

Volume 12, Issue 11
May 20, 2018

Into the Finals...

#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4
1	Lall	64	15	22	9	18
2	Nickell	107	50	22	17	18



**Happy Birthday
Ralph!
61 years young!
(see pic on page 3)**

UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

“Trials” and Tribulations

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Suzi Subeck

Photographers

Peg Kaplan

Sylvia Shi

Hospitality Chairs

Lisa Berkowitz

Martha Katz

Betty Starzac

Shawn Quinn

Nancy Strohmer

Teams Entered... listed in seeding order

Fleisher	Martin Fleisher, Capt Eric Greco	Chip Martel Geoff Hampson Brad Moss
Bye to Rnd of 8	Joe Grue	
Nickell	Nick Nickell, Capt Bobby Levin	Ralph Katz Steve Weinstein Eric Rodwell
Bye to Rnd of 8	Jeff Meckstroth	
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Robert Hamman	Aaron Silverstein David Berkowitz Chris Willenken
Bye to Rnd of 16	Eldad Ginossar	
Petra Hamman, NPC	Reese Milner Justin Lall Zia Mahmood	Hemant Lall Kevin Bathurst Jacek Pszczola
Borker	Jay Borker, Capt Roger Lee	Michael Rosenberg Daniel Korbel
Morris	Michael Levine Mike Passell Greg Hinze	Eddie Wold Marc Jacobus David Grainger
Mahaffey	Jim Mahaffey, Capt John Schermer Billy Cohen	Sam Lev Neil Chambers Gary Cohler
Gupta	Vinita Gupta, Capt Huub Bertens Oren Kriegel	Billy Miller Ron Smith
Fireman	Paul Fireman, Capt John Kranyak Joel Wooldridge	Gavin Wolpert Vincent Demuy John Hurd
Robinson	Steve Robinson, Capt Bart Bramley Mark Feldman	Peter Boyd Kit Woolsey Ross Grabel
Meltzer	Rose Meltzer, Capt Steve Garner Kevin Dwyer	Nik Demirev Owen Lien Shan Huang
Harris	Martin Harris, Capt Matthew Granovetter Miriam Harris-Botzum	Jacob Morgan Pam Granovetter John Botzum
Ozdil	Melih Ozdil, Capt Drew Casen	Brian Glubok Jim Krekorian
Lo	Ai-Tai Lo, Capt Alex Kolesnik Ira Hessel	William Pettis Bob Etter Dan Morse
Juster	Jeffrey Juster Adam Grossack Howard Weinstein	Franklin Merblum Zachary Grossack Adam Wildavsky
Doub	Doug Doub, Capt Karen McCallum Vic King	John Stiefel Geoffrey Brod
Molson	Janice Seamon-Molson, Capt Kerri Sanborn Beth Palmer	Tobi Sokolow Stephen Sanborn Sylvia Shi
Lewis	Paul Lewis, Capt Danny Sprung Robert Cappelli	Linda Lewis JoAnn Sprung Robert Bitterman
Schireson	Max Schireson, Capt Geeske Joel	Debbie Rosenberg William Watson
Sam Dinkin, NPC	Tom Reynolds David Pelka	Lance Kerr William Hall
Cohen	Seth Cohen, Capt James Glickman	Howard Einberg Bill St Clair

Hospitality Information...

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

The hospitality suite is in room 1068-70. Lisa Berkowitz and Martha Katz welcome you to the Suite. They are joined by Nancy Strohmmer, Betty Starzec, and Shawn Quinn.

Breakfast is served each day from 8:00-10:30 and lunch from 1:00-4:00.

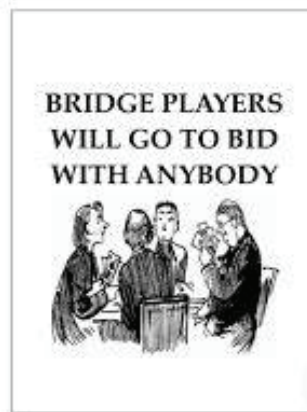
The hospitality suite will be open for Vugraph, casual chit chat, drinks & snacks during the rest of the playing hours and for a short time after the end of the day.

The "Players' Break Room" (aka Jan's office) will be in the playing area (room 862, around the corner from most of the playing rooms, all of which are on the 8th floor.). It will be available for the entire tournament. We will have coffee, soft drinks and snacks available while you wait for your slow teammates to finish playing.



FINAL			
SATURDAY	MAY 19	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
SUNDAY	MAY 20	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30

Tournament Schedule




It always seems impossible until it's done.

