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Unit 142

Pittsburgh, PA

MAY 2019

POST MORTEM

WEBSITE AT www.pittsburghbridge.org

President: Chris Wang

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

As if you didn't know, it's MAY. My question is: "Why do I announce each month as it begins?" Do I think that we are all so old that we don't even know what the current month is? Probably not, but on the other hand, I am going to continue mentioning it just in case.

More importantly, I have some great events coming in the near future to tell you about. The first of these is the Qualifiers for the Grand National Teams held in Erie May 4th & 5th in Erie. The winners of Super Flight and Flight A, and Flights B & C will qualify one team, or possibly two if there are 89 or more teams. It may be too late to enter, but you can certainly cheer those who are going to Erie to participate.

June 2, is the Barbara Bergman/Lou Joseph Swiss Team Event. It is one of our top events of the year and a fitting tribute to two very special people. Details are on page 5. Since space is limited, the country club can accept only 28 teams. Entries go quickly, so please make yours as soon as possible.

Then, of course is STaC week, beginning June 10—16. In case you didn't know, STaC stands for Sectional Tournament at the Club Level. Do the words: "Silver Points" mean anything to you? If they do, STaC week is always the best way to acquire these points without having to travel to other tournaments outside of our area. It is truly an opportunity to get rich in silver. (See page 4 for details) The ad on page 4 promotes the Thursday evening Stack n Snack food fest we have every year. Lots of food, lots of bridge and lots of fun. Who could ask for anything more?

I could tell you about my grandchildren, but that is for another publication. So, please take advantage of all the special games we offer, along with the PBA Unit championships which are played on Friday nights.

In the meantime, have a great May and I will look forward to seeing you at the local games.....arlene

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos



DON'T EVEN THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT MAKES MISTAKES.....THE VANDERBILT

Bridge Base Online is a website where you can play with friends, enter tournaments and earn masterpoints, or watch national or international events on viewgraph. For \$1/week you can rent 3 robots and play bridge all day. Last week I watched a lot of the Vanderbilt teams at the Spring Nationals. Here are a few of the swing hands.

Holding S- K J H- x x x D- Q J x x C - A 10 x x, you are sitting West with neither side vulnerable. At one table, your LHO opened 1 spade in 3rd seat and partner bid 5 diamonds. South bid 5 spades, and West bid a lead directive 6 clubs. Partner corrected to 6 diamonds which got doubled for minus 500. It didn't seem like much of a swing, because N-S could make 450. Holding these cards at the other table was Ralph Katz, a native Pittsburgher. At his table, his RHO opened 2 spades with A 10 x x x of spades. LHO splintered with 4 diamonds, and partner bid 5 diamonds. After pass, pass, North bid 5 hearts and South corrected to 5 spades, which got passed around. West found the inspired lead of a small club. Partner ruffed with their only trump, and the defense still had a club and a spade coming for a one trick set.

Holding S- x x H- Q J x x x D- K Q C- K x x x, South opened 1 heart. This 11 point hand is a standard opening bid for most of the top players. Partner bid 1 spade, and they rebid 2 clubs. At both tables, partner bid 2 diamonds as an artificial game force. At one table, they bid 2 NT, and bid 3 NT after partner rebid their spade suit. At the other table, Jeff Meckstroth bid 2 hearts instead of 2 NT. When partner rebid 2 spades, he raised to 4. The spade game made, and 3 NT went down.

In an early round, a top player had a lapse in a 7 NT contract. His dummy had 8 hearts to the K Q, and a stiff Ace of clubs. He had a stiff Ace of hearts, and seven more tricks in hand. A club lead would have removed dummy's entry in NT, so 7 hearts is the right contract. Declarer won the spade lead, unblocked the heart Ace and when both followed, claimed that he would ruff a spade and pull trump. He was reminded that he was in NT, so he went down 2 instead of making 7. Take heart. Even the pros can make big blunders.

Expert Views on Help Suit Game Tries

.....Submitted by Craig Biddle

“My view is that one can't limit game tries to very specific holdings (otherwise you never use them), but equally they must have some rules else you never know what fits. A simple relatively inclusive rule is: a try shows Hxx (x). at a pinch you can have the ten and if nothing else appeals maybe the jack.

