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Unit 142

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POST MORTEM

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All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

The end of 2020 is nearing an end and with it comes memories, so many of them sad and hurtful. The disruption to our lives has been enormous.: being a prisoner in our homes due to Covid, missing the joy of sharing happy times with our families and friends, not being able to enjoy the change and beauty of each season and losing so many of our friends and family without even having a chance to say goodbye to them.

However, the end of 2020 is nearing an end and with it is hope with the coming of a vaccine that will free us from this terrible virus and allow us to continue the lives we had before that so often went unappreciated. We won't do that again. In my case, it has been a struggle not to pick a fight with myself, being that I'm the only one I get to talk to and it wouldn't be good not to get along. I'm looking forward to that changing in the near future. Here's to a new year filled with good health and promise.

Where was I? Oh yes, bridge. All I can tell you is that we are all doing the best we can and playing online to keep our skills from decaying and our lives from going crazy. I am officially a slave, like so many others, to BBO online bridge.

The Post Mortem keeps me busy and I look forward to the time when it is published in hard copy and handed out at the games, and finally, someone will read it. If, by some chance you are reading it now, make certain you read page 3 and all of the other really good articles by our contributors. Ernie Retetagos has a great article, and Lorraine Hanna continues to keep us up to date on what is available. This month my lesson is on transfers and there is so much more in the newsletter that you will enjoy. Fortunately, my sad news reporter, Phyllis Geinzer wasn't needed this month. Yeah!!!

To you all, have a wonderful New Year and a healthy year to come.

WORDS OF WISDOM TO LIVE BY

Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

It certainly does!!!

MATCHPOINT PLAY OF THE HAND

In a matchpoint game, declarer had chances in two suits to find an extra trick. In a 6 heart contract a spade was led, and declarer won and pulled trumps in two rounds. What's the best line to combine all chances?

S- A 4 H- Q J 6 3 D- Q 7 2 C- A 3 4 6

S- K 5 H- A K 7 4 2 D- A 9 5 C- K Q 7

You need the King of diamonds onside, or the clubs to be 3-3 to make 12 tricks. It is important to test the suits in the proper order, because there is an extra chance. If the diamond Queen loses to the King, there would be a squeeze if the person with four clubs also has the J 10 of diamonds. If you decide to test clubs first, you would lose squeeze chances. After running side winners, there would be no entry to the board in either minor suit.

After pulling trumps, it can't hurt to cash the 2nd spade. When you come to hand, if you're not there already, lead a diamond to the Queen. If it loses, win the likely diamond return and run hearts. If the 9 of diamonds is not good, try the clubs. Whenever you have a sure loser, it often helps to lose your trick early. Ducking tricks early allows you to control the flow of a hand, as well as possibly rectifying the count for a squeeze. I'd like to report that the squeeze materialized, but that wouldn't be true. The King was onside and everyone made 12 tricks. Nonetheless, It usually doesn't hurt to use correct technique.

Note: Although not mentioned, this column is a prime example of the difference between match points and IMP's. At IMP's, getting that extra trick is not quite as critical as match points, where that extra trick can make the difference between a win or a loss not just one board, but an entire game, ;while at IMP's, one extra trick more or less, as long as you make your contract, is not a big deal.

THE DISTRICT #5 2020 ANN MCGILVREY AWARD

AND THE WINNER IS: JANE MARSHALL

Each year, District #5 of the ACBL selects one member of the district to receive the Ann McGilvrey Award for Conduct and Ethics. It is our honor and pleasure to announce that this years winner of the award is Unit #142 member,

Jane Marshall.

Selected from nominations sent in by members of the District, Jane personifies all of the qualities that not only meet, but surpass the standards required to receive this award.

Janes' behavior at the bridge table is impeccable. She is always very nice to all of those who attend each game. She treats each of her partners and opponents with respect and a welcoming word. I know that she has never taken advantage of anyone who didn't know the rules of the game; explaining what they are and what their options are.

