

Volume 10, Issue 6
May 10, 2016

“Trials” and Tribulations

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Round of 16 Draws to a Close

#	TEAM	TOTAL	1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120
2	Diamond	327	7	49	29	66	37	74	65	54
15	Dinkin	206	36	39	51	19	31	11	19	52
3	Fireman	295	77	24	46	36	48	25	39	
14	Jolly	211	15	42	62	24	34	28	6	WD
4	Nickell	414	66	108	30	71	90	49		
13	Reynolds	38	0	2	15	11	1	9	WD	WD
5	Fleisher	227	23	32	32	29	3	48	60	27
12	Wildavsky	219	31	11	20	70	35	10	42	8
6	Schwartz	299	48	45	40	24	51	37	54	66
11	Harris	242	41	46	24	21	31	47	32	22
7	Wolfson	173	32	23	34	9	16	37	22	36
10	Gupta	141	26	29	5	32	12	9	28	19
8	Robinson	192	14	7	28	23	27	41	52	49
9	Coren	241	60	33	26	40	28	36	18	22

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See page 12 for today's matchups!

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

"Success is not final,
failure is not fatal: it
is the courage to
continue that
counts."

— Winston S.
Churchill



Board 11 ♠ 76
 Dealer: S ♥ Q7432
 None Vul. ♦ 952
 ♣ 874

♠ QT32 ♠ AK854
 ♥ T6 ♥ AKJ985
 ♦ J84 ♦
 ♣ KT92 ♣ Q5

♠ J9
 ♥
 ♦ AKQT763
 ♣ AJ63



West	North	East	South
Zia	Miller	Kamil	Gupta
Pass	Pass	2D (Michaels)	1D
3S	Pass	4D	3C
Pass	Pass	5H	5D
6S	All Pass		Pass
Schermer	Cohler	Chambers	Cohen
Pass	Pass	2D (Michaels)	1D
4S	5D	6D	4D
6S	Pass	Pass	Pass
All Pass			Double

If ever there was a hand for a Lightner Double, this is it. Cohler had no trouble leading a heart after Cohen doubled, insuring defeat. Cohen ruffed the heart and cashed the CA.

At the other table, Gupta gave Zia a chance by passing 6S. Miller led a diamond, his partner's opening suit. Zia ruffed in dummy and led a spade to his queen. At this point, he fell from grace. He took an immediate finesse for the HQ! Oops... Gupta ruffed with the SJ and cashed her CA. Zia could have pulled a second round of trump before taking the first round finesse for the HQ. He could then trump a heart and concede a club to make the slam. Instead of winning 14 IMPs, Wolfson settled for 2!

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.



Tournament Schedule

QUARTER-FINAL			
TUESDAY	MAY 10	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
WEDNESDAY	MAY 11	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
SEMI-FINAL			
THURSDAY	MAY 12	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
FRIDAY	MAY 13	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
FINAL			
SATURDAY	MAY 14	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
SUNDAY	MAY 15	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30



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.

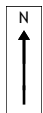
As we have the last two years, we will also have a "Players' Break Room" (aka Jan's office) near the playing rooms from Tuesday on. We will have coffee, soft drinks and some snacks available in that room while you wait for your slow teammates to finish playing.

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 5 ♠ 76
 Dealer: N ♥ A92
 N/S Vul. ♦ JT
 ♣ QJT875

♠ T542 ♠ AKJ9
 ♥ QT653 ♥ K
 ♦ 9642 ♦ AQ85
 ♣ ♣ K942
 ♠ Q83
 ♥ J874
 ♦ K73
 ♣ A63



West	North	East	South
Barron	Schwartz	Vogel	Graves
	Pass	1D	Pass
1H	Pass	1S	Pass
Pass	2C	Double	Pass
2S	Pass	4S	All Pass

Passell	Morgan	Compton	Harris
	Pass	1C (strong)	Pass
1D (neg)	2C	Pass	Pass
2H	Pass	2NT	Pass
3C	Pass	3S	All Pass

Vogel/Barron were down in the match and needed some swings. Once Barron responded to Vogel's 1D opening, Vogel was committed to game.

