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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

I thought when the Pandemic hit the fan, It would be easy to publish the Post Mortem, the same as I have done for these many years. I finally hit upon a format that would be interesting and informative until it was over. "That's It!! I found the perfect way to keep everyone entertained. I was going to keep a diary, recording my life in quarantine. And so I did. And here it is: I PLAYED BRIDGE!!!!. Unfortunately, as you may have noticed, so far my diary consists of only 4 words. WAIT!! I just found two more words: A LOT.

Actually the bridge world hasn't stopped, and in fact has morphed to online, where you can play 24/7 with partners who yell at you or robots, who don't. It's much easier to win if you never have a revelation of some kind, or you think your partner is too stupid to take the sacrifice, and you have to do it for them.

There are some very interesting articles this month in the PM and offers you simply cannot refuse. I was going to write a teaching column, but decided I needed to test the readership before I worked hard to write it. Here it is: If 11 people let me know they have read the online version and are interested in a subject or problem I could help with, I would do it. That way, I could be happy that more than 10 people read the newsletter, and want to learn something as well. Good idea huh? Mommie didn't raise me to be stupid. I did that all myself.

Before I finish and wish you all good health and patience, here are a couple of hints that will help you feel better. Call up your friends and when they tell you their troubles, you will think yours aren't so bad - or - take turns eating and sleeping. OK, a little drink never hurt anyone. Stay well, please.

WORDS OF WISDOM TO LIVE BY

*Always keep your words soft and sweet,
just in case you have to eat them!*

BRIDGE BYTES

It certainly
does!!!

A couple of slam hands from a team game on BBO caught my interest. The pairs were playing Two over One and North was the dealer. In each case the auction was not a success.

- 1) S- J 10 5 H- A Q 4 D- K Q 9 6 4 2 C- 5
S- A K 6 2 H- K D- A 7 5 C- A K Q 7 3
- 2) S- 6 4 H- A J 10 5 3 2 D- K Q 6 C- A 7
S- A K 7 3 H- Q 7 6 D- A 2 C- K 8 4 3

In hand #1, North opened 1 Diamond, South bid 1 spade and North raised to 2 spades. South bid 2 NT(QQ), and North responded 3 diamonds, showing a good 3 card raise. South couldn't see 13 tricks, and they subsided in 6 NT.

Instead of responding 1 spade, South should have responded 2 clubs. There is no reason to distort your distribution when you have a strong hand. After 2 clubs, North could bid a 4 card major if they have one. A reverse by opener does not show extra after a two over one. In this case, North would rebid 2 diamonds. South could bid Blackwood and find 2 key cards with the Queen. It's just possible that North could only have a 5 card suit, so a heart ruff might be needed to take 13 tricks. 7 diamonds would just need a reasonable trump break.

In hand #2, North opened 1 heart, South bid 1 spade, and North bid 2 hearts. South did not have a forcing bid available that showed heart support, so they just jumped to 4 hearts, ending the auction. Instead of responding 1 spade, South should respond 2 clubs. Since an 8 card major suit fit has already been found, it's better to forget the spade suit for now and make the game forcing bid of 2 clubs. Over partner's 2 hearts, bid 3 hearts. With a crappy 12 count, opener could just sign off with 4 hearts. Instead, when opener cue bids 4 clubs, showing a non- minimum, responder can Blackwood into a slam.

In each of these examples it's possible that there could be auctions to reach the top spot even after a 1 spade response. It's just that an initial response of 2 clubs lets the auction flow more smoothly.

FREE ADVANCED BRIDGE LESSONS

Free Advanced Bridge Lessons Play and Defend like a Bridge Expert By Richard Finberg Started Monday, May 25, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern) and at the same time every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Richard Finberg will offer free online advanced bridge lessons via Zoom. Each lesson will be one-half hour and focus on play and defense. Lessons are intended to be fun and informative for players at all levels. Experienced players will learn some new tricks of the trade or may find this to be a fun refresher. My aim is to entertain and inform.

