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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

Is it really March? I guess I can believe that. What I can't believe is that I have been apartment bound that, on March 14, will be one year of isolation. I actually thought I would be anxious to get out, but I think I've decided that staying home definitely has its advantages. Except, of course, I have run out of old clothes to wear. I'm ready to leave. I have my shots, my extra masks and a car that still runs.

This is the absolute truth: Because of the amount of online bridge I have played I taught my cell phone how to converse in bridge. I usually send texts during the end of the round saying what I should have done. So, my cell phone automatically brings up words like "play", "finesse", "suits", etc. I rarely have to finish a sentence because it is noted on the phone and I can just click and place. The funniest thing that I realize has happened, is that when I start to type, the word "sorry", appears on my screen. Clearly, it's the message I send the most.

I went to find jokes for my pandemic column and found that there are no new ones available. I guess everyone has had it with the virus and a sense of humor is a thing of the past. But I have lots of hope and good news. Almost all of our players have received their vaccine and will be ready to play when the games open once again. I can't wait.

I look forward to the time when the PBA schedule is available and our tournaments are rescheduled and we can all play together once again. I can definitely see the end of this in the near future.

The current Post Mortem still have information that help to keep our unit in touch. There's Ernie, and Lorraine's column on online events and my mini lessons; this month on counting. and don't forget the Internet Post.....Please, stay well and keep up your hope.

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

It certainly does!!!

INTERFERENCE

When the opponents interfere in your auction, it usually takes away bidding space. When the interference is in the form of a takeout double, it can give you additional maneuverability. When you have trump support for your partner, there are bids that show length and strength after a double. Some pairs use methods like Bergen raises or transfer responses. I try to play the same system with all of my partners, so I don't use either. Here are the methods that I use after an auction starts 1 spade- double.

With 3 card support and a minimum, a standard raise to 2 spades shows about 6-9 HCPs. I play a gadget that a 2 club bid shows a constructive single raise with 8-9 HCPs. A raise to 2 spades shows 5-7 HCPs. With 3 card support and 10+, you can either bid a good side suit, or redouble before supporting partner on the next round.

When you have 4 card support, a popular treatment is the Jordan convention, which is simple and easy to remember. After the double, a jump to 2 NT shows a limit raise or better. A raise to 3 spades is preemptive, and shows 4 card support and less than limit raise values. I like to preempt with very weak hands, so a hand that includes an Ace and a King on the side is too much for me to preempt. I'd rather bid 2 clubs to show a good single raise.

With 5 card support for partner and game forcing values, either bid 2 NT, (limit raise or better), or splinter if you have a singleton. With a weaker hand, I usually jump to the 4 level as long as I have a singleton or at least an Ace or King on the side. With no controls on the side, a preemptive raise to just the 3 level might be better.

There are several different ways to describe your hand to partner after a double. The final contract would probably be the same in the majority of hands regardless of your methods. The important thing is that the partnership is in agreement. As in all competitive bidding situations, vulnerability should always be a consideration. Be careful with preemptive raises at adverse vulnerability.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNT: BIDDING

Count is one of the most important elements in all phases of bridge: Bidding, Playing, and Defending. REMEMBER: IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT WHAT YOU AND THE OPPONENTS BID, IT'S ALSO ABOUT WHAT THEY DON'T BID.

BIDDING: This is probably the easiest part of counting - but - not that easy. Counting is an ongoing and fluid process in bidding. There are 40 high card points in the deck. Start with counting those points.

*Opening Bids: You count up to a good twelve or any thirteen HIGH CARD POINTS ONLY to open the bidding. Bear in mind that the value of your hand is based not only on HGP, but on distributional points as well. Distributional point count is most valuable if you find a fit with your partner. i.e. If all of your values are in a suit that partner does not have, your hand becomes less valuable. When partner responds, you can start to count their points. They must have at least 6 points to respond at the one level. Each bid you make and each response you get from your partner may change the number of points they can have. Therefore, you can add up yours and your partner's points to determine the final contract the bidding continues.

GOAL: TO REACH THE RIGHT CONTRACT AT THE RIGHT LEVEL

*Opening Bids: Even if you have not opened the bidding, you still count opponents bids the same way that you would yours. i.e. twelve or thirteen high card points to open - at least 6 points to respond. But wait!! you can also count your partner's points. If they don't overcall or bid, you know their hand is limited. Conversely, if they bid, you can redistribute the points. After all, there are only 40 points to think about.