Graves led a third best heart, Schwartz winning with the ace. Schwartz returned a trump. Vogel won the ace and ruffed a club in dummy. The diamond hook lost to the king (noting the fall of the jack). Another diamond felled the ten while Vogel won the ace. A club was ruffed and a club was discarded on the HQ. A heart was ruffed in hand and the last club was trumped in dummy. Another heart was ruffed with the trump jack. Vogel played the trump king, leaving South with the master trump; then he cashed a high diamond and Graves was forced to ruff the last diamond at trick 13 with his good trump queen. Well played, Claude! 7 IMPs to Harris when Passell/Compton stopped in the partscore making three.

Board 30 ♠ AKJ
 Dealer: E ♥ J92
 None Vul. ♦ KQ
 Segment 4 ♣ KQ754

♠ T952 ♠ Q873
 ♥ 843 ♥ KT75
 ♦ JT93 ♦ 42
 ♣ 32 ♣ T98
 ♠ 64
 ♥ AQ6
 ♦ A8765
 ♣ AJ6



Wildavsky	Grue	Campanile	Moss
		Pass	1NT (14-16)
Pass	3C (Puppet)	Pass	3D (no 5 crd maj)
Pass	4C (5C/3-3-2 15+HCP)	Pass	4D (RKC)
Pass	5C (2 + Q)	Pass	5D (K ask)
Pass	5S (SK)	Pass	6C
Pass	6D (DK)	Pass	7C
All Pass			

On Sunday night, the Fleisher team was having a tough set. In the first 14 boards of this segment, everything that could go wrong did go wrong. The score for the 14 boards was 70-19. They entered the quarter with a 25 IMP lead and were now trailing by 26 IMPs. On the last board of the set Grue-Moss had an excellent auction to reach 7C and gain 10 IMPs when 6NT was played at the

other table.

The play was straightforward. Moss won the opening club lead with the ace and followed with the DKQ. When both opponents followed he cashed the ace and king of spades and ruffed a spade low. Now he cashed the jack of clubs, trumped a diamond high, drew the last trump and claimed. His thirteen tricks were six clubs, four diamonds, two spades and a heart.

(Editor's note: After this hand analysis was written, I learned that it was the subject of an appeal. The appeal is recapped on page 11.)

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

Sudoku 1

Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

Sudoku 2 Solution

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

Sudoku 1 Solution

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

Puzzle Page ...

K Z K X G R A N D M E S A U B P G
G A H D B M Q F V S S A M O W Q U
J D T O Q W K C F U V K P V N F I
M O O H E C U A N Z P T T G O K B
A V R E E P O Q B Z I Y J R V Z A
L E O L U R R L I E Q L T L E W T
O C C V H B I T F I U G J F G F Z
V R K U S L P N E A A L U U G P P
E E Y H X E Q E E R X L A F T N W
L E F W H Q Q W L L W A K H F S W
A K O C D V Q A H D E K V S R B H
N Y R G I A N M X T Q E Y E U E Q
D T D Q T D Z O D V C J B J N D D
L O D O R E G I O N G T X A V U Q
L N H O V B U X P O C V P M T Q E
R B I P H W O M E S A V E R D E R
I E K P B O Q H J V Q C T P Q G S

Colorado Statehood 1876

Katherine Lee Bates
Colfax Avenue
Mesa Verde
Loveland
Dove Creek
Beulah Red
Grand Mesa
Rocky Ford
Fort Garland
LoDo Region

Meet
the
Players



One of America's leading bridge professionals, Mike Passell spends most of his time in Las Vegas, NV, with his wife Nancy, a former Venice Cup winner. They are the only American husband-wife couple to have won the Bermuda Bowl and the Venice Cup.

