

Louisiana Bridge Association February 2017

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbℓ@cox.net

President's Message February 2017

It is an honor to have been selected by our Board of Directors to serve as the Unit President for 2017. With the help of our many volunteers (especially our previous Presidents), I am confident the Louisiana Bridge Association will continue to provide a safe and pleasant facility in which this great game is taught and played.

For the year my goals are fairly simple - keeping the Unit financially strong while continuing to grow our membership base. Ideas from the membership to accomplish these goals are not only encouraged but required. Success is always a team effort. Constructive criticism is likewise encouraged. Sometimes even with the best of intentions we just don't get it right.

We are starting the year with ample cash and a very nice piece of debt free real estate on our books. While current operations have been at a loss for a few years, we have been able to absorb them without significant stress. Hopefully major repairs are behind us for awhile as we do need some breathing room to concentrate more on bridge matters than on plumbing and roof issues!!

Please let any members of the board know when things are not going as you wish or expect (in person or by use of the suggestion box.) We may be able to effect a change for the better and in any event, you will not be ignored. Lastly, thanks to all the directors and volunteers without whom there would be no duplicate bridge in our area.

Jim Thornton

February Events

(* = Extra points, no extra fee)

Feb 8 Unit Championship Wed**

Feb 16-18 Lafayette Sectional Thurs-Sat

Feb 17-19 Hattiesburg Sectional Fri-Sun

Feb 24 Unit Championship Fri**

Feb 28 Mardi Gras – Unit Championship**

Feb 27-Mar 5 Orange Beach Regional

Mon - Sun

LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE— NEW EZBRIDGE STARTS SOON

Send your friends, neighbors

When: Thurs Feb 2 9AM

Where: LBA Club 2709 Edenborn

Cost: First 4 weeks are free!

Questions: **Suzanne Cliffe 666-1821**

A message from our new Webmaster

I am the new Webmaster of **our club website**. If you are like me, you may not even be aware of this site. The URL, or web address, is **www.la-bridge.com**. I have always just logged on to the Pianola website, when notified via email of my results. But you can go directly to our website, and obtain much more than play results. There are news items, links to ACBL and District 10, coming events, a partner finder utility, Board of Directors minutes, and Kibitzer archives going back to 2008! And more. Check it out. Please be sure to bookmark or add **www.la-bridge.com** to your toolbar so that you can keep up to date with everything you need to know about your club.

Also, please let me know anything you would like to add, or any questions you have, or complaints.

Ellen Lappa
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NEW MEMBERS

Delly Borne, Curtis Castle, Virginia Dibenedetto, Brenda Ellender, Jamie Huard, Edward Kennedy, Joann Kennedy, Jack Kienzel, Philip Russo Jr

Transfers in

Patricia Riggs, Carolyn Songy

Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpot

Jan 4 Larry & John Federico

In Memoriam

Ann Barone

Toby Bassett

Norman Leslie

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Bruce Hanni, Meryl Rosenbloom,
Michael Roux

NEW NABC MASTER

Linda Conner

NEW LIFE MASTER

Jacob Karno

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Tom Dunn

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS

J F Lowenstein, Carole Stribling

LBA Clubhouse Seventy Percent Games

Open Pairs

Jan 2 Bob Bowers & John Onstott 70.95%

Jan 4 Larry Federico & John Federico 71.43%

Jan 14 David Williams & Jean Talbot 70.58%

Jan 28 Paul & Linda Freese 70.51%

99er pairs

Jan 27 Michael Mooney & Steven Plotkin 71.43%

A Mandeville Seventy Percent Game

Jan 6 Diane Schwartz & Steve Heffner
73.61%, at the Mandeville club

GOLD RUSH TABLET PAIRS WINNERS!

A special multiclub two session Gold Rush Pair event was played on tablets Jan 23. Winners of the 30 table event were **David Williams & Reese Koppel**, who sealed the deal with a **76.62%** final session.

