men’s Teams in 1971 and 1979; the Life Master Men’s Pairs in 1971; the Life Master Pairs in 1977; the Men’s Swiss Teams in 1985 and 1987; the Master Mixed Teams in 1989; the Grand National Open Teams in 1994 and the Open B-A-M Teams in 2001.

Besides his aforementioned highly acclaimed book, Sontag has written “Power Precision” and is co-author of “Improve Your Bridge Fast.”



In yesterday's Bulletin on page 13, Board 13 was misreported. David Berkowitz, not Alan Sontag, was declarer. David had responded 1D to 1 strong, artificial club, and became declarer at his table. Only the print version is inaccurate. The online version has been corrected. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Ed.

Off and Running...

Board 1	♠ KQ8		
Dealer: N	♥ A73		
None Vul.	♦ QT32		
	♣ J32		
♠ J54		♠ 932	
♥ KQJ965		♥ T84	
♦ J6		♦ A85	
♣ 74		♣ KT65	
	♠ AT76		
	♥ 2		
	♦ K974		
	♣ AQ98		



Closed Room				Cappelli/Wold
West	North	East	South	
Passell	Caprera	Jacobus	Brenner	
	1D (could be 2)	Pass	1S	
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT	
Pass	3C	Pass	3D	
Pass	3H	Pass	3S	
Pass	4S	All Pass		
Open Room				
Bitterman	J Clerkin	Cappelli	D Clerkin	
	1D (could be 2)	Pass	1S	
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

In the Open Room of both matches, the bidding was identical and the opening lead was a fourth best club. Miller misguessed the DJ and took ten tricks. Jerry Clerkin guessed the diamond correctly and took an even dozen.

If West overcalls hearts, declarer might find it harder to play in 3NT, however, it can succeed by ducking two rounds of hearts because the heart bidder has no entries.

In the Closed Room of the Hamman/Gupta match, Woolsey did overcall 2H. Stewart raised. Garner/Zia decided to play in diamonds. 5D would be easy, but 6D required good timing and good guess in diamonds. Garner misguessed the DJ and went light one trick. 10 IMPs to Gupta

Closed Room				Hamman/Gupta
West	North	East	South	
Woolsey	Garner	Stewart	Zia	
	1D	Pass	1S	
2H	Double	3H	4H	
Pass	4S	Pass	5D	
Pass	5S	Pass	6D	
All Pass				
Open Room				
Milner	Miller	Lall	Gupta	
	1D	Pass	1S	
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	
All Pass				

In the Closed Room of Cappelli/Wold, Caprera/Brenner diagnosed their heart deficiency. Accordingly, they avoided 3NT and played in game in their Moysian spade fit. Here again, with a correct diamond guess, 4S is easy since trumps are 3-3 and the clubs behave. Unfortunately for Brenner, she misguessed the diamond and went light one. 11 IMPs to Wold

Board 5 ♠ 9742
 Dealer: N ♥ 9
 N/S Vul. ♦ AQJ5
 ♣ K865

♠ AJ ♠ KQT
 ♥ AJ8542 ♥ KQT
 ♦ K4 ♦ 973
 ♣ QJ4 ♣ AT73

♠ 8653
 ♥ 763
 ♦ T862
 ♣ 92



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Bitterman	J Clerkin	Cappelli	D Clerkin
	Pass	1NT (15-17)	Pass
2D (transfer)	Pass	2H	Pass
3C	Pass	3H	Pass
3S	Pass	4C	Pass
4D	Pass	4H	Pass
4NT	Pass	5S	Pass
6H	All Pass		

Cappelli/Wold

In Hamman/Gupta, both tables played below slam in hearts from West. Against 5H in the Open Room, Miller led the DA and held declarer to 12 tricks. This was a case of lead it or lose it.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Passell	Caprera	Jacobus	Brenner
	Pass	1NT(14-16)	Pass
2D (transfer)	Pass	2H	Pass
4H	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Garner led a second best spade, and Woolsey was able to discard one diamond on spades and squeeze Garner in clubs and diamonds to take 13 tricks. 1 IMP to Gupta

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Miller	Lall	Gupta
	Pass	1NT	Pass
4D (transfer)	Double	Pass	Pass
5H	All Pass		

Hamman/Gupta

In Cappelli/Wold, hearts was declared by East in both rooms.

