

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

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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 Soon (judi@dieoson.com)

All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

The very good news is that almost all of those people at a certain age (which I won't mention) have received one or both of their vaccine shots. This is very good news because most of our peer group in the bridge world is of that certain age. I won't mention it. ~~We~~ You know who we are.

Also very good news is that bridge, while not at the present time, will be restored to our face-to-face games sooner than later. The ACBL has continued to have their nationally ranked games virtually, so if you're looking for master points, I know where to go. In addition, the Rust Belt virtual bridge games which include Pittsburgh based games, also is hosting gold point games. So, that is another incentive to play. All the money earned in these games, after expenses, is divided among all of the owners of the seat games which are part of the Rust Belt events. So, get ye to the computer and win points and help the game you always attended before Mr. Covid came to our town.

Please note that we have lost many of our peers in the bridge community during this year and part of last year. We have lost so many of our friends and bridge partners to illness and Covid. Things will never be the same. We will never be the same. We didn't even have a chance to say goodbye. Please take care of yourself and stay healthy. I can't afford to lose any more of my friends, even if they were better players than me.

The Unit calendar is not announcing any new events as yet, so I will give you the coming highlights of April. Here's my highlight: I have a doctors appointment at the end of April. Not interested? Oh Well, you all know I do my best to keep up with the times and make certain you are well informed.

Please take good care of yourselves.....arlene



BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

It certainly does!!!

BIDDING SYSTEMS

The bidding systems that we use today are the product of decades of evolution. The early days of contract bridge featured the Ely Culbertson method of hand evaluation. The strength for an opening bid was determined by honor tricks, or what we call quick tricks. Charles Goren later popularized the 4-3-2-1 high card point count method for opening bids. This forerunner of Standard American bidding also added points for distribution, one for a doubleton, two for a singleton. A hand could be opened if there were 13 total points.

The Roth -Stone system had even higher requirements, as 14 points were needed to open. This system included a number of innovations in the area of defensive bidding including negative and responsive doubles. The Kaplan- Sheinwold system had a major suit opening bid requirement of 13 points, comprised of high card points and additional points for length, shortness, and quick tricks. The system used 5 card majors, weak no trumps, and inverted minors.

A number of big club systems have been in use over the years. The Schenken Club and the Blue Team Club required 17 HCPs for a 1 club bid. The Italians won several world championships with the Blue Club. The system included a lot of artificiality, with relays and asking bids. In the late 60s, the Precision Club gained a lot of popularity. This system only needed 16 points for a 1 club opening bid.

We are all familiar with the 2/1 Game Force system which is currently used by many pairs. Bridge World Standard is a composite system that is based on a consensus of experts. It is primarily a 2/1 system with an agreement on standard gadgets.

There are dozens of bidding systems, and I think that these are some of the ones that have had the most influence on modern bidding. Regardless of system, the high card strength needed for an opening bid has been dropping. It makes sense to me to open any hand that looks close to being an opener, because the pair that opens the bidding has the advantage in the auction.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNT: PLAYING

PLAYING: Last month we discussed the importance of count in the bidding. This month we will deal with the importance of count when you are playing a hand. When neither of the opponents have bid, you have little information, except that neither opponent was able to open the bidding or overcall. That is an important fact.

When you are the declarer, if you count, you will be able to determine opponent strength and distribution as well. Here are some clues that will help you to know how many each opponent has in a suit AND the strength of their hand: These are only clues, but are usually very helpful in the play because

1. From the bidding: If neither opponent has bid or overcalled, you have count information. i.e.,

A. Neither had enough points to open the bidding.

B. Neither had enough distribution to overcall at least a five or more card suit

C. Neither preempted.

D. *When opponents overcall a suit, you know they have at least five. If you count their cards, your cards and those in the dummy, you will know exactly how many cards in the suit opponent has. If they have not overcalled, their partner will give them count on how many cards in that suit they hold.

So, what do you know? Well, you know opponents hands are probably evenly distributed - or - they have your suit and, if they have bid, you have a clue to their distribution.

