

THE NORTH PENN FINESSE

NORTH PENN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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President's Message: The year is quickly slipping into history. Songbirds, snowbirds, and table counts are shortly headed south, and the rest of us remain behind to plan the Holiday parties and conduct the upcoming Board of Governors election.

The Board is looking for a few good members to help guide the Club over the next few years. We are seeking (up to) four individuals for three-year terms on the Board. The only qualifications are that candidates be Club Members and are willing to help make the Club the best that it can be. The annual election is held in conjunction with the Holiday parties on December 14 and 16.

Our By-Laws state: "Members aspiring to office should apply in writing to the Secretary signifying their intent no later than three (3) weeks prior to the election." That would place the date we need your name at November 23. Our current Secretary is Elaine Clair.

Like many clubs, we experience diminishing table counts. The Board continues to weigh ideas to attract and keep players, particularly newer and advancing players, and we welcome your ideas.

The new Directory is ready for publication and will be available very shortly. Perhaps it will contain information that will permit you to re-connect with someone that has been absent from the Club for a while and that we can bring back to play.

I have greatly enjoyed this year; my thanks to all of the Club Members for a stress-free term, and to all of the Board members for your continual energy and source of new ideas. Collectively, you have made the year pass by quickly.

Dave LeGrow, President, e-mail dave.legrow@att.net

Club Manager's Message: Autumn is a great time to play at North Penn. The weather is usually nice and the playing area is comfortable. October features Club Appreciation games where you can earn extra points at no additional expense.



The board is considering a proposal to change the starting time of one of the afternoon games to 10 a.m. Let me know how you feel about that.

I've observed more and more people eating lunch while they play, especially non-finger foods. This often leads to spills and drips. I ask you to refrain from bringing 'wet' foods, and if you do please be careful and clean up after yourself.

The club is now recycling. A container for cans and bottles is located under the sink next to the ice and there's a box for paper near the coat racks.

I've fielded a few complaints recently about the overuse of fragrances and the under use of soap. The wearing of strong scents is annoying to some and may even cause an allergic reaction occasionally. Please be considerate of others when coming to the club.

Mitch Snyder, Club Manager, e-mail bridge4all@comcast.net

World Bridge Series Championship: During the World Bridge Series Championships in Philadelphia on October 1 through October 16, there will also be a Philadelphia Regional Tournament. The event is located at the Marriott, 1201 Market Street in Philadelphia. For more information, go to www.worldbridge.org. Hope to see you there!!

Sunshine: “Happy Birthday” to Jean Levito (10/11), Mary Ellen Roth (10/25), Sandy Sill (10/28), Mary Cusato (11/22), Helena Tucker (11/27), Adriana Pirvulescu (12/1), Fred Snyder (12/3), Arlene Lessack (12/17), Sue Bailey (12/25), Kathy Chalek (12/27), and Lois Kittredge (12/27)



Welcome **new members:** Bob Umfer, Bruce Lieberman, Robert Levin, Arnold Taren, Ruth Taren, Mary Tweedie, Dave Dodgson, Belinda Rose Anderson, Lynne Venters, Bruce Schwaidelson, and Rose-Marie Loughnane.

Albert J. Derr, a member of our bridge club, passed away recently. We want to extend our sympathies to Al's family.

Two of our club members, **Dennis McGuire and Adriana Pirvulescu**, moved to Chicago and Florida respectively. We will miss them and wish them well. We hope they will visit us whenever they are back in town.



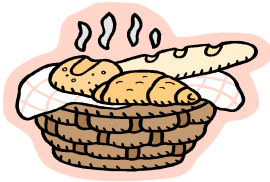
Member Achievements:

Ann Cheney	Junior Master	Lisa Collins	Junior Master
Jo Ferguson	Club Master	Virginia Woodbury	Club Master
Marsha Schwartz	Sectional Master	Mark Freeman	Sectional Master
Oleg Savinov	Sectional Master	Jordan Lessack	Regional Master
Marianne Breezer	Regional Master	Lynne Lipschutz	NABC Master
Vincent Coll	NABC Master	Preston Kuptsow	NABC Master
Elaine Rhoda	Life Master	Dan Osburn	Life Master
Cecilia Dupont	Bronze Life Master	Ed Ritvo	Bronze Life Master
Jim Watters	Bronze Life Master	Lois Kettredge	Silver Life Master



Contest Winners: Congratulations to Bob George and Sam Matlin. They both submitted equally convincing solutions about five hours apart finding a foolproof plan to the bridge hand printed in the June Newsletter. They agreed to split the \$20 cash prize 50/50.

