



Women's Team "Trials" and Tribulations

Playoff Finals

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-16	17-32	33-48	49-64	65-80	81-96
1	Mancuso	226	18	58	40	38	21	51
2	Glasson	143	41	30	1	27	21	23

Peaches may not have Picked Properly, but women, she laments are totally unPredictable. Says Peaches, "I am no Party PooPer. I am heading out to White Plains to help Limey Jack and Natasha make Picks in the Open... see you next week in New York... oooh... shoPPing!"

Thanks from USBF President, Bill Pollack



This has been an exciting United States Women's Bridge Championship ... my first as President of the USBF. It was even better because I could watch my wife and her team on the VuGraph!

I appreciate the efforts of those who made it all happen.

Thanks to Jan Martel for her seemingly endless energy. (You can go home and sleep for a week till the Open Trials, Jan!!) Jan is a major force behind the USBF and she is largely responsible for everything that goes on at the Trials. No tournament ever runs without glitches and this one was no

exception. Hand records and screens were lost on UPS trucks, but as always, Jan covered for us and things were straightened out faster than we thought possible.

Jan is also responsible for the VuGraph coverage you've enjoyed this past week. Thanks to Fred Gitelman for his many years designing it and thanks, too, to the excellent Bridge Base commentators (too numerous to mention) who have kept us all entertained with their analysis.

Thanks to Nadine Wood and Lynn Johannesen for hospitality at the site. The players need sustenance and you have made it much nicer for them with your efforts.

Thanks to Suzi Subeck for the Daily Bulletins. They are an excellent addition to the competition. It isn't easy producing them off-site... especially with the two hour time difference. (You can sleep for a week now too, Suzi.) *Note: this is the first year we've had Bulletins at the Women's and we hope you've enjoyed them.*

Thanks to Terry Lavender, DIC at the tournament.

And finally, thanks to the kind folks in Sacramento for letting us be part of their Regional this week. It has worked out very well.

See you all at the Open Trials in White Plains!



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What a Difference a Lead Makes!

Board 37	♠ 8		♠ T743
Dealer: N	♥ KT95		♥ 83
N/S Vul.	♦ QT9		♦ J84
	♣ KQT54		♣ A763
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> N ↑ </div>	
♠ AKJ			
♥ AJ76			
♦ AK6			
♣ J98			
	♠ Q9652		
	♥ Q42		
	♦ 7532		
	♣ 2		

Board 37 was a really interesting hand. Both tables got to 3NT. Berkowitz got the queen of clubs lead and went down one, while Quinn got a small club lead and made it. With KQTxx, it is normally correct to lead small.

Quinn won the club lead and immediately played AKJ of spades. Bjerkan, North, pitched two hearts. Weinstein won the third spade and exited with a diamond. Declarer won this and played the ace of hearts, followed by the jack of hearts. Bjerkan won the king of hearts and attempted to get out with the queen of diamonds.

The commentators of VuGraph thought this was poor defense. They thought that if Bjerkan had exited a high club, she could prevail, however, declarer simply wins the ace of clubs in dummy and cashes the ten of spades. If Bjerkan discards a diamond, her queen falls under declarer's high diamond. If she discards a club, declarer exits dummy with a club and Bjerkan is end-played.

Either way declarer makes the hand.

It appears it might be better for Bjerkan to pitch one heart and one club on the early run of the spades, however, this, too, will not work. It will lead to a very interesting end position. Weinstein can now win the spade and lead a heart to Bjerkan's nine. North can then exit with the club king. Dummy wins it and cashes the 10 of spades to bring about the following end position:

	♠		♠
	♥ K		♥ 8
	♦ QT9		♦ J84
	♣ QT		♣ 76
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> N ↑ </div>	
♠			
♥ AJ7			
♦ AK6			
♣			
	♠ 9		
	♥ Q4		
	♦ 753		
	♣		

Now declarer can lead the eight of hearts to her ace and exit a heart to South. South can cash the nine of spades but now declarer has the last three tricks.

The small club lead turned out to be devastating for the defenders.

At the other table where Goldberg led the queen of clubs, there is no obvious line for declarer to bring in nine tricks.

Sometimes technically correct leads produce the poorest results and you just have to abide by the consequences.

"Why do you have to be a nonconformist like everybody else?"

- James Thurber

WIT: for the “W”omen’s “I”nternational “T”eam Trials!!

New Standard Operating Procedures released today...please learn

BBQ RULES We are about to enter the BBQ season. Therefore it is important to refresh your memory on the etiquette of this sublime outdoor cooking activity . When a man volunteers to do the BBQ, the following chain of events are put into motion:

Routine...

- (1) The woman buys the food.
- (2) The woman makes the salad, prepares the vegetables, and makes dessert.
- (3) The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils and sauces, and takes it to the man who is lounging beside the grill - drink in hand.
- (4) The woman remains outside the compulsory three meter exclusion zone where the exuberance of testosterone and other manly bonding activities can take place without the interference of the woman.

