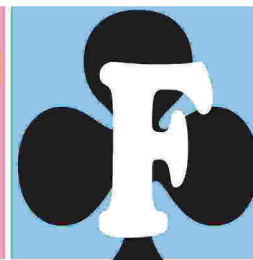
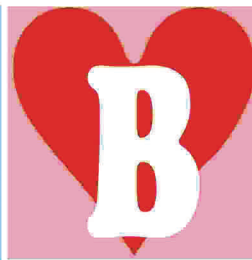


“Trials” and Tribulations



Volume 12, Issue 6
May 15, 2018

Round of 16... Final Scores...

United States Bridge Championship - 2018

#	TEAM	TOTAL	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	SET #5	SET #6	SET #7	SET #8	Penalties
3	Rosenthal	240	12	22	23	34	19	41	24	65	
14	Schireson	190	35	22	19	15	21	7	56	15	
4	Lall	318	30	31	42	48	24	17	35	91	
13	Molson	185	7	24	16	30	15	45	32	16	
5	Morris	240	44	47	16	18	6	32	35	42	
12	Lo	207	16	27	6	29	59	32	3	35	
6	Borker	200	40	21	27	13	41	15	7	36	
11	Juster	249	15	44	30	48	24	34	21	33	
7	Mahaffey	225	32	2	24	35	38	28	1	65	
10	Meltzer	215	27	20	46	49	10	16	28	19	
8	Robinson	187	33	23	28	15	31	6	27	24	
9	Fireman	264	33	55	12	39	25	40	15	45	



Photos courtesy of Sylvia Shi at the site! Thank you!!



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Mitch Dunitz

Mark Feldman

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Fred Gitelman

Bob Hamman

Geoff Hampson

George Jacobs

Mike Kamil

Oren Kriegel

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Beth Palmer

Pepsi Pszczola

Eric Rodwell

Debbie Rosenberg

Michael Rosenberg

Kerri Sanborn

Aaron Silverstein

Kerry Smith

Danny Sprung

Lew Stansby

Adam Wildavsky

VuGraph Organizer

Jan Martel

Bulletin Editor

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

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

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

ROUND OF 16			
SUNDAY	MAY 13	9:45 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
SUNDAY	MAY 13	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	
MONDAY	MAY 14	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	
QUARTER-FINAL			
TUESDAY	MAY 15	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	
WEDNESDAY	MAY 16	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	
SEMI-FINAL			
THURSDAY	MAY 17	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	
FRIDAY	MAY 18	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	
FINAL			
SATURDAY	MAY 19	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	
SUNDAY	MAY 20	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	

Tournament Schedule

It's fine to
celebrate success
but it is more
important to
heed the lessons
of failure.

Bill Gates



I hate when the hand
is completely a guess...
And I sit and I think
With a 2-way finesse!

19

Lien
 ♠ Q872
 ♥ KJ86
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 10864

Schermer
 ♠ K103
 ♥ Q742
 ♦ AQ3
 ♣ AJ2

Chambers
 ♠ A654
 ♥ A5
 ♦ K2
 ♣ KQ975

Garner
 ♠ J9
 ♥ 1093
 ♦ J1097654
 ♣ 3

NS: 1
EW: 1

Schermer	Lien	Chambers	Garner
			3♦
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
4NT	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Meltzer/Mahaffey

Board 19 from the last segment of the Round of 16 gave Schermer a chance to show his declarer skill. He and Chambers were not the only pair to bid slam... some others bid 6NT and still others bid 6C.

Lien led a diamond. Schermer won the king in dummy. He recognized that with eleven top winners and threats in hearts and spades, a squeeze was his best chance for 12 tricks. Accordingly, he rectified the count at trick two by playing a small spade off dummy to his ten and Lien's queen.

Lien played a spade to Garner's jack and Schermer's king. Schermer started cashing his winners, clubs first, followed by the HA and then the diamonds... and the squeeze took care of itself.

Making six for +1440 while his counterparts went down a pair in 6S!! at the other table was worth 17 IMPs.

Juster/Borker

Michael Rosenberg was also declarer in 6NT. He won the diamond lead and cashed four rounds of clubs before ducking a spade to North... again making 6NT in the same manner as Schermer.

At the other table in that match, Zack Grossack, also in 6NT, ran five rounds of clubs after winning the diamond lead. He then played two more rounds of diamonds forcing North to discard a spade and two hearts while he discarded a heart on the third diamond. Now he simply forced out the spade to make slam.

Rosenthal/Schireson

Gaeske Joel held the South hand and chose not to preempt 3D. Willenken opened 1NT and ended up playing in 4NT. There was nothing to the play in that contract.

At the other table, Berkowitz opened 3D; Schireson bid 3NT... and Debbie Rosenberg raised to six. Schireson decided to play for the HK on his right. He won the opening diamond and led a heart to his queen and North's king. Once the heart lost, it was no longer possible to bring home 12 tricks.

Morris/Lo

Hinze chose to pass in first seat. Kolesnik opened 1NT and eventually landed in 6C. Grainger led the D8. Kolesnik won in dummy and played three rounds of spades, intending to ruff the 4th round of spades if necessary. Unfortunately for him, Hinze was able to ruff the third spade and give his partner a diamond ruff. 6C was defeated 2 tricks.

