



Volume 11, Issue 10
May 6, 2017

Results:

Women's

Team Name	Total	Carry Over	1	6	2	5	4	3	7	BYE
1. Clerkin	143.98	89.22		8.33	12.05	15.23	6.88	7.23	5.04	10.00
6. Jenkins	141.03	70.62	11.67		7.23	2.50	15.23	13.78	20.00	10.00
2. Eythorsdottir	135.65	67.01	7.95	12.77		6.88	13.12	15.50	12.42	10.00
5. Wittes	121.34	50.90	4.77	17.50	13.12		5.04	16.23	13.78	10.00
4. Baker	117.82	56.90	13.12	4.77	6.88	14.96		12.05	9.14	10.00
3. Sakr	90.45	46.51	12.77	6.22	4.50	3.77	7.95		8.73	10.00
7. OSMO	89.73	38.84	14.96	0.00	7.58	6.22	10.86	11.27		10.00

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1	Nickell	222	33	2	24	42	9	31	21	60
4	Harris	175	13	31	8	11	65	21	25	1
2	Diamond	288	24	41	38	25	28	56	28	48
3	Dwyer	218	4	32	24	17	71	19	3	48

USA1

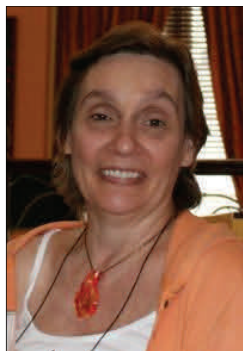
5	Rosenthal	298	48	6	30	20	61	76	57	
11	Ivatury	231	20	61	28	50	37	8	27	WD
6	Fireman	122	33	24	17	30	4	14	WD	
12	Fleisher	262	29	37	39	32	75	50		
7	Wold	241	16	11	29	44	25	15	46	55
9	Simson	246	6	52	16	45	62	26	13	26
8	Meltzer	195	12	25	32	24	35	10	38	19
10	Mahaffey	190	18	24	13	13	26	47	18	31

USA2

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations

Karen "Kate" McCallum



Meet the Players

A six-time world champion, her most recent win being the McConnell Cup in Sanya, China, Karen is perhaps best known for her aggressive and complex "light initial action" bidding system. Although the five-card (non-vul) "McCallum weak 2-bids" (with no restrictions on suit quality or side holdings) are no longer an oddity among experts, Karen saw their promise in the 1970s.

Respected around the world as a bidding theorist as well as a player, Karen has served as a coach of several Turkish national bridge teams (open, women, and junior), and of the Australian open national bridge team. She was the NPC for the Turkish juniors in the 2000 Junior World Championships in Antalya. Karen has been an invited participant in bidding panels in numerous bridge publications in England, Australia, Turkey, New Zealand, France and the US. She has also edited several bridge books, including the best-selling bridge book of all time, Larry Cohen's "To Bid or Not to Bid."

In addition to her great success in women's bridge, Karen has had some memorable experiences in open bridge. She was invited (with her partner, Kerri Sanborn) to play in the 1990 Rosenblum Teams with Peter Pender, Ralph Cohen, Bob Jones, and Mike Smolen, and the team faced a formidable opponent in the round of 16: Bob Hamman, Bobby Wolff, Chip Martel, Lew Stansby, Jimmy Cayne, and Chuck Burger. At the half, Pender's team was down 15 IMPs, and one team member suggested that perhaps "the four guys" should play the rest of the way. But Pender sent in McCallum and Sanborn for the second half and won the match. Pender's team eventually lost in the round of 8 to the German open team that won the event.

A woman of many talents and interests, Karen's primary work outside bridge is creating hand-crafted glass and beaded jewelry. You can see examples of Karen's stunning work at www.eclectica3.com. She is an insatiable reader of all genres, with a home library of more than 50,000 volumes. She also enjoys gourmet cooking and playing the piano. She lives in a 215-year-old farmhouse in Exeter, New Hampshire.



Finding a fifth is easier than finding a fourth some days!



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

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

We learned about honesty and integrity - that the truth matters... that you don't take shortcuts or play by your own set of rules... and success doesn't count unless you earn it fair and square. Michelle Obama

Erin: What did the mother bullet say to the daddy bullet?

