



Volume 11, Issue 11
May 7, 2017

Results:

USA1 Halfway through the Final

#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
1	<u>Nickell</u>	115	<u>24</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>39</u>
2	<u>Diamond</u>	78	<u>9</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>19</u>

USA2 Halfway through the Quarterfinal

#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
3	<u>Dwyer</u>	156	<u>49</u>	<u>39</u>	27	41
8	<u>Meltzer</u>	88	<u>17</u>	<u>25</u>	27	19
4	<u>Harris</u>	132	<u>38</u>	<u>31</u>	31	32
7	<u>Simson</u>	98	<u>10</u>	<u>19</u>	29	40
5	<u>Rosenthal</u>	122	<u>30</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>32</u>
6	<u>Fleisher</u>	139	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>24</u>

WUSBC USA1 Semifinal Complete

1	<u>Clerkin</u>	121	19	31	<u>21</u>
4	<u>Wittes</u>	73	12	43	<u>9</u>
2	<u>Jenkins</u>	42	19	1	<u>22</u>
3	<u>Eythorsdottir</u>	137	54	29	<u>54</u>



“Trials” and Tribulations

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Howie Doing...

Picking the Women's is always such fun.
Count on Sir Howie to pick number ONE!

Palmer and Meyers and Zur Campanile
As Mama would say, "Oy vey... Such a deal!"

Cappelletti and Shi: The young and the bold!
Over and over: the young trump the old!

If suits are all breaking, finesses succeed,
Jenkins will grab a large early lead.

If contracts are failing and bidding less pays,
It will be Wittes who stays and who plays.

Wittes's dames' conservative views,
Would never push boards with Kranyaks or Grues.

Again it's the age that makes them think twice
'Bout bidding a contract that might not play nice.

No doubt that Slimey will spout all his Blimey,
Stick with the guy who knows how to "rhyme-y!"

Howie Doing... Just fine, thanks!

Limey Jack...

Top of the morning Lads and Lasses.

Fresh off having the winner of your Derby, Limey Jack continues to blaze the trail to Herefordshire. Howie Dung, that babbling peacock, continues guessing and guessing poorly, apparently based on the flip of a ha'pence.

Disa-Clerkin: One must recognize that Clerkin has the wood, but sometimes Cinderella stories have a happy ending. Disa in a squeaker.

Wittes-Jenkins: Jenkins is a strange concoction of rawness and experience. Whilst 6 handed, this event is of such short duration that the 4 handed squad of Wittes can indeed prevail.

Don't be taken in by the donkey's tail. Limey Jack has the goods.

Cheers, LJ

Ladies First...

Board 27 ♠ A6
Dealer: S ♥ 84
None Vul. ♦ AJ864
Segment 4 ♣ KT42

♠ 7 ♠ J843
♥ QJT53 ♥ AK976
♦ KQ732 ♦ T9
♣ A8 ♣ Q7

♠ KQT952
♥ 2
♦ 5
♣ J9653



West	North	East	South
Wittes	Migry	Kamenova	Meyers
			3S
Double	Pass	4H	Pass
Pass	4S	Double	All Pass
Palmer	Bjerkan	Shi	Pollack
			2S
3H	Pass	4H	All Pass

Bjerkan led the SQ followed by the DA and DJ against 4H. Pollack ruffed the DJ but there were just no more tricks for the defense.

Against 4SX, Wittes led the HQ followed by the HJ. Declarer ruffed and played a spade to the ace and finessed for the SJ. She played a club to the king and exited with the CT. Wittes played the DK won by dummy's ace. Meyers ruffed a diamond to her hand and claimed. Excellent play by Meyers. 15 IMPs to Clerkin.

The problem on the hand was Pollack's 2S opener. The hand ² has too much playing strength.

2017 Women's USBC TEAMS

There are 7 teams entered. The teams are listed in their Round Robin number order.

Clerkin	Joanne Weingold Migry Zur Campanile Beth Palmer Dennis Clerkin, NPC	Jill Meyers Sylvia Shi Shannon Cappelletti
Eythorsdottir	Hjordis Eythorsdottir, Capt Cindy Bernstein	Linda Lewis Claire Tornay
Sakr	May Sakr, Capt Anam Tebha	Allison Howard Cristal Nell
Baker	Lynn Baker, Capt Kerri Sanborn Tobi Sokolow	Karen McCallum Irina Levitina Janice Seamon-Molson
Wittes	Pamela Wittes, Capt Cheri Bjerkan	Ljudmila Kamenova Rozanne Pollack
Jenkins	Bronia Jenkins, Capt Sylvia Moss Bernace De Young	Sheri Winestock Connie Goldberg Irina Kislitsyna
OSMO	Teri Smoot Toni Bales Paul Pugsley, NPC	Brenda Pugsley Kimberly Music

Hospitality Information...



