

Volume 13, Issue 10  
May 18, 2019

# Results:

## USA2 SemiFinals Results

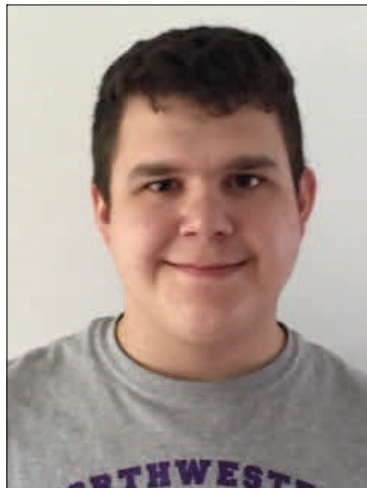
#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	SET #5	SET #6	SET #7	SET #8
1	Rosenthal	118	9	30	10	13	24	32	WD	
4	Wolfson	216	45	55	30	31	33	22		
2	Fleisher	255	26	48	42	19	45	22	25	28
3	Kriegel	237	45	14	12	35	47	41	17	26

## WUSBC... Halftime

#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
1	Disa	81	40	17	4	20
2	Baker	114	21	17	65	11
3	Bjerkan	93	30	19	37	7
4	Pepsi-colas	99	20	41	32	6

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations



Kyle Rockoff, one of the many VuGraph operators in Schaumburg...

Thanks guys!

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**USBF Vice President**  
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Gary Cohler  
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Mike Kamil  
Ralph Katz

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**Hospitality Chairs**

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# USBC Teams Entered...

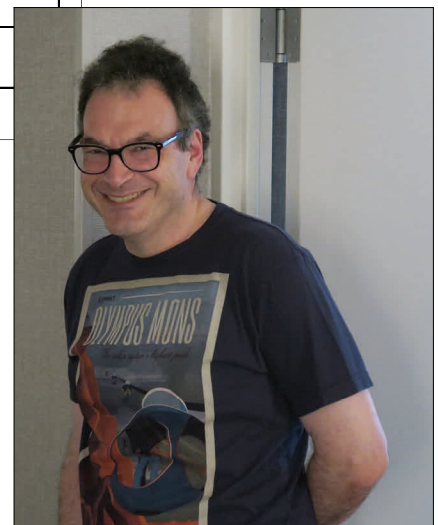
"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

Rosenthal Bye to Rnd of 8	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken David Berkowitz	Aaron Silverstein Eldad Ginossar Migry Zur Campanile
Fleisher Bye to Rnd of 16	Martin Fleisher, Capt Eric Greco Joe Grue	Chip Martel Geoff Hampson Brad Moss
Wolfson	Jeffrey Wolfson, Capt Zia Mahmood John Hurd	Steve Garner Michael Rosenberg Joel Wooldridge
Kranyak	John Kranyak, Capt Greg Hinze	Vincent Demuy David Grainger
Kriegel	Oren Kriegel, Capt John Diamond	Ron Smith Brian Platnick
Rajadhyaksha	Pratap Rajadhyaksha, Capt John Schermer	Venkatrao Koneru Billy Miller
Hill	Kevin Dwyer Kevin Bathurst Joyce Hill, NPC	Shan Huang Justin Lall
Mahaffey	Jim Mahaffey, Capt Billy Cohen Daniel Lev	Sam Lev Gary Cohler Jacek Pszczola
Robinson	Steve Robinson, Capt Kit Woolsey Robert Hamman	Peter Boyd Bart Bramley Peter Weichsel
Donn	Joshua Donn, Capt Curtis Cheek Roger Lee	Huub Bertens Daniel Korbel Sheri Winestock
Morris	Michael Levine Mike Passell Dennis Clerkin Robert Morris, NPC	Eddie Wold Marc Jacobus Jerry Clerkin
Lo	Ai-Tai Lo, Capt Adam Wildavsky Jiang Gu	Larry Robbins Doug Doub
Watson	William Watson, Capt Vinita Gupta	Geeske Joel Debbie Rosenberg
Donner	Gary Donner, Capt Rose Meltzer	Yoko Sobel Nikolay Demirev
Grossack	Adam Grossack, Capt Bart Bussink Alex Hudson	Arjun Dhir John McAllister Peter Boyd-Bowman
Dinkin	Sam Dinkin, Capt Alex Kolesnik	Bob Etter Michael Shuster
Reynolds	W. Thomas Reynolds, Capt David Pelka Ellen Kent	Lance Kerr William Hall Robert Kent
Warner	Marc Warner, Capt Stephen Zolotow	Anam Tebha Glenn Eisenstein

And while the law of competition may be sometimes hard for the individual, it is best for the race, because it ensures the survival of the fittest in every department.

