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Unit 142 Pittsburgh, PA March 2015

POST MORTEM

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 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 poot

OK, WE GET IT!! IT'S WINTER!! But honestly, couldn't we have had just a few cold days and gotten over it? I definitely would have to say this year was one of the worst years we have ever had in terms of low temperatures. Keeping in mind the Chinese tradition of giving a name to each year, as in "Year of the Cat", or "Year of the Wolf", I have decided to give this year the name: "YEAR OF WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?" I am at the point where -5 below is a heat wave. Let us all pray that March forgets about coming in like a lion and goes straight to lamb time.

The good news is that we have something special to look forward to in March, and that is the Spring Sectional. I am so ready. I hope my bridge is ready as well. So, bring out your favorite (or not) partner, roll the dice and take your chances at the big prize: a 50% game. Lou and I will look forward to seeing you there. (We're hoping for a 47%...)

All of us are anxious to improve our game. We take lessons, we read books, we learn new conventions and we play a lot to gain experience. One thing many of us neglect to do is to use our best aid in making good choices and that is thinking things through. Please read *BRIDGE BYTES* by Ernie Retetagos and learn how his thinking process leads him to make good decisions. Make certain you add his analysis skills to your convention card and when you do, you will be a star.

Have a great spring and make certain you come to the inspiring entertainment at the Sectional.

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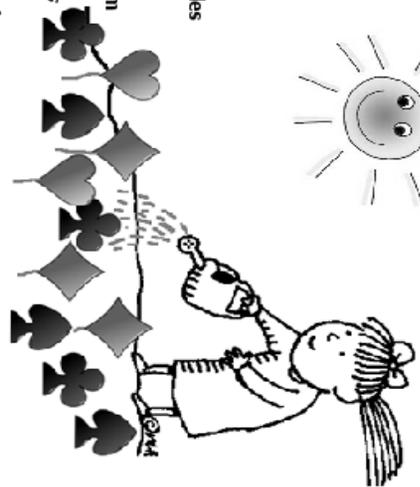
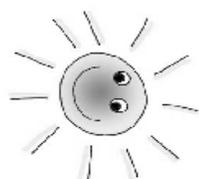
Director in Charge: Alex Bealles
 Sanction # S 1503075

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

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

Pittsburgh Spring Sectional

Hospitality All Sessions!



Friday, March 20

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 21

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

March 20 - 22, 2015

Sunday, March 22

Super 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

Lesson from an Expert

Friday @ 6:45 PM



Cubic Zirconia
 Life Master Theater
 Saturday @ 3:15 PM



Open	299er
A: 2000+	D: 200-300
B: 750-2000	E: 100-200
C: 0-750	F: 0-100
Stratifications in All Events by Avg. MPs	
Director's Discretion	

IN MEMORIAM

It has been a particularly difficult time for us all this year. We have lost so many of our members and dear friends in our unit. Unfortunately, we have more to report.

Gerrie Egerman died, rather suddenly, in February. It just seems as if we celebrated her 90th birthday so recently. Gerrie was such a lovely lady, who played mostly at Rodef and the JCC. She was always anxious to improve her game and worked very hard to fine-tune her skills. Gerrie was always kind to her partners and a joy to be with at the table. Her passing is a great loss to us all. She was such an asset to our game. We will miss her and send our condolences to her friends and her family.

We are a little tardy in reporting the passing of Dr. Matt Zimmer. He was not an ACBL member, but he was an active bridge player until about ten years ago. Matt was a dentist in Canonsburg before he retired. He played the Tuesday evening Beth El game so many years ago. Phyllis Geinzer remembers playing with him a few times and he was always a gentleman and a gentle man. He did not take his successes or failures at the table with anything but aplomb. All of his partners enjoyed his company. He will be fondly remembered by the "old timers" in the South Hills.

Lastly, Jim Morton, 86, passed away on January 27 at a retirement community in Roanoke VA where he and his wife had been living the past several years. He had been a partner at Buchanan Ingersoll and was a past president of Edgewood Country Club. Jim had been an active member of the Pittsburgh Men's Duplicate Bridge Club and played in unit games after his retirement, quite often with Dr. Jim Zaccardi. He was always an affable man, both professionally and socially.

PBA 3 MONTHS AT A GLANCE

APRIL 2015

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

MAY 2015

- 1 PBA Club Championship
- 8 PBA Unit Championship SWISS TEAM
- 15 PBA AWARDS NIGHT & Unit Grass Roots Fund Game
- 17 FOSSICK-GOODMAN SWISS TEAM @ Edgewood CC
- 22 PBA CANCELED - Cleveland All American Regional
- 29 PBA Unit Championship

JUNE 2015

- 5 NAOP Qualifier
- 12 PBA Unit Championship and Bd Meeting
- 18 PBA Special Thursday Evening STaC Pairs @ Glenshaw Moose
- 19 PBA STaC Pair
- 26 PBA Unit Championship Swiss Team

GET WELL POST

News from Florida: Dolores Ikach-Lefcort is returning early to the 'burgh for some tests. Rumors flew around the PBA regarding some mysterious illness she had contracted, so I talked to Alan to get the truth. Dolores was in the hospital being treated for virus-like symptoms but will be coming home this month for additional test. Can't be too bad, because apparently Alan is staying in Florida. Or maybe the bloom is off the rose? No, Dolores will stay with her daughter here in the frozen wasteland and Alan will stay in Florida - according to Dolores, hopefully in the Everglades.

