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POST MORTEM

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All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

I just took a survey from the ACBL regarding bridge in the Pandemic, which you also must have received if you are a member of the ACBL. I answered all of the questions which were asked, except there was one question I could not answer. That was the one that asked how much time it would take me to resume my normal life after the virus. There were several boxes; one day; one week; one month; etc. and finally ended with over a year. I could not answer. I realized that my life and the lives of so many others would never be the same. In my case, however, I must admit that time is a factor. I tend not to dwell on time limits. So, in the meantime, I will waste away by playing bridge online. As they say: "It's not a bad way to go".

I do have to admit that the cheating that goes on is unbelievable. Long hesitations, amazing leads finding partner with a singleton and startling contracts are very much a part of online bridge. They really should do something about it.

On the home front, once again we suffer the loss of our bridge friends. After seeing these people at least once or twice a week for years, being away from them and finding out they are no longer here is so sad and hurtful.

On a happier note, our unit friends are doing well and making the best of the times. I have met the robots, who I think are mean. Amazingly, they never lose a finesse. I am not kidding. Also, they never go down in a contract. Hoping to come back as a bridge robot when I pass on is one of my to-do's on my wish list. The other wish on my list is that everyone is able to stay well until this is all over. I miss you now for a little bit. I do not want to miss you forever.

I found an article written by a syndicated columnist in 1982, along with my reply, which I reprinted in this month's Post Mortem. You will be proud of me for sticking up for the people who play bridge.....Stay warm and well.....arlene

WORDS OF WISDOM TO LIVE BY

*Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time,
because then you won't have a leg to stand on.*

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetas

It certainly
does!!!

VULNERABLE AT IMPS

Vulnerable at imps, South opened 1 diamond, and after a 1 heart response rebid 2 clubs. North bid 2 spades, 4th suit game forcing, and South bid 3 clubs. North raised to 4 and South jumped to 6 clubs. How should South plan the play after the Queen of spades opening lead?

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

South has six side suit winners, so they will need to take six trump tricks. If the contract was 7 clubs, the best chance would be to finesse the Queen. In 6 clubs, if you take a finesse and it loses, you are on a guess as to finesse again or try to drop the Jack. If you can manage to take four clubs in hand, and two ruffs in dummy, that would be enough to take the needed six club tricks. Since you can afford one club loser, the play of the trump suit should be to cash the Ace, take two ruffs, and lead toward the Queen.

Win the opening spade lead on board, unblock the diamond, and lead a club to the Ace. On this hand, your LHO dropped the singleton Jack under your Ace. Ruff a diamond high and cash the top hearts, pitching diamonds. Come to hand with a spade and ruff a spade high. Lead a trump and claim.

Notice that even if declarer took a "successful" club finesse, they still wouldn't take more than twelve tricks. If declarer takes two ruffs, they will still lose a club. A first round club finesse would gain a trick against a doubleton King, but lose or break even against any other layout. Laying down the Ace of trump works when LHO has a singleton honor, or when the King is inside.

CURRENT UNIT BRIDGE NEWS.....By Lorraine Hanna

What interests you at bridge? Check out the websites listed below. There are some mighty fine interesting articles, teaching hints and practice hands on these sites.

Larry Cohen: Sign up for Larry's free newsletter. Tons of articles, quizzes and tutorial tutorial hands to play <https://www.larryco.com/bridge-learning-center>

Baron Barclay is not only an online store of everything bridge and more, you can also sign up for their weekly newsletter with tutorial practice hands and Frank Stewart's daily bridge column. <https://www.baronbarclay.com/>

Post Mortem Our gratitude to Arlene Port for keeping us connected to our Bridge Family through her informative and witty Post Mortem newsletter. Here's the link for current and past articles. <http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/pm.htm>

Web Site Bill Holt continues his outstanding up-to-date information on everything bridge on our website. <http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/>

Free Lessons. Richard Finberg's Zoom lessons are open to all, Mondays at 3:30. He's working on a blog and we'll keep you posted on when it's launched. <http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/>

FinbergFlyer0729.pdf

Bridge in the Burgh

Export Moose is open for masked face play Monday afternoons
Greensburg is open for masked face play Thursday in the morning
<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/clubresults.htm>

Bridge on BBO

Cleveland and the Burg have teamed up to offer us games on BBO.
<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/>

BBOClubInvite.

Please sign up early to encourage others to play. This is a great way to Support Your Local Clubs and "see" your local bridge friends. Playing in "Support Your Local Clubs" under Virtual Clubs is an additional way to help our area clubs.