*Opponent Overcalls: When opponents overcall after you bid, You know that they have some points. If they overcall at the one level, they have at least 7 or 8 points. If they overcall at the two level, they have at least 10 points. You can now adjust your view of the hand accordingly. If opponents partner raises the bid, you can generally put at least six points in their hand. Again, redistribute the points. On the other hand, if opponents bid a suit you don't have, your hand may get stronger because they have shown points that you don't need.

GOAL: TO IDENTIFY OPPONENTS STRENGTH AND DISTRIBUTION AND BID THE MAXIMUM WITH YOUR HAND

THE IMPORTANCE OF COUNT: BIDDING

*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. In fact, you can also know how many points each opponent has in their hand. i.e.

| You | opponent #1 | Partner | Opponent #2 |
|-------|--------------|---------------|--|
| 13 1D | overcall 10+ | 1H Neg dbl 6+ | pass 0-8 no support and not no trump no trump availability |

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

1. You and partner have at least 19 combined points
2. Partner has at least 6 points and 4 spades
3. One opponent has at least 10 points and 5 hearts
4. The other opponent doesn't have 3 hearts to raise or your suits to bid no trump.

The next round will further show how many points your partner and the opponent have. After 2 rounds of bidding, you will know much more, so continue to update your count data.

WHEN DO YOU COUNT DISTRIBUTIONAL POINTS?

Distributional points have the most value when you and partner have a fit in a suit, or the different suit values for NT.

When you have a fit in a suit, distribution becomes a prime indicator of where and how high you should go. Give yourself full point value for distribution. In no trump, size and shape of you and your partner's cards will help you find the best contract. While no trump is mostly preferred over no trump games, don't disregard minor suit contracts.

BOTTOM LINE:

- I cannot underestimate the value of counting in bidding
- You must continue to count as long as the bidding is in process.
- **YOU MUST PAY ATTENTION:** The most difficult of all.
- I believe that counting is the basis of all success achieved in playing bridge. If you can't count, have a good time.
- In bidding, you are responsible for counting size, shape and the value of both your partner and the opponent's cards.

UP THE LADDER POST

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE TAKEN LESSONS FROM ME AND HAVE ADVANCED, I TAKE ALL THE CREDIT. OK, SO YOU DID IT ALL ON YOUR OWN. I KNOW THAT.
(Just don't tell anyone else)

JUNIOR MASTER

Debi Walsh

CLUB MASTER

Debbie Collins

Janet Markel

Lenora Traficant

Marcia Wolk

SECTIONAL MASTER

Albert Exton

Susan Gibson

Montie Rea

Ralph Schmeltz

REGIONAL MASTER

Richard Nathenson

Virginia Volponi

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Hugh McMaster

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Susan Portnoy

CONGRATULATIONS
YOU DID IT!!!
BRIDGE IS NOT AN EASY GAME. YOU ARE ALL WONDERFUL.

IN MEMORY

JIMMY KLEIN

Jimmy Klein, who died early this year, was a most important and wonderful member of our unit.. He was extraordinary at everything he did.

Jimmy came from a noted bridge playing family. His aunt and his uncle were top Pittsburgh bridge players in the 40's (maybe the 30's as well). He became a noted player at a very young age and when he started playing duplicate bridge, one of the players was so impressed with his intelligence they paid to send him through college, where he became a teacher and was head of the computer department in his high school before he retired.

In addition to his family and his wife, Barbara, who he was totally devoted to, bridge was a major part of his life, He did it all. Although he rarely went to national tournaments, he played and achieved Platinum Life Master status, mostly by playing locally. I believe he had over 12,000 master points at the end of his life.

He didn't stop there. Jimmy became a director and ran local bridge games. Although he was not an extremely wealthy man, he donated the money he received from directing the game at Temple Sinai back to them. That was very generous. He also continued to play throughout his bridge career, but unlike so many of our players who were experienced and sought top players, Jimmy played with anyone who asked and mentored them as well. There was always room at his game for anyone who came with or without a partner and, if they were a little late, he put them into the game. Did I mention that he also taught for the unit. I still have some of his lessons that were given to me from many years ago. I can tell you from reading and experience, he was an expert at squeezes, which are difficult to master.