The hospitality suite for the 2017 Open USBC is room 2321, one level up from the playing rooms. Our wonderful hostess, Lisa Berkowitz, and her co-chair, Martha Katz, will serve breakfast each day from 8:00-10:30, as well as lunch from 1:00-4:00. **Please note: Sit outs are encouraged to come as early as possible for lunch to avoid overcrowding the suite. Everyday, lunch will be served both in 2321 and 1321 to handle the expected overflow.**

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.

The "Players' Break Room" (aka Jan's office) is room 1321. It will be available for the entire tournament. You can find coffee, soft drinks and snacks in that room while you wait for slow teammates to finish playing.

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.



OpenTeams Entered... listed in RR seeding order

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

Nickell Bye to QF	Frank Nickell, Capt Jeff Meckstroth Bobby Levin	Ralph Katz Eric Rodwell Steve Weinstein
Diamond Bye to QF	John Diamond, Capt Justin Lall Eric Greco	Brian Platnick Kevin Bathurst Geoff Hampson
Fleisher Bye to R16	Martin Fleisher, Capt Brad Moss Michael Rosenberg	Chip Martel Joe Grue Jacek Pszczola
Fireman Bye to R16	Paul Fireman, Capt John Hurd John Kranyak	Gavin Wolpert Joel Wooldridge Vincent Demuy
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken David Berkowitz	Aaron Silverstein Eldad Ginossar Alan Sontag
Meltzer	Rose Meltzer, Capt Steve Garner Bart Bramley	Nikolay Demirev Ron Smith Robert Hamman
Mahaffey	Jim Mahaffey, Capt Neil Chambers Matthew Granovetter	Sam Lev John Schermer Russell Ekeblad
Dwyer	Kevin Dwyer, Capt Billy Cohen Michael Kamil	Roger Lee Gary Cohler Michael Becker
Wold	Eddie Wold, Capt Marc Jacobus Chris Compton	Michael Levine Mike Passell David Grainger
Simson	Doug Simson, Capt JoAnna Stansby	Jeff Aker Lew Stansby
Miller	Jeffrey Miller, Capt Reese Milner Joshua Stark	William Engel Hemant Lall
Robinson	Steve Robinson, Capt Kit Woolsey Bill Pollack	Peter Boyd Fred Stewart Ron Rubin
Jacobs	George Jacobs, Capt Dick Bruno David Lehman	Claude Vogel Jeffrey Schuett Richard Melson
Harris	Martin Harris, Capt Ai-Tai Lo Jay Barron	Jacob Morgan Howard Liu
Ivatury	Uday Ivatury, Capt Lapt Chan	Christal Henner Jon Sorkin
Dinkin	Sam Dinkin, Capt W. Thomas Reynolds	Michael Shuster Lance Kerr
Kent	Robert Kent Brenda Pugsley	Ellen Kent Paul Pugsley

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

Winston Churchill

Q: A question in a math class. You have 2 apples in your hand and then you add another 4 apples in your hand. What do you have?

A: A very big hand.

Q: Is it legal to marry the sister of your widow?

A: Doesn't matter. You are dead anyways.

Q: Who earns money without working a single day?

A: The night watchman.

Q: What goes swimming with you but never gets wet?

A: Your shadow.

Q: What is the difference between a car and toilet paper?

A: It's perfectly OK to buy a used car.

Q: Who is the biggest victim of the yo-yo effect?

A: The moon. It gains and loses every month.

Q: What nails are a pain to hammer into wood?

A: Your finger nails.

Q: What animal turns about 200 times around its axis after it dies?

A: A roast chicken.

Q: Which lion is a very good swimmer?

A: The sea-lion.

Q: The more he has the less he weighs. What is it?

A: Cheese with holes.

Q: You have a basket with 20 apples. You have 20 hungry children. Every child should get an apple but one apple should remain in the basket. How do you do that?

A: You give 19 children one apple each and to the last one you give the basket containing the last apple.

Q: When a child is going to school for the first time, where will it sit?

