

# Team "Trials" and Tribulations

## Thanks to All from Jan Martel

Thanks to everyone who helped make this tournament a success.

Thanks to the countless volunteers who have driven from all parts of the Midwest out to Schaumburg to act as VuGraph aides, gofers, recorders, photographers and more.

Thanks to my very competent committee ... the regulars at the USBF who serve on Appeals and arrange Hospitality.

Thanks to the directors who kept the program afloat.

And last, but not least, thanks to the players who came to Chicago from all over the country for so many days and played so hard.



We appreciate everyone's participation. It was great to see those of you I know, and meet those of you I met..

The USBF survives mainly on donations. Its purpose is to bring you this and related tournaments annually ... to choose the US representatives to the World competition. It is your support that keeps us going.

Visit our web site at <http://www.usbf.org/> for more information about the organization. If you have enjoyed our tournament these last ten days, we hope you would consider joining the USBF or, at least, consider making a donation to our cause. Forms for both and contact information are available online at the site.

Thanks again. See you at the Senior competition (USSBC) in North Bethesda, Maryland, next month.

*(Ed. note: This organization could not survive and bring you the worldwide coverage it did without the efforts of one: Jan Martel. Jan worked tirelessly without sleep for ten days to get this program off the ground. We salute her for all her fine work. She is a great representative of United States Bridge!)*

### Halftime Scores in the Final USBC

With 60 boards to go, Nickell leads Ekeblad 153-89. Natasha gloats! Boris drinks! Watch tomorrow's action on VuGraph!

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**Remaining USBC Teams**

**Ekeblad:** Russell Ekeblad, Ron Rubin, Fred Gitelman, Brad Moss, Chip Martel, Lew Stansby

**Nickell (bye ► semi-finals):** Frank Nickell, Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell

**Remaining USWBC Teams**

**USA1: Narasimhan:** Hansa Narasimhan, Irina Levitina, Jill Levin, Jill Meyers, Debbie Rosenberg, JoAnna Stansby

**USA2: Quinn:** Shawn Quinn, Sue Picus, Hjordis Eythorsdottir, Rozanne Pollack

**HOSPITALITY INFORMATION from Barbara Nudelman, Joan Gerard, and Rena Hetzer**

The hospitality suite is in room 3321. It will be open for **Breakfast** at 8:30 AM till game time for all players.

**USBC Lunch:** Lunch will be served in the suite at the mid-afternoon break (approximately 2:45 PM). We may be a bit crowded but we'll see to it that everyone gets to eat.

**USWBC Lunch** – There are no actual lunch breaks, but we will try and offer a more substantial breakfast in the hour just before your starting time. Of course, you are welcome to join us for the regular lunch break the rest of the week.

**The suite will be open most days until the completion of play for soft drinks and snacks.**

**Hotel Restaurants:** **Metro:** 6am - 10pm daily; **Tre Cena:** Breakfast: 6:30am-11 AM M-F, 7am-11am S/S; Lunch 11am-5pm daily; Dinner 5pm-10pm daily; **Knuckles** 4:30pm-12am Su-F, 4:30pm-1am Saturday

Check in-room for **room service menu** ... available 6am-12am.

The hospitality room will close for good Sunday afternoon. We wish everyone a safe, easy trip home! Thanks for coming.

It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper."  
-Jerry Seinfeld

**FYI:** Visas are required for entrance to Shanghai. Barbara Nudelman has the necessary applications in the hospitality suite. Victorious teams should stop by there and pick up their apps from Barbara. Letters of Invitation are **not** needed to attend the competition.

"It appears we have appointed our worst generals to command forces, and our most gifted and brilliant to edit newspapers! In fact, I discovered by reading newspapers that these editor/geniuses plainly saw all my strategic defects from the start, yet failed to inform me until it was too late. Accordingly, I'm readily willing to yield my command to these obviously superior intellects, and I'll, in turn, do my best for the cause by writing editorials -- after the fact."

Robert E. Lee in 1863

**Getting to the Airport in Comfort:**

There is no shuttle from the hotel to the airport. We recommend that you call **Windy City Limousine** to arrange transportation **(866) 94-WINDY**. Their drivers are courteous and helpful ... and unlike many of the cab drivers, they speak English and know their way around the city and the suburbs.

