



Louisiana Bridge Association March 2017

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbl@cox.net

President's Message March 2017

Mardi Gras 2017 is now over and I am returning to playing bridge after a two week layoff!!! Thanks to Vice President Larry Federico for being at the club in person.

The three M's that impact every non profit I have been involved with (Membership, Money and Man (Woman) power) are also with us. I am happy to report that Membership is slowly growing and while not yet back to pre-Katrina levels, progress is being made. At the end of 2016 we were at 799 members (a gain of 14). I think this is in large part due to our talented beginner bridge instructors who are bringing into the ACBL those relatively young players who are our future. On this point our average age at the end of 2016 was 73.07 against the ACBL average of 71.95.

Money issues seem to have stabilized at a low but hopefully sustainable positive cash flow (two months does not quite make a trend, but it is close).

Man (Woman) power has been and continues to be our strong point. So far no one has said no when asked to volunteer in some capacity or another. I am particularly happy that Sue Himel has agreed to head up a committee of Suzanne Cliffe, Jeanne Sauviac and Mike Russell to look at our Mentoring programs to find new ways to improve the abilities of our newer players and thus speed up both their advancement and enjoyment of this great game. I know that some members don't like Mentoring games being our only approach to this issue, and this eminently qualified group will take a fresh look and report back to the board with recommendations on how to proceed by early April. Stay tuned.

As always, please let me and the other Unit directors know where we are stumbling. Thanks again for your support and may all your finesses either work or be avoidable.

Jim Thornton

March Events

(* = Extra points, ** = Extra points, no extra fee)

Mar 4- Unit Championship** Sat

Mar 8-19 Kansas City NABC Wed thru next Sun

Mar 9-12 Baton Rouge Sectional Thurs-Sun

Mar 13-19 Club Championship Week**

Mon-Sun

Mar 17-19 Gulfport 299er Sectional Fri-Sun

Mar 22 Inter-Club Championship* Wed \$7

Mar 25 Mentoring Swiss Upgraded Club Championship** Sat Mentors Play Free

Mar 30-Apr 1 Metairie 299er Sectional Thurs-Sat

NEW MEMBERS

Subhas Bose, Sissy Curry, Barbara Hantel, Jennifer Holmes, Sandy Lassen, Eileen O'Brien, John O'Brien, Sasha Robertson, John Treen, Dorothy Weisler, Becky Zaheri
More new members on p 3

Hattiesburg Sectional First

Sunday Swiss Paul Deal & Jamie Bush

In Memoriam
Helen Furr

Mardi Gras Games

There were 5 tables in the 299er game. Winners were Cleo and Richard Velleman, Flt A; Bernard Vanderlinden and Michael Mooney, Flt B.

There were 11 tables in the Open game. Winners were John Federico & Eileen Bagnetto, Flt A; Carol Bagalman & Debbie Rothschild, Flt B; Wanda Picarella & Mollie Fraser Flt C.

Destin Regional Firsts

Mon All-Electronic Gold David Williams & Reese Koppel

Mon-Tues KO I John Onstott-Drew Casen-Jim Krekorian-Chris Compton-Howard Parker

Mon-Tues KO III Sheryl Thompson-Molly Sylvia-Linda Conner-Elizabeth Cordes

Wed Eve Side Swiss Nelson Daigle-Geoff Chichester-Carol Perrin-Linda Angelle Flt B (tie)

Wed Open Pairs Elizabeth Cordes & Molly Sylvia Flt C

Thurs-Fri KO I John Onstott-Drew Casen-Jim Krekorian-Chris Compton-Howard Parker

Thurs-Fri KO II Suzanne Baer-Susan Gibbens-Robert Spencer-Henry Bodenheimer

Sat Compact KO I John Onstott-Drew Casen-Jim Krekorian-Chris Compton-Howard Parker

Sun Swiss A/X teams John Onstott-Drew Casen-Jim Krekorian-Chris Compton-Howard Parker

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Theodore Brandon, Loretta Gerbracht

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Augusta Flanagan, Judee Flotron,
Anita Thigpen

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Jacob Karno, Barbara Zelenka

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Christopher Young

More rank advancements on p 3

LBA Clubhouse Seventy Percent Games

Open Pairs

Feb 10 Wayne Merkel & Bob Bowers 70.63%

Feb 16 Ronnie Berenger & Paul Freese 71.52%

Cue-bids Continued

By Iype Koshy

Sitting in third seat, not vulnerable versus not vulnerable, you pick up this hand: ♠xxx ♥AKxx ♦AK ♣Q9xx. Partner opens the bidding with 1♣. You respond 1♥ after your RHO passes. Your LHO overcalls 1♠ and Partner rebids 1NT. RHO passes. Now it is your decision.

