

Volume 1, Issue 4
August 3, 2016

All Mixed Up!

UNITED STATES MIXED TEAMS BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

On to the Final ...

#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
1	Rosenthal	118	30	48	10	30
4	Manfield	135	36	25	41	33
2	Katz	104	34	33	24	13
3	Moss	151	43	28	47	33

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Just Shuffling Along!

Mixed Teams

Listed in Quarterfinal Bracket Position Order



Jan Martel



Rosenthal

Andrew Rosenthal, Capt
Huub Bertens
Chris Willenken

Migry Zur Campanile
Jill Levin

Katz

Ralph Katz, Capt
Bill Pollack
Stasha Cohen

Cheri Bjerkan
Rozanne Pollack
Mark Cohen

Moss

Sylvia Moss, Capt
Brad Moss
Sue Picus

Michael Seamon
Sheri Winestock
Alex Ornstein

Mahaffey

Jim Mahaffey, Capt
Sam Lev
Matthew Granovetter

Judi Radin
Irina Levitina
Pam Granovetter

Manfield

Melanie Manfield, Capt
Sally Woolsey
Debbie Rosenberg

William Pettis
Kit Woolsey
Michael Rosenberg

Meltzer

Rose Meltzer, Capt
JoAnna Stansby
Jo Morse

John Mohan
Lew Stansby
Ron Smith

Savchenko

Igor Savchenko, Capt
Jiang Gu

Cristal Nell
Pinpin Deng

Miller

Pamela Miller, Capt
Yiji Starr

Jim Rasmussen
Rick Binder



**Meet
the
Players**

Born in October, 1975, in New York City, Willenken graduated from Collegiate School in 1993 and Williams College in 1997. While at Williams, Willenken competed in the American Parliamentary Debate Association; he and Amanda Amert earned Team of The Year honors as the most successful partnership of the 1996-1997 season.

Willenken is an American Contract Bridge League Grand Life Master and a World Bridge Federation Life Master. In 2011, he won the gold medal at the inaugural Sport Accord World Mind Games Individual Championship.^[2] In World Bridge Federation competition, Willenken reached the semifinals of the 2010 Rosenblum Cup and 2011 World Transnational Open Teams Championship and finished fourth in the 2014 World Open Pairs Championship.

Wins: North American Bridge Championships

Fast Open Pairs 2000, 2005; Wernher Open Pairs 2001; Jacoby Open Swiss Teams 2004; Chicago Mixed Board-a-Match 2008; SportAccord World Mind Games; Open Individual Championship 2011; United States Bridge Championships; Open Team Trials 2013

Tournament Schedule

CAPTAINS' MEETING EACH DAY 15 MINUTES BEFORE START OF PLAY, IN PLAYING AREA

QUARTER-FINAL (ASSUMES NO SCREENS)

****** SCHEDULE WITH SCREENS WILL BE SAME AS SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL, STARTING AT 10:00******
EACH QUARTERFINAL MATCH WILL PLAY A DIFFERENT SET OF BOARDS

MONDAY	AUGUST 1	10:30 - 12:30 12:45 - 2:45 4:15 - 6:15 6:30 - 8:30	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 90 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
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SEMI-FINAL (BOTH MATCHES WILL PLAY THE SAME BOARDS)

TUESDAY	AUGUST 2	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 4:00 - 6:10 6:20 - 8:30	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 90 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
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FINAL

WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 3	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 4:00 - 6:10 6:20 - 8:30	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 90 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
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*In the Quarterfinal, each match will play different boards. In the Semi-Final, both matches will play the same boards.

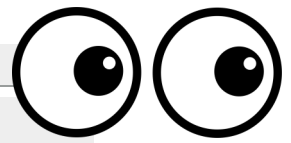


Michael Brad Moss was born in 1971 in New York City. It should come as no surprise to find that he took to bridge like a duck to water - his parents are Mike Moss and Gail Greenberg. Brad was named the ACBL King of Bridge at the age of 18. Two years later, he became the youngest player ever to win the New York Player of the Year title. Also in 1991, he was a member of the USA team that just missed out on a medal at the World Junior Teams in Ann Arbor, Michigan, finishing fourth, and won his first National title - the Master Mixed Teams. In 1993, he added to his tally by winning the Grand National Teams and the Life Masters Open Pairs.

