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Unit 142

Pittsburgh, PA

January 2015

POST MORTEM

WEBSITE AT www.pittsburghbridge.org

President: Ron Franck

Vice President: Lorraine Hanna

Secretary: Mary Paulone Carns

Treasurer: Jane Marshall

Club Manager: Mary Carns

Unit Recorder: Judi Sonon (judi@diegosan.com)

All the news that fits in print

by arlene port

It's so quiet in Pittsburgh, you can hear a card drop. I can't understand why. Oh Wait!! Maybe it's because everyone, with the exception of us few hardy souls, have taken off to warmer pastures. Well, I so prefer the cold, wet and snowy climate, I feel sorry for those misguided people. Naturally, my veracity is unquestioned. After all, everyone knows I speak the truth when I say I am not a jealous person and on my next birthday I will be 45.

Now on to the spirit of the new year; and what a glorious year 2015 is going to be in the land of Pittsburgh Bridge. Here's hoping that our bridge will be as exciting as the events we play in. We have so much to look forward to at our sectionals and our Labor Day Regional and our special events.

For those of you who didn't get to our holiday party, I will tell you it was simply the best. Ruthie Neafach and Jeanne Baseman, once again, gave us a memorable evening of good fun and great food. We thank them for all their hard work. Ladies, we had such a great time, we want you to know it was worth every bit of your effort.

Finally, Lou and I would like to thank you all for reading our tiny newsletter and wish you the happiest and, most importantly, the healthiest year ever. We look forward to being with you at all the familiar places bridge is played in Pittsburgh. We also wish you good luck at the bridge table! ¡ ¡ ¡ .just not against us.

THE TOP TEN POST OF 2014

TOP TEN EXCUSES WHEN I MADE A MISTAKE:

- 10.. I wanted to prove that I'm human just like you.
9. This is the first mistake I ever made.
8. I couldn't concentrate because the dog ate my homework.
7. I had a diamond in with my spades.
6. I was so busy playing the rule of 11, the rule of 20 and the rule of 30, not to mention an 8 loser hand, no wonder I forgot to pull trump.
5. I revoked because I wanted to save opponents trump to use when I ran out of a suit.
- 4, I didn't lead back a spade because I didn't want to waste my A, K and Q.
3. I lost track of what I was doing because my cell phone rang and I really had to find out if my friend bought that sweater she liked so much and before I knew it, I was down 2. (Next time, she'll have to live with a text)
2. I thought I was playing three clubs, not three no trump. (a common error)

AND THE NUMBER ONE EXCUSE:

1. **It was your fault because if you hadn't been sitting there, I wouldn't have done it.**

TOP TEN COMMENTS WHEN PARTNER MADE A MISTAKE:

10. Don't worry, I might have done that myself if I were drunk and had dementia.
9. It was so much fun playing Go Fish with you today. Unfortunately, we were at a duplicate bridge game.
8. Are you crazy?
7. Where did you learn to play bridge? At the poker table?
6. I see you're out of a suit. No brains partner!
5. Did an alien come down and steal your brain? (This one I have really heard.)
4. Next time I agree to play non-forcing responses at the two level I will let you know. (This one I really heard as well)
3. No problem, but if you do that again, I will have to hurt you.
2. You're an idiot!

AND THE NUMBER ONE COMMENT:

1. **Whoops, Zero Tolerance.....Sorry, you're an idiot.**

These two lists only prove that I could never have made a living as a comedy writer..arlene

IN MEMORIAM

Bob Tucker, passed away December 13. Bob and his wife, Jackie were regulars at the Pittsburgh bridge tables for many years until they retired to Florida a few years ago. Bob, an attorney, was very much a part of Pittsburgh, having lived here until recently. He was such a good guy, we will miss him very much. Our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Roger Davis died in December. Roger was the husband of Gigi Davis, a regular player at the Boyd Community Center. Our condolences to Gigi and her family. We wish Gigi good health and happier days in the future.