A: Nowhere, it is still going.

Q: How much earth lies in a hole 3 feet deep and 3 feet wide?

A: None. It wouldn't be a hole anymore if there were earth in it.



Riddles

Open Tournament Schedule (continued on page 6)

FINAL & USA2 QUARTERFINAL (6 USA2 TEAMS)			
SATURDAY	MAY 6	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 7	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

Open

USA2 SEMI-FINAL			
MONDAY	MAY 8	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
TUESDAY	MAY 9	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
USA2 FINAL			
WEDNESDAY	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
THURSDAY	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			
SATURDAY	MAY 6	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
FINAL & USA2 SEMI-FINAL (2 USA2 TEAMS)			
SUNDAY	MAY 7	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	MAY 8	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
USA2 FINAL			
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Women's

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

Sudoku 1

Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

Puzzle Page ...

Even Split

Below are twelve 6-letter words. Each word is split in half to make 3-letter pairs, for example, DOMINO would be shown as DOM and INO. These 3-letter pairs are all listed below. Put the pairs together to find the twelve 6-letter words. None of the letter pairs may be used more than once unless they appear more than once in the box.

TER	DOW	ANT	TER	FAB	ACE
TLE	MAT	RAP	WIN	HOL	DLE
HEM	BAN	LOW	TEA	KIN	SOL
PEL	RIC	SER	SHO	BOT	WER

Breaking News:

There is new FB page devoted to these Team Trials. It can be accessed at:

https://www.facebook.com/United-States-Bridge-Federation-1963001673929727/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

There are pictures, links to these newsletters online ... and you can post Trials relevant messages. Check it out!



Lisa and David Berkowitz

Answers:

- WINDOW
- TEASER
- SOLACE
- SHOWER
- RAPPEL
- MATTER
- KINDLE
- HOLLOW
- FABRIC
- BOTTLE
- BANTER
- ANTHEM



Meet the Players

Peter Boyd

Human Interest:

Friday was Nik Demirev's birthday. He was at the Championships playing on the Meltzer team.

We assume his birthday wish came true when his team stayed in USA2 to continue playing for the second berth in Lyon.

Good luck Nik and a belated HB!

Born in the nation's capitol, Peter has lived in the D.C. area all his life. Serious in nature, he is a true gentleman in every sense of the word, and is dedicated to the lofty ideals of the game.

He learned to play while in junior high school but his love of the game did not deter his pursuit of an education, graduating from Harvard in 1972.

Peter's determination and hard work produced one of the longest-lasting successful uninterrupted partnerships with Hall of Famer Steve Robinson which has spanned twenty-six years.

Peter retired as a computer programmer and enjoys his life as a part-time bridge pro and self-employed game consultant. His leisure time is spent playing internet poker and watching good movies.

Though he has won three Vanderbilts, one Reisinger and three Grand Nationals, his greatest achievement was witnessed in Miami in 1986, capturing the prestigious Rosenblum Cup, one of the three major world team championships.

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

Discussion Chain of the USBC on BridgeWinners In case you are playing in the event and haven't had time to "browse the web!"

Robert Greene

Is the round robin primarily to relegate three teams to the lower bracket or to establish carry over for whence they meet again. Lot of work for what gets accomplished.

April 29

Al Hollander

The USBC (Open) is a double elimination to identify 2 teams for the 2017 Bermuda Bowl

NOTE: this is true only every 4 years. Other years the USBC identifies just 1 team for the World Championships

no carryover

top 10 teams advance to USA1 KO Round of 16, joining 2 teams that have BYE to R16 - there are also 2 teams with BYE to QuarterFinal bottom 3 drop into USA2 bracket

losers in USA1 KO rounds will also drop into the USA2 bracket

more information about the format starts

at <http://www.usbf.org/2017-open-usbc/2017-open-usbc/index.php>

April 29

Marc Warner

Does one have to Qualify to be one of the 17 teams in the USA 1 contest with the 62 nonqualifiers being in the USA 2 contest?

April 29

Dave Waterman

There are only 17 teams, total, competing. Round of 64, round of 32, are just ways of wording what is happening in the k.o. stages.

April 29

Al Hollander

Dave is right. In fact under this format, the USA1 QuarterFinals (R8) is the first round that will have the expected number of teams competing

April 29

Jack Spear

No qualifying to enter the 13 team-field which played the round-robin, making it an open competition. Only the teams knocked out of this field (either in the RR or KO stage) plus any of the 4 teams receiving byes who are KO'd, enter the USA2 competition.