His successful partnership with Fred Gitelman included wins in the 1998 NABC Board-a-Match Teams, a third in the 1998 Cavendish Invitational Pairs, first in the 2005 & 2010 Spingolds, the 2010 Roth Open Swiss, the 2012 Jacoby Open Swiss, the Bronze medal in the 2005 Bermuda Bowl and gold in the 2010 Rosenblum teams.

With Joe Grue he finished second in the 2013 Spingold (tied at the end of regulation play).

All About Kibitzing



WHEN CAN YOU KIBITZ IN THE PLAYING ROOMS?

You will be able to kibitz at any of the tables during this event. However, you will be subject to the following regulations:

When a match is being shown on BBO Vugraph, kibitzers may enter the room ONLY at the start of play for a segment. Once play has started, the room will be closed and a kibitzer who leaves the room may not return until the start of the next session. No kibitzer may sit on the same side of the table as the Vugraph operator.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in the playing rooms, even if they are turned off. Any kibitzer who is found with a cell phone will be evicted and not allowed to kibitz during the remainder of the tournament.

SCREENS

Most of the Mixed USBC will be played with screens. If you've never kibitzed at a table with screens before, you need to know that it is quite different from kibitzing at a regular table. You need to be seated at an "open" corner of the table (not next to the screen) in order to see much, and once there are 4 kibitzers at a table it will be very hard for additional kibitzers to see.

USBF KIBITZING RULES

The USBF **General Conditions of Contest** contain specific rules about kibitzers. They are designed to promote security at the tournament and are set forth in the conditions of contest section labeled "Security." They are:

- a. During any use of duplicated boards across multiple matches, Kibitzers must select one table for kibitzing and may not move to any other table during a session or segment.
- b. Kibitzers may not speak with players, must watch only one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see more than one hand at a time, may not sit in such a position as to see a computer screen in use for Internet broadcast, must check communication devices with the Director, cannot call attention to irregularities other than a board being placed incorrectly on the table (arrow positioning), but may serve as witnesses to a possible irregularity.
- c. Kibitzers must enter the playing room before play commences. Kibitzers are required to remain until the segment of play is completed at the table they are watching or to leave the playing area entirely. Kibitzers are expected to abide by the same rules as the players regarding leaving the room (e.g. be escorted to the restroom).
- d. Except as expressly provided in these conditions and appendices, NPC's shall be subject to the WBF General Conditions, Section 17.
- e. No one other than the Internet broadcast personnel and Tournament Directors may watch any computer screen or any other mechanism for enabling the Internet broadcast at any time in either the Closed or the Open Room.
- f. These rules may be revised in specific instances by the DICs for the orderly running of the event.

Kibitzing



Hubertus Johannes Antoinetta (Huub) Bertens (born May 24th 1960) is a Dutch bridge player previously from Tilburg, Netherlands, now living in Bend, Oregon (U.S.). Bertens has won numerous national and some international tournaments including the Cavendish Invitational, NEC Cup, the Yeh Brothers Cup, the European Open Team Championships. In world championships for national teams, he earned a Bronze medal in 2007 and played on the Dutch teams that finished 5th to 8th (quarterfinalists) in 2008 and 2009.

His regular partners in the Netherlands included Ton Bakkeren and Berry Westra.

Married to Jeanne van den Meiracker, he has one son and one daughter.

Bertens and Curtis Cheek have established a partnership that represented the United States in the SportAccord World Mind Games at Beijing in December 2014.

Into the SemiFinals...

Board 2
Dealer: E
N/S Vul.
Segment 1

♠ KJ8
♥ 63
♦ AJ76
♣ KQ52

♠ T976
♥ AQ42
♦ T942
♣ 3

N
↑

♠ 2
♥ K987
♦ K53
♣ JT976

♠ AQ543
♥ JT5
♦ Q8
♣ A84

West	North	East	South
Bertens	M Rosenberg	Migry	D Rosenberg
		Pass	1S
Pass	2C	Pass	2NT
Pass	3S	Pass	4S
All Pass			

Both tables in the Manfield/Rosenthal match reached 4S by South. In the Open Room (auction shown), Bertens led the DT. Migry won with the king and shifted to hearts. Bertens won his queen followed by his ace.

The C3 went to the ace and declarer claimed the remaining ten tricks... contract making.

