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Chris Wang.....First At The Post

Unit 142

Pittsburgh, PA

NOVEMBER 2019

POST MORTEM

WEBSITE AT www.pittsburghbridge.org
President: Chris Wang
Vice President: Craig Biddle
Secretary: Mary Paulone Carns
Treasurer: John Alioto
Club Manager: Mary Carns
Unit Recorder: Judi Sonon (judi@diegosan.com)

All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

Last month I printed the names of many who worked so hard on the Roni IRegional. I didn't have the complete list available. These are the rest of the hard working volunteers who contributed so much to it's success: Mary Lou Flach and Carol Bolen did most of the hospitality, ordering, supplying and cooking food and manning the hospitality room most of the week. Others who helped were Dennis Jacobs, Patti Rambasek, Rick Laird, Lois Porter and Art Aronson. Thank you all so much.

This month, after that wonderful sectional, our heartfelt thanks go out to Tournament Chair, Craig Biddle, Partnerships: Jane Marshall and Newcomers and 499er's; Darlene Mannheim . As Hospitality Chairs, Linda Fried and Martin Greenberg did an outstanding job and kept our reputation alive in the fact that Pittsburgh always has the best hospitality and the best tournaments. Thank you all for your hard work and helping to make it a weekend to remember..

I guess we're kinda winding down now that Pittsburgh has emptied out with all of those who know better have gone to a warmer (but not better) place, leaving the rest of us to freeze.

Don't dismay, we still have each other left and that Friday night Unit Game which hands out master points like they were water. There's always a club championship or a special game or a team game. Why am I complaining? We have everything right here .

WORDS OF WISDOM TO LIVE BY

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

It certainly does!!!

Subject: Key Card Blackwood

When responding to a Blackwood bid of 4 NT, it is standard for a player to bid in steps to show the number of Aces. A variation that many players use is Keycard Blackwood, in which the King of trumps is the 5th key card. If a trump suit hasn't been agreed on, 4 NT is keycard for the last bid suit. Some players use 03/14 and some use 14/30 in response. In the vast majority of cases, it doesn't matter which method you use. What matters is that you and your partner agree on the meaning. If you make a response that shows 1 or 4 and partner signs off at the 5 level, you should bid slam if you have 4 key cards. Likewise, if you show 0-3, you should raise to slam if you have 3 and partner signs off.

When you have 2 key cards, you respond 5 hearts without the Queen of trumps, and 5 spades with the Queen. A response of 5 NT shows 2 key cards and a void. To show an odd number of keycards and a void, jump to 6 in your void if your void is lower ranking than your trump suit. If it is higher ranking, jump to 6 of your suit.

There are two situations when you avoid using Blackwood. Do not ask for Aces when you have a void, because you do not know if one of partner's key cards is the Ace of that suit, or if it is in a more helpful location. Also, avoid asking for Aces when you have 2 fast losers in a side suit. Otherwise you might have 12 winners, but only after you lose the first 2 tricks. These are the kind of slam auctions that require cue bids instead of asking for Aces.

After a response to a 4 NT bid, a bid of 5 NT guarantees possession of all key cards, and is a try for 7. If responder can't bid 7, there are two different ways to respond. Some pairs respond to the 5 NT bid by showing number of Kings. Other pairs respond by bidding their cheapest King if they have one. I bid my cheapest King, but sometimes the number could work out better. Since slam decisions often result in a top or bottom result, it's worth a little discussion to be sure that you and your partner are on the same page with your slam conventions.

IN MEMORY

It is with great sadness we let you know that **Chris Wang**, our unit President, suffered the loss of both his parents within a week of each other in October. It is heartbreaking. We offer our condolences to Chris, and his family, with the hope that our support and caring will help him to get through this terrible time in his life. Chris, our thoughts and our hearts are with you.

We just learned that **Maddie Frizzi's** son, John, lost his battle with kidney disease in late June. The Pittsburgh bridge family extends sympathy to Maddie and her family.