April 29

Mike Zeller

Do we know who faces who in the KO's yet??

April 29

Al Hollander

<http://usbf.org/docs/vugraphs/USBC2017/Bracket.php?stage=Roundof16>

shows the matchups

note that the "Round of 16" only has 12 teams / 6 matches

the 6 Winners will join the 2 teams that have byes to the QuarterFinals: #1 Nickell & #2 Diamond

April 29

Dave Waterman

It seems Mahaffey didn't get its 10 VPs for its bye, but the others did.

April 29

Peg Kaplan

Each team is shown receiving 10 VPs for the bye, Dave. At least - that's what it shows now.

April 29

Al Hollander

I wager the delay was a result of the final 2 rounds being played with teams sequestered.

April 29

Jan Martel

Mahaffey's sit out match vs bye was the last match, so the 10 for the sit out didn't post until the rest of the last round scores were posted.

April 29

Jack Spear

Jan, does anyone ever tell you how much you are appreciated during these events?

April 30

David Yates

You know its a tough event when your team gets blitzed by "BYE"

April 30

Dave Waterman

Ya think Dwyer was just hustling the Wold and Meltzer teams during the round robin in order to sneak up on them in the K.O.? I don't think that strategy will work.

April 29

David Yates

I have not checked, but they traditionally set the KO by the original seed order and not by the RR results.

Also the last three rounds are not scored until all three are finished. A pair from each team must play all three and are sequestered with no score comparisons allowed. This is primarily so no one gets "help" Q-ing, but it will also obfuscate the leaderboard at the top.

April 30

Al Hollander

there is an adjustment to seeding points based upon RR standing but i don't recall them making a significant impact on pre-rr seed.

rules are described in the Conditions of Contest, but i'm typing from fuzzy memory

a couple of caveats:

* adjustment cannot seed an RR team higher than one that had BYE into KO

* winner of RR has option to reshuffle within the group of 2

April 30

Dave Waterman

It didn't matter yesterday, because Wold declined the reshuffle, but just wondering -- does a reshuffle in a group of 2 mean switching places with the other team, or does it just mean the coin is flipped over again and they might stay the same?

April 30

Jan Martel

Additional seeding points from the Round Robin are 1st 8 (plus the reshuffle option); 2nd 8; 3rd 4; 4th 2. Sometimes the additional seeding points mattered. I was doing so much last night I don't remember for certain, but I think they did not matter this year.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

The reshuffle means the coin is flipped again and they might stay as they were or change depending on result.

April 30

Debbie Rosenberg

There hasn't been enough complaining on this thread so far. Therefore, I hereby whine about how little fun I had watching the second set of the round of 16. Whose dumb idea was it to put that on vugraph?

Is the DK the new curse?

Maybe if there are no more stiff diamond Kings the Fleisher team will be okay.

OK, rant over. Probably longer ones coming later.....

April 30

David Yates

We one has a specific rooting interest, the match choice is limited. If the match is close or behind, there is anxiousness and angst. If the match is a blowout, there is relief but boredom. And no mercy rule for the loyal audience of the blowout as one needs to watch throughout, else ignorance of the hands and results be taken as a lack of support. It seems that you are stuck on the tines of Morton's Fork, Debbie.

Complain away :)

May 1

Mark Leonard

I've been looking for the live streams of the tables on YouTube and haven't found them. Will they be coming in future rounds?

April 30

Jan Martel

We are not able to live stream the video because the internet isn't fast enough. We will try to get them posted as soon as we can.

April 30

Lynn Johannesen

We just looked at the Results page trying to find the actual auctions on a board in the last segment. No scores seem to be bolded. Have the hand records not been posted yet?

April 30

Jan Martel

Vugraph records aren't up yet. Hand records are there (link at the bottom of the page; 1st quarter is boards 1-30 yesterday morning; 2nd quarter is yesterday afternoon, etc. we may change that naming convention, as it seems to confuse people.

And as I was writing this, I see that AI was doing something useful and 2 of the 3 final sets are up.

May 1

Al Hollander

formatted records for all R16 vugraph matches are available as links on the Results page. in some cases bidding/play not available because of either table crash or operator manually edited the result in "movie", which nukes the historical info.

i haven't checked to see if BBO archive has posted the lin files

May 2

Dave Waterman

In the USA2 'round of 64', segment seven of 8 doesn't seem to have existed -- and the totals match the totals of the other segments. But it does seem that the scores posted for the final segment might actually be a combination of the final two segments.