2. On opening lead, If opponent leads an ace and a king of a suit and you are looking to find an honor, Because chances are the other opponent has it and, they will also give count to their partner.

Helps determine which way to finesse: i.e. S - K J x i.e. versus A 10 x x. Normally, you would play the ace and finesse through the jack. However, If left hand opponent shows up with 10 or 11 points, you can probably figure that right hand opponent has the spade queen and finesse accordingly.

GOAL: TO KNOW HOW TO PLAY A HAND WHEN YOU HAVE SOME IDEA OF OPPONENTS DISTRIBUTION AND STRENGTH.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNT: PLAYING

When you are playing a hand, if you stop counting who has how many cards in each hand, your success rate will not ever be as good as it could be. When you play a hand, you start out with a great deal of information. You have a good idea of how many cards in each suit opponents hold and their strength of the hand. Each card that is lead gives you more information because opponent will, or should, always give their partner count when it matters. You also know how many points are in both hands you and your partner hold. There are only 40 points in the deck. Not an insurmountable number to remember. Distribution also impacts the play and that is exactly why you must learn to count opponents holdings. Distribution is a variable aspect and must be learned as you play each hand.

I know that along with everything else important in bridge, please learn to recognize the value of knowing what is going on at the table by counting. I know you will tell me that you simply can't do all that counting. OK, then don't do it all. Start with counting one thing and work up to other things. It becomes much easier to do the more you do it Just remember:

I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO BE GREAT AT THE BRIDGE TABLE

Next month we will talk about the most import aspect of counting: Defense..

CALLING ALL TEACHERS POST

..... Lorraine Hanna

Dear Teachers,

I received an email from Jackie Hooper (President, Sound Advice Entertainment) who is looking for an instructor, for her client, to teach bridge in the North Hills on McKnight Road in a Retirement Community starting in May. Classes are for 5-10 students 2 times a month. Pay is \$35 per session.

I told Jackie this would be more in line with a volunteer opportunity because between preparation, classroom time spent, drive time and gas it would not cover instructor's expenses. She said she could go back to the Retirement Home requesting more money and would need to know what the amount required would be. If anyone is interested, please let me know. I told her I would reach out to our instructors

UP THE LADDER POST

CLUB MASTER

Wallace Clements

Kirk Fabel

Ronald Kust

Marilyn Sitting

SECTIONAL MASTER

Cate Andrews

REGIONAL MASTER

Nancy Gusky

NABC MASTER

Jean Chess

Denise Dufour

Marcia Taylor

CONGRATULATIONS
IT GIVES US ALL SO MUCH JOY IN SEEING HOW YOU
HAVE ALL EXCELLED IN THIS GAME AND HOW YOU AC-
COMPLISHED BRIDGE PLAYERS.

CONGRATULATIONS
NOW THAT YOU'VE GROWNSKILLFULLY,
TIME TO TAKE PITY ON THE OLDER PLAYERS
AND LET THEM WIN ONCE IN A WHILE.
(Did I mention me? Don't be silly)

IN MEMORY

BUNNY KERR: It is with great sadness to tell you Bunny Kerry died March 30 of lung cancer. I had no idea she was even ill.

Bunny was one of the most lovely and caring people I have even known. When Barbara and Jim Klein were ailing, she went out of her way to help them and enrich their lives. She always had a good word for all. Bunny, and her husband played bridge together, and even though Tom was less experienced, she always treated him with respect and understanding.

Bunny was truly a wonderful person who was liked and respected by all of those who were lucky enough to know her. She was a special person. Our deepest sympathy to Tom, her family and all of her friends. We will miss her so much.

ART ARONSON: Art, who was from Renfrew, passed away. I am not certain that he was in our unit, but he was a regular player in Butler. It is always so heartbreaking to lose a friend who shared our interest in bridge and was a treasured member of our community. To those who knew him, our condolences to his friends and his family.