The first series of lessons will focus on:

Deception – The Art of Getting Your Opponents to Help You

Opportunities for deception are common. Most deceptions merely avoid giving away unnecessary information about length or strength. Other deceptive plays actively mislead or create losing options for your opponent that would not otherwise exist. There are also the rare “spectacular” plays such as intentionally sacrificing a trick or cutting you hand off from dummy, all for some greater purpose. Sometimes your partners and teammates will say you were lucky. But such luck often comes from giving opponents a nudge in the wrong direction.

So please join me for some short breaks from worldly affairs, and you too can get your opponents to make mistakes more often.

There is a flyer with the link to the Zoom lesson on the Pittsburgh Bridge website. It will give you the link and tell you what to do to join the lesson. However, I recommend that if you think you may want to attend a meeting, you send me an email to my new bridge-dedicated email address: doublemenot@gmail.com

I will thereafter send you a link and invitation to join this and future lessons unless you tell me to stop. You need not have any experience with Zoom or have a Zoom membership. It is also not necessary to have a camera on your computer. We just will not be able see you, but you should still see me and any material I post on the screen.

All you need is a computer or similar device. I can be reached through the above email for all bridge-related business. Check out the flyer at Pittsburghbridge.org. If necessary, I can be reached at 412-304-9254 (cell), but I may mistake you for a telemarketer, and it may not be pleasant!

Please freely send this email and flyer to your bridge friends (and enemies). All bridge players are welcome to listen in or otherwise participate.

ED NOTE: For those you who do not know Richard, he is an extremely accomplished bridge player, and anything he has to tell you will be valuable in helping you improve your game.....arlene **NEW TIME—3:30 Mon-Wed-Fri**

PANDEMIC POST HUMOR

KID: Hey Ma, when is this coronavirus thing gonna' be over?

MOTHER: Just shut up and eat your toilet paper.

I washed my hands so much due to COVID19, that my exam notes from 1955 resurfaced.

My 70th birthday is today, but I just want everyone to know that I will be postponing it indefinitely due to coronavirus, and I will be turning 70 at a later date. Thank You.

When you work at a bank and 2 guys with masks come in, not to worry. They're just robbing the place.

If you need 144 rolls of toilet paper for a 14 day quarantine, you probably should have been seeing a doctor long before COVID-19

Every disaster movie starts with the government ignoring a scientist.

PREDICTION: There will be a minor baby boom in 9 months, and then one day in 2033, we shall witness the rise of the QUARANTEENS.
(Don't hurt me, I'm just the messenger.)

Divorce lawyers are all waiting for people to be quarantined with their spouse for weeks.

Don't throw away your junk mail. It might be your stimulus money on a debit card.

I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to Twilight Zone.

BBO ONLINE PITTSBURGH SITES

We all know and miss our local bridge games since the virus took over our lives. However, a little thing like that never stopped us from moving our local games from Pittsburgh to BBO (Bridge Base Online), a bridge site that not only runs games 24/7 but has adapted to include those games from all over the country. Pittsburgh players have choices of competition. You can play “local” bridge just by going to Site #2 on BBO (see details below); or “mixture” of players from Pittsburgh and Boca Raton by going to Site #1. (See details below). And here’s how it works: Pittsburgh has two sites online run by two different directors

Site #1: GUS COSTANZO’S SITE: VACB267120: designated as SOUTH-EAST FLORIDA AND FRIENDS. If you go to BBO, and choose “All Tournaments”, a list will appear giving you the option of which game to join. If you want to play at Gus’ game, select VACB267120 and it will bring up an explanation and a prompt to reserve a seat. Any and all players who played at Gus’ games, at either Glenshaw or Wilkins, in 2019 or the first part of 2020 receive automatic entry into the site. If you want to partner with someone who has not played at either Wilkins or Glenshaw, simply call Gus and he will unblock your partner because only one player has to meet the requirements. So, no matter where you are geographically now, you are eligible to join his game. At this site you will come upon a mixed pool of the same Pittsburgh opponents you have seen over the years and Boca Raton opponents who you have never played against.

