

POST MORTEM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.pittsburghbridge.org

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All the news that fits in print

..... arlene port

If you can't be an expert at bridge, or tennis, or art, or any high-achieving activity, and you know that you have some spectacular skill just waiting to be developed but aren't quite certain where to find it, I have just the area for you to search: The talent of EAVESDROPPING. A talent, in which, if I have to say so myself, I excel. And, that includes the auxiliary talent of repeating everything I overhear!! How good is that!! So here goes:

- Word is that "The I Couldn't Make It To Hollywood, Or Even Homestead Players" are once again going to perform at the Pittsburgh Sectional. If you're not there to cheer them on, they get very cranky. (no one wants to make Lou Joseph any crankier than he already is!) So be there.

- Someone let slip that the Sectional held at the Masonic lodge in April (check out the ad on page 2) will be the best sectional ever. Make certain you get there or you'll never know if that was true.

Next month I hope to eavesdrop even more titillating news flashes, but until then, check our ad on page 3 for PBA bridge classes that will be held this year. Lou and I are particularly proud of our "Boutique Bridge" which is a series of 2-week classes focusing on one particular bridge skill. In addition to the beginning classes in May and June, we hope to add another 7 week series at that time. If you let us know what skills you would be interested in, that will help us to design the best course for all to enjoy.

Friday, April 1

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 2

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!*

4:00 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)
Single Session Swiss Teams

Sunday, April 3

Brunch & 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

Pittsburgh Sectional

Spring Foolishness

April 1-3, 2011

Masonic Center North

3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15237



PITTSBURGH

Lesson from an Expert...

Friday @ 6:45 PM

Cubic Zirconia

Life Master Theater

Saturday @ 3:15 PM

**Hospitality
All Sessions!**

Lunch Included on Sat!
Brunch & Lunch on Sun!

Partnerships:

Jean Prior
412-977-6943

Newcomers & 299ers:

Darlene Mannheimer
412-343-0419

Tournament Chairs:

Bard & Ken Bergman
724-935-4591

Director in Charge: Mike Roberts
Sanction # 5 1104080

Pairs Entries \$10 pp.

Open Swiss Teams \$88/team
299er Swiss \$ 68/team

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



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
Partners & Team-building!

Full Schedule & Directions at
www.pittsburghbridge.org

299er

A: 2000+

B: 750-2000

C: 0-750

All Strats in All Events
by Avg. MPs

D: 200-300

E: 50-200

F: 0-50

299er Strats at
Director's Discretion

Open

A: 2000+

B: 750-2000

C: 0-750

All Strats in All Events
by Avg. MPs



Boutique Bridge



Bridge Lessons From the Pittsburgh Bridge Association

A series of 2-Session Classes focusing on one specific topic on Bridge. Classes will be held consecutive Mondays in March, April, July & August.

SIGN UP TODAY FOR OUR FIRST TWO SESSIONS: March 7 & March 14.

- * Encourage your favorite partner or future favorite partner to attend .
- * Take what you have learned and incorporate it into your current game.

Beginning Bridge Classes start in May for 7 consecutive Weeks

See our next ad for exact dates or go online:

Register Online at www.pittsburghbridge.org/classes.htm

Or Call Arlene Port at: 412-521-3637



WHERE: Rodef Shalom Congregation

4905 Fifth Ave, Pgh. PA 15213

TIME: Mondays 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

COST: \$25.00 pp. for each 2-week session

Minimum class size 16 students (4 tables)

Maximum class size 24 students (6 tables)

Team Teaching with Lou Joseph & Arlene Port

MARCH 7 & 14: PLAY OF THE HAND:

When to crossruff versus setting up a side suit.

APRIL 4 & 11: BIDDING OVER NO TRUMP

When to bid. What to bid (includes option of using conventions). When NOT to bid.