Fran: What?

Erin: "We're gonna have a BB!"

Joker: Why did the monster's mother knit him three socks?

Harvey: I have no clue.

Joker: She heard he grew another foot!

A mother is trying to get her son to eat carrots. "Carrots are good for your eyes," she says.

"How do you know?" the boy asks.

The mother replies, "Have you ever seen a rabbit wearing glasses?"

Elephant: Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?

Hippo: I give up.

Elephant: Because their kids have to play inside!

Matthew: What did the mother rope say to her child?

Jim: What?

Matthew: "Don't be knotty."

Daffynition: Minimum—A small mother.

A mother mouse and a baby mouse are walking along when suddenly a cat attacks them. The mother mouse shouts "BARK!" and the cat runs away. "See?" the mother mouse says to her baby. "Now do you see why it's important to learn a foreign language?"

Jack: What did the mother broom say to the baby broom?

Bill: What?

Jack: It's time to go to sweep!

Mother to son: I'm warning you. If you fall out of that tree and break both your legs, don't come running to me!

Robbie: Larry's mother had four children. Three were named North, South and West. What was her other child's name?

Bobbie: East?

Robbie: No. Larry.

Daffynition: Sweater—something you wear when your mother gets cold.

Pee Wee: What did the digital clock say to its mother?

Westy: What?

Pee Wee: "Look, Ma! No hands!"

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			
TUESDAY	MAY 9	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 10	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

Women's

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

Sudoku 1

Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

Puzzle Page ...

1. There's one popular sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends. What is it?
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. Name the only sport in which the ball is always in possession of the team on the defense and the offensive team can score without touching the ball?
5. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
6. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
7. Where are the lakes that are referred to in the "Los Angeles Lakers?"
8. There are seven ways a baseball player can legally reach first base without getting a hit. Taking a base on balls-a walk-is one way. Name the other six.
9. It's the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh. What is it?
10. Name six or more things that you can wear on your feet that begin with the letter "S."

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!

Answers:

1. Boxing
2. Niagara Falls - the rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.
3. Asparagus and rhubarb
4. Baseball
5. Strawberry
6. The pear grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the whole growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.
7. In Minnesota. The team was originally known as the Minneapolis Lakers and kept the name when they moved west.
8. Batter hit by a pitch; passed ball; catcher interference; catcher drops third strike; fielder's choice; and being designated as a pinch runner.
9. Lettuce
10. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, snowshoes, stockings

Approaching the End of USA1 Semis and USA2 Round of 16

Board 2 ♠ 96
 Dealer: E ♥ A96
 N/S Vul. ♦ K6
 Segment 5 ♣ KT7432

♠ AJ43 ♠ Q
 ♥ KJT874 ♥ 53
 ♦ AJ7 ♦ T9543
 ♣ ♣ AQJ86
 ♠ KT8752
 ♥ Q2
 ♦ Q82
 ♣ 95



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
L Stansby	Grainger	J Stansby	Compton
		Pass	2S
3H	Pass	4H	All Pass

Open Room			
Passell	Simson	Jacobus	Aker
		Pass	Pass
1H	Pass	2D	Pass
2S	Pass	3H	Pass
4D	All Pass		

**Simson/Wold
USA2**

In the Closed Room of the Simson/Wold match, Compton opened a routine 2S. Lew overcalled 3H and Joanna bid the heart game. Grainger led the S9 to the queen, king and ace. Lew ruffed a small spade in dummy, cashed the CA, tossing a small spade, played a heart to the jack and ace. Grainger played another heart. Lew pulled the trump and played his DA. Grainger, knowing he could not defeat the contract if he took the lead, threw his DK under the ace in hopes his partner had the DQJ and a cashing spade. Stansby, of course, could just concede the DQ and claim the balance. +450

In the Open Room, things went quite differently. Aker/Simson play a weak 2S with 4-10 HCP. Aker's holding would seem to fit this perfectly... however.... for reasons of his own, Aker passed. You cannot argue with success! Passell opened 1H; Jacobus responded 2D; Passell bid 2S patterning out; Jacobus bid 3H; and when Passell bid 4D, completing the picture, Jacobus, playing a strong club system, therefore, aware that the max on his partner's hand was 15 points, chose to pass and play it there. Aker led the S8 which rode to the queen. The H5 went to the jack, ducked. The HT drew the ace and queen and established the suit. Jacobus claimed 10 tricks. 8 IMPs to Simson