At the other table, Passell and Jacobus reached a conservative 3NT. 13 IMPs to Morris



Hospitality Information...

The hospitality suite for the 2018 USBC will be in room 1068-70. Our wonderful hostesses, Lisa Berkowitz and Martha Katz have made the "trek" to Houston to welcome you to the Suite. They will be joined by Nancy Strohmmer, Betty Starzec, Shawn Quinn and other local volunteers.

Breakfast will be served each day from 8:00-10:30 and lunch starting on Sunday 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.

18

Korbel
 ♠ Q632
 ♥ 1074
 ♦ J7
 ♣ KJ92

HWeinstein
 ♠ AJ95
 ♥ 3
 ♦ AQ964
 ♣ AQ6

Wildavsky
 ♠ 87
 ♥ KQ52
 ♦ K853
 ♣ 1085

Borker
 ♠ K104
 ♥ AJ986
 ♦ 102
 ♣ 743

NS: 0
 EW: 0

HWeinst	Korbel	Wildavsk	Borker
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Three matches were on VuGraph yesterday afternoon: Juster/Borker, Robinson/Fireman, Rosenthal/Schireson.

Five of the six tables played board 18 in 3NT on the auction shown here... or one very close to it.

What would you as North lead?

With the absence of a double, while it is likely that N/S hold eight hearts and a heart lead might succeed, a club does not seem an unlikely choice... yet, only in the Juster/Borker match did anyone lead a club... And only at the table where Merblum led the club into the AQ6 did the contract come home.

10 IMPs for Borker

At the sixth table, in the Fireman/Robinson match, Boyd must have thought a club lead was probable. He, South, doubled 3NT for the heart lead. Kranyak, East, holding four of his partner's diamonds, ran to 4D. Demuy collected his ten tricks for +130

5 IMPs for Fireman

Open Room
 Board 21

Robinson: 140 IMPs
 Fireman: 192 IMPs

W Demuy
 ♠ 6
 ♥ AJ7652
 ♦ 86
 ♣ 10982

N Robinson
 ♠ A985
 ♥ 4
 ♦ Q107
 ♣ AKJ65

E Kranyak
 ♠ QJ73
 ♥ KQ108
 ♦ A52
 ♣ 73

S Boyd
 ♠ K1042
 ♥ 93
 ♦ KJ943
 ♣ Q4

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Dbl	1♥
4♥	4♠	Pass	Pass
5♥	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Feldman	Wooldridge	Grabel	Hurd
	1♣	Dbl	1♠
3♥	4♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Closed Room: 4♠ x S = +790

Demuy and Kranyak took advantage of the favorable vulnerability on board 21 to take the save in 5H over the opponent's 4S game (see auction at top of box). 5H went down two tricks for -300 on the obvious loss of two clubs, a diamond and a spade.

At the other table in this match (see auction in lower lefthand corner), Feldman bid only 3H over 1S and when Wooldridge bid 4S, Grabel doubled. His spade holding looked like a problem and 5H did not look like it was making. Unfortunately for Grabel, Hurd knew from the auction how to play the trump suit. Feldman led a small diamond; Grabel won his ace and cashed the HK. He shifted back to diamonds, but Hurd was ready. He played the S2 to the ace and led the S9. Grabel covered with the jack. Hurd won his king and in the fullness of time, conceded the high spade for +790.

Baseball

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

WORD LIST:

BALL
 BATTER
 CATCH
 DIAMOND
 DOUBLE
 FAIR
 FOUL
 GRAND SLAM
 HIT
 HOME RUN
 PITCH
 PLAYOFFS
 RELIEVER
 SHORTSTOP
 SINGLE
 SLIDE
 STRIKE
 TRIPLE
 WILD CARD
 WORLD SERIES

Did you see the movie about the hot dog? It was an Oscar wiener.

Q. How many cats can you put in an empty box? A. One. After that, the box isn't empty anymore.

Dad, can you put the cat out? I didn't know it was on fire.

The shovel was a ground-breaking invention.

I wouldn't buy anything with Velcro. It's a total rip-off.



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.



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

Evil Sudoku

The past, present and future walk into a bar... It was tense!


FUN FACT

**THE 52 PLAYING CARDS
 IN A TYPICAL DECK
 REPRESENT THE 52
 WEEKS IN A YEAR AND
 THE FOUR SUITS
 REPRESENT THE FOUR
 SEASONS.**



Answers to Puzzle No Peeking!