Mike learned to play bridge during high school vacations by watching his brother Bill, an expert in his own right, teach bridge classes. He is #2 on the all-time Masterpoint Winners' list with more than 50,000 masterpoints. He won the 1976 McKenney Trophy (now the Barry Crane Top 500) with a then-record total of 1815 points. In 1979 he won Bermuda Bowl, in 2013 he won the Senior Bowl, and he also earned a Silver medal at the 1980 World Team Olympiads. Mike won his first NABC title in 1976, the Reisinger, playing on the same team with which he won the Bermuda Bowl three years later. He now has a total of 19 North American titles to his credit, including the Reisinger four times, the Vanderbilt twice, the Spingold three times, the Grand National Teams, the Open Pairs three times, the Men's Board-A-Match Teams three times, the IMP Pairs in 1988, the Open Swiss Teams twice.

In addition to his North American titles, Mike has had his name engraved on the Mott-Smith Trophy twice and the Fishbein Trophy once, as the top masterpoint winner at three different NABCs. In 1991, Mike won the IBPA's CC Wei Award for the year's best defensive play. He was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2008. Away from bridge, he is a keen sports fan and was an outstanding baseball player in his youth, being drafted by the Cincinnati Reds.

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.

Playing Card Sayings!

Most of us have heard people say, "It's just not in the cards for me to ..." when things didn't work out the way they planned.

When someone seems to be in charge of a situation, people say that they are "holding all the cards." Some days many people feel as though "the cards have been stacked against me" when nothing they try works out or something seems to be blocking their efforts or from achieving their goals.

If someone doesn't seem to know what they are doing, people often say, "They're not playing with a full deck!"

"Your ace in the hole is ..." is another expression using card terminology to indicate a way to win or make something happen.

We have also heard people say, "I need to play my cards right to ..." when they want to take make the most of certain opportunities present in their life.

2016 USBC Appeal #2 - Round of 16 - Diamond vs Dinkin

Board 8
 Vul: None
 Dealer: West

North (Greco)
 ♠ 6 4 2
 ♥ A 10
 ♦ K 4 2
 ♣ 9 8 7 6 5

East (Lien)

West (Brescoll)

♠ J
 ♥ 9 7 5 4 3 2
 ♦ 7 6 5 3
 ♣ 10 3

♠ K 10 9 8 7 5 3
 ♥ K J 8 6
 ♦ --
 ♣ A 2

South (Hampson)
 ♠ A Q
 ♥ Q
 ♦ A Q J 10 9 8
 ♣ K Q J 4



Bidding

N	E	S	W
			P
P	1♠	X	P
2♣	2♠	4♠*	P
6♣	P	P	P

*Alerted by S, no question asked by W; North to East: "Probably a splinter." As or after the tray was passed, North told East "but it may be Blackwood." All oral. No disagreement about what was said.

After the hand, both North and South said they have no agreement in this auction.

Lead: ♣A

Table Result: Making 6, NS +920

Director's Ruling: Result stands. No MI, as both statements by North imply lack of a firm agreement, together convey to East all of the information available to North and both statements were made well before the choice of lead.

Appeals Committee Ruling:

The committee upheld the directors' ruling, seeing no new information or arguments that would suggest that it was incorrect.

Appeals Committee

Ron Gerard, Chairman
 Tom Carmichael, Member
 Kerri Sanborn, Member



2016 USBC Appeal #3 - Round of 16 - Fleisher vs Wildavsky

Board 30
 Vul: None
 Dealer: East

North (Joe Grue)

♠ A K J
 ♥ J 9 2
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ K Q 7 5 4

East (Migry Zur-Campanile)

West (Adam Wildavsky)

♠ 10 9 5 2
 ♥ 8 4 3
 ♦ J 10 9 3
 ♣ 3 2

♠ Q 8 7 3
 ♥ K 10 7 5
 ♦ 4 2
 ♣ 10 9 8

South (Brad Moss)

