

THE NORTH PENN FINESSE

NORTH PENN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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President's Message: North Penn Duplicate Bridge center begins 2012 on a strong footing. Our table counts for our Open games grew in 2011 over 2010, reversing two straight years of decline. Our total table counts for both Open and Limited games were up 8.7% year on year; 75% of the growth was in the Limited games, showing how important new and advancing duplicate players are to our success. It is our hope that players in the Limited games will begin to support our Open games as their skills progress and/or they are able to play in the daytime.

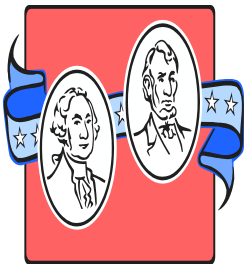
Financially we are on solid ground and have begun to build a capital fund to support a move to a larger playing area (should a suitable and affordable place be found) and further enhancements to the playing experience like the recent additions of Bridgemates and the large LCD monitor.

Craig Robinson has joined the Board with his vast experience coming from visiting "100 clubs in 100 days" - your board is keen to apply his knowledge to make NPDBC a great place to play. Name tags, birthday postings at the club, "Eight is Enough" - we are going to try a lot of things to make our club a friendly and fun place to play bridge.

John Dickenson, President, e-mail dickenjb@gmail.com

Club Manager's Message: Due to the lack of snow so far this winter, the ski industry is having a *ruff* season but we bridge players are finding that it *suits* us!!

It seems to me that there have been quite a few new players at the club the last few months. Welcome, *and if you're not reading this on your computer, notebook, or smart phone, let me know and I'll put you on the mailing list.*



The initiative for "free plays for first-time players" that we tried for a week last December was so overwhelmingly received by both regulars and new players that it has been extended forever. New players do not have to play with a member for this free play.

The Wednesday evening game's masterpoint limit is raised to 750. So if you have 500-750 masterpoints, you are now welcome at this game.

Starting in March, there will be a monthly 'Eight is Enough' Swiss Teams on Wednesday afternoons. *In an "Eight is Enough Swiss Teams," each team consists of four players whose total value does not exceed 8. Determined by masterpoints, an 'A' player has a value of 3, a 'B'*

player 2 and a 'C' player 1. A team could consist of 2 'A's and 2 'C's or 1 'A', 2 'B's and 1 'C', for example. The players on a team, can form any partnerships desired, and can change partnerships between matches.

And lastly, the King of Prussia Regional is coming up at the end of February. Since it's so close and most of us play there at least for a day or two, we have cancelled all but the Monday & Thursday afternoon games during the tournament.

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

Member Achievements:

Lou Primavera	Junior Master	Mark Freeman	Regional Master
Arthur Coddington	Regional Master	Anita Smith	Regional Master
Nancy Fair	Regional Master	Susie O'Neil	Regional Master
David Hallman	Regional Masters	Max Lieberman	Sectional Master
Lois Schwalb	Sectional Master	Evelyn Wolf	NABC Master
Pat Hurn	NABC Master	Norm Garfield	Life Master
Binyamin Feibush	Life & Bronze Master	Gary Hillenbrand	Bronze Life Master
Dot Ehling	Silver Life Master	Karen Xia	Silver Life Master
Sandra Sill	Silver Life Master	Herb Chalek	Silver Life Master

Congratulations to Karen Xia and Samuel Yake for winning the District 4 North American Pairs, Flight B tournament.

Congratulations to the 2011 Club Masterpoint Champions:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Player Rank</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
Mitchell Snyder	"Unlimited MP"	115.50
John Dickenson	"0 to 1,500 MP"	103.22
Elaine Watters	"0 to 500 MP"	42.86



Sunshine: We wish a speedy recovery to Jim Allen who is recuperating from recent surgery. Hope to see him back at the club very soon.

Welcome to our newest club members: Judy Horrocks, Val Jakubowitch, Dave Silberman, Jay Berke, Jack Willgruber, Kathy Daddario, Diane and Jim Carpenter, Jo Rich, and Dave Walker.