Most people would bid 3NT and end the auction. Partner's 1 NT rebid guarantees a spade stopper, denies 3-card support for your major (he failed to make a support double), and limits his hand to 12-14 HCP. Therefore, it seems very reasonable for you to bid 3 NT since you feel you don't have enough to take Partner to slam with a square 16 HCP.

But one thing you have failed to notice is that you have a fit in partner's opening minor suit. You have a responsibility to tell Partner about your Club fit before you settle in 3 No Trump. Therefore, you need to make a bid that will create a game force. A power cue-bid in this instance seems very appropriate. A power cue-bid by responder guarantees 13+ high cards and is game-forcing. It provides various possibilities: it could show interest in game in No Trump; game or slam in Responder's suit; game or slam in Partner's opening suit; and, in rare situations, game or slam in the unbid suit.

Partner's actual hand is ♠A10x ♥xx ♦Qxx ♣ AK10xx. When you bid 2♠ (power cue-bid) over your Partner's 1 NT, Partner would either rebid 2NT or 3♣. Assume Partner rebids 2NT. You will bid 3♣ to show interest in slam in Clubs. Opener likes his hand because he has a 5-card suit headed by AK and the A of the opponent's suit. Since he already limited his hand by bidding 1 NT, he can now show his control in the opponent's suit by cue-bidding 3♣. That's all you needed to hear. You jump to 6 clubs with confidence.

Again, here are the actual hands: Partner ♠A10x ♥xx ♦Qxx ♣AK10xx You ♠xxx ♥AKxx ♦AK ♣Q9xx. The auction should have gone 1♣-(P)-1♥-(1♠)-1NT [12-14 HCP]-(P)-2♠ [Power Cue-Bid]-(P)-2NT-(P)-3♣ [slam interest in clubs]-(P)-3♣[control cue bid]-(P)-6♣.

If Opener had rebid 3♣ over your power cue-bid, you would raise to 4♣. Partner would cue-bid 4♠ and you would bid the lay-down slam.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH.

♠AQxx	
♥xx	
♦AK10xx	
♣Ax	
♠KJ109876	♠x
♥KQx	♥Jxxxx
♦xx	♦QJxxx
♣x	♣Kx
♠x	
♥Axx	
♦x	
♣QJ1098765	

It is often correct to observe that there is no "correct" way to bid a highly distributional freak hand. It is also fair to say that there is only bidding which "works" or "does not work." This deal, ominously numbered 13, all vul, on which North was the actual shuffler and dealer, was the very first board we played in our first eight board match at a Sectional Swiss Team event. My partner, North, opened 1D, RHO passed and there I was, with my eight solid clubs to the Queen and the outside ♥A. Reasoning that with North opening, East passing and my hand being so weak, LHO must have a decent bidding hand, so my best tactic should be to try to shut West out. A "Stop Card" followed by a jump to 5C was my bid. Success! West thought for a long moment and then reluctantly passed. Our complete but brief auction was 1D-P-5C-P-P-P. LHO led the ♥K, which I won with the Ace. What to do next? With no other quick entry to my hand, and thinking that West's hesitation before passing might indicate that he held spades, I took the spade finesse immediately and smiled a bit when it held.

I then cashed the ♣A, the ♦A and ♦K, discarding one small heart, and finally the ♠A, discarding my last heart loser. To my pleasant surprise, East neither followed nor ruffed in. With nothing left in my hand but seven of the eight original clubs, I conceded one trump trick to East's club King and claimed twelve tricks, making 5C plus one overtrick. Now for the other table. I learned that the auction there had gone 1D-P-2C-3S-X-P-4C-P-6C. It was reported that North was openly annoyed when South removed the double, and North had admitted after the fact that 6C was bid to teach South "not to pull my penalty double of a vulnerable opponent." The opening lead and South's line of play were the same as at my table. To the surprise of all concerned, the mere seven hcp South hand nicely delivered the "spite bid" 6C slam. The adverse swing against our team was 750 points, 14 big IMPs. We lost the first match and never recovered from that setback. Following their great start our opponents went on to win the event. We finished as "also rans." So was my tactical 5C bid correct or not? I can't really say but I can say that North's angry 6C bid worked like a charm.

