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Unit 142

Pittsburgh, PA

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POST MORTEM

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All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

June is definitely ‘bustin out all over’. By a miraculous chain of events, the Pandemic seems to be fading away, with the vaccination of at least 70% of the people. Won’t it be just wonderful when the last 30% join in and were are virus free? I can’t wait.

Slowly, but surely, our world appears to be coming back to “normal”. Gus is restarting his games this week and more will soon follow. I pray, (no pun intended) that Sandi Brand is able to start the game at Rodef Shalom soon. It looks like bridge is in - again - in Pittsburgh. And, don’t forget, we all look forward to Sue Groiller’s Tuesday game starting up again soon. South Hills? Are you listening?

And the great news doesn’t stop there. The now famous team of Craig Biddle, Phillip Goulding, Richard Katz and Bob Zimmerman entered the GNT’s and excelled themselves into the round robin with 16 of 28 teams qualifying for a single elimination bracketed KO type of event being played online July 14. This is a very tough event. They have to play 64 boards to get to the round to qualify. I know they can do it. They have a really great team. Unfortunately, I wasn’t a cheerleader in high school, but I was a majorette. So, I will throw a baton up in the air to cheer for them and hope I can catch it when it comes down.

I certainly look forward to the time when “normal” becomes a boring word. It won’t be one for me.

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

It certainly does!!!

LEBENSORHL CONVENTION

The Lebensohl convention can be used in sequences involving one No Trump opening bids, weak two bids, or opener's reverse. After partner doubles their opening 2 spade bid and RHO passes, you must bid something even with a weak hand. With 0-7 HCPs, bid 2 NT and partner is required to bid 3 clubs. Now you can pass with clubs or bid your best suit. With about 8-11 HCPs, make an invitational bid by bidding directly at the 3 level. With game forcing values, you start by bidding 2 NT or cue bidding, or jumping to game.

Things are a little different when partner opens 1 NT and RHO interferes with 2 spades. You can pass with a super bad hand. If you bid at the 3 level it is game forcing with at least a 5 card suit. With a hand that you want to compete with, bid 2 NT. Partner is forced to bid 3 clubs, and you can pass or bid your suit. With a game forcing hand without a 5 card suit, there is a way to ask for a 4 card major, and a way to show or deny a stopper in the opponent's suit.

Using the concept of fast denials, bid directly to the 3 level to deny a stopper in their suit. So 1NT-2S-3NT denies a stopper. 1NT-2S-3S, shows four cards in the other major and no stopper. By bidding directly to the 3 level, you deny a stopper. The sequence 1NT-2S 2NT, forces 3 clubs. 3 spades now by you shows 4 hearts and a stopper in spades. Without 4 cards in the other major, bid 2NT followed by 3 NT to show a stopper in spades. The bidding format with these four possibilities is similar after a weak two bid and a double.

There are other systems, as well as variations of this convention. Some play that slow denials, and a relay system can also be used. Most pairs play some kind of gadget in these situations. The Lebensohl convention is probably the most frequently used, and is worth adding to your convention card.

UP THE LADDER POST

CONGRATULATIONS
GREAT JOB

SECTIONAL MASTER

*Neal Binstock
William Geiger
Carolyn McMullen*

SILVER LIFE MASTER

*Sandra Metosky
Stewart Metosky*

(Note: I know Sandra and Stewart and am amazed at the level of achievement they have reached in actually a very short time. Congratulations)

We are so proud of you for climbing that very difficult of success in the bridge world.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations NICE GOING!
GREAT! Way to Go!
Yea! FELICITATIONS
CHEERS Take A BEST
BOW! WISHES!

BRIDGE IS BACK IN TOWN POST

NOTICE TO UNIT 142 AND UNIT 229 BRIDGE PLAYERS

Hello to fellow pasteboard warriors. We have endured the year of covid isolation; and now the time to redeem our former lives has presented itself. The Glenshaw bridge game will reopen for face to face play on Wednesday June 2 of this year.

As owner/manager my intention is to remain an open game; but player restrictions will apply with no exceptions.

- All players must be vaccinated against covid and present proof of same for entry.
- Face masks will be required at the tables for the first two weeks. Thereafter, the policy will be reviewed based upon frequency of "breakthrough" covid cases and the observed use of the venue by other persons.
- Face masks will always be worn when exiting the playing area for the common areas.
- No ill players will be admitted to play. Have a fever, stay home. Have a cough, stay home.
- On the honor system, if a player knows they had been exposed to covid. Stay home.
- Hospitality will be extremely limited in order to avoid congregating and contact contamination. Coffee, water, and soda for liquid refreshments. Individual packaged cakes and cookies for snacks. No more chips, pretzels, cheese spread, chicken salad, or cracker basket.
- Ventilating the game site will take place until A/C mandates closing the windows.

There will be a F2F game at Glenshaw every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Game start time will be the usual 10:30 am start on Monday and Wednesday. Start time for Saturday is 11:00 am. Predealt hands with hand records will be used.