Toni Conaway died early in October following a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer. Toni was a VISTA volunteer with her high school sweetheart/husband following college. She taught school in Dormont while Ray attended Duquesne Law School. She retired from teaching to raise her family and actively continue her volunteer work. Toni was an active duplicate bridge player in the Sewickley area and at various Sectionals. She was a Life Master. Ray, her children and grandchildren will miss her. We will miss her as well.

Ed Note: Phyllis Geinzer Memoriam Chairman and I are committed to reporting any losses or other important news regarding our members. If you know or hear of the death of one of our members or their families, please e-mail Arlene Port at aport220@comcast.net or give the information to Phyllis Geinzerarlene port

STaC Week!

December 9-15 ALL WEEK!

**Win Silver Points at your local club!
A STaC Game is a Sectional Game held at many sites. Your performance at your local club is compared with other games - for a larger award!**

A: 2500+ B: 750-2500 C: 0-750

All Masterpoint Awards are Silver.

Check to make sure your club is participating at www.d5bridge.com

STaC Swiss!

Sunday, Dec 15

**Game Time 10 am - Breakfast at 9:15
Wilkins Township Municipal Bldg.
Continental Breakfast & Lunch Included!
Reservations Requested! \$ 100/team
Call Ann Plunkett at 412-999-1250
Or, Email 1912Swiss@pittsburghbridge.org**

**Need help buiding a team? Call
Jane Marshall at 412-371-4067**



Pittsburgh Bridge
Association

**Directions on the website:
www.pittsburghbridge.org**

UP THE LADDER POST

CONGRATULATIONS
WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE HARD WORK THAT
WENT INTO DEVELOPING YOUR BRIDGE SKILLS, I
AM BOTH UNBELIEVABLY IMPRESSED AND
INCREASINGLY AFRAID OF THE COMPETITION.

JUNIOR MASTER

Shaowu Li

CLUB MASTER

William Geiger

Hua Lee

Su Ling Lee

Dorothy Loose

Michael Pascal

Donald Schowalter

SECTIONAL MASTER

Ramesh Gupta

REGIONAL MASTER

Denise Dufour

Elaine Kirshenbaum

NABC MASTER

Judy Lorigan

Leena Shete

LIFE MASTER

Madeleine Frizzi

Arthur Henry

Karl Sokalski

Curt Woodhead

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Arthur Henry

Curt Woodhead

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Elaine Zweig

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR PBA MEMBERS WHO HAVE
WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED THOSE
WHO HAVE BECOME SO
ACCOMPLISHED. YOU HAVE MADE
THEM ALL HAPPY TO BE A PART OF
OUR BRIDGE COMMUNITY.

IN MEMORY

Our Unit suffered a great loss when **Bob Quinlan** passed away September 30, 2019. He was married to Fran for over 54 years, whom he met at Pitt. They had three children, several grandchildren, and loved the rescue dogs he fostered over the years. Bob served in the Marine Corps. He was a Pittsburgher and spent his life and career here.

When he retired, when he wasn't playing poker, Bob devoted his time and his mind to becoming an accomplished duplicate bridge player. He certainly succeeded, accumulating over 7,000 master points. In addition, he taught and he actively participated in the mentoring program. I drove him to and from games and got the benefit of his extensive bridge knowledge. On the way up, he discussed theory, strategy, play of the hand and conventions, and on the way back, he discussed the hands of the day; why his strategy worked and why it didn't always work.

More than a bridge player, Bob was a wonderful man; always pleasant, always friendly, and always ready to help anyone who needed his expertise. He loved the game and the people he met at bridge. Bob may not have been a world class bridge player, but he was certainly a world class man. We will all miss him terribly. Our condolences to his family and his friends.Phyllis Geinzer and Arlene Port

Internet Post Mortem (Cont.)

Bob Zimmermann: neg double Let's look for the (unlikely) 5/4 major suit fit. I'll be 3nt over partner's next bid.

