

Volume 8, Issue 4  
May 11, 2014

# “Trials” and Tribulations

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Day Two ...

# The End of the Round Robin

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Team Name	Total	1	7	11	4	5	10	2	9	8	3	6	12	14	13
1. Diamond	172.32		7.58	14.39	9.56	11.27	15.23	11.67	10.00	18.21	5.91	13.12	17.69	17.69	20.00
7. Seligman	158.07	12.42		4.77	16.46	16.46	6.88	14.96	10.00	9.14	15.75	8.33	12.77	13.45	16.68
11. Hung	146.01	5.61	15.23		10.44	6.88	15.75	5.32	10.00	16.23	15.23	5.32	5.91	20.00	14.09
4. Fireman, npc	140.92	10.44	3.54	9.56		5.91	13.45	8.73	10.00	10.86	16.00	5.61	15.75	16.68	14.39
5. Koneru	139.50	8.73	3.54	13.12	14.09		6.22	12.05	10.00	14.39	10.44	16.46	9.56	6.22	14.68
10. Kolesnik	131.11	4.77	13.12	4.25	6.55	13.78		13.45	10.00	5.32	16.23	5.61	7.95	12.77	17.31
2. Bramley	130.46	8.33	5.04	14.68	11.27	7.95	6.55		10.00	17.87	8.33	10.00	18.37	10.44	1.63
9. BYE	130.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
8. Harris	124.83	1.79	10.86	3.77	9.14	5.61	14.68	2.13	10.00		18.04	16.00	15.23	7.58	10.00
3. Sherman, npc	121.12	14.09	4.25	4.77	4.00	9.56	3.77	11.67	10.00	1.96		12.05	12.77	13.12	19.11
6. Meltzer, npc	117.50	6.88	11.67	14.68	14.39	3.54	14.39	10.00	10.00	4.00	7.95		0.00	9.14	10.86
12. Baseggio	113.28	2.31	7.23	14.09	4.25	10.44	12.05	1.63	10.00	4.77	7.23	20.00		7.23	12.05
14. Berkowitz	110.91	2.31	6.55	0.00	3.32	13.78	7.23	9.56	10.00	12.42	6.88	10.86	12.77		15.23
13. Parrish	83.97	0.00	3.32	5.91	5.61	5.32	2.69	18.37	10.00	10.00	.89	9.14	7.95	4.77	

# Happy Mother's Day!!

# Teams in Order by Seeding

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

<b>Nickell</b> Bye to Rnd of 8	Frank Nickell, Capt Bobby Levin Jeff Meckstroth	Ralph Katz Steve Weinstein Eric Rodwell
<b>Fleisher</b> Bye to Rnd of 8	Martin Fleisher, Capt Gary Cohler Chris Willenken	Chip Martel Michael Rosenberg
<b>Gordon</b> Bye to Rnd of 16	Mark Gordon, Capt David Berkowitz Jacek Pszczola	Pratap Rajadhyaksha Alan Sontag Michael Seamon
<b>Diamond</b>	John Diamond, Capt Geoff Hampson Brad Moss	Brian Platnick Eric Greco Kevin Bathurst
<b>Bramley</b>	Bart Bramley, Capt Howard Weinstein Robert Hamman	Lew Stansby Ross Gabel Roger Lee
<b>Sherman</b>	Richard Coren Kevin Dwyer Mike Passell Gabrielle Sherman, NPC	Michael Kamil Russell Ekeblad Marc Jacobus
<b>Fireman</b>	John Kranyak Justin Lall Joel Wooldridge Paul Fireman, NPC	Gavin Wolpert John Hurd
<b>Koneru</b>	Venkatrao Koneru, Capt Kit Woolsey	Jim Krekorian Fred Stewart
<b>Meltzer</b>	Steve Robinson Steve Garner Rose Meltzer, NPC	John Mohan Peter Boyd Ron Smith
<b>Seligman</b>	Martin Seligman, Capt Jiang Gu Curtis Cheek	Mark Lair Huub Bertens
<b>Harris</b>	Martin Harris, Capt Glenn Milgrim Jeff Aker	Jacob Morgan Barry Rigal Josh Parker
<b>Kolesnik</b>	Alex Kolesnik, Capt Josh Sher Brady Richter	Bob Etter Ai-Tai Lo John Ramos
<b>Hung</b>	Eugene Hung, Capt JoAnna Stansby	Jason Feldman William Watson
<b>Baseggio</b>	Franco Baseggio, Capt Migry Zur Campanile	Andrew Stark John McAllister
<b>Parrish</b>	Adam Parrish, Capt Joel Datloff	Greg Humphreys Roger McNay
<b>Berkowitz</b>	Dana Berkowitz, Capt Craig Ganzer	Sylvia Shi Robert Brady

