

POST MORTEM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.pittsburghbridge.org

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All the news that fits in print

.....by lou joseph

I can't speak for the rest of you, but I've had it with the snow already. Enough is enough! I can tolerate the schools being closed and things like that, but when my bridge games get cancelled, I begin to take it personally.

I suppose it just means that Spring (?) will be all the more welcome when it finally shows up. And the coming of Spring means that the PBA Spring Sectional is just around the corner! Check out the flyer on page 4, reserve those dates with your favorite partners, and get ready for a terrific tournament. Ken and Barb Bergman, two of the most industrious workers our Unit is blessed with, are in charge of things, and you know what that means. Fabulous hospitality is putting it mildly! Do not miss this Sectional! We're at the Masonic Center in the North Hills, certainly one of the most popular and preferred sites we've been at, so there are no excuses for not showing up.

Remember that the Friday Unit Game now starts at 7PM every week, and there is a monthly team game. Please make an effort to try to attend this game. The health of the unit depends on the members - that's you and me! Our new Unit Treasurer and Board Member Jane Marshall has made a concerted effort to coerce people into playing, but she is only one person. Come on out and prove that she's making a difference. Your attendance will be greatly appreciated, and there are always plenty of snacks, if the way to your heart is through your stomach. Please, we're counting on you!

GIVE ME A HAND POST
.....by Ernie Retetagos

♠ Q 3 4
♥ A J 5 2
♦ K 5
♣ A 7 5 3

♠ A K 7 2
♥ K 6 7
♦ Q 8 3
♣ 9 8 4

Sometimes even flat, mundane looking hands, can lead to unusual endings. In a pairs game, South declared 4 spades, after East overcalled in diamonds. The Jack of diamonds lead went to the K and A. Declarer won the diamond return and ruffed a diamond, as West pitched a club. Next came Q of spades and a spade, as East discarded a diamond. With 2 spade losers in addition to at least one club, this contract seemed doomed. Declarer cashed another high spade, played K of hearts followed by a successful heart finesse. On the Ace of hearts, East discarded a diamond. Declarer ruffed a heart and cashed the Ace of clubs for the 10th trick. The last 2 cards were losing clubs in each hand, and West had 2 trumps. Double dummy, West can beat the hand by discarding from Q 4th of hearts on the diamond ruff.

UP THE LADDER POST

JUNIOR MASTER

Susan Podgers
Nicholas Rescher
Wei Yu

CLUB MASTER

Marilyn Keisler

REGIONAL MASTER

Patricia Swedlow

LIFE MASTER

Dennis Gibboney

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Lorraine Murphy

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Lawrence Pratt

Myron Schwartz

WELL DONE, GANG!

IN MEMORY

When I first started playing some 40 years ago, Gene Klewier was considered one of the best players in our Unit. When Gene died last month at the age of 98, he was still considered one of our best bridge players. We know if it weren't for his tragic accident he would still be there Monday at Rodef. We mourn his passing and know that he is, as we speak, up in heaven as a top seed at the bridge game.

As reported by Mary Jo Johnson in her Greensburg article, Ray Korber died after a long illness.

Debbie Zitner, a unit member who generally played at the Rodef game on Monday, just lost her husband.

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of those who have died.

POST CARDS

THANK YOU—

To my fellow members of the bridge community: Words cannot express how grateful I am for your prayers, your good wishes and for your generosity. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.....Marge Tamres.

Arnie Roberts is recuperating nicely after major surgery. They removed any crankiness he might have had and left him with his everlasting mellow disposition.

OK Arnie, I've been nice enough. Get you butt back to the bridge table. We miss you.

Hopefully, by the time this publication is published, Larry, Marge Tamres' brother hopefully, will have improved even more than he has. We know that every little bit of improvement is a major step to a full recovery. Let's all pray that this is the case.

I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING!!

I put a contract out on Punxutawney Phil . He had to be stopped because we just couldn't take any more of this snow.

