



Louisiana Bridge Association March 2016

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbl@cox.net

President's Message March 2016

The Board has voted to move up the start times for our 2016 November sectional tournament. Game times for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday will be 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The start time for the team game on Sunday will remain unchanged at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of these changes is to conclude the afternoon game before dark.

Our Mardi Gras game was well attended as usual. The huge Nathan hot dogs were popular. The game Mardi Gras night was not well attended. The game had to be cancelled because there were not enough players. The night game will not be scheduled in the future.

The mentoring game has been very successful and will be continued. The next game is scheduled for Wednesday March 30th. The Board has voted to have a mentoring team game on Saturday April 23rd. Details are still being worked out but will be published well in advance. In addition announcements will be made at all I/N games the preceding week.

Please note the Finesse West event April 12. Details appear in a separate item below.

Larry Federico

PLAY NICE PLAY NICE

March Events

- Mar 5** Unit Championship Sat
- Mar 7** ACBL-Wide Sr. Game Mon AM
Must be 55 to play \$7 Fee/extra pt
- Mar 9-20** Reno NABC Wed thru next Sun
- Mar 11-13** Gulfport 299er Sectional Fri-Sun
- Mar 14-20** Club Championship Week Mon-Sun
Extra Points/No Extra Fee
- Mar 29** Unit Championship Tues AM
- Mar 30** Mentoring Game Unit Championship
Wed
- Mar 31-Apr3** Baton Rouge Sectional Thurs-Sun

Finesse West is coming to Metairie

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday April 12th**. We will be hosting Finesse West Bridge players who will be wrapping up a Riverboat cruise. Both Novice and Open games will start at 10:30 AM. New Orleans cuisine will be featured at lunch. Cost for bridge and lunch will be \$10 and advance signup IS REQUIRED. Watch for the sign up sheet later this month.

Help us show the Finesse West players what New Orleans hospitality is all about. There will be roughly 70 guests that day so please plan to play!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Glenn Barnett, Mary DiGerolamo, Cathy White, Robert White

In Memoriam
Jan Jones

70 Percent Games

- Jackson Sectional** Sat eve Open Pairs Paul Deal and Jan Galey 70%
- Lafayette Sectional** Sat PM Open Pairs Bummy Rosenfield & Lillian Range 76.82%
- 99er Pairs** Feb 5 Leila Wachtel & Gary Bergeron 75.7%
- Feb 19 Tom Wasson & Barbara Hammett 71.82%
- Open Pairs** Feb 8 Drew Casen & Jacob Karno 70.47%
- Feb 21 Beth Todd & David Wolf 75.0%
- Feb 25 Sid & Mary LeBlanc 70.1%

Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpots

- Feb 10** Bummy Rosenfield & Lillian Range \$13
- Feb 17** Larry Federico & John Federico

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTER

Bruce Hanni

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Jennifer Dennies, J Michael Russell

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

Charles Waldrop

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Kanwal Dhir, Susan Martin

NEW NABC MASTER

Barbara Laverty

NEW LIFE MASTERS

James Dunn

Suit Combination

Here is an interesting suit combination.

Declarer A97x Dummy Q8xx.

(1) How should you play this for the best long run result, assuming plenty of entries and no information other than a random deal?

(2) But suppose you become convinced that RHO has the K and probably the length in the suit. What is now your play for the best long run result?

(Solution below)

DIRECTOR SOUNDING OFF Part I

by Jennie Flynn Sauviac

First, always call the director for any infraction, positively do not allow the opponents to dictate the ruling to you.

Make sure the score is correct before you accept it.

If your opponent is taking more than 7 minutes to bid and play the hand, announce there is another board to play.

If the opponents are rehashing a played board before all boards are finished, announce there is another board to play.

Know your ACBL player number before entering it into the bridge mate.

Review your partnership systems before game time.

Jackson Sectional Firsts

Sat Eve Open Pairs Paul Deal & Jan Galey 70%

Lafayette Sectional Firsts

Sat AM Open Pairs Bummy Rosenfield & Lillian Range

Sat PM Open Pairs Bummy Rosenfield & Lillian Range 76.82%

Advanced players: Support the intermediate players that have crossed over.

If only once a month, invite our intermediate (300-499) players to play bridge.

Give them a chance to experience a game with an advanced player. Please try it, you will be rewarded with their gratitude.

Suit Combination Solution (Roudinesco, Dictionary of Suit Combinations):

(1) Lead toward the Q. If it loses to the K, run the 8. With this line you will score 2.37 tricks per deal on average.

(2) Lead to the 8. If it loses to the J or 10, run the Q. You are hoping for an opposition holding like LHO 10x RHO KJx. This preparatory finesse to weaken the RHO holding was named an "intra finesse" by Brazilian star Gabriel Chagas in a 1974 Bols tip. Google "intra finesse" for more examples.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH. Lots of avid bridge players swear by, despise or foul up Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKB) and its follow-up bids, such as the Queen Ask, the Specific King Ask and the Specific Suit Ask, in its basic or extended format, including Minorwood. In my opinion, a player should avoid RKB unless that person is willing to devote the considerable time, effort and study required to learn the convention and play it correctly. But when fully understood RKB can provide an "edge" when using it properly. Here is a hand (below left) from a Baton Rouge club game which demonstrates my point, in which my partner used RKB to great advantage.

N
♠AJ
♥Kxxx
♦QJ10
♣AKQJ

S
♠KQ10xxx
♥Ax
♦Axx
♣xx

I was South and opened 1S in first seat, all vul. Our auction proceeded 1S-P-2C-P-2S-P-3S. Partner's 3S bid was game forcing and would usually guarantee three trumps and "set" the trump suit but was made in this instance to facilitate the later use of RKB in what promised to be an extended and complex "two over one game forcing" auction. I upgraded my hand because of its strong six card suit and three "quick tricks", so I continued the auction by cuebidding 4D, indicating slam interest. As suspected, partner next called RKB 4NT (1430 variety). Our completed auction then became 1S-2C-2S (usually six+ spades over a 2C game forcing response)-3S-4D (cuebid)-4NT (RKB for spades)-5D (3 or 0 keycards, obviously 3 in this case)-5H (trump queen ask)-5NT (trump queen "yes" but no outside king; 5S would have denied holding the trump queen)-7NT (after counting probable, indeed certain 13 tricks, consisting of six spades, four clubs, two hearts and one diamond).

The use of two over one game forcing, indicating that opener held six or more spades, combined with RKB, which provides a mechanism, not a part of ordinary Blackwood, to immediately show with a single response possession of the trump king as well as the aces held by opener, and a means of specifically asking opener if he held the trump queen, allowed North to confidently bid 7NT with virtual certainty. This could not have been done with simple Blackwood or Gerber because those conventions do not have a mechanism by which North could have been sure that opener had at least six spades, including the spade king, which was the only king held by opener, and the trump queen. So if you can understand RKB and the complex auctions it generates, it is a convention well worth including in your bidding system.