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Chris Wang.....First At The Post

Unit 142

Pittsburgh, PA

May 2021

POST MORTEM

WEBSITE AT www.pittsburghbridge.org

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Secretary: Mary Paulone Carns

Treasurer: John Alioto

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All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

It's a tossup as to what is going to end first: The Pandemic or Me. I know I have a lot of company who feel the same way. Take heart, the end of the pandemic is absolutely going to end way before you do.

In the meantime, I want to wish everyone a happy May and all of us revered mothers, a HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY. We deserve it. For sure I have at least one nephew who takes this very seriously. I received a text from him telling me to visit my mother, his grandmother and say hello and tell her he is doing very well. The fact that she died 13 years ago doesn't matter. He wants to keep in touch.

If you haven't yet made a team for Flight B of the Grand Nationals, there's still time. I posted the flyer in the Post Mortem. I think it would be a great way to get back into tournament bridge, even though they are holding it online. Ron Franck can give you all information. (Page 4)

I went to my primary care doctor the other day and he suggested I find more activities during this time. What else besides bridge does he want me to do? Start smoking? I'll stick with bridge if you don't mind and doing jigsaw puzzles.

I have a feeling that some seat games will soon be opening, with restrictions, in the near future. I hope so. Keep your eyes open for the news of which ones are moving ahead.

STAY WELL AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

It certainly does!!!

OPENING BID

The criteria used to determine whether or not to make an opening bid is based primarily on HCPs, distribution, and quick tricks. I always considered it standard to open AK-A. It is currently popular to open most hands that have 2 1/2 quick tricks. Even balanced hands with an Ace, an Ace, and a King are usually opened.

For those players who like to have 13 points to open, I can understand their reluctance to open flat 11 counts. 11 point hands with a five card suit are another story, and most should be opened. There are a number of methods for point count evaluation, and the K-S system makes the most sense to me. With a five card major, open if there are 2 1/2 quick tricks. With 2 quick tricks, in addition to HCPs, add points for distribution. Add 1 point for a 6 card suit and 1 point for a singleton. Add 2 points for a 7 card suit and 2 points for a void. Open if the total point count is 12 or more. With only 1 1/2 quick tricks, open with 13 points. Here are a couple of examples.

S - Q J 9 5 3 2 H - 6 3 D - 4 C - A K 9 5. This hand has 10 HCPs plus 2 distribution points and is a 1 spade opening bid. Do not give any serious consideration to opening this 2 spades. You should not preempt with two defensive tricks outside of your trump suit. In spite of only having 10 points, passing is certainly out of the question.

S - K 10 2 H - Q 8 6 5 3 D - 2 C - A Q 8 4. This hand came up in the Rust Belt game last month, and has 11 HCPs and 1 distribution point. With two quick tricks, it would qualify as an opening bid. Almost half of the field passed this hand. When LHO opened 3 diamonds, it went pass, pass, back to the opener. Now what? Should you bid at the 3 level when you wouldn't bid at the 1 level? If you pass, you are minus 110. If you open 1 heart, partner will raise to 3 hearts over 3 diamonds, and you are plus 140.

S - A Q J 10 4 H - 9 8 7 D - K 4 2 C - J 2. In a recent team game almost every pair opened 1 spade, even though it doesn't seem to meet any kind of numeric criteria. That is because the rule of this and the rule of that are just suggested guidelines, and should not be the main reason for any bidding decision.

PLAYING BRIDGE ONLINE AT BBO

.BBO (Bridge Base Online has been a wonderful opportunity for all bridge players to continue playing the sport they love. The ACBL has partnered with BBO to have online games that reward master points. There are tournaments continuously every hour of every day. If you have participated, you know how wonderful it is.

However, much to my dismay there is a fair amount of unethical behavior evident at many times. There isn't much you can do about it, but here are a few suggestions how to recognize and report what you consider unethical behavior.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

1. Opponent opens the bidding with an usual, forcing bid and their partner, with values, chooses not to respond.
2. When opps overcall and continue to compete, when one hand then hesitates for a long period of time and then passes, and their partner now bids.
3. If opps reach a contract that doesn't make any sense; as in a contract reached by unbelievable bidding.
4. Opening lead: If opps make an opening lead that only the Wizard of Magical Bridge makes and finds partner with a void or a singleton..

