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Unit 142 Pittsburgh, PA February 2014

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

President: Barbara Bergman  
 Vice President: Ron Franck  
 Secretary: Mary Paulone Carns  
 Treasurer: Jane Marshall  
 Club Manager: Mary Carns

# POST MORTEM

## All the news that fits in print

By lou joseph

Well, I for one am not sorry to say goodbye to January. I have nothing against ice, snow and winter weather in moderation, but PLEASE! January was like playing a two session event with Arlene Port - you start out fine; about halfway through you begin to wonder why you ever put yourself through this; and by the time the last card has been pocketed, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! (Just kidding, Arlene. Enough is enough is usually reached by round 3!)

Crikey, it was cold! Arlene had planned to have to Post Mortem available by the first of February, but truth be told, my fingers hadn't thawed out enough to type my bit until the first of this month. So, make sure you acknowledge that the lateness is ENTIRELY LOU'S FAULT. At least one of us will be happy.

Don't forget the upcoming Spring Sectional at the end of March. Rumour has it that the world-class Cubic Zirconia Players will once again parade their thespian prowess for the entertainment of all players between sessions on Saturday. You know the hospitality will be terrific as always (the Bergmans are in charge - God Bless Them!) and a good time will be had by all! Check out the flyer on the opposing page! There is a picture of Arlene when she's potted!! (Ha ha ha...)

If you're still in the 'burgh for the winter, why not try and frequent some of the new games and sites around town? Check the website for all local games, locations and starting times. You'll always be welcome!

*(By the way, I thought that by shaming myself in the inaugural "Bridge Players Do the Dumbest Things Post" other people might be willing to fess up to their own misdemeanors. This is not a confessional; just humor, people! I guess I'm the only idiot in the village!)*



## Hospitality All Sessions!

### Friday, March 28

1:00 PM Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)  
 Stratified 299er Pairs (1 session)  
 7:00 PM Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)  
 Stratified 299er Pairs (1 session)  
 Single Session Swiss Teams

### Saturday, March 29

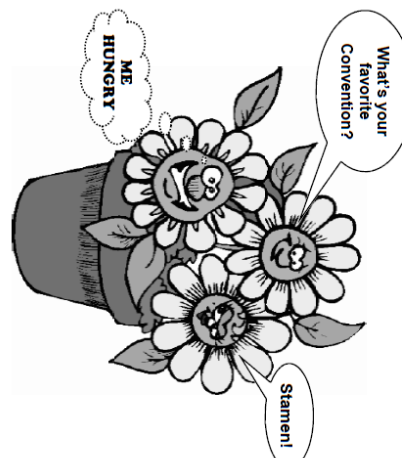
11:00 AM Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)  
 Stratified 299er Pairs (1 session)  
 Compact Handicapped KO Teams (1st of 2 sessions)  
 Lunch on Us between Sessions!!  
 4:00 PM Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)  
 Stratified 299er Pairs (1 session)  
 Compact Handicapped KO Teams (2nd of 2 sessions)  
 Single Session Swiss Teams

### Sunday, March 30

11:00 AM **Super Brunch & Lunch Included**  
 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

<b>Open</b>		<b>299er</b>	
A: 2000+	D: 200-300	E: 50-200	F: 0-50
B: 750-2000			
C: 0-750			
Stratifications in All 299er Straits at Director's Discretion Events by Avg. MPs			

# Pittsburgh Spring Sectional



**Partnerships!**  
 Jane Marshall 412-371-4067  
[1403pards@5bridge.com](mailto:1403pards@5bridge.com)

**Newcomers & 299ers!**  
 Darlene Mannheim  
 412-343-0419  
[299pards@5bridge.com](mailto:299pards@5bridge.com)

**Tournament Chairs!**  
 Barb Bergman  
 Ken Bergman  
 724-935-4591  
[Spring14@5bridge.com](mailto:Spring14@5bridge.com)

Director in Charge: Mike Roberts  
 Sanction # S1403059  
 Pairs Entries \$12 pp.  
 Open Swiss Teams \$100/team  
 299er Swiss \$ 80/team  
 Non & Unpaid ACBL Members  
 \$3 additional per session  
 Student Discount: \$5 per Session