Nelson Mandela

Board 14
 Segment 1 ♠ 98765
 Dealer: E ♥ J32
 None Vul. ♦ 9753
 ♣ K

♠ AJT32
 ♥ 8
 ♦ J
 ♣ AQ9875



♠ A9754
 ♥ KQ4
 ♦ KQ4
 ♣ JT43

♠ KQ4
 ♥ KQT6
 ♦ AK84
 ♣ 62

Open Room			
West	North	East	South
Milner	Rodwell	H Lall	Meckstroth
		Pass	1C (strong)
2C	Pass	4C	All Pass

Closed Room			
Levin	Pepsi	Weinstein	Zia
		Pass	1NT
2NT (big 2 suiter)	Pass	3D	Double
3S	Pass	4C	Pass
5C	All Pass		

This is a Grant Baze “6-5 Come Alive” hand.

In the Open Room, Milner did not have a 2-suited bid available over the strong club to show a major/minor hand. He overcalled 2C on his six-bagger and when Lall raised to four clubs, he hoped it was purely preemptive. He passed and played it there making five.

In the Closed Room, Zia opened 1NT. Levin bid 2NT showing a big 2-suiter. Weinstein bid his better minor over this and Zia doubled with his great diamonds. Zia’s double made Levin’s all black suited hand look even better. What Zia held in diamonds, Weinstein didn’t and that was fine with Bobby. When Weinstein bid 4C over 3S, Levin raised to 5C. Zia led the C2. In order to maximize the crossruff possibilities, Weinstein rose with dummy’s ace felling North’s singleton king.

Weinstein played the SA and ruffed a spade, cashed the HA and ruffed a heart, ruffed a spade, and when the high honor fell, claimed 12 tricks.

7 IMPs to Nickell

Moral of the story: Bridge is not a game for the timid!

Happy Birthday Ralph!



The American Contract Bridge League is the governing body for organized bridge activities and promotion on the North American continent. It was founded in 1927 in Hanover, New Hampshire, USA, and took its present name two years later. Regarding membership, the ACBL administers the second largest WBF zone, after Europe.

Zonal and National Organizations

Country	Organization	Membership
1 Canada	<u>Canadian Bridge Federation</u>	CBF 19,582
2 Mexico	<u>Federacion Mexicana de Bridge</u>	FMB 305
3 U.S.A.	<u>United States Bridge Federation</u>	USBF 150,719
	<i>Total</i>	170,606



*Membership always refers to the previous year.

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

♠ Q76543
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K5
 ♣ KQ82

♠ J2
 ♥ Q763
 ♦ QT74
 ♣ J54



♠ AKT8
 ♥ T2
 ♦ J83
 ♣ A963

♠ 9
 ♥ AKJ984
 ♦ A962
 ♣ T7

West	North	East	South
Katz	J Lall	Nickell	Bathurst
H Lall	Weinstein	Milner	Levin
Pass	1S	Pass	2H
Pass	2S	Pass	3H
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

The auction was the same in both rooms. Weinstein and Levin were North/South in the Open Room. J Lall and Bathurst were North/South in the Closed Room.

In the Closed Room, Nickell led the C3 to the seven, jack and king. Justin played the H5; Nickell followed with the deuce; Dummy played the jack and Katz won the queen.

Katz and Nickell play Smith Echo. Ralph trusted Nickell to have signaled correctly on the heart.

At this point, Katz made clear why he is being inducted into the Hall of Fame in July. He reasoned that in order for a club return to be successful, his partner would need to hold the club ace/queen fifth or the club AQ9x and a side trick. If Nickell held HT2 and CAQxxx, he would have played the HT to show his club strength.

Katz was pretty sure that Nickell held the HT because with HTx, Lall would likely have bid 4H rather than 3NT. In addition, Lall would have led the HT instead of the H5 at trick two to keep the lead in his hand.

With the singleton spade in dummy, Katz worked out that his best play for five tricks would be to attack spades and hope to find four more tricks in their combined black suit holdings. Accordingly, Ralph switched to the SJ which held. He played a second spade to Nickell's ten. Nickell cashed his remaining winners to defeat 3NT two tricks.

In the Open Room, Milner led the C3 to the seven, jack, and king. Weinstein won and played the H5 to the TEN!, jack and queen. H Lall continued clubs and the hand could no longer be defeated. Declarer had two clubs tricks to go with his two diamonds and five hearts.

H Lall and Milner also play Smith Echo. Milner's HT showed good clubs. Relying on his partner's signal, Hemant won the heart, and continued clubs.