In the Closed Room, the contract was defeated. On the lead of the C3, the hand is much more difficult. Declarer can win the club, but if she takes the losing diamond finesse before pulling trump, West will give East a club ruff and the two heart tricks will set the hand. If declarer pulls all four rounds of trump first, she will face three heart losers.

13 IMPs to Manfield

Board 4
Dealer: W
All Vul.
Segment 1

♠ A43
♥ Q976432
♦ K
♣ KQ

♠ QJT75
♥ AT8
♦ A963
♣ J

N
↑

♠ K64
♥
♦ Q87542
♣ 9762

♠ 92
♥ KJ5
♦ JT
♣ AT8543

Pettis	Willenken	Manfield	J Levin
1S	2H	2S	3H
Pass	4H	4S	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Bertens	M Rosenberg	Migry	D Rosenberg
1S	2H	4S	5H
All Pass			

The first two bids were the same in both rooms. When the auction reached Manfield, she chose a simple 2S raise. Levin bid 3H and when Pettis passed, Willenken bid the heart game. Manfield, holding more offense than defense, correctly chose to bid 4S. It sounded much like she was sacrificing and Willenken doubled.

Willenken led his singleton DK. Pettis won with the ace. When Willenken won the trump ace, he was able to reach partner with a club. A diamond ruff followed but that was it for the defense. Contract making.

In the Open Room, Migry chose a jump to 4S. Debbie Rosenberg felt much like Manfield in the other room. She held good hearts for partner and concealed length in clubs. Dutifully she took the save in 5H. Migry led a small spade. Michael won his ace, played one round of clubs noting the fall of the jack, played a heart to the king and ace. Bertens cashed the spade queen and the diamond ace, defeating the contract one trick.

12 more IMPs to Manfield

Vugraph

The 2016 Mixed USBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph throughout. We will probably cover 2 matches in the Quarterfinal, which is played on Monday, Aug. 1st. From the Semifinals on, we will cover all of the tables in play. To watch the Vugraph online, go to the **BBO website** where you can either log on directly from your browser, go to "Vugraph" and choose which table to watch, or watch from the Windows version of BBO on your computer...if you don't have the Windows version, or don't know what it is, you probably can't use it. If you choose the Windows version, log on, click on the button labeled VUGRAPH and you'll be able to choose which of the USBC matches you want to watch. To watch on your smartphone or tablet, install the BBO app and watch using that.

There will often be a "yellow" user on BBO called USBF. If you have general questions, please ask USBF, not one of the hard-working Vugraph Operators, who may not have time to respond to private messages.

The schedule for the Semi-Finals and Finals is the same (these are Washington times; to see the times for your time-zone, go to the **BBO Vugraph schedule site**):

10:00-12:10

12:25-2:35

3:45-5:55

6:10-8:20

The schedule for the Quarterfinal will depend on whether we are able to fit 8 tables with screens into our playing area. If we are, the schedule will be the same as for the Semi-Finals and Finals. If not, the schedule will be:

10:30-12:30

12:45-2:45

4:15-5:15

5:30-8:30

During the Semifinals and Finals, all of the teams will play the same boards.

During the Quarterfinals, each team will play a different set of boards.

There will probably be live video of 2-4 tables each session. Video from the other tables will be uploaded to YouTube as soon as we can manage.

After a session, you can review the Vugraph action on our Web Vugraphs, which show each hand played with a link to bidding and play records. Take a look at the older events currently available to see what we'll have for the 2016 Mixed USBC. Web Vugraphs are posted about half an hour after completion of the Vugraph show.

You can find the hand records for USBC matches on this site, linked to the bracket sheets you can get to by clicking on 2016MUSBC under "Event Results" in the upper left of each page.

If you are going to be in Washington during the Mixed USBC and want to volunteer to help as a Vugraph operator, please **email Jan Martel**. The more operators we have, the more tables we can cover!