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Garner	Stewart	Zia
	Pass	1D (could be 2)	Pass
1H	Double	Redouble (supp)	1S
2S	Pass	2NT	Pass
3H	Pass	4C	Pass
4D	Pass	4H	All Pass

In the Closed Room, in game, Jacobus took 12 tricks on a club lead.

In the Open Room, Cappelli/Bitterman bid the slam. It's ironic that Cappelli chose this 14 count to open a 15-17 NT.

Had he simply opened 1C, his partner would have responded 1H and if they reached slam, it would be ice with the diamond king protected.

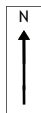
As it was, Cappelli declared from East and Denny Clerkin found the lead of a diamond through the king to defeat the slam. 11 IMPs to Wold

Note that in the Seniors, the "old" style sometimes works best. Responding 3H over 1NT to show a 6 card suit and a slam try would work well here. Over 3H, partner would bid 4C showing the CA and interest. Of course, in the old days, no one opened the now popular 15 point NT on their 14 point hand.

Board 13 ♠ 954
 Dealer: N ♥ AJ8
 All Vul. ♦ AKJ6
 ♣ QT5

♠ A6 ♠ KJT32
 ♥ QT9732 ♥ K54
 ♦ ♦ T943
 ♣ KJ632 ♣ 7

♠ Q87
 ♥ 6
 ♦ Q8752
 ♣ A984



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Bitterman	J Clerkin	Cappelli	D Clerkin
	1NT	Pass	Pass
2H	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2NT	Double	3D
All Pass			

Cappelli/Wold

Closed Room			
Passell	Caprera	Jacobus	Brenner
	1NT	Pass	Pass
2H	Pass	3H	Double
4H	All Pass		

What a lucky/unlucky hand this is... depending on where you are sitting.

Against the Clerkins' 3D, Bitterman led the HT. Denny won in dummy, played the H8 and ruffed in his hand. He tried the D5 toward dummy, Bitterman pitching a heart. Denny ruffed the HJ in hand and played a small club toward the queen in dummy. Bitterman hopped with his king and played the C6 which lucky for him and unlucky for the Clerkin brothers, Cappelli ruffed. Cappelli returned a spade to Bitterman's ace and scored a second club ruff. One down

Open Room			
Milner	Miller	Lall	Gupta
	1NT	Pass	3H (shortness)
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Hamman/Gupta

Closed Room			
Woolsey	Garner	Stewart	Zia
	1NT	Pass	2C
2H	Pass	Pass	3D
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

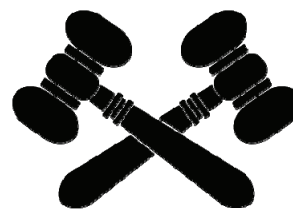
At the other table, Passell/Jacobus did well to bid the heart game on a combined 17 HCP. Caprera led the DK, ruffed by Passell with the H2. Passell played the ace of spades and a spade to the king and the C7 off dummy. Brenner ducked her ace and Passell played the king. From here it went club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff, diamond ruff, club ruff, North discarding the DJ. The DT was ruffed with the HT and overruffed with the HJ. At this point, declarer happily took his ten tricks. 11 more IMPs to Wold

In the absence of a double over Gupta's 3H bid, Lall led the SJ against Miller's 3NT. Miller ducked in dummy and Milner overtook with the ace. He continued spades to Lall's king and Lall cleared the suit. Miller now had eight top tricks. He needed the CK inside in the hand without a spade to lead. Lucky for him, he ran five rounds of diamonds and led the CA and a club toward the queen. Milner rose but was helpless. Game made.