NORMAN SINDLER, a unit member who played in our Monday bridge game at the Rodef Shalom until a decline in his health, died in March. Norman loved the game and I know, when he was able, enjoyed himself when playing. He was fairly new to duplicate bridge and, I believe, that he received a great deal of satisfaction from being able to master such a difficult game. Our deepest sympathy to his family and his friends.

CURRENT BRIDGE NEWS.....By Lorraine Hanna

Rust Belt Bridge

Below is a link to play with people from our Unit. A link is also available on our website under "Your Club on BBO" <http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/https://aw1a01ae.aweb.page/p/15154617-a3b4-4a9c-b0b7-e979302dc097>

Charity Swiss Team of Four April 18

On Sunday, April 18 at 1pm on BBO there will be a Swiss Team event held by Cleveland Whist Club. Deadline to register is 4/12. Cost \$40 per team with profits split between Alzheimer's Association of Cleveland and Greater Cleveland Food Bank. 2 anonymous donors will be matching money collected for charities. Receive double Club Master Points.

If you're interested, or want to play and need help putting together a team, contact one of the following. If you have a team, send 4 names and include BBO names and team captain's email address. Directions on how to play will be sent to you: Susan Stark 216-798-7982 sudi92@gmail.com Maureen Merker 440-290-8570. macm16@msn.com - Barbara Greenspan 216-382-9229

A few of the many articles/links you can find on our website powered by Bill Holt

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

Advice from Craig Biddle on bidding Strong Hands #19, as well as other hands Post Mortem, current and past articles by Editor, Arlene Port
Free Lessons on Monday with Richard Finberg

Hand patterns are an important tool in bridge for declarer play and in defending.

<http://kwbridge.com/counting-1.htm>

Here's a hand pattern you will get 3 times in a Million.

<https://www.larryco.com/uploaded/product/3ed294e0-44ba-4df3-95f6-88ce395480ab.pdf>

This auction comes up frequently. Partner opens 1Club, you respond 1spade, opener rebids 1nt. How many points does opener have? What's the shape of opener's hand? How does responder proceed? Is 2 hearts forcing? Is 2 diamonds forcing? Robert Todd's link explains.

<https://www.advinbridge.com/this-week-in-bridge/360Eddie Kantar's> website has invaluable information. Here's a link.

<http://www.kantarbridge.com/learn.htm>

PANDEMIC HUMOR

Nail salons, hair salons, waxing center and tanning places are closed. It's about to get ugly out there.

Why don't chefs find coronavirus jokes funny? They're in bad taste.

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

The grocery stores in France look like tornadoes hit them. All that's left is de brie

Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Stanley Ruskin: 3H So do you bid, 1H, 2H, 3H or 4H??? I don't think you are strong enough to pen 1H since you have no real defensive tricks and the opponents are likely to have Spades and partner will not be in a great shape to figure out what is going on. I think you are too strong for 2H. If you bid 4H, you could be passing up

A slam that partner will most likely not be able to bid.

Thus, I bid 3H which shows 7H but I have a really good suit and playing hand.

This gives partner all types of bids and puts some pressure on the opponents

If it is there hand. This could be one of those hands where both sides can make

A slam or both sides will go down in a game. Who knows?

Jane Marshall 1H, I have a 6-loser hand with 2 quick tricks. I will pull a double by partner to clubs (or hearts, depending on the level partner doubles.

Jack Hawthorne 4H

Honestly, this is the toughest problem you have given us. Obviously, any number of hearts could be right. Passing could be right. The form of scoring is significant. At Matchpoints, I lean toward opening 4H, because any number of hearts below game will undoubtedly lead the opposition to bid 4S. If they bid 4S over 4H, I'll bid 5C, unless partner doubles.

At IMPs, I lean toward opening 1H, but I might pass, hoping to get the opportunity to show a two-suited hand.

INTERNET POST MORTEM

You are South, both vul and you hold the following:

S 2
H AKJ 9 8 5
D 5
C J 10 8 6 5

The bidding is:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
?
What is your bid?

