

THE NORTH PENN FINESSE

NORTH PENN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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President's Message: *(New Board makeup)* We welcome three new additions to the Board of Governors: Lisa Collins, John Dickenson, and Marlene Hino were elected, along with Steve Becker, who is returning. John has become our new Vice-President. Steve Becker continues as Treasurer, and Elaine Clair continues as Secretary. Elaine Watters remains as Newsletter Editor, and Mitch Snyder is once again our Club Manager in 2011.

(General Finances and Increase in Card Fees) The Club's finances took a noticeable hit last year. Our table counts for the year were down about 15%, lowering our revenues by about \$6000. We will be working actively on increasing table counts in 2011 and welcome your help and counsel. Although we suffered through a series of games lost to nasty winter weather and tiny games during the 16-day World Championships in Philadelphia, those were not the primary cause of the decrease, as attendance was down throughout the year. John Dickenson is spearheading an effort to develop a strategy to address this issue. In order to secure our current financial position we will be increasing card fees by \$1, effective April 1.

(Mentoring Program) The Mentoring program is underway. We have made thirteen pairings to date. Our thanks to those that have volunteered to mentor the advancing players. Note: we are still accepting Mentors, as we will have some snowbirds returning in the spring.

(Partnerships) We continue our policy of guaranteeing partners for our games and are extending it to all of the open games. We are actively working on a program that assists players in finding partners. Lisa Collins is in the process of developing a plan to address that need, and some of the required pieces are in place. We urge the Membership to come forward with suggestions and assistance in that effort.



I look forward to a fun, prosperous, and tranquil year ahead. But in the immortal words of Meat Loaf, "two out of three ain't bad." Enjoy the games.

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

Club Manager's Message: I'm happy to announce some enhancements to our schedule. We're adding more Swiss team games:

- There will be a second Swiss on Friday night every month. The first extra game is coming right up on Feb 4th.
- There are also plans to run a monthly Swiss on Tuesday evening, let me know how you feel about that. The first game would be in March or April.

Starting March 9, there will be a 0 to 500 game on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The game will feature pre-made boards and hand records every week. Dave Legrow will be the director.

The Wednesday afternoon game will have a non-playing director and therefore a partner guarantee. This will be effective in April.

I also want to say a few words about cell phone use. It's a distraction when a phone rings in the playing area, so please turn your phone off or put it in a silent ring mode during the game. It's a distraction *and it is rude* to use a cell phone in the playing area during a game, so if you must- please first remove yourself from the playing area. Thank you.



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

Member Achievements:

Russell McKinney	Junior Master	Lisa Collins	Club Master
Susan Bailey	Regional Master	Joyce Levin	Sectional Master
Dana Osburn	Life Master	Bill Goldman	Silver Life Master

Sunshine: Welcome to our four newest club members: Russ McKinney, Pat Tway, Mary Ann Resnik, and Tay Adams.



Birthday greetings to Ginny Woodbury (2/2), Elaine Watters (2/9), Marlene Hino (2/15), Carole Bishop (2/16), Ken Salter (2/22), Pat Bassman (2/23), Sally Ehinger (3/2), George Webber (3/3), Real Fradette (3/9), Nancy Fair (3/18), Patrick Drake (3/19), Tony Zacchei (3/31), Bob Lankin (4/5), Jim Watters (4/10), Barbara Mulhauser (4/18), Jordan Lessack (4/21), Carl Ginsberg (4/28), Joanne McLernon (5/4), Marianne Beezer (5/4), Nancy Larkin (5/12), Joan Bernstein (5/12), Bob Taylor (5/13), Mitch Snyder (5/18), Gay Simpson (5/23), Sam Yake (5/23), Peggy Butera (5/25).

Please e-mail your birthday to me for publication in the next newsletter.

Elaine Watters, Editor, ejwatters@verizon.net

Game Highlights: **Don't try this at home!** This is a true story from a game at North Penn. Dealer passed, and second seat held (spots approximate): void, J873, K7, AT97543. Second seat did not want to pass or open 3C, so he decided to open 1C and rebid them 1 or 2 times if necessary. How bad could it be? The auction proceeded something like:

Pass	1C	1S	D*
2S	3H**	3S	4H
Pass	Pass	4S	Pass
Pass	5H***	5S	6H??
Pass	Pass	D	Pass
Pass	Pass		



*negative, 4 hearts and maybe a diamond suit.

