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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

After reading this issue of the Post Mortem, you will realize that I cannot be trusted. Well, in the June issue, I said if anyone told me they wanted lessons, I would give some in the PM. Unfortunately,, no one let me know, but I decided that in their hearts they were anxious to learn. So, today I ran an introductory lesson about inferences, Make certain you read the article by Ernie Retetagos

If, by any chance, you think everything in bridge stopped with the virus, it didn't. There is still news out there to hear. For instance, the ACBL has cancelled all of their tournaments for this year. However, that does not include any local tournaments that may be held at the discretion of the different units.

And the good new is that many of our district bridge players have advanced in July. Their names are in the "Up The Ladder Post" on page 6. Playing online and earning ACBL master points has enabled many to advance. Most notable is Connie Hoechstetter, who became an Emerald Life Master (7500-10,000) points. What a wonderful achievement. As we all are aware of, playing duplicate bridge is a timed event. In other words, the older we get, the less time we have to move upward until - well you know what I mean.

Finally, on a happy note, I have heard from so many and they are all doing well, staying well, and well, just enjoying playing bridge online.

WORDS OF WISDOM TO LIVE BY

Never buy a car you can't push.

BRIDGE BYTES

It certainly does!!!

THE LAW OF TOTAL TRICKS.... by Ernie Retetagos

According to the Law of Total Tricks, the total number of tricks available on a hand are equal to the sum of the length of the longest suits of each partnership. It follows that with a nine card trump fit, you should bid to the 3 level, either as a make or a profitable save. In the following hands, assume that your LHO opens 1 heart, partner over-calls 1 spade, and RHO raises to 2 hearts. What would you do with the following hands?

S- J 8 5 3 H- 6 4 D- K 7 6 C- A K 4 2. You should bid 3 hearts, which shows at least a limit raise in spades.

S- J 8 5 3 H-6 4 D- K 7 6 C- 8 7 4 2. A 3 spade is a preemptive raise that shows 4 trumps with less than limit raise values. This bid takes away the ability for opener to make a game try. Oftentimes you are minus 50 or 100 against their part score. Taking away bidding room is a good thing, but bad things can also happen. You might push them into a game that makes. Or you could go minus 200 on a part score hand.

S- J 8 5 3 H-6 4 D- K 7 6 C- A 8 7 2. This hand is too strong for a preemptive raise, and too weak for a limit raise. With this in between hand, bid 2 spades, and bid 3 spades if the opponents compete to the 3 level.

Bridge is a game of estimating probabilities. On balance, bidding to the 3 level will work more often than not when you have a 9 card fit.

PITTESBURGH/DISTRICT#5 TOURNAMENT TRAIL

Bridgewise, the Pandemic has definitely slowed us down. That includes everyone, except Phil Goulding, who had the brilliant idea of having a KO Tournament, that included players only from District #5. It was wonderful. It was free.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Bracket I 16 TEAMS 96 PARTICIPANTS

1. **Philip Goulding**
2. **Dan Petrov**
3. **Reanette Frobouck**

BRACKET II: 16 TEAMS 72 PARTICIPANTS

1. **Chongmin Zhang**
2. **Randy Pearson**
3. **Marcella Retetagos**

BRACKET III 8 TEAMS 32 PARTICIPANTS

1. **Bruce Baldwin**
2. **Jeff Weiss**
- 3, **Bruce Cahoon**

BRACKET IV 9 TEAMS 38 PARTICIPANTS

- 1, **Celine O'Neill**
- 2, **David Niedfeldt**
- 3/4. **Cindy Lucas**
- 3/4. **Debbie Collins**

I spoke to Phil and he mentioned he might have another KO in the near future. Be sure to let him know you are interested in joining a team.

PANDEMIC POST HUMOR

Two Aliens came to earth and found there was no one left. "So, said one of them to the other" "How did all the earthlings die?" "Well, replied the other, they used so much toilet paper they wiped themselves out".

Seen on the doormat of a home: "Like a Good Neighbor, Stay Over There."

For those weddings cancelled due to COVID-19: God is giving you a second chance to think about it.

Overheard my son talking to his friend: "In an unsettling reversal of my teenage years, I am now yelling at my parents for going out".

Side effect of quarantine is it's really hard to end phone calls. Twice today, I almost said :, "Okay, I have to run", before realizing there is nowhere to run to.

"I'll tell you a coronavirus joke now, but you'll have to wait two weeks to see if you got it"!

Stay-at-home: "I just tried to make my own hand sanitizer and it came out as a margarita". "Oh well".