March 28 - 30, 2014

### Masonic Center North

3579 Masonic Way  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15237

### Lesson from an Expert

Friday @ 6:45 PM

**Cubic Zirconia**  
**Life Master Theater**  
 Saturday @ 3:15 PM

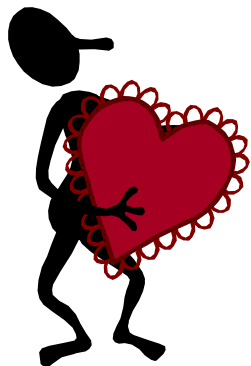


Full Newcomer / NLM Schedule:  
 Newcomer / 299er Pairs -  
 Both Sessions Friday & Saturday  
 PLUS Special Swiss on Sunday!  
 Play ONLY against other New Players  
 Contact Darlene for  
 Partners & Team-building!  
 Full Schedule & Directions at  
[www.pittsburghbridge.org](http://www.pittsburghbridge.org)

## POSTAGE DUE

There are so many of our friends who have, for one reason or another not been able to play bridge at our games, it would be wonderful if we could send them greetings.

If you know someone who is confined and would like to hear from their old friends, please e-mail Arlene at [aport220@comcast.net](mailto:aport220@comcast.net) or Lou at [louismjoseph@comcast.net](mailto:louismjoseph@comcast.net) along with the name and address, and we will be happy to publish the information. Thanks!



Roses are red  
Violets are Blue  
If February is as cold as January  
I'll get the flu

## IN MEMORIAM POST

We also regret to announce the passing of two long-time South Hills players who, while they have not been actively playing, are still remembered and will be missed: Rose Marie (Dolly) Wells and Antoinette (Toni) Rose. Our condolences to their many friends and family members

Our deepest sympathy to Norman Sindler, one of our unit members, his wife Marilyn and their family on the passing of their son and brother Joshua Lee, 46. He was a wonderful young man and we are deeply saddened by his death.

Janet Eames, the wife of Andrew Eames, one of the newest and most welcome players to our unit, died in January. Our deepest sympathies to Andrew, his two children and family and friends.

## UP THE LADDER POST

### JUNIOR MASTER

Mary Cosgrove  
Janet Spear

### CLUB MASTER

Sunny Lee  
Moishe Wallach

### SECTIONAL MASTER

Dianne Boak  
Linda Fried  
Carol Newman  
Lois Porter  
Marla Slusky  
George Small

### REGIONAL MASTER

Arlene Cullen  
Richard Kotler

### LIFE MASTER

Ruth Hughes

### BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Pat Evans  
Jack Hammer

**Yabba-Dabba-Doo!**

## GET WELL POST

In an effort to get attention, Trudy Cohn is having surgery to replace a knee she was tired of.

OK, Trudy, as long as you are going to all that trouble, you'd better recover quickly. I never realized you would do anything not to have to play with me!!

And then, of course, there's Ron Franck who had to outdo us all and have two operations; one on his wrist and the other on his shoulder. Poor Shirley, she certainly has a lot to put up with. Please get better ASAP Ron so you can help Shirley.

Please keep the following players in your thoughts and prayers:

Ginny Headrick  
Herky Block  
Mary Anne McNeirney  
Norman "Doc" Williams  
Bill and Norma Spicher  
Sylvia Williams

We miss you all and think about you often. Take care.

## BRIDGE BYTES BY ERNIE

.....By Ernie Retetagos

### Hints on Bidding, Playing and Defense for Beginning/Intermediate Bridge Players.

*We are re-christening the "Ask Erinie" column . It will now be known as "Bridge Bytes". When Arlene told me about the new name, all I could say was "It certainly does!" Then I realized what she meant. Shame on me!*

*Anyways, Ernie always has something interesting to say for newcomers and advancing players. Now he won't have to wait for questions!*

Question: At matchpoints with neither side vulnerable, you hold

S J 4  
H 9 7 3  
D Q 9 6 2  
C K 10 8 5

West      North      East      South

1 Heart    Double    2 Hearts    Pass  
Pass      Double    Pass       ?

As South, what is your call?