C		4						0	9				F		
A	B	3	9	C		2		F		D					
8	D			B		A		C	2	4		0			
	1	2				8	F	E							
	E	7						3		5	6		1		
		C	B		1				2			0	F		
					3		D				2	6	E	A	
9				2	E	5		F	0					C	
D						F	B		E	3	8			2	
3	9	E	A					6		B					
	5	1				E				7		6	B		
F				3	D		1						4	5	
							0	8	3				7	9	
	4		7		5		8		D		F			B	3
			F		C				9		E	8	2	D	5
2				1	B								C		E

Big Sudoku

**Answers to Puzzle
No Peeking!**

2	8	A	3	1	B	D	9	7	5	6	0	F	C	4	E
B	0	6	F	7	C	3	A	1	9	4	E	8	2	D	5
1	4	9	7	E	5	6	8	2	D	C	F	0	A	B	3
E	C	5	D	F	2	4	0	8	3	A	B	1	7	9	6
F	2	B	6	3	D	7	1	0	C	9	A	E	4	5	8
4	5	1	8	9	A	E	C	D	F	7	2	6	B	3	0
3	9	E	A	5	8	0	2	6	4	B	1	7	F	C	D
D	7	0	C	6	4	F	B	5	E	3	8	A	9	1	2
9	A	D	1	2	E	5	6	F	0	8	4	B	3	7	C
5	F	8	4	0	3	B	D	9	7	1	C	2	6	E	A
6	3	C	B	8	1	9	7	A	2	E	D	5	0	F	4
0	E	7	2	A	F	C	4	3	B	5	6	9	D	8	1
7	1	2	0	4	9	8	F	E	6	D	3	C	5	A	B
8	D	F	5	B	6	A	3	C	1	2	7	4	E	0	9
A	B	3	9	C	0	2	E	4	8	F	5	D	1	6	7
C	6	4	E	D	7	1	5	B	A	0	9	3	8	2	F

Puzzle Page ...

After a local bungled heist, five suspects were being interviewed by the police.

Eventually the police managed to get a confession.

Below is a summary of their statements and it turns out that exactly 5 of these statements were true.

Would you make a good detective, try and work out who committed the crime?

Adrian said:

It wasn't Barry

It was Cedric

Barry said:

It wasn't Adrian

It was Derek

Cedric said:

It wasn't Derek

It wasn't Barry

Derek said:

It wasn't Eric

It was Adrian

Eric said:

It wasn't Cedric

It was Derek



**Hint and Answers:
No Peeking!**

Answer:
Eric committed the crime.
If we assume that Adrian was the culprit we can see that there would be 6 true statements, so it can't be Adrian.
We can repeat this will all five suspects and quickly see that only Eric being the culprit would result in exactly 5 statements being true.

Hint:
How many statements would be true if the culprit was Adrian?

Board 28
 Dealer: W
 N/S Vul.
 Segment 2

♠ 854
 ♥ K2
 ♦ KQ4
 ♣ JT432

♠ T3
 ♥ AQJT85
 ♦ J7
 ♣ 965



♠ AK6
 ♥ 73
 ♦ A965
 ♣ KQ87
 ♠ QJ972
 ♥ 964
 ♦ T832
 ♣ A

West	North	East	South
Rosenthal	M. Rosenberg	Migry	D. Rosenberg
2H	Pass	2NT	Pass
3H	All Pass		

K Woolsey	Willenken	S Woolsey	J Levin
3H	Pass	4H	All Pass

Defending 3H in the Open Room was easy. Michael Rosenberg led the diamond king and Rosenthal cleverly ducked. Rosenberg shifted to a spade, won in dummy with the ace. Rosenthal finessed the trump king, losing to North. Michael played another spade, won in dummy with the king. Declarer pulled trump, knocked out the club ace, and eventually took ten tricks when Michael pitched clubs on the run of the hearts.

In the Closed Room, where Kit Woolsey opened three hearts on his six card suit and Sally raised to game, Willenken also led the DK. Woolsey won with the ace in dummy and finessed the king of hearts. Willenken won the HK and found the club shift. Great play, Chris!

Jill Levin won her singleton ace, played a diamond to Willenken's queen, and scored her club ruff to defeat 4H.

6 IMPs to Rosenthal

Howie Doing ...

Into the Semis, I picked both teams.
 Slimey can only win in his dreams!

Who will emerge? Who will suffer a loss?
 Will it be Manfield? Will it be Moss?

I've looked at the numbers, completed a tally.
 I'm picking the team that contains one named Sally.

The team in September who be Poland bound,
 Is the team who's aggressive with preempts unsound.

See you next year in Chicago!!
 Howie Doing... just great!

Limey Jack ...

Hallo Yanks:

Whilst a bit lacking in Zees, Limey Jack will still show you how to separate a few bob from your favourite punter.