What should you do if you don't understand a coronavirus joke?
Be patient

Finland just closed its borders. You know what that means. No one will be crossing the finish line

What's the best way to avoid touching your face? A glass of wine in each hand

If coronavirus isn't about beer, why do I keep seeing cases of it

NOTE: This pandemic had better be over soon. The jokes are getting worse and worse.... Signed.....me

INFERENCES.....by arlene port

INFERENCES An introduction

We tend to think that once we learn the bidding, the play and the defense in bridge, we have become major players of the game. Although they may represent the basics of the game, there are certain intangibles that are crucial to being a successful bridge player. Knowing percentages is a really worthwhile skill to develop. (Unfortunately, I was mostly absent the day this was taught.) Don't underestimate "table feel" - as in "Left hand opponent really looks guilty so they must have the card I need". Everyone always looks guilty to me, so this would count as another one of my failures. I am a VERY bad guesser. I played regularly with a good partner who insisted the queen was always over the jack. She was mostly right. I don't even go there.

However, there is one intangible that is most crucial to the game. That would be taking inferences. This is one intangible I heartily endorse and use constantly in bidding, play and defense. Taking inferences is, in fact, the difference between a good player and just a player.

What is required to be successful at this skill? PAY ATTENTION! Not an easy thing to do. When you pick up your cards, if you are consciously aware of what is going on, you will be able to improve your game in all areas:

- A BIDDING Interestingly, inferences may be taken not only what partner and opponents say, but what they don't say:
1. Bidding: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS BIDDING?
- | | | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---|----|------------------------------------------|
| N | E | S | W | 1 | North has an opening bid and 5S and |
| 1S | P | INT | P | | at least 4 diamonds. |
| 2D | P | 2S | P | 2. | North has limited his hand to 15—16 pts. |
| P | P | | | 3. | South has 6-10 points and only 2 spades |

WHAT INFERENCES HAVE YOU DRAWN FROM THIS BIDDING?

- North does not have four hearts
- North has a distributional hand—at least 5-4-2-2 (no trump is not an option for him)
- Since East didn't bid, they don't have a five card suit they can overcall or they don't have enough points to overcall at the 2 level.
- Since West did not overcall, they also can't bid for the same reasons.
- Because South has shown a maximum of 9 points and North has shown a maximum of 15, E/W will have no more than 16-18 points between them and they are probably evenly divided.

- What you know about this hand is what the bidding has told you. There is no guess.
- Your inferences come from what opponent didn't say
 - What the opponents didn't do to compete
 - Why they didn't bid or raise
 - Which opponent is more likely to hold your suit.
 - There are many inferences to be made and the more you make the better you will become.
- (Cont. on page 8)

UP THE LADDER POST

CONGRATULATIONS WITH ALL OF THAT HARD WORK YOU PUT IN AT THE TABLE, GUESS WHAT? IT PAID OFF

JUNIOR MASTER

- Scott J Bell*
Wallace Clements
Kathleen Reed
Lynn Remington
CLUB MASTER

- Montie Rea*
Jim Hughes

SECTIONAL MASTER

- Judith Ross*
Molly Simonds
Todd Simonds
Leslie Swensen

REGIONAL MASTER

- Caryle Glosser*
Pau O'Neill
Barbara Starr

LIFE MASTER

- Dennis Jacobs*

SILVER LIFE MASTER

- Rosanne Patterson*

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

- Ildiko Baxter*
Bharat Shah

RUBY LIFE MASTER

- Daniel McKinley*

GOLD LIFE MASTER

- Christopher Wang*

EMERALD LIFE MASTER

- Constance Hoechstetter*

A PANDEMIC PARTY FOR CONNIE

CONGRATULATIONS JUST BECAUSE WE'RE SOCIAL DISTANCING, DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T BE ALL BE TOGETHER IN WISHING CONNIE HOECHSTETTER CONGRATULATIONS ON BECOMING AN EMERALD LIFE MASTER.



PBA EVENTS CALENDAR 2019 - 2020

WISH LIST - WHO KNOWS WHEN WE WILL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO DO SOME OF THESE THINGS. Put this article on your review of "History That Isn't Going to Happen".

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*

September

- 4 *PITTSBURGH REGIONAL*
(runs Sept. 1 through Sept. 7) Canceled
- 11 *Unit Championship*
- 18 *Club Championship*

IN MEMORY

Betty Balucha: Betty passed away last week at the age of 94. Betty stopped playing a few years ago because of issues with severe pain. She loved bridge and would keep up with happenings in the bridge world. Betty lived with her daughter Susan and Susan's husband, Tom.

Betty was a lovely woman, always friendly and always being the best she could be at bridge. She played on a regular basis and was always a welcome sight to see.

Our condolences to her family and friends. She was always a part of our community and will remain a part of our hearts.

(If you know of anyone who has died recently, please let Phyllis Geinzer or me know.)

Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Bob Zimmermann:

Trudy Cohn: 2S: I will bid 2 Spades establishing a game force with the plan to raise clubs at my next opportunity.

Jane Marshall ..3C. 11 hcp doesn't seem like enough to bid 3NT. If partner bids 3S asking me for help in spades to bid 3NT, I will bid 3NT. If partner returns to 3D, I will bid 4C.

