Several Committees of the USBF meet online as Forums on Bridge Winners. These groups impact future United States Bridge Championships. Among these committees are the USBF Tournament Policy Committee, the USBF Technical Committee, and the USBF Systems Committee. These committees formerly known as the ITT committees make decisions that impact you as participants in our Competitions.

All of these committees and more are active as Forums on Bridge Winners. If you, as a member of the USBF, would like to be involved in our future decision making process, you are welcome to visit there, participate, and read up on the current outlook.

For access to the BW Forums, email Jan to request your access at marteljan@gmail.com.

We encourage your involvement. Your input and your interest is important to us.
“TRIALS” AND TRIBULATIONS

Before the 1998 Chicago NABC, the ACBL commissioned an artist named Jim Harrington from Waukegan, IL, to do a painting called “Our Game.” The lithos were sold at the ’98 NABC and the original was auctioned off as a fund raiser for the tournament. Leo and Pat Perez from Garden Grove, CA, won the drawing and the winners were named at the Orlando NABC that year and awarded their painting. The picture was prominently displayed during both the Chicago and Orlando NABCs.

The lithos are numbered editions.

Mr. Harrington’s widow, Sue, donated the remaining lithos to the USBF when she moved from her Waukegan home last year. We have several here at the tournament. If you would like one, please see either Jan Martel or Suzi Subeck. From the July 26, 1998, Daily Bulletin at the Chicago NABC:

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Alert! These are not for sale. We are giving them to those who want them.
Spring has arrived and Julia has the cleaning bug. The day was so warm and sunny she just couldn’t help herself. It was spring-cleaning time! She dusted and washed, moved furniture, shook out rugs, scrubbed windows, and waxed woodwork. She got into a routine where she would clean two rooms, then take a break, then she’d clean two more rooms, and then take a break, until she was done (the start times were every two hours from 9:00AM to 7:00PM). By the end of the day, she was exhausted...but the house sparkled with cleanliness! Determine what time she started working in each room (one room was the bedroom) and how long it took her to clean each room (one room took 1-1/2 hours).

1. The first two rooms she cleaned did not include the living room.

2. The kitchen was cleaned at 3:00PM, but it didn’t take her 1-3/4 hours.

3. The last room took her 1-1/4 hours to clean, but it wasn’t the bathroom.

4. The dining room only took her one hour to clean.

5. At 9:00AM, the room she tackled took her 1-3/4 hours to clean. The kitchen took her longer to clean than the bathroom.

6. The last two rooms she cleaned, in no particular order, were the playroom and the bathroom.

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**Answer to Puzzle**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>Cleaning Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bathroom</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bedroom</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dining room</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>1-1/4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kitchen</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>1-1/2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>living room</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>1-3/4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>playroom</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>1-3/4 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our wonderful massage therapist, Ela, is available again this year. She has agreed to come to the Hyatt after 1:00 pm on the following days. People who want a massage should sign up with Jan.

Monday, 6/3

Thursday, 6/6

**Relaxation Therapy!**

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**USBF Supporting Membership**

If you don’t want to play in the USBF Championships that choose teams to represent the USA in the World Bridge Federation Championships, but do want to aid our events, a **Supporting Membership** can be the perfect way for you to be involved. As a Supporting Member, you are eligible to:

1. Enter the fantasy brackets, run on Bridge Winners, for the USBF trials choosing our Open and Senior teams for the World Championships. The highest-ranking Supporting Member in the fantasy brackets for each of these two events will win the prize of your choice - either an online match against the USBC winners or dinner with them at the next NABC.

2. Receive daily emails during the USBF Championships. These will summarize the previous day’s results and provide vugraph information and links to daily bulletins containing pictures and commentary on individual hands.

3. Upon advanced request, make arrangements for you to kibitz a USBF member of your choice for a session once each year – either at an NABC or the USBF Championships.

4. Upon advanced request, we will arrange for you to be one of the vugraph commentators for one session of the team trials.

A Supporting Membership is $25 for one year ($75 for 3 years) and the ACBL now offers you the chance to become an USBF Supporting Member when you renew your ACBL membership. If you don’t want to wait that long, you can join by choosing the red Donate Now button on the USBF website. Your donation will be used to cover inevitable expenses: attorney fees, accounting fees, website support services, tournament directors, insurance, WBF dues, and vugraph operators. The USBF is an all-volunteer organization. Our meetings are by conference call and at NABCS. Board members and the organization’s officers are not compensated for meetings, travel, or hotel expenses.

We hope you will join us.
The world tongue-twister champion just got arrested. I hear they’re gonna give him a really tough sentence.

So what if I don’t know what “Armageddon” means? It’s not the end of the world.

I woke up this morning and forgot which side the sun rises from, then it dawned on me.

I’ve just written a song about tortillas; actually, it’s more of a rap.

Velcro—what a rip-off!

Don’t you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.

I hate Russian dolls, they’re so full of themselves.
The first segment was generally calm. Going into board 15, 25-11 Rosenthal with 8 swings combined for both teams. Board 2 was the biggest swing and it was 10 IMPs.

After Willenken’s 2C opener, slightly shaded on 21 HCP and 4-3-3-3, he and Migry reached a pretty poor 6D contract... probably a little better than 30%.

Good news for them... Suits break and finesses work!

Adam G led the S9, an interesting choice in light of the fact it was the only suit the opponents showed naturally excepting diamonds. It was a clever card designed to mislead declarer. Adam has a bad hand from which to lead with cards in the three outside suits and a singleton trump... It could have worked. Unfortunately, plays like this sometimes fool the wrong person... in this case, partner! Migry won the ST and played a diamond to the jack and ace.

