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Unit 142

Pittsburgh, PA

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POST MORTEM

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All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

CONDENSED ONLINE VERSION

What do you do when you write a newsletter for a specific group of people, and there is no news.? Good question. The answer to that is : Bridge players are always happy to hear about what's going on in the bridge world.

Well, we can forget about tournaments, club games, classes and anything else that requires leaving the house. So, I tried to focus on the information which is in the May Post Mortem and is instructional, interesting, and even a little funny. (Pandemics are not funny) So, read what's inside and you might learn a little, be challenged a little and even laugh a little. Seriously, I had a hard time finding something funny about our situation, but I did.

I also found, thank goodness, online bridge. It keeps me from going nuts and cuts down on my whining, and, it is really a lot of fun. If you haven't joined BBO yet, do it now. You will not believe how much time it fills in your day. You can play with friends, strangers, robots and in any kind of event you like; i.e. Individual, team or ACBL master point rated games. Check with Gus Costanzo. I think he has a club game online as well. I am participating in an IMP league and a KO. It's nice. If you want to try and need help, call me. Surprisingly, I will be home.

While this terrible time still is with us, please be careful and make sure you wear a mask and gloves if you have to go out. But, you knew that already, didn't you? In the meantime, stay well have heart. We will get through this.

..... arlene

WORDS OF WISDOM TO LIVE BY

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

BRIDGE BYTES

It certainly does!!!

COUNT ON IT

Counting is the key to good defense. A good defender counts tricks, high cards, and distribution. The spot cards that you play don't take many tricks, but they give your partner information regarding declarer's distribution and high card location. This process begins with the opening lead. Some players lead top of nothing from three small, some lead small, and some play middle up down(MUD). I prefer MUD, but there are pros and cons for each method. The important thing is that you and partner are in agreement.

Although you almost never underlead an Ace against a suit contract, it's common against no trump contracts. A standard lead is 4th best. Partner should always apply the rule of 11. Subtracting the spot card lead from 11 tells you how many higher cards are outstanding. An opening lead of 4th best should be from a suit headed by an honor. If your long suit is not headed by at least the Jack, lead 2nd highest instead of 4th best.

In a situation where partner leads 4th best to your K 6 3, play the King, and if it holds, and you chose to continue the suit, you should return the 6. If you return the 3 instead, it would show an original holding of either two or four in the suit. If the King loses to the Ace, your next play in this suit should be the 6, whether you are later following suit or discarding.

When you are defending and have to make a discard, you'd like to let your partner know where you have strength. You can do this in a couple of different ways. You could signal encouragement in a suit. But unless you have extra length, you will have weakened your holding by discarding in that suit. Alternately, you can make a discouraging discard in the suit that you don't like. Partner can infer what you do like, and you won't have weakened your hand. When you have made a preemptive bid, partner knows your length in that suit. If you have a plethora of spot cards to chose from, the first spot card that you play should be a suit preference signal .

Correct carding provides the helpful clues that are needed to play strong defense. It takes effort to try to work out declarer's high card points and distribution on every hand, but it will certainly improve your results.

THE THINKING POST
.....By Alan Leaver

Ed Note: Each month I send a hand to many of our most experienced players, requesting they bid what they think is best and a short analysis of why. Lucky us. Because he was not familiar with the format, not only did Alan answer my request but sent me a complete analysis of how he came to his conclusion. This is exactly what our most successful players do to make informed decisions at the bridge table. What he sent is basically a guide on how to approach bidding, playing and defense at the bridge table.arlene

Here is the bidding problem:

THE BIDDING: The bidding is:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
---	----	----	1D
PASS	1H	PASS	1S
1NT	PASS	?	

What would you bid if opponents
Bid this hand at your table?

.....So clues here to me are what was not done much in the style of Sherlock Holmes and "what the dog did not do".

Partner did not overcall with a 5 card spade suit or his 5 card club suit and right hand opponent did not bid 2S to show 4 card support over 1NT. On the side of what was done-partner decided to come in with 1NT when we are red and they are not. He is proud of something- he must have values so what are they that they would prevent him from bidding 2C in the first place!