The Thursday and Friday games at Wilkins must wait for a later start date. Since Wilkins functions during the day as a full time, local government work site, opening presents special issues. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at danuj@aol.com or call/text me at 412-519-8450.

Some players are not listed by the ACBL with an email address. Please pass this information on, by phone or direct contact, to other players who either do not have emails or prefer a more personal contact.

Looking forward to seeing all my bridge friends again.

IN MEMORY

PHYLLIS BERKOWITZ: Well, we lost another lovely member of our community and a mighty fine bridge player. We received the news last week. It was a shock. She was a love woman, whom I have known for many years, even before bridge. She was a regular at the Monday game at Rodef and often played with her brother, Murray. Phyllis was not only a school teacher, she was a Yoga instructor as well. A very kind-hearted woman, Phyllis welcomed many young people into her home who didn't have anyplace to go. Our condolences to her family and her many friends. She will be missed by u all.

MICHAEL LITMAN: Michael, who was the brother of Pat Katz, died in May. Our thoughts and condolences to Richard and Pat, their sister Kathy, Michaels children and their families and friends. He will be missed by so many.

JOAN SHAPIRO: Joan, who died August 15, at one time was a regular player at our bridge games. I knew Joan well, and knew she hadn't played for several years due to failing eyesight. She was a very accomplished player and an equally fine person.

We all mourn the loss of so many of our friends and fellow bridge players. Several of them have lost their lives due to Covid. This all will be over soon.

TEST YOUR DEFENSE—PLEASE

TEST YOURSELF

You are West. Select a lead from each of the following hands against this auction

		NORTH	SOUTH	
			1NT	
		2NT	3NT.	
A)	S Q 10 9 3	H K 5	D Q 10 9 3	C J 7 5
B)	S A J 10 6 2	H 5 4 3	D J 6	C K 8 5
C)	S A 5	H Q 5 2	D 8 6 4 3	C J 10 9 8
D)	S J 7 3 2	H A 5	D 5 4 3	C K J 10 8
E)	S Q 5	H J 10 8 4	D A 8 5 3	C A Q 10
F)	K 10 4	H Q 7 4 2	D J 10 9	C A Q 10

		NORTH	SOUTH	
			1C	
		1H	1NT	
		2NT	3NT	
A)	S K 7 5	H Q J 10 9 4	D J 5	C 6 3 2
B)	S Q J 10	H A 4 2	D A K 4 2	C Q J 10 6 3
C)	S Q 10 5 3	H 6 5 4	D A 6 4 2	C Q 5
D)	S 4 3 2	H 6 5 3 2	D J 6 3	C Q 5 2
E)	S K 10	H Q 6 4 2	D J 10 9 8	C K J 10
F)	A K J 10	H 4 3 2	D 5 4 3 2	C 3 2

- ANSWERS
- #1 A Showing zero or two higher. If 10 is not visible, assume two higher.
- B 10S Showing zero or two higher. If Jack is not visible, assume two higher.
- C JC A 4 card sequence
- D 10C Your clubs are much better than your spades so lead the club
- E JH A sequence is better leading than leading from a broken 4 card suit
- F JD A safe lead. Partner cannot have much strength. Let them play the hand.
- #2 AQH Even though they have bid hearts, top of a 4-card sequence is good
- B C6 Normally you would lead the Q, but when they've bid a suit and you have a three-card sequence, it pays to lead low.
- C 3S Better to lead from a suit that has two honor cards than a suit that only has one
- D 3D Partner is marked with a strong hand so try to find her likely long suit. Not spades. (she didn't overcall), but it may be diamonds
- E JD Even though you have a four-card major and a four-card minor, an honor sequence in a minor takes precedence over a broken four-card major.
- F AS The lead of an ace asks partner to unblock the missing honor. If he can't do that, partner gives count.

CURRENT BRIDGE NEWS.....By Lorraine Hanna

We now have three Clubs open face to face. Edgeworth Club opened to join Export Moose and Greensburg. Check our website for more information. Click on Club Results.

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

While you're on our website check out the side panel with links to tons of info. such as Monday's free Zoom lesson presented by Richard Finberg; Biddle Bits, Craig's informative hand analysis; Post Mortem current and past issues by our Editor, Arlene Port and lots more. Thanks to Bill Holt for maintaining our site.

Your Club on BBO

Support our local Clubs by playing in the Rust Belt Game. Found under Virtual Clubs. Link to Info:

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

Another way to support your local Clubs is to play in the Support Your Club games on BBO. Found under all other BBO games.

Summer Vichill League

The Summer Vichill League starts on 6/23 and ends on 8/25 (no game 7/21) 4-6 players per team. Deadline to register is 6/10. Stan Dub is the person to contact to register your team. His email address is: stan.dub@gmail.com

Games are on Wednesday evenings around 7. Lots of fun and good competition.

