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Unit 142

Pittsburgh, PA

MARCH 2020

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@diegoan.com)

All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

PM: 'MARCH, MARCH, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?'

March: "I'VE COME TO BRING YOU SO MUCH FUN"

THAT'S RIGHT FOLKS.....IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME!! OUR SPRING SECTIONAL IS HERE

Festivities begin Friday, March 6 through March 8. Go to Page 8 and read all about it. This year, once again, it is a player-friendly tournament. You can play two sessions of bridge and still have time to celebrate your win at dinner and a party (or dancing, or whatever). The only commitment you need to make is to show up at the games and win lots of master points. Eating all the goodies is also an option that is hard to refuse.

Just as I predicted, March is the beginning of our schedule of events for the year 2020. There are surprises coming throughout the year that promise good times and many master points. Join in the fun as they come up.

In the meantime, we have our Unit Friday evening game each week and we can log on to the ACBL Nationals in Columbus and check our the events and results and have a good time. Several of our unit members will be there to represent our District and our Unit. We wish them success and look forward to the parade we will have if they end up winning. Just in case you want to get a team for the Friday evening Swiss Championship game, call Jane Marshall and she will get you the people you need.

A note of caution: Watch out!! Our classes are just about over and our students are armed with knowledge and ready to go out into the bridge world and start beating us up with their stunning new bridge skills (Just saying)

WORDS OF WISDOM TO LIVE BY

BIRTHDAYS ARE GOOD FOR YOU
The more you have the longer you live.

BRIDGE BYTES

It certainly does!!!

TO BID DIAMONDS - OR NOT TO BID DIAMONDS

That Is The Question

After partner opens the bidding with 1 club, what do you respond when you hold five diamonds and a four card major? One school of thought is that you should always bid the major, while another suggests that you should bid up the line. Bridge World Standard, a system which is based on a consensus of American experts, responds 1 diamond when holding at least invitation-al values. In the Two Over One system, you need an opening bid to bid 1 diamond. Bidding 1 diamond with at least an opener makes the most sense to me.

After partner opens 1 club, you will play this hand in a 4-4 major suit fit if you have one. If you do not, you will probably play in no trump. You rarely play in a minor suit unless one partner is two suited or has at least a six card suit. The reason is that no trump scores better than minor suits. If you are not going to play the hand in diamonds, a 1 diamond bid can only benefit the opponents. You respond 1 diamond with an opening bid, because an opening bid opposite an opening bid puts you close to a slam if partner has extras. You should not distort your distribution when you have a good hand.

If you always respond in a four card major, it will be very difficult to ever get to a diamond slam. If you always bid up the line, even with a weak hand, you could be helping the opponents by giving away too much information. If you are not going to be playing in diamonds, don't tell the opponents that you have diamonds. With a weak responding hand that is only worth one bid, just bid the major. When you play 2/1, after 1 Club-1 Diamond, opener can suppress their four card major and rebid 1 NT. You don't have to worry about missing a 4-4 fit. Responder does not have a four card major or they will rebid it at the 2 level. The less the opponents know about your distribution, the harder it is to defend.

As you might imagine, when I have four diamonds and a four card major, I always respond in the major regardless of high card strength. Bidding up the line is an antiquated treatment and is contrary to modern bidding theory. On the vast majority of hands, it won't matter which system you play. The most important thing is that you and your partner are on the same page.

COUNT ON IT by Craig Biddle

Why do we need 25 points for game? There are 40 points in the deck, and 13 tricks, so each trick should require 3 points to win. Not quite. When honors combine, they can be more powerful. And the more points your side has, the more likely it is that your points will combine. KQx opposite Jxx is always going to take 2 tricks in notrump, as you would expect from the 3 points per trick math. But KQxx opposite J10xx will take 3 tricks with the same 6 points.

From this we can learn that it's better to have your points in your long suits than in your short suits. An extreme example – AJ doubleton opposite KQ doubleton is taking only 2 tricks, no matter how skillfully you play the suit. But AJ doubleton opposite KQxx will take 4 tricks if there is a side entry to the longer holding. From this we can learn that if you have 25 points between 2 hands, it's occasionally bad if one of you has 20 and the other has 5. And a secondary lesson from this is that when partner opens a 20-21 2NT, raising to game on 5 points can occasionally lead to a horrific contract. You should raise anyway, - I did say "occasionally." Bidding is not an exact science.

