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Unit 142 Pittsburgh, PA January 2018

POST MORTEM

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All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

WELCOME TO 2018

Can you believe it? 17 years have passed since the millennium. While over the years we have had some really bad things happen in our world and also some really good things, the most amazing thing that has happened is that life in the PBA is basically the same as always, thankfully. I repeat:

- We are all still looking to play the perfect bridge session.
- We are all still blaming our failure to do so on our partner
- We are all still working hard to get to the next level of accomplishment (I am still : "I want to do that" - "I hope I do that" - and "No way can I ever do that"!)
- We are all still eating too many fattening snacks at the games.
- We are still looking around in January for all of our bridge friends that have taken off for the warm parts of our country.
- We are still enjoying the few of our members that haven't deserted us.
- We are still arguing with the director, telling him that we were right and he is wrong in making a director call against us.

BUT MOST OF ALL: We still love the game of bridge and enjoy playing as much as we can, no matter how painful the results. The only thing that has changed for me is the way I approach the "In Memory" column. In past years, I mourned the passing of our friends. Now, I hurry to read the column to see if I'm in it and if my obit was a good one.

This year promises to be, as usual, a good time for the PBA. We have great special events and bonus games throughout the year and look forward to sharing them with you.



To everyone, have a wonderful year. Stay healthy and continue to enjoy the game of bridge.....arlene

(Ed note: While browsing through past issues of the Post Mortem, I found this article written by Lou Joseph, written in January of 2006. I thought a reprint would not only remind us of how wonderful Lou was, but how we all feel this time of year.:

Pittsburgh has "thinned out" in the last few weeks. It seems as if some of our bridge players have chosen the warmth of Florida and other points in the south over our relatively moderate climate. I can't understand why. Those people are really going to miss the many benefits of the extremely cold. How? Well, I'm glad you want to know. Here's what they will be missing:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A new hobby | Freezing. |
| 2. Exercising teeth. | Chattering |
| 3. Skin that has a new texture | Flakey |
| 4. Walking, which takes on a whole new meaning | Slipping |
| 5. Building Stamina | Shoveling |
| 6. Depression | How can you possibly appreciate the good times if you haven't had your winter depression? |
| 7. Vocabulary | During the freezing weather, you can learn at least two or three new four letter words a day! |
| 8. Body Building | C'mon now, who of us can't use at least five pounds of extra fat from not being able to do anything but eat? |
| 9. Advanced Education | How many people do you know that don't have to take a course in anger management after spending the winter here?. |

I could go on and on, but I just don't think it's fair to make these poor, unfortunate snowbirds jealous. I'll let them think they are doing something good.

POOR SUCKERS!!.....Lou Joseph

District 5 STaC top `10 highest achievers:

Stephanie Alexander, Mentor OH
Robert Alexander, Mentor OH
Bernard Fudor, Murrysville PA
Alan Greer, Buffalo NY
Judith Marshall, Williamsville NY
Kathleen Sulgrove, Twinsburg OH
Michael Creager, Bedford OH

AN ARTICLE BY CRAIG BIDDLE

Craig Biddle: Phil Goulding and I had a couple of convoluted auctions one game. . After the 2nd one opp. asked us why we were always lying to each other in the bidding.
Here's Why: PLAYING AGAINST PHIL and ME

We play a system where our 1C opening can be as few as 2, when we have 11-14 or 18-19 balanced. Our 1C opening can have 5 diamonds and 2 or 3 clubs, but never a 5-card major unless we have 6+ clubs.

When we are permitted (mostly in Gus's games), our responses at the 1-level are like Jacoby transfers (except that they show 4+ cards, not 5+, since we are one level lower), and our 1S response shows clubs without a 4-card major. All of these transfers can be made on very light hands, particularly if we are short in clubs. Neither of us likes playing 2-1 fits, even at the 1-level. In other games, we simply respond naturally, but again we will respond very light.