In response any two of the top four cards is good, as is any Hx with decent trump length.(category 1)

H10x(x) is better than Hxxx which is better than Hxx
xx with extra trump is good. (category 2)

Jxx(x) better than 10xx(x) better than xxx(x), with a fourth card better than three but all these three types are minimum. (category 3)

With category one holding accept, with three reject, (or 3NT with MAX) and with 2nd category bid on with max go low with min.”--**Barry Rigal**

“I believe the best way to look at game tries is for partner to look at xxx in the suit you bid as the worst possible holding. Therefore, holding something like KJxx, AJxx or AQxx are the most ideal holdings.” — **Eric Greco**

“...classic help suits, maybe Axx. Axxx or Kxx(x), Qxx(x), or Jxxx would all be apt. I am reminded of what Jim Jacoby told me about IMP game tries – don't make them vulnerable, just bid game. I guess tries are just hoping, but at matchpoints going minus when you voluntarily bid to the three-level is a major no-no.” —**David Berkowitz**

“Best methods, if you want to get real fancy, is for the first step to ask partner to bid the first suit where he would reject a short-suit game try and skip over suits where he would accept. This method doesn't give away as much info.”
—**Billy Pollack**

“If you know you have an acceptance, bid game. If you know you have a rejection, sign off. If you don't know for sure, make an intermediate bid.”
—**Kit Woolsey**

STaC Week!

June 10 - 16 ALL WEEK!

Win Silver Points at your local club!

A STaC Game is a Sectional Game held at many sites. Your performance at your local club is compared with other concurrent games - for a larger award!

Strats: A: 2500+ B: 750-2500 C: 0-750

All Masterpoint Awards are Silver.

Check to make sure your club is participating at www.d5bridge.com

STaC'n'Snack!

June 13 - 7 PM!

Snacking at 6:15—Game Time 7:00

Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church *

We're at it again - Time to Snack Down!!!

Bring a Favorite Dish for all to enjoy!

NO SNACK? IT'S OKAY!

COME ANYWAY! PLENNY FOOD!

Attendance is Limited—Please RSVP

Coordinate snacks & RSVP

with Ruthie Neafach

**Text/Cell: 412-559-4351, or email:
1906SNS@pittsburghbridge.org**

***DIRECTIONS ON THE WEBSITE:**

www.pittsburghbridge.org



Pittsburgh Bridge
Association

**BARBARA BERGMAN AND LOU JOSEPH
SWISS TEAM EVENT**

Help us celebrate the memory of Barb & Lou, two remarkable friends whose presence graced our bridge tables - and whose dedication and hard work on behalf of Pittsburgh Bridge was legendary.

**Sunday, June 2, 2019
Edgewood Country Club**

Coffee, Bagels & Pastries at 9:45 ~ Game Time 10:30
Edgewood Signature Buffet Dinner Served Late Afternoon
Entry: \$160 per team of four, Extra Player \$40.00*

Team Stratifications

A: 2000+ B: 750 – 2000 C: 0 – 750
Stratifications by Team Average MPs
7 session play-through with dinner break!

For Information & Team-Building, Call:

Richard Zack at 724-895-3364 or
Patsy Evans at 412-563-2807 or
Jeanne Baseman 412-889-2538

Or Email: BarbLou@pittsburghbridge.org

Please RSVP: via email, or call Patsy Evans
- Limited to 28 teams!

Casual Country Club Attire, please.

Food! Fun! Fellowship!

****All Proceeds Benefit
Local Bridge Education!
See you there!***

**Directions on the website:
www.pittsburghbridge.org**

HELENA ZIMMERMAN - AKA DOCTOR CADDY

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE:

Herlena Zimmermann, Bob Zimmerman's daughter, has earned her PhD.

Attached is a picture of Helena delivering her Thesis, Titled: "The Roles of AMP-Activated Protein Kinase Alpha Isoforms in Alzheimer's Disease"

SUBTITLE OF THE THESIS IS: .

"How I was able to escape from a life of being a caddy at the Pittsburgh Bridge Association Tournaments.")
(All those years of study were difficult, but definitely worth it.)



IN MEMORY

Our condolences to John Doyal at the death of his wife, Irene. I spoke to John the other day and he told me how wonderful and active his wife had been. She was even a part of the entertainment industry. I don't think she was a movie star, but she certainly was John's star. I know he has wonderful memories to sustain him.

POST CARDS

Hi Jean,

Just a note to let you know we are all thinking about you and hope to see you back soon at the bridge table. Even a visit to the game would make us happy. Take care and keep bidding on a pathway to good health.....arlene



UP THE LADDER POST

JUNIOR MASTER

*William O Geiger
Jane G Greer
Richard W Mordord
Carolyn R Morrall*

CLUB MASTER

M Judith O Moore

SECTIONAL MASTER

Celine C O'Neill

REGIONAL MASTER

*Margaret R Ball
John L Driscoll*

NABC MASTER

Beverly G Cassidy

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

*James W Gump
Carol K Henderson*

SILVER LIFE MASTER

Sandra B McCall

CONGRATULATIONS
SO IMPRESSIVE - AND SO FAST.
I COULDN'T FOLLOW SUIT UNTIL I
PLAYED FOR 3 YEARS.



