

KIBITZER ♣♦♥♠

Louisiana Bridge Association July 2020

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President's Message July 2020

Hello Everyone, I hope everyone is safe and healthy. There is so much going on in the world today. My hope is that it settles down soon and we are able to return to our lives. For now, there is no new news on opening our club. The ACBL sent out rules that when we open we need to follow. Your Board will be looking at these rules and seeing how we can follow them. When we do open there will be many changes with food, tournaments, how many players will be allowed, maybe plexiglass dividers, mask, and so on. We are working on the information the ACBL sent and when a final decision is made, I will publish them on our Bridge Website.

Online bridge is going well and since it will be a while before we get back to Bridge at the Club we are so happy to have bridge online.

Until next month. Stay healthy!

Carolyn Dubois

NEW MEMBERS

Ellen Bane, Purvis Bane, Diana Casey,
Susan Couvillon, Delores Heglar, Margaret
Henican

Pairs with 70 Percent Games in Virtual Club May 29-Jun 27

Open Pairs Todd Lusk & Frances Schenk, Daniel Lustig & Larry Jackson, Eleanor Onstott & Dee Moses, Mike Cook & Burton Weil, Blake Sanders & Michael McGuire, David Woods & Stephen Kishner, Jean Talbot & Joan Van Geffen, Iype Koshy & Sherrie Goodman, Jack Lewis & Cindy Lewis, Sam Whitten & Linda Green-Whitten

499ers Loretta Martin & Charlotte Frattini, Michael Mooney & Newt Jackson, Iris Stewart & Jayne Anderson

299ers Mary Madison Griswold & Debbie Reily, Diane Scott & Carla Seyler, Stacy Hancock & Susan Schwartz, Debra Skorich & Diane Scott, Carol Himmelstein & Kay Lait, Debbie Tabb & Laurie Milani, Camille Breland & Robertson Leatherman

199ers Deborah Skorlich & Debbie Reily, Lorraine Bellagamba & Ping Hu

<750 Stephanie Rhodes & Marva Arceneaux

It is quite likely that I missed a few listings. If you had a 70% game and are not listed, please contact the Editor with your names and date. It's not easy finding all the 70% games. Omissions are not personal.

Remember that in the Kibitzer, the squeaky wheel gets the grease!

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTER

Connie Nagim

NEW CLUB MASTER

Clare Brown

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

Debbie Reily

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Judy Nordvoll

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Mary LeBlanc

THIRTY THOUSAND MASTERPOINTS

John Onstott

In Memoriam
Shirley Laudun
Jack Ryan

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DIREKTORS KORNER

THIS MONTH'S DIREKTOR IN CHARGE: Big Foot

TOPIC: The Online Bridge Experience and the Human Condition

EDITORIAL NOTE: Newbies please take note of Big Foot's disclaimer following his colorful exhortation

It really seems like the end of days sometimes when you consider the COVID-19 pandemic, injustice done in the name of justice and injustice done because of real or perceived injustice. So, maybe we should all just stop and consider what we have done for others in these times. I have had one player tell me they would like to play online but they find people "so rude" there. People can be rude and obnoxious anywhere – even in a physical club setting, but they do seem to behave differently online when they can't be looked in the eye...and when they can't see how big you are. So, consider our current condition as humans and how you wish to go out someday. Ask someone to play with you online that you know is not as advanced as you are and inexperienced with online playing – someone you know would never ask you to play. Help them learn and show them a pleasant time. Treat all you "meet" online, including your partner, with respect and courtesy. Help that person that thinks online players are rude to see another side of the game. I think you will feel better for it.

Author's disclaimer: IF you play in our online club games and not the wild and woolly non-club late night games, you should have a **much** better experience. The online club games are zero tolerance. Anyone not conforming to that zero tolerance policy will be escorted to the virtual door by big guys with crew cuts in suits and dark glasses.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH

N ♠Axx	
♥xx	
♦xxx	
♣KQJ10x	
W ♠Kxx	E ♠xxxx
♥xx	♥x
♦AKJxx	♦xxxx
♣xxx	♣J10xx
S ♠Qxx	
♥AKQJ10xxx	
♦Q	
♣A	

