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Unit 142

Pittsburgh, PA

July 2021

POST MORTEM

WEBSITE AT www.pittsburghbridge.org

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Vice President: Craig Biddle

Secretary: Mary Paulone Carns

Treasurer: John Alioto

Club Manager: Mary Carns

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All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

WE'RE BAAAAAACK

Happiness is: Leaving your home without fear, going to play bridge face to face and seeing all your friends.

Each week, more games that were closed because of Covid are coming back stronger than ever. I have been to some of these games and had a great time. I know you will as well.

I am looking forward to including a new calendar in future Post Mortems containing special games, tournaments, both sectional and regional that I hope once again will soon be part of our unit schedule. And.....The July issue of the Post Mortem will be at your local games. Now, maybe someone will read it!!.

As far as online bridge is concerned, I realize that it has been a pleasant relief from our quarantine status. But, just so you know, face to face bridge is so much more enjoyable, and the plus that goes along with that is unethical behavior by online players does not exist, mostly because I know that our unit members don't engage. I found it very discouraging to play against 20 point slams and perfect defense that makes no sense and other more obvious methods of improving your masterpoint numbers. It is fun to do when you have time, but it definitely does not compare to our club games. I found that online bridge is a different game. I will continue to play, but never to replace online bridge with our regular games.

The past year plus has been a very trying time for us all. Thank goodness we survived and are ready to begin yelling at our partner once again.

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

SEEING SPOTS

The spot cards that you play give partner the clues they need in order to defend correctly. There are several methods of signaling, the least popular being odd even discards. An odd card encourages, and an even card discourages. The problem is that you don't have a plethora of spot cards in every suit to choose from. In standard carding, a high card encourages and a small card discourages. Upside -Down Count and Attitude signals, (UDCA), do the opposite. A small card encourages and a high card discourages. In this system you don't waste a high spot card that weakens your holding in that suit.

Although it's probably not the best system, most of us in Pittsburgh continue to use standard carding. When you make your first discard, you want to tell partner where you have strength. Unless you can afford to signal with a high card, discard a small card in the suit that you don't want partner to shift to. That way you will not weaken your holding in your strong suit. When you lead a suit, a small card indicates that you have an honor in the suit, and a high spot card tends to deny a high card. There could be an exception on the opening lead, as some partnerships lead small from three small.

Partner leads their 4th best against a NT contract and you hold Ace 6 2 . When you win your Ace, you return the 6. If you returned the 2, it would show an initial holding of either two or four.

Another way to help partner is with suit preference signals. If partner leads an obvious singleton to your Ace, you will give them a ruff. The spot card that you return tells partner how to find you for a second ruff. A small card shows the lower ranking side suit, and a high card shows the higher ranking suit. Another way to give suit preference is when you lead your long suit and declarer ruffs. Since partner knows your length in the suit, all of your cards in that suit now have equivalent value. When you later make a discard from your suit, the card you play has suit preference implications.

The spot cards that you play can help partner with count and attitude. Accurate carding is required for good partnership defense.

It certainly does!!!

UP THE LADDER POST

CONGRATULATIONS

I forgot to teach them the "Don't get a good board from Arlene" convention.
GOOD JOB, EVERYONE

ADV NABC MASTER

*Lonnie Carey
Ann C Plunkett*

SECTIONAL MASTER

*Deepa Karambelkar
Jagannath Karambelkar
Chris S Macoy
Beverly Filtz
Howard Filtz*

REGIONAL MASTER

*Joan C Davis
Rebecca A Zoretich*

GOLD LIFE MASTER

*Ami Elis
Martin F Kumer*

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

Craig R Biddle

Five of these unit members were students of mine. I could take all the credit, but, instead, they taught me that everyone as bright and hard working as they are can achieve at the bridge table.

CONGRATULATIONS

BRIDGE IS BACK IN TOWN POST

WHAT CAN I SAY?

It was wonderful. It was like "old times". It was like my life had returned after over a year of being afraid, being alone and wondering if the pandemic would ever be over. Actually, like many of my peers, it was even more frightening because I was starting to like being my own country.

Well, it was amazing. I went and continue to go to our club games and it is like magic. Having been vaccinated, the horror of last year, while not completely gone, is starting to disappear into last years bad dream. I was so happy and relieved to see all of those people who were my bridge companions looking good and happy to be back. My friends came and so did my acquaintances, who I quickly converted into my friends. I never realized until I was with them once again that they were so very much apart of my life.