Biddle Bits

Craig continues to analyze interesting hands.
<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/BiddleBits.htm>

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM POST

For the next few months I will be publishing bridge conventions that help to make your bridge more successful. In order to make these conventions less complex, they will be user-friendly, without a myriad of ifs and when's and also's. They will be clear and easy for you to start using immediately. It is my suggestion that once you have used them successfully, you Google them to see if there are additional ways to use each convention.

QQ/Spiral

QQ, or Spiral, as it called, is invaluable in reaching the proper contract in a major suit. It does, however, have one challenge that goes along with it which I will explain as we go along.

WHAT IS IT? It is a convention used ONLY when partner opens the bidding with either one diamond or one club and responder bids one of a major; either hearts or spades..

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONVENTION?

It allows opening bidder to raise partners major suit with either 3 or 4 cards in the suit.

WHO BIDS THIS CONVENTION? Only the RESPONDER

i.e	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	1C	PASS	1H/1S	PASS
	2H	PASS	2NT*	PASS

* Opener should only raise with 3 if they have an honor in the suit.

** Opener should not raise if they have 4 spades. They should bid 1S

*** If you play new suit forcing, that will take care of trump holding.

WHAT DOES SOUTH NEED TO MAKE THIS BID?

1. At least an invitational hand 11 + HCP
2. At least 4 cards in the major partner raised to the 2 level.
3. It specifically asks partner if they raised with 3 or 4 card support

OPENERS RESPONSE:

- 3C - 3 card support and a minimum hand 12-13 points
- 3D - 3 card support and a maximum strength hand 14+
- 3H - 4 card support and a minimum hand 12/13 points
- 3S - 4 card support and a maximum hand 14+

Opener no longer controls the hand and partner places the contract.

RESPONDERS RESPONSE: Based on what partner has told them, they can bid 3 of their major suit with distribution, or 3NT if their hand has good distributional value, or 4 of their major or more if their hand is very strong.

PBA EVENTS CALENDAR - 2020

November

- 6 Club Championship
- 13 Unit Championship & Annual Membership Meeting
- 20 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 27 Open Pairs

December

- 4 Unit Championship
- 10 STaC Pairs - Special Thursday Game
- 11 STaC Pairs & PBA Board meeting (if necessary)
- 13 Sunday STaC Swiss Teams (not held if there is a daytime Steelers game)
- 18 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 25 No game—Holiday
- 1/1/20/21 No game—Holiday



QQ/Cont. from page 4.

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE? Well, if you, as responder, have a weak hand, you will play this hand in a 7 card fit. So, you need to learn how best to play that fit.

Actually, that is honestly not a bad thing because trump contracts always hold the promise of getting extra tricks by trumping short suits.

When playing a 7-card suit, the most important thing is not to lose control of the suit. So, if and when you have to pull trump, give up a trump trick and keep control so you can pull trump when you need to.

Make no mistake, this is way up high on my convention list. I rarely ever get caught in the wrong contract. Just be honest.

Any questions? Just call me.

IN MEMORY.....by Phyllis Geinzer

Ray Geinzer died of complications of Covid 19 in midOctober. He was a lifelong resident of the South Hills of Pittsburgh. Ray served in the United States Army toward the end of the Korean Conflict. He worked at USSteel while attending Carnegie Tech to be an engineer. As his career developed, he became an efficiency expert at St. Francis Hospital. He came to duplicate bridge in the early 1980's. Ray and I met at a duplicate game in December 1981, and became partners both at the table and eventually in life. In retirement he was a well-known face with a number of partners. When I finally retired, he played only with me, except Wednesday when he enjoyed his games with Joe Ber- not. Ray was a Ruby Life Master.....Phyllis Geinzer

Phyllis sent Rays notice from the paper which highlighted his career. What she didn't mention was that in addition to his outstanding professional achievements, Ray was loved and respected by all those who knew him. He was a wonderful person; kind and friendly and a joy to be with. We all were lucky to have known him. Our condolences to Phyllis and family and friends.....