First of all, if we do transfer, you should defend as you do when the opponents open 1NT and use a transfer bid. Double is an overcall in the suit you are doubling, and bidding the suit we promised is a takeout double. You can also use a jump to 2 of the suit we promised as a Michaels cue bid (remember, you can have 10 or 11 clubs or 10 or 11 diamonds between you when we open 1C). And now you can have your cake and eat it too; you don't need a Sandwich NT since you have several ways to make a takeout bid, so you can have a strong NT overcall too. And believe me, with the junk that we open you can easily have a laydown 3NT on two balanced hands after we open and respond.

What do you do if we transfer to a suit you have AKQxxx in? Pass and bid it next time. It is very rare for us to get the bidding up high quickly when we have no fit in responder's major.

Finally, if we transfer to a major, we treat accepting the transfer at the 1-level as a punt, with either a weak notrump without 4-card support or an unbalanced hand with exactly 3. If the normal auction on a board where our side has a 4-4 heart fit will be 1C-1H-2H, ours will be 1C-1D, 2H.

Backing up a bit, if we open 1C on your right you should lower your overcall standards a bit when you have a suit you want led. Our methods of coping with interference basically make it impossible for opener to pass responder's double of your overcall for penalties, so you are only at risk if you overcall and our responder has AQ10xx in your suit or the like.

Because we have moved all the balanced hands out of our 1D opening, when we do choose this bid our hand is never balanced. We will still have a normal strength range for this bid, all the hands that we open 1D will also be opened 1D by most of the field. When we have 4D only, we will always have a 4441 hand (we don't open 1D with 4D5C like some of you may do). And if we have only 5D, we will have another biddable suit. All 5332 hands with long diamonds open either 1C, some number of NT, or 2C. Again, you should overcall a major very light here, since we can and will bounce around as responder with a diamond fit even without a lot of shape. Playing normal methods, where 1D can be 3, it would never occur to me to raise to the 3-level (weak) on a 5332 hand. In our system, we can make that raise on 4333 because we know that we are getting at least one ruff in our hand unless you can draw trump.

And we open a lot of weak two-bids, and preempts in general. I opened 2S in first seat NV recently with S-Kxxxx H-K D-J10xx C-KJx. Normally, we would open 1S with 11 points and this shape, but I refuse to think of a singleton K as 3 points. So you need to be alive to the possibility of making a penalty pass of partner's takeout double.

THIS AND THAT POST

CALLING ALL UNIT MEMBERS: WHAT'S NEW THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE?

We have a published author in the Unit. Jack Hawthorne, a recent addition to our bridge family wrote a bridge book. The book is titled, "The Pattern Club System: The Key to Accurate Bidding Through Hand Patterns." It is available either digitally or in paperback from Amazon / Kindle.

Make certain you check out this book. Using the patterns, Jack, and his partner Paul Spear won the Bean Red Ribbon Pairs in 2007 with this system, which is a version of Precision Club.

Arlene, I have a hand for you. No national expert poll, but very interesting, I think.

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

N	E	S	W
1H	P	1S	P
2C	P	?	

I did post this on bridge winners. The vote was 2H - 23, 2NT - 20, 2D (artificial GF) - 5, 2S - 4. When this problem was presented to me (I was at the table) I said that I thought the real choice was between 2H and 2NT. I think 2H is right because it does not shut out 2S or 2NT. And 2S is wrong because partner is more likely to be 1=5=3=4 or 1=5=2=5 than 2=5=2=4 or 2=5=1=5 (to say nothing of how unlikely he is to have 3S).

Addendum to Craig Biddle's article:

Why do we play this way? Because we can bid more often and still keep our constructive auctions under control. If you watch international matches on bridgebase as I often do, you will see a lot of people playing this way. It's becoming more popular than Precision in high

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos



SLAM BIDDING

Slam bidding can be difficult because slam hands come up rarely, and we don't get much practice. The following hand came up at a club game. Playing standard methods against silent opponents, the first few bids were routine. 2C--2D---2S--2NT---3H--4H.

