

Volume 10, Issue 11

May 15, 2016

# “Trials” and Tribulations

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Halfway Through the Final...

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60
1	Fleisher	96	22	23	12	39
2	Diamond	149	30	45	56	18

**USBF President**  
Howie Weinstein

**USBF Vice President**  
Bob Katz

**USBF COO & Secretary**  
Jan Martel

**USBF CFO**  
Stan Subeck

**Directors - USBC**  
Chris Patrias  
Sol Weinstein

**Operations Manager**  
McKenzie Myers

**Appeals Administrator**  
Suzi Subeck

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Larry Cohen  
Steve Garner  
David Caprera  
John Lusky  
Dan Morse  
Beth Palmer  
Kerri Sanborn  
Ron Smith  
Stan Subeck  
Adam Wildavsky  
Tom Carmichael  
Danny Sprung  
Ronnie Gerard  
Steve Robinson  
Robb Gordon  
Lew Stansby  
Peter Boyd  
Cheri Bjerkan  
Eric Rodwell  
Gary Cohler  
Ralph Katz

**Video**  
Marcin Waslowicz  
**VuGraph Organizers**  
Jan Martel

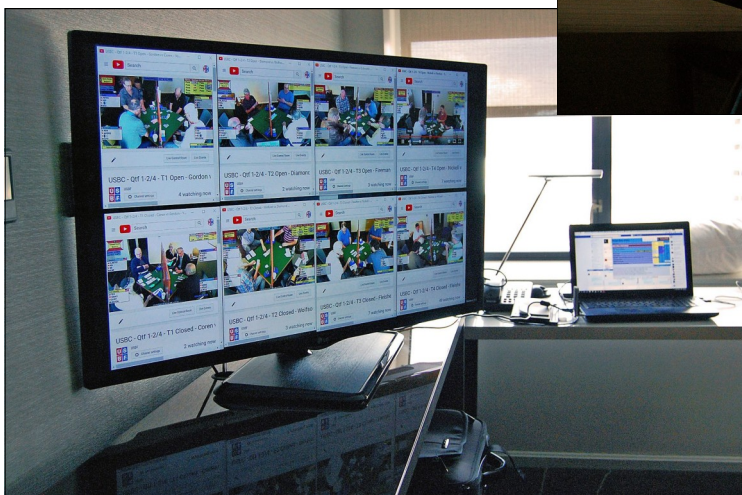
**Bulletin Editor**  
Suzi Subeck

**Photographer**  
Peg Kaplan

**Local Hospitality Chairs**  
Lisa Berkowitz  
Susie Miller

### Security Abounds

Meet Marcin Waslowicz,  
our "resident" Guru



# Teams Entered... Ordered by Byes then Alphabetical

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

## Gordon

Bye to Rnd of 8  
Mark Gordon, Capt  
David Berkowitz  
Jacek Pszczola  
Pratap Rajadhyaksha  
Alan Sontag  
Michael Rosenberg

## Diamond

Bye to Rnd of 16  
John Diamond, Capt  
Eric Greco  
Kevin Bathurst  
Brian Platnick  
Geoff Hampson  
Justin Lall

## Fireman

Bye to Rnd of 16  
Paul Fireman, Capt  
John Kranyak  
John Hurd  
Gavin Wolpert  
Vincent Demuy  
Joel Wooldridge

## Coren

Richard Coren, Capt  
Russell Ekeblad  
Matthew Granovetter  
Roger Bates  
Steve Garner

## Dinkin

Sam Dinkin, Capt  
Owen Lien  
Adam Grossack  
Cenk Tuncok  
Zachary Brescoll  
Zachary Grossack

## Fleisher

Martin Fleisher, Capt  
Joe Grue  
Ishmael Delmonte  
Chip Martel  
Brad Moss  
Chris Willenken

## Gupta

Naren Gupta, Capt  
Peter Weichsel  
Neil Chambers  
Billy Miller  
John Schermer

