

Poetry for the Bridge-Minded

In Omaha we are extremely fortunate to have a couple of good local Bridge Clubs when the people are terrific and sometimes the cards are too! We often have a Mentor Program in progress so quite often the partnerships are such as we might have seen in the old Master/NonMaster days. (I hope I'm not the only one who remembers those games!)

Our Unit (241) sponsors this Mentor Program which involves several random Mentor/Mentee playing dates. These pairs play together about 5-10 times so we will often have such pairs playing in our stratified games.

On Mondays when I play I look forward to playing at Table 10 because of the two regulars who play there. One is Ron Fingerson, our local poet, who usually has his latest offering waiting for me to read. One day he "stepped out" (according to him) and bid a vulnerable 4S on KQxxxx x Axxx xxx after his RHO had opened 4H in third position. He was pleasantly surprised to catch his passed hand partner with enough to make the 4S game. Soon after he treated me to the following:

TWITTERPATED

One preempt deserves another,

a sister or a brother:

four hearts begets four spades;
five clubs begets five diamonds;

roundy-tops begetpointy-tops;
pointy-tops pierce,lance, stab, incise;
roundy-top shriek, gasp, wail, howl—

accept it, duplicate is a cruel, brutal
calculating, spiteful, malicious game—

and, I love every second, minute
hour, day, week month, year of it. RONF (his identity)

As you can see our club is not without fun. Recently he shared the following with me:

ERR

Err is grr

pushing rookie into game when
he or she likely would have
felt satisfied with a partscore.

Err is grr

doubling guru's slam contract
holding insufficient trump
strength and an ace in his void suit.

Err is grr

losing focus, forgetting to count
cards played: one two three four
five six seven eight nine ten
eleven twelve thirteen.

Err is grr

pulling the wrong card, playing
too quickly, forfeiting a sure trick
going set, vulnerable.

Err is grr

Double grr, triple grr
Quadruple grr, quintuple grr.

And this one:

E PLURIBUS UNUM

A traveler from a far away board

Traversed the room in a roundabout way
Zigzagging between the tables, and arrived
At last, penciled and penned, folded, caressed,
And spent, only to be, finally keyed, copied,
Clipped with her peers and hung on the wall
Forgotten.

Marilyn Hemenway

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