Lou Primavera, Club Member



Holiday Parties: This year's holiday parties will be held on Tuesday, December 14 and Thursday, December 16. Please plan on bringing your favorite *homemade* dessert.

Tournament Highlights: How would you open this hand (AKQT, xxx, Qxx, Jxx)? My right hand opponent opened one diamond and then bid three hearts. My partner asked for an explanation and was told it indicated six diamonds and five hearts. The dummy had the Ace of diamonds. My partner had five diamonds with the king. So, my partner led a diamond figuring I was void. My right hand opponent had a heart tucked in with the diamonds. My partner was frustrated with the incorrect explanation. Even if I was void, I am trumping his winning king of diamonds!! *Submitted by Arnold Selig.*

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 and finishes around 11:15 a.m. The cost is \$10 or \$15 (plus special games fee) if you stay and play.

Friday Morning Game: There is a Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. for Novice/Intermediate (0-750 mps). The game is followed by a free lesson in the form of a post-mortem. Reservations are not required. Contact Mitch for more information.

Swiss Teams: There will be two Swiss Team games on Friday in October 1 (Club Appreciation Swiss) and Charity Swiss on October 22 at 7:30 p.m. Come as a team or pair (teammates guaranteed). Singles will be accommodated if possible.

Charity Games: Money has been given to the Montgomery S.P.C.A in July, Manna on Main Street in December, and the Ambler Food Cupboard in January.

At The Table: A recent hand from the North Penn Bridge Club.

S AK2
 H JT2
 D J874
 C AKQ

 S J9743
 H K87
 D KT93
 C 8



You declared 4S and the lead was a club in which you discarded 2 hearts from hand. Other leads would not have hurt. What's next...what suits and what card, etc.? For example, how do you play trumps, or how do you play diamonds, and in what order?

After discarding two hearts on high clubs, it should be time to deal with diamonds. If you started with A and K of trumps, entries would be a problem later, so let's say you play one round of trumps before taking the finesse in diamonds. You were lucky that you forced out the A from LHO. But wait, what cards did you play? You did not play the 3 from hand on the J of diamonds, did you? If you did, you just threw away a makeable 4S contract. East had singleton A of diamonds. After cashing the A of hearts, East played a spade to lock you on the table one last time. You could finesse only one more time for the Q of diamonds.

Look at all the cards and you know it is essential to play the 10 or 9 from hand under the J of diamonds from table for the first finesse. This unblocking technique is crucial. Another variation is to play 8 or 7 from table and 9 or 10 from hand. Because of the sequence of the cards, you could play 3 under the 8 or 7, too. The key is to keep a chance for possibly needed multiple finesses later which will require one lower card in the sequence from hand (or one higher card from table).

	S AK2	
	H JT2	
	D J874	
	C AKQ	
S T5		S Q86
H AQ65		H 943
D A		D Q652
C T97652		C J43
	S J9743	
	H K87	
	D KT93	
	C 8	



Little “trivia” like this makes a big difference. It is not easy to be careful in the heat of battle. Remember the pattern and you may benefit from it.

Albert Horng, Club Member

What do I Need to Know About Reverses? A reverse is a **strong, forcing** bid describing a **two-suited hand**. It is recognized by:

1. Lower-ranking suit bid before higher-ranking suit
2. Contrast with normal bidding sequence
3. Forces bidding a level higher than otherwise
4. Responder forced to three-level

Examples (these are Reverses):
 1♦ - 1♠ - 2♥ 1♥ - 2♣ - 2♠ 1♣ - 1♠ - 2♥
 1♠ - 2♦ - 3♣ 1♦ - 1NT - 2♥

All bids force partner to the 3-level in order to return opener to his first suit. But these are not

Reverses: 1♦ - 1♥ - 1♠ 1♥ - 2♣ - 2♦

They permit partner to return opener to his first suit at the 2-level.