PUNXUTAWNEY PHIL!! Be afraid. You have no idea how many volunteers I have had. I turned them all down.
YOU ARE MINE!!!!

HELP WANTED POST

We are trying to restart the mentoring program for our unit. Anyone interested in either being a mentor or being mentored can contact Bill Seran at:
bridgeplayerx2@verizon.net
or call: 412-952-3582.

CLUB POSTS

The Rodef Shalom Sisterhood is pleased to announce that the last Monday of every month will now be a charity game. This means lots of extra points!!

AND

The Thursday Afternoon Greensburg game is now a charity game with a sectional rating every week- **WITH NO ADDITIONAL COST!!** The points are there waiting for you - go out and grab 'em!

PBA MONTHLY SWISS TEAMS

Friday, March 12, 2010 - 7 PM
Friday, April 30, 2010 - 7 PM
Friday, May 21, 2010 - 7 PM
Friday, June 25, 2010 - 7 PM
Friday, July 23, 2010 - 7 PM
Friday, August 27, 2010 - 7 PM
Friday, September 10, 2010 - 7 PM
Friday, October 22, 2010 - 7 PM
Friday, November 26, 2010 - 7 PM
Friday, December 17, 2010 - 7 PM

Pittsburgh

Spring Sectional

April 23-25, 2010

Masonic Center North

3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Schedule & Directions:
www.pittsburghbridge.org

Hospitality All Sessions!

New Saturday Schedule!

Free Lunch Between Sessions

Sunday Swiss

includes Brunch & Lunch!

Partnerships:

MaryAnne McNeirney
412-922-1136

Newcomers & 299ers:

Darlene Mannheimer
412-913-5944

Tournament Chairs:

Barb & Ken
Bergman

724-935-4591

Sanction # S 1004042
Mike Roberts: Director in Charge



Friday, April 23

- 1:30 PM Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 299er Pairs (1 session)
- 7:30 PM Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 299er Pairs (1 session)
Handicapped Bracketed Knockout Teams
(1st of 3 sessions)

Saturday, April 24

New Times! Free Lunch!

- 11:00 AM Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 299er Pairs (1 session)
Handicapped Bracketed Knockout Teams
(2nd of 3 sessions)
Compact Handicapped Knockout Teams
(1st of 2 sessions)

*Free Lunch between sessions!
Play twice and STILL get home early!*

- 3:30 PM Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 299er Pairs (1 session)
Handicapped Bracketed Knockout Teams
(3rd of 3 sessions)
Compact Handicapped Knockout Teams
(2nd of 2 sessions)

Sunday, April 25

Fabulous Brunch Beforehand & Lunch Included!

- 11:00 AM Stratified Open Swiss Teams
(7 rounds of 7 boards)
Stratified 299er Swiss Teams
(6 rounds of 6 boards)
*Separate Play-through Events/
30 point VP scale*

Full Newcomer / NLM Schedule:

"Newcomer / 299er Pairs" -
Both Sessions Friday & Saturday
PLUS Special Swiss on Sunday!

Play ONLY against other New Players

Contact Darlene for
Swiss Team-building!

Lesson from an Expert...

Friday @ 6:45 PM
Saturday @ 2:45 PM

Student Discount \$5 per Session

Open Stratifications:

A: 2000+
B: 750-2000
C: 0-750

299er Stratifications:

A: 200-800
B: 50-200
C: 0-50

Pairs Entries \$10 pp.
Open Swiss Teams \$88/team
299er Swiss \$ 68/team

*Non & Unpaid ACBL Members \$1
additional per session*

Open Swiss Strat's by Average MPS
299er Strat's at Director's Discretion

Spring Sectional

EDUCATION POST

Even though the breath of Spring is not quite on the air, it is nevertheless prudent to prepare. The PBA Education program is gearing up for the Spring Season. Keep an eye out for a flyer with dates and specifics, which will be available as soon as the schedule is confirmed. However, here is a preview of what we intend to offer:

THE CLUB SERIES - *Beginning Bridge*

I'm sure you all have friends, relatives and countrymen who are always astounded by your never-ending supply of bridge tales. Well, here is their chance to get with the program! Lou Joseph will teach the beginning series at Rodef Shalom Temple in Oakland. Classes will once again be held on Monday Mornings starting at 9 AM, dates to be announced shortly. This series has withstood the test of time and has proven to be the most effective and informative class for beginning bridge players.