Katz led the S9, Lo winning the king with the ace. Lo ruffed a spade in dummy, played the CA pitching a diamond, and ruffed a club. He tried for a second spade ruff, but Katz ruffed in front of dummy with the H6 and played a club ruffed by Nickell with the HQ, overruffed with the ace... almost promoting the nine! Lo played on trump, making four. +420

Closed Room			
Lo	Katz	Liu	Nickell
		Pass	Pass
1H	Pass	1NT	Pass
2H	Pass	Pass	2S
Pass	Pass	3H	Pass
4H	All Pass		

**Harris/Nickell
USA1**

Envelope Please!! And the award for the best lead goes to Jacob Morgan!

Morgan led a small heart from Qx. Levin couldn't envision that he held the queen for this lead so he played the king! Barron won the ace and played a heart. Morgan won the queen and shifted to the ST.

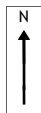
Open Room			
Weinstein	Barron	Levin	Morgan
		Pass	Pass
2D (Flannery)	Pass	2H	Pass
3H	Pass	4H	All Pass

Levin won the queen in his hand, played a diamond to the jack and king. Barron played the S9 riding to the jack in dummy. Levin ran the trumps and found himself dummy locked. In the end, he had to concede a diamond and a spade to Morgan. Down 2! 11 well earned IMPs to Harris!

Board 5 ♠ A
 Dealer: N ♥ JT52
 N/S Vul. ♦ AK976
 Segment 5 ♣ J65

♠ Q653 ♠ J8742
 ♥ Q76 ♥ 984
 ♦ 43 ♦ QJ85
 ♣ K942 ♣ T

♠ KT9
 ♥ AK3
 ♦ T2
 ♣ AQ873



Closed Room			
West	North	East	South
L Stansby	Grainger	J Stansby	Compton
	1D	Pass	2C
Pass	2D	Pass	2NT
Pass	3C	Pass	3H
Pass	3S	Double	3NT
All Pass			

Open Room			
Passell	Simson	Jacobus	Aker
	1D	Pass	2C
Pass	3C	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

**Simson/Wold
USA2**

Both Wests led the S3. In the Closed Room, Compton took what appears to be an inferior play at IMPs. He won the SA and led the CJ from dummy. Lew won the king and continued spades. Joanna played the jack and Compton ducked. Another spade cleared the suit, Compton winning his king while Lew unblocked the queen. Compton played the CA and got the news. He cashed the HA, played a diamond to dummy, and took the losing heart finesse. Lew won and played the S6 to Joanna who cashed out for down one.

In the Open Room, Aker did much better. He won the SA and played a SMALL club to his ace. Clearly safety plays are made for IMPs. Aker played a small club from his hand toward the Jx in dummy. If Passell won this, Aker could score two spades, two hearts, two diamonds and three clubs for nine. If Passell ducked (as he did at the table), Aker could win the jack in dummy and take the heart finesse to score three or four hearts, two diamonds, two clubs and two spades. The heart finesse was off so Aker collected nine tricks and 12 IMPs.

2017 USBC USA2 SF - Segment 5 of 8						
Simson: 164 IMPs		Open Room				
Wold: 125 IMPs						
	Open Room	By	NS Score	EW Score	NS IMPs	EW IMPs
	3NT=	E		600		10
	Closed Room	By	NS Score	EW Score	NS IMPs	EW IMPs
1	3♥+1	E		170	—	—
2	4♦=	E		130	8	
3	4♥-1	S		50	2	
4	3NT+2	E		660	—	—
5	3NT=	S	600		12	
6	3♣+1	W		130	10	
7	4♣+1	W		150	10	
8	5♠-1	N		50		11
9	5♣+1	N	420		—	—
10	4♥+1	W		650		13
11	4♦-3	N		150		1
12	2♠+1	S	140		1	
13	1NT+2	N	150		2	
14	6♦=	S	920			
15	5♠=	W		400		
			Totals:	45	25	

Notice on the score card to your left that of the first seven boards, all but one score was plus for East/West...