Milner's overtaking the spade and continuing the spade is the killing defense when partner holds the KJTxx of spades and the DK. Unlucky for him, East held the wrong red king. Had Milner blocked the spade suit, as the cards lie, he would have been able to shift to the HT at trick three and declarer would be held to seven tricks.

At the other table in this match, Stewart had no trouble leading a heart against 3NT since his partner, able to bid at the 2-level, overcalled 2H. Garner ducked two rounds of hearts and took the third. Unlucky for him, the ducks were immaterial since Woolsey held both a spade and a club entry, and could safely discard three clubs, one spade and one heart on the run of the diamonds and still defeat the hand. 12 IMPs to Gupta

Senior Appeal #1



Board 6
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ 10 9 4 2
 ♥ 7 4 3
 ♦ 6 3
 ♣ J 9 7 5

♠ A Q 8 5
 ♥ K Q
 ♦ A K 7 4 2
 ♣ 10 6



♠ K J
 ♥ 10 5
 ♦ J 8 5
 ♣ A Q 8 4 3 2

♠ 7 6 3
 ♥ A J 9 8 6 2
 ♦ Q 10 9
 ♣ K

West	North	East	South
Schermer	Robinson	Chambers	Boyd

Pass 1 ♥

Dbf	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
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3 NT All pass

Trick	Lead	2nd	3rd	4th
1. N	♥ 3	5	<u>A</u>	Q
2. S	♥ J	<u>K</u>	7	10

Appeals Committee: Ralph Katz, Chairman Kerri Sanborn, Member Michael Kamil, Member
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Declarer unblocked spades, led a diamond to the king, and cashed spades pitching clubs from dummy. South pitched the ♥ 6 on the last spade. Declarer reported that this was a very slow discard.

At this point declarer (West) asked his screenmate (South) what North's tendencies are with four hearts in this position. South replied that sometimes he would bid and sometimes he wouldn't. Declarer then ducked a diamond, playing for 5-4 hearts; South claimed his hearts for down one. After the hand, North said that he would "probably always bid unless" he was 3=4=3=3. West said that with that information, he would have made the winning play of cashing minor winners to drop an honor.

A top expert was consulted on the play. He said that he was waffling between the line of play taken at the table and the winning line. He then asked about their tendencies; when given North's statement he said it was very clear to cash top tricks to attempt to drop ♦ Q or ♣ K.

With this information, it was decided that this player with the correct information was overwhelmingly likely to take nine tricks. Therefore, the information about the slow discard was no longer relevant. The score was changed to +600E-W.

Committee Decision: Table Result Stands (+100 N/S)

Appeals Committee Explanation:

The committee did not believe that an 8-10 second hesitation before a first discard should be considered unusually long.

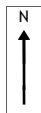
The discard of the H6 or really any other heart might make the declarer play easier.

The committee believes that Boyd's response to the question of whether his partner would always raise to 4 was adequate. In addition, no matter what the answer was, North was unlikely to hold four hearts at favorable vulnerability. With five hearts, South would be unlikely to discard a heart because it would be throwing away the setting trick.

Board 2 ♠ AQT
 Dealer: E ♥ 3
 N/S Vul. ♦ KJ8752
 Segment 2 ♣ AQ6

♠ KJ974 ♠ 52
 ♥ K752 ♥ AJT98
 ♦ 4 ♦ AQT96
 ♣ KJ3 ♣ 9

♠ 862
 ♥ Q64
 ♦ 3
 ♣ T87542



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Woolsey	Garner	Stewart	Zia
		1H	Pass
4H	Double	All Pass	

Hamman/Gupta

Open Room			
Hamman	Miller	Bramley	Gupta
		1H	Pass
2NT	3D	Double	Pass
4H	All Pass		

Closed Room			
Wold	Cappelli	Levine	Bitterman
		1H	Pass
4D (splinter)	5D	Double	All Pass

Cappelli/Wold

Open Room			
Brenner	Passell	Caprera	Jacobus
		1H	Pass
3S (shortness somewhere)	Pass	3NT (asks)	Pass
4D (shortness)	Pass	4H	All Pass

It's all a matter of timing. Three of the four tables in USA1 were in 4H, one doubled. Bramley was the only declarer to be successful. He was cold at all times and never slipped a trick.