At the present time, the attendance is not as large as it was, but along with more confidence in our well-being, it is growing and will soon be back to "normal" (I love that word). Please make it happen by coming back to the games as soon as possible. Pre-existing games are reopening and are waiting for you with open arms. So far I have been to Gus and Sandi's game and both have been so welcoming and happy to see you. If you need any help, just ask and they will be delighted to get you a partner, or anything else our bridge community offers.

I look forward to being with you all once again.

Fondly, Arlene

IN MEMORY

ARLENE BERGESON: I received a note from Lorraine Murphy telling me Arlene has died. To all of her friends and family, we send our condolences and know she will be missed by us all.

PANDEMIC HUMOR GONE. - HUMOR BACK

Seenager

I **JUST** discovered my age group! I am a **Seenager** (senior teenager).

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 55-60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared? And I don't have acne. Life is Good!

Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this, if you are a **Seenager**. Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age; it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains. Scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is **NOT** a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names. So please forward this to your friends; they may be my friends, too.

TEST YOUR DEFENSE—PLEASE

I. DEFENSE - NO TRULMP CONTRACTS:

A. **INTRODUCTION:** : It is difficult to understand where you are going without knowing where you've been. We definitely have no intention of disregarding all the basics you have learned about defending a hand. Our goal is to enhance and expand that knowledge to include additional strategies that will make your outcome more successful. Please consider this an introduction..

1. **BEST OPENING LEADS:** In order of their importance
 - a. PARTNER'S BID SUIT: LEAD LOW FROM THREE, HIGH FROM TWO
 - b. FOURTH BEST FROM YOUR LONGEST AND STRONGEST SUIT
 - c. TOP OF A SEQUENCE
 - d. TOP OF NOTHING.
 - d. TOP OF NOTHING.
 2. **WORST LEADS AGAINST NO TRUMP:** (Unless partner has bid the suit)
 - a. UNSUPPORTED ACE
 - b. DOUBLETION Q OR J
 - c. A SINGLETON
 - d. DUMMY'S LENGTH
 - e. DECLARERS STRENGTH
 - f. TOP OF NOTHING
 3. **MIDDLE OF THE HAND LEADS:**
 - a. Lead through strength of dummy.
 - b. If you play before dummy, lead into it's weakness
 - c. Under-leading an ace in the middle of defense is often a good play. You might talk the opponents into playing low and losing to the queen or even less.
 4. **.OVER PARTNER'S LEAD**
 - a. Third hand plays high
 - b. High encourages, low discourages
- B. CHOOSING THE BEST LEAD: You MUST do the following:**
1. **a** Review the bidding (both opponents and partner)
 - b** Did anyone bid a major suit? Because major suit contracts are mostly always preferred, opponents would bid their major first. Or, in the case of no trump openings, Stayman or transfers are most common.
 - c** Think about how many points your partner may hold.
(This is crucial in selecting an opening lead.)
 - d** With little or no information, choose a lead that will get your side the most tricks.
 - e** Consider which hand has the chance for the best source of tricks.
With a very weak hand, you should try to choose a suit you think your partner may be able to set up. At this point, a short suit would be a good lead.

We can now support our Clubs that are open face to face. Glenshaw, Export Moose, Allegheny Country Club and Greensburg have been opened.

Rodef Shalom opens on Mondays starting June 28, 12pm. Proof of vaccine. Masks not required at table; are required for entry. Karl Sokalski, Director \$8.

Sue Gollier is opening Tues. July 6, 10:30am at Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church (Gus' game site) until the end of August and then back to O'Hara. Proof of vaccination, masks NOT required \$8. No stopping for lunch break.

Natrona Heights opens Mon. July 12, 10:30; Allegheny Valley Community Library

Darlene Mannheimer is starting face to face Friday, 7/16 ; 11a.m. at Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church; 3319 W. Liberty Avenue. Proof of vaccination, masks in common areas, Bring your own drink and snacks.

Check our website for up to date information. Click on Club Results and Club Directory. Thanks to Bill Holt for keeping us up to date.

