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Unit 142 Pittsburgh, PA

JANUARY 2019

POST MORTEM

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Vice President: Chris Wang
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

Welcome to 2019. I don't know why moving into another year surprises me. Perhaps it's because I am still attached to the 20th century. Maybe it's time to let it go. In any case, I hope that all of your aspirations and wishes for 2019 come true. I especially want to wish you good health and prosperity in the new year.

I find the one bad thing about January is that there is a dearth of news. So, I have to improvise (sorry about that) and fill up the empty spaces with what passes for my creative streak. However, before I send you on to pages 2 and 3, I need to catch us up to date. First of all, our thanks go out to Cecilia Powell, Ron Franck, and Barbara Bilardi, for the great job they did for our STaC and Snack Team Game. It was wonderful.

Speaking of STaC week, I think it was quite a success and our unit made a great showing. Just to let you know, here is a list of our members who helped bring glory to our unit: Here are the top 10 of 5 from Unit 42.

This was really wonderful, considering this was a tournament that included Cleveland, Erie, Buffalo and Youngstown. 1051 players participated. Are we good? Or what?

- 4 26.73 Robert Quinlan, Pittsburgh PA
- 8 21.47 Gail Carns, Trafford PA
- 9 20.53 Constance Hoechstetter, Moon Township PA
- 10 19.44 Thomas Jolly Jr, Pittsburgh PA
- 11 18.45 Jan Assini, Pittsburgh PA
- 12 17.48 Arlene Port, Pittsburgh PA
- 21 15.56 Richard Katz, N Versailles PA
- 22 15.56 Patricia Katz, Pittsburgh PA
- 23 14.57 Frank Cymerman, Pittsburgh PA
- 24 13.79 Jack Hawthorne, Valencia PA

Please don't forget the Cleveland Regional is scheduled for January 8-13. There will be no Friday night unit game on the 11th, Check calendar for new-comer games.

NEW YEARS WISHES

.....by arlene port

Year two thousand nineteen is officially here
And I did the same thing that I do every year
I wished for good health and peace and goodwill
And I wished they would make a great fat-melting pill

Yes, the usual things made my list, like before
And they sure added up to a hundred or more
But my bridge wishes, they were surprisingly new
So I thought I would share some of them just with you.

I wished that my bids would be brilliant each time
And my play of the hand would bring gasps of "sublime"!
I wished my defense would be cunningly slick
And result in opponents losing one extra trick!

All finesses would work like no one's ever seen
Yes I always would locate that oft missing queen.
When I put into action, the tricky trump coup
There'd be shouts of "she made it" and not oops down two.

When I err, how I wished partner's words they would choose
Would be "Hey, that's ok. I don't mind if I lose."
I would never go down. Do my victory dance
(If my partner's an ace, that wish stands a good chance.)

To all my bridge friends, and I mean everyone
You've made playing bridge such enjoyable fun
So this wish is my biggest, I know you'll agree
You all should do well. Just not against me!!

WINTER IS HERE

The following is a reprint of an article that Lou Joseph wrote in 2006. It may be old, but it is as relevant today as it was then::

Pittsburgh has “thinned out” in the last few weeks. It seems as if some of our bridge players have chosen the warmth of Florida and other points in the south over our relatively moderate climate. I can’t understand why. Those people are really going to miss the many benefits of the extremely cold. How? Well, I’m glad you want to know. Here’s what they will be missing:

1. A new hobby Freezing.
2. Exercising teeth. Chattering
3. Skin that has a new texture Flakey
4. Walking, which takes on a whole new meaning Slipping
5. Building Stamina Shoveling
6. Depression How can you possibly appreciate
the good times if you haven’t had your winter depression?
7. Vocabulary During the freezing weather, you
can learn at least two or three new four letter words a day!
8. Body Building C’mon now, who of us can’t use at
least five pounds of extra fat from not being able to do
anything but eat?
9. Advanced Education How many people do you know that
don’t have to take a course in anger management after
spending the winter here?.

I could go on and on, but I just don’t think it’s fair to make these poor, unfortunate sno-birds jealous. I’ll let them think they are doing something good.

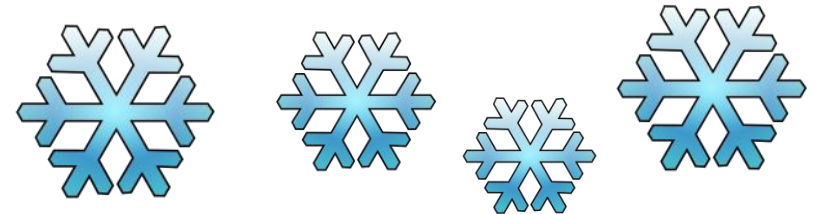
POOR SUCKERS!!