Andrew Carnegie

Sam Dinkin



FINAL			
SATURDAY	MAY 18	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		3:45 - 5:55	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
SUNDAY	MAY 19	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		3:45 - 5:55	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30

**USBC Schedule**

# WUSBC Teams Entered

<b>Baker</b>	Lynn Baker Kerri Sanborn Beth Palmer Sam Dinkin, NPC	Karen McCallum Irina Levitina Sylvia Shi
<b>Bjerkan</b>	Cheri Bjerkan, Capt Pamela Wittes	Rozanne Pollack Peggy Sutherlin
<b>Eythorsdottir</b>	Hjordis Eythorsdottir, Capt Janice Seamon-Molson Cindy Bernstein	Linda Lewis Lynn Deas Sally Wheeler
<b>OSMO</b>	Toni Bales, Capt Nalita Hall	Mary Ose Kathleen Wood
<b>Pepsi colas</b>	May Sakr Gen Geiger Kristen Onsgard Jacek Pszczola, NPC	Gigi Simpson Allison Howard

## WUSBC Schedule

FINAL & USA2 SEMI-FINAL (2 USA2 TEAMS)			
FRIDAY	MAY 17	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
SATURDAY	MAY 18	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			
SUNDAY	MAY 19	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 20	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

**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.**



**Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.**

**Harriet Tubman**

2			
<b>Ginossar</b>			
♠ AKJ102			
♥ 982			
♦ AK9			
♣ A9			
<b>Wolfson</b>			
♠ 95			
♥ J10			
♦ 8763			
♣ J7654			
<b>Garner</b>			
♠ Q863			
♥ A5			
♦ J1042			
♣ KQ2			
<b>Willenken</b>			
♠ 74			
♥ KQ7643			
♦ Q5			
♣ 1083			
NS: 0 EW: 0			
<b>Wolfson</b>	<b>Ginossar</b>	<b>Garner</b>	<b>Willenke</b>
		1 ♦	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 ♣
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
<b>Berkowit</b>	<b>Hurd</b>	<b>Migry</b>	<b>Wooldric</b>
		1 ♦	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

<b>Greco</b>	<b>Smith</b>	<b>Hampson</b>	<b>Kriegel</b>
		1 ♦	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
<b>Diamond</b>	<b>Moss</b>	<b>Platnick</b>	<b>Grue</b>
		1 ♦	1 ♥
3 ♣	3 ♦	4 ♦	Pass
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

# Open Semi Final

## Day 2

In both matches of the Open USBC Semi-Final, Board 2 produced a 13 IMP swing.

In Kriegel/Fleisher, Greco led the D6 against 6H. Kriegel won the ace in dummy. Played a heart to the king, a spade to the ace, and a heart toward the queen. Hampson won his ace. He continued his attack on diamonds, Kriegel winning his queen. Kriegel played a spade to dummy's king and the SJ. Hampson ducked and Kriegel ruffed in hand. He claimed 12 tricks, returning to dummy

with the CA, discarding a club on the DK, ruffing another spade, leading a small heart to dummy's nine and discarding his last club on the good spade. 13 IMPs to Kriegel when his counterparts bid only to the game.

In Rosenthal/Wolfson, Ginossar and Willenken bid to the slam. Wolfson found the killing lead of a club. Willenken won the CA, but he had to discard two clubs before knocking out the trump ace or the defense could collect its setting trick(s).

Willenken did his best. He played a diamond to the queen and finessed the spade. Garner won, cashed the CK, and led a spade. Willenken won in dummy and led a small heart. Garner won the ace, played a third heart, Willenken ruffing with the trump king and going gracefully down two.

In the Disa/Baker match of the WUSBC, both tables played in game, one making five and one making six for a 1 IMP swing.

Nice lead, Jeff!