No bridge player who needs a partner for our Unit game need worry. A few years ago, Jane assumed the responsibility of finding a partner for anyone who wanted to play bridge. She is currently Partnership Chair for all of our Sectionals and our Regionals. Even more impressive is the fact that Jane has formed lasting partnerships with players much less accomplished, mentoring them and making them an integral member of our bridge community. There are many "new" players who no longer feel "new", but just a part of Unit #142

Jane is a student and an expert of the game. Since she began, she has mastered, seriously, everything there is to know, including systems, conventions, play and defense. She has spent an enormous amount of time learning and improving her game. Given that fact, it is a wonder that she still finds the time to give so generously to help others become experienced players by sharing her knowledge and experience.

As a very, very old friend of Jane, I am honored to have been the one to write about this award. She really deserves it. I continue to hope that one day she will play bridge with me.arlene port

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.

TRANSFERS

OVER 1 NT OPENING BIDS

OPENING NO TRUMP BIDDER—REQUIREMENT: Per agreement:

11—14 or 15—17 or 16—18 or any other agreed-on holding

RESPONDER REQUIREMENT:

0+ points

5 card suit

By agreement only:

- 1. 2D - Transfer to 2H or 2. 2D - Transfer to 2H or - 3. 2D - to 2H
- 2H - Transfer to 2S 2H - Transfer to 2S 2H - to 2S
- 2S - Transfer to 3C 2S - Transfer to 3C
- 2S - Minor suit Stayman At least 4-4 in the minor suits, game forcing.
- 2NT - Transfer to 3D 2NT - Invitational to 3NT

With 0-6/7 points & this holding only: C- x D- x x x x H-xxxx S-xxxx
You can bid Stayman and pass whatever partner bids. Good Bid

OPENING BIDDER RESPONSES:

MAJOR SUIT RESPONSE: Accept transfer—Minimum or only 2
Rebid 2NT—Maximum hand with 3 trump
Jump to 3—4 trump with maximum hand

MINOR SUIT RESPONSE: Like the suit—Accept the transfer.

i.e.: N E S W N E S W
 1NT P 2S P' 1NT P 2NT P
 3C* I like clubs w/ a good hand 3D* I like D w/ good hand

Don't like the suit - bid in between

i.e. N E S W N E S W
 1NT P 2S P 1NT P 2NT* P
 2NT* P 3C P 3C* P 3D

*I Don't like clubs. South may now place the contract

* I don't like diamonds. South may now place the contract

These bids help partners to get to the right contract.

PBA EVENTS CALENDAR - 2020

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

I don't have a schedule for 2021 as yet, but I'm certain it will include a list of all games that will be back at their home site. (I hope)

TRANSFERS

 Cont. from page 4.

Generally, minor suit transfers reflect a weaker, distributional hand. However, there are times when finding a minor suit fit ends in a great slam, which would never have been found had it not been for a minor suit transfer.

TEXAS TRANSFER: RESPONSE TO 1NT BID BY PARTNER. Only with a 6+ card major suit
OPENING BID: 1NT
RESPONSE: With either 6+H or 6+S the bidding proceeds as follows:
Less than 8 points and a 6-card major: Transfer and pass\
8—10+ points, jump the bidding—Bid 4D to transfer to H and 4H to transfer to spades.

11+ points, transfer at the two level and jump to game in the intended major. This is a mini slam try. Your distribution is valuable in reaching slam in the suit. So, When you transfer at the 4 level, you show no slam interest. When you transfer and jump to game you are slightly interested.

The bottom line is that each partnership plays under their own set of rules. The MOST important thing in playing bridge is that you and your partner are playing under those same rules together. I, honestly, cannot tell you what you should play, just tell you how to play it. Play what makes you the most comfortable and gets you and your partner the best results.

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.

Hope you're enjoying bridge on BBO until we can meet face to face. Here's a link to find Masked-face bridge around town
<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/clubresults.htm>

The next three links from Audrey Grant are invaluable tools in explaining the game of bridge. The Charts are comprehensive and easy to follow. A MUST READ.
<https://www.betterbridge.com/misc/StandardArticles/Standard200311.pdf>

ACBL Guest Memberships

I'm sure we have friends looking to broaden their horizons. Invite your "kitchen bridge" friends to join the ACBL free for 120 days. They may like the challenge and we could expand our Bridge Family. Here's the link. Hope it's still valid
https://acbl.site-ym.com/general/pick_username.asp