What is Quantitative? What is Ace Asking? What is 3nt by partner, 4clubs by responder...See in link below

https://www.bridgehands.com/Q/Quantitative_Notrump_Slam_Bid.htm

Interesting points on Gerber

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-learning-center/detail/237>

What to open if you have 4 diamonds and 5 Clubs

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-quiz/detail/9>

Responding to partner's opening of a minor. When partner opens 1Club, do you bid or bypass diamonds. Here's Larry Cohen's advice

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/responding-to-1-of-a-minor-opening>

PANDEMIC HUMOR



Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Stanley Ruskin: 3D I am simple .I just bid 3D since, unless partner bids 3S to

Move the play to Spades, we will be playing this hand in some Number of Diamonds unless partner bids 3NT in which case I Will pass. It seems to me that partner should lead the way on this Hand and my future bids will depend on his bids. This hand can

Bob Zimmermann: 3 diamonds. I don't like the splinter for three reasons. First, splinter with a singleton ace or king distorts my values. For example, I don't want to discourage 3nt by partner if he thinks I'm light in hearts. Second, we are in a game forcing auction, so there is no rush and no need to chew up bidding space. Third, partner might have a good 3=4=4=2 hand (or similar) and is preparing to make a 3 card raise. I'll bid 3 spades over 3 hearts. spades, no trump, or diamonds.

Arlene Port: **3D.** Even seeing the answers, I believe this is the correct bid. The hand just isn't that huge to start looking for magic. If any of you have played online bridge, you know there is no magic in bridge.

INTERNET POST MORTEM

You are South, Non vul IMP's

You hold:

S A J 9 8 7 5

H K

D A J 6 4

C Q 9

The bidding is:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1S PASS 2D* P

? What do you bid?

* Game Force

Note: 3H is a splinter bid with any strength; four diamonds is a picture bid (strong diamonds)?

Ernie Retetagos: 3 Diamonds. A raise to 3 diamonds shows a non-minimum hand with diamond support, which is exactly what I have. Thanks for the footnotes, but I don't see any downside to making a normal space saving raise.

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
3D	8	8	100
3H	7	2	90
2S	8	2	80
4D	2	0	70
4NT	0	0	20
2NT	0	0	10

Richard Katz 3D I bid three diamonds
I like pure splinters (no stiff honors)
I like pure picture bids (two better suits) My fifteen is minimal with Qx and stiff K! Not a great hand, and none of the above, just looking for best game until further notice.
More NT-like than suited

Paul Caplan 3H describes this hand. A stiff heart and diamond support. A stiff king is worth the same as a stiff 2. Spades are not good enough to force them as trump unless partner supports.

Steve Nolan: 3D. Showing support while giving partner room to describe further. I'm looking for 6D, and will not pass 3NT.

Bernie Fudor 2S Dont like 3h or 4D That leaves me with 2sp or 3D. I think the waiting bid of 2 sp might be best

Jack Hawthorne 4D; IMPs: 4D - This bidding problem is scoring dependent. At matchpoints, I simply raise to 3D, not wanting to exclude a NT contract. At IMPs, I raise to 4D, suggesting slam and encouraging partner to cue-bid. I am not fond of splintering with a singleton King. It may be more important than any old singleton, particularly if 3NT is the final contract. Additionally, partner might discount a heart suit headed by the Queen if I splinter in hearts.

Bill Holt 2S. I'm not stopping below 4S and 6d is within view. Like to show my extra Spade first, see what partner does. I will pull 3NT to 4d as a slam try.

Gail Carns: 3D showing extra values

Richard Finberg: 3D. When possible, I like to convey the full power of a hand at the earliest opportunity, but all other bids are too flawed. A splinter bid with a stiff heart king is not great, 2S suppresses the D fit, as does 3S, which also overstates the suit quality (can we switch a small spade for the HK?). 3D establishes the fit and leaves spades in play.

Jane Marshall 2 spades. I want my partner to know that I have 6 spades. I am not interested in playing NT. If partner raises spades now, I will ask about keycards. If partner does not raise spades, I will support diamonds.

Herb Sachs, 3H simple and descriptive. can't show the sixth spade but more important to show the diamond fit early. over 3s i bid 4s having no more bids at this moment

Chris Wang: 3D I bid 3 diamonds. I don't know where the final contract will be. The heart king might be a good card to help stop hearts in NT. It is still possible for the contract to end up in

Asim Ulke I bid 3D. Partner will clarify with next bid

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Phillp Alder	3D
Steve Beatty	3D
David Berkowitz	3D
Augie Boehm	3D
Bart Bramley	3H
Billy Eisenberg	2S
Russ Ekeblad	3H
Mark Feldman	2S
Ross Gabel	3H
Allan lGraves	3D
Jon Green	2S
Barbara Haberman	3D
Carl Hudecek	2S
Sami Kehela	4D
Danny Kleinman	2S
Eric Kokish	2S
Arthur Robinson	3H
Mark Lair	3D
Mike Passell	3D
Pratrap Rajadhyaksha	3H
Jeff Rubens	2S
Don Stack	3H
Roy welland	4D
Robert Wolff	3H
Kit Woolsey	2S