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Unit 142 Pittsburgh, PA MARCH 2019

POST MORTEM

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All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

So many of our players were at the Regional tournament in Palmetto, Florida I think everyone who went there was a winner. The ones that did exceptionally well are listed on page 7. WINNERS.....WE SALUTE YOU



Now they are all back and getting ready for the Spring Sectional (Pg3) As usual, it will be a wonderful affair, full of fun and master points. Don't worry if you need a partner, Jane Marshall or Darlene Mannheimer are ready and willing to find you someone special.

There are a couple of articles in the newsletter that I thought were interesting. Some player designed a game meant to acquaint bridge wanabees to learn easily. I have to admit it is kinda novel, but if you take the time to teach this game as a precursor to bridge, you still have to teach how to play bridge. So, well thought out - yes; Important element in teaching - no.. If they are really interested, people will learn what you teach them. Bridge really isn't a difficult game. It can be, but doesn't have to be very involved. I know many people who just enjoy the game. It's us crazy people who think you have to know every convention or else.

The other article that I printed is the one by Bob Zimmermann, who actually ran into a hand just like the one I printed in the Internet Post , and was forced to bid....It is very funny, but actually says a lot about how to analyze a hand and reach a satisfying conclusion.

Hopefully, in just a few weeks, we will be free of this bad weather and those snow birds will be coming home. I forgive them for deserting u and will welcome them back to Pittsburgh. In the meantime, hurry up and play a lot of bridge to get ready for the "caravan" of events coming our way.) In the meantime, have a wonderful St. Patrick's Day and do your Irish jig for me. I was absent the day they taught that dance.



Everyone's Iri:
On March 17t



BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

It certainly does!!!

BALANCING

A balancing situation occurs when you are in the pass out seat, and the opponents have found a fit, but don't try for game. Typical auctions are 1H-P-2H - P-P or 1C-P-1H-P-2H-P-P. If you bid now, you are hoping to either make your bid or get set one, or to push them up a level. If you pass now and end up minus 110, there is no way that you can get a good score. There are two reasons why you can enter the auction. When the opponents have an eight card or longer fit, you also have a fit. And since they don't have 26 HCPs, you and your partner have at least 15 HCPs. With almost half the deck and an eight card fit, you want to be in the auction.

If an auction goes 1 NT-P-P, you still have the inference that your partnership has at least 15 HCPs. The less you have, the more your partner has. However, you no longer have the assurance of a trump fit. If you have a 6 card suit, or two 5 card suits, there is a good chance that your partnership has an 8 card fit. It's worth the risk to bid when you have distribution. Here's a couple of hands from club games last month.

Vul against not, you hold S- A J x x x H- Q J x x x D- x C- x x. This would be a good time to be playing a convention that shows both majors. After 1 NT-P-P, if you enter the auction, you will find your partner with a big heart fit and take 10 tricks. If you pass, declarer will take 6 or 7 tricks, depending on the lead. With two 5 card suits, there is a good chance that partner has trump support for one of them. This hand is strong enough that many players would also bid with this in the direct seat, (and hope not to get doubled).

With only the opponents vulnerable, you hold S- J x x x H- Q 10 9 x x x D- x x x C----- . Should you bid with only 3 HCPs? If you bid, you'll find partner with a doubleton Ace of hearts, and an opening bid sitting over the opener. You can take 9 tricks in hearts, and you will only get plus 100 if you defend.

When you bid in the balancing seat, you know that partner has some cards for you. If partner has a trump fit with you, you are probably in good shape. If there is no fit, then you may have been better off by passing. Nothing works all the time, but bridge is a bidder's game.

SO WHAT'S NEW POST

Submitted by Craig Biddle, PM Reporter At Large
A new way of introducing bridge to new players

HOOL - The prelude to Bridge. Created in 2008 by Michael Xu Step 1: Information sharing

Deal each player 13 cards from a standard 52-card deck. Then clockwise starting with the dealer, each player shares one piece of information about their hand with the rest of the table. There are in total 6 types of information that can be shared:

- HCP
- Pattern (always in descending order of numbers i.e. 5-4-3-1 even if your specific pattern is 1-5-3-4)
- Number of cards in Spades
- Number of cards in Hearts
- Number of cards in Diamonds
- Number of cards in Clubs

This continues for two rounds so that at the end of this step, each player has shared two different pieces of information about their hand. Passing is not allowed. Psychology is not permitted.