But all the swings on those boards ran North/South.

It does not always work that way. Usually it works quite the opposite!

Board 7 ♠ A42
 Dealer: S ♥ QT65
 All Vul. ♦ QT943
 Segment 5 ♣ 2

♠ 3 ♠ KQJT6
 ♥ 8743 ♥ AK9
 ♦ ♦ K82
 ♣ AQJ98643 ♣ 75

♠ 9875
 ♥ J2
 ♦ AJ765
 ♣ KT



Closed Room				Diamond/Dwyer USA1
West	North	East	South	
Cohen	Greco	Cohler	Hampson	
5C	All Pass			

Open Room				Diamond/Dwyer USA1
Diamond	Becker	Platnick	Kamil	
4C	All Pass			
Pass				

Closed Room				Simson/Wold USA2
L Stansby	Grainger	J Stansby	Compton	
4C	Pass	5C	All Pass	
Pass				

Open Room				Simson/Wold USA2
Passell	Simson	Jacobus	Aker	
4C	All Pass			
Pass				

Closed Room				Harris/Nickell USA1
Weinstein	Barron	Levin	Morgan	
3NT (m preempt)	Pass	4S	All Pass	
Pass				

Open Room				Harris/Nickell USA1
Lo	Katz	Liu	Nickell	
4C	Pass	4S	All Pass	
Pass				

In Diamond/Dwyer, Cohen chose to open the West hand 5C and played it there making five. The play was simple. Greco led the SA and shifted to a diamond to his partner's ace, ruffed by Cohen. Cohen played the CA and conceded the CK ... making 11 tricks for +600.

In the other room, Diamond chose to open 4C and played it there. Becker led a diamond and Diamond collected 11 tricks for +150 and a loss of 10 IMPs.

In Simson/Wold, both Wests opened 4C. Joanna Stansby, East in the Closed Room, raised to five. Grainger led the SA and shifted to a diamond. Lew collected eleven tricks for +600.

In the other room, Passell played in 4C, also collecting 11 tricks, losing 10 IMPs.

In Nickell/Harris, both Easts played in their 5-1 spade fit in game. Their auctions started differently but ended up the same.

In the Closed Room, Morgan led a trump to Barron's ace. Barron shifted to the D9! Levin covered with the king, lost to the ace and Morgan/Barron collected two more tricks in the suit to defeat 4S one trick.

At the other table, Nickell led the HJ. Liu won his king and played the SK. Katz won the ace and could have shifted to diamonds as did Barron to defeat the contract, however, he worried that declarer held the DA. Accordingly, he shifted to his singleton club to sever communications with dummy. This was fatal. Liu led a heart to his hand, pulled the trump, and returned to dummy with his small club, collecting twelve tricks and 13 IMPs!

Interesting that two tables found their 5-1 fit and played at the four level... even more interesting that they were in the same match.

Board 16
 Dealer: W
 E/W Vul.
 Segment 6

♠ AK3
 ♥ KJ7
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 986543

♠ QT9
 ♥ 98
 ♦ QJT8
 ♣ AKT2

♠ 74
 ♥ AQ43
 ♦ K95432
 ♣ J

♠ J8652
 ♥ T652
 ♦ A7
 ♣ Q7



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Wold	Simson	Levine	Aker
1D	2C	4C (splinter)	Pass
4D	Pass	4NT	Pass
5D	All Pass		

**Harris/Nickell
USA-1**

Closed Room			
L Stansby	Passell	J Stansby	Jacobus
1D	2C	Double	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

In the Open Room, Wold had no chance in 5D. Simson started with the ace and king of spades, and since the trump ace was bound to score, it was over.

In the Closed Room, Joanna made a negative double over 2C. Lew had great club stoppers so he bid 2NT. Joanna's six card fit in diamonds gave them a great source of tricks so she bid the game.

Passell led a fourth best club and Lew had time to knockout the DA safely. Jacobus won the second round of diamonds and switched to the SJ. Too little too late one more time... Stansby covered. Passell won the king. The defense was helpless. In the end, Lew collected ten tricks for +630 and 12 IMPs to Simson.