Here comes the important part:

- (5) THE MAN PLACES THE MEAT ON THE GRILL.

More routine...

- (6) The woman goes inside to organize the plates and cutlery.
- (7) The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is looking great. He thanks her and asks if she will bring another drink while he flips the meat

Important again:

- (8) THE MAN TAKES THE MEAT OFF THE GRILL AND HANDS IT TO THE WOMAN.

More routine...

- (9) The woman prepares the plates, salad, bread, utensils, napkins, sauces, and brings them to the table.
- (10) After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.

And most important of all:

- (11) Everyone PRAISES the MAN and THANKS HIM for HIS cooking efforts.
- (12) The man asks the woman how she enjoyed ' her night off ', and, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women.

To the Nines...

One day, on 9/9/99, a man woke up at 9:09 a.m. in the morning, jumped on Bus #99 and went to his favorite restaurant on 9th Street. When the cashier rang up his order, it totaled \$9.99.

"Oh, wow, this is an omen!" the man said, so he bought a pair of cheap binoculars at the 99¢ store, pulled out 99 cents in fares and took Bus #99 to the Race Track. As he approached Gate No. 9, he said to the ticket agent: "I would like to bet \$999.99 on Horse No. 9 in the 9th race."

"Why those particular numbers?" the ticket agent asked.

"Nine seems to be my lucky number today," the man said excitedly. "I'm really on a roll!"

Feeling confident, he sat through the first eight races until Race No. 9 came up. Sure enough, he was on a roll.

The horse came in ninth.

According to Kit Woolsey (on VuGraph): No Aces + No Kings + No Singletons + No Voids = No Bid!!!

USWBC Teams

There are 8 teams entered. They are listed in seeding order.

Dinkin

Bye to SemiFinals

Lynn Baker
Kerri Sanborn
Beth Palmer
Sam Dinkin, NPC

Karen McCallum
Irina Levitina
Lynn Deas

Fireman

Bye to RR2

Phyllis Fireman, Capt
Janice Seamon-Molson
Jill Meyers

Shannon Cappelletti
Tobi Sokolow
Jill Levin

Glasson

Bye to RR2

Joann Glasson, Capt
Sue Weinstein
Rozanne Pollack

Lisa Berkowitz
Cheri Bjerkan
Stasha Cohen

Radin

Judi Radin, Capt
JoAnna Stansby
Mildred Breed

Stacy Jacobs
Pam Granovetter
Marinesa Letizia

Mancuso

Renee Mancuso, Capt
Shawn Quinn
Connie Goldberg

Peggy Sutherlin
Pamela Wittes
JoAnn Sprung

Moss

Sylvia Moss, Capt
Sue Picus
Linda Lewis

Migry Zur Campanile
Linda Perlman
G.Margie Gwozdzinsky

Walsh

Rhoda Walsh, Capt
Carreen Hinds

Sally Clark
Judy Pede

Boyd

Nancy Boyd, Capt
Jody Williams

Marcia Dean
Leila Sink

Happiness

A woman has three daughters who get married. She asks them to write to her in two words to describe their happiness.

First daughter gets married and after three days the woman gets a note. It reads 'Maxwell House'. The woman was confused but then read an advert in the paper for Maxwell House coffee reading: "Satisfaction guaranteed". So the woman was happy for her daughter.

Second daughter gets married and after seven days the woman gets a note. It reads 'Rothmans Cigarettes'. The woman was baffled but then read an advert in the paper reading "Lifetime, King-size". So the mother was very happy that her daughter had married well.

Third daughter gets married, but the woman is worried, it's been four weeks and no word. Finally, on the fifth week the woman gets a note. It reads "British Airways". So then mum rushed to read an advert about BA, and shock, horror! She faints. The advert read: "Three times a day, seven days a week, both ways".

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

Sudoku

Indecision...

Warren was sitting alone in his office one night when a Genie popped up out of his ashtray.

"And what will your third wish be?"

Warren looked at the Genie and said, "Huh? How can I be getting a third wish when I haven't had a first or second wish yet?"

"You have had two wishes already," the Genie said, "but your second wish was for me to put everything back the way it was before you made your first wish. Thus, you remember nothing, because everything is the way it was before you made any wishes. You now have one wish left."

"Okay," said Warren, "I don't believe this, but what the heck. I've always wanted to understand women. I'd love to know what's going on inside their heads."

"Sheesh! I wish you'd make up your mind," said the genie as it granted his wish and disappeared forever,

"That was your first wish, too!"

From the Operations Officer...

I want to join Bill in thanking everyone who helped make this tournament the success it was.

I know there were glitches but there are always glitches and with each Trials, we learn more about how to prevent them in the future.

I hope you enjoyed the VuGraph coverage of the event. It brings us closer to you and you closer to us... and that's what we all want!



Thanks again.

Jan

Puzzle Answer

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

Good Duck but No Reward

Board 45
Dealer: N
All Vul.

