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Unit 142

Pittsburgh, PA February 2021

POST MORTEM

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All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

Well, January has passed, very very slowly. Time usually flies when you're having fun. I rest my case. Like everyone else, I am trying to make believe this is all going to be over soon—er or late-er.

Interestingly, the hand I sent to my “expert panel” was questioned by some and not by others as to whether the bidding of 1D P 2D P was an inverted bid, meaning it was game forcing, while just a raise was a minimum bid. Unbelievably, 15 out of 17 responses chose the same bid of 3 diamonds. I was very happy that none of them were damaged. The end result of bidding that hand would have been different however. So, if you don't play inverted minors, don't worry, you're good for the first two bids.

Unfortunately, three of our long-time members passed away in January; Marcella Apter, Frank Cordier and Bob Fleiss. Our loss is great.

On the other hand Covid certainly hasn't stopped from our bridge players getting better and higher in rank. Please don't think I'm paranoid, but just between you and me, they're doing it on purpose, just to beat me at bridge. Oh well, as long as everyone stays healthy it's OK.

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO US ALL!!

Read the Post Mortem, it's has interesting and informative articles.

WORDS OF WISDOM TO LIVE BY

The second mouse always gets the cheese. (The first one probably got Covid)

BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

It certainly does!!!

NO TRUMP

In standard bidding, a one no trump opening bid shows a balanced hand with 15-17 HCPs. There is no mention of stoppers, because they are not required. It's OK to have one or even two unstopped suits. When opener holds a five card suit, rebid considerations determine the best opening bid.

- 1) S- 5 4 H- A J 9 6 3 D- A 7 C- A Q 4 2
- 2) S- 5 4 H- A J 9 6 D- A 7 C-A Q 5 4 2
- 3) S- 5 4 H- A J 9 6 3 D- A 7 5 C- A Q 4

Hand # 1 is a semi balanced hand with 15 HCPs. With a 5 card major and some distribution, you should open 1 heart. After a 1 spade response, you have a descriptive rebid of 2 clubs.

Hand #2 is also a semi balanced 15 count, but with a 5 card minor. With this hand, 1 NT is the correct opening bid. Look at the rebid problems after a 1 club opening and a 1 spade response. A 2 club rebid would show a 6 card suit, you are too strong to rebid 1 NT, and too weak to bid 2 hearts.

Hand #3 is a balanced 15 count. Some players don't like to open 1 NT with a 5 card major. When that suit is hearts, I think it's right to open 1 NT. If the opening bid is 1 heart, there is no descriptive rebid after a 1 spade response. In all of these hands, the planned rebid is the factor in determining the opening call.

PENALTY DOUBLES - PART 2 (Cont. from Jan 2021 PM)

WHAT MAKES A BAD PENALTY DOUBLE?

In the January issue of the Post Mortem, we discussed What makes a good penalty double. In this issue we will discuss What makes a bad penalty double.

1. When you and your partner have most of your strength in a suit that has both length and strength. **THIS IS IMPORTANT.** If you and your partner have ten points in your suit and opened the bidding, there are 27-30 HCP left and their distribution may help them make their contract.

2. When opponents open 1NT and you have equal values and no long suit. If you double, each time you get in the lead you must give your opponent a trick.. After all, there are only 40 points in the deck and you and opponent have 32 of them.

3. When opponent shows a distributional hand with two suits, if you double the contract, they may run to the other long suit, which may make.....Whoops!!

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

4. When opponents “sacrifice” due to favorable vulnerability and you have the values and distribution to compete., THEN BID. If you have some doubt about competing, setting them doubled may not be profitable enough under any circumstances. So, take your chances.

As one pro stated: “You’re the dummy one quarter of the time. You’re the declarer one quarter of the time. That means you’re defending half the time. If you’re not doubling, you’re not getting enough matchpoints to win.. You can’t play this game scared., so don’t be scared to double”. So, if many of your doubles are going bad, try this piece of wisdom from Mel Colchimaró, a pro who has this wonderful guideline for doubling. It’s called “Mel’s rule. When all else fails ,(seriously) try this:

Mel’s **RULE OF NINE:** 1. Take the level of the contract. 2. Add the number of the opponent’s trump suit you hold. 3. Add the number of honors you have in that suit. 4. If it comes to nine, **DOUBLE!** It works most of the time if you defend carefully. Try it. You’ll like it. Use this as a last resort.

BOTTOM LINE:

- Any double may be converted to a penalty double by either partner.
- All doubles of opponents preempts, with the exception of 4S are for takeout. A double of 4S is always penalty. If you want your partner to bid, you must bid 4NT. That is takeout for the other suits.

PBA EVENTS CALENDAR - 2021

February: 2021 *Pandemic PBA Events Calendar—*

What’s your plan.