S- A K J x x	S- x x
H- A K x x x	H- J 10 x x
D- K x	D- Q x x x
C- A	C- K Q x

The 2 NT bid by East promised values, as 3 clubs would have been a 2nd negative. If West tries 4NT, they will get a 5 club reply. Now what? A 5 diamond bid by West would be a conventional gadget called a Queen ask. Once a pair has agreed on a trump suit and used Blackwood, the next step asks partner if they have the Queen of trumps. On this hand East would respond 5 hearts, denying the Queen. If they had the Queen, they would bid 6 clubs, which shows the Queen in the trump suit and the King of clubs. If East had the Queen but no side King, they would bid 6 hearts.

West should just settle for 5 hearts, since the chance of a 2-2 split is only 40%. Since East does have the Jack, the extra chance of catching a singleton Queen brings your chances of picking up the trump suit to 53%. If the partnership does not have the Queen ask in their arsenal, they would have to guess whether or not it's worth taking a shot at slam. Without knowing the exact odds, players should be aware that it's always less than 50% that a suit splits 2-2, 3-3, or 4-4.

As a matter of match point tactics, it's usually worth staying with the field in borderline decisions. When you go against the field you are looking at a top or bottom kind of score. The majority of players do not typically bid borderline slams. This hand was no exception, as only 5 out of 14 pairs bid the slam. This time the optimistic players were rewarded with 10 1/2 matchpoints out of 13 when hearts were 2-2 and the slam made.

UP THE LADDER POST

JUNIOR MASTER

*James W Hoekwater
Michael H Levine*

CLUB MASTER

*Dennis Kriek
Phyllis Mellor
Benjamin B Wechsler*

SECTIONAL MASTER

Mary D Taylor

REGIONAL MASTER

Hugh McMaster

RUBY LIFE MASTER

Yvonne Coursen

GOLD LIFE MASTER

Arlene Jacobelli

CONGRATULATIONS
AT YOUR LEVEL, IT'S TIME TO TAKE PITY ON THE OLD FOLKS
WHO ARE PLAYING AGAINST YOU.

CONGRATULATIONS!!
SEE, ALL OF THAT PRACTICE REALLY PAID OFF.....

IN MEMORY

Gail Hastings passed in December. With her passing, our unit has lost an important and iconic member. An expert bridge player, Gail was always at “the game” and was very successful, and was always ready to mentor newer players in the game. She and her late husband, Jim, were very active in the Pittsburgh bridge community. Gail was educated at Clarion University with a major in English and a minor in speech. She taught high school before becoming a full time mother and homemaker. Gail brought her teaching talents from the classroom to her home, raising two sons. She also became an avid duplicate player and again brought her teaching talent and skill to mentor a number of new players. Gail was ever the delightfully cheerful partner and opponent. And she quietly smiled when Jim would tell one of her age old stories to everyone who would listen. Gail was a Diamond Life Master. The death of Gail was a loss to us all. We will miss her terribly.

Darrell “Buddy” Lazarus died in August at the age of 93. He was devoted to his wife, Helen, his four children and four grandchildren. Buddy was a very successful businessman and very charitable. But, most of all, Buddy was truly the sweetest man. He and his wife, Helen played bridge every Monday at Rodef Shalom. Playing against him was always so much fun. Although he wasn’t a “serious” player, he would always kid me about all the students (none) that he had, claiming he was at the top of his game. Buddy was a joy to be with and brought maybe not good bridge, but good times to our Unit. I miss him and so

do
all
of

GREAT WEDNESDAY NEWS REMINDER

REMINDER

The JCC Weschler Game on Wednesday afternoon will be moving to the Rodef Shalom Congregation beginning Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at noon. We look forward to seeing all of our old players and tons of new ones at our new bridge home....Gary Goetz, Director

PBA EVENTS 3-MONTH CALENDAR 2018

January 2018

- 5 Unit Championship
- 12 No game - Cleveland Regional
- 19 Junior Fund Game
- 26 Unit Championship Swiss Teams