13 IMPs to Nickell



Board 19
Segment 4
Dealer: S
E/W Vul.

♠ QJ53
♥ AK5
♦ KQT4
♣ KQ

♠ AT876
♥ T7
♦ A63
♣ 974



♠ K94
♥ 8632
♦
♣ JT8532

♠ 2
♥ QJ94
♦ J98752
♣ A6

West	North	East	South
Levin	J Lall	Weinstein	Bathurst
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	3S	Pass	3C
Pass	5D	All Pass	4D

Zia	Meckstroth	Pepsi	Rodwell
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	3D (1+ 4 crd maj)	Pass	3C (puppet)
Double	3NT	All Pass	3S (hearts ... NOT spades)

Lall and Bathurst had an excellent auction to arrive in 5D following Lall's 2NT opener. Bathurst, with four hearts and six diamonds, bid Stayman to see if he could find a 4-4 major suit fit. Lall showed his four spades, denying four hearts, so Bathurst tried his other suit. He bid 4D. With four diamonds to the KQT, Lall had no problem raising to the minor suit game.

There were two losers: one diamond and one spade.

At the other table, there was more action. Meckstroth opened 2NT and Rodwell bid puppet Stayman. Meckstroth showed one or more four card majors. Rodwell by 3S showing four hearts and denying four spades.

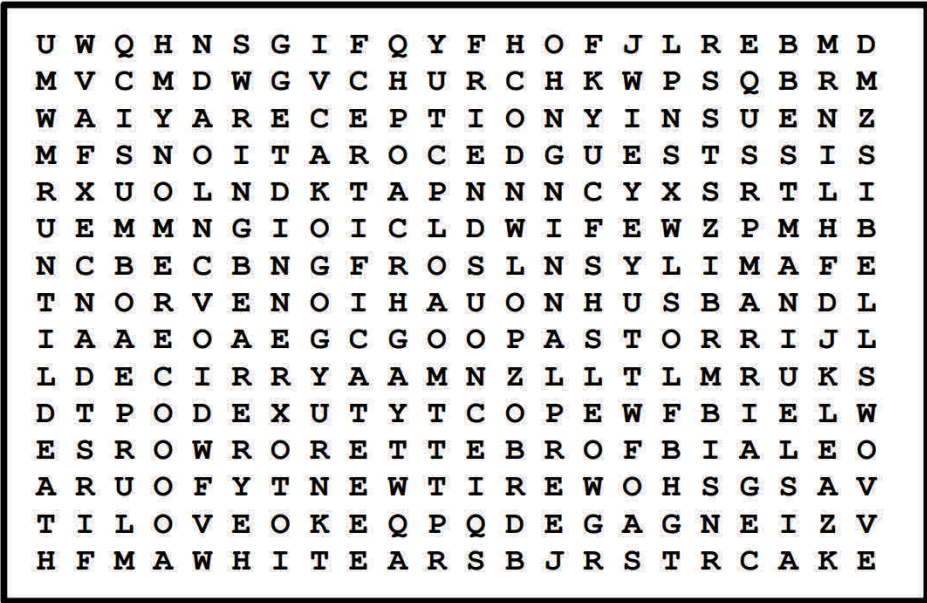
This bid gave Zia an opportunity to double for a spade lead!! Meckstroth wasn't afraid of that with four spades to the QJ... but he should have been.

The defense was easy. Pepsi led a small spade to Zia's ace. Zia returned the S6, Meckstroth played the queen and Pepsi won his king. He continued with the nine. Meckstroth won his jack... but when knocked out the DA, Zia cashed out for down one.

10 IMPs to Lall

Note that without the lead of a spade, there are an easy eleven tricks. Sometimes artificial bids backfire by giving the opponents an opportunity to show the suit...





Royal Wedding Word Find

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| AISLE | FIRST DANCE | MUSIC |
| BELLS | FLOWER GIRL | PASTOR |
| BEST MAN | FOR BETTER OR WORSE | PLANNING |
| BRIDE | FRIENDS | RECEPTION |
| CAKE | GIFTS | RICE |
| CATERER | GROOM | RING BEARER |
| CEREMONY | GUESTS | SHOWER |
| CERTIFICATE | HONEYMOON | TEARS |
| CHURCH | HUSBAND | TUXEDO |
| COUPLE | KISS | UNTIL DEATH |
| DECORATIONS | LICENSE | VEIL |
| DINNER | LIMOUSINE | VOWS |
| DRESS | LOVE | WHITE |
| ENGAGED | MAID OF HONOR | WIFE |
| FAMILY | MARRIAGE | |

To answer the question, look for a word or phrase that is hidden in the puzzle, but not in the word list.