JULY 11 & 18: BALANCING NOTRUMPS

Includes Sandwich No Trump

AUGUST 1 & 8: DEFENSE AGAINST NOTRUMP

UP THE LADDER POST GREENSBURG OUTPOST *by*

Mary Jo Johnson

JUNIOR MASTER

Lynda K Gesalman
Sue Kelso
Richard D Nathenson
Ellen T Sheehan

CLUB MASTER

M Bernard Keisler
Kathleen Splane

REGIONAL MASTER

Michael J Zika

NABC MASTER

Dale J Gregg
Robert L Kleinmann
Karen F Piper
Tom Piper

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Istvan Bardi
Nurit Ellis

Jim Bridenbaugh, an icon in the Greensburg bridge community, passed away Friday, February 25th. He was a Silver Life Master, had directed the Monday night game in Latrobe for years, served for years on the Board of Thursday's game, and was a quiet but instrumental help at the Wednesday and Friday games as well. Jim's name was regularly seen on the Ace of Clubs list. Bridge was an important part of his life and his presence will sorely be missed. There was no visitation but please keep his wife, Dorie (also a bridge player) in your thoughts and prayers at this time of sorrow.

Helen McKelvey, wife of Paul McKelvey, passed away in early February. She had been in poor health and had been in and out of the hospital in recent months. Helen used to be seen fairly regularly at the bridge table as Paul's partner and will be remembered by most of the long standing bridge players at Greensburg. Our sympathy and condolences are extended to Paul and his family.

NEVER TOO EARLY POST

It's tournament time again...(well, almost). It's never too early to start partnering up for the PBA Spring Sectional scheduled for April 1-3, 2011. We have a great location, great hospitality, great entertainment, great bridge... what more could you ask for? A partner? Heck, we can offer that too! Please contact Jean Prior @ 412-977-6943, our tournament partnership chairperson if you need a partner for a pairs event or another pair for a team event! DON'T BE LEFT OUT!!!

THREE MONTHS AHEAD AT A GLANCE...

APRIL 2011

- 01 PBA Spring Sectional @ Masonic Center
- 08 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM & PBA Board Meeting
- 15 Unit ACBL Charity Championship
- 22 Open Pairs
- 29 Club Championship

MAY 2011

- 06 Unit Championship
- 13 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 20 Club ACBL Charity Championship & AWARDS NIGHT PARTY
- 27 NO GAME - Cleveland Regional

JUNE 2011

- 03 NAOP Qualifier
- 10 NO GAME - Greensburg Sectional
- 16 Special Thursday Evening STaC Pairs - Glenshaw Moose
- 17 STaC Pairs and PBA Board Meeting
- 24 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM

GET WELL POST

Mary Anne McNeirney has been conspicuously absent from the tables for much too long. Let's hope the Spring Thaw will return her "sparkling" personality to all the games she frequents on a regular basis. It's not the same without her. We know we speak for the entire bridge community when we say "Hurry back, Mary Anne!!"

We extend get well wishes to:

Maureen Hunt. Not only is she missed by all of her partners, the rest of us are missing her as well.

Alma Michael - Please Alma get well fast soon and come back to the game. It's not the same without you.

Norman Williams, Alice Williams always do everything together. I do think they carried "together" a little too far..

Ada Nye. C'mon Ada. Where the heck are you? I'm getting tired of waiting to get a good board from you!! Come back soon.

This list is getting much too long - shape up, folks! This is getting depressing!!

INTERNET POST

You are South, IMPs, N/S vul

You hold:

S 3 H Q J 8 7 D A Q 8 2 C K Q 6 5

The bidding is:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-------	------	-------	------

---	---	1D	1S
-----	-----	----	----

DBL	2S	3H	3S
-----	----	----	----

?

What do you bid?

Bill Holt 4D. I expect to have to make a decision over 4S at this vulnerability so am preparing it now. Partner already knows about my 4 Hearts but my 5-loser hand is too good to settle for 4H. Over their 4S (or partner's 4H) I will bid 5c, completing my shape and telling partner whatever he's got in non-Spade cards are gold.

Gail Carns: 3S the hand is too good for 4H.

Mary Carns: 4NT. Partner should have more than a minimum (or distribution). It's hard to construct a hand where we'd be too high at the 5 level.

PJ Prabhu 4S. I believe my hand is strong enough for a slam try above game. Partner can use RKCB and see if we belong in slam. I believe we are safe at 5H.

