



Volume 12, Issue 12  
May 21, 2018

## The End... Congrats USA1

#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	SET #5	SET #6	SET #7	SET #8
1	<u>Lall</u>	229	15	22	9	18	24	60	57	24
2	<u>Nickell</u>	240	50	22	17	18	37	6	24	66



# USA1

Nickell Team... from left, Weinstein, Nickell, Katz, Kokish, Coach, Meckstroth, Rodwell, Levin



### Runners Up...

Lall team... from left, Bathurst, Zia, Milner, Pepsi, J Lall, H Lall

Thanks to everyone who had a hand in these Championships. Jan Martel is the glue that holds everything together and makes it happen. The hospitality ladies work tirelessly to keep everyone hydrated and fed. The players grind through the hands but having a place to "rest" between rounds with soda and coffee is most welcome. The locals who ran the VuGraph were great. It can be trying and tense at times but everyone kept a sense of humor. The directing staff under "Z" performed flawlessly. The committee members who served from afar did a great job and were much appreciated. Sylvia Shi's photos were awesome. The Daily Bulletins were timely, informative and fun. Thanks to the prognosticators for their wisdom in picking and time in writing their columns.

Another successful year down... See you at the Juniors in December... and in Schaumburg next May for USA2, the new Mixed Teams as well as the Venice Cup and D'Orsi reps! Safe travels everyone!

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Board 8  
Segment 5  
Dealer: W  
None Vul.

♠ A2  
♥ 98652  
♦ Q853  
♣ J9

♠ 963  
♥ JT  
♦ KJ74  
♣ 8542



♠ K874  
♥ AKQ3  
♦ A62  
♣ QT

♠ QJT5  
♥ 74  
♦ T9  
♣ AK763

West	North	East	South
Weinstein	H Lall	Levin	Milner
Pass	Pass	1D	All Pass

Zia	Meckstroth	Pepsi	Rodwell
Pass	Pass	1D	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

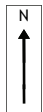
As Chip Martel pointed out on VuGraph, "Weinstein judged well to pass 1D. With no bidding by NS, partner rated to have a strong balanced hand." Indeed, Martel's analysis was spot-on. 1D made two.

In the other room, Zia responded 1NT to 1D and Pepsi, not surprisingly, jumped to game. Meckstroth led a heart, giving nothing away, Zia won the HJ and played a spade to the king. He cashed three high hearts, played the DA and took the losing diamond finesse. Meckstroth cashed his SA and H9, exited with the C9 and declarer finished down 3. 6 IMPs to Nickell

Board 13  
Segment 5  
Dealer: N  
All Vul.

♠ 8643  
♥ Q2  
♦ K94  
♣ AK93

♠ A2  
♥ AKT74  
♦ 8765  
♣ J6



♠ JT97  
♥ 93  
♦ QT32  
♣ 854

♠ KQ5  
♥ J865  
♦ AJ  
♣ QT72

Weinstein	H Lall	Levin	Milner
	1C	Pass	1H
Pass	1S	Pass	2D
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Zia	Meckstroth	Pepsi	Rodwell
	1D (2+ D)	Pass	1H
Pass	1S	Pass	2C (GF)
Pass	2H (< 3H + no 5 card minor)	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Lall declared 3NT from North after Milner's chose to bid a GF 2D instead of bidding 3N on the 2nd round of the auction. Levin led the ST. Lall covered and Weinstein won. The contract was now cold because Weinstein held both high hearts and only two spades while Levin held the finessable DQ. No lead can defeat the hand when played by North.

In the other room, Rodwell declared 3NT from South. Double dummy, 3NT is still cold. However, when Zia led the H4 (purportedly 4th best), Rodwell ducked to guarantee a heart winner, planning to take four clubs, two spades, two diamonds and a heart whenever the SA was with East and hearts were 4-3... as indicated by the opening lead!

Obviously, Rodwell can make the hand by rising with the HQ. Of course, he might take no heart tricks if the HQ loses.

Zia is up to his old tricks... effective as always!

12 IMPs to Lall

**It always seems impossible until it's done!**

**Nelson Mandela**

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)

This hand was discussed in Saturday's bulletin. A reader pointed out that the spade lead was immaterial if declarer reads the position correctly. Meckstroth could have made 3NT had he not split his spade honors. If Jeff plays low, the suit will block and E/W cannot score the long spade.

Given that Zia had passed in 2nd seat, he was unlikely to hold ace/king fifth of spades and the DA... the only position where it was necessary for Meckstroth to split his honors.

Board 19  
Segment 6  
Dealer: S  
E/W Vul.

♠ 7543  
♥ JT43  
♦ T9  
♣ AQ7

♠ QJ96  
♥ 97  
♦ AJ4  
♣ T965



♠ A2  
♥ AKQ2  
♦ Q5  
♣ K8432

♠ KT8  
♥ 865  
♦ K87632  
♣ J

Bathurst	Weinstein	J Lall	Levin
Pass	Pass	1C (strong)	Pass
1NT	Pass	2C	1D
3C	Pass	3NT	Pass
			All Pass

Katz	Milner	Nickell	H Lall
Pass	Pass	2H	2D
			All Pass

3NT is cold on any lead. When Levin was systemically unable to open a weak 2D (they play Flannery) in front of the strong club hand, it became easy for Bathurst and J Lall to bid and make the vulnerable game.

In the other room, H Lall opened 2D, a frequently ineffective preempt. Here, it was amazingly effective.

Nickell held an 18 count with only two spades and no diamond stopper. He had a great hand but no best bid. His choices were double, 2NT, 2H and 3C. He took the low road. He balanced with 2H. If they ended up defending, he had his partner off to the right lead. If his partner had nothing, he would still survive. If his partner bids, he has wasted no bidding room and has space to explore for the best spot.

As it was, Katz had nothing with which to explore. He passed and they played 2H making three.

10 IMPs to Lall

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	

This Board, like Board 19 on page 3, was discussed in Saturday's newsletter. Ron Gerard points out that "Meckstroth should have made 5D against the spade lead, either of two ways. But best is ace and ruff a spade, ace king and ruff a heart, ruff a spade, king of diamonds."

Ron's point is well taken. Double dummy you would certainly take that line. While, as observers, it is interesting to note that 5D could be made if declarer avoids playing on trumps early, at the table, Meckstroth's line appears more obvious and given a different lie of the cards could work as well as this one. Meck's line is 50% or a hair better.

Board 13  
 Segment 7  
 Dealer: N  
 All Vul.

♠ Q8752  
 ♥ T762  
 ♦ A4  
 ♣ AT

♠ KJ4  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ QJT985  
 ♣ 942

♠ 6  
 ♥ K854  
 ♦ K63  
 ♣ KQJ73

♠ AT93  
 ♥ AQJ3  
 ♦ 72  
 ♣ 865



Katz	Pepsi	Nickell	Zia
	Pass	1C	Double
1D	4S	All Pass	
Bathurst	Rodwell	J Lall	Meckstroth
	Pass	1D	Double
3D	4S	All Pass	

Both tables reached the spade game. It all came down to the play in the trump suit. Missing only four, it is close.

Nick led the CK against Pepsi. Pepsi won in hand and played the SQ. When that lost to the offside king, he was doomed to lose two spades, one diamond and one club for down one.

In the other room, J Lall led the CQ (Rusinow). Rodwell won the ace and played the S8 to dummy's ace. He played a second spade toward his hand. Bathurst rose with the king and Rodwell played small. The DQ followed, Rodwell winning the ace. He pulled the last trump and held his losers to one trump, one diamond and one club... making four!

12 IMPs to Nickell