Gupta led the D3. Bramley won the jack with the queen. He played the C9 to the jack and queen. Miller returned his solo heart, won by Bramley's eight. Bart played the S5 to dummy's jack and Miller's queen. Basically, Billy was endplayed at trick six. He tried the CA. Bart ruffed and trumped in dummy. Bramley cashed the CK and tossed his losing spade. A spade was trumped and Bart led the DA, ruffed and over ruffed. A third spade was trumped with the ace. The king of hearts pulled the final trump and the spades were good.

At the other table in this match, a diamond was led. The declarer, Stewart, played a club to the queen. A heart was returned and the ace of diamonds was played, ruffed and overruffed. Stewart played the C3 off dummy and trumped in his hand. At this point he must play a spade to duplicate Bramley's winning line of play. Instead, he played a diamond and trumped in dummy. This was fatal. It was too late to set up the spades.

In the Open Room in the Cappelli/Wold match, the opponents never bid. Jacobus led the C2 to Passell's queen. Passell switched to diamonds. Caprera went up with his DA, played a spade to the king and ace. Passell exited with the DK, trumped in dummy. Caprera trumped a club in his hand and played a second spade. Now the opponents were destined to collect four tricks. If Caprera knew the position, he could have played a trump rather than the second spade and he would have taken ten tricks.

In the Closed Room of this match, things were more exciting. Rather than doubling Wold's four diamond splinter, Cappelli jumped in with 5D. Needless to say, Levine had an answer for this. Down 6 for 1700.

11 IMPs to Hamman

18 IMPs to Wold ... Had Caprera made 4H, he would have saved only 3 IMPs!

Board 14 ♠ AQ82
 Dealer: E ♥ A54
 None Vul. ♦ KQ643
 ♣ A

♠ JT94 ♠ K753
 ♥ KJT962 ♥ Q873
 ♦ ♦ T975
 ♣ KQ2 ♣ 7

♠ 6
 ♥
 ♦ AJ82
 ♣ JT986543



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Wold	Cappelli	Levine	Bitterman
		Pass	3NT (C or D pre)
4H	5C (P or correct)	5H	6C
Double	All Pass		

Open Room			
Brenner	Passell	Caprera	Jacobus
		Pass	4C
Pass	5C	All Pass	

Closed Room			
Hamman	Miller	Bramley	Gupta
		Pass	4C
Pass	5C	All Pass	

Open Room			
Woolsey	Garner	Stewart	Zia
		Pass	5C
Double	Redouble	All Pass	

Cappelli/Wold

Hamman/Gupta

In the Closed Room of Cappelli/Wold, Wold overcalled 4H after Bitterman's conventional 3NT opener. Cappelli competed to 5C, pass or correct, with first round control in three suits and second in the fourth.

Levine, not certain whose hand it was, tried 5H, hoping it would make or at least be a good save. After all, he did hold four cards in his partner's trump suit and a ruffing value in clubs.

Bitterman did not have a great hand for defense. He competed to 6C which Wold promptly doubled with the C: KQx. Levine led a small heart; Cappelli won in hand and cashed the trump ace. He ruffed a heart in dummy and played the CJ. When Levine showed out, Cappelli went down one.

At the other table, Passell and Jacobus stopped in 5C with no opposition bidding to propel them to slam. Brenner led the ten of spades. Jacobus won the ace, cashed the CA, and when clubs split badly, claimed 11 tricks.

Miller and Gupta, in the Closed Room of the Hamman/Gupta match, had the identical auction to Passell/Jacobus and the identical result.

In the Open Room of this match, Steven Garner proved that he could ... and would... out-Zia Zia!

Zia opened 5C! Woolsey doubled figuring his KQx of trump looked well positioned. Garner sent the double back. Eleven tricks and 800 later, the smoke cleared!

11 IMPs to Wold

9 IMPs to Hamman