



Volume 11, Issue 3  
April 29, 2017

## Results:

Team Name	Total	8	9	6	13	15	12	7	10	5	11	14	17	16	BYE
8. Dwyer	90.49			2.31		12.05					18.04	13.12	18.97	16	10
9. Wold	87.47			6.88		9.56		15.5			19.11		17.69	8.73	10
6. Meltze	81.17	17.69	13.12			10.44	7.95	15.75		6.22					10
13. Jacobs	78.21						7.95	6.22	13.12	17.69	5.91	7.95		19.37	
15. Ivatur	77.3	7.95	10.44	9.56			13.12	17.11			9.56	9.56			
12. Robins	75.85			12.05	12.05	6.88			4			15.75	14.68	10.44	
7. Mahaff	71.28		4.5	4.25	13.78	2.89			10.86	15.5				19.5	
10. Simson	68.35				6.88		16	9.14		9.56		3.32	13.45		10
5. Rosent	68.24			13.78	2.31			4.5	10.44			13.12	14.09		10
11. Miller	63.93	1.96	0.89		14.09	10.44						13.78		12.77	10
14. Harris	63.4	6.88			12.05	10.44	4.25		16.68	6.88	6.22				
17. Kent	44.57	1.03	2.31				5.32		6.55	5.91				13.45	10
16. Dinkin	39.74	4	11.27		0.63		9.56	0.5			7.23		6.55		

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UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

# “Trials” and Tribulations



Now that we've reached our 80's, let's play that the last one to bid the suit is declarer. It will be easier to remember!

# Off and Running - Jacobs vs. Rosenthal

Boards 4 in the first segment gave Bruno a chance to shine.

Board 4  
 Dealer: W  
 All Vul.

♠ Q7  
 ♥ 986  
 ♦ QJT54  
 ♣ J63

♠ J962  
 ♥ JT  
 ♦ 762  
 ♣ T742

♠ AK85  
 ♥ A53  
 ♦ A98  
 ♣ AKQ

♠ T43  
 ♥ KQ742  
 ♦ K3  
 ♣ 985



West	North	East	South
Bruno	Ginossar	Schuett	Willenken
Pass	Pass	2C	Pass
2D (0-1 control)	Pass	2NT	Pass
3C	Pass	3D (one or both 4 card majors)	Pass
3H (spades)	Pass	3S	Pass
4S	All Pass		

Several Wests holding only two jacks did not push for the vulnerable game. On tabling the Dummy, Bruno commented, "I might have been too aggressive. I didn't have to bid four."

Willenken led a small spade. Schuett played small; Ginossar contributed and queen and Schuett won his ace. Schuett played a small heart toward the JT, Willenken winning his queen. Willenken continued his attack on trump and Schuett cleared that suit. He cashed his three top clubs and when everyone followed, he had four clubs, one diamond, one heart, four spades and one heart ruff for eleven tricks. Schuett folded his cards and said, "Thanks for not passing, Dick."

Board 5  
 Dealer: N  
 N/S Vul.

♠ AT72  
 ♥ AK9  
 ♦ T  
 ♣ JT842

♠ Q8543  
 ♥ JT6  
 ♦ J92  
 ♣ A9

♠ J  
 ♥ 8432  
 ♦ AK7653  
 ♣ Q3

♠ K96  
 ♥ Q75  
 ♦ Q84  
 ♣ K765



Bruno	Ginossar	Schuett	Willenken
	1C (could be 2)	3C (diamonds)	Pass
3D	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

On Board 5, Schuett put the maximum pressure on N/S by preempting at the three level. With a marginal hand, Willenken was forced to make a guess when 3D came around to him. He chose to go high and bid 3NT.

Bruno led the D2; Dummy contributed the ten; Schuett played the ace and continued a small diamond. At this point, Willenken's only hope was to find West with the DK and CA. He played the D8, hoping to block the diamond suit. Of course this lost to the nine and the opponents took the first six diamonds and the CA.