## Harris

Martin Harris, Capt  
George Jacobs  
Jay Barron  
Jacob Morgan  
Claude Vogel

## Humphreys

Greg Humphreys, Capt  
Peggy Ware  
Sheri Winestock  
Spencer Jones

## Jacobus

Marc Jacobus, Capt  
Jan Janitschke  
Brenda Jacobus  
Bonnie Smith  
Jeff Holligan

## Jolly

Christian Jolly, Capt  
Gregory Herman  
Julie Arbit  
Anam Tebha

## Lo

Ai-Tai Lo, Capt  
Sylvia Shi  
Howard Liu  
William Pettis

## McAllister

John McAllister, Capt  
Ron Smith  
Kevin Dwyer  
Oren Kriegel

## Nickell

Frank Nickell, Capt  
Bobby Levin  
Jeff Meckstroth  
Ralph Katz  
Steve Weinstein  
Eric Rodwell

## Reynolds

W. Reynolds, Capt  
David Pelka  
Lance Kerr  
Alan Daniels

## Robinson

Steve Robinson, Capt  
Kit Woolsey  
Bart Bramley  
Peter Boyd  
Fred Stewart  
Robert Hamman

## Schwartz

Richard Schwartz, Capt  
Chris Compton  
Huub Bertens  
J. Allan Graves  
Mike Passell  
Curtis Cheek

## Wildavsky

Adam Wildavsky, Capt  
Steve Beatty  
Migry Zur Campanile  
Larry Robbins

## Wolfson

Jeffrey Wolfson, Capt  
Gary Cohler  
Zia Mahmood  
Neil Silverman  
Billy Cohen  
Michael Kamil

Which is the only  
Queen in the deck  
that faces to the  
right?

Queen of Spades.

## Card Characteristics

52 cards represents the 52 weeks in a year

4 suits represents the 4 seasons

13 cards in each suit represents the 13 weeks in each season

12 Royals represent the 12 months

2 red and 2 black suits represent the 4 different solstices

The 4 suits also represent the four natural elements

Hearts = Water

Clubs = Fire

Diamonds = Earth

Spades = Air

An interesting fact about playing cards is that specially-constructed decks were sent to American soldiers who were being held in German camps during World War II. The United States Playing Card Company collaborated with the government in the production of these cards. What made these cards so unique was, once they became wet, they peeled apart. Inside, the prisoners found parts of maps that would lead them to freedom.

# We've Come a Long Way Baby!

Bridge Base Online - Live broadcast - 2016 USBC FINAL - Segment 1 of 8

**Closed Room Board 2**

Diamond: 3 IMPs  
Fleisher: 0 IMPs

**N Diamond**

**W Willenken**

**E Delmonte**

Willenke	Diamond	Delmonte	Platnick
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♦
Pass	Dbl	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass			

**S Platnick**

3for3: Good morning from Las Vegas  
 scotty (Automated): scotty has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.  
 kraft (Automated): kraft has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.  
 Vugraphzfe: N-S play a version of Meckwell Lite precision. E-W play a short club with transfer responses  
 3for3: NS open very light as can be seen, a balanced 10, even vulnerable.  
 Vugraphzfe: Diamond and Platnick are a very longstanding partnership. They won the junior world championship together in 1991  
 3for3: 3nt seems likely either way  
 Vugraphzfe: By contrast, I believe Ish and Chris are a relatively new partnership  
 pbundy (Automated): pbundy has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.  
 Vugraphzfe: E-W also open quite light. In the pregame discussion, Brian asked about their style. They open all 11s NV and many 11s vul  
 fpancoe (Automated): fpancoe has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.  
 Vugraphzfe: Not as light as a precision pair, but not "rule of 20" either  
 3for3: Platnick decides not to go for penalties, despite a good spade holding an overcall by a passed hand.  
 vugraphzqr (Automated): A live vugraph broadcast has just started. Meeting Luczniczka - Team - Final MATCH 3/7.  
 Vugraphzfe: Brian may be blazing a new trail for \*vulnerable second seat\* openers. The trend among precision pairs is to open many balanced 10-counts when NV, but not commonly when vul  
 jcmx (Automated): jcmx has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.  
 3for3: His values are concentrated in his long suits, so it is a 'good' balanced 10

