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Unit 142 Pittsburgh, PA December 2011

WEBSITE AT [www.pittsburghbridge.org](http://www.pittsburghbridge.org)

President: Asim Ulke  
Vice President: Barbara Bergman  
Secretary: Mary Paulone Carns  
Treasurer: Jane Marshall  
Club Manager: Mary Carns

# POST MORTEM

## All the news that fits in print

..... lou joseph

Can you believe how fabulous the Fall 2011 PBA Sectional Tournament was?


Neither can I. No - I tell a lie. I was not the least bit surprised - after all, I wouldn't expect anything less from Judy Haffner and her committee. There may have been some slight hitches - trust me, there always are - but nothing could diminish the spectacular turnout, which has to be a credit to Judy and her team. I know thanks have already been passed around, but special thanks to all those who put on so much effort - Jane Marshall, Sue McQuillan, Darlene Mannheimer on the partnership desk, Ron Franck, Ken Bergman and Ernie Retetagos as schleppers extraordinaire! Have I forgotten anyone? No, I don't think so.

Oh, Arlene was there as well...

This is where this article was supposed to end, but since I don't have the final editing job, I better amend it before someone else does - Let me say that Arlene Port and Judy Haffner worked like dogs to make that tournament seem effortless - the hallmark of quality. Say what you want about Arlene (and God knows I do) and Judy, of course, they never do anything halfway - if it isn't perfect then they'll make it perfect. I played with Arlene on Saturday and I STILL enjoyed the day. Is there a higher compliment than that?

Now here comes December, the month of holidays and holiday parties! And STaC week! Friday December 9th is the annual PBA Holiday Party AND SILVER POINT GAME, hosted by the inimitable Patty Katz. Sunday December 11th is the special STaC Swiss Team game at the Glenshaw Moose (flyer on facing page for both events) You don't want to miss either of these events, so schedule your games now before you forget!

Arlene and I wish everyone (even each other) a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.



**December 5-11, 2011**  
**STaC Games**  
all week!  
**PLUS**  
**Two Special Events!**

Check to make sure your club is participating in STaC Week at [www.53bridges.com](http://www.53bridges.com)

**1 Annual Holiday Party**  
Friday Dec 9 @ Wilkins!  
Game Time 7:00 PM - Eat's a Plenty @ 6:15  
An annual PBA tradition!

\*Directions on the Website!  
[www.pittsburghbridge.org](http://www.pittsburghbridge.org)

**2 Swiss Teams**  
Sunday Dec 11 @ Glenshaw Moose!  
Game Time 11:00 AM - 2 Session Event  
\$84 per team, includes 4 lunches & Continental Breakfast  
RSVP to Barb Bergman 724-935-4591  
(Requested but not mandatory - show ups are fine!)

♠ Steelers play Thursday this week! ♠

ALL MP awards are Silver  
Stratifications by  
Avg. MPs in all STaC Events

STaC Strats:  
"A" 2000+  
"B" 500-2000  
"C" 0-500

A STaC Game is a Sectional  
Game held at many sites.  
So your performance at your  
local club is compared with  
other games for a larger award!

**2011 PITTSBURGH FALL FESTIVAL SECTIONAL RESULTS**  
**November 11-13, 2011**

**Fri Aft Open Pairs**

- A B C  
 1 G Hastings - L Joseph  
 2 1 A Jacobelli - K Eichler  
 3 J Zambroski - A Elis  
 2 1 R Grassel - J Zaccardi  
 3 A Gordon - L Kort  
 2 B Provenzano - P Sprowls  
 3 C Evashavik - S Schwartzwaelder

**Fri Aft 299'er Pairs**

- A B C  
 1 A Sandson - G Sandson  
 2 1 R Greco - J Kabbert  
 3 2 1 M Babbitt - C Conaway  
 3 T Morris - A O'Connell  
 2 C Lesjack - J Lesjack  
 3 M Wandrisco - I Wagner

**Handicapped KO Bracket 1**

- 1 B & K Bergman - M & E Retetagos  
 2 N & E Elis - L & A Colker

**Handicapped KO Bracket 2**

- 1 M McQuistan-B Hartwig-C Rowe-  
 H Stenzel  
 2 H Churchill-M Fezar-C & J Lesjack

**Fri Eve Open Pairs**

- A B C  
 1 R & H Sachs  
 2 C & P Caplan  
 3 P & R Katz  
 1 M McConnell - D Mehok  
 2 1 R Grassel - J Zaccardi  
 3 C Berkman - B Abraham  
 2 S Wozniak - E Collins  
 3 P Anders - S Helm