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

Post Mortem:

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

While our Face to Face Bridge has been limited, but improving, Arlene Port continues to reach ALL our members keeping us up to date and informed through our monthly Newsletter. Arlene presents a bridge problem to some of the best players in the Burgh. Our experts' solutions, along with their thought process, are then compared to World Renowned bridge players. See how we measure up by reading the Post Mortem. Keep up with our Bridge Community by reading current and past issues on our website on this link

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

Your Club on BBO

Found under Virtual Clubs. Link to more 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.

BridgeWhiz: Teaching Bridge OnLine to Young People Across America

BridgeWhiz will launch in October. More info will appear in the ACBL August Bridge Bulletin. Students in grades 4-12 will be targeted.

Trump Management

<https://www.advinbridge.com/this-week-in-bridge/242>

Internet Post Mortem (Hand on pages 9, 10 & 11)

Stanley Ruskin NEG. DBL. Wow, what a problem. Let's start with what we probably know.

Partner probably doesn't have 4S or he would have most likely doubled and has at most 3H (most likely exactly 3H). Partner has 15-18 points and is probably 3/3 in the majors (could even be 2/3 in the majors). Partner has A or K H. Partner has at least 2 A. There is almost no holding for partner not to have to have only 1A. All of that being told what is left. If you bid 4NT, and partner bids 5H showing 2A how do you sign off in 5NT? If you bid 4H, and partner bids 4S thinking it is a transfer of some other conventional understanding, then what do you do other than bidding 5C? You can always bid just 3NT and take whatever you make but give up any slam opportunity. I think this is wrong because you have given up any chance for a slam. There is only one bid left and I will do that. This is a negative double. I know that it is supposed to show S but I can correct this in future bidding. Partner won't bid 3S because he doesn't have 4. If he bids 3NT, I can pass. If he bids a minor, I will bid 4NT which has to be KCB in the suit partner has bid. The only real downside to this would be if he bids 5H or 5S, how do I get to 5NT. The answer is that I can't so I will have to bid the minor suit slam off 2A and keep my fingers crossed. This is the alternative to simply taking a vulnerable game and passing up a good shot at a small slam

Jack Hawthorne 4H. This is very difficult. At matchpoints, I would probably just bid 3NT and hope we take more tricks than the field. I'm not overly concerned about many pairs bidding slams. But the potential for slam is high. and must be reached at IMPs : All the 2NT overcall needs to hold is 3 Aces and the diamond Queen. But determining which slam is the hard part. 6C looks most likely but the slam probably needs to be played from the NT bidder's side of the table to protect the (presumed) spade King from the opening lead. I would love to be able to bid 5NT to suggest "pick a minor suit for slam," but that would likely be interpreted as inviting 7NT. The opposing heart bids have eliminated Minor Suit Stayman from our bidding arsenal. If partner won't rebid a minor over my 4H cue-bid, I will probably just bid 6NT and hope we have enough tricks. I really feel the need to guard against a spade lead

Gail Carns: 4NT blackwood (Cont on page 9 which contains hand)

INTERNET POST MORTEM

You are South, IMP's, both sides vulnerable and you hold the following:

S J 5
 H J
 D K J 10 5
 C K Q J 10 6 2

The bidding is:

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|-------|------|
| SOUTH | WEST | NORTH | EAST |
| ---- | 2H | 2NT | 3H |
| ? What do you bid? | | | |

Ernie Retetagos: 4 Clubs. I expect (hope) that partner will cue bid with a hand with lots of controls, something like A,A ,A, K. After I bid 4 clubs, if partner cue bids, I'll bid 6 clubs. If they just raise to 5 clubs, I'll pass. Or higher.

Asim Ulke: I bid 6D and hope that opponent does not lead a spade through partners presumed AQ of spades, if partners major suit holding is AQ + KXX.

Pat Katz: I bid 3 no trump

Herb Sachs, 4H I bid four hearts which I assume will get me four spade. Next I bid five clubs and listen! If partner holds KQ in spades and hearts and passes I will be happy. I guess I am passing the buck

Richard Katz : 3NT I bid and probably do well at 3 NT

Steve Nolan 3NT. The point count says that this should make more often than not. Partner must have a heart stopper and the lead is into that hand. Partner probably has the ace of clubs, too. If not, he overcalled 2NT with nothing higher in clubs than the 9. Even if he did, there's still a good chance for 3NT because in that case the other suits are likely to be double stopped (my JH might be an important card).