Chat    Tourneys  
 Tables 5    Lobby 12436  
 Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional  
 May 30 - June 5, 2016  
 The Regional with Oink!  
 Visit www.cincybridge.com for more information

BACK TABLE REDEAL CONV. UNDO CLAIM CHAT GIB MOVIE HELP

Under the direction of Jan Martel, VuGraph presentations have improved greatly over the past few years. Throughout this event, we've remained in our homes and been entertained by the best players in the United States. Over time, both the volume of matches broadcast and the level of operator skill have increased appreciably. It is more enjoyable and easier to follow with operators like Oren Kriegel (above). Reading Oren's opening remarks, you can appreciate his great knowledge. He defines the teams' systems and style; he offers some history into the partnerships; and as the matches continue, he adds "color commentary" so you feel like you are kibitzing table-side. We've come a long way and it should not go unnoticed. Thanks everyone who has had a hand in this... most especially Jan for coordinating these efforts. It is truly amazing!

(continued on page 4)

Bridge Base Online - Live broadcast - 2016 USBC FINAL - Segment 1 of 8

(continued from page 3)

**D**

Closed Room  
Board 5

Diamond: 4 IMPs  
Fleisher: 1 IMP

10 6 5 3 A K 2 J 8 5 4 10 9

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

**N Diamond**

Willenke	Diamond	Delmonte	Platnick
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	
	3 or 4 spades		

Q 9 5 4 3 Q 10 6 2 J 7 3 2

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

**E Delmonte**

9 7 2 J 10 8 6 A 9 7 K 5 4

♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

**W Willenken**

Open Room: 6 ♠ S -1 -100

A K Q J 8 4 7 K 3 A Q 8 6

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

**S Platnick**

**gosia:** tough for Chris to work out the position , that's for sure 😊

**joest:** at the other table on the prior board west led a spade so there was never an issue. Chris did well to lead a heart in the first place

**curtak (Automated):** curtak has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.

**gosia:** yup

**gosia:** and an overtrick to ♦ , unless he tries to drop stiff K

**gosia:** I always finesse with an 11 card fit 😊

**Vugraphzfe:** Ish passes out of turn, but no harm done behind screens

**3for3:** South will open a big club

**Vugraphzfe:** JD: "I just wish there was some way to take advantage of it [the pass out of turn]"

**3for3:** North will show 8-10 more or less

**gosia:** over the past 40+ years , I think I'm ahead 😊 and can't hate myself if it's wrong

**3for3:** they are now in a GF

**joest:** slam basically on a hook here. I wouldn't expect them to get there though

**alresser (Automated):** alresser has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.

**Vugraphzfe:** N-S play a gadget here: Brian's 1 ♠ shows EITHER major. That's one way to solve the problem of opener having hearts after 1 ♣-1 ♥ (the worst auctions for that start in MeckLite)

**joest:** interesting..

**joest:** so does 2 ♠ show a sixth one or is he just now confirming spades?

**mikeyb (Automated):** mikeyb has just logged in to Bridge Base Online.

**joest:** i c thanks Oren

**joest:** north has a pretty good hand opposite that description

**3for3:** Grue bid Drury over natural 1 ♠ , and they got to slam.

**Chat**   **Tournaments**

Tables 5   Lobby 12856

**Cincinnati**  
Fixing Pro Regional  
May 30 - June 5, 2016

**Cincinnati**  
Bridge Association

**The Regional with Oink!**

Visit [www.cincybridge.com](http://www.cincybridge.com) for more information

You can see by reading the screen shot that there are nearly 13,000 players on Bridge Base at this time. Nearly 3,000 of them are watching the finals of this USBC.

Anyone missing these presentations should read the commentary above. VuGraph staff like Jack Oest (joest), Danny Sprung (3for3) and Margie Gwordzinsky (gosia), assist Oren in commenting during the bidding and play. It is helpful to the viewers and makes the whole experience more fun.