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BRIDGE POST

The Chinese invented playing cards in AD 1000. Some interesting facts and observations about playing cards:

- Did you know that the traditional deck of playing cards are a strikingly coherent form of a calendar?
- There are 52 weeks in the year and there are 52 playing cards in a deck.
- There are 13 weeks in each season and there are 13 cards in each suit.
- There are 4 seasons in a year and 4 suits in the deck.
- There are 12 months in a year so there are 12 court cards (Those with faces namely Jack, Queen, King in each suit.)
- The red cards represent day, while black cards represent the night.
- If you let Jacks = 11, Queens = 12, and Kings = 13, then add up all the sums of $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots$ to 13 = 91. Multiply this by 4, for the 4 suits, therefore $91 \times 4 = 364$, add 1 that is the Joker and you will arrive at the number 365 being the days in a year
- Is that a mere coincidence or a greater intelligence?
- Of interest is the sum of the letters in the names of the cards, e.g., add up the letters in "one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, Jack, Queen, King" and they come to 52!
- The Spades indicate plowing or working.
- The Hearts indicate love thy crops.
- The Clubs indicate flourishing and growth.
The Diamonds indicate reaping the wealth.

There is a deeper philosophy than just merely playing cards.
The mathematical perfection is mind blowing.



HAPPY NEW YEAR
YOU ARE NOW A GENIUS BRIDGE PLAYER

UP THE LADDER POST

JUNIOR MASTER

David Laman

CLUB MASTER

Rita R Difrancesco

SECTIONAL MASTER

Jean P Stanhagen

CONGRATULATIONS!!
MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU THE
EXPERTISE IN BRIDGE YOU DESERVE.
YOU CERTAINLY HAVE A GOOD START!



BABY,
IT'S
COLD
OUTSIDE

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos



CARDING

Here are a few card combinations that came up in club games last month. The positions occur frequently enough that they're worth a look. What card do you lead from K Q 7 5 2? If you are leading against no trump, lead the 5. If you are lucky enough to catch partner with A x or J x, you don't want to block the suit. You are hoping to take multiple tricks in your suit. Against a suit contract, you are not going to take three or four tricks in a side suit. Lead the King, and hope to win a trick or two.

In a similar vein, what card do you play from Q x, when your partner leads the Ace? If partner is leading the Ace from a long suit against a no trump contract, they are leading from something like A K J x x x. They want you to unblock the Queen so they can run the suit. If you don't have the Queen you should signal count. Against a suit contract, if partner leads the Ace, you should play small from Q x. When you play the Queen under partner's Ace, you guarantee that you can win the next round of the suit. You either have the Jack or it is singleton.

Against a No Trump contract, the standard lead is 4th best from longest and strongest. It is reasonable to underlead an Ace on opening lead when defending against a no trump contract. Against a suit contract, almost never underlead an Ace. It is very likely to cost a trick and will mislead partner. Anytime the King is on your right, you have probably cost a trick. Try not to make plays that have a good chance of giving yourself a zero on a board. I can not remember the last time that I underled an Ace on opening lead against a suit contract.

When you hold A K x x opposite 10 9 8 and have entries, how should you play to take 3 tricks. If you finesse twice, you will pick up split honors (75%), in addition to Q J x or Q J x x on side. The situation is different when you hold A K x opposite 10 9 8 7. Now you can not finesse twice. The percentage play is to lay down the Ace and the King. In addition to all of the 3-3- breaks, you pick up Q x or J x offside. This play loses to Q J x x onside, but wins against Q x x x or J x x x. The A K play succeeds about twice as often as a finesse.

**THE BEST REASON TO SUBMIT ARTICLES
TO THE POST MORTEM - JOKES**

One Wish

A bridge duffer was polishing a lamp and... poof! Out popped a genie who said, "I will grant you one wish."

The duffer unfolded a map of the world and said, "Let all of these countries live in peace and harmony."

"You've got to be kidding! I'm only a genie."

The duffer thought for a while and then suggested, "OK, then make me a winning bridge player."

"Hmm..." the genie pondered. "Let me see that map again."