So the answer is that, in notrump, lower honors can gang up on the enemy aces and create tricks for the foot-soldier spot cards. And that's why we want to be in 3NT with two balanced hands, no major suit fit, and 25 points. What about 4 of a major? That's 10 tricks, and we still are told to bid it with 25 points. Well, now in addition to using your high cards to clear the way for your spots, you can make some of your small trumps by ruffing. But be careful, if I have 5 trumps in my hand and 3 in dummy, ruffing one or two cards in hand is only useful if that helps to set up dummy's long suit. Suppose we are in 4S with: S-KQJxx H-Kx D-Axx C-xxx in hand and S-Axx H-Kxxx D-xxx C-Axx in dummy. We have 5 spade tricks, 2 hearts, and two minor suit aces. It makes no difference whether we ruff dummy's 3rd or 4th hearts in hand, or simply discard them when we cash our long trumps. From this we can learn why we should bid conservatively with 4333 shape.

Consider instead this hand - S-KQJxx H-Kx D-Axx C-xxx in hand and S-Axx H-Kxxxx D-Kxx C-xx in dummy. Now we can either lead out clubs early, and ruff our 3rd club in dummy for the 10th trick. Or, if the evil opponents lead a trump, we can switch horses and win the trump in hand, cash another high trump to make sure the suit is breaking 3-2, and then play HK, HA, heart ruff high. If the suit has broken 3-3 we have 11 tricks. And if the suit has broken 4-2, we can use the ace of spades as an entry to ruff another heart, then the DK as an entry to cash the long heart for our 10th trick. From this we can learn that we sometimes have to delay drawing trumps because we need to use them as entries to do something else.

PENALTY DOUBLES (cont)

(cont on pg5)by arlene port

There are many different kinds of doubles. More than you can imagine. Responsive, maximal, Lightener and support are just some doubles used in bridge. The most commonly used doubles and, I believe, the most useful doubles are *Takeout*, *Negative and Penalty*. You can't play a good game of bridge without these three doubles.

While the takeout and negative doubles have become an integral part of our game, the penalty double which, in fact, is extremely important to defense, is often treated like the crooked uncle in the closet we don't like to talk about. While teaching competitive bidding, when I come to penalty doubles, I always tell my students that I will teach them what it is, but "please don't use them until you know better". Well, it's time to take "Uncle Penalty Double" out of the closet.. We need him.

In many cases, penalty doubles are easily identified and executed. However, the more difficult penalty doubles come in competitive bidding. The questions always remains: "Whose hand is it"? If I compete at a higher level, will I go down in my contract"? Does the level 5 really belong to the opponents? "Do I have the values to defend"? Listed below are some valuable guidelines to help you make these decisions:

WHEN IS A DOUBLE FOR PENALTY?

1. When both partners have made at least one bid. (excluding takeout and negative)
2. All doubles of 1NT are for penalty. (Unless the double is a conventional call.) If the double is not alerted, your double is penalty.
3. There is no unbid suit
4. The doubled suit is artificial i.e. (1NT — pass — 2C — X penalty — lead a club)
5. You passed after an enemy bid, then later double any game bid, any notrump bid, or an unraised suit bid 3C or higher.
6. If your side holds 23 or more High Card Points, you should never allow the enemy to play undoubled.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PENALTY DOUBLE?

1. Lack of a fit for partner, otherwise a relatively balanced hand – in particular you *must not* hold a long suit six-plus cards) of your own; A void is the best, but a singleton is pretty good. A good fit for partner means that we might even be better off playing our own contract than defending their contract. And it increases the chance of shortness in one of the opponents' hand.
2. Trump quality and position – your tricks are sure tricks and there's no danger of tipping off declarer as to the correct line of play – but the position of your honors in the other suits must appear to be favorable to you too; Note that if trumps appear to be 5-5 (or even 4-4) we won't always be able to tell where our honors are in relation to declarer's honors.

PENALTY DOUBLES

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PENALTY DOUBLE? (CONT)

3. An expectation of setting the contract at least two tricks – or, at match points, your judgment that the contract is normal (four or five of a minor is generally *not* normal at MPs) and that your peers are likely to consider doubling if the contract isn't normal – perhaps they've clearly gone off the rails – you are almost certainly getting a good board if they go down even without a double).
4. No place for the opponents to run - Many times opponents are showing two suits and competitive bidding with you and your partner get them to the point where they can be doubled. Be careful If you double them in that contract they may settle for the other long suit which may play better. Take your plus or, if warranted, continue the bidding.. Otherwise, pass. A plus is a plus.

WHAT MAKES A BAD PENALTY DOUBLE?

