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Unit 142

Pittsburgh, PA January 2021

# POST MORTEM

WEBSITE AT [www.pittsburghbridge.org](http://www.pittsburghbridge.org)

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## All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

2020- Well, I can say I'm happy to see it go, but I am really happy to usher in 2021. I have already made up my wish list and sent it to the wish-list fairy. I wished for only 3 things: 1. I wished we get rid of the Covid. 2. I wished I stay alive until we do. 3. I wished for good health and happiness for us all in this new year. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

I have learned a lot this year, mostly about playing bridge online. When I first started, I thought those hesitations by the opponents happened because they didn't know what to do. Then when they hesitated, I thought they were reading their lesson notes. Now I think they make those hesitations because they are telling each other on the phone what to bid. Strange auctions such as 1H - pass - 6NT (with few values). which, is cold.. What a surprise. That bidding I send to the director.....Oh well.

Please, have a happy and healthy new year. I know it's going to be a great one. I will leave you with one piece of advice. In order to say happy, don't watch the news. Just think happy thoughts about when we can return to our club games..

A colorful graphic with the words "HAPPY NEW YEAR" in large, stylized, multi-colored letters. "HAPPY" is in red, yellow, and blue; "NEW" is in yellow and blue; "YEAR" is in red, blue, and green.

*Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.*

## BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetas

It certainly does!!!

### REOPENING DOUBLES

A reader sent me a bidding problem from a matchpoint game on BBO. North opened 1 spade, and East overcalled 2 hearts. After two passes back to North, how should the auction continue?

North	East	South	West
1S	2H	Pass	Pass
?			

S- A K Q x x    H- x    D- K J x x    C- A K x

S- x x    H- K Q x    D- Q 10 x x x    C- J x x

When you play negative doubles, opener should reopen with a double whenever possible, particularly with shortness in the overcalled suit. Anytime that the opener has a hand that would sit for a penalty double, they should reopen with a double. When the opener has length and/or strength in the overcalled suit, they can infer that partner does not have a penalty double. In this situation, opener can consider passing. North should reopen with a suit bid only when they are too distributional to sit for a doubled part score. Opening bids that have a 6 or 7 card suit, or some rule of 20 hand could be candidates for reopening in a suit instead of doubling. If you do reopen in a suit, and partner frowns and bids 3 NT, maybe you should have reopened with a double.

On this hand, North should reopen with a double, and South would bid 3 diamonds. North could raise or cue bid. If North raises to 4 diamonds, South bids 5 diamonds. North would show a stronger hand by cue bidding 3 hearts over 3 diamonds. South would bid 3NT to show a stopper. Since South would bid 3 NT with only one stopper, North would pull to 4 diamonds. This sequence should ask partner to go to game with a trick, and South would raise to 5. South would accept any invitation, because partner has invited game even though South has shown nothing

## PENALTY DOUBLES - PART I

In many cases, penalty doubles are easily identified and executed. However, the more difficult penalty doubles come in competitive bidding. The questions always remains: “Whose hand is it”? If I compete at a higher level, will I go down in my contract”? Does the level 5 really belong to the opponents? “Do I have the values to defend”?

### WHEN IS A DOUBLE FOR PENALTY?

1. When both partners have made at least one bid. (excluding takeout and negative)
2. All doubles of 1NT are for penalty. (Unless the double is a conventional call.) If the double is not alerted, your double is penalty

	N	E	S	W	* Negative
	1H	2C	DBL*	2D	** Penalty
3.	P	2S	Dbt**	P	
	?				

4. The doubled suit is artificial ie. ( 1NT — pass — 2C — X penalty— lead a club) Any double of a conventional bid by opponent is a penalty double and asks for the lead of that suit.
5. You passed after an enemy bid, then later double any game bid, any notrump bid, or an unraised suit bid 3C or higher.
6. If your side holds 23 or more High Card Points, you should *never* allow the enemy to play undoubled. NOT ALL OF THE TIME - BUT MOSTLY

### WHAT MAKES A GOOD PENALTY DOUBLE?

1. Lack of a fit for partner, otherwise a relatively balanced hand – in particular you *must not* hold a long suit (six-plus cards) of your own; A void is the best, but a singleton is pretty good. A good fit for partner means that we might even be better off playing our own contract than defending their contract. And it increases the chance of shortness in one of the opponents' hand.
2. Trump quality and position – your tricks are sure tricks and there's no danger of tipping off declarer as to the correct line of play – but the position of your honors in the other suits must appear to be favorable to you too; Note that if trumps appear to be 5-5 (or even 4-4) we won't always be able to tell where our honors are in relation to declarer's honors

## PBA EVENTS CALENDAR - 2021

- January 2021 Pandemic PBA Events Calendar—What's your plan.
- 1 Unit Activity: Pray the vaccine is coming to your arm soon and then see how many games you can play on BBO—Bridge Base.Online
  - 8 Unit Activity: Put your coat on and go outside and say: “So this is what the sky looks like and then play bridge on BBO
  - 15 Unit Activity: Wonder if you will recognize the people who you played against on Friday night at the Unit game. Then play on BBO
  - 22 Unit Activity: Make a resolution that you won't play more than 4 games a day on BBO, and then say: “What the heck”, one more won't hurt.”
  - 29 Unit Activity: After your friends and family ask you what you did today, you reply: “I bid two slams and made 1” and then tell them you couldn't talk to them because you made a date to play with your new friends on BBO, the robots.

