



Louisiana Bridge Association November 2020

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbl@cox.net

President's Message November 2020

I know the majority of our members are eager to return to our club, but for now they are just wonderful memories. Hopefully, this pandemic will be coming to an end soon.

Our next Board meeting will be the second Monday in November. We have committees that will give presentations at this meeting on voting for Board Members and what needs to happen before we open.

In the meanwhile stay healthy and safe.

We do have a lot to be grateful for.

Enjoy your THANKSGIVING!

Carolyn Dubois

Coming Events

Nov 23-29 Club Championship Week -
Upgraded Master Point Awards

Nov 29-Dec 5 North American Online
Bridge Championships -

Contents this issue

p1 president's message, coming events,
Sherrie's online report, in memoriam

p2 Direktor's column, Paul's deal of
month

p3 Arnaldo's column, Sue's I/N column

p4 Bridge achievements page:

October online regional coverage, 70%
virtual club games, new member,
rank advancements

In Memoriam
Fran Lake

SHERRIE'S REPORT—WHAT'S HAPPENING ONLINE

Coming Online: Swiss team play is currently in its final testing stages. We hope to have this up and running shortly in our club. I know how much our Sunday Swiss people miss this game, and so do I. All the virtual club directors have pushed to move this item to the top of our wishlist. I think we are very close.

Rumor has it that our **November 23-29 Club Championship Week** will once again be a **gold point** event where your MPS earned would be 1/4 gold and the rest in black. This will also be extra points week, so it's a great opportunity for those who need a few gold points to pick them up at the club level instead of at a regional or national. We will have extra games scheduled for the week. Stay tuned for confirmation of the gold!

The week of **November 27 – December 6** will be the **NABC online**. There will be knockout and pair events.

Online problems: If in doubt, call the director! I must get 5 phone calls or texts a day after the game is over questioning a hand, a score, an unusual bid, etc. I will repeat, **the game results cannot be changed 20 minutes after it ends**. The scores leave our virtual club then and changes can no longer be made. You can call the game director immediately, after a round, or after several rounds. To do this, you should hit the blue button with 3 lines and call the that director to help you or check a score! **But what if** the game ends and you notice a wrong score or a problem has persisted, how do you call that director then? **You should all have vacb221739 marked as your friend**. You can still chat with **vacb221739** even after the game and explain your problem. The director will be there for 20 minutes after the game has ended. After that, it is too late for the director to make any changes—the scores are GONE and FINAL.

One more point: during the game, if you see a message that says **"No explanation available"**, please don't think your opponents are being rude. This is a generic message that pops up automatically if there is no immediate response. Either the opponent saw your inquiry and is unable to type, or they are too consumed with the hand to have noticed your question. Feel free to call the director or private message opponent's partner to ask what their agreement is. We have a couple of players unable to type, but their partner is happy to explain if they know there is a question.

DIREKTORS KORNER

THIS MONTH'S DIREKTOR IN CHARGE: Big Foot

TOPIC: I, Robot

Just like Rosie on the Jetsons, mistakes can and will be made by a computerized personality, no matter how much they may insist that they are infallible.

Many of us have heard the old saying that if you tell an electronic personality to put on their shoes and socks, they will walk around all day wearing their socks on the outside of the shoes that are on their bare feet. One day in BBO while playing with the Baker—I hope we all fondly remember that non-electronic and very human personality – I was in a major suit game where I could make 5 and time ran out in the round with about 5 cards left to play. It was obvious to me that I could make the overtrick – the defenders mis-defended as defenders often do. The computer in its infinite wisdom awarded us an average board using a message that popped up on the screen. That board didn't seem of the average variety to me, so I summoned the HUMAN director, asked them to look at the board and summarized how 5 could be made. I was awarded a better score than an average board a few minutes later when a new screen message popped up. The lesson here is that you DO have recourse against those wascally wobots, but they are still pretty smart fellows so make sure you have your act together, briefly describing your dispute and line of play if asked. Just remember there is always some small sliver of hope when things seem the most hopeless...