♠ KJ93
♥ KT9
♦ QJ2
♣ KT5

♠ T8
♥ A2
♦ 8743
♣ A9764



♠ A652
♥ Q5
♦ T965
♣ J82

♠ Q74
♥ J87643
♦ AK
♣ Q3

Both tables arrived in four hearts North/South. Berkowitz, West, led the ten of spades and Glasson ducked, giving declarer NO chance to score ten tricks.

When Sprung, South, led the heart from hand at trick two, Berkowitz flew with her ace, played a second spade to Glasson's ace, got her ruff and scored her club ace for down one.

At the other table, Quinn, West, also led the spade ten. Weinstein, South, covered with dummy's jack and Wittes erred by winning her ace.

Wittes shifted to diamonds which Weinstein won in hand, but she still had to get the heart right to make her contract... She took what in isolation would be the technically correct play of a low heart to the nine, and alas, that lost to the queen and she suffered the same fate as her counterpart in the other room.

Once Wittes won the ace of spades and didn't continue the suit, Sue should have gone right and played for the heart ace on her left... Certainly Wittes would have continued spades if she had the heart ace in order to give her partner a ruff to beat the hand.

If East had continued spades, it would still be right to lead low to the king of hearts hoping that the ace of hearts is with LHO. The king wins when RHO has the singleton queen or Qx (three cases). Playing small to protect against AQx with West wins only against the two small singletons on your right. When Wittes shifted to diamonds, Sue should have played to the king of hearts using the same logic. Another push board...

Super Acceptances... a Thing of the Past?

Board 40
Dealer: W
None Vul.

♠ AK84
♥ AQ
♦ Q54
♣ AK83

♠ J7
♥ 5432
♦ K963
♣ J64



♠ 2
♥ KJ76
♦ JT872
♣ T92

♠ QT9653
♥ T98
♦ A
♣ Q75

Doesn't anyone play super acceptances anymore? Here is a board where both tables had the identical auction... both ending short of the laydown six spade slam.

West	North	East	South
Berkowitz	Goldberg	Glasson	Sprung
Quinn	Bjerkan	Wittes	Weinstein
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

North could not have been more maximum. She holds a 22 count plus four GREAT spades. South had Texas available if she had no slam interest in a six card suit ... so why didn't Goldberg or Bjerkan cue the club ace over three spades or four spades?

Even a jump to four spades would have been better than what ensued. At least they'd have had a fighting chance to get to the slam.

I tried explaining to my husband why it is so tough to play women's events. It is because there is an added dimension ... and this hand is a perfect example.

When you bid hands like this to slam in a Women's event, there is no field protection. Women are timid in the bidding and shy away from close slams and games. In Open events, you need to bid close games and slams to win matches. In Women's events these "normal" contracts can swing a match either way.

Give Me a Brake!

Board 63
Dealer: S
N/S Vul.

♠ Q95
♥ J74
♦ 9843
♣ JT8

♠ AT86
♥ K9
♦ QJT
♣ KQ95



♠ K32
♥ AQ
♦ A765
♣ A632

♠ J74
♥ T86532
♦ K2
♣ 74

Remembering the hand on page six where neither table got to slam and I said that in Women's events, such timid bidding could swing either way... Here is another example of how this works.

In the Closed Room where Sutherlin was West and Mancuso was East, the auction was simple and to the point. Peggy opened 1NT on her 15 count and Renee jumped to six on her seventeen. The diamond finesse was off and they went down one.

In the Open Room where Weinstein was West and Bjerkan was East, they took ten bids between them and stayed out of the slam... Weinstein opened 1NT; Bjerkan bid two diamonds, forcing Stayman; Weinstein responded two spades and Bjerkan bid 2NT (minors?). Weinstein showed a four card club suit and it went four clubs by Bjerkan; four hearts (heart king) by Weinstein; four spades (spade king) by Bjerkan; 4NT by Weinstein and five clubs by Bjerkan... end of auction.

It was an amazing stop by East/West and it earned them 10 IMPs. Like I said, such bidding can swing IMPs either way... but it's much more impressive when it works!

Board 19 from the Semi-Finals ... submitted by Danny Sprung

Board 19
Dealer: S
E/W Vul.

♠ AJ7
♥ 52
♦ AKQ432
♣ 98

♠ KQ
♥ AQJ86
♦ JT96
♣ 42



♠ T864
♥ 973
♦ 7
♣ QJ653

♠ 9532
♥ KT4
♦ 85
♣ AKT7

West	North	East	South—Quinn
			Pass
1♥	2♦	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

In 3NT, Shawn's LHO led the heart queen. Shawn won her king and tested diamonds.

When they split 4-1, Shawn refused to give up. Sometimes good things just happen. Shawn ran the nine of clubs from dummy.

Had RHO split, there wouldn't have been a story here... however, she did not.

Now three rounds of clubs squeezed West in three suits.

Nice play Shawn!!