HCP first- give opener 12 and his partner 6ish, I have 10 so unless someone is psyching that's 28 so partner is in the 10-12 range and something made him like his hand more when the bidding came around to him again. Probably values in diamonds and spades and some in clubs and a singleton or much more likely a void in hearts. We can guess he has 4 spades since right hand opponent did not bid 2S which he might well do with 4. Opener does not have 5 so he has 4 and right hand opp has 3 and I have 2 so that gives partner 4. I have AJ in spades so partner likely has K10xx lets say (I would be prouder of that than Kxxx. Maybe even KJxx- real pride here).

He has X or void in hearts and probably void so 5H on my right and 3 on my left. We have 9 points to work with- if his values were concentrated in clubs he might well have overcalled 2C with 5 clubs. So values are in diamonds (again he is proud because he is behind the 1D bidder) with lesser values in clubs. He has to be at least 5-4 in the minors. The only way to get to 5-5 is if RH Opp has 4 spades and did not raise because of weakness. I could give him:

S K10xx	OR POSSIBLY			S Kxx
H void		⇒		H void
D KQ10xx				D KQ10xx
C Axxx				C Axxxx

and now his bid looks pretty good. Playing 2 diamonds prevents a diamond ruff from A and out. And he can control hearts with one ruff. But in clubs, my hand can comfortably ruff a spade. I will go the club route and bid 2C. Also if we end up defending I like a club lead better than a diamond.

I rest my case your Honor! His NT bid was very unusual.

PANDEMIC POST HUMOR

I was going to print MY diary, but this was more interesting, evidenced by the fact that all I do is play bridge online and pout.

Day 1 – I can do this!! Got enough food and wine to last a month!

Day 2 – Opening my 8th bottle of wine. I fear wine supplies might not last!

Day 3 – Strawberries: Some have 210 seeds, some have 235 seeds. Who Knew??

Day 4 – 8 p.m.: Removed my Day Pajamas and put on my Night Pajamas.

Day 5 – Today, I tried to make hand sanitizer. It came out as Jell-O Shots!!

Day 6 – I get to take the garbage out. I'm so excited, I can't decide what to wear

Day 7 – Laughing way too much at my own jokes!!

Day 8 – Went to a new restaurant called "The Kitchen." You must gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

Day 9 – I put liquor bottles in every room. Tonight, I'm getting all dressed up and going bar hopping.

Day 10 – Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.

Day 11 – Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge just said, "What the hell do you want now?"

Day 12 – I realized why dogs get so excited about something moving outside, going for walks or car rides. I think I just barked at a squirrel.

Day 13 – If you keep a glass of wine in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face.

Day 14 – Watched the birds fight over a worm. The Cardinals lead the Blue Jays 3-1.

Day 15 – Anybody else feel like they've cooked dinner about 395 times this month?

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM POST

Before you play any conventions, it is imperative that you discuss in detail the entire scope of the convention. If you want to keep it simple, discuss that as well.. Play as much of the convention that you are comfortable with. Having said that, below are two conventions you may be interested in trying and that I think are very helpful to your game. This is the simple version. Choose the one that makes you happy.

HOW TO COMPETE OVER OPPONENTS' ONE NO TRUMP BID

1. CAPPELLETTI: When opponent opens 1NT
 - A. Opponent bids 1nt. If you bid:
 1. 2C - You promise a one- suited hand. .RESPONSE : You don't know which suit that is, so you must bid 2D,and partner will bid their suit.
 2. 2D - You promise both major suits: RESPONSE– Bid the one you have the most cards in, not the one that has the most honors.
 3. 2H - You promise hearts and a minor. RESPONSE: - You can either Pass or if you have both minors (preferable 4 of each) you must bid 2NT. Partner will then bid their minor suit.
 4. 2S - You promise spades and a minor suit. REESPONSE: Choose the one with the most length. OR
DON'T (DISTURB OPPONENTS' NO TRUMP.
 2. A. Opponent bids 1nt. If you :
 1. DOUBLE: Partner has a one-suited hand. RESPONSE: Bid 2C
And partner will bid their suit.
 2. 2C: Partner has clubs and a higher ranking suit. D/H/or S.
RESPONSE: Either pass or bid the next higher ranking suit if you don't have clubs. If you have 3 clubs pass. You should have a
at least 3 cards in each of the other three suits.
 2. 2D: Partner has diamonds and a higher ranking suit. Either H or S
RESPONSE: Pass with 3 or bid the next higher ranking suit.
 3. 2H. Partner has hearts and spades. RESPONSE: Pass or bid two spades.
 4. 2S: Partner has spades only. RESPONSE: PASS.

