

Louisiana Bridge Association November 2016

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President's Message November 2016

November is a month of special events.. It kicks off with the Halloween party on October 31st and continues the following week with club championship games. This is followed by the mentoring swiss team game on November 8th and our sectional tournament starting on November 11th. Throw in some unit championships and an acbl wide charity game and it's clear that the good times never end.

The board has made a decision that future 299er tournaments will have two sessions on Thursdays, two sessions on Fridays and will end with one session on Saturdays. There will be no Sunday game.

The Board is considering a request for a sanction of a grand national team game on December 11th. Local team qualifiers have the option of going to the regional finals in Jackson MS. Jackson winners have the option of competing for the grand national team title at the next summer NABC. At one time there was limited financial support for the Jackson winners at the summer NABC. I don't know if that's still the case. A sign up sheet will be placed near the entrance doors. If enough teams sign up we will get a sanction for the games. They are stratified or flighted.

The club is closed on Thanksgiving. I'll probably follow my usual custom of eating too much and watching football.

Larry Federico

More info on Mentoring Swiss game—see p 3.

November Events

(**=Extra pts, no extra fee)

Oct 31-Nov 6 Club Championship Games**

Nov 8 Mentoring Swiss Game** Mentors play free

Nov 8 Unit Championship Tues Night**

Nov 10-13 Metairie Sectional Thurs-Sun

Nov 17 Unit Championship Thurs Night**

Nov 18-20 Jackson 299 Sect'l Fri-Sun

Nov. 22 ACBL-WIDE Charity Game

Tues Night \$7.00 entry/Extra Points

Nov 24 – Thanksgiving – Club Closed

Nov 24-Dec 4 Orlando NABC Thurs to following Sun

NEW MEMBERS

Judy Bruce, Sue Edwards, Mary Frances Gleason, Donald Harmon, Theresa Harmon, Bob Hermetz, Frieda Johnson, Tony Micocci, Melanie Thompson, Eileen Werne

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW CLUB MASTER

Dolly Engelhardt

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

Earl Wattigny

NEW NABC MASTER

Carroll Wood

Metairie 299er Sectional Firsts

Fri am Elizabeth Cordes & Molly Sylvia; Albert Solomon & Denise Tabor Flt C

Fri pm Bernard Vanderlinden & Ronald Omond

Sat am Judith Rowley & Betty Norton; Kathy Gilmore & Elizabeth Cordes Flt C

Sat pm Bernard Vanderlinden & Ronald Omond

Gulfport Sectional firsts

Fri AM

Open pairs Allan Siebert & Paul Deal

299er Pairs Judith Rowley & Betty Norton; Suzanne Caver & Merille Vanderbrook Flt B

Sat AM

Open pairs Bob Bowers & John Onstott;

299er Pairs Frances Middleton & Judith Bostwick; Nancy Mavar & Martha Baldwin Flt B

Sun Swiss

Walter Lewis-Jay Segarra-Allan Siebert-Paul Deal

Memorial Game

The Memorial Game will be Saturday of our January tournament. Names of people we wish to honor will be put on the plaque on the wall of our clubhouse.

To honor a loved one, friend or someone you admired, please put their name and a check for \$20 in an envelope, and give to any director.

Please note that on account of the holidays the **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF NAMES IS DECEMBER 2.**

70 pct games:

Open Pairs

Toby Young & David Williams Sep 29 eve 72.01%

AND Oct 6 eve 72.50%

Doug DeMontluzin & Emmanuel Benjamin 73.44% Oct 11

Joan Van Geffen & Judy Katz 71.90% Oct 13

Joan Van Geffen & JF Lowenstein 74.45% Oct 17

Cappy McIver & Pat Ellis 70.83% Oct 24 eve

299er Pairs

Theresa Federico & Elizabeth Bolles Oct 3 74.60%

Unit 134 2016 Masterpoint leaders thru third quarter

(No star = Ace of Clubs only, * = Mini McKenney only,
** = both Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney)

0-5 Meryl Rosenbloom **

5-20 Gary Bergeron **

20-50 Ronald Ocmund **

50-100 Mary Hanni **

100-200 David Williams **

200-300 William Weed **

300-500 Jacob Karno, Cindy Lewis *

500-1000 Susan Sommer **

1000-1500 Helen St Romain, Nelson Daigle *

1500-2500 Donald Daigle, JF Lowenstein *

2500-3500 Paul Freese, Jeffrey Juster *

3500-5000 Julius Rosenfield, Paul Deal *

5000-7500 Larry Federico **

7500-10000 Judy Katz **

over 10,000 Jean Talbot, Drew Casen *

Dummy has no rights True or False by Jennie Flynn Sauviac

Dummy or either defender may draw attention to a card pointed incorrectly, but it must be before a lead is made to the following trick. Dummy may not call attention to an irregularity during play, BUT can after play of the hand is over.

Dummy may try to prevent any irregularities by declarer, AS if declarer does not follow suit to a trick, ask if he has a card in that suit.

Dummy should not call the director during play unless another player has mentioned an irregularity, BUT is entitled to give information in the director's presence as to fact or law.

Dummy must NOT participate in play, exchange hands with the declarer, leave seat to watch declarer's play, or look in a defender's hand.

