



THE NORTH PENN FINESSE

NORTH PENN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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President's Message: The following represents the primary information made available at the General Membership meetings of May 18 and May 20:

We have two new additions to the Board of Governors. Lucille Schlack and Elaine Watters have been chosen to fill vacancies on the Board. We value their contributions and their energy level.

The Club financial picture is unspectacular, but solid. We have roughly \$12,000 in liquid assets (checking, savings, cash). Our monthly revenue fluctuates around \$3,300 - the majority of this income is derived from table fees, membership dues, and other bridge income (classes, etc). Our monthly expenses also fluctuate around \$3,300, with the primary expenses consisting of game direction, rent, utilities, and charitable contributions. The most volatile of these is the utility expense, which depends greatly on the weather.

Membership continues to be relatively flat. We have slightly more than 150 Members. We have begun a marketing thrust. 50 copies of a flyer have been printed and are being distributed in the general area. If anyone would like copies of the flyer to post in your area, please see any Board member. Your help is appreciated.

The Thursday evening game did not survive infancy, and has been discontinued. The Friday morning game is thriving. The Saturday evening game continues.



It should be noted that there has been a long-standing discussion about the current facility. Related to that, it is important for the Membership to know that there are very limited things that can be done to upgrade the facility, partly because we do not have (and will not obtain) a lease on this property. Hence, the mutual obligation between the Club and the landlord is limited to a 90-day notice. We will continue to entertain suggestions from Members, but neither party is enchanted with the prospect of capital investment in the property.

An updated and expanded Directory is planned. This effort has been started, and I expect that the finished version will be available in the near future.

We are formulating a method to address the eternal problem of partnerships. Our policy of guaranteeing partners for (most of) our games is having the opposite effect of our intent, and we recognize that policy will need to be tweaked. But we also know that a program that assists players in finding partners is needed. Lois Kittredge and Elaine Clair are in the process of developing a plan to address that need. We urge the Membership to come forward with suggestions and assistance in that effort.

Jackie Umphlet originally suggested the concept of an organized “Mentoring” initiative. Lois Kittredge is currently in the process of putting together a plan to bring this to fruition. We will be looking for volunteers willing to play with an advancing player (about once every couple of months). If you think that you would like to "give back" to the Club and the game we all enjoy, please see any Board member. We will have more details as the program takes shape.

And thanks to all for a very quiet and enjoyable first five months of the year.
Dave LeGrow, President, e-mail dave.legrow@att.net

Club Manager’s Message: The ACBL has finally come to its senses! Effective July 1, 2010 clubs will no longer be allowed to run unlimited charity games for triple points. Under the new policy only one charity game per month for each session will be permitted. This won’t affect us too much at North Penn since we only run one charity a month for our established games.

The summer, as usual, is chock full of special games: The World Wide pairs (2 separate events) will be held on Friday, June 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 5 at 10:30 a.m. (*Yes, we are going to run the Saturday game this year!*). This game is scored on the internet and matchpointed across the world. The hand records are in the form of a booklet with analyses. And there is a chance to win WBF (World Bridge Federation) points.

NAP (North American Pairs) qualifiers are held throughout the summer. Win extra points (½ red, ½ black) and qualify for the District finals in October to have a chance to represent District 4 in the National finals next Spring.

There’s a STAC week in August awarding extra points (silver), and there are several Unit Wide games throughout the Summer.

Check the schedule in the announcements section of this newsletter for dates and times.
Mitch Snyder, Club Manager, e-mail bridge4all@comcast.net



Member Achievements:

Jo Ferguson	Junior Master	Patti Thomas	Junior Master
Mimi Harris	Junior Master	Lois Schwalb	Club Master
Louise Gabis	Regional Master	Judy Leopold	Regional Master
Preston Kuptsow	Regional Master	James Allen	NABC Master
Leah Halpern	Life Master	Lee Weiss	Life Master
Cecilia Dupont	Life Master	Harry Spaeth	Bronze Life Master
Nick Nazarenko	Bronze Life Master	Kathy Chalek	Bronze Life Master
Al Fitzgerald	Bronze Life Master	Evelyn Melchiorre	Bronze Life Master

Charity Games: Please note that all charity games below yield “extra points”:
 June 7 to June 12 (ACBL Charity Foundation)
 July 5 to July 10 (Charity selected by our club)
 August 9 to August 14 (ACBL)

Sunshine: Please welcome our new members: Ronald Goldsman, Patricia Gardner, Eileen Shelly, Joyce Levin, Bob Kiesling, Bud Rimmey, Arnold Kritz, Denna Donley, Janice Chanan, Norman Garfield, Larry Abramovitz, Sheila Zamkoff, Preston Kupstow, Scott MacKenzie, John

Moser, Shirley Kanoff, Avi Mude, Chan Talaty, Edward Cotilla, Linda Cotilla, PJ Ingram, Pat French-Folk, Chuck Thomas, Patti Thomas, Marion Pauson, and Roberta Diamondstein.