I want my children  
to have all the  
things I couldn't  
afford.  
Then I want to  
move in with them.

- Phyllis Diller

HUMPTY DUMPTY'S MOTHER: Humpty, If I've told you once, I've told you a hundred times not to sit on that wall. But would you listen to me? No!

Dermot McCann forgot his lines in a Sunday school play. Luckily his mother was in the front row especially to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Dermot's memory was completely blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, 'I am the light of the world.' Dermot beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice announced, 'My mother is the light of the world.'

# Round Robin Schedule

# Knockout Schedule

<b>Round Robin</b>		
<b>Captains' Meeting in Playing Area at 9:45 AM</b>		
FRIDAY MAY 9TH	10:00 - 11:15 11:20 - 12:35 12:40 - 1:55	MATCH 1 - BOARDS 1-8 MATCH 2 - BOARDS 9-16 MATCH 3 - BOARDS 17-24 75 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
	3:10 - 4:25 4:30 - 5:45	MATCH 4 - BOARDS 25-32 MATCH 5 - BOARDS 33-40 15 MINUTE BREAK
SATURDAY MAY 10TH	6:00 - 7:15 7:20 - 8:35	MATCH 6 - BOARDS 41-48 MATCH 7 - BOARDS 50-56
	10:00 - 11:15 11:25 - 12:40 12:50 - 2:05	MATCH 8 - BOARDS 57-64 MATCH 9 - BOARDS 65-72 MATCH 10 - BOARDS 73-80 75 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
	3:20 - 4:35 4:45 - 6:00 6:10 - 7:25	MATCH 11 - BOARDS 81-88 MATCH 12 - BOARDS 89-96 * MATCH 13 - BOARDS 97- 104 *
* MATCHES 12 & 13 ARE SEQUESTERED, NO SUBSTITUTIONS IN CLOSED ROOM & NO COMPARISONS ALLOWED.		

<b>Round of Sixteen</b>		
<b>Captains' Meeting in Playing Area at 9:45 AM</b>		
SUNDAY MAY 11TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 45-60
MONDAY MAY 12TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120
<b>Quarterfinals</b>		
TUESDAY MAY 13TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
WEDNESDAY MAY 14TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120
<b>Semi-Finals</b>		
THURSDAY MAY 15TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
FRIDAY MAY 16TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120
<b>Final</b>		
SATURDAY MAY 17TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60
SUNDAY MAY 18TH	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
	3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120

**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.**



## Hospitality Suite Information

The hospitality suite for the 2014 USBC will be the Kayenta Suite (room 2052). Our wonderful hostesses, Lisa Berkowitz and Molly O'Neill will make the "trek" to Phoenix to welcome you to the Hospitality Suite during the tournament. Because the hotel serves breakfast every morning, we will not be serving breakfast in the hospitality suite. Please join us for:

Lunch on Sunday-Sunday from 2:30-4:00.

Vugraph, casual chit chat, drinks & snacks during the rest of the playing hours and for a short time after the end of the day.

As we have the last two years, we will also have a "Players' Break Room" (aka Jan's office) near the playing rooms from Tuesday on. We will have coffee, soft drinks and some snacks available in that room while you wait for your slow teammates to finish playing.

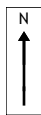


Molly and Lisa invite you to room 2050 during the play for snacks and sodas. Your team captains have the key... and they add that your cooperation in tossing your trash is much appreciated.