IN MEMORY

David Allison, a stalwart of South Hills Bridge, lost his battle with ALS in late December. He was a graduate of Penn State with a PhD from Iowa State in chemistry. He studied with world renowned scholars internationally. David was a research scientist for a number of years and concluded his working career with 33 years at the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory. He holds a number of patents as a result of his research and work. In retirement David and Juanita, his wife of 50 years, became involved with duplicate bridge. I remember them playing often at the Mt. Lebanon Friday evening game. They had two sons and several grandchildren. David most recently played at the Regional so he was "bridging" despite being wheelchair bound. I ran into David and Juanita at St. Clair Hospital a few weeks ago. David was smiling and enjoying watching the traffic at the entrance while Juanita and I exchanged pleasantries. The entire Pittsburgh bridge community extends its sympathy to Juanita and David's extended family. He will be missed.Phyllis Geinzer

PBA EVENTS 3-MONTH CALENDAR 2019

January

- 4 Unit Championship
- 11 No game—Cleveland Regional
- 18 Junior Fund Game
- 25 Unit Championship Swiss Teams

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

INTERNET POST, CONT. from page 9

Trudy Cohn, My bid is **2nt**. It shows the strength of my hand and partner needs very little for us to make a game in NT.

Jack Hawthorne: 3D Well, depending on what a "weak raise" means, I would bid 3D, hoping I can entice the opponents to bid too much. 4D might close out the auction.

Gail Carns: **2NT** should show 18 or 19 with good diamonds

8INTERNET POST

So, here is the hand for January: Matchpoints, non vul You, South, hold:

S A
H A 7 4 2
D A Q 10 8 6
C A 10 4

THE BIDDING IS:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	PASS	PASS	1D
DBL*	2D*	2S	?

* 2D is a weak raise

• Note: Double would be penalty.

? What do you bid

Richard Katz 3NT As weak raise was not expressed as pre-emptive, I expect partner to have at least one king outside of diamonds, and diamonds being on side with doubler short. Therefore, I optimistically see nine to ten top tricks and bid 3n t. No reason to ask partner to make any decisions, as what does his best guess matter. He will simply go down wth the ship,

Asim Ulke: 3H Based on the antiquated system as suggested, partner could have hearts. So I bid 3H. I will pass partner's bid

Bernie Fudor: 3NT Ibid 3nt nothing ventured nothing gained Happy New Year

Paul Caplan: 5 diamonds I expect to lose 1 heart and 1 club

Chris Wang: I bid 4 diamonds and plan to double for penalty if the opponents bid 4 spades

Steve Nolan .3NT. I need the king of diamonds and one other king from partner and there is a chance with some other holdings. I can't think of a good way to ask for what I need, and would rather guess high than low.

Bill Holt: Double. I disagree that DBL should be penalty here. I'm unlimited - in fact I have extras, a tolerance for the unbid suits, and if partner can't pass for penalties we can play in 3 something.

Bob Zimmerman,4 diamonds. It's pretty clear they will bid spades over 3 and 3 diamond bids. So, I'm going to have to decide whether or not to bid again over 3 spades. Since I intend to, let's do it now. I'll crack 4 spades if they have the temerity to bid on.

Ernie Retetagos: 3 Spades. Partner has something like King 4th of diamonds and 3 spades. A likely distribution would be 3-2-4-4. If they have a side King, we can make 3 NT. If not, even a couple of Queens could be enough for us to make 5 diamonds. I don't like a 2 NT bid, because I expect that a diamond contract would make 130 or 150. After my 3 spade bid, partner could bid 3 NT with the (unlikely) King of spades, otherwise we'll probably play 5 diamonds.

Jane Marshall: 4 diamonds. I think the opponents can make 3 spades, but not 4 spades. We may not make 4D, but it is a cheap save over their 3 spades. If the opponents bid 4 spades, I will double and expect to set them. If partner had very long diamonds he should have bid 3 diamonds.

Herb Sachs: 3C Three clubs with eyes open to next bids; I can always bid 3NT but perhaps i shall hear four clubs (maybe three hearts!) if partner bids three diamonds I will consider passing.

Stanley Ruskin: I bid 3D. Nothing much going on here. My LHO has most of the remaining points and my partner and east have the rest. If they bid 3S I will take the push to 4D and double if they bid 4S.

Arlene Port: 3D Not being able to double is a problem for me. Therefore, I bid 3D. It's the best I can do. Bear in mind, I have read all of the answers, mostly because I had no idea what to do.