“Happy Birthday” to Jo Ferguson (6/6), Donna Snyder (6/9), Penny Wells (6/13), Charlotte Perry (6/16), Karen Xia (6/29), Bob Mulhauser (7/1), Elaine Clair (7/4), Beth Milton (7/7), Elaine Rhoda (7/10), Evelyn Melchiorre (7/30), Sam Matlin (8/3), Dave LeGrow (8/4), Mark Freeman (8/17), Steve Becker (8/30) Terry Fair (9/8), Helen Spiller (9/10), and Len Ross (9/29).



Tournament Highlights: When traveling on vacation or business, why not try out the local bridge club? Jim and I were visiting our daughter and family in Boston this spring and decided to check out the local bridge club. We found the MIT Draper Lab Bridge Club in Cambridge. Except for one other person, Jim and I were the oldest couple present. We had a great time playing with the college students!

Miscellaneous: (1) Lois Kittredge has a great idea. There are many bridge club members who play on-line. If you are interested in sharing your on-line “bridge name” for “partnering” and/or “observing” purposes, please e-mail Lois at loisjody227@yahoo.com, and she will compile a list for publication.

(2) Our club will soon be offering a “Mentoring Program” to benefit newer or less experienced players who would like the opportunity to play with more seasoned players. This is an opportunity for the more experienced bridge players to give something back to the game we all love. Much of the feedback we have received from newer players is that it is hard to break in and feel comfortable with so many good players. Details of the program will soon be posted on the bulletin board and on our website. Please contact Lois Kittredge at 215-628-3472 if you have any suggestions for this program.

(3) There is now a link to “PDF” copies of the North Penn Finesse on the website. The current version (June 2010) and the four previous manifestations are now available.

Contest: Lou Primavera is offering a \$20 cash prize to the first person who can find a foolproof plan to make the following contract:

The contract is 3NT and the opening lead is the five of spades.

S KJT62		S Q
H 95		H 86
D Q3		D JT64
C K864		C AT9752
S A9753		
H KJT4		
D 9875		
C	(Declarer)	
	S 84	
	H AQ732	
	D AK2	
	C QJ3	



If you are the first person to e-mail Lou (primaveraLDLJ@comcast.net) with your foolproof plan, you will win the cash prize.

Bridge Classes: There is a class for advancing players on the first Wednesday of each month. Topics vary from month to month. It starts at 9:45 a.m. and finishes around 11:15 a.m. The cost is \$10 (\$15 plus a special game fee if you stay and play afterwards).

Novice/Intermediate Game: There is a Novice/Intermediate game (0 to 750 mps) every Friday at 10 a.m. The game is followed by a free lesson in the form of a post-mortem. Reservations are not required. Contact Mitch for more information.

Saturday Evening Game: There is a game most Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. Dave LeGrow directs. Check the monthly schedule for details.

Swiss Teams: There is a Charity Swiss Teams on the 2nd Friday of every month. The game is at 7:30 p.m. Come as a team or pair (teammates guaranteed). Singles will be accommodated if possible.

At The Table: I did not make this up. This hand set two personal records for me: 1. The longest suit ever – 9 spades. 2. Pard had the rest of spades.

S K543
H K96
D K862
C K2

S -
H JT432
D QT943
C 853

S -
H A875
D AJ75
C JT974

S AQJT98762
H Q
D -
C AQ6

The bidding went:	North	East	South	West
	1D	P	1S	P
	2S	P	4H*	P
	4S	P	6S**	P
	P	P	P	



* mini-splinter(Jump after trump agreeing shows either a singleton or a void in the suit)
** There is no way to find out about the K of clubs without going up to 6-level. Pard did not cue bid 5H, so a grand slam would not be possible.

The opening lead was a club. I won with the K and led a small diamond from table. What would you do if you were East ?

As you can see, to play the A of diamonds or not on the second trick got East into a very difficult situation. If South had the singleton Q, East could give up an important overtrick(declarer must have had a void for bidding a slam missing two aces). On the other hand, as in the “real” play, the A was ruffed and the heart loser disappeared.