PBA 3 MONTHS AT A GLANCE

FEBRUARY 2015

- 6 PBA Club Championship
- 13 PBA Unit Championship SWISS TEAM and PBA Board Meeting
- 20 PBA Membership Game
- 27 PBA Unit Championship

MARCH 2015

- 6 PBA Unit Championship
- 13 PBA Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 20 PBA Membership Game
- 27 PBA Unit Championship

APRIL 2015

- 3 PBA Open Pairs
- 10 PBA Unit Charity (ACBL) Championship SWISS TEAM & Bd Mtg
- 17 PBA Open Pairs
- 24 PBA Unit Championship

UP THE LADDER POST

JUNIOR MASTER

Lonnie Carey
Dave Gaefke
Ann C. Plunkett

CLUB MASTER

Syed H. Ali
Cela M. Mascarenhas

SECTIONAL MASTER

John L. Driscoll

REGIONAL MASTER

Gary R. Goetz, Jr.

GOLD LIFE MASTER

Janice E. Phillips

**MARVELOUS!
SIMPLY MARVELOUS!**

You're lookin' good, Lou



GOOD WISHES POST

We continue to offer our hopes and prayers for the speedy recovery of the following players:

Herky Block
Mary Anne McNeirney
Norman oDoco Williams
Bill and Norma Spicher
Betty Noble
Arnie Roberts
Phil Miller
George Cross

Please get well soon!!

FYI - Phil Miller is recovering from a heart attack suffered in November. We are terribly sorry we are late with our sympathies, but our hearts are in the right place...

HELP!!

IF:

YOU are under the age of 95
YOU want to get started in an exciting new career
YOU love telling people where to go and what to do
YOU can pronounce the phrase:
oBehave yourselfo

THEN, MY FRIEND, YOU QUALIFY FOR THE EXALTED POSITION OF BRIDGE DIRECTOR. All you have to do is take a test and pretend you know everything. Seriously, think about it and call me. We are in great need of new directors. This is a paying position

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos



COMPETITIVE AUCTIONS

The majority of bridge hands are part score battles. In a competitive auction it is important to differentiate between a competitive bid and a game try. In a typical auction you open 1 spade and LHO overcalls 2 clubs. Partner raises to 2 spades and RHO bids 3 clubs. If you now bid 3 diamonds or 3 hearts, you are showing extra values with strength in the bid suit. Partner can raise to 4 with extras. A rebid of 3 spades by opener shows a 6 card suit with a minimum hand. Partner is expected to pass. Opener might be expecting to go down one against their part score.

With 9 trumps you should usually compete to the 3 level. This is the same logic as if partner opened 2 spades, and you raise to 3 with 3 card support. Some partnerships play 1-2-3 stop in an uncontested auction and non vul. The 3 level bid is a preemptive raise intended to keep the opponents from entering the auction. The Law of Total Tricks suggests that if you can not take 9 tricks in your 9 card fit, then the opponents can make at least 9 tricks in their best suit.

(Ed Note: Be very careful when you compete to a level where you may push the opponents into a makeable game that they would never have bid. Generally speaking, if you cannot defend against a game bid by opponents or you are not willing to make a sacrifice at a higher level, you probably should rethink competing. Even worse, you may be doubled and pay for it dearly with a minus score greater than opponents part score.)

OUTER LIMITS POST

Did you notice Arlene's zip code in the last few issues on the masthead was 152113? This confirms what I always suspected - that she is from another planet.

NEWS OF INTEREST POST

Starting in 2016, District 5 is pleased to announce that the RONI Labor Day Regional is moving to the Monroeville Convention Center and the DoubleTree Hotel!!!

Starting in 2015, PBA Unit 142 is increasing the entry fee for the Friday Evening Duplicate Game to \$ 7.00 per person.