Fred Gitelman and Uday Ivatury and the BBO crew have done wonders for the bridge world. They, too, should be praised for their great efforts.

If you missed this tournament, be sure to "tune in" for the Women's and Senior's. Be part of the big picture. You will be glad you did.

# Upcoming Senior USBC Information

## LOCATION AND DATES

The 2016 Senior USBC will be held at the **Grand Hyatt, Denver, CO**, starting on Friday, June 17th and ending on Wednesday, June 22nd. Room rate for the Senior USBC is \$169 per night, including internet. You can make a reservation at the USBF **online reservation page** or by calling the hotel at (303) 295-1234 and mentioning USBF. **NOTE:** The hotel is fully booked on June 20, 21, and 22. The hotel has assured me that when those of you who made reservations for the last few days lose and check out, they will extend the reservations of those of you who are still playing. So please just reserve through 6/20 and we will work out the remaining days if you are still playing. If you have any problems with hotel reservations, **email Jan** and she will try to straighten things out. **The cut-off date to make reservations at our rate is Friday, May 20th.**

## AIRPORT RAIL OPEN

The train goes from the airport to downtown Union Station, which is about 12 blocks from the Grand Hyatt. Cost is \$9 each way.

## ENTRY INFORMATION

Entries are now open and will close at midnight EDT on May 23, 2016; additional entries will be accepted through June 3, but only if those additional teams will improve the format of the event. Any team that is reduced to fewer than 4 players because team members have qualified to represent the USBF in the Women's Teams in Wroclaw can withdraw its entry to the Senior USBC and receive a full refund of the entry fee.

## FORMAT

The Senior USBC will last for 6 days.

The first stage will be a 1.5 day Round Robin. The top 8 teams will qualify for the Quarterfinal. The event will continue with 1.5 day KO matches for the Quarterfinal, Semi-Final & Final.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday, May 20:** Final day to submit Advance Submission Forms if you are playing a Super Chart method.

**Friday, June 3:** Final day to submit System Summary Form & ACBL Convention card. Penalty for late submission of the SSF is loss of seating rights in one segment of the team's first KO match per day that the form is late.

**Friday, May 20:** Last day to make hotel reservations and be assured of receiving our hotel rate. The hotel may honor the rate for later reservations, but is not required to do so.

**Wednesday, June 15:** Last day for roster changes without Credentials Committee approval.

## Hospitality Suite Information

The hospitality suite for the 2016 USBC will be room 2612. Lisa Berkowitz and assistant Susie Miller are your hostesses during your stay. They will serve breakfast each day from 8:00-10:30 and lunch starting on Sunday day from 2:00-4:00.

The hospitality suite will be open for 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. On Friday and Saturday, we will be serving a buffet lunch catered by the hotel - as soon as we know the location, we'll let you know.



Board 7 ♠ J32  
 Dealer: S ♥ J42  
 All Vul. ♦ JT7  
 ♣ QT52

♠ QT954      ♠ K876  
 ♥ K7      ♥ T65  
 ♦ Q432      ♦ K865  
 ♣ 83      ♣ J9

♠ A  
 ♥ AQ983  
 ♦ A9  
 ♣ AK764



West	North	East	South
Willenken	Diamond	Delmonte	Platnick
			1C (strong)
1S	Pass	3S	Double
Pass	4C	Pass	6C
All Pass			
Greco	Grue	Hampson	Moss
			1H
Pass	1S (1NT inversion)	Pass	3C
Pass	3H	Pass	4C
Pass	4H	All Pass	

Platnick was surprised to hear his partner bid 4C over the double. He was, no doubt, expecting to hear diamonds. Holding five clubs to the AK, he jumped to the slam. The opponents' interference kept N/S from describing their hands. Willenken knew only that his partner had raised spades. It sounded like the opponents were ready for the spade lead, however, either red suit could be fatal. As it turns out, only a diamond lead defeats the contract. Platnick scored twelve tricks for +1370.

In the other room, without interference, Grue/Moss bid to 4H. Greco found the diamond lead but it was immaterial in that contract. All reasonable leads hold declarer to eleven tricks... and that's what Moss collected.