- 5 *Unit Activity: Talk to Alexa and ask her to play bridge on BBO— Bridge Base. Online with me. No answer. Evidently not all robots play bridge.*
- 12 *Unit Activity: Put your coat on and go outside and say: “What do you mean there is no vaccine available?” Then to BBO*
- 19 *Unit Activity: Play the “Old Lady Card”, so that if the vaccine ever comes you will be first in line. Still time to play 3 times.*
- 26 *Unit Activity: Make your appointment and go searching for real clothes to wear to the site. Heaven forbid you shouldn’t look good to get a shot. Decide something you haven’t worn since March will be fine, and it will give you more time to play bridge.*

WHAT MAKES A BAD PENALTY DOUBLE?

(Cont from page 3) **BOTTOM LINE**

- When opponent overcalls after your opening bid, if partner and other opponent pass, you **MUST** reopen the bidding with a take-out double. If your partner wanted to double the overcall, they cannot, because that double would be negative., showing other suits. By passing your double, this is the only way your partner can penalize the overcaller. If they have a weak hand, they can always show weakness by bidding.
- All penalty doubles are cooperative. If partner doubles and you feels opponents will make their contract, or you can make your contract, you can always refuse to sit for the double. On the other hand, trust your partner as much as possible..
- A penalty double says: “Opponents cannot make their contract”. How you respond, either by passing or bidding, is your decision. The more you make that decision, the better you will be at knowing how to make good choices.
- Interestingly, taking a class in penalty doubles will never teach you when to use them. You will have to learn that at the table.....Good Luck With That!!

UP THE LADDER POST

JUNIOR MASTER

Mary Wolf

NABC MASTER

Alice Hand

Mary Taylor

SECTIONAL MASTER

Steven Thomas

BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Karen Piper

Tom Piper

Madelein Frizzi

SILVER LIFE MASTER

James Gump

RUBY LIFE MASTER

Robert Flynn

DIAMONDLIFE MASTER

Ronald Franck

HOW UNFORTUNATE FOR ME THAT MY CHANCES
OF WINNING HAVE BEEN LESSENER BY YOUR
SKILL. OH WELL!!!

CONGRATULATIONS
HOW WONDERFUL OF YOU TO ACHIEVE SUCH
AN ADVANTAGED STATUS AT BRIDGE



You've come a long way from talking to your bidding box..

IN MEMORY

Marcella Apter: When I first started playing bridge, not only did I not know how to play, I didn't know anyone who played duplicate. One of the first people I really noticed was Marcella.. I thought she was beautiful, smart, nice, and the best bridge player. My opinion never changed. She was all of those things. Well, maybe not the best, but certainly a most proficient bridge player. Everyone who knew her had great respect for her.. I never heard her yell at her partner or criticize other players . Marcella was a lovely lady and over the years, a friend I admired. We will all miss her terribly and be grateful that we had the honor to know someone so special. Our condolences to her many friends and her family.....arlene port

Bob Fleiss: For those of you who didn't know Bob, you really missed knowing a great guy. He started playing duplicate while he was still in college and graduated as a math professor. He lived in Pittsburgh and played in our games and we became good friends. He was so nice. He was a good tennis player and played with my husband. He even played with me - that's how nice he was. He got a position in West Virginia and actually was in charge of their bridge tournaments, so not only did we stay in touch, I got to see him, and on occasion, play with him. He would also come to Pittsburgh and visit. He was only 68 years old; a baby in our crowd, when he died last month. He made lasting relationships wherever he went and we will all miss our wonderful friend.. Our sympathy to his children and his family.
.....arlene port

Frank Cordier: Frank passed away in January. He worked at Alcoa for many years until his retirement. He was a regular at several bridge games and was a very accomplished player. MaryLou D'Atoriao wrote: "Frank was my bridge mentor and we played several years together. He was a very good teacher. Though we were to lose touch in later years, I've always appreciated and have never forgotten his lessons. His sense of humor could always bring a smile". Our condolences to his family and friends.

CURRENT BRIDGE NEWS.....By Lorraine Hanna

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/partnership-checklist>

Link to **Tutorials on BBO and other sites** to play bridge and the **Language of Bridge online** and how to communicate in "shorthand".

https://www.acbl.org/clubs_page/play-online-for-masterpoints/

Link to our website kept current thanks to Bill Holt

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

Side panel shows links to valuable information.

Your Club on BBO

Rust Belt Bridge offers games played by your local friends and expanded to players in Cleveland and Youngstown. Please support your local clubs by playing in these games. Found under **Virtual Clubs**

You can also support your local club by playing in games entitled **"Support Your Local Club" found under ACBL World. These games start at 10a.m.**

Portion of money from Rust Belt Games and Support Your Local Clubs benefits our local clubs.

Club Results shows bridge games being played in the Burgh (masks required)

Winter Vichill League

Below is link to info and schedule. Bill Hogsett is looking for **players with less than 100 masterpoints. He will help find partners and teammates.** Let him know asap. First team game is 2/17. His email address is: bhogsett@gmail.com

Link to schedule, etc.