The Result: 300 to E/W



# Teams 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 Pyszczola
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



Competing in sports  
has taught me that if  
I'm not willing to give  
120 percent,  
somebody else will.

Ron Blomberg



# Harris vs. Ivatury

Board 5  
 Dealer: N  
 N/S Vul.  
 ♠ AT72  
 ♥ AK9  
 ♦ T  
 ♣ JT842

♠ Q8543  
 ♥ JT6  
 ♦ J92  
 ♣ A9  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ 8432  
 ♦ AK7653  
 ♣ Q3  
 ♠ K96  
 ♥ Q75  
 ♦ Q84  
 ♣ K765



West	North	East	South
Henner	Barron	Ivatury	Morgan
	1C	1D	1NT
2D	Pass	Pass	2H
Pass	Pass	3D	All Pass

Jacob Morgan showed his creativity during the auction.

Over 1D, he revealed his hand strength by bidding 1NT with a single diamond stopper. When 2D was passed around to him, he was pretty sure the hand belonged to his side, but he didn't know in what strain.

Since he had not bid 1H over 1D, he hoped his partner would realize that he did not hold a four card heart suit and was simply making the cheapest take out bid with a three card suit. Strangely enough, 2H in the 3-3 fit is a makeable contract... though clearly, clubs would be a better spot.

When the opponents bid 3D, N/S gave up and chose to defend.

The defense played three rounds of hearts, followed by the king and nine of spades, ruffed by declarer. Declarer drew two trumps and cashed the 13th heart to discard the small club from dummy for down one in 3D.

## 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 starting on Sunday from 2:00-4:00. **BUT: Sit outs are encouraged to come as early as 1pm for lunch to avoid overcrowding the suite. On Sunday, 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.

On Friday and Saturday, we will be serving a buffet lunch catered by the hotel in the hotel restaurant.

# Tournament Schedule (continued on page 7)

ROUND ROBIN			
DAY	DATE	TIME	BOARDS
FRIDAY	APRIL 28	9:45 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING Room 1321
FRIDAY	APRIL 28	10:00 - 11:10 11:20 - 12:30 12:40 - 1:50  3:15 - 4:25 4:35 - 5:45 5:55 - 7:05 7:15 - 8:25	MATCH 1 - BOARDS 1-8 MATCH 2 - BOARDS 9-16 MATCH 3 - BOARDS 17-24 85 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK MATCH 4 - BOARDS 1-8 MATCH 5 - BOARDS 9-16 MATCH 6 - BOARDS 17-24 MATCH 7 - BOARDS 25-32
SATURDAY	APRIL 29	10:00 - 11:10 11:20 - 12:30 12:40 - 1:50  3:15 - 4:25 4:40 - 5:50* 5:50 - 7:00*	MATCH 8 - BOARDS 1-8 MATCH 9 - BOARDS 9-16 MATCH 10 - BOARDS 17-24 85 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK MATCH 11 - BOARDS 1-8 *MATCH 12 - BOARDS 9-16 *MATCH 13 - BOARDS 17-24
* THE FINAL 2 MATCHES ARE SEQUESTERED - ONE PAIR ON EACH TEAM MUST PLAY BOTH MATCHES & REMAIN IN THE CLOSED ROOM FOR BOTH MATCHES. NO SCORE COMPARISON ALLOWED.			
ROUND OF 16 & USA2 ROUND OF 64 ( R of 64 ... see page 6)			
SUNDAY	APRIL 30	9:45 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
SUNDAY	APRIL 30	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 1	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
QUARTER-FINAL & USA2 ROUND OF 32 (8 USA2 TEAMS)			
TUESDAY	MAY 2	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 3	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 & USA2 ROUND OF 16 (8 USA2 TEAMS)			
THURSDAY	MAY 4	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 5	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 & 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