## Day One ...

Board 44  
 Dealer: W  
 N/S Vul.  
 ♠ A74  
 ♥ T3  
 ♦ 964  
 ♣ J7642

♠ Q5  
 ♥ AK  
 ♦ AK853  
 ♣ A853



♠ KJT86  
 ♥ 642  
 ♦ QT72  
 ♣ 8  
 ♠ 932  
 ♥ QJ9875  
 ♦ J  
 ♣ KQT

### ONLY THE NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED...

3NT by West is awkward; on a club lead you need to win the first or second club in order to block the suit – This is not so easy to do since if clubs are 5-3 and the spade ace is with South, you need to duck two clubs and win the third round.

But how can you get to the safer contracts of either 6D or 4S? Strong clubbers might manage it but anyone who opened the West hand 2NT had no real chance. Or did they?

The only pair who came close had the methods – up to a point.

West	North	East	South
1D	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT (shows clubs)	Pass	2D	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Dealer's sequence suggested 5-4 in the minors with a double heart stopper and a likely 2-2-5-4 pattern in the 19-20 range. Had responder risked 5C as a splinter, "Bob's your uncle!"

An alternative for the old fashioned bidders might be:

1D	Pass	1S	Pass
3C	Pass	3D	Pass
3NT	Pass	4S (cue)	Pass
6D	All pass		

West's 6D seems right if partner is showing slam interest. If East chose 5C instead of 4S, would it be recognized as a splinter? That would make West's decision easy.

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

### What's Your Bid?

Board 51  
Dealer: S  
E/W Vul.

The new drive-thru restaurant for golfers insisted on putting greens in all their courses.

When the pharmacist found out her husband was having an affair it was a hard pill to swallow.

You are South. You hold:

S: AT7  
H: T852  
D: KT52  
C: J8

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1C (could be short)	1H	1S	3C (mixed raise)
3S	4C	4S	?

4C is natural, showing a club/heart two-suiter, consulting partner on what to do over 4S.

Over to you!!

### FULL DEAL

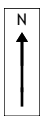
This deal presented a lot of problems round the room. At the table shown above South passed, and the action came back to North who bid 5H (which would surely have been right facing eg xxxx/Axxx/Kxx/xx when both 5H and 4S might be making.

4H can be defeated on a club lead. Even if declarer goes after trumps at once, the defenders have the communications to play two more rounds of clubs to promote a trump for down one. That was the result in the other room, but 4S is down 500 and it is my contention that South should double here, with two tricks on defense and no points in partner's suits. Since 5Hx went down, 300 the pass swung 19 IMPs out!

- ♠
- ♥ KQ963
- ♦ QJ7
- ♣ AT953

Did you find the double based on your strong diamond/spade holding?

Maybe the hint is that you have a pair of "52's" and it's a only a 52 card deck. If partner is bidding sanely, 52 cards will not be enough for them to succeed.

- ♠ QJ98
  - ♥ 74
  - ♦ A86
  - ♣ KQ42
- 
- ♠ K65432
  - ♥ AJ
  - ♦ 943
  - ♣ 76
- ♠ AT7
  - ♥ T852
  - ♦ KT52
  - ♣ J8

June 10-15, 2014

Sanction #R1406069

# Come to the USBF Regional in Eau Claire!!

The Plaza Hotel & Suites, 1202 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI

For room reservations, please call: 715-834-3181

\$89 + tax...

Please call by May 4, 2014 to insure bridge rate

## Tuesday, June 10

- 9:00 Morning Side Game, session 1  
299er Pairs  
Tuesday/Wednesday Compact KO, session 1
- 1:30 KO-A session 1  
Gold Rush Pairs, session 1  
A/X Pairs (X=0-2000, A=2000+), session 1  
299er Pairs  
Afternoon Side Game, session 1
- 7:30 KO-A session 2  
Gold Rush Pairs, session 2  
A/X Pairs, session 2  
Single Session BAM  
Evening Side Game, session 1  
299er Pairs



- 9:00 Swiss Teams, session 2  
Choice Pairs, session 1\*  
299er Pairs  
Morning Side Game, session 4
- 1:30 KO C, session 3  
Choice Pairs, session 2\*  
299er Pairs  
KO D, session 1  
Afternoon Side Game, session 4
- 7:30 KO C, session 4  
Choice Pairs, session 3\*  
299er Pairs  
KO D, session 2  
Evening Side Game, Session 4