### WHAT MAKES A GOOD PENALTY DOUBLE?

(Cont from page 2)

3. An expectation of setting the contract at least two tricks – or, at match points, your judgment that the contract is normal (four or five of a minor is generally *not* normal at MPs) and that your peers are likely to consider doubling if the contract isn't normal – perhaps they've clearly gone off the rails – you are almost certainly getting a good board if they go down even without a double).
4. No place for the opponents to run - Many times opponents are showing two suits and competitive bidding with you and your partner get them to the point where they can be doubled. Be careful - If you double them in that contract they may settle for the other long suit which may play better. Take your plus or, if warranted, continue the bidding.. Otherwise, pass. A plus is a plus.

See February Post Mortem for Part II

## IN MEMORY

**LOIS KORT:** At the end of December, Lois Kort, a long-time member of our unit and a prominent director, passed away. Lois Kort, longtime player and director in the North Hills, passed away in late December, 2020. She will be remembered as a lovely lady at the table, and a good director. Among other games, Lois and Jane McIntyre shared directing responsibilities at Masonic Hall before Jane retired. Lois had several games in the North Hills throughout her directing career. Lois was an accomplished musician and a very lovely lady. Our condolences to her friends and family.

**HELEN MILLER:** Helen Miller, a wonderful, sweet lady from Greensberg died. She was very active in the Greensberg community. I got to know her well when she would come to the unit game on Friday evening. We had so much fun talking. I am heartbroken, as, I am certain, everyone else who knew her is well I was so fortunate to know her.

## UP THE LADDER POST

### CLUB MASTER

*Charles Gross*

*Stephen Strelec*

### NABC MASTER

*Alice Hand*

*Mary Taylor*

### SECTIONAL MASTER

*Mary Ann Lehrman*

### REGIONAL MASTER

*Ann Fleming*

### RUBLY LIFE MASTER

*Susan Israelson*



## CURRENT UNIT BRIDGE NEWS.....By Lorraine Hanna

Pointers from Larry Cohen's on the basics of bridge.

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/things-to-know-before-you-go>

**Jennifer Jones** writes extensively on Losing Trick Count. She critiques hands on her site. Interesting to follow along with her thought process. Here's her site:

<http://jembridge.blogspot.com/>

Note from RustBelt Bridge (found on BBO under Virtual Clubs)

99ers Play & Learn will continue at 2:00 on Mondays

January 18 to 25th is the next special week (2X points 100% Silver). Watch for future emails for the schedule.

Game times are the same each day Monday thru Saturday.

499ers at 10:05

Open game at 10:15

As always a reminder of our informative website powered by our Bill Holt.

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

Among other info, side panel has links to:

Your Cub on BBO (0-750 Schedule and Rust Belt Bridge)

Club Results (will show games when open in the Burgh)

Post Mortem, our Monthly Newsletter prepared by Arlene Port. Stay current with Bridge in the Burgh. (Past articles available as well)

Biddle Bits by Craig Biddle with hand analysis

Ask Ernie -- Have a bridge question...here's our expert ready to help. He writes a monthly article included in our informative Post Mortem

### Free Weekly Lesson Mondays at 3:30pm

Contact Richard Finberg to be put on his email list. [doublemenot@gmail.com](mailto:doublemenot@gmail.com)

**Winter Vichill League** Bill Hogsett ([bhogsett@gmail.com](mailto:bhogsett@gmail.com)) will be starting a Winter Vichill League Team game mid-February. I've played in the Spring and Fall and it was lots of fun. Teams are limited. You may contact him if you have an interest in playing.

## PANDEMIC HUMOR

When the lockdown is over and exotic dancers go back to work!!! 🤡🤡🤡



## Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

**Stanley Ruskin: 3C** Wow. There are so many possibilities, I don't know where to begin. Here are some of the alternatives.