Stanley Ruskin 2S This is better. This is slightly more difficult. If I bid 3C, it isn't forcing and I think we want to be in game in NT or clubs. I think the safest bid is 2S which is now game forcing. I don't have to worry about partner raising S since he can't have 4 (he would have bid 1S over 1H if he did) and gives partner a chance to further describe his hand. If he has 5C, we want to be in 5C (maybe even 6 if you have ways of finding out lots of things-probably not) and may want to be in 5C even if he only has 4C. Partner's next bid will go far in deciding where we will play this Hand.

INFERENCES (Cont. from page 5)

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN:

#2. Bidding: Now it's your turn:

N	E	S	W	WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS HAND
1C	1D	1H	P	1. North has minimum opening bid and no 4 or 5 card major and a good 5 or 6 card club suit.
2C	DBL	P	2D	2. East has an opening bid with at least 5 diamonds and at least 4 spades.
P	P	3C	P	3. South has a minimum hand with no more than 5 hearts and 3 clubs
				4. West has a weak hand with 2 or 3 diamonds and less than 4 spades.

What are your inferences?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

It takes practice, but this is a skill you need to develop.

**INTERNET POST: **

You are South, matchpoints, N/S Vul
You, South, hold:

S - A 10 5 3
H - 10 6 3 2
D - A
C - K 10 6 5

THE BIDDING IS:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-----	-----	1D	PASS
1H	P	2C	PASS
?			

Jack Hawthorne: 3C. If my partner holds 55 in the minors or semi-solid diamonds, 3NT might succeed. If so, raising clubs is probably the best way to get there. If not, 3C may well be the limit. I would expect my partner to rebid 3C himself if a minor-suit game was likely. Bidding 2NT over 2C runs the risk of partner rebidding diamonds and creating an unsavory option.

Ernie Retetagos : 3 Clubs. 3 Clubs seems normal. Partner is more likely than not to have only a 4 card club suit. I don't think I'm strong enough to force to game. I would invite with 2 NT if my 11 HCPs were mostly Queens and Jacks. My controls make suit play more appealing.

Bernie Fudor: I bid 3 clubs Don't understand what else you can bid partner doesn't have 4 spades and is unbalanced or they would have bid 1 NT 3 clubs shows abt 10 points and that's what you have

Richard Katz 3C: My 90% answer is three clubs, followed by 75-85% two NT. Obviously if passed you would prefer having bid three clubs. My robots had a mild objection and bias to two no trump and express that by never not bidding three no trump. They feel that who wants to play two no trump exactly making two, when you can be in three nt down, yet occasionally making, eh

Asim Ulke 3C I do not have enough to force to game. There are two choices for invite. 2NT and 3C. I choose 3 clubs because it is direct. If partner has extra values will bid again .

Paul Caplan 3 clubs I have a invitational hand and 3 clubs is invitational. A 2 spade bid is game forcing.

Steve Nolan: 4C. Excellent fit and partner needs to know it. 6C doesn't need much more than a minimum 2-suiter and I want to explore for that. Willing to give up on 3NT, which rates to be very shaky.

Chris Wang: I bid 3 clubs. If partner bids again, i will go to 5 clubs. I want to see if partner has a good hand and will bid again. The 3 clubs bid may be an underbid, but my stiff diamond detracts from my hand even though it is an Ace.

Craig Biddle 2NT. Aiming for the most popular game. My stiff ace of diamonds discourages me from upgrading and bidding the 4th suit. If partner rebids 3C, I will pass; if he has extras and interest in playing 5C we may be in an inferior game, but nothing is perfect and 4441 hands are the bane of practically all bidding systems.

Gail Carns 3C A little strong for an invite but I am inviting to 5C

Herb Sachs 2S: No problem, thanks! two spades.much too good for three clubs

Arlene Port: 3C Its forward going. I really want to be in game, but I'm not certain which game I want to be in. This is one of the first problems I have answered where I am close to getting the top answer, even though I knew it.

Bob Zimmermann: .2 Notrump. I have enough to invite, and so I shall.

Bill Holt: 2NT. Invitational. Several choices. 2S is natural but I presume game -forcing and I am not that good. Would not mind playing 4S facing many 3154 hands, though. 3c is also a choice but doesn't show my Spade cards. After 2NT, partner with a distributional minimum can bid 3c and I could raise to 4. Also wouldn't mind trying 3NT facing 14-ish with my three 10's and 11 highs.

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Phillip Alder`	2NT
Steve Beatty	2NT
David Berkowitz	3C
Augie Boehm	2NT
Bart Bramley	2NT
Billy Eisenberg	2NT
Russ Ekeblad	2S
Mark Feldman	2S
Ross Grabel	3C
Allan Graves	2S
Carl Hudecek	3C
Sammy Kehela	2S
Danny Kleinman	3C
Eric Kokish	2NT
Mark Lair	2S
Justin Lall	2S
Pratap Rajadhyaksha	2S
Arthur Robinson	3C
Jeff Rubens	3C
Don Stack	2NT
Harry Steiner	3C
Robert Wolff	2NT
Kit Woolsey	3C
Zia	2S

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
2NT	8	3	100
3C	8	10	90
2S	8	3	80
3NT	0	0	20
4C	0	1	10
Else	0	0	0