Two worthy adversaries remain in this inaugural tilt of the Mixed Teams Trials; Manfield and Moss. Limey Jack has word of a bit of Angst amongst the Moss team, while the less seasoned Manfield team seems to have found their gait. Unless M. Rosenberg wants to wait for the Scottish Immigrants Losers Trials, he had best put the whip to the use for which it was intended. Moss puts up a fine battle but the King's Herefordshire Brigade would have a hard time keeping M. Rosenberg from yet another wreath. It is Manfield at the last furlong.

Howie Dung, the cretin, will assuredly pick Moss, and with no semblance of Iambic Pentameter. Fortuitously, he will be deep-sixed until at least the Spring.

Cheers, LJ

The closest a person ever comes to perfection is when he fills out a job application form.

If people say they just love the smell of books, I always want to pull them aside and ask, To be clear, do you know how reading works?

I'm writing my book in fifth person, so every sentence starts out with: "I heard from this guy who told somebody ..."

A Canadian psychologist is selling a video that teaches you how to test your dog's IQ. Here's how it works: If you spend \$12.99 for the video, your dog is smarter than you. Jay Leno

How can you ever be late for anything in London? They have a huge clock right in the middle of the town. Jimmy Kimmel

Here's some advice: At a job interview, tell them you're willing to give 110 percent. Unless the job is a statistician.

New York Times writer Amy Chozick giving an example of what it was like working for a fashion magazine: "A girl got on [the elevator] with a Birkin bag, and her friend goes, 'Oh, my God, I love your bag; is that new?' and she goes, 'No, I got it, like, a week ago.'"

We need a 12-step group for compulsive talkers. They could call it On Anon Anon. Paula Poundstone
General Mills is coming out with an organic Twinkie. Isn't that called a sponge? Jay Leno

Halloween is the beginning of the holiday shopping season. That's for women. The beginning of the holiday shopping season for men is Christmas Eve. —David Letterman

My parents didn't want to move to Florida, but they turned 60 and that's the law. —Jerry Seinfeld
Billy Corgan, the lead singer of the rock band Smashing Pumpkins, on the perils of life as a rock star: "I've moved on to other things. Obviously I love rock 'n' roll, and I love music, but it's nice to be in a world like professional wrestling, where I'm treated like a normal person."

How come you never see a headline like "Psychic Wins Lottery"? Jay Leno

If con is the opposite of pro, then isn't Congress the opposite of progress? Jon Stewart

What are they planting to grow the seedless watermelon? Jerry Seinfeld

What should you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?
George Carlin

A hotel minibar allows you to see into the future and find out what a can of Pepsi will cost in 2020.
Comedian Rich Hall

Try an internship! Internships give you all the experience of a summer job without the hassle of a paycheck. Stephen Colbert

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.

Funny Lines!



Appeal #1

from the Quarterfinal:

2016 Mixed USBC Appeal 1

Board: 13

Vul: Both

Dealer

North (Savchenko)

♠ K Q 3

♥ A K 9 8

♦ 10 7 5

♣ 6 3 2

East (Bjerkan)

West (Katz)

♠ 10 5

♥ 10 7 3

♦ A Q 3

♣ A 8 7 5 4

♠ A J 8 7 6 2

♥ 6

♦ J 9 8 6 4 2

♣

South (Nell)

♠ 9 4

♥ Q J 5 4 2

♦ K

♣ K Q J 10 9

Bidding

N	E	S	W
1♣	1♠	3♥*	P
3NT	P	P	DBL
All Pass			



* Explained by South to West, correctly, as a fit-showing jump.

Explained by North to East first as a fit-showing jump but when tray came back, he said he was no longer sure and it might be a splinter.

Opening lead: ♥6

The play:

Trick 1: ♥6, ♥2, ♥10, ♥A

Trick 2: ♣x, ♦4, ♣x, ♣

Trick 3: ♣x, ♣x, ♣x, ♦6

Trick 4: ♣x, ♣x, ♣x, ♠8

Trick 5: ♣x, ♣A, ♥x, ♠2

Trick 6: ♠10, ♠K, ♠x, ♠x

Table Result: Making 4, NS +950

Director's Ruling:

2/3 of NS -800 on a non-heart lead.

1/3 of the table result on a heart lead.

(continued on page 12)

Director's explanation of ruling:

The agreement is fit-showing jump (it is in their notes).

East did not have correct information, but knew it wasn't clear.