## English-isms

If you throw a cat out of a car window does it become kitty litter?  
If corn oil comes from corn.. .where does baby oil come from?  
How do they get deer to cross at the yellow sign?  
If it is tourist season, why can't we shoot them?  
What is another word for thesaurus?  
Why do they sterilize needles for lethal injections?  
When you choke a Smurf what color does it turn?  
Do radioactive cats have 18 half lives?  
What was the best thing before sliced bread?  
Money isn't made out of paper, it's made out of linen.  
Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?  
Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?  
Why are there flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?  
Why are cigarettes sold in gas stations when smoking is prohibited there?  
Why do fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?  
If you can't drink and drive, why do you need a driver's license to buy liquor, and why do bars have parking lots?  
Have you ever imagined a world with no hypothetical situations?  
How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work in the mornings?  
If 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the doors?  
If a cow laughed real hard, would milk come out her nose?  
If nothing ever sticks to TEFLON, how do they make TEFLON stick to the pan?  
If you tied buttered toast to the back of a cat and dropped it from a height, what would happen?  
If you're in a vehicle going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights?  
You know how most packages say "Open here". What is the protocol if the package says, "Open somewhere else"?  
Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?  
Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?  
Why isn't "palindrome" spelled the same way backwards?

If a man speaks in the forest, and there's no woman around to hear him... Is he still wrong?

Thanks again to the **Chicago Mercantile Exchange** for their generous contribution in sponsorship to our tournament. We used the money to provide the amazing VuGraph coverage of the International Team Trials here in Schaumburg, IL. Without their donation, we could never have provided such an extensive showing.

**Have safe trips home everyone!**

**It was great to see you all.**

# From the Semi-Final of the USBC

Board 108

Dealer: W

N/S Vul.

♠ AKQ9754

♥ 876

♦ AT4

♣

♠ 2

♥ T5

♦ K83

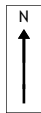
♣ KQJT943

♠ J863

♥ KQJ32

♦ Q9

♣ 72



♠ T

♥ A94

♦ J7652

♣ A865

This board generated some exciting results and swings in both matches. In the Schwartz/Ekeblad match, Krekorian chose to open the West hand one club and rebid three clubs. His partner co-operated and they forced the opponents to six spades. Since West had opened, Drew Casen, East, holding two aces, doubled and found the killing lead of the diamond deuce.

West - Krekorian	North - Moss	East - Casen	South - Gitelman
1♣	Double	1♦	2♥
3♣	4♠	5♣	5♠
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	6♠	Double	All Pass

The key bid in this auction was Krekorian's 5NT bid, indicating that he had a diamond fit. This, of course, led Casen to find the diamond lead... the only lead to beat the slam.

At the other table in this match, Stansby did not open the West hand. North opened a strong club and East showed the minors. Stansby competed to five clubs and let the opponents play five spades. This made with an overtrick when the ace of clubs was led.

In the Deutsch/Nickell match, Soloway opened the West hand with a precision two clubs. Bramley and Lazard bid to six spades. Of course, Hamman led the ace of clubs and six made easily.

At the other table in this match, Baze did not open the West hand and the opponents, Rodwell and Meckstroth, played five spades making six on the lead of the heart ace.

Would anyone consider opening the West hand a high level of clubs (three or even four?) As you can see, there are only four losers in clubs if declarer strips the hand and guesses diamonds. Even seven clubs is a good sac against six spades unless you find the diamond lead.

After just a few years of marriage filled with constant arguments, a young man and his wife decided the only way to save their marriage was to try counseling. They had been at each other's throats for some time and felt that this was their last straw.

When they arrived at the counselor's office, the counselor jumped right in and opened the floor for discussion. "What seems to be the problem?" Immediately, the husband held his long face down without anything to say.

In contrast, the wife began talking 90 miles an hour, describing all the wrongs within their marriage. After 15 minutes of listening to the wife, the counselor went over to her, picked her up by her shoulders, kissed her passionately and sat her back down.

Afterwards, the wife sat speechless.

The marriage counselor looked over at the husband, who stared in disbelief. The counselor said to the husband, "Your wife NEEDS that at least twice a week!" The husband scratched his head and replied:

"I can have her here on Tuesdays and Thursdays."