Answer: You should bid 2 NT. Partner has indicated 4 spades, but does not necessarily have 4 cards in both minors. 2 NT asks partner to bid their longest minor, and you will find your 8 card fit. If you instead bid 3 of a minor, that would show a 5 card suit. Your bid would be the same if partner passed originally and then reopened with a balancing double.

In balancing auctions, your side probably does not have the majority of high card strength. For that reason, 2 NT can not be an attempt to play in notrump.

## THANK YOU POST

Note: This letter was sent in response to the generous donation made by the Pittsburgh Bridge Association, Unit #142 from the proceeds of our Pro-Am game and additional member donations .

11/22/2013

Dear Ms. Marshall,

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, our 1600+ member organizations and the millions of people we serve, I write to personally thank you for your most generous contribution of \$2,800 and to welcome you to the ranks of our leading supporters. Our programs focus on reducing the enormous emotional, physical and financial toll of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and with your generous support and the support of others, we are making a difference in the lives of millions of Americans in need.

Your (organization's) exemplary generosity entitles you to special recognition in AFA's exclusive leadership gift society, Care Partners, a circle of leading philanthropists truly committed to strengthening AFA's capacity to respond effectively to the increasing demand for support services from individuals with dementia and their families. Please look for your Care Partners welcome kit to arrive soon and when it does, take pride in knowing that you are among those select few whose level of investment in our work truly makes you a partner in all we do! We are grateful to you and look forward to working with you on advancing a compassionate response to the crisis of Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Once again, many thanks for your strong support

Sincerely, Carol Steinberg, President

**Do Bridge Players know the  
 "secret" to longevity?**

In a recent article about "brain games," we wrote that old fashioned low-tech mental exercises could be just as beneficial as electronic, screen-based brain training programs like Lumosity, and we named chess as an example of such an activity. In response, we received a very persuasive email from 93 year-old bridge enthusiast, author and blogger, Maggy Simony, who was surprised and disappointed that we mentioned chess and not bridge. Her letter began "I'm a nonagenarian (93) who not only plays bridge but blogs about it at Bridgetable.net." Simony pointed out that bridge is every bit as strategic and intellectually demanding as chess, but also an inherently social game. This distinction is important because it's well known that staying socially connected is key to healthy aging. Her letter opined that while chess is played silently against a solitary opponent, bridge involves a minimum of four players and requires communication skills. Bridge players say it's the synergistic combination of the strategic and social aspects of the game that make it so alluring. As another nonagenarian bridge player, Georgia Scott, 99, told the New York Times, "It's what keeps us going. It's where our closest friends are." In the same Times article, neurologist Dr. Claudia Kawas referred to long-lived bridge players like Scott and Simony as "the most successful agers on earth." She went on to note, "We think, for example, that it's very important to use your brain, to keep challenging your mind, but all mental activities may not be equal. We're seeing some evidence that a social component may be crucial."

JANUARY

- 3 GNT Fundraiser game
- 10 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 17 PBA cancelled - Cleveland Regional
- 24 Club Championship
- 31 Unit Championship

FEBRUARY

- 7 Unit Championship
- 14 Junior Fund Game SWISS TEAM and PBA Board Meeting
- 21 Membership Game
- 28 Unit Championship

MARCH

- 7 Unit Championship
- 14 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 21 Open Pairs
- 28 SPRING SECTIONAL at Masonic Ctr

APRIL

- 4 Unit Championship
- 11 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 18 Open Pairs
- 25 Club Championship

MAY

- 2 Open Pairs
- 9 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 16 Unit ACBL Championship and Annual Awards Night
- 23 PBA cancelled - Cleveland Regional
- 30 Unit Championship

JUNE

- 1 Fossick-Goodman SWISS TEAM (tentative)
- 8 NAOP Qualifier
- 12 STaC Pairs (Thursday eve)
- 13 STaC Pairs and PBA Bd Meeting
- 20 Open Pairs
- 27 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM

**UNIT 142 2014 CALENDAR**

JULY

- 4 PBA cancelled - Holiday
- 11 SUMMER SECTIONAL at Masonic Ctr
- 18 NAOP Qualifier
- 25 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM

AUGUST

- 1 New Partnership Night
- 8 NAOP Qualified & PBA Bd Meeting
- 15 Unit Championship
- 22 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 29 PGH "RONI" REGIONAL

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Club Championship
- 12 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 19 Unit Championship
- 26 Open Pairs

OCTOBER

- 3 Club Championship
- 10 Club Appreciation SWISS TEAM & PBA Bd Meeting
- 16 Instant Matchpoint Game - special Thursday Afternoon
- 17 Club Appreciation Pairs
- 23 PRO-AM @ Rodef Shalom (Thursday)
- 24 Open Pairs
- 31 Open Pairs

NOVEMBER

- 7 Unit Champ & Annual Member Meeting
- 14 FALL SECTIONAL at Masonic Ctr
- 21 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 28 Open Pairs

DECEMBER

- 5 Unit Championship & PBA Bd Mtg
- 11 STaC Pairs (Thursday-tentative)
- 12 STaC Pairs
- 14 Sunday STaC SWISS (tentative)
- 19 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 26 Open Pairs

**INTERNET POST (cont.) from Page 9**

**Lou Joseph:** I'll start with 2NT to find out partner's minor and to right side the possible impending NT contract. Partner is vulnerable, but I need to verify his Michaels bid isn't pure shape and no points.

Should be interesting

**Barbara Bergman:** 2NT...I want to find out my partner's minor. However, I'm not sure I want the lead coming through my King of Hearts.

**Gail Carns:** 2NT asking partner what their minor is. I do not plan to pass the response

**Paul Caplan** 2nt to find out what is partners minor. This auction has a long way to go

**INTERNET POST RESULTS:**

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
Redouble	7	2	100
Pass	2	0	90
2NT	12	12	80
4S	3	0	70
4D	1	0	60
3H	1	0	60
5C	0	0	60
3S	0	1	60
4C	0	0	50
3NT	0	0	50
3D	1	1	50
3C	0	0	40
4NT	1	0	40
2S	0	0	30
4H	0	1	N/A

### INTERNET POST

You are South, IMP's, N/S Vul,  
You hold:

S	A 2
H	K 7
D	Q 6 5 4
C	K J 8 5 3

The Bidding is:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
-----	-----	-----	1H
2H	Double*	?	

\* "I would have bid two hearts.

**Richard Katz:** 2NT I bid two NT, do you have a minor with your spades? As this isimps, I then must make a scientific auction to get us just a little too high or in the wrong strain. No way to get a plus score on this hand!

**Jim Bachelder:** 2NT, what's your minor, intending to pass. With both opponent's bidding, partner's double must be minimum. Even if the opponents have 11 opposite 5, that leaves partner with only 11 as well, so I'm not considering a notrump game. Additionally, with partner declaring, my heart king is under attack.

**Jane Marshall :** 2NT asking for partner's minor. I will raise to 4 minor if the bid is available at my next turn. I like my 7-loser hand.

**Trudy Cohn:** I will bid 2NT to see what our minor suit fit is.

**Herb Sachs:** 2NT I need to get more information. I'm soft-peddling because someone is kidding. I just don't know who it is. Maybe I could bid 3H.

**Asim Ulke:** I bid 3S. South has to take the lead for any game to make. There is no way for south to be the declarer in a minor suit game.

**Bill Holt 2NT.** Tough hand. 3H! and 4NT also come to mind. It would help to know how disciplined 2H! is. I have an awful lot to presume that they can make 4H. So I will walk this dog slowly and see what happens

**Steve Nolan:** Redouble. A forcing bid that says it's our hand, but I'm not sure of the best spot. I will have a good idea of where the hand should play if West passes and partner bids again, and if West rebids hearts (which is quite likely) and partner passes, partner should realize that I have both minors if I bid clubs next time around.

**Robert Zimmermann: 2nt.** Asking for partner's better minor. I usually play Michaels as either better or worse than an opening bid. Partner should rebid something other than 3 of a minor with the big hand. At that point, I'll have a decision to make.

