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Unit 142 Pittsburgh, PA January 2016

POST MORTEM

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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

Happy New Year to you all. I know I speak for everyone in our Unit, who wishes for good health and good times in the coming year. I guess that, unlike fine wine, age does not make us better. It just makes us older.....Oh well! We are a tough group, so let's hang in there and make 2016 the best year of all.

We do have some very good news. Bruce Stephen, one of our newer players, graciously agreed to be the new Co-editor of the Post Mortem. Bruce brings excellent writing skills, a different perspective on playing bridge in the most difficult venue of them all.....duplicate, and the willingness to share his experiences as an EIT (expert in training.) Bruce, we look forward to your fresh point of view and I promise to treat you with respect, knowing that someday you will be a super player and beat us all at the game.

As usual, Ruthie Neafach and Jeannie Baseman did a remarkable job at the PBA unit party in December. Everything was perfect; the place, the people, the food (oh that wonderful food) and the bridge, even though I forgot to win. They made everything look so easy. We all cannot thank you enough for your efforts.

The Unit 3-month schedule of events is listed on page 6. Please note the cancellations and be sure to make arrangements to play in the January Friday night Swiss Team. That is really a fun evening. Don't worry about a team if you don't have one, just call Jan Marshall and, magically, she will make up a team for you. She is, amazing!! Or—let me know and I will pass it on and she will call you.

Until Bruce becomes more familiar, please let me know what you need in the Post Mortem.....arlene



**King or Queen
Wannabe?**

**Here is your chance
to learn the
World's Greatest Game!**

**LEARN BRIDGE
KING OF THE CARD GAMES**

**Pittsburgh Bridge Association is Offering a
Single-Session Bridge Lesson**

*Designed for the complete newcomer...
Or someone returning to the game!*

Saturday January 23rd ~ 12 Noon - 4:30 PM
Pittsburgh Masonic Center North
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Free Follow-up 'Supervised Play' Session on Sat Jan 30th
Both Sessions for JUST \$10

Advance Reservations Required
Register Online / More Information at:
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Or Call 412-407-CLUB (2582)



American Contract Bridge League Pittsburgh Bridge Association

SCHOOL BRIDGE PROGRAM.....by Lorraine Hanna

UP THE LADDER POST

Tournament day was December 14, at Moon Middle School. This is the second year teaching Bridge to middle school students at Moon, through the Sewickley YMCA's afterschool program. 24 students participated in the program this semester and 16 played in the Tournament and received gifts of cards, cap, mug and hand records. Next semester's class starts in February and the kids are anxious for bridge to start again. One of the volunteers said "I felt like a proud mother when I saw how well one of my students played".

This year we expanded the Bridge School Program to Fox Chapel schools. again. Volunlteers in the PBA School Bridge Program are John Bernhard , lead instructor, assisted by Paul Caplan, Ash Marwah, Connie Hoechstetter, Jane Weiss, Anne Marie Gordon, Kate Splane, Bill Holt, Kathleen Wycoff, Barbara Starr, Bharat Shah, Terri Tunick, Mary Scalercio, Susan Buerklin, Marty Cohen and June Morrison, Jeanne Baseman, Dan McKinley, Bruce Stephen, Susan Portnoy, Sharon Drake, Jim Drake, Karen Shipkovitz, and Arlene Cullen.

We hope to increase the number of schools participating in this program. If you have any connection with a school official, please let me know so that we could expand this Nationally Recognized Program. There is no cost to the schools or the students. Check out www.nextgenbridge.com

We are in need of volunteers who make this program possible and successful. Please help “Keep Bridge Alive”. Contact Lorraine Hanna, Volunteer Coordinator, Lorrainehanna4@gmail.com

JUNIOR MASTER

Regina Lucas
Judith B Ross
Leslie W Swensen
Lynn D Williams

REGIONAL MASTER

Ruth Cohen
Philip L Goulding

LIFE MASTER

Mary Lou Spine

CLUB MASTER

Paul J Merlino

SECTIONAL MASTER

Jacquelyn O Aloe
Virginia Crawford

CONGRATULATIONS !!

PERCENTAGE OF ANSWERS COMPARED TO NATIONAL FIGURES BY POST MORTEM INTERNET PARTICIPANTS PER MONTH IN 2015

All blank spaces reflect non participation for that month.