1. I think animal testing is a terrible idea; they get all nervous and give the wrong answers.
2. A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.
3. The hypothalamus is one of the most important parts of the brain, involved in many kinds of motivation, among other functions. The hypothalamus controls the "Four F's": 1. fighting; 2. fleeing; 3. feeding; and 4. mating. -- Psychology professor in neuropsychology intro course
4. What is a committee? A group of the unwilling, picked from the unfit, to do the unnecessary. -- Richard Harkness, "The New York Times"
5. Slogan of 105.9, the classic rock radio station in Chicago: "Of all the radio stations in Chicago...we're one of them."
6. With every passing hour our solar system comes forty-three thousand miles closer to globular cluster M13 in the constellation Hercules, and still there are some misfits who continue to insist that there is no such thing as progress. -- Ransom K. Ferm
7. Madness takes its toll. Please have exact change.
8. Applying computer technology is simply finding the right wrench to pound in the correct screw.
9. The graduate with a Science degree asks, "Why does it work?" The graduate with an Engineering degree asks, "How does it work?" The graduate with an Accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?" The graduate with a Liberal Arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"
10. Karate is a form of martial arts in which people who have had years and years of training can, using only their hands and feet, make some of the worst movies in the history of the world. -- Dave Barry
11. I am not a vegetarian because I love animals; I am a vegetarian because I hate plants. -- A. Whitney Brown
12. A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices. -- William James
13. Never underestimate the bandwidth of a station wagon full of tapes hurtling down the highway.-- Andrew Tannenbaum
14. We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it - and stop there; lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again---and that is well; but also she will never sit down on a cold one anymore. -- Mark Twain
15. There's so much comedy on television. Does that cause comedy in the streets? -- Dick Cavett, mocking the TV-violence debate
16. If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there are men on base. -- Dave Barry
17. I am sick unto death of obscure English towns that exist seemingly for the sole accommodation of these so-called limerick writers -- and even sicker of their residents, all of whom suffer from physical deformities and spend their time dismembering relatives at fancy dress balls. -- Editor of the Limerick Times (Limerick, Ireland)
18. When cryptography is outlawed, bayl bhgynjf jvyy unir cevinpl.
19. Lazlo's Chinese Relativity Axiom: No matter how great your triumphs or how tragic your defeats---approximately one billion Chinese couldn't care less.
20. 668: The Neighbor of the Beast
21. Some mornings, it's just not worth chewing through the leather straps. -- Emo Phillips
22. Writing about music is like dancing about architecture.
23. Experience is that marvelous thing that enables you recognize a mistake when you make it again. -- F. P. Jones
24. Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so. -- Douglas Adams
25. As your attorney, it is my duty to inform you that it is not important that you understand what I'm doing or why you're paying me so much money. What's important is that you continue to do so. -- Hunter S. Thompson's Samoan Attorney
26. When I told the people of Northern Ireland that I was an atheist, a woman in the audience stood up and said, "Yes, but is it the God of the Catholics or the God of the Protestants in whom you don't believe?" -- Quentin Crisp
27. Boundary, n. In political geography, an imaginary line between two nations, separating the imaginary rights of one from the imaginary rights of another. -- Ambrose Bierce, The Devil's Dictionary
28. I think that all right-thinking people in this country are sick and tired of being told that ordinary, decent people are fed up in this country with being sick and tired. I'm certainly not! But I'm sick and tired of being told that I am! -- Monty Python
29. May the forces of evil become confused on the way to your house. -- George Carlin
30. Sorry, but my karma just ran over your dogma.
31. Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable. -- John F. Kennedy