## Wednesday, June 11

- 9:00 Choice Pairs, session 1\*  
299er Pairs  
Tuesday/Wednesday Compact KO, session 2  
Morning Side Game, session 2
- 1:30 KO A, session 3  
KO B, session 1  
Choice Pairs, session 2\*  
299er Pairs  
Afternoon Side Game, session 2
- 7:30 KO A, session 4  
KO B, session 2  
Choice Pairs, session 3\*  
299er Pairs  
Single Session Swiss Teams  
Evening Side Game, session 2



## Saturday, June 14

- 9:00 Morning Side Game, session 5  
299er Pairs
- 1:30 KO D, session 3  
Stratified Open Pairs, session 1 B, C, D  
(B: 1500, C: 750, D: 300)  
A/X Pairs, session 1  
Swiss Teams Qualifying  
(2 days), session 1  
299er Pairs  
Afternoon Side Game, session 5
- 7:30 KO D, session 4  
Swiss Teams Q, session 2  
Stratified Open Pairs, session 2  
A/X Pairs, session 2  
299er Pairs  
Evening Side Game, session 5

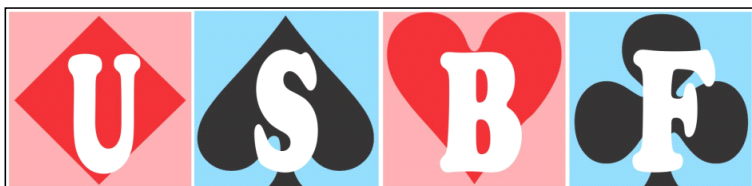
## Thursday, June 12

- 9:00 Swiss Teams, session 1 (Th/Fr AM)  
Morning Side Game, session 3  
299er Pairs
- 1:30 KO B, session 3  
KO C, session 1  
Gold Rush Pairs, session 1 (B=300-750; C=0-300)  
A/X Pairs, session 1  
299er Pairs  
Afternoon Side Game, session 3
- 7:30 KO B, session 4  
KO C, session 2  
Gold Rush Pairs, session 2  
A/X Pairs, session 2  
299er Pairs  
Evening Side Game, session 3

## Sunday, June 15

- 9:00 Swiss Teams Stratified  
Swiss Teams Q, session: 1st final  
299er Swiss Teams
- 2:00 Swiss Teams Q, session: 2nd final  
Stratified Swiss, Session 2  
299er Swiss Teams  
  
A=3,000 +, B=750-3,000, C=0-750  
299er Strats: 300/200/100

\*Choice Pairs: Players designate which sessions they will play at the time of purchase of entry Friday, June 13



Tournament Chairman: Dennis Ryan  
715-231-4490  
Partnership Chairman: Tom Kite  
715-835-4764

We abide by the standard ACBL  
handicapping policy.  
Master point Averaging when possible.  
Great site, Great Hospitality, Great Fun!!

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

Sudoku 1

# Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

## Answers to Puzzles No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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



# Puzzle Page ...

Eddie and four of his friends chatted on Facebook last night about the first snowfalls of the season. Each of the friends lived in a different northern state and all of them had already gotten a snowstorm, each on a different day of the week. While the storms were small so far, only one to three inches, they speculated on how much snow each area would get during the whole winter. After all, there was still plenty of winter to come! Determine the name of each friend, the state each lived in, how much snow each got and on which weekday from this first storm, and what each friend's speculated total snowfall for the winter was (40, 50, 60, 70, or 80 inches).

1. Eddie lived in Massachusetts but he didn't get snow on Thursday. Harold got snow on Tuesday but not 2 inches.
2. Walter got half an inch less snow than the friend who got snow on Monday but he got an inch more than the friend who estimated his area would get 80 inches.
3. The friend who lived in Michigan, who wasn't Matthew, guessed 20 inches more snow for his area than the friend who got snow on Friday guessed.
4. The five friends, in no particular order, were Alan, the friend who estimated his area would get 80 inches, the friend who lived in Vermont, the friend who already got 2 inches of snow, and the friend who got snow on Thursday.