12 IMPs to Diamond

# The "Final" Days

## 2016 Women's USBC

The 2016 Women's USBC will select the USA teams for the [2016 World Bridge Games](#), to be held in Wroclaw, Poland from September 3 through September 17th.

### LOCATION & DATES

The 2016 Women's USBC will be held at the [Doubletree Hotel, Sacramento](#) CA starting on Monday, May 30th and ending on Saturday, June 4th. Room rate for the Women's USBC is \$99 per night, including internet. If you have any problem with the hotel, [email Jan](#) and she will try to straighten it out.

### RELEVANT DATES

**Monday, May 14:** Final day to submit Advance Submission Forms if you are playing a Super Chart method.

**Monday, May 9:** Last day to make hotel reservations and be assured of receiving our hotel rate. The hotel may honor the rate for later reservations, but is not required to do so.

**Monday, May 16th:** Final day to submit System Summary Form and ACBL Convention card. Penalty for late submission of SSF is loss of seating rights in one segment of the team's Semi-final match per day that the form is late.

**Friday, May 27:** Last day for roster changes without Credentials Committee approval.

### FORMAT

With exactly 5 teams entered (4 in the Quarterfinal), the Round Robin is a "Knock-In" event: on the first day the non-bye team with the highest number of Women's seeding points and the team with the second highest number of Women's seeding points will be teams 2 and 3. The other two non-bye teams will be randomly assigned numbers 4 and 5. Team 2 will play a 60 board match against team 5 and team 3 will play a 60 board match against team 4. The winners of these matches will qualify for the Semifinal and will have a day off on Tuesday. The losers of these matches will play each other in a 60 board match on Tuesday. The winner of that match will qualify for the Semifinal and the loser will be eliminated.

The Semifinal will be a two day, 120 board Knockout, on Wednesday & Thursday, June 1 & 2.

The winning Semifinalists will play a 2 day, 120 board Finals on Friday & Saturday June 3 & 4.

**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.**



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

Sudoku 1

# Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

## Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

## Puzzle Page ...

You find yourself playing a game with your friend.

It is played with a deck of only 16 cards, divided into 4 suits:

Red, Blue, Orange and Green.

There are four cards in each suit:

Ace, King, Queen and Jack.

Ace outranks King, which outranks Queen, which outranks Jack - except for the Green Jack, which outranks every other card.

If two cards have the same face value, then Red outranks Blue, which outranks Orange, which outranks Green, again except for the Green Jack, which outranks everything.

Here's how the game is played: you are dealt one card **face up**, and your friend is dealt one card **face down**. Your friend then makes some true statements, and you have to work out who has the higher card, you or your friend. It's that simple!

### Round 2:

You are dealt the **Blue King** and your friend makes three statements:

1. My card would beat a Green King.
2. Knowing this, if my card is more likely to be a Jack than a Queen, then my card is a King. Otherwise, it isn't.
3. Given all of the information you now know, if my card is more likely to beat yours than not, then my card is Red card. Otherwise, it isn't.

Who has the higher card, you or your friend?

# Round 2!

## Answer... no peeking!

Answer: You.

8

After #1 you know that you have the Blue King (BK) and your friend's card is higher than the Green King, so your friend can only have one of the following cards:  
RA, RK, BA, OA, OK, GA, GI.  
Therefore by #2 their card is a King.  
They are now left one of the following: RK, OK.  
Of these two, 1 could beat your card, therefore by #3 their card is not Red.  
So your friend must have the Orange King, which your card beats. QED.