This is when luck plays a role in contract bridge. Change the Q of hearts to that of diamonds and the situation reverses.

Albert Horng, Club Member

Stopping Legal Abuse at the Table: Most players are now familiar with the concept of Zero Tolerance. It is intended to eliminate harassment, criticism, gloating, gratuitous lessons, and

most other forms of abuse that we see at the bridge table. It does **not** however, prohibit the use of the bidding box to intimidate and to bully.



As with most forms of abuse, there are Abusers and Victims.

Abusers make pre-emptive bids with less strength or shape than most.
Abusers make aggressive overcalls and takeout doubles.
Abusers raise partner with much less values than are normally expected.

Abusers do this because they believe that disrupting the opponents' communication, especially early in the auction, is a consistently winning technique.

Victims are those who lack the awareness, methods, discipline, or will to deal with the Abusers. Victims frequently identify themselves to Abusers by the conventions that they play (or don't play).

Everyone is an Abuser on occasion. All pre-emptive bids are designed to interfere with the opponents. When we pre-empt, we are "Abusers." Weak two-bids, three-level openers, weak no-trump openers, Michaels cue bids, Unusual NT overcalls, and even the occasional speculative spade overcall can be pre-emptive in nature.

So how can I stop being a "Victim"?

Note #1 to Self: Do not permit opponents to play in undoubled sacrifices. When we know the hand belongs to us, we should double all obvious sacrifices. If you're getting a bad board anyway, you have more to gain and less to lose with a close double. Decide with your partner on a reasonable level beyond which all doubles are penalty doubles.

Note #2 to Self: Reduce the use of general strength bids that don't declare shape. Two club openers announce to the entire table that you have the balance of the strength. They practically beg the opponents to interfere if possible, especially at favorable vulnerability. Eliminate two-club openers unless you have either a huge balanced hand that can play in your partner's suit (or defend any suit contract), or have both a strong hand and a self-sufficient suit (so you know where the contract belongs already). Reduce the frequency of making off-shape takeout doubles. They, too, invite pre-emptive action.

Note #3 to Self: Reduce the use of conventions that remove the risk to interfering opponents. Any convention that removes the threat of a penalty double is an open invitation. When opponents make a takeout double and you hold points, it's usually better to start with a redouble. Fit-showing bids are fine (Jordan 2NT, Bergen raises), but they remove the threat of the penalty double; hence, they should only be used when there is little defensive strength. Using DOPI over interference of ace-asking bids has some of the same weaknesses. But possibly the worst convention of all time is the "stolen bid" double (also known as the "shadow" double). The use of this mechanism against interference over your no-trump opener tells the opponents that you have no way to double for penalties. It removes any threat to the opponents and is a virtual license to steal. This convention should be avoided at all costs.

Note #4 to Self: Learn how and when to double for penalties. Exercise patience and restraint when the opponents wander into your auction. If your action is not clear, be prepared to double or be content to pass, knowing that your partner can re-open the bidding. When balancing, if reasonable, try to use a double to balance (instead of NT) to protect a partner that might like to punish the opponents. And learn how to and when to convert takeout and balancing doubles into penalty doubles.

And remember: If your opponents aren't making an occasional doubled contract, you're not doubling enough.

Dave Legrow, dave.leGgrow@att.net



Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

Weekly Games:	Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays – 12:00 noon Tuesdays and Fridays – 7:30 p.m. Friday - 10 a.m. (0-750 mps) Saturday - 7:00 p.m.
Unit Wide	Wednesday afternoon, June 2 Friday morning, June 25 Monday afternoon, June 28
World-Wide Pairs	June 4 (Friday Evening) June 5 (Saturday, 10:30 a.m.)
Club Championships	June 14, 15, 16,25
International Fund Game	Friday Evening, July23 (hand records and analyses)
Unit Championship	Friday Evening, August 6
STAC (Silver Week)	August 23 to 28 (all games)
Instant Match-points	September 16 (Wed. Evening – tentative)
Club Appreciation Week	October
Charity Swiss Teams	2 nd Friday (7:30 p.m.)



NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

North Penn NAP Qualifiers (subject to change)

Monday, noon	6/21	7/26	
Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	6/22	7/20	8/17
Wednesday, noon	6/30	8/4	
Thursday, noon	6/3	7/22	
Friday 7:30 p.m.	7/30		
Saturday 7:00 p.m.	6/26	8/7	

Additionally, 1st place finishers in each District flight receive \$700 and 2nd place finishers receive \$300 each to help defray costs.