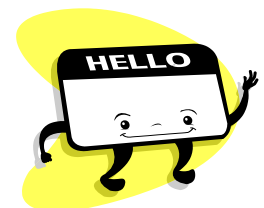


Birthday greetings to Ginny Woodbury (2/2), Nancy Parke (2/5), Elaine Watters (2/9), Carole Bishop (2/16), Pat Bassman (2/23), Marlene Hino (2/25), Sally Ehinger (3/2), George Webber (3/3), Real Fradette (3/9), Nancy Fair (3/18), Patrick Drake (3/19), Tony Zacchei (3/31), Bob Lankin (4/5), Jim Watters (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

If you are interested in having your own permanent name badge (engraved on metal fastened with a magnet), please contact Elaine Watters



(ejwatters@verizon.net). We will need 25 people to place an order. The cost would be approximately \$10 each.

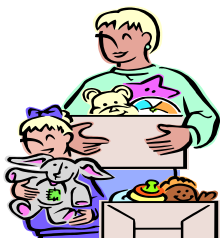
Miscellaneous: Thank you to Lisa Collins for recently preparing “goodie bags” and handing them out to a group of bridge players in Harleysville. The “goodie bag” included information about our club, candy, and a “free play” in February to our Wednesday noon game. Expect a large crowd this month!!

NP Medical Files: From the North Penn Medical Files: “*Remedy for Score Bottoms*”

Have you ever held a hand like AK76, J53, 42, KJ83 and doubled a 1H opening bid only to have partner bid 2D leading to a poor result?...Or, maybe you held KT7532, Q6, A5, T54 and overcalled 1S, rebid 2S, and then competed to 3S to earn your bottom? Try a pass card. These little items are inexpensive, available in the front of all bidding boxes, and are a great alternative to the more costly items at the back of the box. They also make great gifts!!!!



Tournament Highlights: A amusing development occurred recently at the bridge table involving club members Herb and Kathy Chalek - After Kathy’s opening bid of 1H, Kathy’s left-hand opponent cue bid 2H indicating a 5-card spade suit and a 5-card minor suit. Kathy’s partner, Herb, was sitting there with a 7-card spade suit and could not bid!! Kathy’s right-hand opponent bid 2NT asking her partner to identify her minor suit. The opponents ended up in 3 clubs. Herb knew they had been fixed when he led a spade hoping to find Kathy’s void. It turned out that the dummy had two spades, Kathy followed suit, and declarer trumped!! Unfortunately, Kathy and Herb missed the cold four-spade game in the Swiss Teams event and lost the match. Kathy’s left-hand opponent meant to pull the 2NT bidding card....not the 2H bidding card!!!



Charity Games Update: We are pleased to report that the North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club donated \$200 to Community Housing Services in Lansdale. If you have suggestions for donations to other organizations, please contact Lisa Collins at lisa.t.collins@gmail.com.

Bridge Class: “Beyond the Basics” is a five-class Monday evening class beginning March 5. This class is full, but more classes are planned for this summer and fall. Check the North Penn website for details when they become available.

Novice/Intermediate Games: Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. and Friday, 10:00 a.m. - Both games are for players with 0 to 750 mps and reservations are not required.

The Wednesday game features pre-dealt hands and hand records. Contact Dave Legrow (dave.legrow@att.net) for more information.

The Friday morning game is followed by a free lesson in the form of a post-mortem. Contact Mitch Snyder (bridge4all@comcast.net) for more information.

Winter/Spring Swiss Teams Schedule: Friday nights starting at 7:30 p.m.:

February 17 and 24 March 9 and 23
April 27 May 11 and 25

Come as a team or pair (teammates guaranteed). Singles will be accommodated if possible.

Wednesday Afternoon Game:

NEWNEW**NEW**NEW**NEW**NEW**NEW**NEW**NEW**

"Eight is Enough" Swiss Teams

NEWNEW**NEW**NEW**NEW**NEW**NEW**NEW**NEW**

Wednesdays @ High Noon

March 21 April 11 May 9

For a description of "Eight is Enough" Swiss Teams, see the Club Manager's Message

At The Table: A hand played at NPBC. As South you had S Q972, H Q, D KT865, C 753.