*(Continued on page 6)*

32. Life may have no meaning. Or even worse, it may have a meaning of which I disapprove. -- Ashleigh Brilliant
33. My opinions may have changed, but not the fact that I am right. -- Ashleigh Brilliant
34. Her kisses left something to be desired -- the rest of her.
35. Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing.
36. Always try to do things in chronological order; it's less confusing that way.
37. Based on what you know about him in history books, what do you think Abraham Lincoln would be doing if he were alive today? 1. Writing his memoirs of the Civil War. 2. Advising the President. 3. Desperately clawing at the inside of his coffin. --David Letterman
38. Once at a social gathering, Gladstone said to Disraeli, "I predict, Sir, that you will die either by hanging or of some vile disease". Disraeli replied, "That all depends, sir, upon whether I embrace your principles or your mistress."
39. For three days after death, hair and fingernails continue to grow but phone calls taper off. -- Johnny Carson
40. I think that the team that wins game five will win the series. Unless we lose game five. -- Charles Barkley
41. My initial response was to sue her for defamation of character, but then I realized that I had no character. -- Charles Barkley, on hearing Tonya Harding proclaim herself "the Charles Barkley of figure skating"
42. The most important thing in the programming language is the name. A language will not succeed without a good name. I have recently invented a very good name and now I am looking for a suitable language. -- D. E. Knuth, 1967
43. A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit. -- In the August 1993 issue, page 9, of PS magazine, the Army's magazine of preventive maintenance
44. An Animated Cartoon Theology:
1. People are animals.
  2. The body is mortal and subject to incredible pain.
  3. Life is antagonistic to the living.
  4. The flesh can be sawed, crushed, frozen, stretched, burned, bombed, and plucked for music.
  5. The dumb are abused by the smart and the smart destroyed by their own cunning.
  6. The small are tortured by the large and the large destroyed by their own momentum.
  7. We are able to walk on air, but only as long as our illusion supports us. -- E. L. Doctorow "The Book of Daniel"
45. Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself. -- Mark Twain
46. Calvin: People think it must be fun to be a super genius, but they don't realize how hard it is to put up with all the idiots in the world. Hobbes: Isn't your pant's zipper supposed to be in the front?
47. On one occasion a student burst into his office. "Professor Stigler, I don't believe I deserve this F you've given me." To which Stigler replied, "I agree, but unfortunately it is the lowest grade the University will allow me to award."
48. The overwhelming majority of people have more than the average (mean) number of legs. -- E. Grebenik
49. Old Yiddish proverb: "If triangles had a God, He'd have three sides."
50. Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it starts avoiding you. -- Old Farmer's Almanac
51. G: "If we do happen to step on a mine, Sir, what do we do?"  
EB: "Normal procedure, Lieutenant, is to jump 200 feet in the air and scatter oneself over a wide area." -- Somewhere in No Man's Land, BA4
52. The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled. -- Plutarch
53. Sometimes I lie awake at night, and I ask, "Where have I gone wrong?" Then a voice says to me, "This is going to take more than one night." -- Charlie Brown
54. The only difference between me and a madman is that I am not mad. -- Salvador Dali
55. What a distressing contrast there is between the radiant intelligence of the child and the feeble mentality of the average adult. -- Sigmund Freud
56. I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence, or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me. -- Hunter S. Thompson
57. Sacred cows make the best hamburger. -- Mark Twain
58. "Time's fun when you're having flies." -- Kermit the Frog

# Lots of Pushes in First Segment of the Finals

Board 11  
 Dealer: S  
 None Vul.  
 ♠ T73  
 ♥ 64  
 ♦ J74  
 ♣ JT542

In the first ten boards, there was no swing greater than 5. The commentators in the VuGraph were kidding around. Kit Woolsey asked, "What would you expect from two such conservative pairs?" (Meckwell vs Martel and Stansby!!) Of course, it was the "curse of the commentator." At that point, this board showed up.

♠ AJ532  
 ♥ 32  
 ♦ AQ  
 ♣ K986  
 ♠ KQ986  
 ♥ T7  
 ♦ T632  
 ♣ 73



♠ AKQJ985  
 ♥ K985  
 ♦ AQ  
 ♣ AQ

In the closed room, Nickell and Freeman bid the cold grand... however, in the open room, Rodwell tried to mislead the opponents and his trickery worked. The auction:

West-Stansby	North-Rodwell	East-Martel	South-Meckstroth
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Double!!	Redouble	Pass
6♥	All Pass		

The moderators were joking about Rodwell wanting a diamond lead instead of a club lead. Everyone was yucking it up. Then Kit Woolsey pointed out that Rodwell was trying to convince his opponents that the diamond finesse was off. The room got very quiet as Martel doubled, Meck passed, Stansby bid only six, and the auction ended there.