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos



WINNING THOUGHT AT MATCHPOINTS

You always want to bid your close games at imps, because you are getting odds. A vulnerable game decision can win 10 or lose 6 imps compared to a part score at the other table. A non vul decision can win 6 or lose 5. However, at matchpoints the odds are not as generous.

Assume that you are playing in a 12 table game, with 11 as top. After you open in a major, partner makes a limit raise, and you correctly estimate that game has a 50% chance. Assume also that 6 pairs bid game and 6 pairs play a part score. If the situation involves a choice of 50% plays, the scores would be 620, 170, 140 and -100. If each outcome has an equal probability, the respective matchpoints would be 10, 7, 4, and 1. Your net expectancy is the same no matter what you bid. However there is a greater variance in your score when you bid a game. (The score sheet would look different if you were missing a King, and everyone took the same number of tricks.)

If you have a two way guess for a Queen, I would prefer to be in a part score. If you lose your finesse, you will get 4 matchpoints. You are glad you didn't bid more because you got 4 instead of 1. If you find the missing Queen, you will get a 7 on the board. If you had bid game, you would have scored 10, a gain of 3. But with a losing finesse, you would get a 1 instead. By bidding game, you are risking 6 matchpoints to win 3 on a 50% chance. You can get an above average score by making 10 tricks, without the risk of bidding game and going minus.

Of course, you can not precisely calculate your odds in the bidding, nor can you accurately predict what the field will do. There are also intangibles like a favorable lead or some unusual contract. My tendency is to play a part score when I think game is 50%. I can get a good score, without risking a bad score.

(Or you can flip a coin - Lou and Arlene)

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
17 Fossick-Goodman Team Game At Edgewood Country Club
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
25 NO GAME

JUST FOR LAUGHS...

#1

Joe: Sorry, I misplayed that hand.

Frank: Forget it. You gave it your best.

Joe: No, I played like a *fish*.

Frank: Why would you say that?

Joe: Because I was led down the pike and floundered trying to be Bonito Garozzo.

#2

Judy, Trudy and Arlene wanted like to play in the Mixed Pairs, so they go to the partnership desk well before game time. The hostess cordially greets them but warns, “We have *one rule* here: No cell phones!”

Sure enough, before another word could be spoken, Judy’s cell phone rings, and the hostess says, “Sorry, Judy. For that I must pair you with Joe, the worst male bridge player of all time.”

A few minutes later Trudy’s cell phone chimes, and the hostess says, “Too bad, Trudy. Your partner will be Sam, who is about as hopeless as they come.”

Meanwhile, Arlene waits patiently for almost an hour with her cell phone carefully turned off. Finally, the hostess walks over with Bob Hamman and says, “Congratulations, Arlene! Your partner will be the world’s #1 player.”

Arlene is awestruck as she turns to Mr. Hamman, “I can’t believe it! What could I have done to deserve a partner as great as you?”

“I don’t know what happened to you,” grumbled Bob, “but my damn cell phone went off!”

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS POST

Ed note: If you are listed in the Unit directory, we received notice from the ACBL of this information with regards to privacy. If you wish to make any changes in your listing, please contact Jim Klein, who is the publisher.

Dear District, Unit and Club Officials,

We have received some inquiries about member directories as they relate to the privacy policy. We would like to provide you an update.

If your unit, district or club has released an annual directory of members with their contact information, you may continue to do so. However, we ask that you meet the following conditions:

- Include a statement in the directory and other bridge publications that if a member wishes for his or her contact information to be excluded from the directory, he or she may contact someone to do so.
- Provide clear steps in place that allow members to withdraw their contact information from the directory.
- You must get permission from new members before they are added to any directory. You must get permission from members if you plan to include new fields (such as email addresses) in the directory or begin to post their information online.

Please keep in mind that the privacy policy exists to protect use of member data for activities not related to the ACBL. Clubs, units and districts are authorized to use member information for ACBL-approved bridge activities and communications within their designated areas. These include newsletters, tournament emails, posting results, Mini-McKinney/Ace of Clubs races, etc. Should you have any questions about the policy or other uses, please reach out to us at privacy@acbl.org.

Thank you for your continued efforts.

UP THE LADDER POST

Sorry folks, but the ACBL has not forwarded the latest list to us. Hopefully next month we'll be all caught up!!

