

Editor: Arlene Port 220 N Dithridge #404
Pgh.PA. 15213
Tel: 412-521-3637 aport220@comcast.net

Associates: Phyllis Geinzer..... Memoriam
Chris Wang.....First At The Post

Unit 142

Pittsburgh, PA September 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@diegoon.com)

All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

Unfortunately, the news that is fit for print, is getting less and less fit. In its place, choice words have crept into my discussions of our Covid plight. My mother who died 9 years ago, always told me not to say bad words. However, when I summoned her back for a discussion on the virus, she said "You Go Girl". Mother is always right. Back to bridge/

The truth is that bridge is alive and well on BBO. It not only takes care of ACBL players, but also helps to take care of those directors who run games in the city when there is no pandemic. If you play in the games BBO has for these games, our directors receive revenue from the sight. The Pittsburgh sight is run by Alex Bealles and benefits local club owners. There is also a sight called SYC (support your club) games that share revenue with club owners. Please check it out and try to play in at least some of these games. The game that Gus Costanzo has is in with a Florida group. Hopefully, you can play on his sight. It is in Fort Lauderdale

In the meantime, soooooo many of our unit members are playing in ACBL tournaments on BBO and having fun. If you love to play bridge, this is definitely the place to overdose. Morning, evening and all night games are available 24/7. If you don't have a partner, you can play with robots, who couldn't care less if you make a mistake. It is a win-win situation. You can play bridge, play badly as much as you want and the best part of all is that no one is there to yell at you. My kind of game.

Don't forget to check in at the free lessons from Richard Finberg and articles by Craig Biddle and Ernie Retetagos on the website and in the Post Mortem.

WORDS OF WISDOM TO LIVE BY

*Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird,
sleep late*

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

It certainly does!!!

A hand from a matchpoint game on BBO had several points of interest. Vulnerable against not, South opened 1 heart and North responded 2 diamonds. I would have made a game forcing heart raise of Jacoby 2NT instead of 2 diamonds. With 4 trumps, the 2 diamond bid should show a good 5 card suit. East bid 2 spades, and this got passed around to North, who bid 4 hearts. After two passes, West bid 4 spades, and North took the push to 5 hearts. Declarer won the spade lead, came to hand with the Ace of hearts, both following, and ruffed a spade. A second heart was led and East followed suit. How should declarer continue?

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

If you were playing the heart suit in a vacuum, the percentage play would be to cash the Ace and King. However, the play of a card combination should be made after giving consideration to the rest of the hand, and of the clues from the bidding. Based on West's sacrifice after North bid game, they are much more likely to have a singleton heart as opposed to a doubleton Queen. When you finesse, West discards a spade, and you ruff your last spade. Now what?

Since East has only 5 minor suit cards compared to West's 8 cards, East is the opponent most likely to have short clubs. Their overcall indicates that they are favorite to have the Ace. So don't be in a hurry to pull the last trump. This would be a good time to lead a club to the Queen. When that holds, you can pull the last trump. A small club from both hands brings down the doubleton Ace, and you make 12 tricks.

Check out our very own Craig Biddle and his "**Biddle Bits**" found on side panel of our website

<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/>
<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/BiddleBits.htm>

While you're at our website, don't forget to check out the **Post Mortem.** Arlene Port and her staff work hard at publishing our monthly newsletter, keeping us abreast of what's happening in our Bridge World. This month has a special article on the pandemic of 1918.

A thanks to Bill Holt for keeping our **website** current.

There is one face to face bridge game in the Burgh at Export Moose Monday afternoon. Check Club Results page of our website for information on games played and/or cancelled.