All “0” s reflect an answer that was given that did not match any of the national “best answer” percentages.

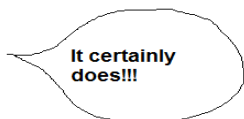
Participants that answered less than 7 of the total year were disqualified from this particular chart.

	01/15/15	02/15/15	03/15/15	04/15/15	05/15/15	06/15/15	07/15/15	08/15/15	09/15/15	10/15/15	11/15/15	12/15 A	12/15 B	Average
Stan Ruskin	60	70	60	90	80	80	90	50	80	100	40	50	80	71.54
Herb Sachs	50	100	70	100	50	100	0	80	80	50	60	50	60	65.38
Jane Marshall	70	70	90	80	20	60	70	80	80	70	50	50		65.83
Bernie Fudor	60				80	100	90	60	100	50				60.00
Bpb Zimmermann	60		20	100	50	20	100	100	100	50	80	30	50	63.33
PJ Prabhu	60	70	70	80	50	20	90	70	80	100	80	50	60	67.69
Steve Nolan	70		70	80	100	80	30	80	80	0	50	30	50	60.00
Paul Caplan	70	70	60	80	80	60	100	80	100	100	100	30	80	77.69
Trudy Cohn	70	70				80	90	80	80	100	100	30	80	78.00
Marvin Rulin	70	0	100		40	20	90	70	80	80	40	30	80	58.33
Bill Holt	70	100	90	90	100	20	100	80	100	50	80	50	100	79.23
Asim Ulke	60	50	70	80	80	100	80	80	80	90	80	50	60	73.85
Gail Carns	70	70	90	10	80	60	90	60	80	100	60	80	50	69.23
Richard Katz	60	60	70	80	80	90	90	50	50	100	80	100	100	77.69
Ernie Retatagos	70	100	100	10	40	20		70	80	50	80		80	63.64

Ed note: Based on these results, we should all be impressed that we have such an accomplished group of players in the Pittsburgh unit. On the other hand, I disqualified myself because I had the opportunity to see the most popular answer each month. **ANYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN OUR PANEL.....IT’S REALLY A LOT OF FUN.**

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos



BRIDGE BYTES

#1	S-K 8 5 4 3 2 H- A K J 10 7 5 D -- C J.	#2	S 10 9 8 6 5 3 H -- D 5 C- K 8 5 4 3 2	#3	S -- H J 10 7 6 4 2 D Q 9 8 7 5 3 C 7.
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#1 Bridge is a bidder's game. It is usually a good idea to enter an auction, especially with extreme distribution. A few wild hands came up recently at club games. Vul. against not, you hold What do you bid after RHO opens 3 clubs? If you double, partner might leave it in, or bid diamonds. You should bid 4 clubs, asking partner to bid their longest major. Most pairs made 10 tricks in hearts.

#2 The decision is not as easy when you don't have many high cards. With everyone vulnerable, partner opens 1 heart and RHO overcalls 1 No Trump. Although I have never done so, some pairs play a conventional response over 1 No Trump overcalls. It would be a good time to be able to show a 2 suiter, but that is not standard. You only have 3 HCPs and you are vulnerable. It could be risky to enter the auction. On the other hand, partner has an opening bid and figures on average to have a couple of spades. If you bid a suit now at the 2 level, it is natural and non-forcing, and denies the ability to double for penalty. Some players might want to bid 2 clubs and later bid spades if the opponents compete in diamonds. I would bid 2 spades and hope to buy it. If you pass, you will be - 90. You can make 10 tricks in either black suit.

#3 With only your side vulnerable, RHO opens 1 spade. If you bid a Michaels bid of 2 spades, that would show hearts and a minor. It is right in theory and was right in practice to bid. Your partner has the best hand at the table, and it takes a club lead to hold you to 10 tricks in diamonds. If you pass, LHO will bid 3 spades, and partner and dealer will pass. Vulnerable against not, it is too risky to bid now. If you pass, you will be -140. You would be safe at the 4 level no matter who your partner was on this hand. With hands that are light in high cards, you want to get into the auction at a low and safe level. As the level increases, it becomes more dangerous to bid.