**Fri Eve 299'er Pairs**

- D E  
 1 G Hetzer - J Davis  
 2 T Morris - A O'Connell  
 3 S Williams - R Greco  
 1 W Berinsky - M Frizzi  
 2 G Goetz Jr - K Dolegowski

**Sat Morn Open Pairs**

- A B C  
 1 N Burney - F Adelsberg  
 2 MP Carns - A Ulke  
 3 J Marshall - R Franck  
 1 ML D'Altorio - R Zack  
 2 1 R Grassel - J Zaccardi  
 3 2 MJ & H Bohl, Jr  
 3 S Wozniak - E Collins  
 3 C Van Gorder, H Greenberg

**Sat Morn 299'er Pairs**

- A B C  
 1 J Jacobs - A Tam  
 2/3 1/2 E & E Diamond  
 2/3 1/2 K Reu - G Alius  
 3 1 I Gleason - R Falsetti  
 2 K Sokalski - D Hoover  
 3 V Crawford - D Trust

**Sat Handicapped Compact KO**

- 1 R Kramer-L Worsely-B Norante-  
 G Moser  
 2 F Prus-F Schenker-D Roseberry-  
 D Frohlich

**Sat Aft Open Pairs**

- A B C  
 1 J Marshall - R Franck  
 2 J Sonon - A Williams  
 3 MP Carns - A Ulke  
 1 P Shivetts - L Evans  
 2 1 N Matthews - V Mehta  
 3 A Jacobelli - K Eichler  
 2/3 S McQuillan - S Schwarzwaelder  
 2/3 D Overcashier - J Rajgopal

**Sat Aft 299'er Pairs**

- D E  
 1 R Carter - R Kramer  
 2 R Kotler - N Rescher  
 3 1 M Frizzi - T Yao  
 2 J Rainbolt - W Hope  
 3 S Podgers - M Siebart

*Continued on following page*

**2011 PGH FALL FESTIVAL SECTIONAL RESULTS**  
**(continued from previous page)**

**Sunday Swiss Teams**

- A B C  
 1 J Marshall-R Franck-  
 B Bergman-K Bergman  
 2 1 1 F Siffrinn-J Fox-  
 S Metzger-R Sheldon  
 3 MP Carns-G Carns-  
 R Katz-A Ulke  
 2 2 N Elis-A Elis-  
 S Nolan-E Ruben  
 3 C Berkman-B Abraham-  
 L Finegold-M Kramer  
 3 J Schultheis-D Pittman-  
 L Duncan-D Collura

**Sunday 299'er Swiss Teams**

- A B C  
 1 W D Lowery-R Patterson-  
 A O'Connell-T Morris  
 2 1 A Tam-J Jacobs-  
 L Schoof-B Schoof  
 3 2 W Berinsky-M Frizzi-  
 K Stiger-J Lhota  
 3 1 L Carey-S Jones-  
 B Creo-A Plunkett  
 2 J Blackburn-K Sokalski-  
 B Wightman-M Hartner

**CONGRATULATIONS  
 TO EVERYONE!!!**

***(I suppose it would be mean of me to point out who's name is conspicuously absent, however, if you had seen how hard Arlene was working during the tournament it is understandable...heh, heh, heh)***

**POST-IT NOTES**

The advent of winter has dealt some cruel blows to our bridge community. We mourn the passing of Inez Plunkett, a gracious and lovely lady. We have also lost a fine, long time player, Claudia Grogan. She was a lovely woman and will be sorely missed by us all.

Get well wishes to June Threlkeld and Ethan Stroh - South Hills players who were taken ill very suddenly and very seriously. Our thoughts are with you. Has anyone here seen Sally Levin? Sally, please come and play soon. We miss you.

OK, here is the monthly list of get well wishes - and if we've forgotten anyone, please drop us an e-mail and remind us!

- Marian Smith
- Mary Anne McNeirney
- Sandy Harris
- Edie Weiser
- Doc Williams
- Betty Noble

At least we can remove Ivan Port from the infirmary list! There he was playing at the PBA last Friday evening team game! Unfortunately, his team ( Including Arlene, Gail and I) did so spectacularly awful that we all almost ended up in intensive care!!

## INTERNET POST

You are South, none vul, IMP's and you hold:

S        K Q  
H        A K J 7  
D        8 5 4  
C        A K 5 4

The bidding is:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	3D	PASS	PASS
DBL.	PASS	3S	PASS
?			