Here's a link on info re **Pittsburgh Bridge games played on BBO**
<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/BBOClubInvite.htm>

Please play in our Pittsburgh games and sign up early to encourage others to join in the game. Another alternative to help our area games is to play in BBO's "Support Your Club" games

BBO, found under "Practice"..Great Tutorials from Bridge Master. all levels

Our very own expert, Richard Finberg's **lessons and hand analysis**
<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/FinbergFlyer0729.pdf>

Richard also offers analysis to players with 0-750 points following the Tuesday game
<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/BBOZOOMAnalysis.pdf>

Vichill League Team Game, Cleveland
<https://whistclub.org/index.php/Fall>

Bill Hogsett asked me to extend an invitation for you to play in Cleveland's Fall Team event. I played in the Summer team game and it was fun. We had a 5 man team. Above link gives dates. If you have any questions, please contact Bill at bhogsett@gmail.com

In 1918 a flu virus spread around the world in a matter of months and killed an estimated 50 million people before fizzling out in 1919. The surviving photographs of the 1918-19 pandemic primarily feature rows of beds in makeshift hospitals and the masked faces of doctors, nurses, barbers and other workers. Documentaries, fictional films, stories, and images paint the so-called "Spanish Flu"—the disease didn't begin in Spain, some believe it started in the U.S., but the misnomer stuck—as a solemn crisis. But this collective memory of the Spanish Flu offers little insight into everyday life. We forget how people lived through the 1918 pandemic: through isolation, the temporary closure of schools and businesses, the proliferation of illness and death, the cancellation of sports. And we forget that levity can exist in even the most dire circumstances. Reprinted from an article on the internet.

Our hearts are right,
And on Christmas night
We'll jolly along with you,
Despite the pains and aches that
come
In the trail of the gol-dinged 'flu"

The street crowd surged—but

where to go? The bar? The concert?

Movies? No! Old Influenza's locked

the door to Pleasure Land. Oh what
a bore!

Oh, we are quarantined, I guess
For 'bout a million years
But if we don't get out of here

People were clever and creative in
how they wrote about the pandemic.
Plays on words were common:
"What goes up the chimney?Flu!!!,"

When you have appendicitis, paren-
chymatous nephritis, laryngitis or
gastritis, It's the Flu." Likewise,
the *Winnipeg Tribune* printed this

This old world is in the lurch; For
we cannot go to church; And the
children cannot roam, For they now
are kept at home, And they've put a
good, strong ban on the moving pic-
tures, man," *Greenville Paper*

There's a war going on in Europe,
So I've heard from newspaper talk;
But the only one I'm having
Is with influenza at the park

1918? Sound familiar? Judging from what passed as humor at that time, it was a kinder and gentler era. But, nothing else was different. It was called a pandemic and the protocols they followed then, we follow today. And, most importantly, we still try to maintain our sense of humor and make the best of life. Their pandemic ended in 1919. We can only hope that ours disappears by 2021. They were strong and hopeful.....and so are we. arlene

IN MEMORY.....by Phyllis Geinzer

Barbara Klein: I received word this afternoon that Barbara Klein died. She would have been 88 years old on her next birthday. I mention her age because at least 75 to 80 years of her life Barbara played bridge with her husband, Jimmy. Barbara and Jimmy were dedicated to each other. They did everything together and were each others main support. Although Barbara suffered for many years with debilitating ailments, when she was well, she was a kind friend and a gracious host. She was a great cook and the many times I was at her home, I could see that it was a home decorated with love and care.

Although it wasn't well publicized, Barbara was truly an excellent bridge player. Her bidding system was a simple one, but her game was extremely skillful. Jimmy was always known as the "expert", but Barbara was right there with him.

She, along with Jimmy, were the longest active bridge players in our unit, until a couple of years ago when they became ill. I missed her then and thought of her often. I, and many others, will continue to miss her in our bridge community.

The mother of 4 children, our condolences to Jimmy, her family and many friends.arlene

Gert Mallett died in August. She was one of the many wonderful "old timers" I have known from the Pittsburgh bridge community. She and her husband played together for a number of years, both succeeding to Life Master and above.

I first met Gert at the Tuesday evening game at Beth El. She was partnered regularly with Liberty Pyros. A decorator by trade, Gert dressed to the nines, just like in the old days at club and tournament games. Her game was as elegant as her attire.

IN MEMORY.....by Phyllis Geinzer

Gert was absent from the South Hills games for several years. Recently she returned when she moved to Concordia. She came with and played with Estill Duggins at the Temple Emanuel Wednesday afternoon game. They played the last game in March before our bridge world closed. She was a lovely lady, dressed to the nines for the last game in March. They had a very comfortable partnership developing when Covid struck.