**Arlene Port: 2NT** As usual, having seen the "best" answer, I choose, once again, to disregard their answer and use my own "best judgment". 2NT seems to me to be the bid that will give me the most information about this hand. Who cares what Charles Goren thinks? If it's good enough for Jeff Meckstroth, it's good enough for me.

**PJ Prabhu 3D.** A big gamble. The correct bid is 2NT asking partner's minor suit. There is a distinct advantage in declaring this deal from the South seat. 3D is an attempt to do that, guessing partner's minor. I intend to bid C next, if I get a chance. If partner's minor is D, I'll certainly get the opportunity. If not, I'll be forced to look for a new partner and team mates next time.

**Stanley Ruskin: 4H** Partner has a hand that probably doesn't have many high card points but a lot of playing value. I could see us making anywhere from four to six of a minor. If partner's second suit is clubs, they opponents have a good save at the five level and could find it if given time so I don't want to give them the time. On the other hand, what does your partnership play. Some play that a direct 4NT bid in this position is Blackwood so I can't bid that if that is what we play. I would bid this if we didn't since that would mean pick your minor. Thus, if I bid 4H which is a transfer to 4S and then bid 4NT, that would be to pick your minor. I would not bid less than 4H, however, since that would probably take the opponents out of a save. Thus, I would bid 4H and then 4NT if that wasn't Blackwood

**Ernie Retetagos:** Redouble. Sounds like a pinochle deck, so there is probably a lot of distribution. I'll let partner know that I have some helpful values in case they want to compete beyond the 3 level.

### HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Michael Becker	2NT
David Berkowitz	2NT
Bart Bramley	R
Larry Cohen	3H
Mark Cohen	2NT
Richard Colker	R
Billy Eisenberg	4D
Sar Gohel	2NT
Carl Hudecek	4NT
Sami Kahela	4S
Danny Kleinman	2NT
Eric Kokish	R
Steve Landen	2NT
Michael Lawrence	R
Robert Lipsitz	3D
Jeff Meckstroth	2NT
Marshal Miles	4S
Barry Rigal	2NT
Arthur Robinson	P
Andrew Robson	4S
Beverly Rosenberg	2NT
Jeff Rubens	P
Joey Silver	2NT
Chris Willenken	R
Anders Wirgren	R
Robert Wolff	2NT
Kit Woolsey	2NT
Zia	R

# FEBRUARY 2014

PBA HOTLINE: 412-219-CLUB (2582)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
					7 PBA Unit Championship	8
2	3	4	5	6		
9	10	11	12	13 14	14 PBA Junior FUND SWISS TEAM & Bd Meeting	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 PBA Membership Game	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 PBA Unit Championship	

## FIRST AT THE POST 70% GAMES

Harold & Judy Haffner	JCC	75.89%
Asim Ulke & Trudy Cohen	Rodef	75.15%
Richard Katz & Asim Ulke	Rodef	72.76%
J Zambroski & A Ellis	Allegh North	73.33%

*(This actually happened in November 2013, but it took us this long to verify it!!! At least that's our excuse for not reporting it earlier!)*

### 4 IN A ROW

Nicholas Rescher	Rodef 199er's
Richard Kotler	Rodef 199er's

### 3 IN A ROW

Pete Cannon	Rodef 199er's	Mary Beth Cannon	Rodef 199er's
Nicholas Rescher*	Rodef 199er's	Richard Kotler*	Rodef 199er's

\*Previous month

### 2 IN A ROW

Ray Priest	SH Thu	Connie Hoehstetter	Sub Fri
Bob Quinlan	Sub Fri		

**CONGRATULATIONS  
YOU DONE GREAT!**

## PBA 3 MONTHS AT A GLANCE

### FEBRUARY

- 7 Unit Championship
- 14 Junior Fund Game SWISS TEAM and PBA Board Meeting
- 21 Membership Game
- 28 Unit Championship

### MARCH

- 7 Unit Championship
- 14 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 21 Open Pairs
- 28 SPRING SECTIONAL at Masonic Ctr (see flyer on page 2)

### APRIL

- 4 Unit Championship
- 11 Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 18 Open Pairs
- 25 Club Championship