10

**Smith**  
 ♠ 9764  
 ♥ J752  
 ♦ KJ  
 ♣ 863

**Greco**  
 ♠ KJ108  
 ♥ 1093  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ KQ1052

**Hampson**  
 ♠ 3  
 ♥ AKQ864  
 ♦ Q8762  
 ♣ 9

**Kriegel**  
 ♠ AQ52  
 ♥  
 ♦ A10954  
 ♣ AJ74

NS: 0  
EW: 0

Greco	Smith	Hampson	Kriegel
		1 ♥	Dbl
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Diamond	Moss	Platnick	Grue
		1 ♥	Dbl
Rdbl	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Both rooms in the Kriegel/Fleisher match played in 4HX from East.

Grue led the DA and continued diamonds; Platnick ruffed in dummy with the H3 and played the CK to South's ace. Grue continued his attach on diamonds. Platnick ruffed with dummy's nine, but Moss was able to overruff with the jack and play a spade to Grue's ace for the setting trick.

In the other room, Kriegel rushed the defense. He led the DA followed by the SA and the CA. He returned to diamonds, Hampson ruffing in dummy with the H3, cashing the CK while pitching a diamond, cashing the SK while pitching a diamond, and finally, running the H9 through the jack to score up the doubled game.

14 IMPs to Fleisher

In the Women's Disa/Baker match, Lewis declared 3H making four, while Levitina declared 5HX down one for a 9 IMP swing to Baker.



Team Wolfson comparing in the hall...Garner, Zia, Rosenberg, Wolfson

# Hospitality Suite...

The hospitality suite for the 2019 Open USBC will be room 2321. Our welcoming hostesses, Lisa Berkowitz, Martha Katz, and Chris Benson are here to welcome you to the Suite. They will serve breakfast each day from 8:00-10:30 and lunch each day from 1:00-4:00.

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.

Players, kibitzers, friends, spouses and children are welcome to join us in the suite.

The "Players' Break Room" (aka Jan & McKenzie's office) is room 1321. It is available for the entire tournament. We have coffee, soft drinks and some snacks available in that room while you wait for your slow teammates to finish playing.

**Hostesses:**  
**Chris, Martha, Lisa**



24

**Ginossar**  
 ♠ K1096  
 ♥ J1074  
 ♦ 1095  
 ♣ J2

**Wolfson**  
 ♠ J52  
 ♥ KQ982  
 ♦ KQ6  
 ♣ 106

**Garner**  
 ♠ A73  
 ♥ A653  
 ♦ 73  
 ♣ AK95

**Willenken**  
 ♠ Q84  
 ♥  
 ♦ AJ842  
 ♣ Q8743

NS: 0  
EW: 0

Wolfson	Ginossar	Garner	Willenke
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Silverste	MRosenl	Rosenth	Zia
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Another hand where the opening lead is key...

The auction was identical in both rooms of the Rosenthal/Wolfson match.

In the Open Room, Rosenberg led the DT. Zia won his ace, but once a diamond was led, it was over. Silverstein had the pitch he needed to succeed.

The DJ was won with the king. A heart to ace revealed the trump lie. The SA was cashed. The H3 was won by the king and Silverstein discarded a spade on the DQ. Ten tricks home!

In the Closed Room, Ginossar found the magic spade lead. Wolfson ducked and South won his queen. A spade continuation was won in dummy with the ace.

The defense established its 4th trick while it still had the DA for an entry. 10 IMPs to Wolfson

In Fleisher/Kriegel, both Platnick and Martel led diamonds and both teams scored +420 for a push.

In the Women's event, too, both McCallum and Bernstein led diamonds, scoring +420 E/W for a push!

Nice lead, Eldad! You were the only one to defeat the

In the Fleisher/Kriegel match, Board 19 was material. The swing was 14 IMPs when Moss gave Grue a choice of games and Grue picked the nine trick game over the ten trick game thinking it might be easier.

Diamond led the C7 to the queen and ace. Moss played the S9, ducked to the queen. The D2 came back through the jack to the queen, ducked. A diamond continuation went to the king. The S7 was won by South's ace. A diamond established that suit for North. The SK was cashed and a spade rode to the South's jack. Diamond played a club to Platnick's king. Platnick cashed his diamonds and when the smoke cleared, the hand was down four for -1400.

Both tables in the Wolfson/Rosenthal match bid and made 4H. It was a 5 IMP swing when Willenken doubled Garner. Both declarers got the spade suit right to succeed. Zia went up with the ace and made it easy for Rosenthal. Willenken ducked but Garner put up the king and came home with 10 tricks.