Game details: Open 7 days a week with average game size of 2 sections with 10 tables.
Start times: 12:15 pm Limited game under 1000 masterpoints 18 bds
12:30 pm Open game 18 bds 03:45 pm Open game 18 bds
03:45 pm Open game 18 bds

Site #2: ALEX BEALLES: Listed under **PITTSBURGH BRIDGE** in the Tournament Section. Director for the following games: Greensburg, Lauri Ann West CC (O’Hara_ Rodef Shalom, Sewickley Bridge South Hills Bridge or Butler.

Open Pairs: Monday through Friday starting at 10:20
Saturday 12:45 PM
499er Pairs: 499er gamers Tuesday and Friday at 12:45 PM

Started Tuesday, May 5. Check with Alex for any additional games he will be running.
Alex Bealles (724 256-0057 or flyer at pittsburghbridge.org

The bottom line is that we have spent so many days enjoying bridge games at these sites, we should show our appreciation by supporting them whenever it is possible. . We know how hard these directors work to run their games. Most of us attend one or all of them. Those of you who do, please give each of these games the attention and loyalty they deserve by your attendance. Proceeds from the entry fees will be distributed to games represented on both sites. Please note that these are two different sites and Alex’s games and Gus will receive payment only if you play on their BBO site.

UP THE LADDER POST

JUNIOR MASTER

Debbie Collins

CLUB MASTER

Mary Ann Lehrman

SECTIONAL MASTER

*Helen Gleason
Virginia Volponi*

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Robert Tate



Congratulations

PBA EVENTS CALENDAR 2019 - 2020

WISH LIST - WHO KNOWS WHEN WE WILL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO DO SOME OF THESE THINGS.

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

August

- 7 New Partner Night
- 14 NAOP QUALIFIER & PBA Board Meeting
- 21 Unit Championship
- 28 Unit Championship Swiss Teams

IN MEMORY.....by Phyllis Geinzer

RON HENBEST: An old friend of the Pittsburgh bridge community, Ron Henbest, succumbed to Covid-19 early in May. In the "olden days" when we played at the Blind Association building in Oakland, Ron was a regular player and sometime director. He filled in for Ray Lauderbaugh and Bill Woolridge when needed. At the Saturday game off Greentree Road run by Jane McIntyre, Ron helped out above and beyond just helping. Jane was hospitalized and convalescing for nearly a year. Ron stepped in and took charge of the game. He was also instrumental in organizing a fundraiser for Jane during this very difficult time. Ron and Pat Anders were a regular partnership for several years. Ron left Pittsburgh for the Chicago area in the mid 1990's when his daughter was seriously injured, and remained there to be one of her caregivers. Pat and Ron reconnected via BBO several years ago. Pat related that she and Ron played online just a week before the virus struck him. He was an accomplished and competitive player and an asset to our community during his tenure in Pittsburgh.

Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Bob Zimmermann: .3 clubs Partner might have a minimum hand with 4 card support. Let's say something like [AQxx xxx AQxx xx]. Or, he might have some shape. Maybe something like [AQxx xxx AQxxx x] The latter hand is nearly gin for game. So, I'll cue bid and see if I get any encouragement.

Trudy Cohn: I will bid 2NT which asks partner to describe spade holding and strength of hand. If he passes, then that is where we belong.

Jane Marshall: Pass. 9 losers and too many Jacks to go further.

Stanley Ruskin 3D I have all of these J-10-9 (only 2 cards below a 9) and I'm 4/2/4/3, I think this is worth a game try. Thus, I would bid 3D which asks partner for more information. With 4S and a solid opening bid, partner should bid 4S. With a minimum hand and 4S, he should bid 3S and I can pass. With 3S and 4H (3/4/4/2), he should bid 3H and with any other hand, he will have to bid 3NT (even with a minimum) and we should still have a chance. Thus, the worst position we would have is if partner had a minimum hand and was 3/3/4/3 and we would still have a play for it. With most of my partners, I play that a bid of 2NT by me asks partner to describe his hand. With bad hand and 3S, he bids 3C. With a good hand and 3S, he bid 3D With a bad hand and 4S, he bids 3H and with 4S and good hand, he bids 3S.