Ernie Retetagos: 1 Heart. The fifth club makes this hand a trick too strong for a 2 bid, and it's not my idea of a 3 or 4 bid. It meets the definition of a 1 bid when you add the HCPs to the distribution points. In a matchpoint event I might goof around and open 4 hearts, because it could work out more than 1/2 the time. If I was in a team event, I think it would be irresponsible to open 4 hearts, because when it's wrong it could be very wrong.

Bob Zimmermann: 1 H. Almost all Rule of 20 hands should be opened - especially those with a chunky 6 card major. The hand has far too much playing strength for a preempt, and a 2 heart opener will not deter the enemy from competing in spades.

Herb Sachs 4H Got it. four hearts a near solid preempt; playing namyats this is very reasonable in

Richard Katz 2H This is the exact Roth-Stone weak two bid called a twist. I grew up on these, therefore I open two hearts!

Paul Caplan 2H Possible bids are pass, 1h, 2h, 3h, 4h. I do not like pass because you may never get another chance to bid. 1 heart does not have opening bid values the A and of hearts will not deliver 2 defensive tricks on this hand. 3 and 4 heart opening can cause a big disaster. I would open this hand 2 hearts. I promise 2 of the top 3 honors and a 6 card suit. Having a 5th club is not a problem to me. My partner should be able to make a good decision.

Steve Nolan: 1H. This hand is strong enough to open the bidding if you count the distribution points for the long suits. I use one point for the fifth heart, two for the sixth and one each for the fourth and fifth clubs. You are more likely to find a club fit with a 1H opener than with 2H. Passing works out over some sequences, but you can get shut out over too many for my liking.

Bernie Fudor 1H
At different times in my life I've opened hands like this 1,2,3 and 4. At times I was happy with the end product and at times I was very unhappy. The cynic in me thinks anyone who is 100 per cent sure that one of the 4 is 100 per cent right is kidding themselves. The one thing I won't do is pass. This week I open 1 heart.

Craig Biddle: 3H - I want to make it difficult for the opponents to bid spades, and I have relatively a lot of defense that might let me beat 4S if they bid it. If I were not vulnerable, I'd open 1H and bid my clubs later fearlessly.

Bill Holt 1H. Hand punches above it's high-card weight. Passing now likely makes it problematic to come in over the Opps as high as 4S. If need be, you can show the 2-suiter later.

Asim Ulke I open 1H. I think the loser count comes to help here. I have good hearts, a rebid and 6 losers. Partner needs xxxx xxx KQx and a little luck for me to make game.

Gail Carns: Pass I can preempt with 4H but the hand can belong in Clubs and I don't open 9HC with 1H.

Richard Finberg: 1H. Too much playing strength for 2H, while 3-4 hearts risks missing a good club save (or make!) while down many in hearts. If we have a fit, opponents must play at 5-level unless partner first doubles (ideally, with heart singleton, 2+ trump tricks and 1+ side tricks). I have my promised 2 quick tricks.

Arlene Port: 1H Actually, I had a hand very similar to this and opened it at the one level. I had no idea why or what to do and still don't. Next time I might pass. I read all of the responses and all of them had great merit. I still haven't said "eureka!". I didn't think my bid was good then and I still don't think it is great now.

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Phillp Alder	2H
David Berkowitz	1H
Bart Bramley	2H
John Carruthers	1H
Mark Cohen	2H
Nick Demirev	2H
John Diamond	2H
Billy Eisenberg	4H
Brian Glubok	3H
Jon Green	1H
Carl Hudecek	4H
Sami Kehela	P
Danny Kleinman	3H
Eric Kokish	1H
Daniel Korbel	1H
Karen McCallum	4H
Rozanne & Bill Pollack	1H
Larry Robbins	1H
Arthur Robinson	1H
Steve Robinson	2H
Jeff Rubens	4H
Fred Stewart	P
Howard Weinstein	1H
Robert Wolff	1H
Kit Woolsey	4H
Zia	2H

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
1H	10	9	100
2H	7	2	90
4H	5	2	80
3H	2	2	60
PASS	2	1	60
Else	0	0	0