1. When you and your partner have most of your strength in a suit that has both length and strength.
2. When opponents open INT and you have equal values and no long suit. If you double, each time you get in the lead you must give your opponent a trick.. After all, there are only 40 points in the deck and you and opponent have 32 of them.
3. When opponent shows a distributional hand with two suits. If you double the contract, they may run to the other long suit, which may make.....Whoops!!
4. When opponents “sacrifice” due to favorable vulnerability and you have the values and distribution to compete., THEN BID. If you have some doubt about competing, setting them doubled may not be profitable enough under any circumstances. So, take your chances.

BOTTOM LINE:

- Any double may be converted to a penalty double by either partner.
- All doubles of opponents preempts, with the exception of 4S are for takeout. A double of 4S is always penalty. If you want your partner to bid, you must bid 4NT. That is takeout for the other suits.
- When opponent overcalls after your opening bid, if partner and other opponent pass, you **MUST** reopen the bidding with a takeout double. If your partner wanted to double the overcall, they cannot, because that double would be negative., showing other suits. By passing your double, this is the only way your partner can penalize the overcaller. If they have a weak hand, they can always show weakness by bidding.
- All penalty doubles are cooperative. If partner doubles and you feel opponents will make their contract, or you can make your contract, you can always refuse to sit for the double. On the other hand, trust your partner as much as possible..
- A penalty double says: “Opponents cannot make their contract”. How you respond, either by passing or bidding, is your decision.

PITTSBURGH SPRING SECTIONAL

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

Newcomers & 499ers:
Darlene Mannheim
412-913-5944
499er@pittsburghbridge.org

Tournament Chair:
Bill Holt 412-860-2794
Spring20@pittsburghbridge.org

Hospitality:
June Threlkeld
Bob Flynn

Director In Charge: Alex Bealles
Sanction # S2003365

Pairs Entries \$25 / pair
Open Swiss Teams \$100/team
499er Swiss \$ 88/team

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

Open	499er
A: 2000+	5: 300-500
B: 750-2000	3: 100-300
C: 0-750	1: 0-100

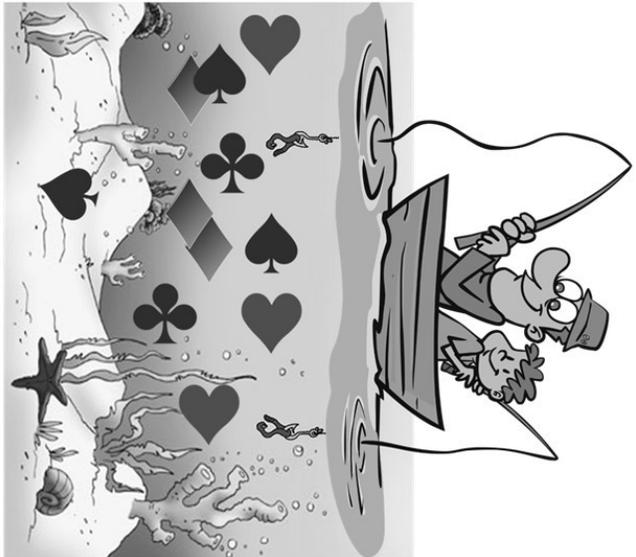
Stratifications in All Director's Events by Avg. MPs
Discretion

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

Pittsburgh Spring Sectional

Hospitality All Sessions!



Friday, March 6

10:30 AM ★

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

Continental Breakfast & Lunch Included!

3:00 PM ★

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

Saturday, March 7

10:00 AM ★

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

Continental Breakfast & Lunch Included!

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 8

Sunday Brunch & Lunch Included!

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



American Contract Bridge League



Pittsburgh Bridge Association

★ **Early Playtimes!!!** ★
Fri - Sat - Sun

March 6-8, 2020
Masonic Center North
3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

YOU AND YOUR DIRECTOR POST

Generally, this page is reserved for those members of our unit who move up in rank. Unfortunately, the name-sender is on vacation. So to those of you who asked “When”? My answer is “Not this month; next month” , I hope.

So instead, if you are a newer player, or even an older player here is everything you ever wanted to know about your director:

YOUR DIRECTOR

1. Your director is your friend: This is the person who will adjudicate, mediate and placate all disagreements and indiscretions at the table. The director will not send you to your room, but inform you of how to correct your mistake when there is:
 - A bid out of turn - my favorite
 - Failure to alert an alert call— who can remember that?
 - Yelling at your partner - oh dear, I was absent when they taught that
 - Yelling at the opponents - I was there for that lesson, but didn't listen
 - Pounding on your chest when you want partner to lead a heart. - Not a bad idea
 - A scoring error you make. - Actually, the only problem I have is that when I don't like my score, I forget to enter it on the table computer. Is that wrong?
 - Holding up the game by thinking too long - Thinking was never my problem
 - Gloating!! - Well, next time someone gives me a zero and gloats, I will call .