**Stan Ruskin : 4C** This is very difficult. Partner may only have 4 spades on top of everything else. If I bid 4C, partner will know that I have a very good hand and didn't have 4 spades so he knows that I have clubs and hearts and no diamond stopper. He could (should) have anywhere from 5 to 8 points and they are probably not in diamonds. If he has a four card heart suit, he should now bid 4H. If not, depending on his hand, he could raise 4C to 5C with the top of his range and club support or he can bid 4H with 3 hearts if he only has 3C (maybe even 2 clubs). This is very difficult but I think 4C is my bid.

**Bill Holt:** Pass Non-Vuln. Best way to handle this board is to delay long enough so the board gets thrown out. If you miss a game at least it's a white game. You cannot ask for a stopper and partner didn't jump so he could be broke, and probably doesn't have long Spades. I am not playing him for the perfect hand.

**Lou Joseph: Pass** I don't know the answer but I do know that AKN (After forcing him to bid he passed. )

**Steve Nolan:** 4C. The chances of 3NT having any play are poor, and there's no way to find out if it's there. I'm giving up on it and trying to find game in a suit contract by bidding 4C. Partner owes me a bid after this double-and-bid sequence; if that bid's 4H, 4S or 5C I'll pass. If it's 4D, I'll bid 4H; if it's 4NT I'll give a Blackwood response for clubs as trump.

**Asim Ulke:** I bid 3NT. This could result in down 6, but it is the last chance to bid 3NT. Partner can still remove 3NT to a better contract based on his/her holding.

**Gail Carns:** 4C This gives the hand the most leeway. Partner can bid hearts if they have 4 or rebid spades with 5 and if they have neither they probably have clubs.

**Florine Walters: 4S** This is a toughie!. I would like to bid four clubs, in case partner has four clubs. However if partner has five spades and only three clubs, would probably not rebid spades and support clubs, playing me for a good hand with long clubs. Four diamonds is a good hand in support of spades, so that gets us no place. Therefore, I am going for the pedestrian bid of four spades. The only good news about this hand is that I have an opponent who will be faced with the same bidding problem.

**Ernie Retetagos** 4 Clubs. Partner either has at least 5 spades or a 4 card side suit. I am not happy about doubling and bidding a four card suit, but not much choice.

**Marvin Rulin:** pass. It doesn't take much from partner to make 4 spades, J10xxx a singleton diamond and a red queen, but partner may be completely broke with only 4 spades. The certain club lead could force a ruff putting declarer at an extreme disadvantage. No other bid looks promising and could lead to more trouble despite our powerhouse.

**Bob Zimmermann:** Pass. White at IMPs, there is less reason to push. Even 3S is not safe if RHO has a trump stack. I don't expect North to have a diamond stopper, and with both majors and short diamonds I'd likely have heard 4D. So, 3NT and 4H are out as well. 4C is forcing, but where would we be stopping?

**Herb Sachs: Pass** I'm done i quit; i do think i would have bid three hearts rather than double; if my partner is short in diamonds and long in spades we might make three four or five spades but bidding here might be a disaster????

### Auxiliary Expert

**Paul Rosenberg:** 4 Spades... The only known hands are south and the pre-empter..Let's figure West for 7 points and 7 diamonds. It is likely that they can make 6 or 7 tricks in diamonds...so 3NT for N/S would be out of the question. If East had an outside ace like the ace of spades and a protected queen, he might be tempted to bid 3NT for E/W. Therefore I think it is likely that North has at least an honor or two in spades, with 5 or more of them, and probable shortage in diamonds....this would seem to be a good scenario to make 4 spades

**Jane Marshall:** I would pass. My first bid (double) seems strange because I have only 2 spades. However, I have 20 hcp. If partner had long spades and more than 8 hcp, he would have bid 4 spades. Since he didn't jump to 4 spades, I PASS and PRAY.

**PJ Prabhu:** 4S. Hate to raise on a doubleton, but dislike passing even more. Don't want to bid one of my 4-card suits or 3NT. That leaves 4S. Will have some play if partner has ATxxx, Qx, xxx, xxx or ATxxx, xx, Kx, xxx or JTxxx, xxx, Ax, Qxx or JTxxxx, Txx, x, xxx etc. though some of these will require a finesse.

**Richard Katz: 4D** I would like to bid 3D, however, I don't think the opponents wouldn't allow it. If three spades passed out is the only contract that will make, OK, so be it! But, I will bid four diamonds and hope to land on my feet.

**Arlene Port: 4C** If I had any brains at all I would look at the most popular answer and make myself look good. However, as long as my hand doubled originally, I have to decide which contract I'm in will go down the least. I think 4C sounds reasonable, because partner is certain to realize I had hearts in addition to clubs and too short in both suits to overcall and they will pass or correct. (I should get so lucky) Wait!! I just looked over everyone's answer and found I completely agreed with Gail Carns. Maybe I should consider another option.

### INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
3NT	7	1	100
PASS	8	6	90
4D	6	1	70
4C	2	4	50
4S	1	3	50

INTERNET POST  
HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Michael Becker	4D
David Berkowitz	4D
Bart Bramley	P
Larry Cohen	3NT
Mark Cohen	4H
Richard Colker	4H
Billy Eisenberg	P
Carl Hudecek	4D
Sami Kehela	4D
Danny Kleinman	3NT
Eric Kokish	4D
Steve Landen	3NT
Michael Lawrence	P
Robert Lipsitz	3NT
Jeff Meckstroth	4S
M. Miles	P
Barry Rigal	P
Arthur Robinson	4C
Andrew Robson	P
Beverly Rosenberg	4H
Jeff Rubens	4C
Joey Silver	P
Harry Steiner	4D
Chris Willenken	3NT
Anders Wirgren	3NT
Robert Wolff	P
Kit Woolsey	3NT



**UP THE LADDER POST**

**JUNIOR MASTER**

Richard L. Jim  
Pam Myers  
Lois J. Porter

**CLUB MASTER**

Donald Cook  
Mary K. Kahl  
John F. Lesjack  
Ellen T. Sheehan  
George A. Small  
June E. Thelkeld

**SECTIONAL MASTER**

Janet S. Tilton

**REGIONAL MASTER**

Jennifer A. Divittis  
Philippe Weistreich

**NABC MASTER**

Morton L. Goldstein

**SILVER LIFE MASTER**

Phyllis A. Del Signore  
Steven M. Nolan

**FINE ACHIEVEMENTS ALL!**

**DECEMBER 2011 STaC SCHEDULE**

**Sectional Tournaments at Clubs**

*As of the time we went to print, the following clubs were registered for the District 5 December 2011 STaC:*

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Greensburg DBC	Thursday	12/8	Morning
Whitehall Duplicate	Monday	12/5	Afternoon
Washington DBC	Monday	12/5	Evening
Moon Area Duplicate	Wednesday	12/7	Evening
Suburban Bridge	Friday	12/9	Afternoon
Pittsburgh North	Thursday	12/8	Afternoon
PBA (HOLIDAY PARTY)	Friday	12/9	Evening
PBA (SWISS TEAMS)	Sunday	12/11	Morning
Boyd Center	Tuesday	12/6	Morning
Indiana DBC	Tuesday	12/6	Evening
Center Bridge	Saturday	12/10	Afternoon
Milt Frazier DBC	Monday	12/5	Morning
Milt Frazier DBC	Wednesday	12/7	Morning
Milt Frazier DBC	Thursday	12/8	Morning
Milt Frazier DBC	Friday	12/9	Morning
Greensburg Aft DC	Wednesday	12/7	Afternoon
JCC Wechsler	Wednesday	12/7	Afternoon
Export DBC	Monday	12/5	Afternoon
Rodef Shalom	Monday	12/5	Afternoon
Rodef Shalom Novice	Monday	12/5	Afternoon
Allegheny North	Tuesday	12/6	Afternoon
Women of Temple Sinai	Tuesday	12/6	Evening
JCC South Hills	Tuesday	12/6	Evening
JCC South Hills	Thursday	12/8	Afternoon
Pgh EZ Bridge	Tuesday	12/6	Afternoon
Pgh EZ Bridge	Wednesday	12/7	Afternoon
Pgh EZ Bridge	Thursday	12/8	Evening
Natrona Height Duplicate	Monday	12/5	Morning
Greensburg DBC	Tuesday	12/6	Evening
Greensburg DBC	Friday	12/9	Morning
Butler DBC	Thursday	12/8	Evening
Ellwood City DBC	Monday	12/5	Evening
New Castle Bridge	Wednesday	12/7	Evening

## LITIGATION POST

When I had my business, I had a rule: No one was allowed to treat me worse than my children. If they did, I refused to do business with them. That held true, but when I retired, I allowed my level of abuse tolerance by others to slip. But even I have my limits.

Lou Joseph, you are going to need the best attorney in the city to fight the charges I have filed against you for bridge abuse. Although I have several people who have offered to testify in my behalf, I feel there are many more out there who would be happy to back me up.

The following is as list of litigious worthy events I am basing my suit on.

