



Volume 11, Issue 16
May 12, 2017

**Congrats
Team Fleisher
USA2**

Results on page 3

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations



USA2

USA1



USA1



USA2



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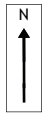
Local Hospitality Chairs
Lisa Berkowitz

Martha Katz

Board 7 ♠ QJT97
 Dealer: S ♥ A953
 All Vul. ♦
 ♣ AT83

♠ A653 ♠ K842
 ♥ JT862 ♥
 ♦ 94 ♦ QJ853
 ♣ Q9 ♣ K742

 ♠
 ♥ KQ74
 ♦ AKT762
 ♣ J65



The first segment of the second Final was all Diamond: 18-41. There were two interesting double digit swings. The first was on Board 7.

| Open Room | | | |
|-----------|---------|------|---------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Moss | Hampson | Grue | Greco |
| | | | 1D (2+) |
| Pass | 1S | Pass | 2D |
| Pass | 2H | Pass | 3H |
| Pass | 4D | Pass | 4H |
| All Pass | | | |

In the Open Room, Grue led the D3. Hampson won the ace in dummy and pitched a small club.

The DK followed and another club was tossed.

| Closed Room | | | |
|-------------|-------|----------|-----------|
| Diamond | Pepsi | Platnick | Rosenberg |
| | | | 1D |
| Pass | 1S | Pass | 2D |
| Pass | 2H | Pass | 3H |
| Pass | 4H | All Pass | |

On the third round of diamonds, Moss pitched a club while Hampson ruffed with the H3.

Hampson went after spades. He played the queen from hand and threw a club from dummy, Moss winning his ace. Moss played the CQ to declarer's ace, everyone following. The spade nine was led, Moss discarding the CJ from dummy when Grue ducked the king. The SJ was covered by the king and ruffed in dummy.

The D6 was ruffed by West's HJ and overruffed with North's HA. A diamond was thrown off on the spade ten; a heart went to the queen in dummy and declarer had 11 tricks. +650 Nice play, Geoff.

In the Closed Room, the result was quite different. Platnick led a fourth best diamond. Pepsi played small from dummy and ruffed the nine in his hand. He played the spade ten to Diamond's ace, throwing a club from the dummy. The club nine went to Platnick's king and a club was continued to the jack, queen and ace. Pepsi played the H5 to the king, getting the news!

A club was tossed on the DA, and a spade was tossed on the DK while Diamond ruffed with the trump ten. Diamond returned a heart won by Pepsi's nine. Pepsi played the SQ covered by the king and ruffed with the H7. A diamond was ruffed with the ace of trump and the SJ was cashed. Declarer could only come to 9 tricks.

The hand started out cold. Neither play at trick one made any difference. Hampson continued on a winning line, never touching trumps.

Pepsi failed when at trick five he played on hearts instead of continuing the attack on spades.

13 IMPs to Diamond

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 |

USA2 Final Scores!

Congrats Team Fleisher!

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2 | <u>Diamond</u> | 241 | <u>30</u> | <u>22</u> | <u>25</u> | <u>46</u> | <u>41</u> | <u>14</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>53</u> |
| 3 | <u>Fleisher</u> | 273 | <u>43</u> | <u>45</u> | <u>36</u> | <u>28</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>41</u> | <u>38</u> | <u>24</u> |

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 |

When you win say nothing; when you lose, say less!

Paul Brown

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

Sudoku 1

Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

Puzzle Page ...

The football season was coming to an end and the regional playoffs were this weekend. Millersville's high school team, the Bulls, had made it to the playoffs and hopes were high as the whole town counted down to the weekend and game time. Millersville High School hadn't had a winning football team in years, and this year's team had been undefeated during the regular season. The star player on each of the four contending teams played a different position. Determine the name of the four contending teams and the full name and position played of each star player.