Ernie Retetagos Pass. The vulnerability is affecting my decision. If partner has a balanced minimum, they will pass and we will go plus on defense on a part score hand. If they reopen with a double, I will pass and expect a number, hopefully not 670. I don't want to make it easy for the vulnerable opponents to get off the hook if they overstepped.

PBA EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

December

- 6 Unit Championship
- 12 STaC Pairs - Special Thursday Game
- 13 STaC Pairs & PBA Board meeting (if necessary)
- 15 Sunday STaC Swiss Teams
- 20 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 27 Open Pairs

INTERNET POST:

You Are South. Imp's, East/West

vul. You hold:

S Q 10 6 4
H A Q 8 5 3
D K 6
C 8 4

The bidding is:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
----	-----	1D	2S
?			

What do you bid?

Richard Katz Neg D: The two spade bid has made my hand stronger, by position. Therefore I make a neg double and raise hearts to four

Over three clubs, bid three n t.

Over three diamonds bid three n t, and hope clubs aren't a problem. If I bid three hearts over three diamonds partner won't know that I have 3 n t preference/tolerance. I fully expect to make these contracts, unless partner is 3,4,4,2, and spade ruff occurs in four hearts.

Asim Ulke Neg Dbl. . If partner bids 3C or 3D, I bid 3NT. Slight overbid but my spades are placed right.

Chris Wang: 3NT Partner is opening in first seat. I have 11 points, and hopes that we have a running heart suit. So I try to head for game. I have to decide between 4 H and 3 NT. I choose 3NT as it looks like I have 2 spade stoppers and am not sure partner has 3 hearts. It might be wrong, but with the preempt I have to make a choice between bidding or passing.

Jane Marshall 3H. Partner is probably short in spades (and probably has 3 or more hearts). I almost said 3N (but I reconsidered and decided on 3H). Either could be the winning call.

Gail Carns X if partner bids 3C I bid 3NT If partner bids 3D I bid 3H and if partner bids a H I bid 4H

Bill Holt: 3H. With a fit, partner will raise. Without, partner might bid 3S asking for a S stopper and I can bid 3NT. With 11 high and a 5th H, I'll swing for the fences.

Trudy Cohn: Neg Dbl. I will just make a negative double. If partner bids hearts, i will risk 4 hearts. The alternative is to pass and see if partner makes a reopening double.

Jack Hawthorne: 3H. Maybe partner can suggest NT with a Western Cue or even bid NT himself if he's holding King and one spade. Too strong for a negative double in my view.

Herb Sachs: 2NT; it's either right or wrong!

Steve Nolan: Pass. Hoping that partner reopens with a double which I will pass. I'm not worried about missing a heart fit: even if we have one, we'll probably be better off penalizing the vulnerable opponents. There is some risk of the contract coming in, but there is a better chance of this producing a huge penalty, either on a cross-ruff or if repeated leads of our red suit winners cause declarer to lose trump control.

Craig Biddle Neg Dbl. Good problem. At first glance 3H looks obvious, but what will happen then? If partner doesn't have 3H, he will often have to bid at the 4-level, since he's very unlikely to have a spade stopper. Oh, happy day!. And bidding 3NT directly will be a major disaster when partner has S-Kx H-KJxx D-AQxxxx C-x since LHO will then have a fistful of clubs. So mark me down for a negative double - I will find all 9-card heart fits, and I will bid 3NT if partner rebids 3 of a minor. I won't find our 5-3 heart fit this way. But at IMPs, it's no big deal to play 3NT making on the nose rather than 4H with overtricks.

Stanley Ruskin: Neg Dbl. This is a difficult choice. I think there are 2 possibilities here- negative double or 3H. I am choosing double. The main reason for this is that I prefer to play 3NT if partner has only 3H but 4H if partner has four and the double will find this out. If I bid 3H, and partner less than 3H, he will have a difficult bid to make. If, after my double partner bids 3C or 3D, I will bid 3NT. By doubling, I take up less space and give both of us more room to find the best contract. I don't pass unless I'm planning to defend 2S doubled which I'm not planning to do.