There may be more infractions, but I can't remember them. What I can do is tell you that it is not a bad thing to call the director to your table. They are truly there to help you and your fellow players and they will take care of all your disagreements without getting you involved personally. The only time I was ever sorry I called is when I said to the director: “I have a problem” and the director replied: “So do I. Leave me alone”. And, perhaps the most important thing of all is not to let your opponents make director calls at the table. If they knew what they were talking about they would insist you call him/her.

PBA EVENTS CALENDAR 2019 - 2020

March

- 6 PITTSBURGH SECTIONAL @ MASONIC
INFO on page 6
13 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
20 Open Pairs
27 Open Pairs

April

- 3 Unit Championship
10 Open Pairs
17 Swiss Team Unit Charity Championship (for ACBL)
& PBA Board Meeting
24 Unit Championship

May

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

Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Bob Zimmermann: .5 diamonds I'm heading to 6 spades, but I might as well show the diamond control (and deny a heart or club control) along the way. Maybe I'll hit [Axxx AKxxx x Axx]

Herb Sachs: PASS Here you go. I thank east for bidding; Pass

Trudy Cohn: 5S I will bid 5 Spades and hope that partner will go on with 2 aces. Trudy

Note: 6 out of 8 believed 'PASS' was a no-lose situation. If partner doubled, they would defend. If partner bid, they would go to slam.

INTERNET POST:

You are South, IMP's, both Vul

You Hold:

S KJ9653

H Q 5 2

D A Q 4

C 6

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1C 1D 1S 2D

4D* 5D ?

*The 4D bid is not covered by any explicit agreement But presumably a strong spade raise with at most one diamond.

Jack Hawthorne: DBL I'd love to be able to confidently bid 6S, but naturally, I'm worried about hearts. So, I will double 5D and hope partner can diagnose my fears. If he comes up with a 5H cue bid, I'll bid 6S, worried that we might miss a grand.

Ernie Retetagos : 6 Spades. Partner has 9-10 black cards, and probably a heart honor. I am too strong not to bid slam. We probably can take 12 tricks, if they don't take the first two. If I cue bid 6 diamonds, I am making it a lot easier to find a heart lead.

Gail Carns 6D partner could have SA HAK and CA or HA and CAKQ and Bid 7S

Chris Wang: 6 spades. I could bid 6D to show control of diamonds but I want a diamond lead.

Jane Marshall Double. Too many of my points are in their suit to consider 6 anything. If my partner bids 5 hearts after my double, I bid 6 spades because I have 2nd round club control.

Richard Katz 6D I bid six diamonds on my way to six or seven spades. If they cash AK hearts cause part has AQXX, JX, X, AKQJXX Then I'm down Otherwise Always the optimist

Asim Ulke 6D. It looks like we have about 6 defensive tricks against a diamond contract. So double would get us 1100. But we can certainly make 6S and that is 1430. To make 7S partner needs all 3 missing aces and a long club suit or the heart K. The following 2 hands are examples of what partner might hold to produce a high percentage grand slam.

Bill Holt: 5S is enough. My diamond holding suggests the Opps have cards in other suits, and I have too many Spades to double.

Steve Nolan: 6D. Indicating (i) I have more strength than I have been able to show so far; (ii) I don't have a club or heart stopper; and (iii) I do have one in diamonds. I could not, realistically, make this bid without the king of spades, so partner should be able to place the contract with some confidence.

Bernie Fudor: 6S Good problem a choice between 6sp or X Bidding 5 makes no sense since 800 is the min I expect from double. I think ill go conservative and x rather than taking a risk by bidding 6 Could easily be wrong.

Paul Caplan 6 spades. It is hard to make a informed decision with this much bidding space gone. I think partner has 6 clubs and 4 spades and good values. We might miss 7 and 6 might go down. I think 6spades is the right spot on this auction.

Craig Biddle 6D My guess is that this problem was posed before the use of support doubles became common, so that it was possible that partner had 3-card support. Given that partner has 4 card support, this is a non-problem. I have a monster, considering that 1S would have been my correct bid with S-10xxx H-Qxx D-Kxx C-Jxx at my previous turn. Partner thought we would make game if I held that hand, so I am bidding 6D to invite a grand. Since I promised no key cards for my 1S response, I have 2 extra, and feel justified in having ambitions here. Several of my partners are aware that 18 HCP with only 2 key cards is NOT a good hand once you have forced to game on an auction like this.