WHAT DO YOU DO?

You never accuse any player of cheating. I repeat NEVER!! If you have any doubt, call the director after the hand or after the session, immediately is over. Give them the board number and the bidding because of bidding or the hesitation or the lead. All you really have to say is that you feel you need protection on Board #2 or whatever, and ask them to please review that board for you. If they feel there is a problem they will adjust the results for you.

I have done this a few times and the board has been adjusted. At other times, I have been informed that there was no problem evident. Please try to do this because if enough players note indiscretions, it will help to discourage telephone calls and signals and the game will improve and be a much more enjoyable and a fair way to spend your time playing bridge.

I REPEAT: NEVER ACCUSE AN OPPONENT OF CHEATING OR TELL THE DIRECTOR YOU THOUGHT THEY WERE CHEATING!!!

GNT DISTRICT 5 QUALIFER

NOTE: IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO AS YET, YOU CAN STILL REGISTER FOR FLIGHT B

The 2021 District 5 GNT Qualifier will be held online on BBO. These are dates and times for each flight:

- Flight C: Saturday May 1st 10:00 & 3 pm
- Flight A: Saturday May 1st 10:30 & 3:30 pm
- Flight B: Saturday May 15th 10:00 & 3:00 pm
- Championship Flight: May 15th 10:30pm & 3:30 pm

Masterpoint Limits

Championship Flight (unlimited MP) Flight A (0-6000MP) Flight B (0-2500) Flight C (0-500 NLM). Masterpoint Limits are absolute - not averaged. Team may play in a higher flight and may participate both weekends. Saturday matches will be in a round-robin format if feasible, director may utilize a swiss team format if round-robin impossible.

Top 4 finishers will advance to a KO the following Sunday. Winner of KO will advance to Nationals.

National finals will be set by ACBL either in person or online.

Pre-Registration

Pre-registration will be mandatory. Deadline for Flights C & A is Wednesday April

28th at 5pm. Registration for Flight B & Champion Flight is Wednesday May 12th at 5PM. Registration of your team should be emailed to Ron Franck at rjtfranck@gmail.com All entries must include:

- 1) All team member's name and designation of captain
- 2) All team member's BBO name
- 3) All team member's contact number

Eligibility after registration date will only be considered by director if it completes the movement.

Entry Fee

The entry fee for the weekend will be \$120.00. Checks should be forwarded to Brian Ellis and made out to District 5. Brian's address is:

1 Chelsea Ct. Beachwood OH 44122.

Any questions should be addressed to Ron Franck at rjtfranck@gmail.com (phone:

412-913-1505)

Conditions of Contest may be requested and sent via email.

UP THE LADDER POST

CLUB MASTER

Jeff Adams

JUNION MASTER

*Marilyn Sikora
Dorothea Zagar*

SECTIONAL MASTER

Jeannie Desmone

NABC MASTER

*Brenda Donald
Joan Prizant*

ADV NABC MASTER

Russell Orkin

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Margie Tiglio

DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

Judi Sonon



CONGRATULATIONS
DON'T EVER TELL ANYONE YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
ACHIEVING YOUR NEW BRIDGE STATUS
PROVES YOU CAN - AND YOU DID!!

CONGRATULATIONS
THERE WERE MORE BOOQUETS OF BALLONS. I
DIDN'T USE THEM. I'M SAVING THEM FOR
YOU WHEN YOU BECOMA A DIAMOND LIFE
MASTER

IN MEMORY

Suzanne Harchelroad When Suzanne retired and returned to Pittsburgh, and was living at Hill Station Manor, Cecil. Having grown up playing cards, Suzanne gravitated to bridge when she met another new player, Mary Taylor. The two formed a partnership and began playing at the Beth El new comers game. Suzanne took lessons and continued her bridge adventures with many players at the South Hills games. Suzanne passed away in April. Although face to face bridge has not yet resumed, Suzanne will be missed by her partners and friends in the bridge community.....Phyllis Geinzer