**the hand just got better, now it's worth a full opener.

***at equal vulnerability and with partner's pass over 4S, opener liked the offensive prospects better than the defensive.

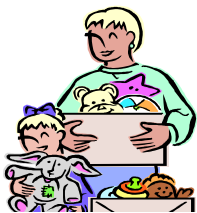
A spade was led and the dummy came down.

86532, K9652, void, KQ8

This story can only have a happy ending (for the declaring side) if the hearts are divided 2-2 and the Ace is in front of the King. Well, they were, and it was. Declarer took 4 hearts, 7 clubs and

a spade ruff. A 16-point slam made. It just goes to show you that it's not always about points. Sometimes it's about chutzpah and dumb luck!!!

Charity Games Update: Every month our club runs one week of Charity Games so we may earn extra points. More importantly, the extra dollar we pay as a table fee during those weeks is distributed to the designated charity. The ACBL requires us to donate to specific charities on an every-other month schedule. During the alternate months we are free to donate our proceeds to the benefit of a local charity.



We have contributed to worthy causes such as Manna on Main Street, Montgomery County SPCA, and Ambler Food Pantry in the past. As we set our charity game schedule for the upcoming year, if you have a suggestion for a local charity that would benefit from our donation, please let us know! Contact Lisa Collins at lisa.t.collins@gmail.com and she will fit your request into our schedule.

Novice/Intermediate Games: There is a Novice/Intermediate game (0 to 750 mps) every Friday at 10:00 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.

An additional Novice/Intermediate game (0 to 500 mps) every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. has been added beginning on March 9. The game features pre-dealt hands and hand records. Reservations are not required. Contact Dave Legrow for more information.

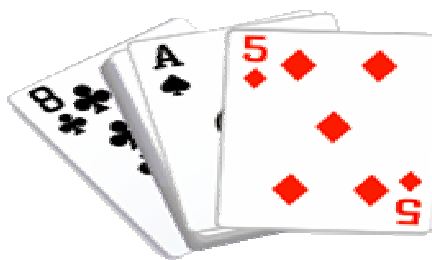
Swiss Teams: There are now *two* Friday evening Swiss Team games each month. Check the schedule for dates. Come as a team or pair (teammates guaranteed). Singles will be accommodated if possible.

At The Table: RHO dealt and passed, and I opened 1D. Opponents passed throughout. Pard bid 1S and I reversed with 2H. Pard came back with 4H. Of course, I checked keycards and found none. Hard to believe, but he could have good kings. I could not stop short of slam as Pard showed the fit in hearts. So, I bid 6H! The lead was the 10 of clubs. Pard's hand:

S KJT8
H Q84
D 7
C K6532

My hand:

S A7
H AKT5
D AQJ982
C Q



Pard was aggressive and this was match points, but his jumping to 4H was absolutely ridiculous. Because of my reverse, there was no reason for him to jump the gun. 3H or 2NT would have been more adequate. I did not guarantee 5-5 in my suits. I agree with some of you that 4H would be "fast arrival" and weaker than 3H. Still, you needed 4 pieces of hearts to do so. A reverse showing a powerful hand can have 5-4 in the suits, and 3NT could be the best contract. In fact, the best contract was 3NT. On a good day (or night), he would have had the K of diamonds instead of clubs.

It was a mess. What would you do after the 10 of clubs lead, winning by RHO's Ace and another club returned? Of course, you had to hope for the best. If failed, a bottom is a bottom is a bottom.

The best line of play: Win with the K of clubs, discarding a diamond from hand. Cash the A of spades and take a finesse in spades, succeeding, because for once the "Bridge God" was on your side. Take the K of spades, take the A of diamonds, and cross-ruff the rest. You get 3 spades, 1 diamond, 1 clubs, and 7 hearts from ruffing. Not bad for a 50% chance.

I did it the hard way!! After winning the K of clubs, I finessed the diamonds, still at 50%. Again, "Bridge God" was good. Because RHO had the K, I wanted to cash the Ace and then ruff a diamond. LHO RUFFED the A of diamonds! If not ruffed, it would have been easy to cross-ruff after cashing out the A and K of spades. Fortunately, LHO had 4 hearts. Ruff a club back and ruff a diamond. Play the last heart and drop the J. In the mean time, LHO would be squeezed in spades and clubs, although you had to finesse the spades. You wanted to go down in glory anyway. Don't forget to thank Pard for leading (or misleading) you into a beautiful slam! Personally I would rather not deal with a slam like this.