MOVING FORWARD - *Advancing Bridge*

Arlene Port is whipping up a series designed to move the advancing and intermediate player forward. This seven week course will focus on three different aspects of bridge - two weeks devoted to bidding with interference ; two weeks devoted to play of the hand, and three weeks devoted to defense (the hardest part of the game!) - signals, count and leads! Think you've seen it all before? You ain't seen nothing' yet! When this class is over, you will be able to beat Arlene regularly like a drum! Think we're kidding? Come prove us wrong! *(Editor's note: Hey, If I wasn't teaching the other class, I would enrol myself in this one!! - Lou)*

The details will be available at local club games, on the PBA Website, or by e-mailing or calling Arlene or Lou (contact information shown on the front page of the Post Mortem). Plan to attend - it will be time and effort well spent! Classes will begin in late April or early May.

You are South, IMP's N/S Vul

Your hand is:

S A K J 4 2
H A K
D J 6 2
C J 10 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-----	-----	1H	PASS
1S	PASS	2D	PASS
3C	PASS	3H	PASS
?	What do you bid?		

Ernie Retetagos: 4 Hearts. Looks like we have at most one club stopper in no trump.. Partner might have given delayed spade support with Q doubleton of spades, rather than rebidding a weak heart suit. Hearts seems the most likely game.

Lou Joseph : 4H So what did partner open with? It looks like he is either 1-6-4-2 or 2-5-4-2, or even 1-5-4-3 with three dead clubs. NT from my side is not going to happen, and his 3H rebid suggests no club card over there. If he has a 6 card heart suit, no problem. It's the 2-5-4-2 or 1-5-4-3 that looks like trouble. If I'm holding the AK of hearts, where are his points, if he has nothing in clubs? Something like x-QJxxx-AKQx-xxx. Well, I could bounce it back by bidding 3S, but I don't know what that is going to accomplish except a very long and lengthy postmortem after the game that I probably don't want any part of anyways, so I'm bidding 4H and Que Sera Sera.

Asim Ulke: I bid 4H. We could easily have 3 losers, 2C and a D. The only other bid of 5H therefore may not be safe. When in doubt, take a plus.

Gail Carns: 4H It sounds like partner does not have a Club stopper for 3NT or 3 Spades

Jim Bachelder: 3S I'm not sure where I'm going yet, so, not wanting to go by 3NT, I'll bid 3S. Partner isn't necessarily 6-4 just because he rebid hearts. He'd bid the same with: XX, QJXXX, AKQX, QX.

Herb Sachs: 3S Hoping to elicit more information from partner I bid three spades not yet giving up on six hearts. partner has six hearts and four diamonds presumably. if I hear four spades I will blackwood and hope for six hearts. if I hear three notrump he could possibly have xx in clubs so I will then bid four hearts and hope he finds maybe a five club as I feel I have shown a very good hand in spades and hearts.

Bruce Keidan: 5H., Got a second-round stopper in the unbid suit, pard?

Trudy Cohn: My bid is 4 hearts. Partner can have a hand with 6 hearts to the QJ and 4 diamonds with the top honors and we can still only make 4. It's up to partner to make a move if interested in slam.

Florine Walters: Pass I would not have bid three clubs over two diamonds, I would have doubled instead. Working with the bidding as presented in the problem, it appears I would be in the same position even if I had doubled. In either case I would now PASS.