Bridge is a game of probabilities, and nothing works all of the time. But you don't get 6-6 distribution very often, and when you do, you should get into the auction.

UNIT #142 STaC RESULTS

Dec. 7 Monday Morning Open Pairs

A	B	C	
3	1		Glenda Gibb - Robert Greco
4	2		Judit Bardi - Raymond Kramer

Monday Afternoon Open Pairs

A	B	C	
2	1		Felice Brody - Toby Wolfe
3			Sandra Brand - Marcella Retetagos
4	2		Robert Davis - M Weisensee
		1	Richard Moore - Bruce Antonoff

Monday Afternoon 299's

A	B	C	
1			Ann Fisher - Linda Smith
2			Carol Kann - Stanton Elias
3	1	1	Al Rosenfeld - Bobbie Rosenfeld
	2		Howard Rom - Susan Riley
	3		Syed Ali - Asim Kokan
		2	Olive Verbit - Richard Verbit

Monday Evening Open Pairs

A	B	C	
2	2		Pat Wilde - Alan Leaver

December 8 Tuesday Morning Open Pairs

A	B	C	
2			Gail Carns - James Klein
3			Judi Sonon - Joanne Zambroski
	3		Gene Bischof - Jeanne Bischof
		1	Jackie Posey - Clara White

Tuesday Afternoon NLM Pairs

A	B	C	
1	1		Barbara Lersch - Marge Kasper
2	2		Donald Cook - Jean Cook
3			Stella Kausler - Helen Klink
4			Terry Barker - Nolly Chess
5			Arthur Henry - Marie Henry
		3	Judith Waring - Sheila Catz

Tuesday Evening Open Pairs

A	B	C	
2/3			Bill Holt - Constance Hoechstetter
2/3	1		Bharat Shah - Sidney Metzger

Tuesday Evening Small Games

A	B	C	
1/2	1		David Ruppert - Alan Leaver
1/2			Barbara Bergman - Ken Bergman
3	2		Ronald Sain - Judy Pierce
		3	1 Kathy McKelvey - Eleanor Winsheimer

Dec. 9 Wednesday Morning Open Pairs

A	B	C	
1			Judy Haffner - Harold Haffner
2			Asim Ulke - Herbert Sachs
		2	Alice Coulter - Fran Steger

Wednesday Afternoon Open Pairs

A	B	C	
2			Ronald Sain - Arlene Jacobelli
3			Patricia Katz - Arlene Port
	2		Lila Margolis - Lessa Finegold
	3		William Feeny - Sheryl Hershock
		1	Ed Diamond - Kathy Bleckman
		3	Gen Novak - Jack Hammer

Wednesday Afternoon Small Games

A	B	C	
1			George Kury - Carol Daley-Robson
2	1	1	Jane Slagter - Kathleen Splane
	2		Marilyn Crawford - Ann Newlin
	3		Diana Beaver - Anne Marie Pidutti

December 10 Thursday Morning Open Pairs

A	B	C	
1	1	1	John Posego - Gerald Pellett
	3	3	James Wise - John Ferry

Thursday Afternoon Open Pairs

A	B	C	
2			Patricia Cunkelman - Peg Shivetts;
	2		Gerry O'Connor - Judith Waring;
	3		Cheryl Wherry - Leslie Musselman;

Thursday Evening Open Pairs

A	B	C	
1			Jane Marshall - Ronald Franck
2	1		Frank Grzegorzewski - Tom Yusavage
	2		Grant Shorts - Evelyn Lawrence
		2	Beverly Titzel - Linda Haaser
		3	Lewis Averbach - Nicholas Rescher

December 11 Friday Morning Open Pairs

A	B	C	
		3	Patricia Swedlow - Marilyn Frohlich-

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

A	B	C	
2	2		Russell Sheldon - Amy Tam;
		3	Catherine Lesjack - John Lesjack;

December 12 Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

A	B	C	
1			Kitty Jo Hellmann - Arlene Jacobelli
2	1		Garnet Depner - Dennis Gibboney

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL

IN MEMORY

Paula Strut passed away in early November. She joined our bridge community as a novice in 2003 and in those twelve years achieved Bronze Life Master status and was well on her way to Silver. During her working years, Paula taught in the primary grades. She retired in the late 1990's. Paula was close friends with Joe and Judy Secka: frequently Joe's partner at the bridge table, and Judy's partner in couponing and shopping and just enjoying a good and enduring friendship. Paula will be missed at the bridge tables and by her many friends.Phyllis Geinzer

Marcia Grodin, one of our regular players, died last week. Marcia played at the Rodef Shalom on Mondays and was very enthusiastic about the game. Marcia was the sister of Herb and Roz Sachs. Although she had not played in the last few years due to illness, she will be remembered as a bright and very sweet person who enriched our lives by her presence. Our condolences to all of her family and friends.