Note that 3NT could be defeated on repeated spade leads. SA, SK, and a spade ... then when South wins his DA, he cashes his last two spades for down one!

Meanwhile In the Women's Round Robin

Board 7
 Dealer: S
 All Vul.
 RR Match 8

♠ J975
 ♥ KJ
 ♦ J75
 ♣ JT93

♠ AK2
 ♥ T873
 ♦ 983
 ♣ Q72

♠ Q864
 ♥ Q542
 ♦ AK6
 ♣ AK

♠ T3
 ♥ A96
 ♦ QT42
 ♣ 8654



Sokolow	Howard	Molson	Sakr
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1D	Pass
1H	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	4H	All Pass

Good players think at the table. Janice Seamon-Molson opened 1D on her flat 18 count. Her partner responded 1H. While Janice held four hearts, her hand was maximum for a 3H call and a little shy of a 4H call.

She compromised by concealing her heart support and bidding 2NT showing her hand strength. Had Tobey passed 2NT, Janice reasoned that they wouldn't be a game. When her partner bid 3NT, she happily corrected to 4H.

Note that both games succeed with the lie of the cards. However, if one hand held the HAK and five diamonds, 3NT could be defeated on a diamond lead.

4H doesn't even need favorable hearts. It will make against all 3-2 breaks and even some 4-1 splits.





Game Faces



Board 3
 Dealer: S
 E/W Vul.
 Segment 7

♠ J2
 ♥ KQT9
 ♦ AQ875
 ♣ KQ

♠ T9753
 ♥ 654
 ♦ 3
 ♣ AJ92

♠ K86
 ♥ J
 ♦ 9642
 ♣ 76543

♠ AQ4
 ♥ A8732
 ♦ KJT
 ♣ T8



Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Hamman	Lev	Bramley	Mahaffey
Pass	2C	Pass	1NT (14+-17)
Pass	6H	All Pass	2H

Closed Room			
Schermer	Garner	Chambers	Smith
Pass	2C	Pass	1NT (15-17)
Pass	4C	Pass	2H
Pass	4NT	All Pass	4H

Mahaffey/Meltzer
USA2

In the Open Room, Lev and Mahaffey bid the heart slam and made it easily.

In the Closed Room, however, Garner and Smith played in 4NT making seven on the lead of a fourth best club. According to Smith/Garner's system notes, 4C was quantitative with hearts, but Garner intended it as Blackwood.

10 IMPs to Mahaffey

Board 12
 Dealer: W
 N/S Vul.
 Segment 7

♠ J98
 ♥ 853
 ♦ KQ932
 ♣ K7

♠ AK62
 ♥ J94
 ♦ J76
 ♣ T54

♠ T4
 ♥ QT76
 ♦ AT5
 ♣ 9832

♠ Q753
 ♥ AK2
 ♦ 84
 ♣ AQJ6



Hamman	Lev	Bramley	Mahaffey
Schermer	Garner	Chambers	Smith
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

North/South arrived in 3NT in both rooms.

In the Open Room where Lev and Mahaffey were N/S respectively, Hamman did well to find the inspired lead of a small heart. Bramley contributed the queen and Mahaffey won his king. Mahaffey played a diamond to the king, Bramley ducking. Mahaffey thought he's found the DA onside and returned to his hand with a small club to the queen. A small diamond to the queen and ace followed, Bramley clearing hearts. Mahaffey had no chance. When the smoke cleared, he was down two for -200

In the Closed Room where Garner and Smith were N/S respectively, Schermer, led the SA. He shifted to a heart but Smith had the timing to take the winning line. Smith played a diamond to the king, ducked... and the SJ to Schermer's king. Schermer continued hearts, but Smith had nine tricks.

13 IMPs to Meltzer

Baker vs. Osmo

Board 13 ♠ QJT954
 Dealer: N ♥ J9
 All Vul. ♦ J4
 Match 12 ♣ T53

♠ A ♠ K873
 ♥ KT432 ♥ Q5
 ♦ QT8 ♦ A9532
 ♣ Q742 ♣ A6

♠ 62
 ♥ A876
 ♦ K76
 ♣ KJ98



West	North	East	South
Music	Levitina	Bales	Sanborn
	Pass	1D	Pass
1H	1S	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	1NT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Toni Bales, of the OSMO team, demonstrated fine declarer technique on this board. The opening lead was the S6 won in dummy with the ace.