Lou Joseph: 4D -Who's walking this dog? E/W has the boss suit and they're not vulnerable - are they trying to get us too high or are they waiting to see if they need to take a sacrifice? OK, I'll make one nudge with 4D which has to be a cuebid since hearts is established as the trump suit. I'm already leery of a bad trump split and partner being on a minimum - he didn't jump to 4H over 2S. If that turns in on and I he now bids 5C, I'll take a shot that he has a stiff heart and can bring home the trump suit. If he bids 4S over 4D I'll key-card to establish the quality of the trump holding. Let's hope if we get that high no one is on a stiff diamond and has a ruff coming.

Steve Nolan 4NT. RKC in hearts. Partner isn't showing extras, but we have a double fit in the red suits, the diamonds should run; the diamond king, if missing, is probably onside and the enemy spades will score one trick at most. The best way forward is to find out about the keycards. I'll bid 6H over 5C, 5H over 5D (partner should bid again with 4 keycards) and pass 5H

Stan Ruskin: 4NT Looks like we have a strange deck. Partner opened the bidding and freely bid 3H so he has at the very least a solid opening bid. East overcalled 1S and then bid 3S so he thinks he has a good overcall and the master suit. West raised to 2S so he has something. Maybe I should look at my hand again. I might not have what I think I have but I really do. I can't think of any holding that 5H won't make unless there are some very strange breaks so I bid 4NT which is KC for H obviously. If he has 3 KC, I bid 6 and if he only has 2 KC, I sign off in 5H. I can't imagine that he would have 4 KC but, if he does, I will bid 7H, assuming the KD will be onside.

Herb Sachs: 4NT no one should play partner for specific cards but we could have a laydown slam with no finesse. xx akxx kxxxx axx. cant find out about the king of diamonds but if RKC produces AK of hearts and ace of clubs Im bidding six hearts. its too difficult to visualize going down in five if were off two key cards.(by the way I like to play an immediate cue bid of one spade overcall shows exactly four hearts and game forcing values.)

Jane Marshall: 4 spades (kickback for hearts). I play good-bad 2NT to compete without extra values. Since my partner bid 3 hearts freely (and did not use the good-bad 2NT bid), he has a good hand (not a minimum). If he shows 3 or more keycards, we will play slam. If he shows fewer than 3 keycards, we will play at the 5 level.

**INTERNET POST
HOW EXPERTS VOTED**

Asim Ulke I bid 4H. There is no good way to invite slam at this point. I would have made a splinter bid of 3S over the 1S overcall and invite the slam in diamonds. 5D should be safe and at IMPs a better way to a slam try is worth risking a 2 imp loss. Partner needs a specific and unlikely holding of AK in hearts, K in diamonds and A in clubs to make slam.

Marvin Rulin 4NT keycard.....partner opened the bidding and probably has few if any points in spades. It is quite possible for him to have xx, AKxx, Kxxx, Axx. With these 14 high card pts {3 key cards}, there is a strong play for slam. If partner's response indicates 2 or less key cards I'll stop at 5 hearts

Florine Walters 4S. This hand is worth a slam try, but will need to walk it a bit as partner can be on a minimum. If partner cooperates and bids five clubs, I will bid 5 diamonds and if he bids 5 hearts, I will pass

Bob Zimmermann: 4NT. Partner can have something like [xxx AKxx Kxxx Ax], and the opponent's bidding certainly suggests that he has no wasted values in spades. I'm missing 4 key cards. If P has 3 of them, slam won't be worse than about 50%.

Warren Oberfield: 4H If I was certain that 4D was a slam try in hearts, I would bid that. However, I cannot be sure and I don't feel I can find out everything I need to know to go on.

Trudy Cohn: 4NT I am going to use key card blackwood. If partner has three controls there should be a play for 6 Hearts. Otherwise, I will subside in 5 Hearts. Partner has no way of knowing about my singleton spade and big fit in diamonds.

Ahuxilliary Experts:

Eric Ruben: 4H. This hand has neither extra tricks nor extra values and a courtesy cuebid could lead to a discourteous postmortem. Partner can infer my shortness and should know what to do next. I won't feel bad for missing some 50% slam.