Editor's Note: What can you do if the problem occurs on the last board of the game and time runs out and the 3 line blue call director button is no longer there? As noted by Sherrie on p1, if you have "friended" **vac221739** (the game director's handle) you can contact the director via chat. The director will be there for 20 minutes after the game, following which there will be no recourse.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH During a typical week long Regional Tournament an occasional late night rubber bridge game will develop for those players for whom the daily knockout matches are insufficient satisfaction of the urge to play more bridge. So I was gratified to receive a call to join a four person, four deals game one evening some time ago. The rules governing such games are simple and allow the hands to proceed rapidly. After first cutting for partners, the two lowest card cutters against the two highest, following which whoever is dealt the first face up Ace is the initial dealer, and the contest begins. On the first deal neither side is vulnerable. The deal then passes around clockwise, so that on the second and third deals the dealer's side is vulnerable and on the fourth deal both sides are vulnerable. Some groups carry forward part scores but others prefer for each hand to be scored separately. Most importantly, only a limited number of basic conventions are agreed upon and must be played by all. The players rotate and switch partners after one, two or three rounds, as agreed, so that in the end each player is partnered by each of the others. These games and the limited methods allowed often produce basic bridge at its best, especially when the stakes are high enough to make it matter. On the very first hand of the evening

Partner's hand: ♠Axx ♥AJxxxx ♦AKx ♣A. *My hand:* ♠Kx ♥Kxx ♦xxxx ♣xxxx

my partner opened the bidding with 1H, my RHO passed and I raised bravely to 2H, my LHO passed and partner took the bull by the horns and bid 6H. My partner, known to be a strong declarer, won the ♠Q opening lead in his hand after considerable cogitation, obviously trying to determine the best play to avoid a trump loser, as he also noted a sure diamond loser. After some more thought declarer surprised everyone by first cashing the ♣A before leading a low heart to dummy's ♥K. Sure enough, East showed void of trumps, meaning that declarer's LHO held ♥Q1098 in trumps. Now what? Declarer then volunteered something like "I learned years ago that when you hold extra trumps it's a good idea to ruff something before trying to draw trumps, just in case trumps might need to be reduced in length in order to pull off a trump coup." Truer words have never been spoken. Declarer then played more rapidly than I could follow, a club ruff, the ♦A and ♦K, dummy's spade ♠K, another club ruff, a spade ruff in dummy and then another club ruff, followed by declarer's losing diamond, which declarer's LHO had to ruff, holding ♥Q109 of trumps as his last three cards. Bridge can be such a cruel game! Declarer's LHO had been end played and had to lead into declarer's remaining ♥AJ of trumps, 6H bid and made. After the game was over and following considerable thought I realized that I should not play again in that group. The standard of play was simply too tough for most of us. Although I ended up a modest winner that night, it was partly because my initial partner had gotten me off to a nice and extremely lucky start with that slam hand. So while my luck was good and strong I bought a lottery ticket the next morning before returning to tournament play. Alas, I should have stuck with my limited bridge success

A Great Brilliant Idea by Arnaldo Partesotti

Playing in the regular game on-line recently, the computer gave me this “blah plus” hand when I was sitting South (hands rotated for convenience). East, the dealer, passed. In earlier days I might have passed too, these days I open pretty much all 12 points hands, for sure when they have three aces. I bid 1 Club, West bid 1 Diamond, North 1 Heart, East passed (in his shoes I would never pass, I would always bid 1 Spade at the one level or 2 Diamonds - support with support - with his hand) and it was up to me again. My correct bid was 2 Clubs, confirming a 5-Club suit and a minimum opening. Right or wrong, however, I wanted to be in NT if possible (this is Matchpoints), so I came up with a Great Brilliant Idea: I bid 1 Spade with my Ace third, on which partner can bid 1NT with a Diamond stopper, 2 Clubs with support, 2 Hearts with a 6-cards suit. I did not anticipate however that Partner could pass, which he did, and so did West and East. I was stuck in a 3-3 trump suit.