We would like to express our deepest sympathy to Arlene Cullen and her family on the death of her brother.

Although she was not a member of our Unit, **Barbara Norante** was very much a part of our Unit games and our Sectional tournaments. Barbara, who was an excellent player, passed away last week. As a matter of fact, she scored the highest percent with Jan Horwitz, of the ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game. They were famous throughout the country. Barbara was such a lovely woman, and we will miss her.

CORRECTION: When I printed newly elected board members, I mistakenly named Bill Holt as a board member. Not true!! He's just a tireless worker. So much for giving him a promotion.



GET WELL POST

Well. Trudy Cohn had surgery, was sent home, recovered, and is now going for treatment. I'm warning you Trudy, if you don't get all better pretty quick, I will have no one to yell at. You WILL be sorry if that happens.

Not satisfied with her husband going one-up on her, Gail Hastings fell (I know she did it on purpose so we would all feel sorry for her). Thankfully that failed and she is all better and raring to go! Don't worry, Jim. We all love you and are thinking about you.

And our continuous best wishes for a quick recovery to:

Gerry O'Connor Marlene Sienicki
Ivor McGloughlin Norman "Doc" Williams Betty Noble
Mary Anne McNeirney Phil Miller George Cross
Bill and Norma Spicher

EIT.....EXPERT IN TRAINING POST

The Post Mortem is starting a new feature aimed at the less experienced player. If you have not yet gained the knowledge and experience it takes to play winning bridge, this column is for you.

We hope to document your experiences, observations, thrills of victory and agonies of defeat while trying to improve.

Tell us how your learning resources have worked for you to ingrain the bridge world's unique set of skills. We're here to listen and pass on your experiences to others who hope to reach a higher level of accomplishment.

.In starting this feature, we look forward to developing a series of best practices that will help newer players improve faster and make this often frustrating game a little less taxing and a little more fun.

Send your ideas, comments, or even your frustrations (about bridge) to Arlene or Bruce at their emails on the masthead. It's about time that players who really need direction have the opportunity to get the help they need. We will make certain it happens..

INTERNET POST

#You are South, IMP's, n/s vul.

You hold:

S A
H K 8 2
D A K Q J 5 4
C A 9 8

The bidding is:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-----	-----	-----	2S
DBL.	PASS	3H*	PASS

? What do you bid.

*Lebensohl applies

Bob Zimmermann: 5NT 3hearts is a game forcing bid. I will bid 5NT, grand slam force and if partner has 2 of the top 3 heart honors, I will bid 7NT

Marvin Rulin: 3 Spades. My cue bid shows extra strength and a spade control. Partner's bid shows values making slam likely but we don't know the complete story of his heart suit so we need to progress slowly. Are we better off in diamonds or hearts? In 6 or 7. Partners next bid will help clarify where we're going.

Herb Sachs: 3S Partner needs no more than AJxx of hearts and QJxx of clubs for the three heart bid; I need more; Start with three Spades and listen carefully; if partner bids four hearts my call is six diamonds; if partner bids four clubs I will probe for seven. Happy New Year.

Trudy Cohn :3S. If partner has a re-biddable heart suit, I will look for a heart slam otherwise look for a slam in diamonds.

Richard Katz: 4NT I start with key card Blackwood with queen asking and later specific king responses. (4nt)

Paul Kaplan 5H. asking partner to bid 6 with good hearts

Asim Ulke:3S I bid 3S, an all purpose Q bid. (Wow!! Same answer as Gail.)

Steve Nolan: 5NT. Grand Slam Force. If partner bids 7H, convert to 7NT.

Jane Marshall: 4S (something like blackwood) A Keycard-asking bid. For me that is 4S (Kickback). (My partner is showing at least 8 hcp.) I am going to slam in something...maybe 6NT.

