



Team "Trials" and Tribulations

Winners of the USBC: Nickell Takes USA2 in Nail-Biting Finish



Nick Nickell, the original one seed, and teammates, **Bob Hamman**, **Paul Soloway**, **Jeff Meckstroth**, **Eric Rodwell**, and **Dick Freeman**, lead throughout the USBC Final match against the team of **Russ Ekeblad**, **Chip Martel**, **Lou Stansby**, **Brad Moss**, **Fred Gitelman**, and **Ron Rubin**. Included in picture is **Eric Kokish**, team coach.

When the smoke cleared Sunday night, the final score was: 271-225.

Congratulations to the Nickell squad. They will be USA2 at the Bermuda Bowl, joining USA1, **George Jacobs**, **Ralph Katz**, **Howard Weinstein**, **Steven Garner**, **Zia Mahmood**, and **Michael Rosenberg**.

We salute both teams and wish them well in the Bermuda Bowl.



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Congratulations to the winners and runners up in the USWBC tournament. Seen here is the winning Narasimhan team. Joining Hansa Narasimhan are Jill Meyers, Irina Levitina, Jill Levin, Joanna Stansby and Debbie Rosenberg. These ladies will represent the USA as USA1 at the Venice Cup in Shanghai in the fall.



"Middle age is when your broad mind and narrow waist begin to change places."

- E. Joseph Crossman

The "Mighty Quinn" and her four-handed squad will be USA2 at the Venice Cup in the fall. Joining Shawn will be Disa Eythorsdottir, Rozanne Pollack, and Sue Picus.



The End of a Bridge Marathon

It is hard to believe the tournament is ending. Here in Schaumburg, IL, a northwestern suburb of Chicago, we have really enjoyed hosting the event. Ten days is a long time for any bridge event and we appreciate everyone's participation. We wish you all a safe trip home and hope to host this event again in the near future. Thanks to the USBF for allowing us the chance to have the tournament in our own backyard. We learned a lot from the behind-the-scenes operation and enjoyed rubbing elbows with the current bridge greats! Take care and see you soon.

Tom Sucher and the Volunteers

Holy Smokes ... It's Holy Jokes!

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

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There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

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"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

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A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

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There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

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While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign:

"Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

Fair Weather Prognosticator Fired!

Only Women Can Change Their Minds in USA!

(Ed. Note: This arrived too late for publication in the Sunday issue.)

Boris wish to change mind. Boris flexible when changing from Communism to Capitalism. Boris flexible when changing from boxers to briefs. Now Boris flexible in changing from Ekeblad to Nickell. Boris not interested in score of course. (Editor's note: hmmm...) Probably Nickell is down in match, but Boris have strong feeling like after time when Boris ate bad sausage. Boris read horoscope and found out the Ruble is going up. Nickell=money, Ruble=money, Boris take money from committee. Therefore, Nickell must win. Boris feel bad for Ekeblad, but next year make 4th in a row in final where they meet Harris playing 5 handed, having added XXXXXXX. Is secret new player. Even he does not know. Boris hush. Well done both teams. Weller done to Nickell.

Natasha Takes Bow!

Natasha, sipping a Vodka gimlet, takes a bow as all her predictions (Editor's note: well, most anyway) come true. Women see future much better than men. The proof is in the Borscht. In Russia, women are nothing. Natasha likes Schaumburg and is moving here soon. She has applied for a job as a cab driver since prognosticating does not pay enough. See you next year!

Two Games ... One Winner ...

Board 70
Dealer: S
N/S Vul.

♠ T72
♥ AQT
♦ JT932
♣ AK

♠ Q4
♥ 9875
♦ 6
♣ QJ9876



♠ A5
♥ J432
♦ AK54
♣ T43

♠ KJ9863
♥ K6
♦ Q87
♣ 52

	West - Stansby	North - Freeman	East - Martel	South - Nickell
C				
L			1NT (weak)	2♣
O	2NT	Double	3♣	Pass
S	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
E	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D				
O			1♦	1♠
P				
E	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
N	Pass	Pass	Pass	

When you're down in a match, needing a swing, you do desperate things. Sometimes you get lucky and sometimes you don't. On this hand, from the third quarter of the Finals, Moss and Gitelman took a shot, disdaining their nine card spade fit to play in 3NT. Even if the opponents find a club lead, declarer can still make his contract by guessing the spade position. As it was they led a diamond and switched to hearts, making it easy to take nine tricks. Declarer actually took ten when he guessed correctly in the spade suit. Gitelman gets credit for his aggressive raise to 3NT. If he had rebid three spades, partner would likely have put the hand in four and they'd be down off the top.

In the Closed room, Freeman and Nickell played in the automatic four spades on an interesting auction. Martel opened a weak notrump. Nickell showed a one-suited hand, and Stansby used a Lebensohl sequence in an attempt to play in three clubs. This, of course, meant that a club lead would be automatic against 3NT. In spite of his double club stopper, Freeman chose a four club bid to get partner to bid his suit.

Another Swing for Ekeblad

Board 77
Dealer: N
All Vul.

♠ 974
♥ J72
♦ AKJT6
♣ 94

♠ KT82
♥ AQ6
♦ Q2
♣ AK62



♠ AJ3
♥ T983
♦ 43
♣ Q873

♠ Q65
♥ K54
♦ 9875
♣ JT5

	West - Rubin	North - Freeman	East - Ekeblad	South - Nickell
C L O S E D		Pass	Pass	Pass
	1♣ (strong)	1♦	Double	2♦
	Double	Pass	3♦	Pass
	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass
O P E N	West - Rodwell	North - Moss	East - Meckstroth	South - Gitelman
		2♦	Pass	3♦
	Double	Pass	3♥	Pass
	Pass	Pass		

It is unusual to find a hand where both tables play in different Moysian fits. In the Open Room, Moss opened a weak two diamonds and Gitelman furthered the preempt to the three level. Rodwell made a takeout double and Meckstroth only had enough values to bid the part score in hearts. (Game is not a great proposition, but with all the finesses working and all the suits splitting safely, it happens to work.)

In the Closed Room, Freeman elected to pass the North hand, and the auction started with three passes. Now Rubin could start with a strong club and essentially take his time getting to game. Freeman's diamond overcall prevented the opposition from finding the failing 3NT. This left the Moysian heart or spade fit.

Note that if East/West elect to play in their eight card club fit, they are short a trick because of the position of the jack of hearts.

Balancing on a Tightrope

West - Rodwell	North - Moss	East - Meckstroth	South - Gitelman
			Pass
1♥	1♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West - Rubin	North - Freeman	East - Ekeblad	South - Nickell
			Pass
1♥	1♠	Double	Pass
2♣	2♠	Pass	Pass
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Board 79
Dealer: S
N/S Vul.

♠ K87653
♥
♦ AQ3
♣ KO53

♠ AT4
♥ AK653
♦ 98
♣ 986



♠ QJ
♥ QJT4
♦ JT6
♣ JT42

♠ 92
♥ 9872
♦ K7542
♣ A7

In one room, Gitelman/Moss bid and made the aggressive vulnerable game. In the other, the opponents stopped in two

spades. Rubin could not believe he should let them play there. Backing up his thinking, he bid a balancing three clubs. Lucky for him, the opponents let him play it there undoubled. Rubin went down three non-vulnerable tricks for an eleven IMP swing to Ekeblad. After seven boards in the second quarter, Ekeblad had closed the gap to -45, picking up 34 IMPs in those seven boards.