



THE NORTH PENN FINESSE

NORTH PENN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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President's Message: As we get into 2015, the North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club is doing very well. Even though many of our regulars have headed to warmer parts, we are still holding our own.

Congratulations to Elaine Watters, our newsletter editor, and to Craig Robinson, our treasurer, for being re-elected this past December to three-year terms on the board.

We've increased our membership by about another ten percent. We've managed to keep our membership and game prices the same while other clubs have had to increase their prices.

We added a Sunday game which currently starts at 1:00 p.m. It does not compete with local Sectional and Regional tournaments, however. We're pleased with the results of the game so far.

John Dickenson has taken over the education division of our game. He will be presenting his program to the board this month. Watch for more information about this.

Mitch Snyder's Supervised Play is doing very well. A lot of players have come every second and fourth Monday at 9:45 to go over bidding, play and defense problems from hands played during the previous week.

Our treasurer reports that we are doing fine, and that even our soda and water sales are breaking records.

I hope you all have good bridge and good health in 2015.

Bob Umfer, President, e-mail rumfer@gmail.com

Club Manager's Message: New to North Penn is the use of duplicated boards in Swiss Teams events. We hope the players find value in the availability of hand records, and that having all teams play the same hands levels the playing field.

Also new is our Sunday game, which has run three times now. Thanks to those who have been supporting this game. The Swiss Teams games continue to be well-attended.

I occasionally receive comments about the nature of the hands distributed by The Common Game. I will agree than many of them are far from mundane. For any interested parties, their



website has a statistical analysis which indicates the hands do not deviate from what would be expected for a random deal. I also direct at a shuffle and deal club, and I see wild distributions there as well.

The calendar on the website has been expanded to include the current month and the upcoming month. In the upper left corner of the calendar is a toggle between the two months, and in the upper right corner a return to the home page. Whenever possible, we will keep the I/N Swiss on the first Tuesday and third Friday of the month, and the "8 Is Enough Swiss" on the second Wednesday, and the Friday evening open Swiss on the third Friday.

As always, your feedback is valuable to us, so continue to express your ideas and feelings to board members (and other players as well).

Larry Umphlet, Club Manager, e-mail ichor0@verizon.net

Pause to Smile: I once did a "Lightner Double" and my partner went into a huddle. He found the wrong lead so the slam did succeed, and a bottom I got for my trouble.

Unit #141 News: The North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club is pleased to announce that four of our members have been appointed to the Unit #141 Board of Directors. John Dickenson (Vice-President), Susan Bailey (Secretary), Dave LeGrow, and Craig Robingson (not pictured). The Philadelphia Contract Bridge Association (PCBA) is Unit 141 within District 4 of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). Congratulations to John, Sue, Dave, and Craig.



Masterpoint Milestones:

Kathleen Burns	Junior Master	Diane Raab	Junior Master
Elaine Marino	Junior Master	Susan Morse	Junior Master
Mary Fehnel	Club Master	Ed Hino	Club Master
Richard Godshall	Club Master	Jean Hassler	Club Master
Jo Rich	Club Master	John Early	Club Master
Mary Tweedie	Regional Master	Marilyn Cohen	Regional Master
Maribeth Fryman	Regional Master	Marshal Friedenberg	Regional Master
Joan Regenbogen	Regional Master	Barbara Konover	Regional Master
Richard Wells	Regional Master	Gail Howard	NABC Master
Carl Ginsberg	NABC Master	Arlene Rosen	Life Master
Evelyn Wolf	Life Master/Bronze Life	Dan Osburn	Silver Life Master
Dickenson	Gold Life Master	Arnold Selig	John Emerald Life Master

District 4 North American Pairs Place Finishers: John Dickenson and Tom Kriz placed 1st and Arnold Kritz and Gary Hillenbrand placed 4th in the Flight B tournament. Congratulations to all of you. They have earned spots at the National NAP competition as well as cash compensation to cover travel costs to this year's Spring Nationals in New Orleans in March.

Congratulations to the 2014 North Penn Club Masterpoint Champions:



Elaine Clair
"Unlimited MP" 107.34 pts.



Bucky Sydnor
"0 to 1,500 MP" 64.69 points



Susan Bailey
"0 to 500 MP" 58.82 points

Barry Crane 500 Winner Craig Robinson (3rd place)

Mini-McKenney Winners

50 to 100 MP	Maryland Wanck (4th place)
1000 to 2500 MP	John Dickenson (3rd place)
2500 to 5000 MP	Elaine Clair (2nd place) and Doug Dye (4th place)
5000 to 7500 MP	Arnold Selig (4th place)
Over 10,000 MP	Craig Robinson (1st place)



Helen Shanbrom "Ace of Clubs" Winners

100 to 200 MP	Helen Walker (1st place) and Sandy Tilney (2nd place)
200 to 300 MP	David Silberman (5th place) and David Hallman (6th place)
500 to 1000 MP	Edward Ritvo (3rd place)
1000 to 2500 MP	Robert Umfer (2nd place)
2500 to 5000 MP	Elaine Clair (1st place)
5000 to 7500 MP	Arnold Selig (1st place) and Rose Marie Loughnane (4th place)
Over 10,000 MP	Craig Robinson (1st place)

Sunshine: A big "thank you" to Susan Bailey and her helpers for decorating the club for the holidays.