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

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

**INTERNET POST: **

You are South. Matchpoints. None Vul..You hold:

S J 10 5 3
H J 10
D K J 9 5
C A J 9

The bidding is:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1D	PASS	1S	PASS

2S	PASS	? *	
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* 2nt response is nonforcing and 3D is forcing for one round

Jack Hawthorne: Pass. Frankly, at matchpoints, I'm going to pass and take as many tricks as I can. At IMPs, I would have more to worry about. I like our "double fit," but I have a 9 loser 11 count, and partner's simple raise implies a typical 7 loser opening bid. That means 8 tricks is likely to be the limit of the hand. And that assumes that partner's raise promises 4-card support, which is hardly a given. All that said, I can easily construct minimum opening bid hands that conform to the bidding thus far, that could easily collect 10 tricks. It is also conceivable that 9 tricks are available in NT. But it's matchpoints, so I'm not going to assume partner has a perfect hand for me.

Ernie Retetagos: Pass. The Jacks are of dubious value. I'd be more tempted to try for game at imps.

Bernie Fudor: 2NT This is a good hand to be able bid 2nt as artificial asking for a description of opener's hand Without this I make a 3d game try

Richard Katz: 1 pass.

Asim Ulke: 2NT I make an old fashioned bid. 2NT.

Paul Caplan 3 spades I have an invitational hand so I will invite.

Steve Nolan: 3D. Game is more likely than not -- I have 11 points, good intermediates and what appears to be a double fit with partner. Even if 3NT is a better game contract than 4S, we are more likely to find it if I start with 3D because partner will get the chance to show heart strength.

Alan Leaver : I bid 3S. I need help in all 4 suits- too many to ask about in one bid! Why bid again at all? Good question- but I would. It's probably the 10s and 9s giving me a false sense of security!

Bill Holt: 3c - under the defined conditions. Searching for a) H card for 3NT or b) 4 card support from opener to play 3 or 4 Spades. My 10's and 9's promote this hand for NT a little.

In my regular partnerships, over 1 min - 1Maj - 2 Maj ... 2NT! ('QQ' or 'Spiral') asks 1) How many trumps do you have and 2) how good is your hand? If partner then bid 3c! (3 Spades and a bad hand for the given auction) I could sign off in 3d and should have a good play. With a 3-card maximum (3d!) I can bid 3H (4th suit, in this sequence asking for a H card for NT).

Craig Biddle 2NT This looked easy. But if partner has a stiff club, game is probably well over 75%. Gee it would be nice to be able to ask for shortness, but even if you play QQ 2NT (sometimes called Spiral), most follow up structures do not allow this. Modern gadgets don't really allow for cooperative auctions. Within the confines of this problem, I would bid 2NT, assuming that partner would (a) pass with a minimum 3-card raise and no shortness, or (b) rebid 3D with a minimum 3-card raise and some shortness, or (c) rebid 3S with a minimum with 4-card support and no shortness, or (d) bid 3C/3H to show a maximum with shortness in the other side suit. This is far from perfect, I will not enjoy declaring 4S opposite S-Qxx H-KQxx D-AQxxx C-x. A much better method is to require some short side suit for a 3-card raise, then the 1-step ask can ask for the singleton, and if you arrange your structure well you can have a further size ask. And if you don't have a singleton, you still can have room for min/max.

Gail Carns 2NT I'm glad it is non-forcing. Partner can bid any of 3S, 4S, 3NT, 3D. They know I have 4S and they might have 3S

Herb Sachs 3D Got it, thanks! I do not like to push at matchpoints but three diamonds might work. I never saw what happened last month. I have been away a lot.

Cont. on page 8)

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

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

