

KIBITZER ♣♦♥♠

Louisiana Bridge Association April 2021

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President's Message April 2021

Spring is the time of plans and projects" by Leo Tolstoy

I feel this is a great way to open my letter this month. I feel as though this is where we are with the Covid Pandemic.

We are starting to make plans and decisions on reopening our club. Our committee will be reaching out to all members with a survey. Please watch in the next month or so for the survey. All responses and suggestions will be discussed and appreciated.

I am excited that we could be playing bridge with our friends **SOON**.

Carolyn Dubois

NEW MEMBERS

Matti Hietalahti
Aldridge Haile

Coming Events

April 10 - 10:30 Pro Am
Mentoring Game
April 12-18 - Charity Week
April 22-25 - Stay @home,
Play@home
Regional-
Gold and Red Points

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Sherrie's Virtual Club News

All the blooming trees and azaleas remind us of hope after the dreary winter and year we've had. Our Stardust III week added many gold points to our members coffers. ACBL keeps giving us these fun events to look forward to.

Saturday, April 10 at 10:30 will be our monthly Pro Am Mentoring game. By now, many of you have developed a relationship with another member, congratulations. If not, this is your chance to work together and play together to help develop newer players with our more experienced players' knowledge. If you have not found your pairing that works for you, keep trying.

This past month we were able to contribute to the Alzheimer's Fund through our "8 is Enough" Game on Sunday, March 28. This month we will be contributing to the ACBL Charity Fund through our play on April 12-18. The games cost an extra \$1 but the rewards are not only double black points, but you are also contributing to charity. A win-win in my book.

April 22-28 will be another Regional "Stay@Home, Play@Home" will have many events in which you can earn Gold & Red Master Points. I will post the schedule on our homepage as soon as it is released.

I am sure you have all noticed the huge bar in the center of the screen when playing. This is a new feature that BBO is fine-tuning as we speak. It will give you the ability to speak with and see the people at your table. There is a lot more to come for the long, hot summer

See you at the virtual table!

For the I/N Crowd – Opening Leads #2 - More Leads Against No Trump

Three factors (our hand, the auction, partner’s bids) influence our choice of opening lead.

1NT Pass 3NT All pass You are on lead against 3NT with this hand:

S A432 H KJ95 D KJ5 C Q9

In last month’s column I suggested when holding two, four card suits that you lead the suit that does not contain a quick entry. But, let’s do a little thinking before blindly following a rule. The opponents are in a game contract and should have 25-26 points. You have 14 points. How many does that leave for partner? Right, partner may have a Jack somewhere or no high card points at all. In this case, you should make a safe lead that will not give up a trick. Lead the 2S. Every time you gain the lead, try to exit with a spade. Leading any other suit will likely give up a trick. And you may well set up a long spade before the hand is over. This time the auction and your hand determined what you should lead.

LHO Partner RHO You You are on lead against 2NT with this hand:
1H 1S 2NT All pass

S AQT H T532 D 982 C 854

Based on the auction, where do you think the KS is located? Declarer’s hand. If that is the case, partner’s spade suit is not very robust. So partner likely has high cards in his side suits. Should you try to find one of his entries so he can lead spades through the declarer? If you use up partner’s entries to lead spades through the declarer, he may have no entry left to cash his good spades. Lead the AS and then the QS. You may give up a trick with this lead, but you will gain a tempo. Partner will have an entry to cash the small spades that have been established. Partner’s bid was the most important factor in determining your lead on this hand. You would never lead the AS and the QS without partner’s 1S bid.

LHO Partner RHO You You are on lead against 3NT with this hand:
Pass 1C 1NT Pass S T43 H QT98 D 643 C JT4
3NT All pass

Some players may disregard partner’s 1C bid since some of the time it is only three cards. According to Easley Blackwood, in his book The Complete Book of Opening Leads, a 1C opening bid is made with 3 cards only 17% of the time. That means that 83% of the time partner has 4 or more clubs. I like those odds. I’m leading the JC. Once again, partner’s bid was the deciding factor in determining the lead on this hand. Without that bid, you would lead the TH.

Remember to take all three factors (your hand, partner’s calls and the auction) into account before selecting your opening lead. Think about the hand as a whole before you touch a card. **SUE HIMEL**

DOUBLE GRAND COUP By: Arnaldo Partesotti

Last month we saw an elegant Trump Coup which allowed Declarer to capture a supposedly uncapturable trump in the opponent’s hand. This month we are doubling down with the Double Grand Coup. It consists of eliminating two trumps in Declarer’s hand to shorten it to the same length as the opponent holding a trump, which could have been captured with a direct finesse if a trump could have been led.