# USA2 Round of 64

**Time**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH**  
 (NOTE: EACH MATCH WILL HAVE A UNIQUE SET OF BOARDS 1-28)  
 IF ALL 3 TEAMS CONTINUE ON MONDAY, THIS SCHEDULE WILL REPEAT  
 \*\*\*BUT - THERE WILL BE NO SCORE COMPARISON ALLOWED AFTER THE 7TH SEGMENT (AT 5:55)\*\*\*  
 IF ONE TEAM IS QUALIFIED AT THE END OF SUNDAY, THE ROUND OF 16 SCHEDULE WILL BE USED ON MONDAY

10:00-11:00	C1 C2 C3	1 vs 2 2 vs 3 3 vs 1	1-7
11:10-12:10	C1 C2 C3	1 vs 3 2 vs 1 3 vs 2	1-7
SHORT BREAK FOR COMPARISON			
12:25-1:25	C1 C2 C3	1 vs 3 2 vs 1 3 vs 2	8-14
1:35-2:35	C1 C2 C3	1 vs 2 2 vs 3 3 vs 1	8-14
70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK			
3:45-4:45	C1 C2 C3	1 vs 3 2 vs 1 3 vs 2	15-21
4:55-5:55	C1 C2 C3	1 vs 2 2 vs 3 3 vs 1	15-21
SHORT BREAK FOR COMPARISON			
6:10-7:10	C1 C2 C3	1 vs 2 2 vs 3 3 vs 1	22-28
7:20-8:20	C1 C2 C3	1 vs 3 2 vs 1 3 vs 2	22-28

*The leading team will qualify for the Round of 32 if it is ahead in both of its matches by 42 or more IMPs, either at the end of day 1 or at the half on day 2*

**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.**



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

**Round Robin**

The 2017 USBC Round Robin will be a 2-day complete Round Robin, with 8 board matches, scored using the **USBF 8 board Victory Point scale**.

**SCORE SUBMISSION**

After each match, you must turn in a form showing your score (in IMPs) for the match; please enter the IMPs for each team, not the net IMPs. If you have time to confirm the score with your opponent before submitting it, please do so, but if you don't have time, turn the score in anyway. Write your lineup for the next match on the back of the score ticket, and turn in the score ticket to receive your assignment for the next match.

**SEQUESTERED MATCHES**

The final 2 matches on Saturday will have the Closed Room sequestered. One pair on your team must play both matches in the Closed Room. No score comparison is allowed during the 2-match clump. For the first sequestered match, the NS pair at each table will be asked to complete a score sheet & have the EW pair verify that it is correct. The score sheets will be collected and entered into the computer by the time you finish the second match. Those scores will be posted on a wall in the Players' Break Room. You will be asked to confirm that the first match score is correct when you turn in your score for the final match. We hope that this procedure will help speed up the determination of the qualifiers.

Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10	10	15	15.23	4.77	30	18.37	1.63
1	10.44	9.56	16	15.50	4.50	31	18.53	1.47
2	10.86	9.14	17	15.75	4.25	32	18.68	1.32
3	11.27	8.73	18	16.00	4.00	33	18.83	1.17
4	11.67	8.33	19	16.23	3.77	34	18.97	1.03
5	12.05	7.95	20	16.46	3.54	35	19.11	0.89
6	12.42	7.58	21	16.68	3.32	36	19.24	0.76
7	12.77	7.23	22	16.90	3.10	37	19.37	0.63
8	13.12	6.88	23	17.11	2.89	38	19.50	0.50
9	13.45	6.55	24	17.31	2.69	39	19.62	0.38
10	13.78	6.22	25	17.50	2.50	40	19.74	0.26
11	14.09	5.91	26	17.69	2.31	41	19.85	0.15
12	14.39	5.61	27	17.87	2.13	42	19.95	0.05
13	14.68	5.32	28	18.04	1.96	43	20	0
14	14.96	5.04	29	18.21	1.79			

**USBF  
8 Board  
VP Scale**

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

Sudoku 1

# Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

## Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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



# Puzzle Page ...

One day, five couples and their children (each couple had only one child) spent the day at an amusement park. They all enjoyed the day tremendously despite the fact that each child managed to get lost at some point during the day. Using the clues and the grids below, determine the full name of each couple, the name and age of each couple's child, and where each lost child was found.