When do I use a Reverse? You use a Reverse (bid) when you have a hand that exceeds the strength that would be expected of a minimum opening or responding hand, an unbalanced (two-suited) hand, and a hand where the lower-ranking suit is equal or (usually) greater in length than the higher-ranking suit.

What does a Reverse promise?

1. A minimum of five cards in the first suit bid
2. A minimum of four cards in the second suit bid
3. First suit is usually longer in length
4. A hand that is strongly invitational to game
5. (Generally) a concentration of honors in the suits bid

What do I need for a Reverse? As opener...

1. 5-4 distribution as described above
2. A minimum of 17 “working” HCP; enough to invite game versus minimum responder

As responder...

1. 5-4 distribution as described above
2. A minimum of 11 “working” HCP; enough to invite game versus minimum opener

As a responder, what do I do when my partner Reverses? Bid...do not pass your partner’s Reverse unless you (a) **severely** lied on your first bid, and (b) have a misfit, and (c) have more tolerance for your partner’s second suit.

If you reject the invitation for game (5-7 HCPs?)...

1. If you have four-card support for partner’s second suit, raise.
2. If you have a tolerance for partner’s first suit, return to that suit.
3. If you have a weak hand and a 6-card suit that you have bid once, rebid it at the lowest possible level.
4. If you have a stopper (or sufficient length) in the unbid suit, bid 2NT

If you accept the invitation for game (8+ HCPs?)...

1. If you have a clear preference for either of partner’s suits, and the minimum values for game, bid it.
2. If you have no fit for partner, but have solid stoppers in each of the other suits, bid 3NT.
3. If you have no particular preference for partner’s suits, a five-card suit you have already shown, and have general values for game, use Fourth Suit Forcing (if possible) to inquire about 3-card support from your partner.

If you elect to utilize the Lebensohl convention over Reverses, your bidding can be much more precise and less nerve-racking.

If you play 2/1, do reverses still mean the same thing? There are two basic versions of the 2/1 Game Forcing system. It is important to discuss with your partner which version you are playing.

1. In the Max Hardy version, apparent "Reverses" by opener after a 2/1 response indicate the shape of the hand only; they do not indicate additional strength (already in a Game-Forcing auction)
2. In the Mike Lawrence version, Reverses by opener after a 2/1 response indicate additional strength as in Standard American



Remember, in any system, a Reverse by responder is still forcing for one round.

I don’t play Reverses... is that okay? Everybody plays Reverses. It’s just that they don’t mean anything special in your system. This is very dangerous, because Reverses force your partner to a higher level than a non-Reverse bid. Without the indicated strength to make such a bid, your partnership can quickly go beyond any level of contract that can be made and without any real fit.

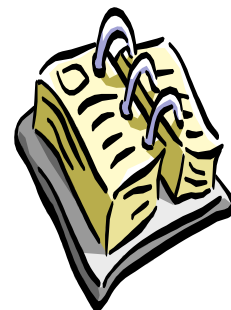
Dave LeGrow

Amusing anecdotes: A couple attended a concert recently. Said she, a bridge addict, “What’s that book the conductor keeps looking at?” “That’s the score,” answered her escort. Says she, “Oh. Who’s vulnerable?”

Do you know what the difference is between a mad psycho serial killer and a bridge partner? You can reason with the serial killer!



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)
Club Appreciation Swiss Charity (all games)	October 1 (Friday evening) – 5% GOLD October 18 to 22 (all games including Friday night Sw)
Club Appreciation Pairs Unit Wide	October 25 to 29 (all games) – Extra points and no extra fee November 16 (Tuesday evening) - Dave McAninly Pro-Am
Charity (all games) Charity Days	November 8 to 12 (all games including Friday Swiss) December 1, 2, 3, 20 and 21 including Dec. 3 Fri. Evening Swiss
STAC (Silver Week) Club Championships	December 6 to 10 (all games) December 13 to 17 (all games)
Holiday Parties	Tuesday and Thursday, December 14 and 16

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS
North Penn NAP District Finals

Flight A – October 23 and 24 – West End Youth Center, Allentown, Pa.
Flight C – October 23 – clubs

NAP National Finals

Orlando, Florida – November 25 to December 5
Additionally, 1st place finishers in each District flight receive \$700 and 2nd place finishers receive \$300 each to help defray costs.