<p>West V</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ 3 ♥ K976 ♦ AKT5 ♣ 7632 	<p>North V</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ K2 ♥ AQT5 ♦ J72 ♣ AQT9 	<p>East V</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ Q976 ♥ 432 ♦ Q96 ♣ 854
<p>South VD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ AJT854 ♥ J8 ♦ 843 ♣ KJ 		

The hand, that came from one of the best Italian bridge books by Adolfo Giannuzzi, was played at four tables. The players were all experts, but only one made the contract, thanks to the Double Grand Coup. There is no record of the bidding. We can assume that South opened 1S or 2S and North eventually bid 4S. West led the King of Diamonds and continued with the Ace and a small Diamond to the Queen. At this point, it looks like East should win one more trick with the Queen of Spades. He returned the Spade 6, won by declarer with the Spade 10 in hand. The play of the Spade 4 to dummy’s King revealed the bad trump split when West discarded the Club 2. At this point, the contract can no longer be made unless declarer can achieve a Double Coup by getting rid of two “excessive” trumps in his hand, and eliminating all the lateral suits, reducing his hand to the Spade AJ over East’s Q9.

Declarer therefore plays a Club winner, a second Club winner overtaken in dummy, ruffs a club winner, reenters dummy with a Heart finesse with the Heart Queen (or the Heart Ace if West plays the King), ruffs the last Club winner (Double Grand Coup), reenters dummy with the Heart Ace and East is forced to ruff with his supposedly uncapturable trumps.

At the three other tables the Declarers did not plan in advance for the Trump Coup, instead discarded a Heart on the third Club in Dummy, afraid that the Heart finesse would not work, and therefore depriving themselves of one of the entries to Dummy necessary to execute the Coup.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH

If Conan Doyle were writing up this month's hand as a Sherlock Holmes mystery, he could legitimately title the story "The Case of the Disappearing Defensive Trick." The story arises from hand #13 from the club game of October 16, 2018.

N Deals	
E/W Vul	
N	
♠ 72	
♥ 3	
♦ J854	
♣ AJ10832	
W	E
♠ QJ10953	♠ 6
♥ 2	♥ AKQ10754
♦ KQ32	♦ 96
♣ 96	♣ K74
S	
♠ AK84	
♥ J986	
♦ A107	
♣ Q5	

At our table, North passed followed by P-1H-Dbl-1S-3C-3H-Dbl-P-P-P. South led the spade Ace and switched to the club Queen, which North overtook and led the trump 3. East, the declarer, took two rounds of hearts, only to learn that the suit did not break. It appeared that East had five unavoidable losers, i.e., one spade, one heart, one diamond and two clubs. Declarer had to either concede down one or play a card; he led a diamond toward dummy's KQ32, which South was forced to duck in order to deny declarer two later diamond tricks. Declarer led West's remaining club to East's King, thereby depriving South of a safe club exit card. Declarer led East's second diamond, this time forcing South to take the Ace in order to deprive declarer of an immediate second diamond trick. South exited with the spade King, only to be disappointed when East ruffed. East continued by cashing the high remaining trump and throwing South back into the lead with the heart Jack, the defense's delayed but final fourth trick. And there sat South, with two little spades and one little diamond, while declarer held all trumps plus one losing club. Poor South, perplexed, frustrated and scratching his head at the unfairness of the cruel bridge world, had to lead a losing card to dummy's spade or diamond winner, thereby allowing declarer to discard East's remaining losing club. East claimed making 3H doubled. The table was left with one happy declarer and one unhappy defender. In the

interest of transparency, I must confess the declarer did not recognize the strip and endplay possibilities available with the required careful play of this hand. South, the defender, ended up with the thrill of victory.