Mary Anne McNeirney, too long absent from our bridge tables, passed away in late October. During her working years, Mary Anne taught at Chartiers Valley High School. Her hobbies included reading and duplicate bridge. Mary Anne was a past president of the Pittsburgh Bridge Association and was designated an honorary lifetime member of our Board of Directors as a recognition of her long and distinguished years of service with the PBA. She, along with the late Jane McIntyre, was a former editor of the *Post Mortem* when it was a mimeographed broadside. She was a Sapphire Life Master. In recent years Mary Anne has not been at the tables due to poor health. She is survived by sisters, nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

UP THE LADDER POST

JUNIOR MASTER

Kirk Fabel

CLUB MASTER

Beverly Filtz

Howard Filtz

Jan Swensen

SECTIONAL MASTER

Shahn Karamanos

REGIONAL MASTER

Phyllis Mellor

NABC MASTER

Celine O'Neill

Kathryn Rector

Marlene Sienicki

CONGRATULATIONS
I THOUGHT THE MINUTE I SAW YOU THAT YOU
WOULD BE SPECIAL AT THE BRIDGE TABLE.
AND SO YOU ARE!!!



@wondercolparts.com

PANDEMIC HUMOR

Friend 1: "You said you were sick!"

Friend 2: "No, I said I had a case of Corona"

Doctor: "Your Covid 19 test came back positive"

Patient: "It can't be. I still have more than 300 rolls of toilet paper."

Day 2 without sports: "I found a lady sitting on my couch yesterday. Apparently she's my wife"

Sign: "If you choose not to wear a mask, then you must remove all your clothes before entering".

"This is the first year I am not going to Fiji, because of the Covid. " "I usually don't go because I'm poor."

"If you or a loved one has been refused entry to a private business for not wearing a mask and you would like to explore legal options to protect your constitutional rights, our law firm is happy to explain just how stupid you are."

Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Trudy Cohn: Dbl: Note: Trudy wanted to double but thought she wasn't given that option. It wasn't true so I gave her the bid she wanted.arlene

Chris Wang: 2S I bid 2 spades.

Gail Carns X nothing is perfect



INTERNET POST:

You are South, match points, both vul.

You Hold:

S 10 2

H A 5 3

D J 10 7 4 3

C A 9 3

The bidding is:

North East South West

1S 2C ?*

* 2D is forcing to the level of 2S;
double guarantees at least four hearts

Jack Hawthorne .If **2D** is forcing to **ONLY 2S**, I am ok with **2D**. I hate suggesting a **D** lead, so I might choose to pass and await developments.

Ernie Retetagos: Double. A negative double indicates trump support for an unbid major, usually 4 cards long. If partner bids 2 hearts, I will bid 2 spades, and partner will figure it out. I don't like bidding a Jack high suit freely at the 2 level. Passing is out, because it's important to show values.

Bernie Fudor: Pass Good problem. I think I will pass and sit for reopening X If my pd makes a suit bid I will weigh my options on the next round

Bob Zimmermann: . 2 D: I'm promising partner 5 diamonds - I'm not saying they're any good. All other actions are flawed. I'll pass a 2 spade rebid, but I'll raise 2 hearts or 2nt if it comes back to me.

Herb Sachs: DBL I'm in. double/had a heart in with my diamonds

Richard Katz: Neg dbl for now Will get me into the least of many problems

Paul Caplan Pass. The auction is not over and playing negative doubles my partner will try to reopen with a double or another bid. If partner reopens with a 2 spade call I will raise to 3. If partner reopens with a double On most days I will try 2 diamonds, on other days I might pass a plus 200 might be the winning score. What does a bridge player look like?

Jane Marshall: 2S. my hand is not good enough for any other bid. I know that I do not have 3 spades, but I do have 2 Aces.

Asim Ulke: Pass There is no bid that describes this hand except pass and wait for further developments if any. I pass.

Stanley Ruskin: . Pass While there may be other bids, I can't find one other than pass. If it goes pass, partner will reopen with almost anything. He can bid his suit or another one or double or even pass. I will wait to see what happens. There are a multitude of options, depending on what goes on. If I do anything more than pass, the only person I will be misleading is my partner.

Craig Biddle This is easy. **Pass.** I don't have enough to invite with 2NT, I don't have 4H, and I don't have 3S. And bidding diamonds is an abomination. What bad can happen? If partner chooses not to reopen he has 3+ clubs and I am happy to lead the S10. If partner does reopen, I simply bid 2D, leaving a lot of my values still in my pocket. But what game am I missing if partner passes with a flat hand? And if partner reopens with a suit, I can raise. When that suit is hearts, he will know that I didn't make a negative double so he should be clever enough to figure out that I am either raising on 3 with sound high card values or on 4 with a lot of shape and no cards. I had a similar hand with Phil last week where I passed after 1C-(2H) with a 3=3=4=3 12 count and everything worked out just fine. He reopened, I cue-bid to ask him for a stopper, and he bid 3NT because he had one. See #10 in Biddle Bits next week.