NOTE: 1. At both Cappelletti and DON'T, your partner should have 5-cards in each suit.
2. What point count do you need to bid either one of these? You need a hand that has value and your strength in each of the suits. Distribution is very important so you really don't have to have a fabulous hand; just reasonable suits and reasonable vulnerability.
Don't think you have a wonderful hand if your strength is not in your suits.
3. RESPONDER: If there is an intervening bid, you don't have to bid at all. If there is not, you MUST bid.
4. If you bid any other suit than the one your partner asked you for, you will play the hand in that suit. BE AFRAID. You need a very long and good suit to do this.

WHICH ONE SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO PLAY: DON'T? You are able to play in two clubs, which you cannot do in Cappelletti Too often you find yourself in a minor suit when you have three of a major suit.5 card suit.

CAPPELLETTI: You can find the major more easily.
MY CHOICE? I LIKE CAPPELLETTI. - But DON'T is OK.

IN MEMORY

Raymond "Bryan" DeMatt died recently. He was a novice player. He was active at Lorraine Hanna's Saturday lessons. He often stayed to play the regular game. He was also a regular at the South Hills nonlife master game. Bryan earned very quickly a reputation for being a gentle man and a gentleman both at the table and away from the table. His presence will be missed. Our condolences to all of his family and his many friends.

Phyllis Spatz We knew is was Monday because Phyllis and her partner, Dorothy Rothbart,played at Rodef Shalom for as long as I can remember every Monday, never missing a game and always being the lovely person she was. In March she was visibly absent. I never realized that she was ill. Phyllis died in New York, most probably close to her family. She was a lovely, darling woman who came to have a good time—and so she did.
It's going to be very lonesome without her. I knew her for so many years and I, along with everyone else, will miss her.

Liberty Pyros : Liberty Pyros passed away in April. She was a brilliant woman with many skills. In addition, she loved bridge. Liberty and Gert Mallet played at Rodef Shalom every week for many years. Liberty also had her own bridge game in Oakland where she taught and played. In addition to her other bridge activities, she was a member of our Unit and we all enjoyed her company. She was a lovely, sweet woman who accomplished much in her lifetime. We extend our condolences to her friends and her family. She will be remembered fondly by all of us who knew her so well.

PBA EVENTS CALENDAR 2019 - 2020
WISH LIST - WHO KNOWS WHEN WE WILL ACTUALLY
BE ABLE TO DO SOME OF THESE THINGS.

May

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

June

- 5 NAOP QUALIFIER
- 7 (Sunday) Bergman-Joseph Swiss Teams
Event cancelled for 2020. See you next year!
- 12 Unit Championship & PBA Board Meeting
- 18 STaC Pairs - Special Thursday Game
- 19 STaC Pairs
- 26 Unit Championship Swiss Teams

27

July

- 3 Open Pairs
- 10 NAOP QUALIFIER
- 17 PITTSBURGH SECTIONAL @ MASONIC
- 24 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 31 Unit Championship

Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Reanette Frobouck 2C. I guess N has the minors, so if that is the case I would bid 2C. Maybe N miscounted his hand first time around The whole thing is weird.

Bob Zimmermann: Pass First of all, let me say that I have no idea what RHO is doing. Double would be takeout. But, he didn't double 1 diamond, so the hand is not suitable for an original double. Perhaps he's something like 3154 or 4144. There might be a pony under all that poop, but I'm not going to dig for it.

Gail Carns 2N This is tough. I think partner has a good hand with 1 or zero hearts. It sounds like they(partner) have 4 spades and both minors. I wish I knew if the opponents were playing weak jump shifts.

Herb Sachs: PASS Got it, thanks! As usual I am clueless. I pass

Arlene Port: Pass One of the perks of doing this column is that I get to see all of the bids preferred in the order of which is at the top of the list. Having said that, I still pass, proving that I'm either unable to read or I don't believe the best bridge players in the country. It's just that I really thought the bid was too strange. At first I thought it might be a Sandwich NT, but seeing the bidding, that doesn't work. If partner has the minors, he should bid them. This definitely wasn't a forcing bid, so I don't respond. Oh well.....