May 2

McKenzie Myers

Yes, that's exactly right. These were "sequestered matches" - that is, no comparison with teammates toward the end of a round robin to reduce the incentive to dump.

May 2

Carol Frank

I am at work, misbehaving and checking the matches now and then, especially the Harris/Rosenthal match. Maybe the computer I'm using doesn't work the same as mine at home, but as far as I can tell there is no commentating on a match that is starting out pretty exciting. Am I wrong and there is a commentator? Or there aren't enough commentators for BBO? I always appreciate a good commentator, especially as I can't watch it consistently.

May 2

Mike Edwards

Yes we need more commentators. I got into it by accident. It would be nice for every match to have two. There is no pay but it is fun to do. Refer to BBO view graf to sign up.

Or contact Aurora.

May 2

Alan Frank

Will Thursday and Friday's VuGraph include coverage of repechage matches?

May 3

Jan Martel

Yes. Unfortunately, we only have 6 operators for Thursday, so will cover the two USA1 Semifinal matches and 1 USA2 match. For Friday I'm hoping we'll be back to 8 operators.

May 3

Michael Shuster

Just lost to Mahaffey, so I'll be leaving tomorrow.

I'd like to give a HUGE thank you to all the locals who have put an amazing amount of work into this. The hospitality suite was fantastic! And of course Jan is irreplaceable. A lot of hard work went into putting this on. Tons of tiny details that would be easy to miss.

May 3

Jay Barronen

I'll second that, this has been an incredible tournament. I can only wish that all tournaments were run this well.

May 3

Peg Kaplan

Simple solution, guys. Multiple clones of Jan and the fabulous people that assist her! :)

May 3

Jay Barronen

I know for a fact there are already multiple clones of Jan. There is no way 1 single person can possibly be in as many places and do as much at once as she does.

May 3

David Yates

And all the clones are always upbeat & smiling, too. Lets hear it for technology!

May 4

Thanks Steve Weinstein and the other keeps of BridgeWinners for affording the players a chance to tell us what they want and what they think. Among other things, the site has great interviews done live at the Championships by Oren Kriegel.

Go to BridgeWinners.com to sign-up and take part in the discussions

USA1 Finals... Diamond vs Nickell


Board 6
 Dealer: E
 E/W Vul.
 Segment 1

♠ A863
 ♥ K4
 ♦ A932
 ♣ K54

♠ 84
 ♥ J96
 ♦ KQJ76
 ♣ 982

♠ 2
 ♥ AQ852
 ♦ T854
 ♣ AQ3

♠ KQJT75
 ♥ T73
 ♦
 ♣ JT76



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Diamond	Katz	Platnick	Nickell
3H	3S	1H	2S
		All Pass	
Open Room			
Levin	Greco	Weinstein	Hampson
Pass	4S	1H	3S
		All Pass	

In the Closed Room, Nickell played in the easy spade partscore. Diamond led the DK. Nickell won the ace in dummy, pulled trump and lost the obvious CAQ and HAQ when both holdings were over the kings.

In the Open Room, Hampson/Greco bid the spade game. I always hope for a holding like KQJ from which to lead... but on this hand, it's deadly! Had Levin led his partner's opening suit, the defense would have collected two hearts and two clubs to defeat the game. However, Levin led the obvious DK. Now Hampson had a chance to play carefully to make his contract.

Geoff won the DA in dummy, discarding a heart from his hand. He played the deuce of diamonds, ruffing with the S5. He cashed the SK and led the SQ to the ace, preserving the S7 as an entry to dummy if he needed it later. He ruffed a diamond with the SJ and played the CT ducked to Weinstein's queen. Weinstein exited with the DT which Hampson ruffed with the ST. The C6 went to the club king and ace. Now all Hampson needed was for clubs to be 3-3. Weinstein, helpless, led his last club. Hampson won the CJ and cashed his C6 pitching a heart from dummy. In the end, he lost only one heart and two clubs for +420 and 7 IMPs to Diamond.