Had Gabay ducked the 1st diamond, won the second, and played a third diamond, things might have been different. As it was, she won the DA and played back the S7, picking up Adam’s queen... At this point, the best play for declarer is to cash the HAK in case the queen drops. If this doesn’t work, cross in trumps, draw the last trump and finesse the last club.

At the table, Migry ignored the heart possibility. She simply pulled trumps and took the club finesse. 12 tricks!

All’s well that ends well.

At the other table, Sobel and Donner played an easy 3NT making 4 for +430.

Runners Up: Team Donner: Donner, Sobel, Z Grossack, Botta, A Grossack, Gabay
Donner was down 139-175 going into the second segment yesterday. They picked up 10 IMPS on the first board of this segment when Sobel and Donner bid an aggressive vulnerable game and Migry and Willenken stopped in a part score.

Both tables took 10 tricks but could have been held to nine had N/S broken the heart suit in time. Both Norths led diamonds. Both declarers won and played two rounds of trump, North winning the second with the queen and exiting with a second diamond. This picked up South’s DK and the DQ was established for the pitch of a heart! A heart exit would have yielded two hearts and two spades to N/S.

Interestingly, both declarers missed the opportunity to make 4S without an opponent error.

Declarer can win the diamond lead and cash the DA. When the king drops, declarer can cross to the SA and lead the DQ.

If South trumps low, declarer overruffs and crashes the king and queen of spades.

If South ruffs high, declarer simply discards a heart.

To our awesome Appeals Panel,

Thanks to all the players who have served on committees so far in this series of Championships and to those who have stood by to serve when committees were dropped.

Your dedication and time is appreciated. It is difficult enough to find volunteers who are available on short notice, but it is even more difficult because we all know, like and respect one another... and no matter how you slice it, when it comes to a ruling, someone gets ruled for and someone gets ruled against... and even though we know it shouldn’t happen, everyone gets judged when the reports are made public.

The USBF is completely transparent about committees. The write-ups are in the bulletin as soon as space and time permit, and posted on the website in the same manner.

Hopefully I won’t need you in the Seniors, but if we do, I hope you will again be available.

Suzi
With North on lead to trick six, West claimed, stating "if the spades are 4-1 I'll take the ruffing finesse in hearts again." The Director was summoned. Declarer stated that he knew the ♠ A was still out, and repeated his claim.

Law 70D states: The Director shall not accept from claimer any successful line of play not embraced in the original clarification statement if there is an alternative normal [which includes careless or inferior for the class of player involved] line of play that would be less successful.

It was decided that based on West's statement ("if spades are 4-1") he did not know the ♠ 9 had fallen and his remaining spades would be winners once the ♠ A was knocked out. Following his stated line, declarer would find out on the next heart lead that the presumed ruffing finesse would not work, but playing a "loser on loser" would fall under normal (careless or inferior). The result was scored up as two more tricks(♠ A, ♥ K) to the defense.
Committee Report – Donner vs Rosenthal

Committee: JoAnn Sprung, Chair, Beth Palmer, Stan Subeck
Present: Donner, Rosenthal, Sobel and D. Rosenberg. Also in attendance Adam Grossack.

McKenzie Myers, presenting Director

McKenzie was called after the claim was made and questioned. McKenzie explained the sequence of play. There was agreement as to the play.

McKenzie reported that the statement made to him was that if spades are 4-1 I have the ruffing finesse in hearts. Additionally west stated to him that if South has the king of hearts “I’m toast”

Donner stated that his initial claim was that I’ll lose the ace of spades and the spades are good. He also confirmed that he had missed the 9 of spades played on the first round. When questioned by North he then stated that if spades are 4-1 “I’ll repeat the ruffing finesse”.

At that point the director was

Sobel stated that North said “whoa what’s your line of play” and called the director.

Rosenberg also testified that Donner stated the “I’m toast” comment. She did not recall him saying that he would give up the ace of spades and his spades were good.

The committee considered the matter referencing relevant laws 68-70
Referencing Law 68A – Any statement by declarer or a defender to the effect that a side will win a specific number of tricks is a claim of those tricks. A player also claims when he suggests that play be curtailed.
Law 68C A claim should be accompanied at once by a clear statement of a line of play.
Law 70A – In ruling on a contested claim the Director adjudicates the result of the board as equitably as possible to both sides but any doubtful point as to a claim shall be resolved against the claimer.

Law 70 D - Director’s considerations – The Director shall not accept from claimer any successful line of play not embraced in the original clarification statement if there is an alternative normal line of play that would be less successful.*
*For the purposes of Laws 70 and 71 “normal” includes play that would be careless or inferior.

The committee deliberated whether declarer after stating a specific course of action could then change course once North shows out on the heart. This is less than clear in the laws. The committee also considered whether giving up a heart on the assumption that the spades were not good would constitute a careless or inferior play.

The committee gave considerable weight to the statement made to the opponents and director that if spades are 4-1 and the heart is off side “I’m toast”. According to the testimony it does not appear that the declarer stated a third option of ruffing the heart and falling back on the spades coming in.

The committee agreed with the director that playing a loser on loser given declarer’s assumption that the spades were not good would constitute a careless or inferior play.

The USBF regulations do not permit a weighted ruling on claims.

The committee upheld the ruling made at the table. 5D down 1.