Step 2: Bidding

All players secretly choose a contract for their side to make and reveal simultaneously. Pass is a legal choice. The highest bidder becomes the Temporary Declarer #1 (TD1). If the highest bid is tied between two or more players, then the person sitting closest to the dealer (starting from the dealer, and then clockwise) wins the tiebreak. Next, both opponents of TD1, simultaneously decide and reveal whether to pass, double, or bid higher.

If both pass, TD1 becomes Permanent Declarer (PD).

If at least one opponent doubles with neither opponent bidding – then TD1 has a chance to redouble or pass.

Else, one opponent has bid and the highest bidder becomes TD2 (ties broken by proximity to dealer). If either opponent becomes TD2, then TD1 and partner get the final chance, at the same time, to either pass, double or bid higher. Accordingly either TD1 or TD2 will become PD.

Again, double / redouble is for penalty only.

Step 3: Play

Exactly like bridge: opening lead is made by the player to the left of the PD; dummy is put down on the table by PD's partner; everyone must follow suit if they can; highest trump played to a trick wins the trick; if no trumps are played, highest card of the suit led wins the trick; winner leads to next trick; etc

- Step 4: Scoring**
- Each trick after the 6th trick in a successful contract = 10 points. So 11 tricks in a contract of 4♥ would score 40 points here.
 - Each overtrick = 10 points. So 11 tricks in a contract of 4♥ would score 10 points here.
 - Game bonus = 100 points.
 - Small slam bonus = 200 points.
 - Grand slam bonus = 400 points.
 - Each undertrick = 20 points to the defense.
 - Doubled Contract = 2 times total score.
 - Redoubled Contract = 4 times total score.

Partnerships:

Jane Marshall 412-371-4067
Partners@pittsburghbridge.org

Newcomers & 499ers:

Darlene Mannheimer
412-913-5944

499er@pittsburghbridge.org

Tournament Chair:

Ron Franck 412-913-1505

Spring19@pittsburghbridge.org

Director in Charge: Alex Bealles

Sanction # S 1903050

Pairs Entries \$25 / pair

Single Session Teams \$50/tm.

499er Swiss* \$ 88/team

Sunday Open Swiss* \$100/tm.

* Extra Swiss Players: \$8 ea.

All participants must be current or former ACBL members. 1-month membership: \$7.99. Unpaid & former ACBL members \$4 additional per session.



Pittsburgh Spring Sectional

Hospitality All Sessions!

Friday, March 15

10:30 AM

Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 499er Pairs (1 session)

3:00 PM

Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 499er Pairs (1 session)
Single Session Swiss Teams

Saturday, March 16

10:00 AM

Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 499er Pairs (1 session)
Compact Handicapped KO Teams
(1st of 2 sessions)

2:30 PM

Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 499er Pairs (1 session)
Compact Handicapped KO Teams
(2nd of 2 sessions)
Single Session Swiss Teams

Sunday, March 17

10:00 AM

Stratified Open Swiss Teams
(7 rounds of 7 boards)
Stratified 499er Swiss Teams
(6 rounds of 6 boards)
Separate Play-through Events/
30 point VP scale

Full Newcomer / NLM Schedule:

Newcomer / 499er 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

<i>Open</i>	<i>499er</i>
A: 2000+	5: 300-500
B: 750-2000	3: 100-300
C: 0-750	1: 0-100
Stratifications in All	499er Strats at
Events by Avg. MPs	Director's
	Discretion

★ Earlier
Playtimes!!! ★

March 15-17, 2019
Masonic Center North
3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15237



Pittsburgh Bridge
Association



American Contract
Bridge League

**MENTORS: KEEP THE
GAME GROWING!**



**MENTEES: KEEP
GROWING YOUR GAME!**

PBA MENTORING PROGRAM



Get involved in our Mentoring program to help advancing players polish their game!

MENTORS: Love the game? Want to ensure it's survival in the area? GET INVOLVED!!!

Mentors will be able to select from the list of interested Mentees. Register at the website.

MENTEES: Desire to improve? Learn from the expertise of a more experienced player. Currently limited to those with <200 mps.