CONGRATULATIONS!!
IF YOU GET ANY BETTER I WILL NOT DO
• AS WELL AS I WANT TO DO
• OH WELL!!

PBA EVENTS 3-MONTH CALENDAR 2019

May

3 Club Championship
10 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
17 Unit Grass Roots Fund Game
24 No game—Cleveland Regional
31 Unit Championship

June

2 (Sunday) Bergman-Joseph Swiss Teams
7 NAOP QUALIFIER
13 STaC Pairs - Special Thursday Game
14 STaC Pairs & PBA Board Meeting
21 Unit Championship
28 Unit Championship Swiss Teams

July

5 Unit Championship
12 PITTSBURGH SECTIONAL @ MASONIC Info
19 NAOP QUALIFIER
26 Unit Championship Swiss Teams

INTERNET POST, CONT. from page 9

Trudy Cohn . I will pass planning to come in later. Any other bid that I could make will distort my hand.

Jack Hawthorne: 1S : I believe in the Mike Lawrence principle that you should overcall with a 4-card suit when you have length in opener's suit - the "implied fit" principle. Of course, the problem here is to determine which Major suit partner fits. To that end, you might choose a 2D Michaels Cue-Bid, but with only 4 cards in BOTH Majors, I would hate for partner to pick a major without a true fit. You might want to double or overcall 1D with 1NT, but your T/O double will likely lead to an undesirable 2C response, and 1S provides nearly as much preemption as a 1NT overcall. Additionally, 1S gives West the opportunity to inform us that hearts are breaking badly with a negative double. If no negative double is forthcoming, you can rebid 2H over a minor suit rebid by opener

INTERNET POST: You are South, IMP's, north/south vul.

You hold:

S A K 5 3
H A K 4 3
D Q 6 5 2
C 10

The bidding is:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

--- PASS PASS 1D

?* What do your bid?

2D = majors and any biddable strength.

Richard Katz Two diamonds is as good or better, than the next imperfect response. Might consider one no trump as worse alternate, or double as worse yet. Then there are one heart or one spade as worse yet.

Asim Ulke I pass. Cannot double with a singleton club. An overcall with a 4 card major may loose the other major. 2D bid promises 5-5 or longer in majors which I do not have. I may get another chance to show both majors later.

Chris Wang: I pass and see if we can get into the bidding later

Craig Biddle .I double with this - if partner bids clubs (the dearest suit) he probably has 5 of them. That's still not great, but at least it won't be down 4. 2nd choice - 1NT.

Phil Goulding: I would double. I play equal-level conversions with all of my partners. Ideally I'd have 5 hearts but nothing fits perfectly with this hand. If partner bids 2C, I'd bid 2H's. If partner bids a major, I'm fine, and if partner jumps in a major I bid game. If partner jumps to 3C's, I'll bid 3NT.

Steve Nolan .. Double. If partner bids clubs, I will bid NT. P.S., The last time I faced this situation, I bid 1NT and was told it was illegal.

Bill Holt: 1S. I expect a 2c rebid by opener - or his partner - and then I can show my H's. 2d immediately sounds like I'm 5-5 and I wouldn't want to mislead partner. If they find their club fit I can double for takeout.

Bob Zimmermann: 1 no trump. I have 15-17 points and a stopper. Every bid is a lie, but this is the least lie. If I bid 2 diamonds, I will have no idea what to do over 2 hearts or 2 spades. We might have game, we might be on a 4/2 fit. So, I'll show my values and let partner take control.

Ernie Retetagos: 2 Diamonds. I'll show the majors and raise the major suit response to 3. Partner needs so little to have a play for game, that I can't afford to pass. If I overcall NT, partner might pass when we have a 4-4 fit in a major. The best chance for a vulnerable game is in a major suit, so that's what I'll try for.

Herb Sachs: Double and pray Partner doesn't have to be 3 3 2 5 (I know . We could have a game also we could go for a number! Pass is second choice.

Jane Marshall PASS. I am hoping that my partner will balance...OR West will bid clubs. If West bids clubs, I will double when it comes back to me. If my partner bids clubs, I will let him play there.

Stanley Ruskin: . I double. If partner bids C, I will bid D. While I'm probably a tad too Light to do this, I think this is the best of all of the evils.

Gail Carns: 1NT I would like to double but would have no response to 2C

Bernie Fudor: 1S One of my pet peeves is to show distributional patterns when I don't have them This hand isn't a pattern hand to me. At the table I would bid 1spade. As Al Roth would say " if I get past this round of bidding I will be in good shape" Second choice is 1 nt.