Gert Mallett, who was a lovely and very sweet woman will be affectionately remembered for her pleasantness at the table and her impeccable taste.....Phyllis

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".

September

4 PITTSBURGH REGIONAL
(runs Sept. 1 through Sept. 7) **Cancelled**
11 Unit Championship
18 Club Championship
25 Unit Championship Swiss Teams

October

2 Club Appreciation Pairs
Cancelled Pro Am Game Cancelled
9 Club Appreciation Swiss Teams & Board Meeting
16 PITTSBURGH SECTIONAL @ MASONIC Cancelled
23 Unit Championship
28 ACBL-Wide Instant Matchpoint Game (Wed. daytime)
30 Open Pairs

PITTSBURGH BRIDGE ASSOC. WEBSITE BILL HOLT: A TALE OF TWO VIEWPOINTS

Ed Note: I asked Bill Holt to tell us about how he has designed and maintains such a wonderful service for our unit. Part I is his reply.

PART I: You asked me for an article about my web-mastering capabilities ... or activities ... or acumen?

Well there's really not much to tell. I am self-taught, using MSFT software that originally I won at Microsoft Bridge Gaming Zone event in Las Vegas. Must have been around 2001. I spent a fair amount of time playing with the program publishing a 'Fantasy Football' site for my friends and I. I seemed to catch on, and focused on 'what looks good' over 'what works well'. I took on the Pittsburgh Bridge site when Jay Apfelbaum left for Philly, around 2004. Since then I have done the District 5 site for a decade or so up until a few years ago, and a few other 'hobby' sites.

Much of the content therein comes from either the ACBL (masterpoint lists & tournament results); or local club game directors (club game results). I just built a framework into which the directors post their individual club results. I do have to build a page now and then, and tie it in to the overall navigation of the site. I don't have anything to do with the ACBL-maintained Masterpoint Lists. Although I do get calls now and then when someone feels slighted in the points lists!

I get a lot of positive comments on the appearance of the site. And hopefully I will be able to keep up on the technical side. I am NOT a computer science / IT sort of guy. I just bumble along best I can.

PART II : Our website is the glue that holds us all together in our community. Bill is always up-to-date on his information and is available not only for our readers, but to those who wish to contribute their thoughts, their knowledge or, God forbid, their complaints. Those great flyers that publicize our events? That's Bill's work as well. The only thing he forgot to tell us about the website is that it is truly wonderful and we are all so lucky to have tricked him into producing it for us. On behalf of us all: THANK YOU
BILL.....arlene

Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Trudy Cohn: 2NT If we are vulnerable and they are not, I will bid 2NT which seems fairly descriptive of my hand. If equal vulnerability, I will double for penalty.

Stanley Ruskin: DBL: Since we are playing match points, you have to be aggressive sometimes. It doesn't say whether the opponents are vulnerable or not but it doesn't effect my decision. I would double. If we have a game, it will be hard to find and it is probably marginal. Partner did overcall so he probably has 9 pts. + a little Maybe and should rate to have the KH. If he doesn't have that, he shouldn't overcall unless he has close to an opening bid at least. Thus, we start with 4 tricks at least - 2S and 2H - and we should find enough elsewhere to probably defeat 2S at least 2. Even if it is only 1, that would probably be an OK match point score. If for some reason, they make 2Sx, it happens and just go along too the next board. Remember also that partner is behind opener which is also Good for whatever other points he has.

Steve Nolan: Double. I like this better than bidding 2NT despite holding nothing in the minors. Although there's some danger -- West can hold all the missing spades -- the contract will usually fail. I don't think that I need to worry about West holding a monster. If partner had a bad hand with long hearts, he would have made a jump overcall of his own, so instead he must have reasonable values. Since partner's heart suit is missing the AQ and on the bidding he can't have many spades, his values in the minors are sitting over West's high cards.