As always, here's links to Bridge in the Burgh. On our website, hit side panel subjects for links to pertinent information.
<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/>

Learn Bridge on an iPhone App.. link on front page of our website

Our website is kept current thanks to Bill Holt
Post Mortem keeping us in touch, thanks to Arlene Port
Craig Biddle's Hand Analysis
Free lessons from Richard Finberg
And soooo much more
New Times BBO Rust Belt
<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/BBOClubInvite.htm>

Please support our local Clubs by playing in the Rust Belt or Virtual Clubs supporting Local Clubs. Sign up early to encourage others to join. When the group looks small, players might decide to find another option. You are more likely to see your Pittsburgh friends on these sites.

Vichill Winter League to form soon.

"The Northeast Ohio Unit(125) will be holding another online extended team game (masterpoints awarded) this winter. Details are being finalized now, but plans are for a start in mid-February. This is a round-robin bracketed(nine brackets for the fall with 70 teams). Our Unit has 43 players in the current event and will win the top bracket and are leading in three other brackets with one round to go! So, put together a team and contact Bill Hogsett at 216-926-8719 or bhogsett@gmail.com. My team has played in two of these Cleveland run events and they are fun, and well-run."

UP THE LADDER POST

SECTIONAL MASTER

Rameshwar D Srivastava

NABC MASTER

Paul H O'Neill

GOLD LIFE MASTER

Jack Hawthorne

CONGRATULATIONS
IF YOU THINK IT'S EASY TO ADVANCE IN THE MIDST OF
THE PANDEMIC - THINK AGAIN
THESE THREE PEOPLE DID - THEY ARE HEROES

Speaking of Gold Life Masters, when I heard about Jack Hawthorne's new and improved bridge rank, I also learned that he is an accomplished author. Jack currently has four books for sale via Amazon and Kindle. He just published a fifth, also available, titled:

"Transfer-Oriented Pinpoint Precision (TOP3) - The Ultimate Power Club Bidding System."

Jacks' 4 other books are:

- The Pattern Club System: the Key to Accurate Bidding Through Hand Patterns, Jan. 2018
- Pattern Precision: Precision Bidding Powered by Distributional Relays, May 2018
- P4 - Pattern Precision Bidding Emphasizing 4-Card Majors: Featuring the Self-Rescuing Kamikaze NT and Canape Transfer 2-Bids, March 2019
- Pennsylvania (PA) Scientific Bidding System (PASS): Powerful Bidding System for the Everyday Player, March 2020

For all of those who play Precision or hope to play Precision, these are a must read. Even if you just want to know what the other guys are doing, they will help you to better understand how to defend.

PANDEMIC HUMOR

I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch them with a six-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog—we laughed a lot.

My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, "Throw this and wherever it lands—that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends." Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge.

Two grandmothers were bragging about their precious darlings. One of them says to the other, "Mine are so good at social distancing, they won't even call me."

Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Trudy Cohn: Pass I am passing. If I open, my partner will never believe that I can't support spades.
It will be easier to describe my hand after the bidding begins

Chris Wang: Pass I have distribution, but no spades, and not enough points to make a bid, even in third seat.

Gail Carns: Pass I'm sure it will not pass out and I will be in a better position to decide what to do.

Herb Sachs 3D Two suiters are most difficult; I don't expect a second chance
Three diamonds hopefully where I live.

Bernie Fudor.: Pass: I considered bidding 2 hearts or 2 diamonds, but thought if we didn't get the contract, partner would probably lead KH from 2. I decided I would get into the auction later, if possible., so I settled on pass.

Arlene Port: Pass Bear in mind that I have the answers to this problem because I am the one who sends it to the panel members. My reason for my bid is different from the others. I passed because I thought if I made any other bid, no one would ever want to play with me again. I suspect that my assessment was fairly correct — and —I simply couldn't think of any other bid that I believed in..

You are South, IMP's, none vul. You hold:

S -----
H J 9 8 7 6 5
D K Q J 10 6
C 8 7

The bidding
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
? PASS PASS

Jack Hawthorne .. Pass. I know - I need to do something to prevent the opposition from finding their game (or slam) in spades, but I am loathe to open with a weak 2-bid with a 65 hand pattern and a suit headed by the J9. In my Transfer-Oriented Pinpoint Precision (TOP3) system, I could open this hand 2D showing hearts and a minor. At least that would keep the minor suit in play.