Bales led the DQ, ducked around the table. She followed with the DT to the jack and ace, and exited with a diamond. Sanborn continued the attack on spades. Kerri led the spade deuce. Dummy discarded a small heart. Levitina's nine held the trick.

A third round of spades was played. Bales won this trick with Sanborn discarding a small heart, and dummy discarding a small club.

Two more rounds of diamonds were played and Sanborn was stuck for discards. She chose to discard two small clubs. Dummy discarded a club and a heart. Bales played the HQ. Sanborn rose with the ace and decided her best chance to defeat the hand was to find her partner with the CA. She played the CJ to dummy's queen.

Bales had nine tricks for certain. When she cashed the HK and the jack fell, she had nine tricks.

Notice: if Sanborn exits a heart instead of a club, Bales will rise with the king felling the jack and collecting nine tricks. At the other table, game was defeated. 12 IMPs to OSMO

For the Baker team, this was especially sad since it was the difference losing by 4 IMPs or winning by 8 IMPs. This was an almost 5 VP difference and Baker missed qualifying by less than 4 VP's.



Limey Jack...

Blimey Yanks; that was good theatre. The Nickell-Harris match was nip and tuck til the very last furlong. As e'er, Limey Jack continues apace to have the Punters in the soup line afore St. Swithen's Day. The Dung one is still looking foolish and forlorn, like the last banger on the plate.

USA 1-Open:

Nickell-Diamond: Both teams have hit their stride but Nickell has expended more energy. The two pre-tourney favourites square off for the USA 1 Champion. Will this be the time that Diamond kisses the Blarney Stone. One counts Nickell out at one's peril, but put a few quid on Diamond.

USA 2:

Dwyer-Meltzer: One of two Fillies remaining, Meltzer continues to overachieve and comes to the fore via winning, whilst Dwyer has wounds to lick. Dwyer will need dig deep for this one, but should be able to recover in time. In Bob Hamman's final appearance t'would be Mum's knickers to call him a winner, but the nod goes to Dwyer.

Harris-Simson: Only 9 members betwixt the two squads. Limey Jack would like a double forfeiture, but one must prevail. Harris had a taste of the Grail but had it plucked away from his parched lips. Much greater experience on the Simson team and the last Filly trots to the Finish Pole.

Fleisher-Rosenthal: Fleisher is still smarting from their horror show in the early rounds when they pulled a Flexit. Since then they have devoured the opponents. Rosenthal plays their final match as a team, sure as the Parson's wife forgets to lower the shade.

USA Women's: In a major coup, the event favourite took a skittle and withdrew from the tourney, leaving a clear path for Friar Tuck. (ED Note-Clerkin)

Clerkin-Wittes: The two eventual winners have to butt heads in round one, But Clerkin draws the first berth.

Jenkins-Disa: The Amazon prevails here in a well played match. (ED note: Disa is tall)

Howie Dung will continue to blather and annoy you whilst Limey Jack gets every call square on. Cheers, LJ

Howie Doing...

Cheri v Jerry? Who will remain?

Shannon is planniin' to stay on the train.

When the smoke clears and matches are done.

Clerkin is perkin' as USA1.

In Disa v Jenkins, it isn't Claire

Who will drop down and who will stay there.

I am expectin' the one with the loss

Won't be the team with Sylvia Moss.

In Diamond v Nickell, I have to be Frank,

The team worth five cents will cash at the bank.

It's not at Lall certain but I think it's math!

Greco and Hampson be taking a Bath!

Meltzer's five guys will suffer demise.

Some signed up for Seniors and that will prove wise.

Barrister Harris plans to see Paris

Leaving poor Simson out on the terrace.

Andy or Marty? Who lives to party?

Who is the weak and who is the hearty?

Experience says that Marty will stay,

While Aaron's despairin' and sent on his way!

See you in ... Till then,

Howie Doing? Just fine thanks!