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Unit 142 Pittsburgh, PA

FEBRUARY 2019

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
Unit Recorder: Judi Sonon (judi@diegosan.com)

All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

This month has brought new meaning to the phrase: "BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE". I can remember years when we had a lot of snow, but I don't remember having this kind of cold weather. Don't despair. If we don't freeze, we have much to look forward to in the coming months.

March 5—17 get ready for the Pittsburgh Spring Sectional This tournament is always very well attended and so much fun. I suggest you start playing often to practice for the event. I know you plan on playing in several events. You should also buy a small calculator to add up all the masterpoints you will be winning. Just save a few for me.

While we are waiting for the weather to warm up, we are also waiting patiently for Jean Picone to get better and return to the bridge table. We all know that Gus thinks his games are so successful because of him. We know better. We need Jean around to make the games so much fun. She is definitely the hostess with the mostess..

Listen up, experienced players. We need some mentors. We have a few players on the cusp of greatness that would really appreciate your expertise. The players I have seen with mentors are having such a wonderful time and learning as well. Mentoring is really a wonderful thing to do, so if you can find the time, please get in touch with Lorraine Hanna. It is really fun for everyone involved.

My last request is that we contact our local Indian tribe and ask if they have a version of the Rain Dance that works as a Freezing Weather Dance.In the meantime, stay warm, stay well, and stay at the bridge table whenever you can.

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

It certainly does!!!

NO TRUMP NOTES

Most of us play that a 1 No Trump opening bid shows a balanced hand with 15-17 high card points. Changing the location of a spot card can sometimes affect our choice of an opening bid.

1) S- x x H- A Q 10 x D- K x x C- A Q x x 2) S- x x H- A Q 10 x D- K x C- A Q x x x

3) S- x x H- A Q 10 x x D- K x x C- A Q x 4) S- x x H- A Q 10 x x D- K x C- A Q x x

In hand #1, you have 15 HCPs and a balanced hand, but you do not have a spade stopper. That does not matter. A 1 No Trump opening bid does not guarantee a stopper in every suit. However a 1 No Trump overcall guarantees at least one stopper in the opening bid suit.

In hand #2, you now have a 5 card club suit. This semi balanced hand has acceptable shape to open no trump. You can't open and rebid clubs, because that usually shows a 6 card suit. The only time that you rebid a 5 card minor suit is if partner responds in your singleton, and you're not big enough to reverse. This hand needs one more card to be strong enough to reverse.

Hand #3 has a 5 card major, and some would open 1 heart. Problem is that if partner responds 1 spade, you don't have a descriptive rebid. This is why most players play some sort of Puppet Stayman after a no trump opener. I would open this 1 No Trump even if I was not playing that convention.

In hand #4, you again have a 5 card major. But this time you have a 4 card side suit. You should open 1 heart and rebid 2 clubs. Even though you haven't yet shown your high card strength, you are allowed to have an extra face card for your rebid. If partner can invite game, you'll be glad to accept. If partner takes you back to 2 hearts with a weakish hand and two hearts, you're probably in the right strain. A common theme in these opening bid decisions is to include rebid considerations in your thought process.

SIGNALS.....by Craig Biddle

Signals are the key to good defense. Below are my general signaling methods with Phil Goulding. We do a pretty good job of communicating when we're defending.

Our opening spot card leads are 4th best from suits headed by the J or better, otherwise 2nd highest except if we have a sequence headed by the 10 or lower. After trick 1, we just lead 4th best if we want the suit returned or the highest we can afford otherwise. If we decide to lead low from 3 to an honor we lead low.

Our signaling methods are very plain. High cards encourage, show an even number, or are suit preference for the higher suit, in that priority. Low cards are the reverse; they discourage, show an odd number, or are suit preference for the lower suit. When our first card was an attitude signal, our next signal in the suit is present count. We give ourselves check marks for counting out the entire deal before trick 7. Usually we each get several a session.

We also play Smith Echo against notrump when the play to the first trick does not make the suit layout plain to partner. This is simply a signal where we play a higher than normal card at our first opportunity to say that we have something good left in the opening lead suit, or low to deny it. Note that this does not take priority over winning a trick, or giving count to partner in dummy's long suit.

We don't play odd-even discards because they are too inflexible – there is no way for an o/e pair to say, “don't play this suit but I can stand either of the other two.” And then there was the hand in the fall sectional a couple of years ago where an opponent discarded the S10 from 10632 to tell partner they didn't like spades and wanted a heart shift. But my partner, Fred Schenker, proceeded to run the spade suit since the 10 had been a stopper, then proceeded to guess the HQ from the signal. And to top it off, cashing the last heart winner squeezed the signaler's partner. Result – 3 tricks more than the field.