Ernie Retetagos : Pass. I think this hand gets described by passing and showing a two suiter on the next round of bidding. I'll probably get a chance to bid Michaels or an unusual NT bid on the next round

Bob Zimmermann: . 2 hearts. I don't really have much hope of playing this hand or stopping the enemy from finding their best fit. But, if I can take up some bidding space, it might help the cause. Perhaps, partner might find a call somewhere. In any event, I plan to bid some number of diamonds below the five level if possible on my next call.

Richard Katz: PASS It's obvious, I open two clubs because I have game in my hand opposite AKXX in hearts.

On review, any guess could work, but I would pass

No to one heart, two hearts, two diamonds just pass

Paul Caplan 2 hearts. This hand is not good enough for an opening at the 1 level, it has no defense.

The heart suit is weaker than I would like but the hand should do some action. By the time the auction gets back to you the bidding may be to high in spades for you to compete. Having 5 nice diamond helps offset the poor heart suit. Partner will expect a hand of this value.

Jane Marshall: 2 hearts. I will preempt in the 6-cd suit. If I get a chance to bid Diamonds, I will.

Asim Ulke: I pass. The only other bid that comes to mind is 2H. That is poker. I may have a chance to show my two suits later.

Stanley Ruskin: Pass. If I do anything else, partner will never be able to judge my hand and this is a Partnership game. I will be able to get in the auction as the bidding progresses so that isn't a problem. I suppose opening 2H is an alternative but the suit is so bad, partner might be misled if on lead. If I open 2H, it is clear that I now will bid 4D if they bid 3NT and 5D if they get to 4S.

Craig Biddle: Pass. When anything I do might lead partner into a mistake, I must do nothing. Preempting in hearts is wrong because it may get partner off to a wrong lead, or to take a phantom save when he's short in diamonds. Preempting in diamonds (don't laugh, Zia once opened 2D on a hand like this and won a bunch of IMPs because he had done so) could miss a making 4H opposite S-J10xxx H-KQx D-Ax C-xxx.

Steve Nolan: 1H. Partner could have any shape and a wide range of point spreads. The same goes for West, with the caveat that it will be the best high-card-point hand at the table. We could have a game or nothing at all; the opponents might have anything from a part score to a grand slam. Overall, this problem is anybody's guess. I chose 1H because (i) the hand has enough distributional points to qualify as an opening bid; and (ii) I can show diamonds next time (up to a high level) to show my shape and help partner if he's on lead.

Bill Holt 4H. Round and Round we go, what we bid nobody knows. Great problem. I choose 4H – a 'Rule of 2-3-4' bid: Preempt to the level of down 2 (at Unfavorable Vulnerability), down 3 (Equal V), or down 4 (Favorable V). I expect at worse to go down 3 - losing 3 Hearts, 1 diamond and 2 clubs. I expect the opps to find 4S but I can always trot out 5d next if I feel adventurous. 2H was my 2nd choice – better to set up a Red save but I will preempt now white on white. LHO could open 2c on this hand, on the way to 4 - or 6S.

Cont. on page 8

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

David Berkowitz	3D
Henry Bethe	2D
Bart Bramley	2H
Ira Chorush	2H
Kitty & Steve Cooper	3H
Billy Eisenberg	2D
Carl Hudecek	P
Eddie Kantar	2D
Ralph Katz	2D
Sami Kehela	2H
Danny Kleinman	P
Eric Kokish	3H
John Kranyak	4H
Ed Lewis	2H
Jill Meyers	2D
Marshall Miles	2D
Arthur Robinson	3D
Michael Rosenberg	P
Jeff Rubens	P
Ira Rubin	3H
Mike Shuman	3D
Joey Silver	2H
John Swanson	3H
Robert Wolff	3H
Kit Woolsey	2D

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
2D	7	0	100
3H	5	0	90
2H	5	3	90
3D	3	1	80
4H	1	1	70
4D	0	0	60
PASS	4	11	50
1D	0	0	20
OTHER	0	1 (1H)	10