Board 9
 Dealer: N
 E/W Vul.
 Segment 1

♠ KJ92
 ♥ K2
 ♦ AJ42
 ♣ A76

♠ 63
 ♥ AT
 ♦ K753
 ♣ T9843

♠ Q87
 ♥ 86
 ♦ QT6
 ♣ KQJ52

♠ AT54
 ♥ QJ97543
 ♦ 98
 ♣



Diamond	Katz	Platnick	Nickell
	1NT	Pass	2D (transfer)
Pass	2H	Pass	4H
Pass	4NT	Pass	5D (1 or 3)
Double	6H	All Pass	
Levin	Greco	Weinstein	Hampson
	1NT	Pass	4D (Texas)
Pass	4H	All Pass	

In both rooms, declarer made twelve tricks. The difference was that Katz HAD to make twelve to bring home his contract. Platnick led a diamond to the king and ace. Katz cashed the CA, discarding dummy's other diamond. He played the HK to Diamond's ace and Diamond continued hearts. Katz ran off four more rounds of hearts, Platnick coming down to SQ87 DQ CK; Diamond holding S63 C984.

Katz was at the crossroads. He guessed well. He played a spade to his king and ran the SJ. When that held, he was home free with +980 and 11 IMPs to Nickell.

Board 11 ♠ KJT
 Dealer: S ♥ AJ87
 None Vul. ♦ Q7
 Segment 1 ♣ QJ94

♠ 62 ♠ 9843
 ♥ K53 ♥ Q942
 ♦ KJ864 ♦ AT9
 ♣ 876 ♣ 53



♠ AQ75
 ♥ T6
 ♦ 532
 ♣ AKT2

Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
Diamond	Katz	Platnick	Nickell
			1C
1D	Double (does not guarantee 4-4 in the majors)	2D	2S
Pass	3D	Double	4S
All Pass			
Open Room			
Levin	Greco	Weinstein	Hampson
			1D
Pass	1H	Pass	1S
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Following the auction, Oren Kriegel, the VG operator in the Closed Room, made the comment that this hand was a victory for the nebulous Precision 1D opening bid (the bid that had been much discussed of late). Oren suggests that it squelched East's chances of overcalling 1D as was done in the Closed Room above, and allowed Greco, in the Open Room, to play 3NT from North with Weinstein on lead. Weinstein was never going to lead diamonds without the overcall.

Vugraphzfk: A winner for the Precision 1♦ opener in the other room--South opened 1♦ which preempted the 1♦ overcall and put East on lead against 3NT

In point of fact, Weinstein COULD have led diamonds (he didn't... he led a heart) and it would have defeated the contract... while Nickell was in the same situation in 4S.

In both contracts, success all depends on the opening lead.

Diamond led a diamond against 4S and Nickell was able to score his tenth trick with a diamond ruff. Had Diamond led a trump, he could have defeated the game by winning the first diamond with the king and playing a second trump. When Platnick won the third diamond, he could continue spades, removing dummy's last trump and any hope of a diamond ruff, declarer's only chance for a tenth trick with the lie of the heart suit.

In Simson/Harris, the Stansbys played in 3NT from North making four even after Liu found the lead of the DT!!! Lo didn't read it and ducked! (FYI: The Stansbys also play a strong club.) At the other table, Morgan and Barron reached 4S and made four on a diamond lead. No swing.

In Dwyer/Meltzer, Bramley and Hamman bid to 3NT from South! Cohen did not overcall 1C with 1D but he did double 3D mid auction. Cohen led a fourth best diamond and 3NT was defeated a trick. In the other room, Kamil/Becker played 4S and succeeded in taking ten tricks on the lead of a diamond. 10 IMPs to Dyer.

Morgan/Barron played in 3C after a simple forcing-NT auction. The opening lead was the ace of diamonds, Morgan played along the same line as Kamil, and eventually took 10 tricks.

In the other room of Simson/Harris match, the Stansbys bid 3NT on a simple invitational auction. With no information about declarer's heart holding, Liu started with the H5 to the queen, king and ace. Now declarer played on clubs. When Lo won the third round of clubs, he switched to a small spade (the H5, top-of-nothing lead indicated a weak holding). Stansby won the spade return and played a diamond to dummy's king and Lo's ace. Lo cashed his hearts and exited with a spade. Declarer cashed the H9 and conceded, 300 to E/W and 10 IMPs to Harris.

In the Rosenthal/Fleisher match. Pepsi/Rosenberg reached the hopeless 3NT contract and were defeated three tricks after the five of hearts lead. Sontag won the third round of clubs, cashed his two good hearts and exited with a spade. Pepsi cashed the H9 followed by his high spade and tried the spade exit. Berkowitz/ Sontag claimed for down three, 300 to E/W.