Upside-down count and attitude is OK, but it's hard for most people to flip from one method to the other. I'd prefer to play that way, but since most of my partners are more used to standard carding, that's what I do.

Some example hands:

I led a the H4 (I had shown hearts and Phil had raised to show 4) against 3C from S - J3 H - KJ642 D - Q742 C - 96. Dummy tabled S-9752 H-83 D-AJ85 C-KQ5. Phil won the ace and led the H10 back (he didn't need to give me count since he had already shown 4H in the bidding) to the Queen and King. I knew he had good spades, and that it was safe to play the SJ.

We defended a 5DX save. Phil was on lead and I held S-76532 H-4 D-K76 C - J975. Phil had opened 1S and I had bid 3S to show a preemptive raise before the opponents got involved. Phil led the CK (K from either AK or KQ at the 5-level) – a useful method since we often want to lead unsupported aces at that level. Dummy tabled S-Q9 H-J872 D-10983 C-1042. I encouraged with the 7, since I really didn't have anything better for Phil to shift to. Phil continued with the Q and declarer won the Ace. With no entry to dummy, next came the DA and DQ to my King as Phil pitched the H9. I won and shifted to the H4, which Phil won with the Queen. He now played a club to my Jack, and I played the S7 back to tell him I didn't want him to continue spades. So he won and played HA and another, and I ruffed for down 5.

Partnerships:

Jane Marshall 412-371-4067
Partners:pittsburghbridge.org

Newcomers & 499ers:

Darlene Mannheimer
412-913-5944

499er@pittsburghbridge.org

Tournament Chair:

Ron Franck 412-913-1505

Spring19@pittsburghbridge.org

Director in Charge: Alex Bealles

Sanction # S 1903050

Pairs Entries \$25 / pair

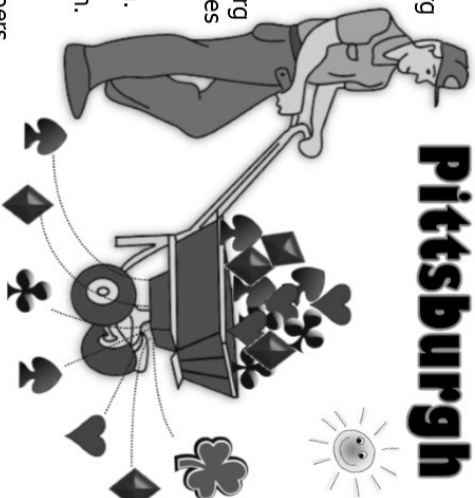
Single Session Teams \$50/tm.

499er Swiss* \$ 88/team

Sunday Open Swiss* \$100/tm.

* Extra Swiss Players: \$8 ea.

All participants must be current or former ACBL members. 1-month membership: \$7.99. Unpaid & former ACBL members \$4 additional per session.



Pittsburgh Spring Sectional

Hospitality All Sessions!

Friday, March 15

10:30 AM

Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 499er Pairs (1 session)

3:00 PM

Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 499er Pairs (1 session)
Single Session Swiss Teams

Saturday, March 16

10:00 AM

Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 499er Pairs (1 session)
Compact Handicapped KO Teams
(1st of 2 sessions)

2:30 PM

Stratified Open Pairs (1 session)
Stratified 499er Pairs (1 session)
Compact Handicapped KO Teams
(2nd of 2 sessions)
Single Session Swiss Teams

Sunday, March 17

10:00 AM

Stratified Open Swiss Teams
(7 rounds of 7 boards)
Stratified 499er Swiss Teams
(6 rounds of 6 boards)
Separate Play-through Events/
30 point VP scale

★ Earlier
Playtimes!!! ★

March 15-17, 2019
Masonic Center North
3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Full Newcomer / NLM Schedule:

Newcomer / 499er Pairs -
Both Sessions Friday & Saturday
PLUS Special Swiss on Sunday!
Play ONLY against other New Players!

Contact Darlene for
Partners & Team-building!
Full Schedule & Directions at
www.pittsburghbridge.org

<i>Open</i> A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750	<i>499er</i> 5: 300-500 3: 100-300 1: 0-100
Stratifications in All Events by Avg. Mps	499er Strats at Directors Discretion



Pittsburgh Bridge
Association



American Contract
Bridge League

SOMETHING WE ALL NEED TO WORK ON POST

Just to prove that I think about something else other than bridge, I wanted to let you know about a new book I read by Bruce Rabin, a noted physician and lecturer from Pittsburgh, that deals with important issues which have such a great impact on us all as we grow older. . This book is available through Amazon.. No, you can't borrow my copy - I need it.