Joan Shapiro I received a note this week from Joan Shapiro's son that Joan had died August 15. I didn't know and I doubt if many others did. Joan hadn't played for several years due to failing eyesight. She was a great player and equally fine person. Because it hadn't been in the ACBL bulletin, I sent info to the ACBL.Marilyn Painter

Arthur Aronson, known to the bridge community as Art, passed in late March. He was originally from New York, received several degrees in the field of metals. He was honored for his contributions to the field of metals and materials. He was with Allegheny Ludlum as a Vice President from 1988 to his retirement in 2000. Art was active with Carnegie Mellon University and Butler County Community College as well as local charities. Art was a frequent player at the Glenshaw Saturday game when he was not golfing or sailing. Art was a delightful opponent, always ready to discuss a multitude of subjects after the hands had been played. He will be missed. Phyllis Geinzer

Tom Richards : Tom played at Butler, Zelienope and tournaments. Our condolences to his family and all his friends..... Marilyn painter

CURRENT BRIDGE NEWS.....By Lorraine Hanna

Hope you are well and enjoying the nice weather.

Rust Belt Bridge

Link to find out latest on our area bridge on BBO

<https://aw1a01ae.aweb.page/p/bd8459a2-f8b5-44ee-a77b-e690da84e623>

Pittsburgh Bridge Association

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

Bill Holt keeps us up to date on all the info on Bridge in the Burgh and beyond. Look under Club Results for games being played in the Burgh...Export Moose and Greensburg are and have been open for face to face play.

Post Mortem Newsletter edited by Arlene Port keeps our bridge family together with news and articles of interest to our community.

Free lessons every Monday afternoon, thanks to Richard Finberg

A look at a draft of the proposed New Convention Card posted on Bridge Winners.

<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/new-acbl-convention-card-draft/>

Larry Cohen details when you double, then bid again. The examples he shows come up all the time.

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/actual/double-and-bid>

Other Types of Doubles

<https://www.advinbridge.com/this-week-in-bridge/359>

Support Doubles (note Support Doubles and Support Redoubles no longer need to be alerted per ACBL Bulletin 1/21 page 35). Other alert changes and procedures are noted in the ACBL article.

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/support-doubles>

Responder's Rebid after Support Double

<https://www.advinbridge.com/this-week-in-bridge/364>

PANDEMIC HUMOR

My kids laugh because they think due to Covid, I'm crazy - I laugh, because what they don't know - is that is hereditary
Apparently, this year is being written by Stephen King

They said a mask and gloves were enough to go to the grocery store. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that everyone else had clothes on.

The Covid actually had one benefit. I'm not adding this year to my age— because I didn't use it

Feels like we're 3—4 weeks away from learning everyone's real hair color

Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Stanley Ruskin: 3D This is more complicated than it appears and depends whether you are an optimist or pessimist. There are 2 ways you have to look at this – are you playing support doubles or not. If we aren't playing support doubles, I bid 3D. Partner didn't double 3C for penalty and didn't support S. Outside of distribution, I don't have a great hand. If partner has a solid opening bid, he can bid over 3D. I don't think I want to force a game unless partner has a solid opener. While partner could have 4H, he doesn't have to **have 4H and probably has 5D**.

If you are playing support doubles, partner has 2 or fewer S and may or may not have a hand that he would like to have made a penalty double of 3C – which we don't know. We don't know the shape of his hand at all. Is his hand 2/4/4/3 or 2/4/5/2 or something like that. He could also be 2/3/5/3. With a decent opener, and 6D, he probably would have bid 3D. He could have other type hands also. Now it to decide if you are a pessimist or optimist. Please note that if he were 3/3 in the minors he would have opened 1C so he doesn't have 3/3. You know that you have at least a 4/4 fit in D. If you are a pessimist, you bid 3D and hope partner, with a good hand will bid again. On the other hand, if you bid 3H, he will raise with 4H (he knows you are 5/4 in the majors because you didn't bid 1H over 1D). I don't think I should bid 4C over 3C because I don't think I am strong enough. If partner bids something other than 4H, I will bid 4D and let him go from there. I think this auction would almost guarantee a 5/4/4 hand since I am supporting his suit at the 4 level. Thus, I bid 3H over 3C.