Be on time! One of the frequent requests our members made in our recent Director's Survey is that you would like the games to begin on time. We heard you loud and clearly, and our Directors are committed to beginning the games on time. To accomplish this means that you must be in your seat a few minutes before the start of the game. You will not be able to come to the club after the start time and expect to play. Everyone runs into problems from time to time, and if you find you are running late, you must call the club and tell the director. If the Director can accommodate you, they will let you know.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH. I was asked by a reader to assume no opposing bidding when North opens 1NT (15-17 hcp) and to suggest a bidding sequence which would logically lead to the optimum contract with these hands (below left)

North ♠A10x ♥xx ♦AQJxx ♣AQx

South ♠K ♥AKxxx ♦Kxxx ♣Kxx

My immediate thought was to avoid opening 1NT with the North hand because it is too strong for 1NT. True, it has 17 hcp but those are gilt edged points, generating four quick tricks with three aces, supporting minor honors and a strong five card suit. In terms of high card point

values the hand is closer to 20 than 17. So open 1D to simplify finding a trump suit fit if one exists. Now comes a debatable, often contested method preference of mine. I confess that I favor an anachronistic strong single jump shift, which is game forcing and slam suggestive, but not at all the type of jump shift mandated by the 20+ hcp Goren requirement of fifty years ago. The playing strength of the south hand is greatly enhanced by the four card diamond fit. Although the south hand contains only 16 hcp, the playing strength of the south hand is also closer to 20 points than it is to 16. So the auction I prefer is 1D-2H-2NT (a relay to keep the bidding low)-3D (four card trump suit fit)-4D (Minorwood)- 4NT (two keycards, no trump queen)-5C (asking)-5H (Kxx+)-5S (asking)- 6C (Kxx+)-7D (because although responder has only directly revealed the spade king, the heart ace, the diamond king and the club king, only 13 hcp, responder must also hold the heart king to have justified a strong single jump shift). So with normal suit breaks the hands will generate 7D, the optimum contract, but only 6NT. Note that a nine card trump fit, with all controls, will often generate one more trick than will the same hand when played in NT. An alternative auction, without the jump shift, would be 1D-1H-2NT-4D-4S (RKB-1430)-5C (2 keycards)-5NT (any extras?)-7D (yes, all three of the offsuit kings). It is obvious that to reach 7D without just guessing or blasting, a natural bidding partnership must employ and fully understand the workings of Roman Keycard Blackwood and/or its variation, often referred to as "Minorwood." Maybe bridge is not such a simple game after all!

We would like to remind you of the upcoming **Swiss Mentoring game** on November 8. Team play is an important part of Duplicate bridge. Come learn from the best the ins and outs of team play.

The timing is great for this Mentoring Game as you can use what you have learned the following Sunday in Swiss events at our Sectional tournament. For the Mentoring Game you need to arrive a few minutes early to organize your team. Bring your lunch.

Also, sign-up online or on the bulletin board. This is the link to sign up online:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQUk1J4Uoi_JTDCEyQKQMVU. Any questions can be directed to Suzanne, Jennie or Sherrie.

Here is an interesting hand from a recent game at our club. You hold ♠62 ♥J54 ♦KJT432 ♣62. Partner opens 1NT and after a bungled transfer auction you find yourself declaring 4D. The lead is the ♣3 and this dummy comes down: ♠AQT4 ♥932 ♦A5 ♣AK74. You realize that many pairs will be in 3D, so you must make 4D or suffer a poor board. You will need the spade finesse and you must also avoid any trump losers. So you win the ♣A, then play the ♦A and a low diamond finessing the ♦J. Good news and bad news! The ♦J holds but LHO shows out on the second diamond. This means RHO started with ♦Qxxx. To avoid the loss of a diamond you must execute a **trump coup**. That is, you must shorten your trumps to the same length as RHO's trump holding, while scoring all your side suit tricks, and wind up in dummy—or at least avoid being stuck in your own hand—at trick twelve. At trick twelve you will hold ♦KT over RHO's ♦Qx, someone else will be on lead, and you will score up your contract.

Therefore, after discovering the bad diamond break, finesse the ♠Q, play the ♠A and ruff a spade. Then cross to the ♣K and ruff another spade. Now exit in hearts—let the opponents have their heart tricks. Holding only 3 hearts and the ♦KT you will score your ♦T in addition to your ♦K. Two spades, two clubs, and six diamonds, making 4. Congratulations—you earned 16 of 17 matchpoints!

But it could have been a lot more difficult. Suppose the opponents led a heart on the go, took 3 hearts, and then exited a club or spade. Likely you play ♦A and finesse the ♦J. Now you realize you need a trump coup. But it's tricky to pull off since your heart exit cards are gone. You must ruff two cards in hand by trick 10 but still have a black entry to dummy at trick eleven. So do this: if they exit a spade after taking their hearts, win the ♠Q, play ♠A and ruff a spade. Now cross to the ♣K and ruff another spade. You are now in hand with only ♦KT and ♣x. Lead the low club to the ♣A and then a club from the board to score your diamonds. On the other hand if they exit a club after taking their hearts you must play ♣AK and ruff a club. Then a spade to ♠Q and ruff a club. Now you are in hand with only ♦KT and ♠x. Lead the spade to ♠A and another spade off the board to score your diamonds.

If they take three hearts on the go and you deviate from these lines just given, it is easy to wind up in hand at trick twelve with only ♦KT. And that means you go down.

Thanks to Iype's Wednesday discussion group for going over the present hand in the case where three hearts were taken immediately. Also thanks to the program Deep Finesse for vetting the lines of play given here.

For a really spectacular trump coup which requires preparatory maneuvering before touching trump, see Paul's Deal of the Month in the September 2014 Kibitzer.