Birthday greetings go to all of you who are celebrating in February, March, April, and May. The list is too long to publish here in the newsletter. So, check out the bulletin board at the club and wish your friends a "Happy Birthday."

Sam Matlin, a long time bridge club member, passed away last November 27. Sam was a highly respected bridge teacher in the North Penn community and will be sincerely missed. The North Penn Bridge Club expresses our deepest sympathies to his wife Dahlia and family.

Please welcome our **newest members**: Steve Gewirtzman, David Chinn, Rande Braslow, Diane Raab, Allen Flicker, James O'Brien, Bruce Anderson, Hollis Rosenthal, Russell Buxton, Diane Carroll, Dave Cohan, Brendan Doyle, Stephanie Fine, Barry Goldstein, Carol Greenberg, Elizabeth Grenold, Ferne Kleban, Janice Kownacki, Anita Lebow, Louis Lowry, Susan Morse, Suzanne Moses, Linda Platt, Alison Shoemaker, Bill Schwarzman, Steve Serota, Harriet Stuart, Davin Walker, Carole Witty, Ed Matzkin, and Nancy Chestek.

Charity Games Update: We are pleased to report that the North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club supported Manna on Main Street in December and the ACBL Junior Fund in January.

At the Table #1: There was an interesting hand at the NPBC game Tuesday night, December 23, 2014. I could be wrong, but declarers had help from defenders to make 4S contract. See if you can find the way to do it on your own. Directions are rotated for convenience.



Bob Umfer presenting our second charity check in 2014 to Kristyn DiDominick from Manna on Main Street.

	S 7	
	H A932	
	D QJ62	
	C T854	
S 9432		S 86
H 84		H KQJT7
D A984		D KT3
C 972		C K63
	S AKQJT5	
	H 65	
	D 75	
	C AQJ	



Non vs Non. You dealt and ended up in 4S after the bidding:

South	West	North	East
1S	P	1NT	2H
4S	P	P	P

Cover E-W to make it more fun. The opening lead is the 8 of hearts. West has the A of diamonds and East has the rest of the honors. If the lead was a club, there would be no story. I had a cold and did not play that night. (Mitch told me about the hand later). I am almost certain I could not make 4S without some help in the heat of battle. But, sometimes, you just play along. Who knows, something may click at some point. Per our discussion, Ken S. figured out to cash 6 trumps after ducking a heart, winning the continuation, and finessing successfully in clubs, squeezing East and throwing him in at the end, with 4-card holding

	S -	
	H -	
	D QJ6	
	C T	
S -		S -
H -		H K
D A98		D K
C 9		C K6
	S -	
	H -	
	D 75	
	C AQ	



East could only get two more tricks. However, Tom S.'s concern about West's opening lead being a singleton heart is legit. Ducking the opening lead could be very dangerous. Therefore, the best solution is to take the opening lead with the A, finesse in the clubs, then play 6 trumps, leaving the last 5-card holdings below with East yet to discard. He is hopeless.

	S -	
	H 9	
	D QJ6	
	C T	
S -		S -
H 6		H KQ
D A98		D KT
C 9		C K6
	S -	
	H 6	
	D 75	
	C AQ	



Sometimes, we miss the really interesting part of a hand with ordinary scoring results.

Albert Horng, Club Member

Special Games: March is STaC month. All games March 22 through March 29 will have a silver point rating. The Charity Game schedule is posted monthly on the website. There will be a sectional at Bala Golf Club on February 6, 7, and 8 and no Sunday game on February 8 at our club.

History of Bridge: Bridge was derived from Russian Whist which was also called Biritch meaning "announcer" - players "announce or herald" their auction. Books on Whist date back to the mid 1700s, and the first book was written by none other than Edmond Hoyle, entitled Short Treatise. Eventually, the French began using ordinary stencils, which could be cheaply produced. The cost-effective French cards were widely used in England and the United States. For some time, the designations on the "face cards" varied, but when the French accepted Napoleon as their leader, they reinstated the notion of the King and Queen. However, Napoleon didn't care for their medieval look, believing they should be "archaeologically correct." So an artist was assigned to design authentic costumes on the cards. But Napoleon's cards weren't liked by the masses so the medieval cards resurfaced.

In 1857, the English began playing Whist in a "duplicate" method to eliminate most of the luck associated with the deal of the cards. In 1883, American's began playing inner-club matches. In 1891, a duplicate tray was invented, used to hold the cards separately so players could replay the identical cards. The idea was to eliminate chance and provide a true test of skill. The boards were originally called the Kalamazoo tray.

Early accounts indicate that in 1903 some of the British civil servants stationed in India created a method of bidding the trump suit coining it "auction bridge." However, other accounts date auction bridge back to 1894 with Turkish or Russian origin from Plevna during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878.



By 1893 Bridge was introduced in New York using formal rules. Then in 1925, the American multi-millionaire Harold Vanderbilt, introduced exciting scoring bonuses in Bridge (while on a cruise ship). With this change, auction Bridge became known as "contract bridge."

North Penn Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors: (left to right) Susan Bailey, Elaine Claire, Marlene Hino, Larry Umphlet, Elaine Watters, Bob Umfer, Dave LeGrow, and Real Fradette (not shown are Maryland Wanck and Craig Robinson).



Club members Barbara Grossman and Sally Basch standing in front of our holiday decorations.



Kathy Burns, Mary Tweedie, Nancy Parke, Judy Horrocks, and Sue Bailey in front of our holiday decorations.