**You don't have to be an expert to be a MENTOR.
Not just beginners can be a MENTEE.**

Register at

www.pittsburghbridge.org/mentor

Fine Print: Try to play 5x in a 6-month period. Mentors succeeding in this will get one free play at a PBA Sectional (per Mentee). One free play per partnership. 6 month period is renewable by mutual agreement. More details on the website.

HOW I ARRIVED AT THE ANSWER TO THE MARCH POST MORTEM INTERNET PROBLEM.....by Bob Zimmermann OR..A lesson in how to make intelligent decisions when bidding.

Bob Zimmermann, When I showed the current post-mortem problem to Laura, she asked why I didn't take any action directly over 3 clubs. So, this is what I told her.

I was kibitzing a B bracket KO final at a local tournament when there was a loud commotion from the side game. Apparently, one of the players had clawed at his chest and collapsed in the middle of a hand. The Director asked me to sit in.

Well, I picked up the hand you're looking at in the position below, and I contemplated my options. As I considered this move, it occurred to me that the fellow I was replacing might have done the same to avoid explaining his initial pass to his partner. Maybe, they'd replace me with someone who would have passed this hand. I looked around, but my best option was still playing at his table.

So, what to do? I could pass 3 diamonds. That's safe, but probably a loser at IMPs. Lefty didn't say anything so we might have a game or even a slam.

I could bid 3 hearts and hope to hear a raise from partner - or even a correction to 3 spades. But, I'd probably hear 4 diamonds and I'd be back in the same boat.

- 3 spades might work. At least, I could bid 4 hearts over the inevitable 4 diamonds.
- 3 no trump is a possibility. As little as (Kx xxx AQJxxx xx) would yield an easy 9 tricks.
- 4 clubs sounds too much like support for diamonds. I would have bid that last time, but that ship has sailed.

So, I tried **3 no trump**. I won't bother you with the details of how that did, but since I didn't have to stick around for the comparisons it really doesn't matter.

My second choice was **6 no trump**. Maybe that would keep them from asking me to sit in in the middle of an auction next time

SPADES	A 8 7 6 4	Bob was South	The bidding is:			
HEARTS	Q 9 7 6 3		SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
DIAMONDS	K		----	----	----	3C
CLUBS	K 3		PASS	PASS	3D	PASS
?						

IN MEMORY

It is with great sorrow I announce the passing of Jane Weiss. I really didn't know Jane well even though she played at many of the games in our unit.. What I did know was that Jane was a lovely woman and for many years suffered from a serious illness. I never heard her complain or bemoan her situation. She was truly a brave woman, who brought something special to our unit. Our condolences to her family and friends. They were so lucky to have her with them for so many years.

CONGRATULATIONS!!
 YOUR HARD WORK HAS PAID OFF
 WHO KNEW?

UP THE LADDER POST

JUNIOR MASTER

*Ronald Kust
Chris Macoy
Molly Sauereisen*

CLUB MASTER

*Albert Exton
Lynn Gibbs
Regina Lucas*

CONGRATULATIONS
 I REMEMBER WHEN SOME OF YOU
 WERE JUST "JUNIORS"
 KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

ONCE UPON A TIME, IN A LAND FAR, FAR, AWAY
 Palmetto, Fla. Regional Results

In case you were wondering why local bridge games were sparse last week, it's because so many of our members were earning masterpoints in Florida. Craig Biddle sent me a list of sooo many winners. Unfortunately, due to space constraints, I have chosen only to name those who have earned over 25 points...And here they are:

NAME	EVENT	TOTAL PONTS EARNED
Jan Assini - Frank Cymerman	3/4 in a Bracketed KO (bracket 2), First in a 2-session Bracketed Swiss (bracket 1), 5th in a one-session Open Swiss, 2nd in a 1-session Open Swiss.	38.87
Craig Biddle - Phil Goulding	3/4 in a Bracketed KO (bracket 2), First in a 2-session Bracketed Swiss (bracket 1), 5th in a one-session Open Swiss, 2nd in a 1-session Open Swiss	71.34
Herb Sachs (with Stanley Ruskin)	4th and 1st in A/X Open Pairs on consecutive days, 13th in another a couple of days later	57.18
Richard and Pat Katz	Knockout Fr/Sat Swiss Bracket 1 (tied with Meckstroth) Sunday Bracketed Swiss 2	34.22