North V	
♠Q76	
♥T9632	
♦2	
♣K953	
West NV	East NV D
♠K8	♠J9732
♥Q874	♥KT
♦AJT95	♦KQ84
♣QJ	♣76
South V	
♠A54	
♥A2	
♦763	
♣AT842	

Never give up! The only way to try and make this contract is to score my trumps on a cross-ruff, and hope that Oppos do not lead trumps. West led the ♦A, followed by a small Heart for his Partner’s ♥K and my ♥A. I ruffed a Diamond in dummy, and came off dummy with a small Heart, to set up my cross ruff. Looking at the cards I could have cashed the two Club honors but I was afraid that a 3-1 split in the suit might doom the contract, and also I needed the ♣K as an entry to dummy to ruff another Heart later. West won this trick with the ♥Q and returned a

Spade. Evil, but too late! I won my ♠A, ruffed a Diamond in dummy with the ♠Q, and played a Heart. East could have sunk the contract by ruffing with a Spade and returning a Spade, but he pitched a Club, let’s hope he had another one left. I ruffed with my small Spade, entered dummy with the ♣K, all was well, nobody ruffed, and I played a small Heart which I ruffed when East pitched the ♦K. One Spade made: two Aces and the ♣K, 2 ruffs in dummy and 2 in hand. In the end Oppos won the last tricks with all the trumps that were left.

For the record 1 Spade made was an absolute top, as East-West could make 2 or 3 Diamonds, and Club contracts went down. We always say it: “better lucky than good”!

For the I/N Crowd By Sue Himel

Forcing Bids #1

Nothing is more frustrating at the bridge table than to have partner pass what you thought was a forcing bid. There are rules that determine which bids are forcing, which are invitational and which are sign off. In the next few columns we will explore what the rules are. You and your regular partners should discuss these rules so that you don't end up passing partner in a forcing bid.

- Rule #1:** New natural suit bids by responder are forcing except
- A) when responder is a passed hand or
 - B) responder bids a new lower ranking suit over opener's 1NT rebid.

Example: Opener	LHO	Responder	RHO
1C	P	1S	P
1N	P	2H	P
?			

In the above auction, responder's 1S bid is 100% forcing. Responder could have quite a few high card points, even enough to jump shift. With a 19 point balanced hand, partner is not likely to jump shift, but make a low level forcing bid. Responder's 2H rebid over opener's 1NT rebid is not forcing. It is a new suit, but it is lower ranking and not a jump. Responder should have 5+ spades and 4+ hearts and less than an invitational hand. With better hearts than spades opener is free to pass. With better spades than hearts opener should correct to 2S. Game is out of reach. Opener should resist the temptation to rebid 2NT when he holds two small in each major. Make a simple preference to 2S.

Example: Opener	LHO	Responder	RHO
		P	P
1C	P	1S	P
?			

In this auction, responder's 1S bid is not forcing. Responder is a passed hand and has at most 11 high card points. Opener is free to pass with at least 3 card support if he opened light. **Tip:** When you open light in 3rd or 4th seat at the one level you should have a tolerance for any response partner may make or an easy rebid. You might have a 6 card suit or a more distributional hand with another, lower ranking, suit to bid.