I am one of nine members of a poker club which had its inception at the Tulane University affiliated ATO fraternity house in 1952. Four of the original members, of which I am one, are still with us. As a consequence of death, retirement or moving away the other five have been replaced over time. Although we play very low limits, the quality of the poker play is fairly high because we have all agreed that we will play as if we were making big money bets, treating a \$1 bet as if it were \$100, thereby keeping the play at a serious skill level. The four charter members occasionally play a few hands of bridge while waiting for the rest to arrive. The bridge play is often sloppy but occasionally something good happens. This deal (see box at left) arrived with me holding the big South hand in first seat. I don't know how you readers might feel about it but at rubber bridge if I have nine sure tricks with a solid major trump suit I open 2C. So with E/W silent, the N/S bidding went quickly 2C-3C-4H (solid suit)-4S (cuebid) 6H. West, not known to be a good player, led the club King, followed by low, low Queen. West then went into a huddle. As declarer, while West

wasted some time, I started thinking that when the defense looks hopeless the defender should try to imagine declarer holding a hand which can lead to defeat and to then defend as if declarer actually holds such a hand. After an interminable time, with the other players complaining to West to hurry up and play, imagine the crushing sensation I felt when West calmly placed the King of spades on the table! Please tell me the truth, dear readers, would you have ever found that play even once in a thousand years? I doubt that I would have. How often do you actually see a difficult, highly unusual but absolutely perfect defensive play made at the bridge table by an expert, much less by a dud as West was known to be in this case? In truth, the frequency is closer to "never" than to "once in a while." And please be aware that not only did West plop down the killing King of spades, East carefully saved his ♠J10 until the bitter end of the play, taking the setting trick with the Jack of spades at trick thirteen. Not only was I the victim of a sensational defensive play by West, followed by East saving the right cards, the episode was the sign that additional bad things would happen to me that evening. It turned out that not only was I the big loser in the poker game that followed the abbreviated bridge game, on my way home for the first time in years I had a flat tire. Oh well, I guess that once in a great while everyone has a bad day.

Pet Peeves Are Back to Hunt Me! by Arnaldo Partesotti

Some hands are perfect for bringing up, once again, my Pet Peeves. Playing online this beauty came up:

♠ 3 ♥ A9 ♦ AK64 ♣ KJ8754

OK, it is not something to write home about, but I liked it very much. You would like it too if, after a Pass by Oppo, you heard your partner open 1D. I do not know you, but I am thinking slam right away: AK of trumps, another A, a singleton, and a reasonably good side suit. The first question is what to bid next, after another pass by Oppo (Oppos will be silent throughout.) I could bid 2C, this saves bidding space and forces Partner to game. Or I could bid 2D, playing inverted minors this again forces to game and tells Partner that I have good Diamond support and no 4-card Major. Or I could bid 3S, a splinter bid, which tells Partner that I have good Diamond support, some slam interest, and a singleton or void in Spades. It just takes away a lot of bidding space but it is the best description of my hand. I bid 3S and, after a Pass, Partner thinks, and thinks, and thinks and finally... passes, granting us a zero! It is always Partner's fault, isn't it? He thought I had seven long Spades and nothing else, and he has not read my previous article about Pet Peeve No. 1: you NEVER preempt partner. If I had seven long spades I would bid 1S, and on any bid by Partner 2S and, if necessary, 3S after another bid.

North V	
♠ A852	
♥ K7	
♦ QJT75	
♣ QT	
West VD	East V
♠ K64	♠ QJT97
♥ J8432	♥ QT65
♦ 92	♦ 83
♣ A96	♣ 32
South V	
♠ 3	
♥ A9	
♦ AK64	
♣ KJ8754	

And he brought out my Pet Peeve No. 2: when you do not understand Partner's bid, you NEVER pass. Just invent something, and go from there. But say Partner had bid again: after my 3S splinter he should bid 4H, playing Italian cue-bids, showing a first or second round control in Hearts and, at the same time, denying a first or second round control in clubs.

Over 4H I would bid RKCB1430, to find out if he had the ♠A and, after he confirms 1 key-card, which I know is the Ace of Spades, I can bid the slam, knowing that at the most it is on the Clubs position. Notice that if he had zero key-cards I could easily pass his 5 Diamonds response.

The key to this slam is the Queen of Clubs, and we do not have in our system a way to find out if he has it, so we are flying blind. Of 21 pairs only 2 bid this slam, which is lay-down. Which brings out my Pet Peeve No.3: at the club, we are just not very good at bidding slams!

FOR THE I/N CROWD by Sue Himel

Balancing #1

Do you and your partner have agreements about what your strength should be to balance when your Left Hand Opponent's (LHO) one level bid is passed around to you? If not, then this next series of columns is for you.