Mary Carns: 5H. Asks partner to bid slam without 2 quick club losers. We could be too high though--partner might have 2+ clubs to lose and either a diamond or a heart loser. Partner doesn't have to be 6-4 for this auction (picture minimum opener 1-5-4-3 without a high club honor). On the other hand, consider Qx, QJTxxx, AKxx, x. Tough problem.

.PJ Prabhu: 3S. Forcing after the 4th suit 3C bid. Keeps all options open. Second choice 3NT.

Warren Oberfield: 4H. At IMPs, 4H seems obvious.

Steve Nolan : 3S. The entry problems highlighted by partner's 3H bid mean that the prospects for 6H aren't too promising. However, if partner has the magic hand for slam, this is the best way to find it. Partner will hate the 3S bid -- it forces a fourth bid from him when he thought he'd described his hand completely after two. Nevertheless, he has to find one, and with 2 card spade support will bid 4S, since he can't count on me for any hearts at all. Over 4S, I'll bid RKC Blackwood, and if partner has both missing aces and the queen of spades, 6H is almost a certainty. If he doesn't have that holding, we'll play in 5H which should make.

If partner bids 3NT, 4C or 4D over 3S, I'll bid 4H.

Richard Katz 4H Three NT is not in the picture, slam is unlikely, four hearts seems like our best game choice. good luck pard

Bill Holt: 4NT - I am going to try 4NT. Sounds like partner has some x64x without 3 Spades and should have enough stuff in the minors to have a play at 6H. I have 7 losers despite my 17 count but give partner enough points to open: x - QTxxxx - AQxx - Ax and we'll have a shot. I wish I could ask in diamonds before putting partner in hearts..

Stan Ruskin: 4H This is very difficult. What is partner's hand – 1/6/4/2 or it could be 1(or none) and be 0/6/4/3 or it could be 1/5/4/3. We know he has a bad heart suit and 4D (he didn't bid 2H and then 3D). If he had 3S, he would have bid 2S over 1S and if he had 2S, he would have bid 3S over 3C. Can this hand make a heart slam? Maybe but what do I have to find out. He couldn't bid 3H with only 6 to a J or 5 to a Q so he probably has either 6 or 5 to a QJ. He didn't bid 3NT so he must have a C issue. To me his hand could be as bad as x/QJxxxx/KQJx/Qx or as good as x/QJxxxx/AKQx/Qx. Or somewhere in between. I don't think he can have the KC because he should bid 3NT with it so I just bid 4H.

Arlene Port 3S Having advance information is not always advantageous. Since 3C was bid ,(game forcing, I presume) I will bid 3S. Maybe partner can Q-bid a club control and I can get to six hearts. If not, nothing lost. (except my desire to get to a heart slam.)

Auxilliary Expert

Marvin Rulin 4H This is a tough one. north's 3heart bid is discouraging. she does not have spade support and is not interested in no trump. she has at least 9 red cards but can we avoid 2 losers in the minor suits? i think i'd settle for the sure thing and bid 4 hearts.

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

A BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
5H	15	2	100
4H	10	8	80
6H	3	0	60
3S	3	5	50
4C	2	0	50
3NT	1	0	40
PASS	0	1	N/A
4NT	0	1	N/A

(See page 8 for contributors)



SPRING IS ALMOST HERE

INTERNET POST
HOW EXPERTS VOTED

	BID
Phillip Alder	6H
Alan Bell	5H
Marty Bergen	5H
David Berkowitz	4H
Mark Blumenthal	5H
Larry Cohen	3S
Martin Cohn	5H
Chris Compton	5H
Charles Danan	4H
Billy Eisenberg	6H
Rob Gordon	4C
Allan Graves	5H
Carl Hudecek	4H
Michael Kamil	5H
Edwin Kantar	5H
Sami Kehela	5H
Eric Kokish	5H
Boris Koytchou	4H
Karen McCallum	3S
Marshall Miles	5H
Mike Passell	4H
Larry Robbins	5H
Arthur Robinson	6H
Steve Robinson	4H
Al Roth	4H
Jeff Rubens	5H
Ira Rubin	5H
Fred Stewart	4H
Paul Sugar	3NT
Howard Weinstein	3S
Larry Weiss	4H
Robert Wolff	5H
Kit Woolsey	4C
Ray Zoller	4H