	S KJT8	
	H Q84	
	D 7	
	C K6532	
S Q532		S 964
H 9762		H J3
D 6		D KT543
C T974		C AJ8
	S A7	
	H AKT5	
	D AQJ982	
	C Q	



Bridge is fascinating. When you are desperate, find a way or ways to do the unthinkable. You never know what comes out. Before cross-ruffing, count the winners and cash them first. You needed a finesse for the 12th trick to land this slam. Luckily either finesse worked.

Albert Horng, Club Member

Managing Your Convention Card: Q: I have learned all of the Conventions that my opponents play, but I'm not getting good results? What's going on?

I'm sure you've noticed how demanding this game is on your memory, your focus, and your energy. Despite what your ego tells you, this is not a limitless reserve. During the course of a three-hour game, it is really necessary to be able to put your mind on "cruise control" at times. You need to have all of your focus for those hands where the bidding or play requires a little extra.

The rapid addition of a multitude of new Conventions has several effects, some of which are less obvious than others. Clearly, knowing new Conventions can render much more accurate

information during the bidding and (often) during the play, but they come at a very steep price. The concentration required during the bidding to quickly process the calls, to try to recognize those Alertable calls, and to provide on-demand explanations of the meaning of each, does not permit any opportunity for the player to relax during the session. And that leads to diminished resources for the times when difficult decisions need to be made. A sure sign that you're playing too much stuff is when you're not Alerting your partner's bids in a timely manner. Look at your current Convention Card. List each of your Alertable conventions, and decide in which category each falls. Be brutally honest with yourself.

Level 1: I know what the convention is by name, and can describe it to another before or after the game.

Level 2: I recognize the convention when my partner uses it, but often not until my right-hand opponent has called.

Level 3: I recognize the convention instantly when my partner uses it, but almost never use it myself.

Level 4: I recognize the opportunity to use the convention when I hold the proper cards and use it with about the same frequency as my partner or my opponents (when they play it).

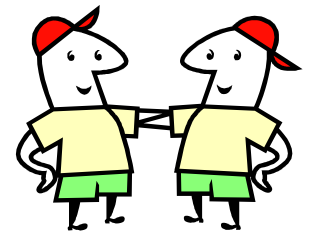
Level 5: I understand the convention and am able to use it effectively to make decisions that I would not be able to make without the convention.

Temporarily shed all of those conventions that fall in Levels 1, 2, and 3. Work on those in Level 4 until they are comfortably in Level 5. Do not add another new convention until you are truly comfortable with your existing set. And don't let your partners bully you into playing something with which you're not totally comfortable. You'll have a lot more energy and focus for those tough 3NT games and slams that your partner keeps throwing you into.

Dave Legrow, Club Member

Something to Think About: You know you're in trouble when the first thing the opponents want to do is draw trumps, and you're the declarer.

Learning she was going to have twins, the bridge playing wife said, "That's just like my husband...doubling me when I'm vulnerable."



Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

Weekly Games:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays – 12:00 noon

Tuesdays and Fridays – 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday evening – 7:00 p.m. (0 to 500 mps) Start 3/9

Friday - 10 a.m. (0 to 750 mps)

Charity Games

February 14 to 18 (all games including Friday evening Swiss)

Upgraded Club Championships

February 23 (Wed. afternoon, extra points-no extra fee)

ACBL Wide Senior Pairs

February 28 (Monday afternoon)

Charity Games	March 7 to 11 (all games including Fri. evening Swiss)
ACBL Wide Charity	March 15 (Tuesday evening)
Club Championships	March 18 (Friday morning and evening)
Club Championships	March 21 to 24 (all games)
Unit STAC, Silver points	April 4 to 8 (all games)
Charity Games	April 11 to 15 (Friday evening Swiss)
Charity Games	May 9 to 13 (all games except Wed. afternoon)
ACBL Wide Charity	May 11 (Wednesday afternoon) International Fund
Charity	May 18 (Wednesday afternoon)

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

Qualifying sessions begin in June and continue through August.

NAP NATIONAL FINALS

Louisville, KY – March 2011