In the Women's, it was 5 IMPs to Baker when Shi played 3H making & Lewis went down one in game.

Kriegel	Martel	Smith	Fleisher
1♠	2♣	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

19

**Platnick**  
 ♠ Q2  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ 109642  
 ♣ KQ1086

**Grue**  
 ♠ K10854  
 ♥ KJ7  
 ♦ A75  
 ♣ J5

**B Moss**  
 ♠ 97  
 ♥ A8653  
 ♦ KJ  
 ♣ A943

**Diamond**  
 ♠ AJ63  
 ♥ Q1092  
 ♦ Q83  
 ♣ 72

NS: 0  
EW: 0

Grue	Platnick	B Moss	Diamond
1♠	2♣	2♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

# USBC USA2 SemiFinals Segment 2

<b>D</b> 21		<b>N</b> Moss ♠ Q2 ♥ 85 ♦ Q62 ♣ KJ7653	<b>W</b> <b>N</b> <b>E</b> <b>S</b> P P 1NT X 3NT P P P
<b>W</b> Platnick ♠ J109653 ♥ AQ3 ♦ A43 ♣ A			<b>E</b> Diamond ♠ 87 ♥ J9762 ♦ 985 ♣ 1084
Other table: 4♣N-1 NS: Fleisher 37 IMPs EW: Kriegel 45 IMPs		<b>S</b> Grue ♠ AK4 ♥ K104 ♦ KJ107 ♣ Q92	3NT S      NS: 0 EW: 0

Board 21 from Segment 2 of the USA2 SemiFinals proves that bluffing can be just as successful in bridge as it is in poker!

In the Fleisher/Kriegel match, Grue opened a 15-17 NT. Platnick doubled showing one of a

Fleisher	Smith	Martel	Kriegel
<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>
	P	P	1NT
P	3NT	P	P
X	4♣	P	P
P			

variety of hands. Moss was undaunted with his six card club suit and his 8 count and bid 3NT not allowing Platnick to further describe which of the hands he held.

Platnick led a spade; Grue won and drove out the club ace. Platnick continued spades and Grue attacked diamonds. Platnick won the DA and continued spades but Grue had an easy 11 tricks.

The only chance E/W has to defeat this contract is for West to lead the HQ and declarer to win the trick. This seems obscure.

In the other room, West did not double South's 1NT opening, but instead balanced with double over North's raise to 3NT. Since Smith was gambling when he bid 3NT on an 8 count with at best a mediocre six card club suit, he ran for cover in direct seat.

Martel did not find the killing heart lead. Instead he led a spade to Smith's queen. Smith, not knowing the position, continued with spades for a quick heart pitch. Martel ruffed the third round of spades and Fleisher collected his three aces... down one!

13 IMPs to Fleisher

Tomorrow's exciting matchup will be Wolfson vs. Fleisher... Good luck to all!

## Answers to Sudoku Puzzles on page 8

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

### Puzzle 1

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

### Puzzle 2

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

Sudoku 1

# Difficult Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

## Answers to Puzzle on Page 9:

First Name	Last Name	BirthDay Month	BirthDay Day	Day/Month/Lie
Brenda	Wish	May	12	day
Cally	Ridge	July	23	day
Linda	Scopfield	April	4	month
Rachel	Mann	February	17	day
Shella	Enfield	September	8	month

## Sudoku Solutions on Page 7



# Puzzle Page ...

	Enfield	Mann	Ridge	Scopefield	Wish	February	April	May	July	September	4	8	12	17	23	day	day	day	month	month
Brenda																				
Cally																				
Linda																				
Rachel																				
Sheila																				
day																				
day																				
day																				
month																				
month																				
4																				
8																				
12																				
17																				
23																				
February																				
April																				
May																				
July																				
September																				

Linda and four of her friends played a guessing game at lunch time one day at school. Each was required through the course of the game to share her birthday month and day. However, each also had to lie once about either the day or the month of their birthday. It ended up that three lied about the day of their birthday and two lied about the month. Determine the full name of each friend, each friend's real birthday, and whether each lied about their birthday month or day.

1. Linda, whose last name wasn't Ridge, had her birthday on the 4th day of the month but not in September.

2. One of the girls was born on May 12th but didn't have a last name of Ridge. The one born in February, who lied about the day she was born, had a last name of Mann.