1. The star player for the Bulls was a quarterback but his first name wasn't Elliot.
2. The Chargers' star player was Alex, who wasn't a kicker. The receiver didn't play on the Lions team.
3. Elliot's last name wasn't Fenn. Charlie's last name was Koning.
4. Brandon wasn't a receiver.
5. The running back had a last name of Zorn but he didn't play for the Rams.
6. The player whose last name was Mansfield played for the Lions. The quarterback wasn't Charlie.

| | Alex | Brandon | Charlie | Elliot | Fenn | Koning | Mansfield | Zorn | kicker | quarterback | receiver | running back |
|--------------|------|---------|---------|--------|------|--------|-----------|------|--------|-------------|----------|--------------|
| Bulls | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chargers | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lions | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rams | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| kicker | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| quarterback | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| receiver | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| running back | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fenn | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Koning | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mansfield | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zorn | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Answers:

| Team Name | First Name | Last Name | Position |
|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Rams | Charlie | Koning | receiver |
| Lions | Elliot | Mansfield | kicker |
| Chargers | Alex | Zorn | running back |
| Bulls | Brandon | Fenn | quarterback |

Board 2
 Dealer: E
 N/S Vul.

♠ Q96
 ♥ AQ73
 ♦ J32
 ♣ A64

♠ A73
 ♥ KJT84
 ♦ A95
 ♣ KQ

♠ J842
 ♥ 2
 ♦ KQ86
 ♣ JT75

♠ KT5
 ♥ 965
 ♦ T74
 ♣ 9832



| Closed Room | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| Moss | Lall | Grue | Bathurst |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| 1C (strong) | Pass | 3D (4-1-4-4 8-10) | Pass |
| 3NT | All Pass | | |

| Open Room | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Hampson | Fleisher | Greco | Martel |
| | | Pass | Pass |
| 1C (strong) | Pass | 1D (neg) | Pass |
| 1H | Pass | 1S | All Pass |

3NT fails on any lead but a heart. Lall, not only led a heart, but he led the HA! Bathurst discouraged and Lall switched to a spade which rode to the jack, king, ace. Moss played the CK and Lall took the ace. Lall cashed the SQ and played a spade to Bathurst's ten. Moss collected nine tricks: one heart, four diamonds, three clubs, and one spade. The heart lead gave declarer the timing he needed to bring home the hand. +400

One man's positive is another man's negative. In the other room, Hampson/Greco bid all four suits and stopped in 1S. With all suits splitting well, Greco easily came to nine tricks for +140 and 6 IMPs to Fleisher.

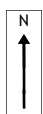
Board 9
 Dealer: N
 E/W Vul.

♠ 432
 ♥ J62
 ♦ T8
 ♣ J8765

♠ A
 ♥ AKQT5
 ♦ J7
 ♣ AKQ43

♠ KQJT76
 ♥ 987
 ♦ AQ94
 ♣

♠ 985
 ♥ 43
 ♦ K6532
 ♣ T92



| Moss | Lall | Grue | Bathurst |
|------|----------|------|----------|
| | Pass | 1S | Pass |
| 2C | Pass | 2S | Pass |
| 2NT | Pass | 3C | Pass |
| 3D | Pass | 4C | Pass |
| 4S | Pass | 5C | Pass |
| 5D | Pass | 5H | Pass |
| 7H | All Pass | | |

| Hampson | Fleisher | Greco | Martel |
|---------|----------|-------|----------|
| | Pass | 1S | Pass |
| 2H | Pass | 2S | Pass |
| 3C | Pass | 3S | Pass |
| 4D | Pass | 4H | Pass |
| 5S | Pass | 6S | All Pass |

When dummy hit, Greco only had one thing to say... "Oops!"

As the cards lie, there are a minimum of 15 tricks. If it's any consolation to Diamond, spades is a better contract than hearts. No-trump is best as long as it's played from East... but highly unlikely as a contract in any system.

