

KIBITZER ♣♦♥♠

Louisiana Bridge Association November 2019

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President's Message November 2019

WHAT A FALL 499er Tournament! Well attended, good food, and so many visitors making all the hard work that went into this tournament a Big Success. Thanks **Kathy Plauche, Debbie Reily, and Deborah Shorlich** for a job well done.

Talking tournaments your Board of Directors are **searching for someone** who would like to take on the task of **planning our night Christmas Party**. Please see a Board Member if you are interested.

Our **new cushions** are very comfortable. Thank you **Linda Conner** for your generous donation.

Time to start thinking about **joining our Board**. Our Election is fast approaching and we **NEED YOU!** Sign the **WILLINGNESS to SERVE** form at the front table.

Thanks **John Liukkonen** for making this newsletter possible.

Carolyn Dubois

November Events

*= extra points, no extra fee

**=extra points, extra fee

Nov 2 free John Onstott lesson Sat 10 AM

Nov 1-3 Jackson I/N Sect Fri-Sun

Nov 4-10 Club Champ Week* Mon-Sun

Nov 11 Unit Championship* Mon

Nov 13 Unit Championship* Wed

Nov 14 Unit Championship* Thurs

Nov 19 Unit Championship* Tues

Nov 21-24 Toledano Sectional** Thurs-Sun

Metairie Clubhouse

Nov 28 **THANKSGIVING—CLUB CLOSED**

Nov 28-Dec 8 NABC San Francisco

70 percent games

99ers

Sep 27 Gregory McKnight & Wayne Delarge 72.92%

499er

Sep 30 Hope Read & Susan Guarisco 70.56%

299er

Oct 1 Bernie Vanderlinden & Greg Browne 70.90%

Open

Oct 11 Larry Federico & Idell Adams 72.47%

Oct 18 Dee Moses & Wayne Weisler 72.66%

Oct 28 Paul Deal & John Onstott 70.64%

Metairie I/N Sectional firsts

Newcomer Pairs

Thurs AM Lynn Jambon & Carol Jambon;

Carro Gardner & Mary Schreiber Flt B;

Wayne Cooper & Jill Chopra Flt C

499er Pairs

Thurs AM Elizabeth Bolles & Alison Vitter;

Leonardo Galleguillos & Jeanette Galleguillos Flt C

Thurs PM Carolyn Dubois & Lucinda Stentz;

Bette Marks & Stacy Williams Flt C

Fri AM Stacy Williams & Debbie Reily;

Clare Brown & Leslie Lanusse Flt C

Fri PM Debbie Reily & Bette Marks

Sat AM George Hill & Vivian Hill;

Jill Chopra & Jennifer Holmes Flt B

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Suzanne Brown, Edward Cohn,
Catherine Favret, Maxine Goodman,
Carol Rider

NEW CLUB MASTER

Theresa Harmon

NEW NABC MASTER

Denise Tabor

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Gaye Wilson

NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Barnes, Wanda Brazile,
Pabitra Chakrabarti, Carolyn Herting,
David Herting, Graeme Mjehovich,
Carolise Rosen

In Memoriam
Ed Baldinger
Fritz Bott

Contents of this issue

p1 President's message, November events, Metairie I/N firsts, rank advancements, new members, 70% games, in memoriam
p2 Direktors Korner, other tourney firsts, Paul's Deal of Month
p3 Arnaldo column, I/N Crowd column

DIREKTORS KORNER

THIS MONTH'S DIREKTOR IN CHARGE: Chog Log

TOPIC: K. I. S. S. - Keep It Simple Stupid

And here all along, I thought I had an original thought! But as I researched information online and spoke to many fellow bridge players to validate and support my theory, I found I was wrong again! (Down One! Chog Log!)

While there are literally hundreds of bridge conventions, Larry Cohen, a renowned bridge teacher wrote: "I am a staunch advocate of 'less is more.' My observation is that at every level of the game, players are using too many conventions. Too often I see players (from beginner to world champion) misusing or forgetting their methods. Everyone would benefit if they would just KISS. (Keep It Simple, Stupid.)"

Although people who know me would not be surprised to hear me say this, but almost all you need to know about playing bridge can be learned from the "Orange Book." This game is about putting in the fanny time and not trying to find some gimmick that will "fix your game." Layering fanny time with reading and reading with fanny time over and over and over again helps to illuminate a bidder's, overcaller's, responder's, or advancer's high card points, suit lengths, and risk tolerances. One will see that *length is strength and square is fair*.

But I think the most important part of the game is the community that we build at the bridge club. It pains me to see the advancement of the game on-line. We need to be together at the bridge club while we continue to support, nurture, and encourage each other as we learn the game of bridge. That's why the game is called Bridge – not Separate.

Remember - Being a Life Master and having a dime won't buy you a cup of coffee, except at the Bridge Club! And I also know, that people with a lot of master points are not necessarily good bridge players: they just have good attendance records!