Question: In the year 2000, the average age of a bride in the United States was this.

Answer: _____

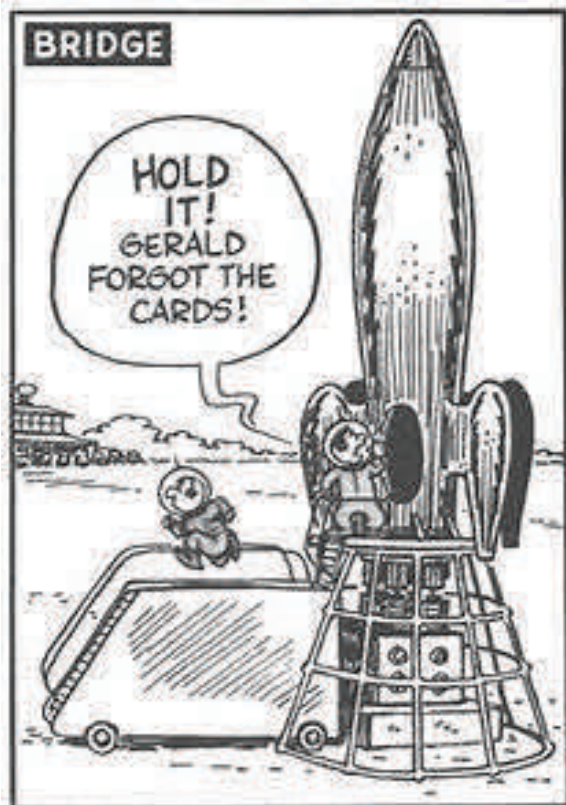
No Electronic Devices are Permitted in the Playing Area.
This applies to players AND kibitzers.
Severe penalties will be assessed for violation of this rule.
Please turn off all cell phones and check them at the door. The USBF reserves the right to wand anyone (excepting those with pace makers or like equipment) entering the playing field.



A: Why aren't you bidding?
 B: You said "skip bid" so I thought I was skipped!

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

Evil Sudoku



Houston... We've got a problem!

Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

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

Puzzle Page ...

	Madison	Raleigh	Small	Wallis	#415	#419	#426	#437	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	bookcase	coffeemaker	toaster oven	vacuum cleaner
Mitch																
Peter																
Stan																
Terry																
bookcase																
coffeemaker																
toaster oven																
vacuum cleaner																
Monday																
Tuesday																
Thursday																
Friday																
#415																
#419																
#426																
#437																

First Name	Last Name	Apartment #	Delivery Date	Item
Mitch	Madison	#415	Monday	bookcase
Peter	Raleigh	#419	Tuesday	coffeemaker
Stan	Small	#426	Thursday	toaster oven
Terry	Wallis	#437	Friday	vacuum cleaner

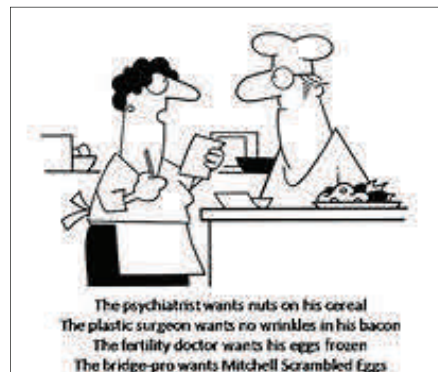
Four people ordered items from a popular mail order catalog. They all lived in the same apartment building and all on the same floor. Each person ordered one item and each item was delivered on a different day during the same week. Determine the full name of each person, their apartment number, the day their item was delivered, and what each item was.

- Mr. Small, in apartment #426, didn't receive his item on Tuesday.
- The man who received his item on Monday lived in apartment #437. Peter didn't get a toaster oven.
- The order of deliveries was the vacuum cleaner, Mitch's item, the item for apartment #419, and the coffeemaker.
- Peter Raleigh didn't receive the vacuum cleaner and didn't live in apartment #415.
- Mr. Wallis, who wasn't Stan, received the toaster oven, but not on Friday.
- The bookcase arrived on Thursday, but Terry, whose last name wasn't Madison, didn't receive it.