Phillip Alder	4D
Alan Bell	4NT
Marty Bergen	4H
David Berkowitz	4H
Mark Blumenthal	4D
Larry CohEn	4H
Marty Cohn	4NT
Billy Eisenberg	4D
Robb Gordon	4H
Carl Hudecek	4H
E. B. Kantar	4D
Sami Kehela	4S
Eric Kokish	4S
Boris Koytchou	4NT
John Lowenthal	4C
Karen McCallum	4C
Marshall Miles	4S
Mike Passell	4D
Rozanne & Bill Pollack	4D
Gary Powell	4NT
Larry Robbins	4D
Arthur Robinson	4S
Steve Robinson	4H
Al Roth	4H
Jeff Rubens	4D
Ira Rubin	4H
Paul Sugar	4H
Howard Weinstein	4NT
Larry Weiss	4D
Robert Wolff	4S
Kit Woolsey	4S
Ray Zoller	4NT

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
4D	9	2	100
4S	6	2	90
4NT	6	7	80
4H	6	3	70
4C	3	0	70
3S	0	1	

GREAT DISASTERS POST

This month we inaugurate a new feature which we will use anytime we need to fill up the issue! Famous bridge disasters...

Oops...

During the round robin of the 1985 World Team Championships (contesting the Bermuda Bowl) Canada played Bermuda. The latter team wasn't one of the favourites (to put it mildly).

The following deal turned out to be a nightmare for the Bermudian South — whose name wasn't mentioned in the original report; sadly enough it is common practice in bridge 'journalism' not to mention the name of a player who makes a mistake... Anyway, because of this deal he probably lost a lot of sleep over many years. Sometimes one wishes that one could go back in time in order to do better. This certainly was such a case.

This was South's hand:

S/NS

♠ A Q 3
♥ A K Q 5
♦ 3
♣ K J 10 6 5

West North East South

— — — 1♣₁
5♣₂ double₃ pass ??

1 Artificial, 16+ HCP, any distribution

2 Transfer to diamonds

3 Showing some values, not a penalty double (though South is of course free to pass)

True: South could pass. But West would bid 5♦ then and if North passed, South would have the same bidding problem. And if North doubled after some hesitation, South probably couldn't pull the double in view of ethics. So South did best by deciding now whether he wanted to defend or try for a slam.

This South player thought along these lines and didn't like any fuzz. He liked to get on with it. He realised that West had disclosed that North very probably had little or no strength in diamonds. So all face cards that North did have, were valuable ones. And thus, hoping that North had at least three clubs, South bid 6♣.

This was followed by three passes and West lead the ♦4. Dummy was a dream come true:

♠ 2
♥ J 10 6 3
♦ 10 6 2
♣ A Q 8 7 2

Happily declarer inspected dummy. The club slam was excellent, though of course 6♥ was so too. Relieved that things had turned out so well he played a small diamond in dummy.

Alas: East won and returned a heart, which West ruffed!

Down one, because the heart suit was 5-0. Oh well, bad luck; these things happen, right? And 6♥ doesn't make either, because of the 5-0 split. Right? Well, those who reason like that, had better take a look at the whole deal and especially at the card East won the first trick with...

Dealer: South	♠	2			
Vul: N/S	♥	J 10 6 3			
	♦	10 6 2			
	♣	A Q 8 7 2			
♠		J 9 8 4	♠		K 10 7 6 5
♥		—	♥		9 8 7 4 2
♦		A K Q J 9 8 7 4	♦		5
♣		3	♣		9 4
	♠	A Q 3			
	♥	A K Q 5			
	♦	3			
	♣	K J 10 6 5			

East had won that first trick with the ♦5; the trick looking like this: ♦4-♦2-♦5-♦3! Probably it had taken East some time to recover (probably it had even taken some time before he had realised he had won the trick; have the other three players been waiting impatiently for him to lead to the second trick?).

Whatever, once East knew he had to lead to the second trick, he also knew which suit to play: his partner West had taken a terrible risk to get him in the lead. West had to have a void therefore and wanted a ruff before declarer could draw the trumps. East saw that he and dummy had six spades and nine hearts between them, so finding the correct switch, a heart, was a piece of cake.