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
3C	9	1	100
3H	5	1	90
2NT	4	2	80
3S	7	1	70
5D	0	1	70
4S	2	0	60
3NT	1	3	50
DBL	1	1	40
4D	0	3	10
ELSE	3D	3	0

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Michael Becker	3C
David Berkowitz	3H
Bart Bramley	3S
Richard Colker	4S
Phillippe Cronier	3S
Billy Eisenberg	3C
Dan Gerstman	2NT
Carl Hudecek	3C
George Jacobs	3C
Sami Kehela	3NT
Danny Kleinman	2nt
Eric Kokish	3C
Steve Landon	3S
Michael Lawrence	3S
Sidney Lazzard	3H
Robert Lipsitz	3C
Jeff Meckstroth	4S
Marshall Miles	3H
Barry Rigal	3H
Arthur Robinson	3S
Andrew Robson	3C
Jeff Rubens	2NT
Joey Silver	DBL
Brad Theurer	3C
Chris Willenken	3C
Anders Wirgren	2NT
Robert Wolff	3S
Kit Woolsey	3S
Zia	3H

Pittsburgh Bridge Assoc JANUARY 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>No game Cleve-land Region!</i>	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 PBA JUNIOR FUND GAME	0-299 Glenshaw Lorraine Hanna
20	21	22	23	24	25 PBA UNIT CHMP SWISS TEAMS	26
27 30	28	29	30	31	FEB 1 PBA UNIT CHMP.	
		1	2		4 PBS UNIT CHMP	5 Glen- shaw 0-299 Signals & Suit Pref. L Hanna

FIRST AT THE POST 70 % Games

Jack Hawthorne & Cleman Rosenbergr Jr.	74%	Tempe Emanuel	Wed
Jan Assimi & Frd Schenker	70.08	Wilkins	Fri
Arthur & Marie Henry	70.28	South Hills NLM	Thurs.
Pau Rosenberg & Eric Ruben	71.53	Houston	Mon
Arlene Jacobelli & Kenneth Eichler	71.40	Greensburg	Wed
Shirley Weber & Sue Rielly	72.69	Longue Vue	Thurs.
Arthur & Marie Henry	70.42	South Hills NLM	Thurs
Robert Quinlan & Constance Hoechstetter	70.54	Temple Emanuel	Wed

THREE IN A ROW

Arlene Port	Rodef	Mon	Judy Haffner	Rodef	Mo
Bud McElhaney	Whitehall	Mon	Arlene Port	O'Hara	Tues
Anita Demarco	New Castle 750er	Mon			

TWO IN A ROW

Janice Phillips	Glenshaw	Mon	Thomas Black	New Castle 750er	Mon
Ronald Franck	Rodef	Mon	Harold Haffner	Rodef	Mon
Linda Silberman	Rodef 299er	Mon	Derek Schofield	Rodef 299er	Mon
Ronald Sain	Export	Mon	Asim Ulke	O'Hara	Tues
James Fox	O'Hara	Tues	Russell Sheldon	O'Hara	Tues
Kathy McKelvey	Indiana	Tues	Philip Goulding	Zelionople	Tues
Alan Leaver	Zelionople	Tues	Russell Sheldon	Glenshaw	Wed
Philip Goulding	Allegheny CC	Fri	Robert Greco	Natrona Heights	Mon
Russell Sheldon	Glenshaw	Mon	James Fox	Glenshaw	Mon
William Lindgren	O'Hara	Tues	Deborah Shoup	Greensburg	Thurs
Fred Schenker	Wilkins	Fri	Jack Hammer	Export	Mon
Ronald Franck	O'Hara	Tues	Jane Marshall	O'Hara	Tues
Ronald Sain	Indiana	Tues	Gerald Sandson	Rodef	Wed
Lessa Finegold	Rodef	Wed	Joseph Secka Sr	Chartiers-Houston	Fri
Barbara Belardi	Greensburg	Fri	Bradley Craig	Greensburg	Fri
James Gump	Glenshaw	Mon	Thomas Black	New Castle 750er	Mon
Paul Rosenberg	Houston	Mon	Sandra Brand	O'Hara	Tues
Marcella Retetagos	O'Hara	Tues	Shirley Eskew	South Hills NLM	Tues
Barbara Cusick	South Hills NLM	Tues	Arthur Henry	Temple Emanuel	Wed
Marie Henry	Temple Emanuel	Wed	Gary Marcus	Edgeworth	Wed
Thomas Dugan	Edgeworth	Wed	Arthur Henry	South Hills NLM	Thurs
Marie Henry	South Hills NLM	Thurs			

CONGRATULATIONS!!!