Many of you have a range for a balancing 1NT on your convention card as 11 to 14. This works well when your LHO opens with a minor. With more points, 15 to 18, you can double and rebid 1NT.

The auction proceeds 1C P P ? You hold ♠ KT5 ♥ JT32 ♦ AJT ♣ QJ6. 1NT is just about right with this hand. What if your LHO opens with 1S P P ? and you hold this hand: ♠ KJT3 ♥ JT32 ♦ AJT ♣ AJ?

With 15-17 (18-) you would normally balance with a Double and rebid 1NT. But when the opener has bid a major, chances are partner is going to make a bid at the 2 level. Rebidding 2NT with this hand could get your side too high since it should show about 18 to 19 points.

I suggest you expand your balancing 1NT range to about 16 high card points when LHO has opened in a major suit. That is a pretty wide range and will lead to less accuracy in the auction. However, it will keep you out of negative score territory more often. The goal of a balancing bid is usually to find a spot for your side to play. Getting to game is not the important thing; getting a plus score is the goal.

To summarize:

LHO opens one of a minor

Balance with 1NT with 11+ to 14

Double and plan to rebid 1NT with 15

LHO opens one of a major

Balance with 1NT with 11+ to 16

Double and rebid a minimum NT with 17 to 19.

If you ask 10 good players in our club about their balancing 1 NT ranges in the above auctions you might get 10 different answers. This is what I recommend. Feel free to discuss these ranges with your favorite partners and change what you like. Just be sure you have good reasons for your agreements.

Sherrie's Reports

Virtual Club Growing!

Our Virtual club gets bigger everyday. We are up to 1138 members (522 from LBA)! Some people are playing once a week, some several times a day. We are still helping people get online. If you need help, Lil Range, Linda Freese and Sherrie Goodman are happy to help you get started. It's a lot of fun in a not so fun time. We enjoyed greeting each other in the virtual games and catching up while socially distancing and being safe.

We have just completed the **2nd Regional Tournament**, and many of you earned some nice Gold/Red master-points. We also had a 2-day Longest Day Event. There are many more special events to come. Watch for emails or check the Website regularly.

Grand Slam Wednesday Jackpot is back! Any game on Wednesday that has a pair bid and make a grand slam will receive free plays. Free plays will be added each week so the pot could get big! Any game....299, 499, Open!

The Longest Day When the Board told me we were having the Longest Day on a weekend day, I thought it would be a very small event this year. Our virtual club doesn't seem to realize that weekends are smaller participation days, since this pandemic has made us forget which day of the week it is! You came out and supported The Longest Day, and I hope you all got some rewards! Out of our 127 tables playing in our two day event, 235 Master points were awarded. Congratulations! We also received some very nice monetary donations. We don't quite have the total raised but we will post it on the website as soon as we do. BBO donated half of their income, ACBL donated all of their income, and the Directors donated their pay! Thank you Sue Himel, Linda Freese, Lil Range, Kathy Logue and Sam Whitten for your generosity and tireless energy for this virtual club! You all make it happen! Thanks to all the members who contributed by playing and supporting our efforts for the Alzheimer Association.

Some Online Regional Achievements—Top 5 finishes in an event overall

Note: Lots of people got serious gold points, but here are the "top 5" achievers—those who finished in the top 5 of an event overall.

Congratulations to all of our participants.

Friday Orange Side Game *Janice Kishner & Stephen Kishner* 3A and 1B 11.19 points

Friday Grape 99er *Laurie Milani & Suzanne Brown* 1C 1.79 points

Saturday Honey Dew Side *Janice Kishner & Stephen Kishner* 4A and 2B 5.78 points

Sat Honey Dew Side *Sriram Ganesan & Reese Koppel* 4C 1.63 points

Sat Honey Dew Side *Sriram Ganesan & Reese Koppel* 2B 4.20 points

Sunday Strawberry Open *Howard Parker & John Onstott* 5A 12.03 points

Sunday Grape 99er *Jean McNeal & Janice Kishner* 5C 0.74 points

Sunday Honey Dew Side *Janice Kishner & Stephen Kishner* 1A 11.20 points

Honeydew Side series overall *Stephen Kishner & Janice Kishner* winners

The top 5 Unit 134 master point winners for the regional

Stephen Kishner	33.57
Janice Kishner	33.27
John Onstott	19.27
Jacob Karno	6.45
Tippi Ellis	6.32