Too late declarer realised that he had in fact taken a losing finesse at the first trick! Going 'up' with the ♦10 or even the ♦6 would have sufficed to prevent East from gaining the lead. That way South would have made all thirteen tricks... Very painful.

South should have paid more attention to the lead. Because it was remarkable in view of the bidding. It is hard to imagine that West has the sort of diamond suit where the ♦4 is the normal lead. No sequence in diamonds and still West could jump to the five level on that suit? If the ♦4 was a normal lead, West would have a shambolic suit (is a seven-card suit without a sequence possible at all? Let alone an eight-card suit, which is the length West's bidding suggests)...

So South should have smelled there was something fishy about that lead and it couldn't cost to go up with dummy's ♦10. But fair is fair: you just have to think of these things...

Trump Squeeze
By Ernie Retetagos

♠ J 5 3
♥ A K J 9 6
♦ 9 2
♣ K 6 4

♠ 8 6	♠ Q 10 9 4
♥ 8 7 5 2	♥ 10
♦ Q J 5	♦ 10 8 6 3
♣ Q J 9 5	♣ A 10 8 2

♠ A K 7 2
♥ Q 4 3
♦ A K 7 4
♣ 7 3

At a club game, South was declarer at 4 hearts , and nobody found a successful line to make 11 tricks . Clubs were led and continued, with South ruffing the 3rd round. Declarer cashed one high spade, then pulled 3 rounds of trumps as East followed once and then discarded a club and a spade, leaving ...

♠ J 5
♥ A K
♦ 9 2
♣ ---

♠ 6	♠ Q 10
♥ 8	♥ ---
♦ Q J 5	♦ 10 8 6 3
♣ 9	♣ ---

♠ K 7
♥ ---
♦ A K 7 4
♣ ---

When the next heart was led, South can discard a spade, but East, the victim of a trump squeeze, has no good discard. A spade discard lets South play a spade , then ruff a diamond for the good spade. If East throws a diamond , South can play A K and ruff a diamond, and return to hand for the good diamond. This is a form of a criss-cross squeeze, in that neither threat is accompanied by an entry in that suit.

FIRST AT THE POST!!

70% GAMES

Elizabeth Vryenhoek & Leonne Carol	Whitehall	71.79%
Terry Barker	JCC SH NLM	71.88%
Judy & Harold Haffner	JCC Wechsler	74.77%
Arlene Port & Harold Haffner	Rodef	71.49%
James Klein & Phyllis Berkovitz	Rodef	70.07%
Sis Brown & Ned Pfeifer	Rodef	70.23%
Arlene Port & Asim Ulke	Rodef	70.96%
Pat Cunkelman and Brad Craig	Export	74.34%

3 IN A ROW

Barbara Bergman	JCC SH	Ken Bergman	JCC SH
Madeline Kramer	JCC Wechsler		

2 IN A ROW

Laurie Igiel	JCC SH	Sandy Harris	JCC SH
Elizabeth Vryenhoek	Whitehall	Jean Prior	Whitehall
Bob Quinlan	Whitehall	Arlene Port	JCC SH
Lou Joseph	JCC SH	Gretchen Amadeo	JCC SH
Steve Gusic	JCC SH	Jesse Suri	JCC SH
Betty Clontz	JCC SH	Lessa Finegold	JCC Wechsler
James Klein	Mon. Rodef	Arlene Port	Mon. Rodef
Barbara Lehman	Rodef 199ers	Ruthie Neafach	Mon. 199ers

NICE GOING EVERYONE!! (*even Arlene*)

NEWS FLASH POST

THE PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOCIATION HAS A NEW HOTLINE NUMBER

Hotline number 412-436 0125

Mary Anne will post game information each day.

If you call 412-683 game, which was the previous hotline number, no one will answer or tell you anything. However, the new number will not go into effect until March 15.

MARCH 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 PBA Club Championship	5 Unit 229
6	7	8	9	10	11 PBA Unit Championship Swiss Team	12
13	14 Rlodef Club Chp	15	16	17	18 PBA Unit Championship	19
20	21	22	23 JCC wech. Club Chmp.	24	25 PBA Open Pairs	26
27	28	29	30	31		