Coping with Stress for Mental and Physical Health and Longevity

by Bruce S. Rabin, M.D., Ph.D
Emeritus Professor
University of Pittsburgh

Coping with Stress for Mental and Physical Health and Longevity provides education that helps you understand the serious negative effects of not being able to cope with stress on your long-term mental and physical health and longevity. You will be motivated to increase your ability to cope with stress for your own benefit and to make you a healthy lifestyle role model for those you care about. It provides easily understandable and doable behaviors and techniques that reduce the effect of stress on your health. Coping with stress will increase the likelihood of your remaining healthy as you age.

GOOD NEWS POST

.....from Patti Rambasek

Dear Family and Friends, Rik had his cardiac cath yesterday morning. His cardiologist, in whom we have utmost confidence, was surprised to find a 95% blockage distal from the other stents in the left descending artery. He placed a 10th stent and sent Rik home late this afternoon. Thankfully, all other stents and arteries are clear. Even though we're told there are patients with 20+ stents, my fear was that there would be a recommendation for another open heart surgery. Rik will have a refresher cardiac rehab course in a week or two. His cardiologist said if it were him, he would not travel back to the DR this season. We will follow his advice. I will return for a few days in February to pack up our things and to attend a dear friend's 90th birthday party on February on 9th.

We're so grateful for the excellent care he received both in La Romana and here at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Even more, we are very grateful for your love, friendship and concern.....Patti

SO WHAT'S NEW POST

In case you haven't noticed, We have a couple of new officers in Unit @142 and a couple who are still crazy enough to work so hard for us. Chris Wang is our new President and Craig Biddle is Vice President. These are good guys who are continuing the good works they did in the past. The only difference is that now, with their titles, they will get a little credit and some respect. So, if either of them ask for your help, just say "YES". I promise you that they need and will appreciate your help.

Our Secretary, and Club Manager, Mary Paulone Carns, continues to run our unit so smoothly, that if she asks you to help her.....faint!
That goes for John Alioto, our Treasurer. My advice on Jim is be very pleasant to him because he has all the money, and don't ask for a loan. He's nice, but not that nice .

Chris has a lot to live up to in order to match the excellence of Lorraine Hanna who, as president for the last two years, guided our unit so successfully. It is a difficult job and she handled it with skill and dedication. Our thanks and gratitude to Lorraine for a job well done.

ROCK AND ROLL REGIONAL

Players from Pittsburgh brought glory to our unit. Here are a list of our top masterpoint holders. There were 867 attendees. We had 10 in the top 50.

2. Fred Schenker
- 10 Mary Paulone Carns
- 12 Bernie Fudor
- 22 Frank Cymerman
- 26 Craig Biddle
- 30 Ronald Franck
- 31 Alan Leaver
- 42 Asim Ulke
- 43 Jan Assini
- 46 Gail Carns



UP THE LADDER POST

JUNIOR MASTER

*Jeannie Desmone
Sam Hoenstine
Anne W Kohlbecker
Verna R Laman
Errol Miller*

CLUB MASTER

*Ann Y Fisher
Debbie Roth*

SECTIONAL MASTER

*John M Burton
Marcia L Taylor*

DIAMOND LIUFE MASTER

Fred Schenker

CONGRATULATIONS!!

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK
BECAUSE THE BEST IS YET TO COME.
I PROMISE YOU

CONGRATULATIONS
I know how hard you worked to achieve the
lever you have reached. We are all so proud
of your accomplishment..

IN MEMORY

Our condolences to Paula Rubin on the sudden passing of her son, **Stephen Marcovsky**. May the good memories bring you comfort.

Billie Vryenhoek passed away recently with her family close by. Billie moved to the Carolinas following the death of her husband. Billie and Adam Shrutt were regular partners at the Whitehall Library game and women's Regional events.

PBA EVENTS 3-MONTH CALENDAR 2019

February

- 1 Unit Championship
- 8 Membership Game & PBA Board Meeting
- 15 Club Championship
- 22 Unit Championship Swiss Teams

March

- 1 Unit Championship
- 8 Unit Championship
- 15 PITTSBURGH SECTIONAL @ MASONIC Info
- 22 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 29 Open Pairs

April

- 5 Unit Championship
- 12 Swiss Team Unit Charity Championship (for ACBL) & PBA Board Meeting
- 19 Open Pairs
- 26 Unit Championship

INTERNET POST, CONT. from page 9

Trudy Cohn , 2DI will bid 2 Diamonds to show the strength of my hand and then will bid three clubs over my partner's response. If he supports clubs, then I have to decide whether to bid game in clubs or not. There are not very many points out and I don't know who is holding them. Trudy

Jack Hawthorne: 3C. Maybe I'm wrong, but this seems pretty automatic to me.