Paul Caplan double if partner has 4 hearts a heart game is preferred. if partner bids 3 clubs or 3 diamonds I will bid 3 NT

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

David Berkowitz	3NT
Bart Bramley	3H
Gerald Caravelli	3H
John Carruthers	3NT
Larry Cohen	2NT
Billy Eisenberg	P
Steve Garner	D
Ron Gerard	P
Carl Hudecek	D
Eddie Kantar	2NT
Sami Kehela	D
Danny Kleinman	2NT
Eric Kokish	2NT
Chip Martel	P
Marshall Miles	3NT
Sur Picus	D
Arthur Robinson	D
Eric Rodwell	D
Michael Rosenberg	D
David Rowntree	D
Jeff Rubens	2NT
Kerri & Steve Sanborn	D
Paul Trent	2NT
Eddie Wold	3H
Robert Wolff	D
Kit Woolsey	P
Zia	2NT

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
Dbl	10	8	100
2NT	7	1	80
Pass	4	2	70
3NT	3	1	70
3H	3	3	50

Pittsburgh Bridge Assoc. NOVEMBER 2019

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 PBA Open Pairs	2
3		4				8 PBA Unit Ch. Swiss Teams.	9
10		11				15 PBA Unit Champ & Annual Membership meeting	16
17		18				22 UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP	23
24		25				29 PBA OPEN PRS.	30

FIRST AT THE POST

70% GAMES

Joel Roteman & Donald Averbach	70.00	Whitehall	Mon
Philip Goulding & Alan Leaver	75.00	Zelionople	Tues
Pamela Croach & Hazel Allen	72.50	New Castle 750er	Mon
Dennis Pittman & Nancy Chak	72.50	Houston	Mon
Martin Greenberg & Paul Rosenberg	70.58	South Hills NLM	Thurs
Bradley Craig & Barbara Belardi	75.93	Greensburg	Fri

FOUR IN A ROW

Micheal Fezar Edgeworth Wed

THREE IN A ROW

Joseph Bernot	Wilkins	Thurs	Arlene Port	Glenshaw	Sat
Robert Flynn	Glenshaw	Wed	John Doyal	Glenshaw	Wed
Kenneth Eichler	Greensburg	Wed			

TWO IN A ROW

Kenneth Eichler	Export	Mon	Ralph Schmeltz	Woodridge	Mon
Judy Lorigan	South Hills NLM	Tues	Dina Fulmer	South Hills NLM	Tues
Prakash Shete	Temple Emanuel	Wed	Ronald Sain	Greensburg	Wed
Patricia Cunkelman	Greensburg	Thurs	Kenneth Eichler	Greensburg	Thurs
Harold Haffner	Wilkins	Fri	Philip Goulding	Sewickley	Fri
Arlene Port	Glenshaw	Sat	Cindy Lucas	Longue Vue	Thurs
Mary Anne Fenstermaker	Longue Vue	Thurs	John Killmeyer	New Brighton	Sat
Asim Ulke	O'Hara	Tues	Trudy Cohn	O'Hara	Tues
Fred Lantz	Greensburg	Wed	David Livingston	Greensburg	Thurs
Martin Kumer	Greensburg	Thurs	Estill Duggins	Lebo	Fri
Barbara Logan	Lebo	Fri	Gail Carns	Glenshaw	Sat
Marcella Retetagos	Glenshaw	Sat	Ernie Retetagos	Glenshaw	Sat
John Killmeyer	New Brighton	Sat	Ernie Retetagos	Glenshaw	Mon
Judy Haffner	O'Hara	Tues	Harold Haffner	O'Hara	Tues
Mahendra Patel	Chartiers-Houston	Fri	Sandra McCall	Temple Emanuel	Wed
Bud McElhaney	Temple Emanuel	Wed	Gary Marcus	Edgeworth	Wed

PBA EVENTS NOVEMBER CALENDAR 2019

November

- 1 Open Pairs
- 8 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 15 Unit Championship & Annual Membership Meeting
- 22 Unit Championship
- 29 Open Pairs