PBA UNIT 142 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 02 Junior Fund Game
- 09 Unit Championship Swiss Team
- 16 NO GAME - Cleveland Regional
- 23 Unit Championship
- 30 Open Pairs

FEBRUARY

- 06 Club Championship
- 13 Unit Championship Swiss Team & PBA Board Meeting
- 20 Membership Game
- 27 Unit Championship

MARCH

- 06 Unit Championship
- 13 Unit Championship Swiss Team
- 20 Spring Sectional @ Masonic Ctr
- 27 Open Pairs

APRIL

- 03 Open Pairs
- 10 Unit Charity Championship Swiss Team & PBA Bd Mtg
- 17 Open Pairs
- 24 Unit Championship

MAY

- 01 Club Championship
- 08 Unit Championship Swiss Team
- 15 AWARDS NIGHT
- 22 NO GAME - CLEVELAND REGIONAL
- 29 Unit Championship

JUNE

- 05 NAOP Qualifier
- 12 Unit Championship & PBA Bd Mtg
- 18 Thursday Eve STaC Pairs
- 19 STaC Pairs
- 26 Unit Championship Swiss Team

JULY

- 03 NAOP Qualifier
- 10 Summer Sectional @ Masonic
- 17 Open Pairs
- 24 Unit Championship
- 31 Unit Championship Swiss Team

AUGUST

- 07 New Partner Night
- 14 NAOP Qualifier & PBA Bd Mtg
- 21 Unit Championship
- 28 Unit Championship Swiss Team

SEPTEMBER

- 04 RONI Labor Day Regional
- 11 Unit Championship Swiss Team
- 18 Unit Championship
- 25 Club Championship

OCTOBER

- 02 Club Championship
- 08 Thursday PRO-AM Game @ Rodef Shalom
- 09 Club Appreciation Swiss Team & PBA Bd Mtg
- 16 AM Instant Matchpoint Game
- 16 Open Pairs
- 23 Club Appreciation Pairs
- 30 Open Pairs

NOVEMBER

- 06 Unit Championship and Annual Membership Meeting
- 13 Fall Sectional @ Masonic
- 20 Unit Championship Swiss Team
- 27 Open Pairs

DECEMBER

- 04 HOLIDAY PARTY
- 10 Thursday STaC Pairs
- 11 STaC Pairs
- 18 Unit Championship Swiss Team

CONGRATULATORY POST

Darlene Mannheimer has received the ACBL award for recruiting 100 new ACBL members. According to ACBL's research, Darlene is the first member of unit 142 to receive such an award. The award package included a letter of appreciation, a certificate of achievement, and a monetary reward.

Darlene is a certified ACBL Director and Easy Bridge teacher. She runs 2 Future Live Masters games and 2 open games and has a number of Beginner/Intermediate classes each week. .

NICE GOING, DARLENE. ...AND THANKS

DISTRICT 5 2014 WINTER STaC RESULTS

District Rank	Unit Rank	
1	1	Constance Hoechstetter
2	2	Bernard Fudor
3	3	Gail Carns
4	4	Bradley Craig
6	5	Robert Quinlan
9	6	Barbara Bergman
10	7	Ernie Retetagos
18	8	Marla Slusky
21	9	Jane Marshall
22	10	P Caplan
23	11	Harold Haffner
25	12	Ronald Franck
27	13	Lorraine Worsley
29	14	Judy Haffner
32	15	James Klein
39	16	Ami Elis
40	17	Mary Paulone Carns
42	18	Richard Fowkes
44	19	James Gray
45	20	Arlene Port
52	21	Rowna Sutin
58	22	Kathleen Mulligan
60	23	Curt Woodhead
62	24	Louis Joseph
66	25	Donald Toy
67	25	Cleman Rosenberger Jr

GIFTS AT THE BRIDGE TABLE - sub-title DUMMY ACCESS?