In the last couple of years, Jimmy became ill and had no way to get to the game. I took him and Barbara back to the game; the game they loved so much, where they went until he could no longer attend. Jimmy was very special and was always willing to share his knowledge and his interests with all. I miss him, and so do all of us who had the honor of knowing that bright, wonderful guy who always made us feel welcome. Jimmy was a low-key guy but so high class in every way.....arlene port

CURRENT BRIDGE NEWS.....By Lorraine Hanna

Rust Belt Bridge Group

Support your local Clubs by playing in the Rust Belt games

Here's a link to our area's Virtual Bridge Club on BBO. A link can also be found on our website <http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/>

Rust Belt Bridge is offering special events and Swiss Team games. Check out the latest and additional opportunities to play.

<https://aw1a01ae.aweb.page/p/15154617-a3b4-4a9c-b0b7-e979302dc097>

Below are a few articles on Swiss Team strategy vs strategy when playing in Pair games with Matchpoint scoring.

Matchpoint Strategy

<http://kwbridge.com/mpts.htm>

Team Games Strategy

<https://kwbridge.com/imps.htm>

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/lincolnhills/Swiss%20Team%20Lesson.pdf>

Here's a link to Scoring

Duplicate, Team and an Instant Scoring Chart

https://www.acbl.org/learn_page/how-to-play-bridge/how-to-keep-score/duplicate/

Interesting articles from ACBL

https://www.acbl.org/learn_page/in/bridge-bites/

What bids are Forcing?

Larry Cohen presents 5 articles on this topic <https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/f-or-nf-part-1-of-5https://aw1a01ae.aweb.page/p/bd8459a2-f8b5-44ee-a77b-e690da84e623>

Richard Finberg continues his Free Online Lessons every Monday at

3:30. Here's info on how to sign up. Thanks Richard for the Zoom lessons.

<http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/FinbergFlyer0729.pdf>

Our website. <http://www.pittsburghbridge.org/> has a host of invaluable information. Here are a few. See side panel links

Craig Biddle analyzes hands.

Ask Ernie answers questions from you and writes an article each month for our Post Mortem Club Results lists open games in the Burgh.

Thanks to everyone for keeping our bridge family together with updated material on our website powered by Bill Holt and our Post Mortem newsletter editor, Arlene Port and those who contribute to our newsletter. Also, thanks to our Directors and organizers of Rust Belt Bridge and Vichill League team events. Last, but not least, thanks to our players for continuing to play the game they love online and in some cases, in person.

UNIT CALENDAR

Unfortunately, There are still no Unit events. I did take a peek and I suspect there will be a tournament come December and an event in October. Who knows, maybe things will be much better before that and we can get back to reality.

IN THE MEANTIME: The Pandemic hasn't dimmed celebrating St. Patrick's Day. So, let's do our *Green Thing* and enjoy.



Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Stanley Ruskin: 3S It looks like partners distribution is probably 2/3/4/4. I think there are a number of bids; 3S if you are looking for NT. It is from the right side if partner has the Kx S although we might be too high in 4D if partner doesn't have a stopper. You can bid 4D which could be the limit of the hand or even too high. You could even pass 3H – I wouldn't. Tough hand. I

Harold Haffner: 3S Not sure if 3nt is right or 5 or 6 diamonds might be final contract

Arlene Port: 4D I think this is the best bid, even though I saw the answers. I feel I have to bid on this hand and my 4D is a positive one. Let partner make the final decision. They know the strength of my hand better than I know theirs.

Jane Marshall 3NT. I have a spade stopper and 11 hcp in a 7-loser hand with a good diamond fit.

Gail Carns: 4D this is not a hand I want to play a 4-3 fit

INTERNET POST MORTEM

This is IMP's, neither side vulnerable and you are South

Here is your hand:

S Q 9 3
H J 10 9 3
D K Q 7 6
C K 2

The bidding is:

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
| PASS | 1D | 1S | DBL |
| PASS | 2C | Pass | 3D |
| PASS | 3H | Pass | ? |

What do you bid?

Jack Hawthorne 4H. This is one of the toughest problems you have presented. I expect my partner to hold 1=3=5=4 with about 14 pts. The safest contract is probably 4D, but if we're contracting for 10 tricks, we should go for the game bonus at IMPs. At least the 3-card trump holding can handle the spade suit. Even though my spade Queen could provide a stopper, I'm not willing to gamble on 3NT.