# 2016 Mixed USBC

In 2016, the [World Bridge Games](#), to be held in Wroclaw, Poland from September 3 through September 17th, will include a Mixed Teams event. USBF will hold a hybrid online & face-to-face selection event, the 2016 Mixed United States Bridge Championship. The USBF Tournament Committee is working on the details of the competition, but what we expect is that it will be in 3 stages:

1. An online Swiss Teams event to be held on BBO on Saturday & Sunday, July 9 & 10, 2016. Any USBF member who has paid dues for 2016 may enter this event. The exact format will be determined by the number of teams. Each player will be required to provide a monitor, who will sign a statement that the player did not communicate with anyone during play and did not have any window other than the BBO playing window open during play.
2. Online Knockout Rounds of 16 and 8 on BBO on Saturday & Sunday, July 16 & 17 (teams in the Round of 16 may arrange to play their match earlier than July 16). The top 16 teams from the Swiss stage will participate, and they will be seeded in the order of finish in the Swiss. Each match will probably be 64 boards long, but that has still to be finally determined. Each player will be required to have a monitor, who will have to be approved in advance and may have to be an ACBL certified director. The monitor will sign a statement that the player did not communicate with anyone during play and did not have any window other than the BBO playing window open during play. Arrangements may be made for multiple players to compete at a local bridge club.
3. Face to face Semi-Final and Final matches to be played in Washington, DC on Aug. 1-3 (the three days after the Summer NABC). These matches will be 90 boards long. We hope to arrange space for this stage of play at the NABC tournament hotel, but are still working on that.

## ENTRY INFORMATION

Entries are now open and will close on June 27th, 2016; additional entries will be accepted after June 27th, but only if those additional teams will improve the format of the event.

## ENTRY FEES

Entry fees for this event will be lower than for the Open, Senior & Women's events, because USBF costs will be lower. The tournament committee has not yet determined the exact entry fees. Best guess right now is that there will be an event entry fee of \$240 per team, and no additional fees until the Semi-Final. Players will, however, be required to compensate their monitors and to pay any fees that local bridge clubs may charge if they play at a local club. Session fees for the Semi-Final and Final will be the same as for other USBF events - \$150 per team per session, so \$450 for each stage.

## COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Please [email Jan](#) if you have any suggestions, comments or questions about this event.



## Meet the Players

Steve Weinstein is the youngest player on the Nickell team, and also the youngest player ever to win an NABC event (the Life Master Pairs in 1981 when he was 17). He has since won many other NABC events, as well as finishing 4th and 5-8 in the Bermuda Bowl & 1st and 2nd in the World Open Pairs.

Steve has been married to Liz Davis since 1993 (they have been together since 1986). He lives in Andes NY "the middle of nowhere" with 2 dogs, Zeke and Luther, and Archie the cat. After leaving Wall street in 2002, he has pursued a career as a professional bridge and poker player. He won the Borgata winter open poker tournament in Atlantic City in 2009 but is primarily a cash game player.

## 2016 USBC Appeal #6 - Semi-Final - Coren vs Fleisher

Board 20 North (Garner)  
 Vul: Both ♠ J 9  
 Dealer: West ♥ K  
 ♦ A K 9 8 4 3  
 ♣ K 8 4 2

West (Willenken) East (Delmonte)

♠ Q 7 5 3	♠ 10 8 4
♥ 10 8 5	♥ J 9 4 3
♦ 10 7 6	♦ Q 5
♣ 9 7 6	♣ Q J 5 3

South (Bates)  
 ♠ A K 6 2  
 ♥ A Q 7 6 2  
 ♦ J 2  
 ♣ A 10



### Bidding

N	E	S	W
			P
1♦	P	1♥	P
2♦	P	2♠	P
3♣	P	3♦	P
4♣	P	4NT <sup>1</sup>	P
5♦ <sup>2</sup>	P	6♦	P
P	P		

<sup>1</sup> Intended as Keycard (not alerted as otherwise). NS play 1430.

<sup>2</sup> Tray on that side for 92 seconds (video was checked to ascertain the time)

### Appeals Committee

Ron Gerard, Chairman  
 Larry Cohen, Member  
 Gary Cohler, Member  
 Eric Rodwell, Member  
 Kerri Sanborn, Member

**Table Result:** NS +1390

### Director's Ruling:

The length of time it took to respond seems to indicate to South that North was not (or might not be) responding to KeyCard.