♠ 6 4
 ♥ A Q 6
 ♦ A 8 7 6 5
 ♣ A J 6



Bidding

N	E	S	W
	P	1NT ¹	P
3♣ ²	P	3♦ ³	P
4♣ ⁴	P	4♦ ⁵	P
5♣ ⁶	P	5♦ ⁷	P
5♠ ⁸	P	6♣ ⁹	P
6♦ ¹⁰	P	7♣	All Pass

- ¹ 14-16
- ² Puppet
- ³ No 5 card Major
- ⁴ Specifically 5 clubs and (3-3-2) in other suits, 15+ HCP
- ⁵ Sets clubs, good hand, Key Card ask
- ⁶ 2 with the Queen
- ⁷ King ask
- ⁸ Spade King, no Heart King
- ⁹ Long hesitation
- ¹⁰ Showing Diamond King

Table Result: Making 7, NS +1440

Director's Ruling:

Result stands. 11 experts were consulted, 9 bid 6♦, 1 bid 6NT, 1 Passed.

2 out of 11 was not considered a substantial minority in order to deem other calls logical alternatives to 6♦

Appeals Committee Ruling:

The committee determined that almost all of the pollees that bid 6♦ did so instantaneously, with one considering and rejecting 6NT as an alternative because it was not forward-going enough. The committee did not think that a "significant proportion" of peers would seriously consider pass (or a non-forcing 6NT) a Logical Alternative since only a maximum of 2 could be said to be in that camp. Therefore, the committee upheld the directors' ruling.

Appeals Committee

Ron Gerard, Chairman
 Kerri Sanborn, Member
 Danny Sprung, Member

Today's Matchups:

Gordon vs. Coren

Diamond vs. Wolfson

Nickell vs. Fleisher

Fireman vs. Schwartz

Howie Doing ...

Howie is "Doing"
As always... quite GREAT!
Excited that Head Shops
Stay open so late!

Now I'm relaxed
And ready to choose,
Which teams will win
And which teams will lose.

Gordon is rested
And raring to play.
Coren is tired
And fading away.

Nickell's large win
Did not test their skill
And knocking off Fleisher
Most certainly will.

Nickell's complacent.
Fleisher is not.
I'm picking Marty...
Ahhh... this is great pot!

Fireman/Schwartz,
Not easy to call,
But when push comes to shove
I'm going with Paul!

Gary and Zia?
On the same team?
Too many Chiefs
Is what it would seem.

But Denver's got tribes.
So they'll be o'k.
I'm picking Wolfson
To rule the day!

Howie Doing ... HIGH on the Hog!

Limey Jack ...

Blimey! You Yanks put on quite a show here. Limey Jack was aghast at some of the happenstances. Some honourariums have to be noted. Nickel set an all time record for imps scored. Harris scored 242 imps in losing, whilst Coren won with 241, Fleisher won with 227, and my beloved Zia won with a scant 173 imps. As predicted, Fleisher was vineyard ready for the taking but nipped Wildavsky at the last furlong.

Gordon-Coren: although coming in from the chiller, Gordon is primed while Coren is in disarray as well as being 5 bloody handed. This one will be decided over a cordial in the 6th chucker. Gordon by 85

Diamond-Wolfson: Since the Howie Dung creature only picks favorites, he will woodenly take Diamond. Limey Jack had a serious chinwag with Zia, who states with confidence that his guy is playing adequately and they are ready to move to the semis. What would your tourney be sans him anyway?

Fireman-Schwartz: The Horse has more than one shoe in his pocket, but Fireman's lads are full of piss and vinegar. They mix sound play with panache to overcome the seniors on the other squad. The punters have Richie as a slight dog, but any lapse by either sponsor could turn the tide. This one will be on viewgraph til the Hogs pudding is served in the morn.

Nickell-Fleisher: Nickell is in command the entire match. Howie survives will call it nip and tuck, but Limey Jack knows his horseflesh. Fleisher hates to ever withdraw, but prudence will dictate. Colour them gone.

Limey Jack is ever vigilant and will stay up to watch his picks and collect his due.

Cheers, L.J.