PBA EVENTS 3-MONTH CALENDAR 2019

March

- 1 Unit Championship
- 8 Unit Championship
- 15 PITTSBURGH SECTIONAL @ MASONIC Info
- 22 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 29 Open Pairs

April

- 5 Unit Championship
- 12 Swiss Team Unit Charity Championship (for ACBL) & PBA Board Meeting
- 19 Open Pairs
- 26 Unit Championship

May

- 3 Club Championship
- 10 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 17 Unit Grass Roots Fund Game
- 24 No game—Cleveland Regional
- 31 Unit Championship

INTERNET POST, CONT. from page 9

Trudy Cohn, I will bid 3NT. I think that we can count 8 sure tricks: six in the diamond suit, one club trick and the ace that I hold. It is not unreasonable to expect partner to produce the ninth trick. There may be a game in a major suit but I don't know how to find it without losing what looks to be a sure game.

Jack Hawthorne: 3S This one is tricky indeed. I suppose I would bid 3S, intending to pass 3NT or bid 4H over 4D. I just hope partner can take another call.

Paul Caplan: PASS It is unlikely you have game on this misfit hand. If there is a major suit fit there is no safe way to find it without a risk of loss.

INTERNET IMP's, none vulnerable. You are South and you hold:

SPADES A 8 7 6 4
 HEARTS Q 9 7 6 3
 DIAMONDS K
 CLUBS K 3

The bidding is:
 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

 PASS PASS 3D PASS
 ? What do you bid?

Richard Katz 4C I pass on bidding three NT, which may make, and bid four clubs trying to say pick a major. If partner bids four/ five diamonds I pass. Not great, need some luck.

Asim Ulke I bid 3NT. Presumably partner has 6 diamonds and a couple of clubs, leaving about 5 cards in majors. The chances of finding a good fit in a major is not great and I may end up in a bad major suit contract if I bid one of my majors.

Chris Wang: 3S I could pass 3D, but since I have an opening hand, it looks like we have a game contract (plus it is imps) So I bid 3S. If partner bids 4D, then I bid 4H. Of course partner could pass 3S. If partner bids 3NT over 3S, I am not sure if I would pass or bid 4H.

Fred Schenker: 3S It's imps. I'm bidding 3S, then 4H after partner's expected 4D, then passing. Why didn't I bid 3S over 3C?

Gail Carns: 3S followed by 4H if partner bids 4D and Pass if Partner bids

Steve Nolan .. 3S. The pre-empt did its job: nothing I do is guaranteed to work. I bid 3S because my hand is too good to pass, and I have to bid spades first to keep all options on the table.

Bill Holt: 3S. Partner should be encouraged to continue. If partner bids 3NT I will drop it. If 4d, I will trot out 4H. If insistent on a diamond game, at least my stiff is an honor. Where are the easy hands?

Bob Zimmermann, 3 no trump. I NOTE: The complete details of the way Bob arrived at this bid can be seen on page 6. It's quite a story.

Ernie Retetagos: 4 Clubs. A cue bid usually implies trump support, but I'm too strong to pass. I can't introduce a major suit, but maybe partner can. If we have enough running tricks to make 3 NT, partner might have enough to jump to 5 diamonds.

Herb Sachs: PASS This is IMPS and I have many choices beginning with PASS, 3NT, 3s, 3h and God knows what else. With some perfect hand we might even have a slam but how would one find it? In the meantime we may have no make which I realize is very negative thinking. But we could go minus a number while we are guessing. Lose 12 or gain 12!! I am passing.

Bernie Fudor: I pass quickly. I'll be in awe of those who bid and land on their feet.

Jane Marshall 3 NT. I will hope that I can take 9 tricks between partner's diamonds and my major suit cards and my club stopper. Partner probably has support for one of the majors, but WHICH ONE? I am not sure that my bidding a major would be forcing. Partner is bidding some of my points.

Craig Biddle: I bid 3S. I think this is forcing, but partner may not since I passed up a chance to bid earlier. (And I would surely have done so, a cue-bid of 4C would describe my shape well although it could go for a big number.) If partner does not raise spades, I will pass 3NT or bid 4H over 4D. And if partner passes I will probably not be happy since a likely hand for that is S-Kx H-AJx D-QJxxxx C-xx where 4H will have good chances. Preempts work.