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
3NT	9	3	100
2NT	4	1	80
2C	8	4	60
2D	2	0	50
2S	1	0	40
PASS	1	10	40

**INTERNET POST: **

You are South, IMP's, N/S Vul

You hold:

S AJ
H Q 10 5 3 2
D 8 6 4
C K 6 5

The bidding is:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
----	----	----	1D
PASS	1H	PASS	1S
1NT	PASS	?	

Jack Hawthorne: PASS Sorry - I can't see any real option but to pass, particularly at IMPs.

Ernie Retetagos: 2 Clubs. I'll guess to bid 2 clubs. Partner seems marked with 4 spades, and wouldn't have entered the auction with a flat 10 count. I'm thinking that partner is something like 4144.

Chris Wang: Pass My guess is the partner has an opening hand, but less than a 1NT opener, as partner did not overcall 1NT. I pass.

Jane Marshall: 2 clubs. Sounds to me like partner has diamonds and clubs. The opponent's 1 diamond bid could be 3 or 4. Partner may be 5-5 in the minors.

Alan Leaver : 2C. If we end up defending, I like a club lead better than a diamond. His NT bid was very unusual. (note: See his entire article on page 4

Richard Katz 3NT As part has a one n t opener with good diamonds, I bid three n t Expecting to make it!

Asim Ulke PASS I think North definitely has diamonds. North also has clubs but not good enough to overcall over 1D. North also has some spades. The 1NT bid is instructive and not take out to minors unless the south hand had a reason to bid.

I am happy to pass with hearts under control.

Bernie Fudor: Pass He didn't thing too much of the strange bidding.

Bill Holt: I have no idea what to bid. But I am very concerned about partner.

Steve Nolan: 3 NT. This is a strange auction. I'm guessing that North passed in round 1 with a potential penalty pass, and East is either psyching or has a shapely but understrength hand. It's hard to bid confidently without knowing if we play that transfers are on after an overcalled 1 no trump. If we do, I'll start with 2D. If not, show my points with 3NT, reaching our likeliest final contract.

Paul Caplan Pass. I think partner has 3,1,4,5 shape and some values. 1nt should play ok. The opponents may step in and regret it.

Craig Biddle 3NT. I have no sense of humor about mystery bids. If partner thinks this shows both minors, he's wrong. The way you show both minors here is to bid 2C, since coming into a live auction by bidding the only unbid suit implies that you have great length in the first suit bid in front of you. Here, I expect partner to have 5 or 6 diamonds and a decent hand, and I likely have two entries which will let him pick up the diamond suit and run it. S-Qxx H-xx D-AQJxxx C-Ax looks about right to me.

Stanley Ruskin PASS
So, this isimps (my response is the same if it had been match points). What is partners likely distribution – 4/2/3/4 or 4/2/4/3. What is his Point count – 9-11. He didn't double 1D so at best, he has a bad 12. In trying to figure out what I should bid, I'm thinking that I must be Missing something since I can only find one possible bid. Partner has Already bid my hand; it doesn't look like we have any 8 card fit in any Suit; and I can't think of doing anything else but Pass

Trudy Cohn: I will pass. Partner must have scattered values or would have made a 2 suited take out double. My second choice would be 2 hearts. I am willing to play a 5/2 fit knowing partner has an honor in hearts

Cont. on page 8)

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

David Berkowitz	2NT
Henry Bethe	2D
Bart Bramley	2C
Ira Chorus	3NT
Kitty and Steve Cooper	2C
Billy Eisenberg	3NT
Fleisher & Freisner	2C
Carl Hudecek	2C
Ralph Katz	2C
Sammy Kehela	2NT
Eddie Kantar	2NT-
Danny Kleinman	3NT
Eric Kokish	3NT
John Kranyak	2D
Jill Meyers	2C\
Marshall Miles	3NT
Arthur Robinson	3NT
Michael Rosenberg	2S
Jeff Rubens	3NT
Joey Silver	2NT
John Swanson	3NT
Brad Theuerer	2C
Robert Wolff	3NT
Kit Woolsey	P
Zia	2C