Bidding:	South	West	North	East
	P	1H	P	1S
	P	3C	P	3D
	Dbl	4NT	P	5D*
	P	6H	P	P
	P			

The bidding was not scientific. 5D showed an A. Pard led 3D. This was the dummy:

S AT85
H 4
D QJ72
C KJT9



What would you do when declarer led the Q of diamonds from the dummy? You may not have doubled the 3D, but that is what happened.

Before I show you the whole deal, I want to make something clear. I have never mentioned names of who made a blunder or botched a play or more. I have praised good plays and or players. Who am I to criticize others for their mistakes? I have played some stupid, even brain-dead, bridge, especially when I did not have a good night sleep due to knee pain or stressed out from work (Excuses!). When you know you were involved in my discussions, please understand that they are for educational purpose to benefit others.

This hand is a good textbook on one principle: It is almost always right to cover the lower of the touching cards. When the K was played on the first trick, the declarer was handed a gift slam.

S 643
H T753
D 943
C Q62

S KJ
H AKJ9862

S AT85
H 4



D A
C A84

D QJ72
C KJT9

S Q972
H Q
D KT865
C 753

A club loser disappeared, taking away guessing for a two-way finesse. You never know, but chances are that he would assume the doubler had high cards.

There were some fundamentally wrong biddings and plays by seasoned players. When declarer jumped shift showing a strong two suitors, at least implying, would you want to double his Pard's 3D response to possibly lead-direct? I would not think they would play NT. This is up to everybody to discuss. I am not saying it was wrong. Just a thought, what happened if they redoubled? Giving up a less than 50-50 slam, it could have been a big profit for them (they would make a redoubled game with one overtrick). On the other hand, would you go slam with a semi-sold suit without Pard's support?

Declarer is a decent player. Why he played the Q of diamonds from table on the first trick was a mystery. RHO doubled 3D and should have the K. Ruffing finesse later could assure of taking care of a club loser.

The lesson is to cover the second or last of a touching sequence, especially if you had KTx behind QJ.

Albert Horng, Club Member

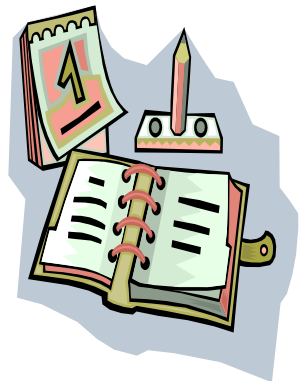
Pause to Smile: Heard at the bridge table, "We had a partnership misunderstanding. My partner assumed I knew what I was doing!"



SPECIAL GAMES

Subject to change

Feb. 10 (Fri morn & eve)	No games (Glenside Sectional)
Feb. 13-17 (All games)	Charity (Fri. evening Swiss)
Feb. 16 (Thurs. afternoon)	Unit-Wide (hand records)



February 27 – March 2

Valley Forge Regional

Regular games Monday & Thursday afternoons

Other games cancelled

March 5 (Mon aft)	ACBL Wide Senior Pairs (<i>hand records & analysis</i>)
March 6-9 & 12 (All games)	Charity (Friday evening Swiss)
March 14 (Wed. aft.)	Unit-Wide (hand records)
March 21 (Wed. aft.)	"8 is Enough" Swiss Teams
March 21 (Wed. eve.)	ACBL Wide Charity (<i>hand records & analysis</i>)

Mar. 19-23 (except Wed. eve.)	Club Championships (Friday evening Swiss)
March 28 (Wed. eve.)	Club Championship
April 11 (Wed. aft.)	'8 is enough' Swiss Teams
April 13 (Fri. morn. & eve.)	No games (Glenside Sectional)
April 16-20 (All games)	STAC (silver points)
April 23-27 (All games)	Charity (Friday evening Swiss)
May 3 (Thursday aft.)	Charity
May 7-11 (except Thus aft.)	Charity (Wednesday aft. & Friday evening Swiss)
May 9 (Wed. aft.)	'8 is enough' Swiss Teams
May 10 (Thurs. aft.)	ACBL Wide International Fund (<i>hand records & analysis</i>)
May 25	Friday evening Swiss
May 30 (Wed. aft.)	Unit-wide (hand records)

NAP NATIONAL FINALS
Memphis, TN – March 2012



“A Relaxing Monday Afternoon in January”