Stanley Ruskin: 3NT This is difficult of course. If partner has a 3 card major, how do you find it? What if he doesn't have one? If you bid 4C, does that Ask partner to bid a 3 card major? Do you bid a major and hope for the best? Too much guessing! I close my eyes and bid 3NT. My KD, might solidify a six or seven card suit. or he might have a major suit holding that solidifies mine.

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
3NT	9	5	100
3H	6	0	90
3S	6	7	80
4C	5	2	70
PASS	2	2	70
4D	1	0	60

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Michael Becker	P
David Berkowitz	3NT
Bart Bramley	3H
Richard Colker	3NT
Philippe ronier	3H
Billy Eisenberg	3S
Dan Gerstman	3S
Carl Hudecek	4D
'George Jacobs	3S
Sami Kehela	3NT
Danny Kleinman	3NT
Eric Kokish	3H
Steve Landen	3S
Michael Lawrence	4C
Sidney Lazard	P
Robert Lipsitz	3NT
Jeff Meckstroth	3S
Marshall Miles	3NT
Barry Rigal	3H
Arthur Robinson	3NT
Andrew Robson	3H
Jeff Rubens	3NT
Joey Silver	3NT
Brad Theurer	3H
Cheis Willenkin	4C
Anders Wirgren	4C
Robert Wolff	4C
Kit Woolsey	3S
Zia	4C

Pittsburgh Bridge Assoc MARCH 2019

FIRST AT THE POST

70 % Games

Ronald Franck & Alan Leaver	74.44	Allegheny CC	Fri
Thomas Black & Hazel Allen	74.38	New Castle 750er	Mon
Ronald Franck & Harold Haffner	71.15	Rodef	Mon
Jan Assini & Frank Cymerman	71.78	Glenshaw	Sat
Asim Ulke & Judy Haffner	70.14	Wilkins	Fri
Anita Demarco & Thomas Black	79.86	New Castle 750er	Mon
Ernie Retetagos & Asim Ulke	70.99	Rodef	Mon

FOUR IN A ROW

Raymond Kramer	Butler	Thurs	Ronald Franck	Rodef	Mon
Harold Haffner	Rodef	Mon			

THREE IN A ROW

John Killmeyer	Houston	Mon	Ronald Franck	O'Hara	Tues
Jane Marshall	O'Hara	Tues	Philip Goulding	Allegheny CC	Fri

TWO IN A ROW

Judy Haffner	Wilkins	Fri	Asim Ulke	Wilkins	Fri
Audrey Heidenreich	Natrona Heights	Mon	Donald Turacy Sr	Houston	Mon
Gary Marcus	Edgeworth	Wed	Kenneth Eichler	Greensburg	Wed
August Costanzo	Wilkins	Thurs	Ronald Franck	Allegheny CC	Fri
Mary Paulone Carns	PBA Unit	Fri	Gail Carns	PBA Unit	Fri
Suzanne Harchelroad	Woodridge	Mon	Shahn Karamanos	Woodridge	Mon
Alan Leaver	Zelionople	Tues	Philip Goulding	Zelionople	Tues
Lonnie Carey	Longue Vue	Thurs	Ann Plunkett	Longue Vue	Thurs
Judy Haffner	Wilkins	Fri	Asim Ulke	Wilkins	Fri
Robert Zimmermann	Glenshaw	Sat	Philip Goulding	Glenshaw	Sa
Anita Demarco	New Castle 750er	Mon	Leroy Hackenberg II	Export	Mon
Jenny Janitor	Export	Mon	Yvonne Carroll	South Hills NLM	Tues
Kathryn Powell	South Hills NLM	Tues	Jim Gump	Temple Emanuel	Wed
Andrew Makar	Greensburg	Wed	Hazel Allen	Butler	Thur
Dustin Hoover	Lebo	Fri	Madeleine Frizzi	Lebo	Fri
Marcella Retetagos	Glenshaw	Sa	Ernie Retetagos	Glenshaw	Sat

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 PBS UNIT CHMP	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 PBA MEMB. GAME AND BOARD MEED- ING	9
					15 - 17 PBA SPRING SECTIONAL	16 SEC- TIONAL
17 SECTIONAL	18 	19	20	21	22 PBA UNIT CHMP SWISS TEAMS	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						