4 experts were polled. 3 of them passed 5♦, saying that partner could well have a hand with zero Key Cards on this auction. Based on that, passing 5♦ was deemed to be a logical alternative. The result was changed to NS contract 5♦. The actual play was that East ducked when North led a small Diamond towards the Jack, so the result in five was left at NS +640.

### Appeals Committee Ruling

The committee felt that North's break in tempo (which was timed at 92 seconds) indicated to South that 4NT was not interpreted as Blackwood.

As a result, South did not have to deal with the possibility that North had zero key cards, even if the chances were overwhelmingly likely that that was not the case. Neither did South have to worry about a one keycard response, which would have raised some doubt about slam.

Given that North was not responding to Blackwood, South had the unauthorized information that North was evaluating his hand for a diamond slam and that he was not sure about his evaluation. Even though a good part of North's break in tempo may have been attributable to trying to figure out the meaning of 4NT, some part of it was attributable to deciding what to bid in response.

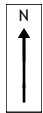
Therefore, North had in effect committed a slow signoff and his earlier 4♣ bid was not sufficient to convert the South hand into a slam force - he wasn't close to bidding 7 and could just have bid 6♦ over 4♣ if he were always intending to reach slam, so he must have had a reason for bidding Blackwood.

The director relied on the poll, which established that pass was a Logical Alternative, and the committee saw no basis on which to overturn the director's ruling.

Board 29    ♠ AK86  
 Dealer: N    ♥ 932  
 All Vul.    ♦ QT965  
              ♣ 9

♠ 972                    ♠ JT43  
 ♥ KJT8                ♥ 754  
 ♦ A87                   ♦ K432  
 ♣ T73                   ♣ A8

                              ♠ Q5  
                               ♥ AQ6  
                               ♦ J  
                               ♣ KQJ6542



West	North	East	South
Platnick	Fleisher	Diamond	Martel
	Pass	Pass	1C
Pass	1H	Pass	3C
Pass	3D	Pass	3NT
All Pass			
Moss	Lall	Grue	Bathurst
	Pass	Pass	2C (Precision)
All Pass			

In the Closed Room, Martel and Fleisher had a standard auction to arrive in the NT game. Platnick led the HJ and Martel won the queen. Martel played the CK and Diamond won the ace. Diamond continued the attack on hearts, Martel winning his ace. Martel ran his clubs, pitching all the red cards from dummy, took his three top spades and made five for +660.

In the Open Room, playing Precision, Bathurst opened the South hand 2C. After two passes, Grue wisely decided not to balance. Bathurst declared the partscore, taking eleven tricks for +150.

I am advised that many experts playing Precision would actually open the South hand 1C because of situations like this. Certainly Bathurst was within his system. It was unlucky to catch his partner with a perfect holding.

11 IMPs to Fleisher

Board 27    ♠ KJ943  
 Dealer: S    ♥ 632  
 None Vul.    ♦ Q76  
              ♣ JT

♠ AT8765                    ♠ Q  
 ♥ J                            ♥ AQ8  
 ♦ T8                         ♦ AJ9542  
 ♣ A763                    ♣ Q42

                              ♠ 2  
                               ♥ KT9754  
                               ♦ K3  
                               ♣ K985



Platnick	Fleisher	Diamond	Martel
			2D (multi)
2S	Pass	3NT	All Pass
Moss	Lall	Grue	Bathurst
			3H
3S	Pass	4D	Pass
5D	All Pass		

In the Closed Room, Martel opened a multi-2D. Platnick overcalled a natural 2S. Diamond, holding a double heart stopper and a 15 count, had no trouble bidding 3NT. Martel led the H9. Dummy's HJ held the trick. Diamond played the DT, Fleisher covered with the queen, Diamond winning his ace. The DJ followed, Martel winning the king. Martel played his spade, ducked to Fleisher's king. Fleisher returned a heart. Martel won the ace and cashed his nine tricks. +400

In the Open Room, Bathurst put maximum pressure on Moss and Grue by opening 3H on his six card suit with two outside features. Moss did his best, overcalling 3S. Grue could have bid 3NT ... he held two heart stoppers assuming the lead of a heart. On the other hand, Moss's hand could be better than what it was. In case, he bid 4D, looking to maximize the hand if he could. Holding what he did, Moss raised to the diamond game. Bathurst led the S2. Grue won the ace. He ran dummy's D8 to Bathurst's king. Bathurst exited a small diamond. Grue pulled the last trump and played a heart toward the jack. Bathurst won his king and exited with a heart. Grue eventually collected nine tricks for down two.