East chose to base her lead on the belief that it was a splinter and she knew that if it was a splinter, her partner would not have been able to double 3♥ for a heart lead, because the double would ask for the lead of the lower suit.

The screen conditions say that it would have been appropriate for North to clarify, after the lead was made. He did not do that. However, East did not ask North to get a clarification.

There were relatively few people available for polling, but of the four who could be found and given the auction with the correct information, 2 led a spade, one led a heart and one led a diamond. The poll, in addition to the fact that the contract was still beatable after a heart lead, led to the weights assigned to the different results

Appeals Committee Ruling: Table result (+950 NS) and -3 IMPs to N-S for not doing anything after the auction.

Appeals Committee Explanation:

The committee overwhelmingly judged that E-W had numerous chances to avoid the -950 they suffered. East knew that North was unsure, and unilaterally settled on “explanation #2 – Splinter.”

East stated that if 3♥ was a Splinter, her partner couldn't double the 3♥ bid to show hearts. This is not clear since three suits were bid and the partnership had discussed only direct splinters (with two suits bid). She used that (faulty?) reasoning to conclude her partner had hearts. While it is true that North (explained later in this write-up) contributed to this, we judged that East didn't do nearly enough. She knew there was uncertainty and failed to protect herself. There were two easy courses of action available: 1) She could have asked to see the convention card (which correctly indicated “fit-showing”) or 2) By law, she could ask South (her non-screenmate) how she meant 3♥. Then she could have called a director. The director would have gotten to the bottom of it, protecting East's rights.

Furthermore, even after the heart lead, it was irrational defense to allow 950. West “knew” from dummy that his partner had six diamonds. N-S play standard and since he had opened 1♣ with three, he couldn't have more than three diamonds. Regardless, laying down the ♦A before playing a spade couldn't hurt. There were many reasons why even after the heart lead, East-West should have set the contract.

(We asked East if she would have done anything different in the auction, but she said no—not once she thought 3♥ was a Splinter Bid. She seemed to imply she wasn't considering bidding no matter what the explanation was.)

The committee disagreed slightly on North-South's liability. North contributed in a small part to the debacle. Indicating he “wasn't sure” was correct, but after the auction, he could have and should have interceded. He could have asked his partner what she meant 3♥ as and how she explained it. The committee judged that leaving 950 (the table result) was right, but N-S had to lose something. By a 3-2 vote, we decided on a 3-IMP procedural penalty (due to North not interceding after the auction) as opposed to a score percentage split (with numbers that would have come close to what 950 & -3 IMPs was anyway).

NOTE: The Appeals Committee members did not know the score of the match when they made their ruling.

Appeals Committee

Larry Cohen, Chairman

Robb Gordon, Member

Steve Robinson, Member

Danny Sprung, Member

Adam Wildavsky, Member

Board 16
 Dealer: W
 E/W Vul.
 Segment 4

♠ AJ87
 ♥
 ♦ KJT32
 ♣ K632

♠ T53
 ♥ AK54
 ♦ 75
 ♣ 9875



♠ KQ9
 ♥ JT8
 ♦ AQ64
 ♣ QJ

♠ 642
 ♥ Q97632
 ♦ 8
 ♣ AT4

West	North	East	South
M Cohen	Ornstein	S Cohen	Picus
Pass	1D	Pass	2D (inverted)
Pass	2S	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

B Moss	Katz	Winestock	Bjerkan
Pass	1D	Pass	2D (inverted)
Pass	2S	Pass	2NT
Pass	3D (club shortness!!)	Pass	5D
All Pass			

In the Open Room, where Picus was declarer in 3NT, Mark Cohen led a fourth best heart. Stasha was happy with that. When she and Mark finished cashing their six heart tricks, Stasha cashed her CA for down three.

Meanwhile, in the Closed Room, Katz/Bjerkan, not a “regular” partnership, suffered a bidding misunderstanding that likely kept them from the bidding the diamond slam. When the auction ended, Bjerkan said, “I hope I didn’t screw this up!”