Bob Zimmermann 4 hearts An interesting problem. Partner's overcall shows about an opening no trump bid and a heart stopper. A perfect minimum [AKxx Axx Ax xxxx] makes 6 clubs cold - but 3nt will fail. Over partner's 4nt (natural) or 4 spades, I'll bid 5 clubs. That should make against any sane 2nt bid by partner. If he raises 5 clubs or bids diamonds, I'll re-evaluate.

Chris Wang I bid 5 clubs. Partner has a 1 NT overcall hand (15-18 hcp). So partner has 1 or 2 stoppers in hearts. Partner probably has 3 or 4 hearts. I would be concerned about the preempter having an outside entry. I am not sure if 4 clubs could be passed, so I am just placing the contract where I think it is safest to be since this is IMPs.

Bill Holt 4NT, Blackwood. Hate to do with my S holding but preempts work. I presume partner has 3 Aces on this sequence so 6c is within view. If partner shows 2 only, I can bid 5S – a conventional sign-off to 5NT which should have a play. Alternate bid would be 4H showing shortness and a good hand, but I think I know what strain to play so elect to take charge.

Richard Finberg: DOUBLE. 6C could be a good spot with the right N hand, but East's 3H bid over 2NT suggests that even 5C (and 3NT) may be in jeopardy (especially if E-W hold the C-Ace). A sane East might have a singleton, 3 hearts to an honor and 3-4 controls (where A=2, K=1). At IMPs, X of 3H is a good bet. If game is made at the other table, you will lose 9 IMPs if you set 3H by only 1 trick; lose 3 IMPs for down 2 (more likely); or win 5 or 10 IMPs for plus 800-1100. But, if the game contract is set by 1 trick at the other table, the double wins 7, 12, 14 or 15 IMPs respectively when you set 3HX by 1-4 tricks. Thus, I double despite my strong 6-card suit.

Jane Marshall: 5 clubs. I doubt that the opponents can take 3 tricks. I am too good to bid just 4 clubs. I will take my chances with 5 clubs.

Bernie Fudor 5C At imps ibid 5c at mps 3nt. not able to bid slam with any assurance. Thats why they make preempts .

Craig Biddle: 4C This is a tough problem at IMPs. (At matchpoints, just close your eyes and bid 3NT). But at IMPs we have to worry about a slam if partner has S-Axxx H-Axx D-Ax C-Axxx, or many other hands with 3 aces and the right fillers. Mainly, though, we have to choose the safest game. I'm going to bid 4C here; it's clearly forcing. If partner bids 4NT I will pass; it should make easily. If partner bids 4D I will cue-bid 4H. If partner cue-bids 4H I will bid 6C. And if partner bids 5C I will pass. What will I do if partner bids 4S? Is look for a new partner an option?

Paul Caplan 5 clubs. This is a safer contract at imps. It should make even missing the A of clubs. 3 nt would need the A of clubs to make.

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

| BID | Nat. | Pgh | Award\ |
|------|------|---------|--------|
| 3NT | 9 | 3 | 100 |
| 4C | 9 | 2 | 90 |
| 5C | 4 | 4 | 80 |
| 4H | 2 | 3 | 80 |
| DBL | 0 | 1 | 20 |
| ELSE | 0 | 6D | |
| | | 4NT (2) | |
| | | NEG DBL | |

Note: National expert voters on page 11

INTERNET POST MORTEM

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Phillp Alder | 4C |
| David Berkowitz | 4C |
| Bart Bramley | 4H |
| Gerry Charney | 4C |
| Ira Chorush | 4C |
| Kitty and Steve Cooper | 4C |
| Billy Eisenberg | 3NT |
| Flelisher and Friesner | 5C |
| Jon Green | 3NT |
| Carl Hudecek | 3NT |
| Eddie Kantar | 3NT |
| Ralph Katz | 5C |
| Sami Kehela | 3NT |
| Danny Kleinman | 5C |
| Eric Kokish | 4C |
| Jill Meyers | 3NT |
| Arthur Robinson | 3NT |
| Michael Rosenberg | 4C |
| Jeff Rubens | 3NT |
| Joey Silver | 4C |
| John Swanson | 3NT |
| Robert Wolff | 5C |
| Kit Woolsey | 4C |
| Zia | 4H |