1. **3C** – very simple – it sets the suit as clubs as unless he bids 3S over 3C in which case  
S would be the agreed suit. My next bid will be determined by his bid and there are  
A number of possibilities. He should cue bid or bid 3S if he has 3 or bid 3NT with some  
Kind of minimum hand or even 4C with a minimum hand and no desire to play 3NT.  
If he cue bids 3D, I will bid 3H. If he cue bids 3H, I will bid 3S and listen for more.
2. **3S** – this shows a strong hand with at least 6 solid spades (AKJxxxx is close to solid).
3. **4H** – this should be exclusion KC Blackwood in C since I could bid 2H with a H suit and  
3H with a strong 2 suiter. In theory, we could be off the AK D but this will clear this  
Up.  
**I think my bid will be 3C.** I think it gives us the best chance of finding the place this hand.  
We could be making anywhere from 4S – 7S or 5C – 7C.

So, you are South, IMP's, east/west vulnerable

You hold:

S AKJ6532

H ----

D 43

C A Q 6 3

and the bidding is:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1S PASS 2C PASS

?

**Jack Hawthorne .. 3C:** Assuming 2C is game forcing - we are playing 2/1, right? - I'm going to raise clubs. I don't want to use up too much bidding room, and I am not going to insist on spades. I'll leave room for my partner to show more about his hand. Over 3 of either red suit, I'll get back to my spades. If my partner shows a delayed spade raise, I'll cue bid my void.

**Ernie Retetagos : . 4NT.** I'll start the year off by bidding Blackwood with a worthless doubleton and a void. If partner shows three key cards, I'll bid 7 clubs. I'm taking a chance that partner has a diamond control. If we are missing the Ace of hearts, a heart lead might require some good breaks in the black suits to make a grand slam. Spades are out as a trump suit, because you could never bid a grand slam in spades with any confidence.

**Bob Zimmermann: 3 clubs** We are in a game forcing auction. For now, clubs can be trumps. The real question is what happens next. A 3 diamonds cue bid will get me off to the races. I'll correct 3nt to 4 spades, though.

**Richard Katz: 3H** Two clubs is game force, therefore two hearts is hearts and forcing, but three hearts in this sequence is shortness in support of clubs (a splinter) type bid. Since this best describes my strong offensive hand, this would be my choice! Que bidding should or Keycard Blackwood in clubs would later discover it to be a void. Hopefully, this is clearly understood and later I won't be correcting partner's six heart bid to six no trump

**Paul Caplan 4H** Splinter with 4 hearts. If partner has the K of diamonds 6 clubs played from north should be cold. 6 spades by south could be at risk with a diamond lead.

**Jane Marshall: 3 hearts** (a splinter in support of clubs). However, I probably would have opened 2C and shown a 4-loser hand in spades by rebidding spades to partner's response.

**Herb Sachs 3c** I may never stop bidding but I am giving myself lots of room to obtain info. hope your holidays have been great. Happy New Year

**Steve Nolan: 3C.** Showing the fit. We can explore for the right final contract over the next few rounds of bidding.

**Bernie Fudor.:**

**Craig Biddle: 2S** - this is easy for me, since the 2C response created a game force. I want to figure out whether to go slamming in clubs or spades, and this will save us the room we need to figure it all out.

**Bill Holt 4H,** splinter for clubs. Holding a diamond control, slam should have a good play. If partner's 2c bid is all in Hearts with the Kc, we can play 5c. If partner were coming in Spades (with 4S next), I'll Q-bid the Ac next to discover a needed diamond card.

**Trudy Cohn 3c.** I will start off by bidding 3c. We are in a forcing auction so I have time to show spade length later.

**Chris Wang: 2S** I bid 2 spades. I want to keep the bidding slow in case there is a slam. I will show support for clubs later, but right now, I am not sure partner's club bid shows a long club suit.

**Gail Carns 3C** showing extra values

**Harold Haffner: 3 clubs** extra values and see what partner does next?

**Asim Ulke: 4Clubs.** There could be a slam in clubs. I stress the strong support. If partner encourages then I try for 7 clubs.

**Arlene Port: 2S** For the first time I had no problem. 2C is game forcing. Partner has to know how many spades I have and I have to know what partner has to say. Then I can take full control of the hand and get us to the right spot.

(Cont. on page 8)

## HOW EXPERTS VOTED

Philip Alder	3H
Kevin Bathurst	2S
Marty Bergen	2S
David Berkowitz	3H
Bart Bramley	3H
Drew Casen	2S
Billy Eisenberg	3C
Robb Gordon	3C
Carl Hudecek	2S
Marc Jacobus	2S
Danny Kleinman	3S
Eric Kokish	2S
Nick L'Ecuyer	2S
Brian Platnick	3H
Arthur Robinson	3H
Jeff Rubens	2S
Barnet Shenkin	4H
Ron Smith	4H
Harry Steiner	2S
Frank Stewart	3H
Doub and Wildavsky CT&NY	3H
Robert Wolff	4H
Joel Wooldridge	2S
Kit Woolsey	4H

## INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
2S	9	3	100
3H	7	2	80
4H	4	2	70
3C	3	8	50
3S	1	0	40
4D	0	0	10
4C	0	1	10
OTHER	0	1 4NT	0