<https://whistclub.org/index.php/Winter>

Best wishes and virtual hugs to all,

PANDEMIC HUMOR

Why did the chicken cross the road? Because the chicken behind it didn't know how to socially distance properly.

Ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg, tomorrow remains to be seen.

My mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now, ma! I'm saving the world!

After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.

If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other.

Yesterday I ran out of soap and body wash and all I could find was dish detergent. Then it Dawned on me.

Since we're all in quarantine I guess we'll be making only inside jokes from now on.

I'm not talking to myself, I'm having a parent-teacher conference.

Nothing like relaxing on the couch after a long day of being tense on the couch.

I finished Netflix today.

Day 121 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"

Internet Post Mortem (Cont.) from page 9

Stanley Ruskin: 3D I think that this is pretty straight forward assuming 2D is game forcing or at least 4D. I bid 3D which, I think shows my hand – 4 S and length in D and a minimum opening bid. Now I will find out where we are looking to go depending on partner's next bid. If he bids 3H, I will bid 3NT and see where we go next. If he bids something else, I will go from there. If he asks with 3H and I bid 3NT, he should know that I probably have a singleton C since I have at least 9 cards in D And S and bid 3NT.

Harold Haffner: 3D I have already shown my hand

Arlene Port 3D: I saw the 3H answer when I submitted the question but I didn't believe in it. Three diamonds seems a very reasonable bid.

NOTE: The problem was

INTERNET POST MORTEM

You are South, Imps, none vulnerable

You hold:

S K 4 3 2

H K 2

D A Q 10 9 6 4

C 8

The bidding is:

North	East	South	West
.....	1D	PASS
2D	PASS	2S	PASS
3C	PASS	?	

What do you bid?

Jack Hawthorne .. 3D. I like my KH, but not enough to commit to 3NT with only 12 HCP. We could have 9 tricks opposite the perfect hand, but my partners tell me, "if you need something specific, I don't have it." If he tries 3NT, I'll pass, but for now, I show my long suit.

Ernie Retetagos: 3 Diamonds. I would have bid 3 diamonds instead of 2 spades at my last turn to call. Opposite partner's minimum response, I don't see a game anywhere. On Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 08:53:24 PM EST

Bob Zimmermann: . 3 no trump. I probably need at least 2 tricks plus the King of diamonds from partner to make this. Still, his 3 club bid is encouraging and I do have a heart stopper - and the ACBL pays bonuses for game contracts.

Richard Katz Three diamonds

Paul Caplan 3D looks like the limit of the hand. Not enough for either 3nt or 5D. Partner showing values in clubs is not valuable for a 5D contract. Not enough stoppers for 3nt not enough tricks for 5D.

Jane Marshall 3NT. We have a diamond fit (probably 6 diamond tricks. My partner is showing a club stopper and I have the needed heart stopper. We should be able to take 9 tricks.

Herb Sachs 3D Unless 2d was inverted I have run out of bids. Three diamonds maybe partner can find another bid?

Steve Nolan: 3NT. Currently, North is bidding like somebody who would like to be in 3NT if I can stop hearts. I can, and the contract is better played from my hand. North can bid again if he is more interested in a minor suit slam.

Bernie Fudor.: 3D The bidding makes no sense unless 2d was an inverted raise. If it was I'll bid 3NT. If it wasn't I bid 3D and wonder why I didn't pass 2. Stay well

Craig Biddle: 3D - I play inverted raises forcing to 2NT or 3 of the minor only. And if I were balanced with a minimum, I would just bid 2NT. So I have done my duty and will now put the ball in partner's court.

Bill Holt 3d/3NT. It all depends. What is 2d? If an Inverted Minor and forcing, I am bidding 3NT. If not, I wonder why I bid 2S on 12 hcp when we were headed for stopping in 3d ... so I am now going to bid 3d.

Chris Wang: 3D This is a tough problem. I have a 5 loser hand, but only one Ace. I know it is imps, but I take the low road and bid 3 diamonds. I am hoping if partner has a good hand, he will make another bid, and then I will head to at least game in 5 diamonds.

Gail Carns 3D This hand is not worth more than the 2S I already bid.

Asim Ulke 3D Why did I bid 2S ? Is 2D an Inverted minor ?. The auction should have gone like, 1D P 2D P 3D ?. So I now bid 3D. I already bid too much.

Richard Finberg 3D. Partner is offering to play 3C, her best suit. While 3NT may seem tempting, but hoping partner has the D-K, a major suit Ace and that the other major Ace is on sides (or led away from) is too much to hope for since partner also has club values. Nor did she bid 2NT herself. Missing marginal non-vul games at IMPs is okay. Plus 5 IMPs.

HOW EXPERTS VOTED

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

INTERNET POST RESULTS:

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
3H	10	0	100
3D	6	15	70
3NT	5	2	60
4D	3	0	50
ELSE	0	0	0

Note: Those that bid 3H did so because they felt their hand was good enough and it showed shortness in clubs. They were looking for nt.