3. The girl whose last name was Enfield had her birthday in September but her first name wasn't Cally.

4. The three girls who lied about the day of their birthday were the girl whose last name was Wish, Rachel, and the girl born on the 23rd of the month.

5. Sheila lied about her birthday month. Rachel's birthday was on the 17th but not in April.

6. Brenda's birthday was in May but her last name was not Scopefield. Cally's birthday wasn't on the 8th of the month but it was in July.

## Answer to Puzzle on Page 8!

First Name	Last Name	Birthday Month	Birthday Day	Day/Month Lie
Brenda				
Cally				
Linda				
Rachel				
Sheila				
-----	Enfield	February	4	day
-----	Mann	April	8	day
-----	Ridge	May	12	day
-----	Scopefield	July	17	month
-----	Wish	September	23	month

Q. Why did the tiger lose at poker? A. Because he was playing with a cheetah.

Q: What's a tiger running a copy machine called? A: A copycat!

A lion would never cheat on his wife. But a Tiger Wood.

Q: What's the difference between a tiger and a lion? A: A tiger has the mane part missing.

I was playing scrabble with my dad when he spelt the word "stneve". It was an unexpected turn of events.



Eldad Ginossaur



# Meet the Players

Bob Hamman is one of the greatest bridge players of all time. His resume includes 12 world titles for the United States, along with 50 North American Bridge Championships.

Born August 6, 1938, Hamman had a self-described middle-class upbringing in Pasadena, California. His parents, a salesman and a telephone operator, allowed him to play money poker as well as chess in high school. <sup>1</sup> Although Hamman was particularly interested in chess, bridge became his obsession during college. At UCLA, Hamman played rubber bridge incessantly. He ultimately dropped out of school and became a regular at the L.A. Bridge Club to earn his living expenses.

In 1964, Hamman played with Don Krauss in the World Team Olympiad. Bridge guru Charles Goren penned a writeup of the pair in Sports Illustrated, a noteworthy achievement in itself. Although the American team (including notable players like Sam Stayman) eventually lost to Italy, the event was Hamman's first taste of world competition.

1964 also saw Hamman playing with Lew Mathe, a preeminent American expert. The two won the Blue Ribbon Pairs in 1966, but the partnership was turbulent and ended poorly. In 1967, wealthy businessman Ira Corn invited Hamman to join a new bridge team named the Dallas Aces. Corn had the vision of an American squad that would dominate the global bridge scene, and he had the finances to support his dream.

Hamman eventually accepted Corn's offer in 1969. The other original Aces included Billy Eisenberg, Bobby Goldman, Jim Jacoby (son of Oswald Jacoby), Mike Lawrence and Bobby Wolff. The Aces trained in Dallas full-time under the coaching of Joe "Moose" Musemuci, a retired Air Force officer. Ira Corn paid all salaries and expenses for the team. The Aces won the Bermuda Bowl world title in Stockholm in 1970, and again in Taipei in 1971. The Aces attempted to defend their title in 1972, with Paul Soloway replacing Billy Eisenberg as Hamman's partner. The world championship event that year was the World Team Olympiads, meant to emulate the 4-year recurrence of the Olympics. But the Italian Blue Team (Squadra Azzurra) beat the Aces in the final, and also won the ensuing Bermuda Bowl championships in 1973, 1974 and 1975.

Losing annually to the Italians stung the Aces, especially in 1975. In that final, the Italian pair Gianfranco Facchini and Sergio Zucchelli were accused of cheating by the American contingent. Bitter feelings naturally ensued between the American and Italian factions. Hamman called it "my worst bridge experience... the third Italian pair was clearly cheating and the whole team should have been thrown out of the event."

Hamman did not represent the U.S. in the 1976 Bermuda Bowl. However, he finally captured the title for the third time in 1977. That year, the Aces won the 1977 Bermuda Bowl against the defending U.S. champions. The other Aces included John Swanson, Bobby Goldman, Bobby Wolff, Billy Eisenberg and Eddie Kantar.

In 1982, Ira Corn passed away of a heart attack. Hamman continued to play professionally with Bobby Wolff, and the pair represented America in the 1983 Bermuda Bowl. Hamman and Wolff, alongside teammates Peter Weischel and Alan Sontag, battled against Italy in a dramatic final. Hamman later described it as "the best of all wins... it was the first time we had beaten the Italians. The way it unfolded, it was a 176-board match and it was a dogfight throughout. Finally, it came down to the last four hands, and when the music stopped, we were ahead."