February

- 2 Unit Championship
- 9 Membership Game & PBA Board Meeting
- 16 Club Championship
- 23 Unit Championship Swiss Teams

March

- 2 Open Pairs
- 9 Unit Championship
- 16 Unit Championship
- 23 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 30 Open Pairs

#1

#2

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
4H	9	3	100
5H	5	4	80
3H	1	0	70
2H	1	0	70
PASS	0	2	60
2NT	4	0	60

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
DBL	1	0	50
4S	2	0	40
2D.	0	0	30
3NT	0	0	30
4NT	0	1	20
other	0	0	10
2C	0	1	
3S	0	1	

INTERNET POST

You are South:E/W Vulnerable, matchpoints

You Hold:
S 6 5 H J876542 D 10 9 C 6 5

THE BIDDING IS:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-----	-----	1H-	2C
?	What do you bid		

Richard Katz : I bid a complaisant, intentionally benign **four hearts**. Partner could make four hearts, be able to beat four spades or five clubs in his own hand, or perhaps they can make 5, 6, or seven something. I've taken up space and they are all entitled to their best guesses. I'm out, Richard

Craig Biddle: I think **4H** is the best bid, its main losing case is when LHO has club support and enough for a slam try - but the opponents may not have an agreement about 4NT in jammed auctions and if their agreement is RKC, LHO may not have enough keys to risk asking. Psyche options are as follows: Pass, 2H, 3H, key card asking. (note: Craig had too many negatives for any of these bids.

PJ Prabhu: **4 NT**, Roman key card blackwood; why not? I want to consume maximum bidding space without pushing opponents to slam. I would like to buy the contract of 5H (most likely, doubled), but am willing to bid six if partner responds 5S. If opponents reach a contract at the 5-level, I will pass. I don't bid 5H for fear that this will push them to bid slam. Also, a 4H bid by me allows them to bid 4S.

Steve Nolan: 5H. It's anybody's guess where this belongs. Keeping it that way by eliminating Blackwood away from the auction.

Stan Ruskin 5H. Wow, I have no idea how many spades they can make or clubs for that matter. They are either both void in H or one is void and the other has a singleton. They might not even be able to make a game but partner would probably need at least 3 aces and a side trick aces. As I said, I have no idea what they can make – anywhere from 4 to 7 spades or clubs. Since I'm not going to let them play any slams but I will let them play anything at The 5 level, my goal is to figure out how to get them to play at the 5 level or double Us at the 5 level. I could bid as low as a forcing 2S to some other strange bid. What is the bid that will give them the most problems? If I bid 5H, they could bid 6C out of desperation if W doesn't have enough good S to bid 5S. If I bid 4H, W could still bid 4S or 5C. What would they bid over 5H? I don't think there is any really Correct answer but in the final analysis, I think I will bid the conservative

Jane Marshall: 5 hearts. The opponents can guess at the 5 level. I would like to have a short suit somewhere....but I don't. I am just taking away some of their room to explore.

Bill Holt: 4H. Sure, I'd like to have a side singleton but I do have 7 trumps and need to get that message out because the auction won't end there. Opps have a slam unless pard has two non-Heart tricks. Does my 'big fit' showing bid make it less likely to find it? Or more likely?

Paul Caplan: 2 clubs trying to sound strong. Hope to get doubled in 4 hearts instead of making a choice at the 5 or 6 level

Herb Sachs three spades; maybe I can muddy the waters?? table feel may help me at some level.

Trudy Cohn: I will **pass**. Any preemptive bid that I make will let them cue bid in hearts and find their slam.

Bob Zimmermann: 5 Hearts. Any lower bid will give them room to explore, and I'm almost certain to hear 5 clubs over 4 hearts - over which I'll have to bid this anyway. I'll let them make a decision at the 6 level.

Ernie Retetagos: 2 Spades. I like this question, because there is no wrong answer. It's more of a Rorschach test than a bridge problem. The opponents could have a slam even if partner has a good hand, but they don't know it yet. The goal should be to muddy the water. I'll bid 2 spades with 4 NT as my 2nd choice.