BRIDGE ACHIEVEMENTS PAGE

Fall into Bridge Regional Report—Unit 134 overall finishers

Thurs Oct 15

Janet Koppel & Janie Gill 22(lvl 7), 16(4), 7(2) *Corn Maze Gold Rush* 493 tables

Bernard Vanderlinden & Gregory Browne 50(lvl 7), 18(4) *Cornmaze Gold Rush* 493 tables

Stephanie Rhodes Navarre & Marva Arceneaux 5A 4B *QB 99er pairs* 11 tables

Fri Oct 16

William Varney & Julie Essick 6A *QB 99er pairs* 28 tables

Jacob Karno & Jacob Morgan 25A *Pumpkin Spice Top Flight Pairs*
76 tables based on 251 tables

Jackie Childress & Diana Horowitz 3B *QB 99er pairs* 41 tables

Neil Nadler & Tom Nadler 5A *QB 99er pairs* 10 tables

Sat Oct 17

Myra Menville & Gregory Browne 3A 2C *Touchdown 499er pairs* 76 tables

Sara Mundie & Joseph Miranda 3A 1B *QB 99er pairs* 45 tables

Kathy Plauche & Ronald Ocmond 57A *Corn Maze Gold Rush* 530 tables

Jacob Karno & Howard Parker 4A *Flickering Side Game* 69 tables

Tipping Ellis & Lillian Range 10A *Flickering Side Game* 69 tables

Sun Oct 18

Jacob Karno & Howard Parker **1A (Event Winners)** *Pumpkin Spice Top Flight Pairs*
66 tables based on 213 tables

William Varney & Leslie Nolan 7A *QB 99er Pairs* 34 tables

Flickering Side Series Overall Howard Parker & Jacob Karno 18/19

Lillian Range & Tipping Ellis 24/25

Reese Koppel & Joanne Cornbleet 28/29 *Golden Leaves Gold Rush* 159 tables

Top 30 Unit 134 masterpoint winners in online regional

Jacob Karno 45.35

Gregory Browne 7.45

Myra Menville 5.64

Tipping Ellis 4.96

Janet Koppel 4.96

Reese Koppel 4.86

Kathy Plauche 4.52

Newton Jackson 4.50

Michael Russell 4.06

George Wilson 3.94

Lillian Range 3.42

Sara Mundie 2.89

William Varney 2.86

Ronald Ocmond 2.50

Charles Waldrop 2.48

Denise Tabor 1.89

Elizabeth Sewell 1.53

Janice Zazulak 1.38

Diana Powell 1.38

Julie Essick 1.31

Irene Labiche 1.31

Gigi Matthews 1.17

Jackie Childress 1.12

Paul Rosenblum 1.03

Myra Groome 1.02

Mimi Groome 1.02

Quin Bates 1.00

Susan Beoubay 0.97

Anne Monteiro 0.97

70 percent games by Unit 134 Members in our virtual club in September

Oct 5 499er Newt Jackson & Bernard Vanderlinden 71.91%

Oct 9 499er Greg Browne & Myra Menville 73.06%

Oct 12 Open Sherrie Goodman & Jim Thornton 77.08%

Oct 13 499er Diana Powell & George Wilson 70.22%

Oct 15 Open Arnaldo Partesotti & John Liukkonen 73.73%

Oct 15 299er Lawrence Holbrook & David Wright 70.19%

Oct 18 Open Sherrie Goodman & Jim Thornton 73.33%

Oct 30 0-750 Mae O'Neil & Stephen Vaughn 75%

NEW MEMBER

Joseph Bourgeois

SOME RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Mark Finch, Penelope Randolph, Lydia Boutte, Paula Hall

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Jackie Childress, Mary Marks, Dorothy Weisler,
Sara Mundie

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Carro Gardner, Neil Nadler, Patricia Newman, David
Wright, Mary Beth Fine, Dale Thompson

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Janet Koppel, Quin Bates, Martha Robson

NEW NABC MASTERS

Newton Jackson, Kathy Plauche, Charles Waldrop, Mary
Belcher, Myra Groome, Bernard Vanderlinden

MORE RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW LIFE MASTER

Gary Bergeron

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Sandra Dubroc, Betty Norton,
Ronald Ocmond

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Henry Bodenheimer

NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

Kathy Logue

NEW EMERALD LIFE MASTER

Iype Koshy