Since then, Hamman has continued to play bridge at the highest level. He has won additional Bermuda Bowl titles (1985, 1987, 1995, 2000, 2003, 2009) and a slew of national titles. Many team victories were earned while playing for sponsor Nick Nickell, an excellent player in his own right. Hamman's capture of the 2009 Bermuda Bowl was with Team Nickell, while playing with fellow expert Zia Mahmood.

Hamman's Law is one of Hamman's popular contributions to bridge. The adage says, "If you have a bidding decision to make, bid 3NT if it's a plausible choice."

Away from bridge, Hamman created his own prize promotion company, SCA Promotions, in 1986. The company is now one of the world's largest companies for prize insurance. Hamman has also written an autobiography with Brent Manley entitled "At the Table My Life and Times".

*(From the Bridge Bum online)*





A.P. 1/98

Our Game

Harrington

# Alert!

Before the 1998 Chicago NABC, the ACBL commissioned an artist named Jim Harrington from Waukegan, IL, to do a painting called "Our Game." The lithos were sold at the '98 NABC and the original was auctioned off as a fund raiser for the tournament. Leo and Pat Perez from Garden Grove, CA, won the drawing and the winners were named at the Orlando NABC that year and awarded their painting. The picture was prominently displayed during both the Chicago and Orlando NABCs.

The lithos are numbered editions.

Mr. Harrington's widow, Sue, donated the remaining to the USBF when she moved from the Waukegan home last year. We have several here at the tournament. If you would like one, please see either Jan Martel or Suzi Subeck. From the July 26, 1998, Daily Bulletin at the Chicago NABC:

## Our Game

The ACBL Educational Foundation is happy to welcome artist Jim Harrington who is here in Chicago this morning to personalize limited edition prints of his painting "Our Game". This is the only day he will be here. Harrington will be at the Educational Foundation's booth which is located near the NorthEast Exhibit Hall on the lower level.

Harrington is a well-known artist listed in *Who's Who of Living American Artists* and is well represented in the collections of many corporate and private collections. Proceeds from the project will be split evenly between the Educational Foundation and Art Etc. Inc.

Our wonderful massage therapist, Ela, is available again this year. She has agreed to come to the Hyatt after 1:00 pm on the following days. People who want a massage should sign up with Jan.

Monday, 5/20

Thursday, 5/23 (that's Mixed of course)

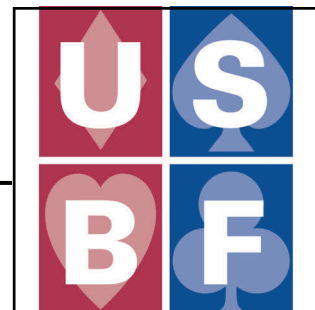
Monday, 5/27

Thursday, 5/30 (between Mixed & Seniors)

Monday, 6/3

Thursday, 6/6

## Relaxation Therapy!



### USBF Supporting Membership

If you don't want to play in the USBF Championships that choose teams to represent the USA in the World Bridge Federation Championships, but do want to aid our events, a **Supporting Membership** can be the perfect way for you to be involved. As a Supporting Member, you are eligible to:

1. Enter the fantasy brackets, run on Bridge Winners, for the USBF trials choosing our Open and Senior teams for the World Championships. The highest-ranking Supporting Member in the fantasy brackets for each of these two events will win the prize of your choice - either an online match against the USBC winners or dinner with them at the next NABC.
2. Receive daily emails during the USBF Championships. These will summarize the previous day's results and provide vugraph information and links to daily bulletins containing pictures and commentary on individual hands.
3. Upon advanced request, make arrangements for you to kibitz a USBF member of your choice for a session once each year – either at an NABC or the USBF Championships.
4. Upon advanced request, we will arrange for you to be one of the vugraph commentators for one session of the team trials.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years) and the ACBL now offers you the chance to become an USBF Supporting Member when you renew your ACBL membership. If you don't want to wait that long, you can join by choosing the red Donate Now button on the USBF website. Your donation will be used to cover inevitable expenses: attorney fees, accounting fees, website support services, tournament directors, insurance, WBF dues, and vugraph operators. The USBF is an all-volunteer organization. Our meetings are by conference call and at NABCS. Board members and the organization's officers are not compensated for meetings, travel, or hotel expenses.