í í í í í í í í ...by john pickett

On a November Friday at Wilkins Township, Gus Costanza's card dealer malfunctioned, so it was shuffle and deal. This beauty was my first hand (cards rotated for those who insist that South be declarer).

I am South, matchpoints, all vul.

	NORTH	Spades	52		
		Hearts	94		
		Diamonds	KQT93		
		Clubs	QJT4		
	WEST	Spades	J964	EAST	Spades KT87
		Hearts	AT8632		Hearts 5
		Diamonds	J74		Diamonds 8652
		Clubs	- -		\Clubs K973
	SOUTH	Spades	AQ3		
		Hearts	KQJ7		
		Diamonds	A		
		Clubs	A8652		

Bidding and Play. After 3 passes, I'd like to open 2 No Trump, but not with a singleton, so I opened one Club. When partner bid one Diamond, I jumped to 3 No Trump. West led a small Heart, covered by the 9 which held the trick. I called for the Club Queen, covered and taken in hand, West discarding a Heart. Next, I unblocked the Diamond Ace. Since the Clubs will not run, I played the Heart King to West's Ace. West then led a small Spade to the King and Ace. Next, I led a Club to the Jack, followed by the Diamond King and Queen. When the Diamond Jack fell, I claimed, making 6 for 690.

Post-mortem. Trick number one provided the first Gift, a most welcome Dummy entry. When East covered the Club Queen at trick two, that was the second Gift. Gift number three came when West gave us a free finesse in Spades. Gift number four came when the Jack of Diamonds fell. Now go back to Trick 2 and suppose that East withholds the Club King. If we continue with the Club Jack, East can again play a small Club to deny access to Dummy's Diamonds. So we must unblock the Diamond Ace at trick 3, followed by a Club to the Jack and East's King. With no Heart to lead, East's choices are between a passive Club return to the Jack or a challenging spade lead. On a Club return, we can run Dummy's Diamonds, but how do we discard? On a Spade return, we're held to four if the finesse loses. So many possibilities!

Results. This hand was played 13 times, with five of us making 6 No Trump, followed by three making 5 No Trump and one making 4 No Trump.

(Ed note: Thanks John - Post, Post Mortem: It pays to be lucky!!)

INTERNET POST

You are South, IMP's, none vul. You hold:

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

THE BIDDING IS:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1D	PASS	1H	PASS
?			

Ed Note: In the December Post Mortem, because I corrected the number of cards from 12 to 13, Herb Sachs changed his bid to 2H over the 2C bid by opponent. The only difference between me and Herb is that he can count to 13 and I can only count up to 12. Sorry.

Stan Ruskin 2D If my D were better 6 AJT9xx, I might bid 3D 6 but they aren't so I am bidding 2D and see where that goes. If partner bids again, I can be more aggressive but I don't like doing anything that might imply more than a singleton H. If we have a game or even a slam, this can be the best way ultimately.

Herb Sachs: 1S and hope for something interesting; This is a good hand but we must find a fit; this bid gives partner lots of choices. Basically my bidding shows 5-4(6-3) is close.

Jane Marshall: 3d. The hand has 6 losers (that makes it as good as a 1NT opener, but I could not open 1NT (singleton). It shows a 6-cd suit and point count at the top of a 1NT range

Bernie Fudor: 2 diamonds. I don't really see another choice

Robert Zimmermann 2D This is close between 2 and 3. Vulnerable at IMPs, I'd stretch to invite. White, I'm content to see if partner can come up with another bid. 3NT is the most likely game, but will require cards in 3 suits.

PJ Prabhu 2D. Weak suit and singleton in partner's suit are negatives. Moreover, we are not vulnerable to push for game. If my K were in D instead of S, I'd bid 3D.

Steve Nolan 3D, showing 16-18 points and a six-card diamond suit. It's never an ideal bid because there is no room for partner to make an invitation, but any alternative denies this holding and can lead to a missed game or slam.