	Massachusetts	Michigan	Montana	New York	Vermont	1 inch	1-1/2 inches	2 inches	2-1/2 inches	3 inches	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	40 inches	50 inches	60 inches	70 inches	80 inches	
Alan																					
Eddie																					
Harold																					
Matthew																					
Walter																					
40 inches																					
50 inches																					
60 inches																					
70 inches																					
80 inches																					
Monday																					
Tuesday																					
Wednesday																					
Thursday																					
Friday																					
1 inch																					
1-1/2 inches																					
2 inches																					
2-1/2 inches																					
3 inches																					

5. Matthew got 3 inches of snow but not on Thursday. Alan lives in New York but he didn't get snow on Wednesday.

6. The friend from Montana estimated his area would get 30 inches less than Matthew guessed. The friend that guessed 50 inches of snow didn't get snow on Thursday.

First Name	State	First Snowfall	Day of Week	Forecasted Snowfall
Alan				
Eddie				
Harold				
Matthew				
Walter				

## Answer to Puzzle...

## No Peeking!!

Forecasted Snowfall	Day of Week	First Snowfall	State	First Name
40 inches	Thursday	2-1/2 inches	Montana	Walter
70 inches	Monday	3 inches	Vermont	Matthew
80 inches	Tuesday	1-1/2 inches	Michigan	Harold
50 inches	Wednesday	2 inches	Massachusetts	Eddie
60 inches	Friday	1 inch	New York	Alan

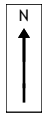


# Report from the Trenches by Barry Rigal

Board 25  
Dealer: N  
E/W Vul.

♠ AQ93  
♥ J8532  
♦ J3  
♣ T4

♠ K2  
♥ AT4  
♦ AKQ65  
♣ A63



♠ JT74  
♥ 97  
♦ 874  
♣ KJ52

♠ 865  
♥ KO6  
♦ T92  
♣ Q987

The new form of scoring presents the players with a different scenario from old fashioned IMPs. EVERY imp means something; one can't say 'a vulnerable undertrick doesn't matter at VP scoring'. It does.

You play 3NT as West after opening 2NT in fourth seat. The defenders lead and continue hearts, and the suit is clearly 5-3. North signals suit preference with the jack on the third round. You win and run five rounds of diamonds. North pitches his low spades, then the spade queen. Your RHO pitches two low spades.

When you play the club ace and a second club North follows to both but no queen appears. Finesse or drop?

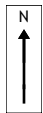
At the table most players finessed, unprepared to have their LHO own them for the rest of the match (it was board one of the match). I think the argument for playing to cash your eight winners is a strong one. Unless LHO is a world champion every card played in the hand thus far tells you the CQ is wrong and a victory point is a victory point.

*Ed: Why did North signal his spade entry? On the auction, he knows that declarer holds most of the remaining high cards. If his partner gains the lead, he can likely figure out the spade shift. It's not 100% but sometimes it is the better part of valor.*

Board 40  
Dealer: W  
None Vul.

♠  
♥ 853  
♦ 86532  
♣ JT954

♠ QJ52  
♥ K9642  
♦ K  
♣ K63



♠ AK743  
♥ AQT7  
♦ Q9  
♣ A7

♠ T986  
♥ J  
♦ AJT74  
♣ Q82

Ah what might have been. At our table we (East/West) followed the primrose path to disgrace not glory.

Rigal			
West	North	East	South
1H	Pass	2NT	Pass
3C *	Pass	3D	Double
3H	4D	5H	Pass
6H	All Pass		

2NT was a slammish raise.

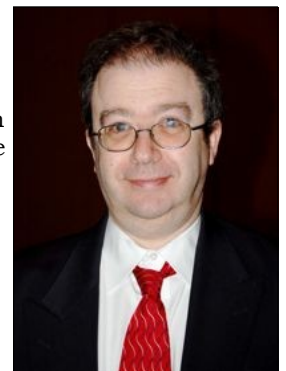
\*3C was a minimum showing a 5-4-2-2 (ignoring the singleton king).

5H asked for diamond control.

*Ed. note: 6H should show the diamond king since West already denied holding a singleton!! And 6D would show the diamond ace.*

The defenders led a diamond and took the spade ruff. Had I shown a pattern including a singleton diamond, partner would not have been able to count 12 tricks anyway in no-trump. But as the cards lie today, 6NT has 12 tricks.