Spades is better than hearts because the only thing to stop it is a 6-0 spade break in the opponent's hands. Hearts may go down with any bad trump break. 13 IMPs to Fleisher

Appeal # 1 USBC 2017

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Board 4 of segment 3 of 8 Vul: Both Dealer: West | North (Diamond) ♠ K J 7 2 ♥ A K T 4 3 2 ♦ 4 ♣ T 7 | |
| West (Fleisher) | | East (Martel) |
| ♠ A T 8 ♥ Q J 6 ♦ T 6 3 ♣ J 8 5 4 | | ♠ Q 9 4 ♥ --- ♦ A K 8 7 2 ♣ A K 9 6 3 |
| | South (Platnick) ♠ 6 5 3 ♥ 9 8 7 5 ♦ Q J 9 5 ♣ Q 2 | |

Bidding

| | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|-------|
| N | E | S | W |
| | | | P |
| 1♥ | DBL | 2♥* | P |
| P | DBL | P | 2NT** |
| 3♥ | 4♣ | P | 5♣ |
| All Pass | | | |



* Weaker of two raises

** "Better minor Lebensohl" – BIT

Table Result: 5♣ by East made 11 tricks after a heart lead and routine play. 600 to E/W

Director's Ruling: Result stands:

Six high-level players were polled about what East would do over 3♥. One player passed and five players bid on.

Four of those players were polled as to what information might have been passed by the break in tempo. All agreed that it was very likely that partner was the one out of tempo, but all four said that partner was most likely choosing between strains (three mentioning the possibility of a 2♣ bid on three cards) rather than choosing what strength to show.

From this polling, it was determined that the slow 2NT did not demonstrably suggest one action over another, so there was no basis for an adjusted score.

Appeal: The appeal, conducted by conference call, was heard after the fourth segment. North, East and West attended. Director McKenzie Myers also attended, presented the case and provided legal guidance to the committee.

(continued on page 9)

Arguments by the Appealing Side:

North-South appealed.

North asserted that West's lengthy huddle before bidding 2NT (confirmed to be about 3:15 by Myers, who had reviewed the video) was a clear indication of values, as opposed to an awkward decision with a weak hand of imperfect shape; if a weak hand needed time, the huddle, even if noticeable, would be of much shorter duration.

Thus, the knowledge of values with West demonstrably suggested action by East. Since one of the six pollees passed in the problem position, that was sufficient to establish pass as a logical alternative.

Arguments by the Other Side:

E/W argued that West could have been thinking about many things, including whether to pass for penalties, whether to bid a 3-card spade suit, or whether to bid a minor directly or use their version of lebensohl. Further, they said that acting over 3♥ with the East hand was automatic, despite the one pollee who thought otherwise. For his second double East could have had classic 4=1=4=4 shape and some extra values; this East hand, with two strong 5-card suits and a void, was much better than that. Also, West's 2NT call had asked for a minor, so a fit was assured, possibly a substantial fit. Moreover, they noted that some of the pollees bid higher than 4♣.

Appeals Committee Ruling

The E/W methods are that 2NT asks for better minor, normally clubs with equal length. It is also used for weak hands with diamonds only. A direct 3♣ by West is wide-range, covering both weak and (mildly) invitational hands. A direct 3♦ by West is invitational.

The committee thought that the very lengthy huddle did indicate values, as opposed to an awkward weak hand. With the latter West might still have taken time, but not as much. Thus, the huddle did demonstrably suggest action.

However, the committee found no logical alternative to acting with the East hand. A yarborough with 2=4=(5-2) shape makes 5 of a minor a great contract. The East hand is significantly stronger than what had been shown even by two previous doubles. Despite the lone pollee, the committee agreed that acting with the East hand was clear.

Therefore, the committee decision was to let the result stand.

The committee notes that West's huddle was risky. It could easily have compromised partner on many likely continuations, including the actual auction. As always, players must strive for uniform tempo in potentially tempo-sensitive auctions.

Appeals Committee

Bart Bramley, Chairman
Mitch Dunitz, Member
Ralph Katz, Member