Stanley Ruskin 6S These are always crazy hands so here we go. Partner probably has a Diamond void based on the bidding but it doesn't matter if he has one. What type of hand could partner have that 5S would fail. It would have to be something like Axxx/J10X/V/AKQxxx (which is really raunchy since he should have AQxx spades to bid 4D) and would have to lead a H. Thus, if I want to double, do I think I could defeat 5D 3 tricks. I don't think we can since East probably has a hand that looks like x/AKxx/KJ10xxx/xx In order for us to have a chance and he could be 1/5/6/1. So now can we make 5S or 6S. We know that partner has to have at least what I noted above. If he Has the A or K of Hearts, we rate to be able to make 6S (he should have AQ S). He shouldn't have 3 hearts unless one of the is the A or K. I always err on the aggressive side so I bid 6S on this hand. You have the chance that they will save at 7D also

See note on page 8Cont. on page 8)

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Marty Bergen	P
David Berkowitz	P
Bart Bramley	6S
Larry Cohen	P
Billy Eisenberg	D
Richard Freeman	P
Rob Gordon	P
Pam & Matt Granovetter	6S
Carl Hudecek	D
Paul Ivaska	6D
Danny Kleinman	6S
Eric Kokish	6D
Randi Montin	P
Erik Paulsen	6S
Arthur Robinson	5S
Jeff Rubens	P
Ira Rubin	P
Ron Smith	D
Frank Stewart	6S
Don Stack	5S
Adam Wildavsky	6S
Robert Wolff	5H
Joel Wooldridge	5H
Kit Woolsey	5D

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
Pass	8	1	100
6S	6	5	90
5S	2	2	60
DBL	3	2	40
6D	3	5	40
5H	2	0	20
5D	0	1	N/A

Pittsburgh Bridge Assoc. MARCH 2020

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6						PITTS	
7							BURGH
8 SECTIONAL						13 PBA Unit Swiss championship	14 Mini lesson at Glenshaw Lorraine Hanna. 10:30 am
9							
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APR 1							
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FIRST AT THE POST

70% GAMES

Philip Goulding & Paul Rosenberg	71.43	Zelienople	Tues	
Philip Goulding & Marcella Retetagos	71.53	Sewickley	Fri	
Dustin Hoover & Madeleine Frizzi	73.00	Lebo	Fri	
Jayant Rajgopal & Craig Biddle	70.83	PBA Unit	Fri	
Donald Turacy Sr & Dennis Pittman	76.79	Lebo	Fri	

SIX IN A ROW

John Killmeyer	New Brighton		Sat	
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FOUR IN A ROW

Raymond Kramer	Natrona Heights	Mon		
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THREE IN A ROW

Robert Zimmermann	Glenshaw	Sat	Richard Bulow	Greensburg	Thurs-
Fred Lantz	Greensburg	Thurs	Alexander Bealles	Butler	Thurs
Constance Hoechstetter	Chartiers-Houston		Fri		

TWO IN A ROW

Arlene Port	Rodef	Mon	Judy Haffner	Rodef	Mon
Asim Kokan	Rodef 299er	Mon	Syed Ali	Rodef 299er	Mon-
Catherine Caplan	O'Hara	Tues	Cindy Lucas	Longue Vue	Thurs
Mary Anne Fenstermaker	Longue Vue	Thurs	Kenneth Eichler	Greensburg	Fri
Leroy Hackenberg II	Greensburg	Fri	Philip Goulding	Glenshaw	Sat
Christopher Wang	Glenshaw	Mon	Kathleen Mulligan	O'Hara	Tues
Gloria Moser	Glenshaw	Wed	Donald Turacy, Sr	Temple Emanuel	Wed-
Dennis Pittman	Temple Emanuel	Wed	Ed Collins	Export	Mon-
Sandra Brand	O'Hara	Tues	Judy Lorigan	South Hills NLM	Tues
Diane Franjione	South Hills NLM	Tues	Joanne Zambroski	Wilkins	Fri
John Doyal	Wilkins	Fri	Sandra Brand	O'Hara	Tues
Ronald Sain	Export	Mon	John Killmeyer	Houston	Mon
Thomas Jolly Jr	O'Hara	Tues	Alfred Tung	O'Hara	Tues
Elaine Kirschenbaum	S Hills NLM	Tues	Nolly Gibbs	South Hills NLM	Tues
Joanne Zambroski	Glenshaw	Wed	Gen Novak	Greensburg	Wed
Rosanne Patterson	Wilkins	Fri	Richard McNeer	Wilkins	Fri
Craig Biddle	PBA Unit	Fri			