We hope you will join us.

# Limey Jack...

Hallo Yanks:

Zia was feeling pretty cocksure before during and after the joust today. He was able to go to his favourite Indian restaurant a full 5 hours earlier last night. The wine flowed as he and his compatriots breezed into the finals as Limey Jack predicted from the get-go. In the other match Fleisher, with the aide of yet another committee or two, was able to claim the other half of the draw. Alas for Fleisher, this year is not a dual carriageway and there is only one winner. That winner is Zia. If the match goes to his liking, he may not even remove his dressing gown. But should it go full feature, he may need to find an off license in order to get just the right wine that tastes like victory. Congratulations to both teams for making it this far, and to Fleisher being willing to play Watson to Zia's Holmes.

Cheerio, LJ

# Howie Doing...

Tomorrow we'll know  
Who's USA2.  
Hopefully right after  
Playing is through!

Methinks it really  
Would be quite a pity.  
If one more decision  
Should rest in committee.

I fear that Wolfson  
Is doomed for a fall  
His teammates don't know  
How they play Lebensoh!

But Zia and Michael  
Again playing well,  
Like back when they played  
On teams with Martel.

If you're betting, I think  
It's best to bet small.  
'Cause either team here  
Could winner take all!

Wolfson's done Seniors,  
So it would seem  
That playing in China  
Would fulfill a dream.

Who will win Sunday?  
Which team will lose?  
I'm having a tough time  
But I have to choose.

I think when the matches  
Are over and done  
The win goes to  
Schaumburg's favorite son.

Watch on the Vu Graph  
To see it play out...  
I'm picking for Jeff  
But I do have some doubt!

Howie Doing!

# Open USBC Appeal #3

Board: 30  
Vul: None  
Dealer: East

West (Grue)

♠ Q 8 7 5  
♥ K T 9 4  
♦ 9 5  
♣ A T 9

North (Platnick)

♠ J T 6 2  
♥ 5  
♦ A T 2  
♣ K 8 7 6 3

East (Moss)

♠ A K 3  
♥ Q 2  
♦ K Q J 8 7 4  
♣ J 4

South (Diamond)

♠ 9 4  
♥ A J 8 7 6 3  
♦ 6 3  
♣ Q 5 2



## Bidding

W	N	E	S
		1♣ <sup>1</sup>	2♦ <sup>2</sup>
DBL <sup>3</sup>	4♠	DBL	P
P	4NT	DBL	5♣
DBL	All pass		

<sup>1</sup>Artificial, strong

<sup>2</sup>S to W: One Major

N to E: 5-5 Major

<sup>3</sup>Game forcing

**Table Result:** Down 5, NS -1100

## Director's Ruling

At North's first turn (immediately after the tray was returned from the SW side), East asked about the 2♦ bid and was told that it showed 5-5 in the majors. East now Alerted West's double and explained it as game forcing. North bid 4♠, and as East was thinking about his rebid, North asked what the 1♣ showed, and was told that it was artificial and strong. North-South's agreements are that 2♦ shows both majors if 1♣ is natural, and one major if 1♣ is a strong club. (East-West play a natural system when vulnerable in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd seat, and a strong club system otherwise.)

At this point North asked the director to come to his side of the screen. (The director was already in the room monitoring time.) The director told North and East that it is the Alerter's legal responsibility to make sure their screenmate sees the Alert, and he believed that requirement had been fulfilled, having watched East's Alert and North's acknowledgement of such. The players were instructed to continue the auction.

After the hand North requested that the video of the table action be reviewed. The video showed that East had waved the 1♣ card in the air and North had seen this and nodded before East placed the bid card on the tray. Videos from the prior day's play between these two pairs were viewed, and East had Alerted calls in the same manner with both North and South as screenmates. Further, the directing staff decided that had there actually been no Alert, the explanation of West's double in the auction 1♣ (2♦ Majors) X would not make sense in a standard 1♣ structure, and this information should have been enough for an experienced Precision player to understand what was going on, especially as this was the 75th board of the match the two pairs had played against each other. The table video was shown to N-S as part of delivering the ruling.

## Appeals Committee Ruling

The committee reviewed the video and determined that there was an alert that was acknowledged. The committee upheld the ruling. Table result stands.

The Committee:

Kit Woolsey, Chairman  
David Berkowitz  
Jacek Pszczola