Mobile Sectional firsts

Sat Open Pairs *Chuck Pitard & Rick Logan; Barbara Zelenka & Dan Zelenka Flt B*

Sun Swiss Teams Bkt 1 *Chuck Pitard-Allan Siebert-Jay Segarra-Walter Lewis*

Two Sparks NV regional firsts

John Onstott-Joshua Donn-Jacob Morgan-Drew Casen-Howard Parker

Kirkwood Bracketed Swiss Teams (tie) AND Alpine Bracketed Swiss Teams

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH Attempting to bid slams accurately has been the bane of many a partnership's bridge existence. With some twenty-two tables in play the cold grand slam available on this hand was bid only four times during a Wednesday club game, which sponsors a pooled twenty-five cent "grand slam jackpot," in this instance split four ways. Perhaps if more partnerships played an expanded Roman Keycard Blackwood method the overall level of slam bidding quality would improve. Here (see left)

N	♠AQx
	♥xx
	♦Qxxx
	♣AQ10x
S	♠KJxxx
	♥AKx
	♦AKJx
	♣x

is an example of how and why. I was South and had the pleasure of hearing my partner open one diamond, which looked like a good starting point with my hand to present a possible slam opportunity. Here's how our bidding went, with the opponents passing throughout. North opened 1D (natural, usually with four or more cards in the suit)-1S (natural, with four or more cards in the suit)-2S (a major suit raise usually shows four cards but three to an honor is acceptable when the hand contains a weak doubleton in an unbid suit)-4NT (already sufficient information for a trump fit to support a possible slam bid)-5S (RKB response showing two keycards plus the ♠Q, much more information than simple Blackwood could provide)-6D (a RKB adjunct asking if opener held third round diamond control)-7D (yes, I have the queen)-P-P-P (played in diamonds just in case partner needed a discard on the fifth spade, which turned out to be unnecessary because opener held only two low hearts.) Seven diamonds was makeable without a finesse because diamonds broke the normal 3/2, about a 68% chance. Picture the North hand if it contained the ♣AJx instead of the ♣AQ10x with the ♣K inside, along with ♥xxx in hearts and you'll understand why 7D was potentially safer than 7S. Three pairs bid 7S, sharing a top board, making because the spade declarer could ruff a small heart in the dummy before drawing trumps and/or the club finesse worked. So in the end our 7D did not produce an absolute top because 7S made but we left with the satisfactory feeling that we had indeed bid the grand slam correctly and with maximum safety.

The Devil's Coup - Part 2 by Arnaldo Partesotti

This Coup consists in being able to capture a trump Honor which, because of its suit length, is apparently not capturable. Last month we saw a brilliant example of Devil's Coup from the 2015 European championship. The example in this article is a classic, reported initially by Terence Reese and widely published, and it came to me from the Pescara Bridge Club in Italy.

♠A43
♥K943
♦AK7
♣K42
♠K652 ♠7
♥872 ♥QJT
♦632 ♦J854
♣QJ3 ♣T8765
♠QJT98
♥A65
♦QT9
♣A9

This is the hand (see left box): South reached the contract of 6♠ with the lead of the ♣Q.

It appears that, due to the horrible "mirroring" of the North-South hands, declarer must lose the third round of Hearts, and the Trump King. This last one, in fact, is in a good position before the Trump Ace, but it appears uncapturable because of its length.

The play starts with no problems: South wins the lead with the ♣A and plays the ♠Q, playing low in dummy to finesse the King. This is succesful but when South continues with the ♠J to repeat the finesse, he gets the bad news when East pitches a Club.

At this point South cashes the three top Diamonds honors, the ♣K followed by a Club ruff in hand, and ♥A and ♥K reaching the three cards position in the box below right.

When South plays the ♥4 from dummy, East cannot avoid winning the trick and, no matter what his continuation is, South will trump and win the last two tricks, capturing the "uncapturable" ♠K.

♠A	♠ —
♥94	♥Q
♦ —	♦J
♣ —	♣T
♠K6	♠ —
♥7	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —
♠T9	♠ —
♥6	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —

Notice also how a No Trump slam has no hope, since this beautiful Coup could not take place.

For the I/N Crowd by Sue Himel

Bending the Rules

When you first learned to play bridge you were taught a set of bidding rules. No one said anything about exceptions to the rules. We keep exceptions to the rules to an absolute minimum for beginners. As you gain experience, however, you realize that some hands cannot be bid according to the rules. Let's explore a couple of those hands.

You pick up ♠K3 ♥AJT6 ♦KQT74 ♣Q2. You have 15 high card points but you hold two doubletons. You were probably taught not to open 1NT with this shape. Suppose you open 1♦. What will partner bid? Murphy's Law tells us it will be 1♠. Now what? Your hand is not good enough to reverse and rebid 2♥. You should have at least 17 high card points or a very distributional hand with no more than five losers to reverse. So which lie are you going to tell? Tell the least lie. With this hand open 1NT. It is at least semi-balanced and does fall within the 1NT point range.

The next time you play at the club you pick up ♠AJ3 ♥Q7 ♦QT8652 ♣AQ. You hold another hand that's impossible to bid according to the rules. If you open the bidding with 1♦ what is your rebid if partner responds at the 1 level. 2♦ is an underbid; 3♦ shows 16-18 high card points. You certainly don't want partner bidding 3NT with 8 high card points and two small clubs. Solve your rebid problem with your opening bid. Open with 1NT. Once again, your hand is semi-balanced and falls within the 1NT opening range.

I know you have been told by teachers that you must plan your rebid before you open the bidding. These two hands are why you should always do that. You will sometimes have to bend the rules but plan to do so in the most logical way.

Submit I/N questions to Sue in the gray box in the I/N area of the club. She will try to answer as many as possible, either directly, or in future Kibitzers.