- When I teach and leave my blackboard for a minute, when I return, the letters AKN mystically appear in bold letters. (Does the term “Arlene Knows Nothing” suggest a slur?)
- In his last class, Lou had each of his students approach me as they were leaving, saying that they weren’t sure of anything else, but AKN.
- When I do well in “First At The Post” accomplishments, my name is printed so small, you need a magnifying glass to see.
- I have often heard Lou refer to me as “What’s her name”.
- When we play and new opponents come to the table, if they ask Lou how he is, he replies: “Even though I’m playing with Arlene, I feel OK”.
- And finally, I don’t mind being referred to as a “hag”, but the word “old” just isn’t fair, even if it is correct.

So, come all ye testifiers, join the fight, cause LOU JOSEPH is “GOING DOWN”!!

## THANK YOU POST

Dear PBA members,

Although Lou put it so succinctly, Judy and I would like to take this opportunity to thank , in addition to those mentioned by Lou, Paul Kaplan, who ran out to get more food when we ran out due to the extraordinary attendance. He saved the day for all of us. We would also like to tell Jim Klein and Lou Joseph how much we appreciated their pre-game lectures They were really a big hit with the players. Harold Haffner gets an “attaboy” for shopping and package carrying. Our gratitude also goes to Bill Holt for creating a great flyer for us to distribute. (It’s not true that as Lou suggested, the turkey was a portrait of me. I don’t have that many feathers!)

The tournament was a great success. It was a success because you were there. You made all the work we put into making the tournament special, worth it.

Thank you all so much for supporting your unit and for allowing us to continue to have successful bridge events in Pittsburgh.

We both look forward to being at the next sectional - as guests.

Fondly  
Arlene & Judy

## CAUTIONARY PROBLEM POST

.....by arlene port

If someone asked you what you knew about “Coffeehouse”, you would probably say it’s a restaurant where you get coffee. Well, that may be true as far as Starbucks is concerned, but in the bridge world, “coffeehouse” has an entirely different meaning.

It is, in fact, a strategy practiced by more and more players in any bidding situation. Here’s how it goes. Most frequently, it is used by some players in a competitive auction. The bidding goes something like this: One heart and an overcall of two diamonds by opponents. The bidding proceeds by bidding 2H, followed by 3D and then 3H and a pass. Now the coffee housing begins. It is the heart bidder’s partner’s turn to bid or pass and they hesitate, looking intently at their hand, making you think they are considering going to game. Finally, with a sigh they pass. This makes you believe that if you compete further, you might push them into a makeable game and since you don’t want to do that you pass as well. When the dummy comes down, you are looking at a minimum hand which never had any intention of going to game. Congratulations, their coffee housing worked!! This strategy can and has been used by a few in all bidding situations, such as hesitation out of tempo to make opponents believe you are holding some biddable cards.

What can you do about this? Well, you can tell your coffeehouse that what they are doing is very unethical and is really not part of the game. You can tell them how disappointed you are that they feel it’s necessary to try and fool their opponents. If you don’t want to do that, you can call the director and note the hesitation for protection. Once the same person gets called for the same thing often enough, they are not as likely to continue because their bad behavior has, in effect, been exposed, and their reputation for honesty at the bridge table is in question. Another solution is to maintain the same tempo as your opponents. If they hesitate before bidding, you take the same amount of time as they did before you bid. Best of all is to rely on your partner’s bidding to see whether you should continue to compete. Don’t pay attention to opponent’s hesitations, check vulnerability and strength to determine what you should do.

Coffee housing is usually most effective on those players who need the most support and are intimidated by more experienced players. If is a disservice not only to them but to the person who is consciously trying to keep the opponents out of the bidding.

It is my hope that if you are coffee housing, you would reconsider and play with game as it was intended; with skill and honesty.

# DECEMBER 2011 hot line 412-436-0125

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>11 PBA STaC SWISS TEAM @ Glenshaw Moose</b>	<b>12 Membership Rodef</b>		<b>14 JCC Membership</b>		<b>16 PBA Unit Championship Swiss Team</b>	
					<b>23 PBA Open Pairs</b>	
	<b>26 Roder Club Chmp</b>		<b>28 JCC Club Chmp</b>		<b>30 PBA Open Pairs</b>	
						<b>3 Unit 229 xmas Connoquessing Country club</b>

## FIRST AT THE POST 70% GAMES

Connie Hoechstetter & Bob Quinlan.	Moon Area Dublicate	72.81%
Lou Joseph & Joanne Zambroski	Rodef	70.63%

## 2 IN A ROW

Rege Hovan	Export DBC	Ron Grassel	Export DBC
Carol Berkman	JCC	Barbara Abraham	JCC
Annette Blum	Rodef 199ers	Manny Kann	Rodef 199ers
Arlene Port	Rodef	Judy Haffner	Rodef



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**



**HAPPY  
CHANUKKAH**