- George, whose last name isn't Smith, is a good friend of Bill Walker, who is not Susie's father.
- The ages of the children from lowest to highest are the 6 year old, Ann, the one found by the teacups, George's son, and Jane's child.
- Michael Charming, whose 10-year-old child is the oldest, helped Stan find his daughter, who is a year younger than Ann, by the carousel. Stan's last name isn't Smith.
- The boy found at the ferris wheel is younger than John but older than Ann. Mary is older than Susie but younger than Tom.
- Sally Jackson didn't find her son at the teacups or the roller coaster. When she looked by the flume, she found Kim's 7-year-old child.
- Al and Linda's child, who is 8, is the best friend of Michelle's daughter, who is two years younger.

	Jane	Kim	Linda	Michelle	Sally	Bartlett	Charming	Jackson	Smith	Walker	Ann	John	Mary	Susie	Tom	years	years	years	years	years	Carousel	Ferris wheel	Flume	Roller coaster	Teacups
Al																									
Bill																									
George																									
Michael																									
Stan																									
Carousel																									
Ferris wheel																									
Flume																									
Roller coaster																									
Teacups																									
years																									
years																									
years																									
years																									
years																									
Ann																									
John																									
Mary																									
Susie																									
Tom																									
Bartlett																									
Charming																									
Jackson																									
Smith																									
Walker																									

## Answers to Puzzle:

- ☐ Al and Linda Smith, Mary, age 8, teacups
- ☐ Bill and Kim Walker, Ann, age 7, flume
- ☐ George and Sally Jackson, Tom, age 9, ferris wheel
- ☐ Michael and Jane Charming, John, age 10, roller coaster
- ☐ Stan and Michelle Bartlett, Susie, age 6, carousel

Originally from Raleigh, North Carolina, Frank T "Nick" Nickell now lives in New York most of the time. Nick is the driving force behind the composition of one of the strongest ever bridge teams. An investment banker and entrepreneur, Nick wanted to put together a very good team in the early nineties. His partner, Dick Freeman, suggested that Bob Hamman/Bobby Wolff and Jeff Meckstroth/Eric Rodwell were the two pairs needed. How right he was!

This group (with Paul Soloway replacing Wolff in 1998, Zia replacing Soloway in 2008, and most recently Ralph Katz replacing Dick Freeman after his death) proceeded to reel off an amazing run of results. From 1995 to 2009, they reached the final of five of six Bermuda Bowls - beating Canada in the 1995 final in Beijing, Brazil in Bermuda in January, 2000, and Italy in Monte Carlo in 2003 and Sao Paulo in 2009, losing to the French in Hammamet in 1997 and to Italy in Estoril in 2005. They have also won too many US titles to list. Playing with Hamman, Nick won the Cavendish Invitational Pairs in 1998. He is a WBF Grand Master, ranking 10th in the current standings.

Business and family commitments leave Nick very little time to play between major tournaments, but he and Ralph Katz have been working on their partnership online between tournaments



# Meet the Players

Ralph was born in 1957 in Pittsburgh, PA and raised in Steubenville, OH. He was 22 when he won his first National Championship, the Life Master Pairs, and 24 when he won both the Spingold and Master Mixed Teams at the Summer Nationals. Not long after graduating college he moved to Chicago to trade options, but his loyalty to the Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers has never waned.

His wife Martha won the World Junior Championship in 1991 and their son Sam was King of Bridge in 2006, so there is a family tradition of Bridge success.

Ralph's partnership with Nick began in 2009, a win in the Trials leading a few months later to victory over Italy in the 2009 Bermuda Bowl final in Sao Paulo. In addition to that gold medal, Ralph has won three silver medals at the world level: 1990 World Open Pairs; 2007 Bermuda Bowl; 2010 Rosenblum Teams.

With 21 North American titles with many different colleagues, Ralph has earned a reputation as a great partner and teammate, perhaps the ultimate compliment attainable from peers.