Minor Suits Are Poor Cousins by Arnaldo Partesotti

Let me start with a quotation by Phillip Alder, well known bridge columnist: "Bridge players understand that minor suits are the poor cousins of the game. They are fine as a strain for a slam... but when we are bidding only game, we tend to steer full bore into no-trump or a major."

This is particularly true at matchpoints, where the "right" contract could be the difference between a top and a bottom. At IMP's, as long as you reach game or slam, the difference is there, but it is minimal, and there is no incentive in bidding a risky 6 Spades slam when a safe 6 Clubs one is available.

Look at the hand which follows, recently played at the club. We were the only ones to bid and make a slam in Clubs, over 19 tables, predicated on the fall of the ♠Q singleton or doubleton, a 53% chance. The Spade slam cannot be made, due to the Club ruff.

Dealer S Vul E-W

North	
♠9 8 5 4 2	
♥Q	
♦8	
♣A K Q J 10 7	
West	East
♠Q 10	♠6 3
♥K 10 6 3	♥A 9 4 2
♦Q J 10 7 6 3 2	♦K 9 5
♠VOID	♣9 8 5 3
South	
♠A K J 7	
♥J 8 7 5	
♦A 4	
♣6 4 2	

I opened the South hand with 1♣, partner bid 2♣ (inverted minors, forcing to game), I bid 2♥ which in this sequence is not a reverse, partner bid 2♠, I bid 3♠, and partner jumped to 6♣, everybody passing. Very scientific (sigh!) but it got us to the best contract. And, I have to ask, how could partner effectively convey the quality of her club suit, if we had gone slow?

The point that I want to make here is that everybody was in a Spade contract, the vast majority in 4 Spades making 5 or 6, four more pairs in 6♣, down one. Only one other pair bid 6♣ but went down, most likely taking the wrong finesse for the ♠Q. We earned 18 out of 18 points, making 4♠ + 2 earned 14.5 points, making 4♠ + 1 earned 10.5, 4♠ = 9 and 5♣ = 8.

I do not know what this tells you exactly, other than to confirm the rule which is absolutely always true at matchpoints: Almost never bid the minors if you have an alternative: any Spade contract would have given you a plus score, as long as you did not go to slam. And, personally, I think we should have been in 6♠ too, the bad Club break was not predictable.

Know the Director's Rulings

Jennie Flynn Sauviac

Card Played--Law 45

This is perhaps the most frequent ruling the Director is called upon to make. It is one of the most difficult rulings for players to accept. It makes a difference whether the card being judged is declarer's or defender's. Declarer's card is played from his hand when it is held face up, touching or nearly touching the table. It is irrelevant whether either or both defenders see the card. If the card is held in a manner to indicate the declarer has determined to play it, the card is played. Declarer plays a card from dummy by naming the card, after which dummy picks up the card and faces it on the table. Important--a player may correct the call of a card IF it is inadvertent (i.e. a slip of the tongue) and if there is no pause for thought indicating a desire to change the card played.

It frequently occurs that declarer did not call the card that would win the trick, because he was not paying attention and then tried to change his card. This is not inadvertent, it is a change of mind and cannot be allowed.

A defender's card held so that it is possible for his partner to see its face must be played to the current trick. Until his partner has played a card, a player may change an unintended designation, that opponent may withdraw the card so played, return it to his hand, and substitute another. As above, not a change of mind, but playing an unintended card.

More New Members

Anne Barnes, Carro Garner, Judy Kase, Carole Katz, Mary Marks, Sara Mundie, Denise Schimek, Carla Seyler

MORE RANK ADVANCMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTER

Barbara Gardeur

NEW CLUB MASTERS

P Quin Bates, Ann Mahnke

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Tom Wasson, Thomas York

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Shirlann Finch, Erin O'Sullivan (Erin Fleming)

NEW NABC MASTER

Mary Hanni

NEW NABC MASTER

Sheryl Thompson

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Alan Jacobs, Linda Jacobs, Robert Pettit

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

E Hugh Lawson

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Stephen Kishner