**Grand National TEAMS
DISTRICT 5 FINALS**

Dates: May 1 & 2, 2010

May 1st 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

May 2nd 10:00 AM & TBA

Place: Solon Valley

Party Center

Solon, Ohio

440-248-4893

Area Hotel Information:

SpringHill Suites

866-573-4235

Hampton Inn

866-678-6350

Homewood Suites

866-767-0278

Championship Level=

Unlimited

Flight A= 0-5000

Flight B= 0-2000

Flight C= 0-500, Non

Life Master

For more information

please call:

Barb Bacon

440-331-8702

District Coordinator

PEOPLE OF NOTE

Every now and then something happens in our Bridge World that makes one pause and consider. The March 2010 issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin showed the final standings of the Barry Crane Race for the most masterpoints earned in the previous year. Unit 142 could actually boast two people on the list- Reanette Frobouck, #38 with 1201 points, and Robert Quinlan, #255 with 649 points. Not to detract from Reanette's achievement, her address is now listed as Vero Beach, Florida, so we must concede her to another unit. But Bob is all ours. So why even mention this? He's not the first Unit 142 player to make the list. That's true, and I probably wouldn't even bother except that on February 26th, he and Jean Prior had an 80% game at the Suburban DBC in Whitehall!

If you've ever met Bob, or asked anyone about him, the word that is invariable used is "Gentleman - Bob is one of the true gentlemen of the game." Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, let me set you straight. I get the honour of playing with Bob in the Summer when one of his regular partners deserts him for her regular partner. He may well be a gentleman, but I can attest that one time I made what can only be called a dubious Michaels cue-bid which led to, how shall I put this, a most unfavourable result, and he has NEVER let me forget it. In fact, I have come to understand that this infamous call of mine is now the yardstick by which he measures ALL of his various partners less than stellar bids! Is that the hallmark of gentleman?

Ok, ok, it was a rotten call, and truthfully, Bob is a fine player, a gracious partner (to others) and well worth every masterpoint he has earned. But I shan't stop there. I have done my research! I Googled Robert Quinlan and discovered the following:

- 1) He maintains a private medical practice in Worcester MA & Columbia SC (that's quite a commute, isn't it?)
- 2) He is a registered Massage Practitioner in Gaithersburg MD (Is that what they call that now?)
- 3) He is a freelance theatre director in Chicago who also teaches at the University of Illinois (I looked up his rating - Helpfulness: 4.7 ; Clarity: 4.3 ; Hotness: 1 (life's tough, Bob))
- 4) He has been deceased since 1983 (obviously a tax dodge)
- 5) He holds US Patent #20090200339 for a Bifurcated foam pump assembly for use in foam dispensers
- 6) He is a noted Poet in Melbourne Australia, noted for lines like the following from one of his finest: "Don't treat me like some butcher's carcass..." (He should talk!)

Truly a man of many talents. When you see him, be sure to congratulate him for his achievements. Next month I'll Google Jean Prior (unless I receive a substantial amount of money from her before then...)

...Lou Joseph

GREENSBURG OUTPOST *by Mary Jo Johnson*

Punxutawney Phil was certainly accurate when he predicted six more weeks of winter ! These very mild winters from the past five or so years had many W PA residents "lulled" into thinking that winters weren't so bad. Well, I guess Mother Nature had a different plan for 2010. Game cancellations were so numerous during February, that players were getting "cabin fever". Hopefully those huge snow accumulations are behind us and that March will bring more temperate weather conditions.