ZERO TOLERANCE REVISITED

After declarer goes down in a makeable contract because of inspired but faulty defense, this exchange takes place:

Declarer [to RHO]: You're an idiot!

RHO: DI-REC-TOR!

[Tournament Director arrives]

TD: What seems to be the problem?

RHO: This man called me an idiot.

TD [to Declarer]: Are you aware of our Zero Tolerance policy?

Declarer: Of course. And I have zero tolerance for idiots!

INTERNET POST

Matchpoints, none vul. You are South and hold the following:

S K J 9 3
 H J 9 7 5
 D A
 C K 10 6 2

The bidding is:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1C	PASS	1H	4D
4H	PASS	?	

Stan Ruskin 4NT Not too complicated for me. Maybe I am missing something. I either pass or bid 4NT (key card blackwood). We know this is going to be a very distributional hand but I do have lots of controls outside of the H suit. I'm generally aggressive so I would lean to 4NT. We should have a good play for 5 no matter what and if partner has enough key cards, 6 should be a good contract – maybe even 7 but I don't think we could get to 7 ever in this auction.

Herb Sachs: Pass; if partner has Axxx Akxx void QJxxx which is possible we might be hard pressed to make four; granted partner might have AQxx AKQx x Axxx but even this might not be enough! preempts are supposed to make life difficult; so give the preemptor his due, expect foul distribution, take your plus (if it's there). Remember partner is under great pressure and may be pushing. If you both push then minus 50 will probably net you a zero.

Asim Ulke Pass. Partner was under pressure. I have bad trumps. We are where we belong

PJ Prabhu . Pass. Yes, I have more than Partner can expect. However, he was under pressure and my trumps are weak and only 4-long.

Paul Caplan: 4nt this hand is worth a slam try on this auction.

Lou Joseph: 4S If I'm playing kickback I bid 4 Spades, because 4NT would be a cuebid of the spade ace. If not, then I bid 4nt blackwood and if the hearts are 5-0, that's the way it goes

Jane Marshall 4 spades (Kickback for hearts). (Not 5 hearts...which I believe should be asking for 2nd round control of diamonds. There is a good chance that North has 2 of the top heart honors, the Ace and Queen of clubs, and the Ace of spades. That's 16 or 17 hcp...he may have more than that to make the 4 heart bid.

Bob Zimmermann: 6H. Yes, we are on a 4/4 heart fit with hearts likely nor breaking well. But, I have not shown much in the way of points (not that I ever do) and partner is bidding game. All he needs is [Ax A**x xx AQxxx] where the asterisks are 2/3 KQT and this should roll.

Ernie Retetagos: 5D. Clearly I am too strong to pass, and a jump to 6 would be bad if partner only has one heart honor. I could bid 4 NT, and do a Queen ask if they show 3 Key cards. I think it is better to show 1st round diamond control. Partner can infer that I have a couple of other cards and take control.

Bill Holt 4S, Kickback RKC. Here is an instance where Kickback can come in handy. Partner put you in game and doesn't know about your 7-loser 12 count with a singleton d. Partner likely has the Keycards you need to make a slam, but the 5S (Two with QH) answer to a 4NT ask could get you too high. Playing Kickback, Hearts are agreed, 4S is the ask: and now if the response is 5H 'two with', you can stop. Darned preempts.

Marvin Rulin: 5D. I struggled with this one debating between cue bidding 5D or passing. North bid 4 Hts indicating a good play for game even if I had a minimum response. I have a lot of extras including the stiff diamond ace but my hearts are really weak. Furthermore the distribution against us will be bad. Hearts are not going to split but the spade finesse is probably on. Giving north the AKxx in hearts, spade ace, club AQxx we should have a play for slam if partner can go on.

Steve Nolan: Pass. Partner was under pressure and should not be punished for (i) showing our fit; (ii) preventing the opponents from stealing the hand cheaply and (iii) taking the pressure off me. With a big offensive hand, partner could have bid 4S, 4NT or 5D.

Richard Katz I pass. A Four:four fit with someone bidding four diamonds, hearts may not break, spades off, clubs? Hope to go plus. If slam is there, oh well!

Gail Carns: 4S Blackwood, I prefer 4S to be blackwood in this situation however most people use 4NT. Roman keycard of course. Pass is possible thinking things are not going to break.

Arlene Port 5D. I believe this is a bid somewhere between going to slam and asking partner if they were only bidding under pressure. If I bid too much and go down, I can always plead insanity. If I pass I have to plead "chicken". I'm simply not confident enough to pass.

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Note: in the 15 years I have been writing this column, the professional responders have always been included at the end of that section. This is the first month that they did not include this information. Sorry about that. But for those of you who thought Al Roth was the best of the bidders, you will be relieved to know that he was either no longer active or he had passed on.

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
5D	7	2	100
4S	3	4	90
5C	3	0	90
5H	0	0	80
PASS	10	5	70
4NT	3	2	60
6C	1	0	50
6H	0	1	20