Steve Nolan: Pass. It should have an easy call next time over most continuances, and I have an obvious lead of the spade ten if it goes all pass.

Bill Holt 2d. I'd like a better suit, but in competition I have the values to act, and it's right on shape.

Cont. on page 8

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Grant Baze	2S
David Berkowitz	D
Henry Bethe	P
Bart Bramley	2S
Ira Chorush	2S
Larry Cohen	D
Kitty & Steve Cooper	2D
Billy Eisenberg	D
Carl Hudecek	P
Eddie Kantar	2D
Ralph Katz	2D
Sami Kehela	2D
Danny Kleinman	2S
Eric Kokish	2S
Jill Meyers	D
Marshall Miles	2S
Arthur Robinson	D
Michael Rosenberg	2D
David Roundtree	2S
Jeff Rubens	2D
Ira Rubin	P
Mike Shuman	D
Joey Silver	2D
John Swanson	D
Robert Wolff	2S
Kit Woolsey	P
Zia	D

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
2S	8	3	100
DBL	8	4	90
2D	7	3	90
PASS	4	6	50

DUPLICATE BRIDGE DEFENSE POST

.....by arlene port

Note: This is an article by Sydney Harris, a syndicated columnist published in 1982 criticizing duplicate bridge players. I have edited his remarks for space restrictions, omitting some examples and other non-relevant information.

SYDNEY HARRIS: ARROGANCE IN WORLD OF BRIDGE:

In most countries there is the law for the rich and another for the poor..... There is also, in most ventures, one law for the successful and another for the mediocre. i.e. Professional tennis allows the outrageous conduct permitted a John McEnroe that would never be tolerated from a player of lesser renown or ability.

Another field in which this same situation obtains - to an even greater degree - is duplicate bridge, a game I enjoy but rarely attend in tournament conditions. Here, no money is involved, but struggle for prestige and points is just as fierce and atmosphere as inhospitable to the novice or the average player. It seems the more proficient you become, the more disgraceful your manners toward your opponents and officials.the ACBL deplors the rude and arrogant attitude of the "better players". It seems the higher level of play, the lower the standard of courtesy.....The ACBL recognizes this as it's biggest recruitment problem., Why? From my observation, I suggest that many, if not most, of the men and women who devote themselves to this highly competitive form of bridge do so as a substitute or compensation for deficits and failures in other and more important areas of life.

Bridge can become a monomania with some people - they eat it, sleep it and live it, if you call that living. They assume a proprietary air toward the game, and while they superficially encourage more players to take it up, beneath the surface they resent and repel all lesser breeds. Even in an average club, the superior players are often quite insufferable.

The game for them has become a surrogate for real life, which many of them have abandoned or retreated from. A few may be successful in their outside careers, but for the most part, they tend to be people who have failed in personal and emotional relationships, and feel far more comfortable dealing with cards than with live persons.

This is a pity, for bridge is the partnership game par excellence, and has no equal in its socializing function. To turn it into savage master of the "point system" is to pervert its social purpose for purely egocentric ends.. Little wonder that more normal players are repulsed by the bridge club atmosphere than are attracted to it.

BRIDGE DEFENSE: by arlene port

Sydney Harris' column smacks of petulance.

For someone who states that bridge is "a game I enjoy, but rarely play under tournament conditions," I wonder under just what conditions Mr. Harris gained his insightful assessment of duplicate bridge players.

I have been playing duplicate bridge for 12 years and I was crushed to discover that all those people who gave me the benefit of their experience, knowledge and support so that I could attain the rank of Life Master were, in reality, dismal failures "...in personal and emotional relationships", not to mention hopeless "monomaniacs."

I am also shocked to find that a sport which has three or four well-attended duplicate games each morning, afternoon and evening every day of the week, is complaining about membership problems due to "arrogant" bridge players.

Although I do not profess to be as proficient a clairvoyant as Mr. Harris, I strongly suspect the underlying theme of his column is, in fact, a rather blatant case of sour grapes. Most likely, Mr. Harris went to play duplicate bridge and was outplayed, outclassed and then became angry when the director was called for an infraction of the rules.

Of course there are some rude, arrogant bridge players, most of who, contrary to Sydney Harris, are not very skillful. However, people like that are not limited to the world of duplicate bridge. They are evident in every sport and in ever profession, including newspaper reporting. One only has to read one of Sydney Harris' columns to know I speak the truth.

ARLENE PORT

Note: Please bear in mind that this column and reply were written in 1982. There have been many variables which have impacted duplicate bridge and I do not believe that "arrogance" is a deciding factor to those who love the game.