Paul Kaplan: 3D I have 16 high cards and a imperfect 6 card suit. This bid is most accurate for this hand.

Trudy Cohn: 3D The suit isn't great but the only bid I can think of that describes the hand is 3 diamonds.

Jim Bachelder: 2D I'm bidding just two diamonds. If I had the 10 and 9 of diamonds, I'd bid three diamonds. This could be a misfit if partner has a stiff diamond (something like: XXX, KJXXX, X KXXX) and 2D may be the last making contract.

Marvin Rulin: 3D My diamond suit is not as strong as I would like but 2 NT is an overbid and 1NT an underbid. One spades could lead to trouble. 3 diamonds says 6 card suit with 16-17 points

Bill Holt 3d. I suppose 1S will be a popular choice. 3d shows long diamonds and extras, and hey, that is what I gotz. This is a hand where I wish I were playing K/S (Kaplan-Sheinwold) and had 2c! available as a Reverse not guaranteeing 4 clubs.

Asim Ulke I bid 2D. The suit is too weak to bid 3D. There is no game unless partner can invite game.

Marvin Rulin: 3D My diamond suit is not as strong as I would like but 2 NT is an overbid and 1NT an underbid. 2 spades could lead to trouble. 3 diamonds says 6 card suit with 16-17 points

Gail Carns 3D I don't like it without 6 good diamonds but I have 16 HCP and 6 diamonds.

Richard Katz/Pat Katz: 2d We bid 2diamonds Long weak suit, no fit with pard. Therefore we underbid now but come alive later if bidding continues.

Ernie Retetagos: 3 Diamonds. Since as little as K third of diamonds gives a good play for 9 tricks, I'm not going to make a minimum rebid. No trump should be played from partner's side to protect club or heart cards. A 1 spade bid could work out, but could also work out very badly. I would prefer to have a better suit, but 3 diamonds seems pretty descriptive.


Arlene Port: 2D Although this hand has high-card strength, the 6 card diamond suit is not strong and has little value unless partner has support. If partner shows a strong hand or support for diamonds, I will not stop bidding until I get into trouble!! Or a good contract.

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

David Berkowitz	2C
Bart Bramley	3D
Gerald Caravelli	2C
John Carruthers	2C
Larry Cohen	1S
Billy Eisenberg	2C
Steve Garner	2C
Ron Gerard	2D
Sar Gohel	3D
Jim Hall	3D
Carl Hudecek	2D
Edwin Kantar	1S
Sammy Kehela	2D
Danny Kleinman	2C
Eric Kokish	2C
Chip Martel	3D
Marshall Miles	2C
Sue Picus	3D
Arthur Robinson	2C
Eric Rodwell	3D
Michael Rosenberg	2C
Jeff Rubens	3C
Kerri and Steve Sanborn	2D
Paul Trent	2D
Eddie Wold	2C
Robert Wolff	1S
Kit Woolsey	2NT
Zia	2C

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
2C	12	0	100
3D	6	8	70
2D	5	8	60
1S	3	1	50
2NT	2	0	40

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Junior Fund Game	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 PBA Unit Championship Swiss Team	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 PBA canceled Cleveland Regional	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 PBA Unit Championship	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 PBA Open Pairs	

FIRST AT THE POST

70% games

Doris Hess & Bob Tate	77.08%	Whitehall Monday
Pat Katz & Reanette Frobouck	74.04%	JCC
Richard Katz & Bob Zimmermann	70.83%	JCC

CONGRATULATIONS!!



NEED TO TELL US SOMETHING?
 WANT TO COMPLAIN?
 WANT TO BRAG?
 WANT TO ANNOUNCE SOME GREAT EVENT?

Well, that's what we are here for. Let us know and we will publish your wonderful news in the Post Mortem. You can call either Lou Joseph or Arlene Port and just like that, we will make you famous. We promise.



In case you don't know who we are, this is a picture of me and Lou.

We are getting ready to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.