Swiss Q & A

- Q: **HOW IS SWISS DIFFERENT FROM PAIRS?** Swiss is a 4-person team playing against another 4-person team.
- Q: **HOW DO I FIND SWISS TEAMMATES?** First, find a partner. Second, find another pair. That's it. If you cannot find a partner or pair, text Lil (504 330 1158) or Jack (504-201-3348).
- Q: **DO I NEED TO PREREGISTER FOR SWISS?** Not required, but a text before the game would help the director (Lil, 504 330 1158 or Jack, 504-201-3348) know who not to ask. However, if you decide you want to play and have not preregistered, PLAY ANYWAY. We would love to have you.
- Q: **WHEN IS SWISS?** Sundays at 1:45 for teams with all members under 2000 points, Sundays at 2:00 for teams with member(s) over 2000. A once per month Thursday 7:15 open Swiss is in the works, stay tuned.
- Q: **WHO CAN PLAY SWISS?** Anyone. Invite your friends! If someone is not a member of our club, let the director know and the director will add them. The director of Swiss, typically Lil or Jack from New Orleans, is VACB221739.
- Q: **HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR SWISS?** For members of our club, sign up with your partner in the usual way (VIRTUAL CLUBS, NORTH AMERICA, then one of you invites the other one). Have your teammates do the same. Then one member of the team, any member, invites the other pair (SELECT TEAMMATES, INVITE). If you are a FRIEND of our club and want to play, DO NOT GO TO VIRTUAL CLUBS. Instead, go to COMPETITIVE, ALL TOURNAMENTS, look for the LBA game or type 221739 in the search line at the top of the page. Then invite your partner. Then invite your teammates. If you have trouble, call the director, Lil, 504 330 1158 or Jack, 504-201-3348.
- Q: **HOW IS SWISS SCORING DIFFERENT FROM PAIRS SCORING?** In pairs, if you are in 2H, making 3, you get 140 points. If everyone else is in 2H, making 4, they all get 170 points and you get a bottom score for that hand. In Swiss, your 140 only gets compared to the score of the team you are playing against. If that team got 170, then the difference is 30 points. On the INTERNATIONAL MATCHPOINT SCALE (IMP; bottom inside of a paper convention card) you would get -1 for that hand, and your opposing team would get 1. However, if you are in 3H (vulnerable), making 4, your 170 gets compared to their score. If they were in 4H, making, that score is 620. So 620-170 = 450. On the IMP Scale the difference in scores (450) = 10. On that hand you would get -10 and the other team would get 10. At the end of the round, total all your plusses and minuses to get your total for that round.
- Q: **HOW DO I READ MY SWISS SCORES ON BBO?** If you are North-South, your plus scores are in the WE column. If you are East-West, your plus scores are in the THEY column. This scoring is confusing at first. Example: one team is 4 professionals, GOLIATH1, GOLIATH2, GOLIATH3, and GOLIATH4. The opposing team is 4 non-professionals, DAVID1, DAVID2, DAVID3, and DAVID4. At one table on board 6, the North-South pair, GOLIATH1 and GOLIATH2, playing against DAVID1 and DAVID2, were in 3D, making 3, for +110. At the other table on Board 6, the North-South pair, DAVID3 and DAVID4, playing against GOLIATH3 and GOLIATH4, were in 3N, making, for +600. So, the difference is 490, which on the IMP scale is 10. Even though GOLIATH1 and GOLIATH2 got a plus score, their 110 was not as good as the -600 the GOLIATH3 and GOLIATH4 teammates earned.

Diamond Lil

BRIDGE ACHIEVEMENTS

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Junior Master: Elizabeth Rhodes
Peter Walker

Club Master: William Wright

Sectional Master: Laurie Milani
Sara Mundie
Cliff Williams

Regional Master: Daphne Lesage
Stacey Williams

Adv NABC Master: Kathy Plauche

NEW LIFE MASTER



Om Garg

NEW LIFE MASTER



Alma Slatten



John Onstott is an amazing bridge player who has set many goals for himself. He has played in many international competitions and won a world championship title in Paris in 2001. That wasn't enough. He competed and won another world championship Istanbul in 2004. He became a Grand Life master which we celebrated at LBA. Now he has well over 30,000 and may make 40,000 before you know it. What else can such an accomplished player do, you ask? He set his own lifetime high score on Sunday, 5/14 playing with Howard Parker in an ACBL game online, & came in 1st out of 278 pairs with an **81.86%** game! Congratulations,

Unit 134 members

The ACBL 2020 Barry Crane Top 500

Rank	Name	Masterpoints Won
13	John Onstott	889
195	Joan Van Geffen	434
218	Sherrie Goodman	442
300	Jacob Karno	379
322	Jean Talbot	369
352	Paul Freese	362
467	Don Daigle	330

Great Job!! This is the largest number of Unit 134 members to make this list in history.

70 & GAMES

3/1 Morning 0-20	Peter Webb – Pat Galloway	71.67%
3/2 Afternoon 299	Diane Kallenborn – Stacy Williams	74.77%
3/5 Afternoon Open	Iype Koshy – Richard Oshlag	70.56%
3/8 Morning 499	P. Quinn Bates – Mary Belcher	70.52%
3/12 Afternoon 299	Diane Scott – Debra Skorlich	71.60%
3/22 Afternoon Open	Dianne Chesson – Linda Freese	71.88%
3/23 Afternoon Open	Doug DeMontluzin – Carl Merlin	71.17%
3/26 Afternoon 0-299	Peter Walker – William Varney	72.92%
3/29 Morning Open	J. F. Lowenstein – George Wilson	74.68%
3/29 Morning Open	Elizabeth Cordes -Linda Conner	72.18%
3/29 Afternoon 0-299	Ray Nolan – Karen Bogart	70.28%
3/31 Afternoon 0-299	Diane Kallenborn –Stacy Williams	71.30%