11 IMPs to Diamond

Board 23 ♠ 843  
 Dealer: S ♥ Q8  
 All Vul. ♦ AQ3  
 ♣ J9754

♠ J9 ♠ Q6  
 ♥ AK9632 ♥ J54  
 ♦ JT652 ♦ K974  
 ♣ ♣ QT83  
 ♠ AKT752  
 ♥ T7  
 ♦ 8  
 ♣ AK62



West	North	East	South
Moss	Greco	Grue	Hampson
			1S
2H	2S	3H	4C
5D	Double	All Pass	

Bathurst	Delmonte	Lall	Willenken
			1S
2H	2S	3H	4C
4D	4S	All Pass	

After South opened 1S both West players chose to overcall 2H rather than making a Michael's cuebid with their 6-5 hand. This is not an unreasonable action since the heart suit is both longer and stronger than the diamond suit.

The auctions progressed identically with both West's bidding their diamond suit. Moss chose an immediate sacrifice in 5D, while Bathurst bid only 4D. Against Moss, North doubled 5D and led a spade. The defenders took three tricks when Moss guessed the diamonds correctly. Over Bathurst's 4D bid, North simply bid 4S and Bathurst/Lall chose to defend. The defenders seemed destined to score two heart tricks and two club tricks... until Bathurst, who didn't know about his partner's clubs, tried to be a hero. Fearing he needed immediate entries to Lall's hand, he went for the club ruff by leading a low heart on the go. Willenken played "second hand high" and scored-up 4S.

9 Imps to Fleisher

Board 20 ♠ QT8  
 Dealer: W ♥ J83  
 All Vul. ♦ AQ54  
 ♣ J75

♠ J97 ♠ A62  
 ♥ KQ764 ♥ AT  
 ♦ KJT ♦ 9862  
 ♣ Q8 ♣ KT94  
 ♠ K543  
 ♥ 852  
 ♦ 73  
 ♣ A632



Moss	Greco	Grue	Hampson
Pass	Pass	1C	Pass
1H	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Bathurst	Delmonte	Lall	Willenken
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	2S	Pass
2NT	All Pass		

In the Open room, Bathurst opened the West hand in 1<sup>st</sup> seat. After a careful auction in which Lall showed less than game-forcing values, E/W settled in a solid 2NT contract. Bathurst guessed clubs correctly and took ten tricks following a diamond lead from Delmonte.

In the Closed room, where Moss chose not to open the West hand in 1<sup>st</sup> seat, Grue opened the East hand in 3<sup>rd</sup>. The risk in opening light in third seat with a major suit doubleton becomes apparent here. Grue did not want to pass Moss's

1H response, so he bid 1NT. Moss assumed that Grue held a balanced 12-14 HCP hand, with at least four clubs. With 12 HCP, a club honor and good red suit stoppers, Moss raised to 3NT. Hampson held two four card suits. After the 1C opening, he was unlikely to lead that suit. West had not shown a fifth heart by checking back over 1NT. Rather than leading his 4<sup>th</sup> best spade, Hampson chose the "modern" lead of a heart. Too bad, 4<sup>th</sup> best from his longest and strongest unbid suit would have defeated the contract. After winning the HT, declarer finessed a diamond. Greco won and found the killing spade shift. This was ducked to Hampson's king and the "lead arm" struck again. Hampson shifted to a club. Declarer won this in his hand, cashed the ace of hearts and played a diamond to North's ace. North was helpless. A club, diamond or spade gives declarer his ninth trick. A heart simply delays things. Declarer will win and cash his red tricks followed by the CQ. North actually returned a club and declarer claimed nine tricks.

9 IMPs to Fleisher.