Ernie Retetagos: 5D It sounds like partner is 5-4-3-1. I expect to lose a spade and a heart. A 4 heart contract could have handling charges, especially if the spade honors are split and the Queen isn't a stopper.

Bob Zimmermann: 3NT I have no idea, really. Partner doesn't have 4 hearts or he would have bid them earlier. I have something close to a spade stopper. 9 tricks should be easier than 11.

Richard Katz 4D Two clubs was not forcing, therefore I bid four diamonds, which will probably be our maximum spot, but have perfect fit if partner bids five.

Maximum discomfort has been achieved, which is occurring lately on too many hands. Time to look for new pastime.

Paul Caplan 5 diamonds. It sounds like partner shape is 1-3-5-4. If the top space honors are split and on a spade lead 3nt has no chance but 5 diamonds may still have a play. it pays to play the safest game at IMPs.

Herb Sachs 4c a little pushy but opposite and good 1/3/5/4- one final way to 4d or 5d

Steve Nolan: 3NT. It sounds like partner thinks that we have enough points to make 3NT provided the opponents' spade suit doesn't run. Given the auction, I rate it better than a 50/50 shot that my Q is a stopper. I have no further extras, so if partner bids on, I will sign off in diamonds at the lowest available level.

Bernie Fudor: 5D ok. I'll bite 5d however if I was playing MPs I'd take a shot at 4h and play the 4-3. By the way does anyone under 50 who would know why this is called a Moysian fit and who Sonny Moys was?

Craig Biddle: 3S - this is clear, to me. I want to put the long spades on lead, in case partner has S-Kx. This will mean that a spade lead gives us a double stopper. I expect partner to have 2=2=5=4 with both major kings and both minor aces; we would be down in 3NT if I allow them to lead a spade through partner's Kx.

Bill Holt 3S. Western Q. Partner heard my invite and continued on. Let's put the S bidder on lead v. NT if partner has a S stopper. If partner is short in S I'll play 4H on a 4-3 taking ruffs in the 3-cd trump suit. Pard has extras for this sequence. It's IMPs so I'd like to be in some game.

Chris Wang 4D I know this is imps, but I bid 4 Diamonds. Partner has at least 4 diamonds, 4 clubs, and exactly 3 hearts. I'm hoping partner has at least 5 diamonds. If I am going for a part score, maybe I should pass 3 hearts, but we have only 7 hearts between us, and the quality of my hearts are not that good. We may need a longer suit to handle ruffing. (spades in partner's hand and clubs in my hand).

Asim Ulke 5D Based on all the bidding I think partner has a hand with 1 3 5 4 distribution and around 16 points. We should have a game but where?. 4H is risky. In diamonds we should have a spade and a heart loser. I bid 5 diamonds.

Richard Finberg 4D, intending to correct 4D to 5D or pass 4H. With an inexperienced partnership, I just bid 5D, hoping to make. Spades too flimsy for 3NT.

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| David Berkowitz | 3NT |
| Bart Bramley | 2NT |
| Mark Cohen | 5D |
| Billy Eisenberg | 5D |
| Brian Glubok | 5D |
| Geoff Hampson | 3NT |
| Carl Hudecek | P |
| Michael Kamil | 5D |
| Sami Kehela | 4C |
| Danny Kleinman | 3S |
| Eric Kokish | 4C |
| Daniel Korbel | 5D |
| Marshall Miles | 5D |
| Rozanne & Bill Pollack | P |
| Larry Robbins | 3NT |
| Arthur Robinson | 3S |
| Steve Robinson | 5D |
| Rowntree & LWalker | 3S |
| Jeff Rubens | 5D |
| Fred Stewart | 3NT |
| Howard Weinstein | 3NT |
| Robert Wolff | 5D |
| Kit Woolsey | 3S |
| Zia | 3NT |
| Ray Zoller | 4H |

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

| BID | Nat. | Pgh | Award |
|------|------|-----|-------|
| 5D | 9 | 4 | 100 |
| 3NT | 7 | 3 | 90 |
| 3S | 4 | 4 | 80 |
| 4C | 2 | 1 | 60 |
| PASS | 2 | 0 | 50 |
| 4H | 1 | 1 | 50 |
| 4D | 0 | 5 | 0 |