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
1NT	5	2	100
2D	6	2	90
DBL	6	5	90
PASS	6	4	90
1H	2	0	60
1S	0	3	40
ELSE	0	0	0

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Philip Alder	1NT
Michael Becker	2D
David Berkowitz	1H
Bart Bramley	1NT
Richard Colker	2D
Billy Eisenberg	P
Dan Gerstman	1NT
Jon Green	1NT
Carl Hudecek	D
George Jacobs	1NT
Sami Kehela	P
Danny Kleinman	P
Eric Kokish	P
Michael Lawrence	2D\
Jeff Meckstroth	D
Barry Rigal	D
Arthur Robinson	2D
Andrew Robson	D
Jeff Rubens	P
Joey Silver	2D
Chris Willenken	P
Andrew Wirgren	3C
Robert Wolff	2D-
Kit Woolsey	D
Zia	D

(Note: After looking at all the answers, the thing that stood out the most was every responder said a prayer after their bid.)

Pittsburgh Bridge Assoc MAY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					3 PBS UNIT CHMP	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 PBA SWISS Teams Unit Chmp	11 Glen- shaw 0—99 Mini lessons Ldx & Sig + reg game
12	13	14	15	16	-17 PBA OPEN PAIRS\ Grass Roods Fund Game	18 Glen- shaw 0—99 Weak 2's + reg game
19	20	21	22	23	24 NO GAME CLEVELAND REGIONAL	25
26 2	27 3	28 4	29 5	30 6	31 PBA UNIT CHMP	JUNE 1

FIRST AT THE POST

70 % Games

Judy Haffner & Asim Ulke	71.96	Wilkins	Fri
Patricia Miller & Bruce Stephen	72.00	Longue Vue	Thurs
Ronald Franck & Harold Haffner	70.51	Rodef	Mon
Judy Pierce & Ronald Sain	70.83	Indiana	Tues.
Richard Katz & Patricia Katz	72.32	Rodef	Wed
Bud McElhaney & Sandra McCall	72.22	Temple Emanuel	Wed
Kathleen Dolegowski & Chris Macoy	70.08	South Hills NLM	Tues

THREE IN A ROW

Cecilia Powell	Greensburg	Wed	Judy Haffner	Wilkins	Fri
Asim Ulke	Wilkins	Fri	Mary Ann Huet	Natrona Heights	Mon
Robert Quinlan	Chartiers-Houston	Fri	Gail Carns	PBA Unit	Fri
Barbara Belardi	Export	Mon	Jean Tuthill	Longue Vue	Thurs-
Sandra McCall	South Hills	Tues	Martin Cohen	South Hills	Tues
Alan Leaver	Zelionople	Tues	Philip Goulding	Zelionople	Tues

TWO IN A ROW

Arlene Port	Rodef	Mon	Judy Haffner	Rodef	Mon
Thomas Jolly Jr	O'Hara	Tues	Robert Flynn	Glenshaw	Wed
John Doyal	Glenshaw	Wed	Joanne Zambroski	Wilkins	Thurs
Ami Elis	Wilkins	Thurs	Judith Lorigan	Lebo	Fri
Juanita Allison	Lebo	Fri	Judi Sonon	O'Hara	Tue
Cecilia Powell	O'Hara	Tues	David Collura	South Hills	Tues
Robert Quinlan	Temple Emanuel	Wed	Constance Hoechstette	Temple Em	Wed
June Threlkeld	South Hills	Sun	Audrey Heidenreich	Nat Heights	Mon-
Ronald Franck	Rodef	Mon	Harold Haffner	Rodef	Mon
Ethel Levine	Whitehall	Mon	Joseph Bernot	Whitehall	Mon
Gloria Moser	Glenshaw	Wed	Harold Haffner	Rodef	Wed
Judy Haffner	Rodef	We	Asim Ulke	PBA Unit	Fri
Arlene Port	Rodef	Mon	Judy Haffner	Rodef	Mon
Judy Pierce	Indiana	Tues	Barbara Grimm	Butler	Thurs
Leroy Hackenberg II	Greensburg	Thur	Kenneth Eichler	Greensburg	Thur-
James Fox	Allegheny CC	Fri	Ernie Retetagos	Glenshaw	Sat
Carl Bonfiglio	Glenshaw	Mon	Thomas Jolly Jr	O'Hara	Tue s
Alfred Tung	O'Hara	Tues	Cleman Rosenberger Jr	O'Hara	Tues
Donald Toy	O'Hara	Tues	Kathleen Dolegowski	So Hills NLM	Tues
Chris Macoy	South Hills NLM	Tues			

CONGRATULATIONS!!!