Bob Zimmermann: Double It's close. I don't see game for our side, but as little as [x Kxxxx Kxx xxxx] could produce 6 tricks on defense (2 spades, 3 hearts or 2 and a heart ruff, and a minor suit winner). I'll shoot for the magic +200 at matchpoints. Of course, it would be nice to know how frisky my RHO's preempts tend to be.

**INTERNET POST: **

You are South, matchpoints and you hold:

S K Q 4 2
 H A Q
 D 7 6 5
 C 8 6 5 3

The bidding is:

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

What call do you make?

Jack Hawthorne : DBL The bids don't line up quite right, but if I understand the problem correctly, my partner has overcalled 1H and my LHO has made a weak jump shift. The layout makes it look like I am the opening bidder, which is pretty unlikely. So, if the opponents are vulnerable, I would double 2S. If we are vulnerable, the problem is more difficult. Depending on my partner's overcall reliability, I would try 3NT.

Ernie Retetagos: 3 Diamonds. I don't want to punish partner for a light overcall by doubling or bidding 2 NT, and I'm too strong to pass. I think that I'm also too strong to bid only 3 hearts. I have heart support and I have 11 HCPs, so I'll show partner a limit raise in hearts, which is what I have.

Bernie Fudor: PASS. between pass and 3h think im passing and hoping that i might get another call

Richard Katz 2NT Two no trump, least of many evils
 This probably will not end well

Asim Ulke . DBL: answer based on not having vulnerability info.

Paul Caplan Pass. I am not quite strong enough to double. If partner reopens with a double I will pass. West may be able to pull the double of 2s to 3d for a better score for him.

Chris Wang: I pass. Partner is only an overcaller and my spade suit is pretty good to defend.

Jane Marshall: .3H (the least of the evils). Partner probably has a diamond card and I have 2 spade cards. Seems to me that I should compete somewhere

Bill Holt: 2NT. It's rare that I hate all my alternatives but there it is. Partner must have minor suited cards for his overcall given my Heart holding. If I were to double, opener would likely run to a minor – and my H holding suggests playing the hand. I expect to take cuppla Spades, 5 hearts and a minor trick or two. If partner retreats to Hearts I am fine with it. If I get doubled, I can run to 3H. It's just Matchpoints.

Craig Biddle Pass. To make 2NT I need partner to have H-KJxxx and two side entries. I have no reason to suspect that he has that. Similarly, to beat this I need partner to have at least two defensive tricks outside of hearts. If he has that, and sees that he has short spades, he will double and I can bid 2NT. If he has that, and one of his side values is S-Ax he will pass, and we will collect 50 or 100, when 9 tricks in hearts will require him to have the HJ (or for the enemy hearts to split 3-3). Of course, huddling for 20 seconds and then passing is not permissible, I have to pass in tempo here. But that's easy, for me, since I was raising 1H to 2 over a negative double or 1S bid on my right.

Gail Carns 3H unfortunately I do not know what kind of overcalls we are playing. I 1H showed an opening hand I would bi 2D.

Herb Sachs: 3H. A very calm three hearts lacking anything else except double. this may end the auction?

Cont. on page 9

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
3H	10	3	100
DBL	9	5	90
3D	2	1	80
2NT	6	3	70
PASS	5	4	60
3S	1	0	40

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Phillip Alder	D
Michael Becker	3H
David Berah	P
David Berkowitz	3H
Larry Cohen	D
Rich Colker	3D
Billy Eisenberg	D
Russ Ekeblad	3D
Lt.Col Robert Friend	2NT
Fred Gitelman	D
Barbara Haberman	D
Carl Hudecek	2NT
Eddie Kantar	P
Sami Kehela	3H
Eric Kokish	2NT
Michael Lawrence	D
Sidney Lazard	3S
Bob Lipsitz	P
Richard Margolis	3H
Jeff Meckstroth	P
Marshall Miles	3H
Eric Paulson	3H
Barry Rigal	D
Arthur Robinson	3H
Andrew Robson	P
Beverly Rosenberg	2NT
Al Roth	2NT
Jeff Rubens	D
Ira Rubin	3H
Joey Silver	2NT
Neil Silverman	3H
Robert Wolff	3H
Kit Woolsey	D