Gail Carns: 1NT should show 19pts. Sorry about the S stopper

Paul Caplan: 3 clubs you have a good hand so show it.

INTERNET POST

You are South,
IMPs, N/S vul, You, South, hold:

S J
H K Q 10
D A K 10
C A Q 10 8 6 5

The bidding is:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1C DBL PASS 1D
? What do you bid?

Richard Katz 3C Three clubs, mild underbid, however bidding with silent partner and two bidding opponents, not greatly understated

May stop their three spade partial
No idea, but at least making most descriptive bid under the circumstances

Asim Ulke 2D I bid 2 diamonds. I believe this should announce a good hand with clubs and shortness in one or both majors. The other option of bidding 1NT would show a relatively balanced good hand. Over 1NT rebid partner may be tempted to bid spades which he/she is marked to hold.

Chris Wang: I bid 2 clubs. I want to show partner I have long clubs. As my side is vulnerable and the opponents are not, I don't want to jump and get doubled for penalty.

Herb Sachs: 2C Playing partner for an airball I bid a very mild two clubs. My four loser hand may turn into more; Perhaps partner can raise-doubtfull. With all this defense I will probably end up defending. Where are the spades?

Steve Nolan .. Pass. With 6 or more points, North would have found a bid. This is a probably a part-score hand. By passing, I can find out more about the opponents' hands than I would by bidding, can judge whether to make a balancing bid next round and do it cheaply. 1D is unlikely to be EW's best spot.

Bill Holt: 2c seems enough. Options as I see them are 2c, 3c and 1NT. 1NT is right on strength but wrong on shape. I expect partner to have 4 or 5 spades with his weak hand – and LHO might be about to bid a major. 3c is right on strength and shape but I am vulnerable at teams and may never reach dummy. 2c seems Goldilocks as I don't expect Opps to bid game when I hold 19 highs.

Bob Zimmermann, 3 clubs. I have the values for the bid, but where are the spades? East has at most 3. Perhaps I can goad West into a bad 3 spades bid.

Ernie Retetagos: 3 Clubs. Good hand, good suit. Seems normal.

Craig Biddle:: 2NT - Where are the spades? Partner must have 5 ratty spades and not much of a hand (I would have bid with that anyway, but that's another story). This has to be a good unbalanced hand with a diamond stopper, with 18-19 really balanced I would bid 1NT. And with 3=3=2=6 I would double (for takeout).

Jane Marshall 3C. I have a 4-loser hand and partner passed. Opponent has bid diamonds and they probably have a major suit fit. If West bids something, they may miss a game. Partner may be able to sacrifice at 5C.

Bernie Fudor PASS Hi Happy Cold Front. Tough hand I think pass will work best but no guarantees Hope I passed in tempo if not will bid 2 clubs

Stanley Ruskin: . 2D Very difficult. Where are the spades? Partner must have at least 4 since West doubled when he most likely would have bid 1S if he had 5 and E bid 1D when he would have bid 1S if he had 5. You have 18 points and the DBL probably has about 12+ so N and E have 8-9 points between them (4-5 points each). Thus, while there are numerous hands N could have where you could make a game, it is unlikely that you can make a game. The most likely game possibility is 3NT if partner has King of Clubs and some kind of late S stopper. I think I would bid 2D and bid 3C over whatever partner bids or they bid and partner passes. This should show a very strong hand in Clubs. Hopefully, partner can figure out what to do depending on what he has.

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
2C	9	3	100
1NT	8	1	90
2NT	2	1	80
3C	6	6	70
DBL	3	0	60
2D	0	3	—
PASS	0	2	—

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

David Berkowitz	1NT
Bart Bramley	2C
Gerald Caravelli	2C
John Carruthers	2C
Larry Cohen	2C
Billy Eisenberg	1NT
Steve Garnern	3C-
Carl Hudecek	1NT
Ron Gerard	3C
Eddie Kanter	1NT
Sami Kehela	3C
Danny Kleinman	2C
Eric Kokish	1NT
Ed Lewis	3C
Chip Martel	2C
Marshall Miles	2NT
Sue Picus	2C
Arthur Robinson	2C
Eric Rodwell	D
Bruce Rogoff	D
Michael Rosenberg	D
Jeff Rubens	2NT
Kerri & Steve Sanborn	3C
Paul Trent	1NT
Eddie Wold	2C
Robert Wolff	1NT
Kit Woolsey	3C
Zia	1NT