Katz replied, “I know I did!! I meant to show heart shortness and showed club shortness instead!” All’s well that ends well for Katz/Bjerkan. In missing slam, they found the making game. 11 IMPs to Katz

Board 9
 Dealer: N
 E/W Vul.
 Segment 3

♠ J82
 ♥ AQT7
 ♦ AT2
 ♣ Q95

♠ AKT7
 ♥ 5
 ♦ Q74
 ♣ AJ762



♠ Q864
 ♥ 43
 ♦ K653
 ♣ T83

♠ 53
 ♥ KJ9862
 ♦ J98
 ♣ K4

R Pollack	Ornstein	B Pollack	Picus
	1C	Pass	1S
Pass	1NT	All Pass	

B Moss	Katz	Winestock	Bjerkan
	1C	1H	Pass
1S	Pass	2H	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

It’s always interesting when both sides of the same team declare in the same strain.

In the Open Room, Ornstein found himself in 1NT with no opponent bidding. Not certain why Bill Pollack did not overcall 1H but maybe he’s more conservative since becoming a grandfather! Pollack led the H6 which rode around to the 7. Ornstein played the S9 to Rosanne’s ten. Roseanne tried the C2

to her partner’s king. Bill played a club to the jack and queen; and Ornstein cashed the DA. The D2 was ducked to the queen and three rounds of clubs ensued. Next came the ace and king of spades. Ornstein cried “uncle!” and finished down two.

In the Closed Room, Katz, after much thought, led the D2. Bjerkan won the king and played another diamond. Katz won the ace, played another to Moss’s queen. Moss played three rounds of clubs; Katz scoring his queen. Katz played the HA followed by the SJ, ducked around. Katz was endplayed. He held only hearts and spades. He could give Moss his heart king or give him the spade hook for the queen. Contract making... 1 IMP to Moss

If Bjerkan read Katz’s lead as being from Axx, she could simply have ducked the first trick and maintained communication so the defenders could score six tricks before declarer scored eight.

Board 23
 Dealer: S
 All Vul.
 Segment 4

♠ 4
 ♥ AKQJ4
 ♦ A8
 ♣ AT873

♠ AK9752
 ♥ 3
 ♦ J5
 ♣ Q964

N
↑

♠ QJ86
 ♥ T982
 ♦ 742
 ♣ KJ

♠ T3
 ♥ 765
 ♦ KQT963
 ♣ 52

West	North	East	South
M Cohen	Ornstein	S Cohen	Picus
			2D
2S	6D	All Pass	

B Moss	Katz	Winestock	Bjerkan
			Pass
2S	Double	3S	Pass
Pass	4H	All Pass	

Picus opened a normal weak two in diamonds, and in two bids, she found herself in slam... and a very good slam it is!

Mark Cohen led the SK, Stasha playing the queen. Mark continued with the S2. Picus, seeing problems getting to her hand, held her breath, ruffed with dummy's trump ace, and played the D8 to her king and queen, sighing when the jack came down in two rounds.

Pulling the last trump and claiming 12 tricks was easy.

In the other room, Bjerkan, though playing a weak 2D, chose not to open one.

Moss opened a weak 2S; Katz made a take-out double; Winestock bid 3S and when the auction got back to Katz, he tried 4H.

Winestock led the SQ, Moss overtaking with the king. Moss shifted to a club which was ducked to Winestock's jack. Winestock continued with the CK to declarer's ace. Katz pulled two rounds of trump, getting the news of the 4-1 split. He led a small club toward dummy intending to ruff if it lived. Winestock ruffed with the nine and Katz pitched a diamond.

The HT rode to the queen and Katz played off two more rounds of trump. He cashed his DA, played a diamond to dummy and claimed 10 tricks.

13 IMPs to Moss

2017 US Bridge Championships...

The 2017 Bermuda Bowl, Venice Cup and D'Orsi (Senior) Bowl will be held in Lyons, France from August 12 through August 26. Because those dates are earlier than usual, all of the USBCs will also be earlier than usual. We will be returning to the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg where the room rate will be \$129 a night, including internet, for all three 2017 events.

2017 OPEN USBC

The Open USBC will be selecting two teams in 2017. The ITTC has not yet decided the exact length of the event, but it will start on Friday, April 28th and finish either on Monday, May 8th or Tuesday, May 9th.

2017 WOMEN'S USBC

The Women's USBC will also select 2 teams in 2017. The Women's USBC will be held starting opposite the Semi-Finals of the USA1 bracket of the Open USBC, on Wednesday, May 3 and ending on Tuesday, May 9.

2017 SENIOR USBC

The Senior USBC will also select 2 teams in 2017. It will be held starting on Wednesday, May 17th and ending on Thursday, May 25th.