Barry  
Rigal



(Continued from page 9)

Board 56 ♠ AKJ  
Dealer: W ♥ 3  
None Vul. ♦ A8632  
♣ K865

♠ 63 ♠ Q754  
♥ AJT5 ♥ K98762  
♦ 975 ♦ J4  
♣ QJ74 ♣ 2  
♠ T982  
♥ Q4  
♦ KQT  
♣ AT93



McAllister	Aker	Migry	Parker
West	North	East	South
Pass	1D	1H	Double
3D (mixed raise)	Pass	3H	Double
Pass	4H	Pass	5C
All Pass			

Did anyone bid it to that contract; if so please tell me or the bulletin!!

My favorite deal of the day. At our table after a weak jump overcall from East, West saved in 4Hx down 300.

In the other room (auction above) Migry overcalled 1H and John McAllister found himself on lead to 5C after making a mixed raise.

The defenders might well lead ace and another heart. If they do, declarer will have to guess who has four clubs. He might work out to come to hand with a diamond and lead a club to the eight. An alternative line would be to lead a club towards the ten, playing West for a 2-5-2-4 pattern. However, the hearts rate to

be 6-4 so West is likely to have the long clubs I think.

That is all theory: John put a spoke in declarer's plans when he led a low diamond at trick one! Now Josh Parker as declarer simply played clubs from the top as would we all. That was down one for a loss of 8imps. Nicely defended!

## Howie Doing:

Just to confuse things  
As always the case,  
The Round of Sixteen  
With 12 teams in the race!

Who will remain?  
Who will depart?  
Who's true to form?  
Who upsets the cart?

Bassagio's gone.  
Kolesnik is too.  
Hung is no match  
For the strong Diamond crew!

I'm picking three upsets.  
So far I've been right.  
We'll know how we stand  
At the end Monday night.

It's Harris and Meltzer  
Collecting the prize  
While Gabby gets busted  
By guys of small size.

Jack is still hopless.  
Wins, he's eschewing.  
He's really no match  
For the great Howie Doing!

See you in two days...  
Howie

Top of the evening to you all:

In today's tilts Limey Jack has quite good information that will net you a tenner from your favourite punter.

Gordon V Baseggio: In spite of Gordon coming in at "0" centigrade, they will take the measure of Baseggio. Baseggio has played lovely so far but you know how Limey Jack feels about 4 handed teams. Gordon has one stallion too many.

Fireman V Kolesnik: Fireman is another daft team who went from 6 to 5 and yet did not think to recruit Zia. I am tempted to ring him up and query him about this but I fear he is on holiday. While Fireman seems a prohibitive favourite, Kolesnik has some decent tradesmen about and could pinch a victory if the five young lads rest on their laurels. Howie Dung will predict a withdrawal in some ostensibly rhyming tongue, but this will go the full amount of furlongs. If the Fireman lads mesh well they will prevail.

Bramley V Harris: In the swan song for the Archduke, the revered Sir Hamman will play part time but accurately and will knock Harris from contention. Harris has some serious flaws which will come to fore as they play a very experienced sixsome. Aye, Lee is but a lad in knickers but the rest of the team is seasoned well.

Diamond V Hung: Only fools and horses would choose Hung. Even our own resident fool will pick Diamond. While Hung has some gritty players they fall on the sword after no more than 90. Diamond had a chance for greatness with Grue doing porridge when they ought have chosen Zia. Their team is fine but not elite.

Seligman V Meltzer: Strangely the team with the sponsor has an edge over the team where the sponsor retired. Each squad is 5 handed which is abhorred by Limey Jack But the Meltzer team has had no practice. Seligman has prepared for the joust in advance. Meltzer's mates are a wee bit stronger but less agile. Limey Jack announces that Seligman will nick this match.

Sherman V Koneru: This match will have HD right perplexed. Sherman appears to have an extra sponsor and a very awkward pair in Dwyer and Ekeblad. Koneru has high level lads but no matter how much swotting (ED cram), one pair is uneven. The six handed band will prevail but you would have to be off your trolley to predict anything but a close match.

Have a chuckle at the expense of the buffoon and Limey Jack will check back with you on the morrow.

Cheers, LJ

**Jack is Back!**