Here is the auction from the other room:

West-Nickell	North-Gitelman	East-Freeman	South-Moss
			Pass
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♦	Pass	7♥	All Pass

No trickery here... Nickell and Freeman had an easy, unimpeded auction to seven hearts for an 11 IMP swing.

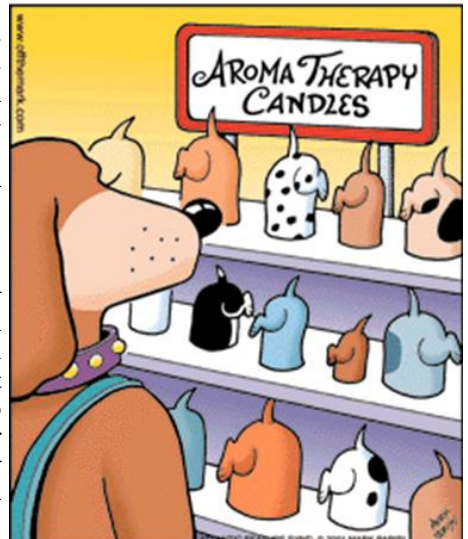
**off the mark** by Mark Parisi  
 www.offthemark.com



This hand illustrates the value of the VuGraph. It is interesting to watch the opponents bid and play the hands, but it much more fun with the active, amusing commentary that the VuGraph moderators provide. They have excellent senses of humor and they are entertaining and even sometimes, instructive.

In this case, they are also helpful. They have played enough with and against each other and the table principles to explain some of the chicanery that occurs. When it comes to watching Meckwell, it is great to have Walter Johnson commentating. Walter understands their system better than they do and he is a great source of information for the benefit of the spectators.

**off the mark** by Mark Parisi  
 www.offthemark.com



# Leading Partner's Suit... yes? no?

Board 59  
Dealer: S  
None Vul.

♠ Q3  
♥ QJ9843  
♦ A32  
♣ KJ

♠ K  
♥ 75  
♦ Q64  
♣ QT87532



♠ AT62  
♥ AK2  
♦ JT98  
♣ A9

♠ J98754  
♥ T6  
♦ K75  
♣ 64

## Open Room

West - Rodwell	North - Moss	East - Meckstroth	South - Gitelman
			Pass
Pass	1NT (weak)	Double	2♠
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

## Closed Room

West - Stansby	North - Hamman	East - Martel	South - Soloway
			Pass
3♣	3♥	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The fun part about this hand is that you can never be right. If you follow the adage, "Lead partner's suit," as Paul Soloway did when he led the heart ten against 3NT, the opponents will quickly take nine tricks. On the other hand, if you don't follow this adage, as Brad Moss did when he led the queen of hearts rather than the queen of spades against 3NT, you will again see the opponents take a quick nine tricks.

As you can see from the layout, a spade lead extracts dummy's entry. Of course, dummy could have the singleton king of hearts and then a heart lead would be the killing lead.

## Open Room

West - Rodwell	North - Moss	East - Meckstroth	South - Gitelman
		Pass	1♣
3♦	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

## Closed Room

West - Stansby	North - Hamman	East - Martel	South - Soloway
		Pass	1♣ (strong)
3♦	Double (values)	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Board 58  
Dealer: E  
All Vul.

♠ JT53  
♥ T96542  
♦ 8  
♣ A4

♠ 62  
♥ AQ8  
♦ KQT7542  
♣ T



♠ 874  
♥ K73  
♦ 93  
♣ QJ652

♠ AKQ9  
♥ J  
♦ AJ6  
♣ K9873

This hand demonstrates the expert judgment that is required at this level of competition... with a little luck thrown in for fun. When Moss/Gitelman held the North/South cards, Moss did not have enough values to make a negative double. He was forced to guess what to do when his partner reopened with the strong 3NT bid. You will notice that 3NT could be defeated and it appears that four hearts always makes if declarer guesses correctly. Some spectators suggested that four hearts can be defeated, but, indeed, it made at both tables. When Hamman/Soloway held the North/South cards, Soloway's club was strong and Hamman's double was somewhat artificial, but Hamman again made the right decision when he pulled Soloway's 3NT to four hearts. Of course, we would all like to play in our eight card spade fit, but this is difficult when spades were never bid and the opponents preempt aggressively.