Asim Ulke I bid **6H**. we get no tricks in hearts. If we have one defensive trick, we go down 800 vs 1370. If we have 2 defensive tricks we go down 500 vs 600. If we have 3 defensive tricks, I am wrong and some explaining to do to partner.

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Grant Baze	5H
David Berkowitz	4H
Henry Bethe	2NT
Bart Bramley	4H
Ira Chorush	5H
Larry Cohen	5H
Kitty & Steve Cooper	4H
Billy Eisenberg	2S
Carl Hudecek	4S
Eddie Kantar	4H
Ralph Katz	5H
Sami Kehiela	2NT
Danny Kleinerman	2H
Eric Kokish	2NT
Jill Meyers	4H
Marshall Miles	2S
Arthur Robinson	4H
Michael Rosenberg	2NT
Jeff Rubens	D
Ira Rubin	4H
Mike Shuman	3H
Joey Silver	4H
Don Stack	4H
John Swanson	5H
Robert Wolff	2S
Kit Woolsey	4S

POST MORTEM READERS

Here is your chance. Cover up the answers, read the hand and make the bid you think is best. There is no way you can go wrong.

Pittsburgh Bridge Assoc JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 PBA UNIT CHMP.	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 PBA NO GAME CLEVE- LAND REG.	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 PBA JUNION FUND GAME	20
21	22	23	24	25	226 PBA UNIT CHMP SWISS TEAM	27
28	29	30	31	1 FEBRUARY	2 PBA UNIT CHMP	

FIRST AT THE POST

.70%+ GAMES

Philip Goulding & Alan Leaver	70.37	Zelionople	Tues
Kathleen Glassford & Judy Pierce	70.00	Indiana	TueMary
Mary Paulone Carns & Gail Carns	70.21	PBA Unit	Fri
June Thelkeld	71.43	Nancy's Sun. Din Club	Sun
Craig Biddle & Philip Goulding	70.27	Glenshaw	Sa
Lenore Dreisbach & Angie Cooper	75.00	Indiana	Tues

FIVE IN A ROW

Arlene Port O'Hara Tues

FOUR IN A ROW

John Killmeyer New Brighton Sat

THREE IN A ROW

Richard Katz	O'Hara	Tue	Philip Goulding	Zelionople	Tues
Ronald Franck	Glenshaw	Mon	Harold Haffner	Glenshaw	Mon
Barbara Belardi	Export	Mon	Mary Kirsch	Edgeworth	Wed

TWO IN A ROW

Hugh McMaster	Edgeworth	Wed	John Killmeyer	Moon	Wed
Robert Park	Moon	Wed	Ethel Levine	South Hills	Thurs
Kenneth Bergman	O'Hara	Tues	Henry Nelson	O'Hara	Tues
Judy Haffner	Rodef	Mon	Asim Ulke	Rodef	Mon
joanne Zambroski	Wilkins	Thurs	Ami Elis	Wilkins	Thurs
James Klein	Wilkins	Thurs	Arlene Cullen	Wilkins	Thurs
Robert Park	New Brighton	Sat	Estelle Duggins	Whitehall	Mon
Arlene Port	Rodef	Mon	Carol Conaway	SH NLM	Tues
Gerald Sandson	JCC	Wed	William Feeny	Greensburg	Wed
Marian Myers	Greensburg	Wed	Ernie Retetagos	Glenshaw	Mon
Bharat Shah	South Hills	Tues	Ronald Sain	Greensburg	Thurs
Kenneth Eichler	Greensburg	Thurs	Barbara Anderson	SHs NLM	Thurs
Grant Anderson	South Hills NLM	Thurs	Philip Goulding	Glenshaw	Sat
Craig Biddle	Glenshaw	Sat	Amy Lowenstein	Rodef	Mon
Arthur Henry	South Hills NLM	Tues	Marie Henry	South Hills NLM	Tues
Ronald Sain	Greensburg	Wed	Asim Ulke	Wilkins	Fri