Answer to Puzzle

coffeemaker	Friday	#426	Small	Terry
vacuum cleaner	Monday	#437	Madison	Stan
bookcase	Thursday	#419	Raleigh	Peter
toaster oven	Tuesday	#415	Wallis	Mitch
Item	Delivery Date	Apartment #	Last Name	First Name



Meet the Players

Zia Mahmood



Biography

Zia was born in Karachi, British India, now Pakistan. Zia was educated in England from the age of six to twenty-one. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant of the Institute of England and Wales and spent three years running a family business in Pakistan. He also spent eighteen months in Abu Dhabi developing business interests.

Mahmood is married to Lady Emma, his wife since February 2001. She is the daughter of Neil Primrose, 7th Earl of Rosebery. They have two sons: Zain and Rafi.

Bridge

Mahmood achieved international bridge fame, almost overnight, during one fortnight in 1981 when he led Pakistan to a second-place finish in the Bermuda Bowl tournament. The Bermuda Bowl is the most important open world championship, and that was the first participation by anyone from the World Bridge Federation geographic zone "Asia and the Middle East". It also tied Taiwan for the best finish by anyone from outside Europe and the United States. It is now the second best finish from outside Europe and the United States, after Brazil won the tournament in 1989.

Five years later, Zia led a short-handed team from Pakistan to second place in the 1986 Rosenblum Cup tournament, which is the open world championship in even-number non-Olympic years. That remains tied for best finish by anyone from outside Europe and the United States. The event is transnational, but none of the nine winning teams has included a single player from outside Europe and the United States.

Zia Mahmood is the author of *Bridge My Way*, an autobiography, and has hosted many TV shows. For many years his regular partner was Masood Salim (deceased), followed by Michael Rosenberg, and now Bob Hamman—as members of Nick Nickell's professional team through spring 2012.

Beginning 2012/2013, Nickell has replaced Hamman and Zia with Bobby Levin—Steve Weinstein

Zia has represented the United States in world competition, and thus he won his first major world championship, the 2009 Bermuda Bowl. Although he won the quadrennial Mixed Teams in 2004 with Sabine Auken and a French pair. He still considers himself Pakistani, however: "I am proud and happy to be representing America, but my Pakistani identity is in no way submerged. I feel like a Pakistani who is living in America and playing for America." To prove his point, Zia and his American teammates once played their opening match in Pakistani dress.

Mahmood spends much of his time in Great Britain and the United States and is very much part of the London bridge scene. He wrote a weekly column for *The Guardian* newspaper until January 2012, when the paper stopped covering bridge.

The ACBL Hall of Fame inducted Zia in 2007. According to the citation sometime that year, he was a London resident.

Zia won the ACBL's 3-day Life Master Pairs championship in 2000, 2004, and 2007 with three different partners. After placing second in the 85th rendition, July 2014, he is a 3-time winner and 5-time runner-up with seven different partners.

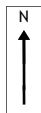
Board 10
 Segment 3
 Dealer: E
 All Vul.

♠ A93
 ♥ 73
 ♦ T98742
 ♣ J9

♠ KQ8542
 ♥ 854
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ K4

♠ JT76
 ♥ J962
 ♦ J5
 ♣ 853

♠
 ♥ AKQT
 ♦ K63
 ♣ AQT762



West	North	East	South
Katz	J Lall	Nickell	Bathurst
		Pass	1C (strong)
1S	Double (5-8)	2S	3C
3S	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Zia	Meckstroth	Pepsi	Rodwell
		Pass	1C (strong)
1S	Double (5-8)	3S	Double
4S	5D	All Pass	

Board 10 was only a 5 IMP swing, but it illustrates the judgmental difference of two great players.

When Justin Lall bid 3NT in response to his partner's double of 3S, he took the chance that his side would have nine quick tricks. He knows his partner has no more than one spade so he has to have nine off the top... a reasonable gamble that resulted in playing a 50% contract.

Either the king of clubs was onside, or 3NT would probably be defeated three tricks.

As it was, the CK was offside and the contract failed three tricks.

50% of the time he was going to get 600... and 50% of the time he was going to give 300 for an average score of +150.

In the other room, the Meckwell auction started the same way.

When Zia bid 4S, 3NT was out of the question. With a 6 card diamond suit, Meckstroth took an educated shot at 5D. The diamond game will make when the CK is onside and there are no more than 2 diamond losers.

It will also make when the CK is offside if there is only one diamond loser.

This combined probability is very close or slightly better than the same 50%... The difference occurs when things fail. The expected score in 5D is +350, a 5 IMP difference from the expected in 3NT.

Indeed, in this case, that was exactly the result.

5 IMPs to Nickell