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

Meet the Players



Ross Grabel (born 1950) is an American bridge player. He is from Huntington Beach, California

Wins

North American Bridge Championships
von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs 2013
Grand National Teams 1998
Jacoby Open Swiss Teams 1982
Mitchell Board-a-Match Teams 1980
Reisinger 1984

Runners-up[

North American Bridge Championships
Spingold 1989

Douglas D. "Doug" Doub (born May 28, 1955) is an American bridge player. He lives in West Hartford, Connecticut

Doub and Frank Merblum have two firsts and two seconds in the annual grass-roots North American Pairs championship (Flight A), spanning from 2001 to 2014. They have won the New England (District 25) stage eight times

Doub won a World Bridge Federation (WBF) bronze medal in the 2003 Bermuda Bowl playing with Adam Wildavsky on a team that was surprise runner-up in the United States Bridge Championships - Open Teams. (Beginning 1991 the biennial world teams championships fields include two U.S. teams called "USA1" and "USA2".) From the 22-team round-robin they advanced to the 8-team knockout by a one-point margin, beat Poland and lost to USA1 in two-day quarterfinal and semifinal matches, and beat Norway in the bronze medal playoff. As one of three pairs on the 2009 open team led by Steve Robinson, Doub–Wildavsky won the U.S. open teams championship and participated in the Bermuda Bowl as USA1.

Wins

North American Bridge Championships

- Lebhar IMP Pairs 2008
- Fast Open Pairs 2008
- North American Pairs 2001, 2010
- Mitchell Board-a-Match Teams 1997¹
- Reisinger 2002

Runners-up

- North American Bridge Championships
 - Fast Open Pairs 2004, 2006
 - Nail Life Master Open Pairs 2011
 - North American Pairs 2003, 2014
 - Grand National Teams 2008
 - Mitchell Board-a-Match Teams 2009



Limey Jack...

Crikeys Yanks:

You Colonials do love a good mashup.

It looks like Howie Dung stuck his finger into Mrs. Sudbury's peach cobbler and actually got one match correct. As he only picks favourites and is totally daft, with limited bridge experience and zed skill, it is to be expected.

Fleisher-Fireman: Fleisher has the horses and is well rested, but Fireman has the heart. If the cheque writer can hold his own, Limey Jack starts the first joust with an upset the size of Friar Tuck's girth. Make a few bob here.

Nickell-Mahaffey: Mahaffey follows the pattern: win enough to whet your whistle, and then lose your way in the dark of the fens. Nickell by 6 furlongs.

Rosenthal-Juster: This has become interesting. Juster may be playing under an assumed name as one could have many games of wheel around the monkey and not find him listed anywhere. Howie Dung has no mettle to look for upsets so he has Rosenthal cut in stone. But Limey Jack doesn't miss his bangers and mash every day of this event to get up early and simply pick favourites. There must be honour upheld as Limey Jack gets ready to attend the Royal Nuptials. Howie Dung will make some ill rhyming joke of and about a Jester, but he will be wrong as per usual.

Lall-Morris: Morris is playing well, but Lall is in fine fettle. The victory lap belongs to Lall and Lall.

Cheers, LJ.

Howie Doing...

Fleisher's arrived
And ready to play.
Fireman's fought
For four days to stay.

For a bye to this round
In the USBF,
You must have a pair
Named Eric and Jeff!

Gonna be close...
A coin I could flip,
But I'm gonna go
With Marty and Chip!

Nickell/Mahaffey
Gonna be tense...
I'll put the big bucks
On Mr. Five Cents!

Rosenthal's good,
But what do they lack?
Brothers who play
Like Adam and Zack.

Juster has luster,
The brothers bring flair.
They bid like they're fearless
But they really care.

Last but not least,
Lall versus Morris...
Picking for Texas,
The locals adore us!

If I said Lall,
It would be a psych...
I've got to go
With Eddie and Mike!

Yours till the final...Howie Doing!

Open Room
Board 23
D

Borker: 167 IMPs
Juster: 227 IMPs

W Z Grossack

♠ 3
♥ K2
♦ KQJ1065
♣ J1094

Closed Room: 5♦ W -1 -100

N Korbelt

♠ 10964
♥ AQ10743
♦
♣ K86

S Borker

♠ AQJ75
♥ J9
♦ 42
♣ Q732

West	North	East	South
1♦	1♥	2♥	Pass
3♠	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	6♠

E A Grossack

♠ K82
♥ 865
♦ A9873
♣ A5

6♠ North | NS 0 EW 0

Closed Room
Board 23
D

Borker: 167 IMPs
Juster: 227 IMPs

W MRosenberg

♠ 3
♥ K2
♦ KQJ1065
♣ J1094

Open Room: 6♠ N = +1430

N Merblum

♠ 10964
♥ AQ10743
♦
♣ K86

S Juster

♠ AQJ75
♥ J9
♦ 42
♣ Q732

West	North	East	South
1♦	3♥	Dbi	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

E Lee

♠ K82
♥ 865
♦ A9873
♣ A5

5♦ West | NS 0 EW 0

In the Closed Room, Rosenberg and Lee had a seemingly normal auction to reach 5D on the E/W cards. Merblum started with the HA and 5D went light one trick.

In the Open Room, Korbelt, knowing they were down 52 IMPs entering the final segment, took an optimistic view on this board that his partner must have spades since West had shown shortness and East had cuebid in support of diamonds rather than negative doubling. He read the position really well.

He freely bid 4S in the middle of the opponent's forcing auction.

Borker was a trusting soul with great trumps. He jumped to slam.

Both major suit finesses worked and the slam was successful... a gain of 16 IMPs to Borker!