In the other room of this match, Willenken/Ginossar reached 5C, after West overcalled 2D and Moss raised to 3D, taking 3NT out of the picture. Willenken received the favorable DA lead and continuation. Willenken led a club to the queen, losing to Moss's king. If Moss held the HK and spades were divided 3-3, the hand could be made. Unfortunately, this was not the position. Moss shifted to a heart and eventually Willenken took 10 tricks, -100 and 5 IMPs to Rosenthal.

Board 16 ♠ KQ873
 Dealer: W ♥ AK843
 E/W Vul. ♦ A4
 ♣ 3

♠ J64 ♠ 2
 ♥ T ♥ QJ5
 ♦ JT9865 ♦ 732
 ♣ 764 ♣ AQJ852

♠ AT95
 ♥ 9762
 ♦ KQ
 ♣ KT9



Rodwell	Lall	Meckstroth	Bathurst	Nickell/Diamond
Pass	1C (strong)	2C (natural)	2NT	
Pass	3S	Pass	4C	
Pass	4D	Pass	4S	
All Pass				

Diamond	Katz	Platnick	Nickell	Nickell/Diamond
Pass	1S	2C	2NT	
Pass	3C	Pass	4S	
Pass	4NT	Pass	5D	
Pass	6S	All Pass		

Most tables played this hand in slam... 6S or 6NT.

Slam is not a good bet when it takes exactly 2-2 hearts to make.

Hearts split 3-1... and those in the 41% contract failed.

Bathurst/Lall and Aker/Simson played in game.

The two tables where North/South stopped in game both opened one strong, artificial club.

L Stansby	Barron	J Stansby	Liu	Harris/Simson
Pass	1S	2C	2NT	
Pass	3H	Pass	4S	
Pass	4NT	Pass	5C	
Pass	6S	Pass	6NT	
All Pass				

Harris	Simson	Morgan	Aker	Harris/Simson
Pass	1C (strong)	2C (natural)	2NT	
Pass	3S	Pass	4C	
Pass	4D	Pass	4H	
Pass	4S	All Pass		

Board 20 ♠ QT83
 Dealer: W ♥ JT432
 All Vul. ♦ 65
 Segment 2 ♣ 98

♠ KJ975
 ♥ Q8
 ♦ J83
 ♣ T75

♠ A642
 ♥ 95
 ♦ 42
 ♣ Q6432



West	North	East	South
Dwyer	Garner	Lee	Smith
2C	Pass	2D	Pass
3H (4H, longer D)	Pass	4D	Pass
7D	All Pass		

Meltzer	Becker	Demirev	Kamil
2C	Pass	2D	Pass
3H (4H, longer D)	Pass	3S	Pass
4C	Pass	4D	Pass
7D	All Pass		

The big swing of the day occurred in the second segment of the Dwyer/Meltzer match. 19 IMPs went to the Dwyer team on board 20.

Both tables bid to 7D on similar auctions. West opened 2C and East responded 2D. Both West players rebid 3H showing four hearts and longer diamonds.

On the surface, 7D looks like a pretty good contract. Declarer can discard his third club on the third round of hearts and then trump the third round of clubs and the fourth round of hearts with high trumps.

This line simply requires that hearts break 4-3 and clubs break no worse than 5-2. The possibility of a singleton or doubleton CQ adds an extra chance. The probability of 4-3 hearts is 62% and the probability of 5-2 or 4-3 clubs is 93% for a combined probability of a little less than 58%. The chance of the CQ falling in two rounds increases the chance of success to about 62%.

Mike Kamil followed the old adage of leading a trump against a grand slam. With more frequency than one might expect, one scores a ruff after leading trumps to cut down the opponent's ruffs. Demirev played two rounds of clubs (in case the queen dropped) followed by three rounds of hearts. Kamil ruffed and declarer was held to twelve tricks.

At the other table, Ron Smith held Kamil's cards. Against the seemingly unscientific auction, Smith decided to gamble that either his spade ace was scoring or that it wasn't material and wouldn't cost a trick. Accordingly, Smith led the SA, Lee trumped with the ace (It looks so good to have two aces on the same trick.) and drew two rounds of trumps claiming thirteen tricks and 19 IMPs.

In the other three Open matches, five pairs played in 6D, and one, unexpectedly stopped in the diamond game!



Whatever suits you best!