Bernie Fudor: I guess 3S If pd bids 4H I bid 5 nt. if they bid 4c I bid 6d because 6 d always makes

Jim Bachelder: 4NT, 4S is a nice chest pounder but what does it mean? Partner will bid 4H and then I'll bid 4NT. All I need to know is if partner holds AQXXX of hearts. A 4S cue might discourage a spade lead which is what I want.

Arlene Port:: 3S. Why? Because I always make that bid when I absolutely do not want partner to pass. Partner should bid some control and then I will know what to do. 6H, 6D, or even 6NT looks pretty good to me.

Gail Carns 3S all purpose bid

Stan Ruskin : 3S This depends on partnership agreement. I play that the weaker hand can que bid a king if he doesn't have an ace. Thus, since 3H shows some cards - probably 6+ to 10 - I bid 3S and wait to here the response. Unfortunately, we are going to play this in 5,6- maybe even 7D, depending on his bids.

PJ Prabhu .4NT. With partner showing some values, thanks to Lebensohl, I like our chances for slam. I will follow with trump-Queen asking bid even if partner shows no key cards. We will be in slam if partner has at least the trump Queen.

Bill Holt 3S. Interesting problem. Partner's 3H shows 'values' in a Lebensohl sequence and I am not giving up on slam. So I will make the cheapest 'power call' available, and wait to see what partner does. Over 3NT ("I have a Spade stopper") I am going to bid 4d. Over 4H I'll trot out 4S ("Kickback" RKC for Hearts).

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
4D	11	0	100
3S	13	9	80
4NT	2	4	70
6D	5	0	60
3NT	1	1	30
4S	0	0	30
5NT	1	1	20
5d	0	0	20
4H	0	0	20
5H	0	1	—

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Phillip Alder	4D
David Berah	6D
David Berkowitz	4NT
Larry Cohen	4D
Richard Colker	4D
Billy Eisenberg	6D
Rus Ekeblad	3S
Robert Friend	4D
Fred Gitelman	4D
Barbara Haberman	4D
Carl Hudecek	5NT
Eddie Kantar	4D
Sami Kehela	4D
Eric Kokish	4D
Michael Lawrence	4NT
Sidney Lazard	6D
Robert Lipsitz	6D
Richard Margolis	3S
Jeff Meckstroth	3S
Marshall Miles	3S
Erik Paulson	3S
Barry Rigal	3S
Arthur Robinson	3S
Andrew Robson	3S
Beverly Rosenberg	4D
Al Roth	3NT
Jeff Rubens	6D
Ira Rubin	3S
Joey Silver	3S
Neil Silverman	4D
Robert Wolff	3S
Kit Woolsey	3S
Zia	3S
Ray Zoller	3S

Pittsburgh Bridge Assoc. January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 no game HAPPY New Year!	2
3	4 Houston Game cancelled	5	6	7	8 Unit Chmp Swiss Teams	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 No Game, Cleveland Regional	16
17	18 No Game Rodeo/ Martin Luther King Day	19	20	21	22 Junior Fund Game	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Club Chmp	30
31						

FIRST AT THE POST

It looks like no one played that well this month to repeat their good games. To be fair, there were many holidays and many cancellations. So.....please make certain you give us your “winners” in February. It’s always nice to be recognized for achievement.

NOTE TO ALL DIRECTORS: The Post Mortem is published for the benefit and enjoyment (we hope) for both bridge players and bridge club managers. Many of our players complain when their accomplishments at the bridge table are not recognized. It would be nice if you would report those to either me or Bruce Stephen (e-mails on front page) and we will post them.

If you run a club game and are cancelling your game, send us an e-mail and we will put it on the calendar, as well as any special games you may be having during the month. It is a way of promoting your game and keeping your players informed.

PBA EVENTS 3 MONTHS

January 2016

- 1 No Game—Holiday
- 8 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 15 No game—Cleveland Regional
- 22 Junior Fund Game
- 29 Club Championship

February 2016

- 5 Open Pairs
- 12 Unit Championship Swiss Teams & PBA Board Meeting
- 19 Membership Game
- 26 Unit Championship

March 2016

- 4 Unit Championship
- 11 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 18 Unit Championship
- 25 Open Pairs