Some of the "snow birds"..... Peggy Shivetts, Sally Wozniak, Charlene Benedict, and "yours truly".... have been enjoying The Villages, FL, whose weather (although warmer than PA) has been below normal as well. Bridge games at the Villages are big (sometimes 2 sections) and numerous. Peggy Shivetts has been doing very well..... usually at the top or near the top regardless of her partner. And the rest of us? Well we've been having lots of fun.

I'm sorry to inform you that Ray Koerber passed away. We were hopeful, as some of the later reports of his progress were promising, but evidently his five month struggle was just too much for his body to handle. Ray was always laughing and was such a fun person to have as a partner or opponent and he will be missed. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Roiann, and his family.

PBA 3 MONTHS FORWARD AT A GLANCE

REMEMBER: GAME TIMES NOW 7:00 PM!

MARCH 2010

03/05 Club Championship
03/12 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
03/19 Unit Championship
03/26 Open Pairs

APRIL 2010

04/02 Open Pairs
04/09 Club Championship and PBA Board Meeting
04/16 Unit ACBL Charity Championship
04/23 PBA Spring Sectional @ Masonic Center (see ad on page 4)
04/30 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM

MAY 2010

05/07 Unit Championship
05/14 PBA AWARDS PARTY & Club Charity Game
05/21 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
05/28 PBA CANCELLED - CLEVELAND REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

FIRST AT THE POST!!

70% GAMES

Bob Quinlan and Jean Prior	80.00%	Suburban DBC
Bob Quinlan and Jean Prior	71.43%	Suburban DBC
Judy Haffner & Arlene Port	70.03%	Mon. Rodef
Richard Katz & Asim Ulke	70.51%	Mon. Rodef
Arlene Port & Asim Ulke	71.63%	Mon. Rodef

5 IN A ROW

Barb Bergman	JCC-SH Tue	Ken Bergman	JCC-SH Tue
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4 IN A ROW

Richard Katz	Mon. Rodef	Asim Ulke	Mon. Rodef
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3 IN A ROW

Harold Haffner	JCC Wechsler	Judy Haffner	JCC Wechsler
Judy Haffner	JCC Wechsler	Joanne Zambroski	Mon. Glenshaw
Jim Klein	Thurs. Blackridge	Asim Ulke	Fri. Blackridge
Judy Haffner	Fri. Blackridge		

2 IN A ROW

Joe Secka	JCC-SH Thu	Naomi Sogoloff	Whitehall Mon
Gloria Moser	Allegh North	Russ Sheldon	JCC-SH Thu
Don Averbach	Whitehall Fri	Bob Quinland	Whitehall Fri
Naomi Sogoloff	Whitehall Fri	C Hoechstetter	Whitehall Fri
Sue Konig	Whitehall Fri	Marion Smith	Allegheny North
C Hoechstetter	Allegheny North	Gloria Moser	Allegheny North
George Spine	Ctr Bridge Wed	Beverly Spine	Ctr Bridge Wed
Barb Bergman	Ctr Bridge Wed	Ken Bergman	Ctr Bridge We
Gerry Tessler	Rodef 99ers	Marge Mazer	Mon. Rodef
James Quigley	Mon. Rodef	Lou Joseph	Mon. Glenshaw (accident)
Joanne Zambroski	Wed. Glenshaw	Jim Quigley	Wed. Glenshaw
Nancy Swenson	Wed. Glenshaw	David Froelich	Thurs. Blackridge
Asim Ulke	Thurs. Blackridge	Ed. Alkoff	Fri. Blackridge

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Greensburg Charity Champ	5 PBA Club Championship	6 Unit 226
7	8	9 Allegheny North Club Champ	10 Ctr Bridge Wed Club Championship	11 Pgh North Club Champ Greensburg Charity Champ	12 PBA Unit Championship Swiss Team	13 Ctr Bridge Sat Club Championship
14	15	16	17	18 Greensburg Charity Champ	19 PBA Unit Championship	20
21	22	23	24	25 Greensburg Charity Champ	26 PBA Open Pairs	27
28	29 Rodef Shalom Cancelled Pass- over	30	31			