Asim Ulke I bid **3D**. Not much is known about partners hand at this point. I hope he can bid again.

INTERNET POST MORTEM

You are South, IMPs, neither side vulnerable
You hold:

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

THE BIDDING IS:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1D PASS 1S 3C
PASS PASS ?
What is your bid?

Ernie Retetagos: Double. A double in this balancing position shows some high card strength and suggests game invitational values. It's the most flexible action and leaves all possibilities in play.

Bob Zimmermann: 4 clubs If there were a takeout double available, I would use it. I am a bit light to force to game, but all my values could be working in any one of three strains. Vulnerable at IMPs, I need to do everything I can to get that game bonus.

Herb Sachs, 5d five diamonds; keep it simple.

Chris Wang: I bid **double** (takeout) implying I can support diamonds. I want to keep the heart suit open as an option.

Richard Katz 3d I bid three diamonds Going low hoping to hear more, or happy to just be done.
If four hearts makes, oh well!

Paul Caplan 3d not good enough to reopen with a double and have partner sit for it. I open hands with 5 clubs and 4 diamonds with 1 club.

Steve Nolan: . Double. I think it's takeout.

Bernie Fudor I **double** that's takeout in most partnerships

Jack Hawthorne Double seems automatic to me. I guess a diamond slam is possible, but we can get around to that later. Double suggests the ability to play any suit. The only alternative is 3H because partner will probably lead a spade if he passes my Double. Should the opponents bid any more, the heart lead is necessary.

Jane Marshall 4 clubs and then pass if partner bids 4 spades OR 5 diamonds if partner does not bid 4 spades. This 6-loser hand is too good not to be in game.

Pat Katz: I bid **3 hearts**, over three spades preference I bid 4 diamonds. I'm done pard knows my hand xxo

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Bill Holt 3H. Options as I see them are Dbl and 3H. Hand is light on HCP but has excellent shape. Dbl could be right, but the void argues for playing the hand, and the 'only' 9 hcp argues against Dbl. 3H is forcing, so we're headed to 3NT, 4H, 4S, or some # of diamonds.

Gail Carns: 3D I will force game somewhere not 3NT

Richard Finberg 4C. A reopening double could be best (allowing for a penalty pass or 3NT), but with my 4 diamonds, a void, and a likely spade lead from partner, I prefer offense in a suit contract.. Partner might have a spade singleton, with many red cards. I intend to pass partner's rebids of 4H or 4S, or raise 4D to 5D, and hope for the best.

Arlene Port : 3H It's the bid I would have made over 2C. I only hope that partner recognizes the fact that desperate times require desperate measures. I feel I was more or less forced into making the bid.. I can also play the "void" card for a rationale of overbidding. Double, which is reasonable, never occurred to me. I discovered it from some of the answers I received.

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
3H	7	3	100
4C	7	3	100
3D	9	5	80
DBL	5	5	70
4D	1	9	40
5D	0	1	0

(CONT:
on page 9)

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Phillp Alder	3D
David Berkowitz	3H
Bart Bramley	3D
John Carruthers	4C
Larry Cohen	4C
Gary Cohler	3D
Billy Eisenberg	3H
Steve Garner	4C
Ron Gerard	4C
Jon Green	D
Carl Hudecek	4C
Eddie Kantar	3D
Sami Kehela	4C
Danny Kleinman	3D
Eric Kokish	D
Chip Martel	3S
Sue Picus	3H
Arthur Robinson	3D
Eric Rodwell	3H
Bruce Rogoff	3D
Michael Rosenberg	D
Jeff Rubens	4D
Kerri and Steve Sanborn	D
Alan Sontag	3D
Paul Trent	3D
Eddie Wold	4C
Robert Wolff	3H
Kit Woolsey	3D
Zia	3H