Metairie Sectional Firsts

Thurs AM

0-20 Karen Webber & Carol Lavin

299er Barbara Hammett & Tom Wasson

Open Joan Van Geffen & Jean Talbot; Sid LeBlanc & Greg Blum Flt B;
Marilyn Ducasse & Mary Regottaz Flt C

Thurs PM

299er Linda Conner & Elizabeth Cordes; Cecile Ruiz & Denise Tabor Flt F

Open Iype Koshy & Jamie Bush; David Williams & Jim Thornton Flt B;
Sherrie Goodman & Jacob Karno Flt C

Fri AM

299er Kitty Klaus & Denise Tabor; Quin Bates & Burton Brunson Flt F

Open Joan Van Geffen & JF Lowenstein; Doris Liukkonen & Erin Fleming
Flt B; David Williams & Toby Young Flt C

Fri PM

299er Linda Conner & Elizabeth Cordes; Susan Glennon & Maline Levy Flt F

Open Wayne Merkel & William Weiss; Michael Longmeier & Sharon
Henry Flt B

Sat AM

299er Susan Guarisco & Dianne Butler; Virginia McMurray & Virginia
Dabbs Flt E; Susan Glennon & Ellen Manshel Flt F

Open David Woods & Stephen Kishner; Mary Regottaz & Marilyn
Methvin Flt C

more firsts at right

More Metairie Sec Firsts

Sat PM

Open David Williams & JF
Lowenstein; Reese Koppel &
Geoff Chichester Flt C

299er Barbara Fitz-Hugh &
Elizabeth Cordes

Sun Swiss

Bkt 1 Jim Thornton-David
Wolf-David Williams-

JF Lowenstein

Bkt 2 Sue Himel-Vicki Willis-
Jacob Karno-Sherrie Goodman

Masterpoint Winner

J.F. Lowenstein racked up
50.91 MPs in this tournament

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH. The odds against a partnership bidding and making a "cold" seven of a minor suit in a typical local duplicate game are indeed quite long. Most club level pairs simply do not have the bidding methods at hand which allow for the sure bidding of seven of a minor suit. But once in a while the opportunity to bid and make such a rare grand slam does arise, as it did in a New Orleans club game. Here is the hand at issue. North ♠xx ♥x ♦KQ108xx ♣AKxx and South ♠AQx ♥Axxxx ♦AJ9x ♣void. North dealt and opened 1D. The auction proceeded 1D (natural)-1S (simple overcall)-2H (a one round force, not a "two over one" game force because of the interference)-P-3C (natural)-P-3S (game forcing cuebid, trump suit not yet identified)-P-4D (natural, likely six in length)-P-5NT (grand slam force, bid seven if holding two of the three top diamond honors; guessing that opener does not have two or more hearts or he would have bid them)-P-7D--making. After the fact it occurred to me that the auction could have gone 1D-1S (simple overcall)-2H-P-3C-P-4D (Roman Keycard Blackwood--Minorwood--on this particular auction)-5C (fourth bidding step, showing two keycards, the club ace and diamond king, plus the trump queen)-5H (what do you have in hearts)-7D (jump one level in trump suit to show heart singleton). In most cases it is improper to use RKB when asker holds a void side suit because if responder has only one keycard there is no way to tell which one it is but in this instance responder had both missing keycards, so there would have been no ambiguity. On this occasion bidding 7D, which was cold without even taking the spade finesse because the hearts broke 3/3, would have gotten you a top board, as is so often the case when a minor suit grand slam is bid and made.

Cue-bids Continued

By Iype Koshy

At unfavorable vulnerability, as dealer you open 1♦ with the following hand: ♠Ax ♥Qxx ♦AKxx ♣KQJx. After a 1♣ overcall by your left hand opponent, a negative double by your partner, and a pass by your right hand opponent, the bid comes back to you. What is your rebid?

Most players would bid 2NT showing 18+ high card points and a spade stopper. Some might try 3NT and a few others might bid 3♣. All of these bids are wrong, even though they might work out. The rebid of 2NT seems reasonable with a square hand and a stopper in the opponent's suit. In reality, a hand with a double stopper in opponent's suit would be more suitable for a 2NT rebid. The 3NT rebid should promise a solid suit (6 cards) rather than a square hand with 18+ HCP. The jump to 3♣ should guarantee long diamonds and clubs. (You should be 5-5, 6-5, or at least 5-4 in the minors to make that bid.)

This is the perfect hand for a power cue-bid 2♠, which guarantees 18+ HCP and is game-forcing. The power cue-bid is the strongest and most effective bid available whenever there is interference in the form of an overcall. Opener's cue-bid of 2♠ indicates several possibilities: willingness to play the hand in NoTrump or game or slam interest in his opening suit, in partner's suit, or in the unbid suit.

On this deal, partner's hand is as follows: ♠xxx ♥K9xxx ♦xxx ♣Ax. The best game contract on this hand is 4♥. Responder has limited values, hence no slam. The bidding should go as follows:

1♦-(1♠)-Double-(Pass)-2♠-(Pass)-3♥-(Pass)-4♥.

Responder's bid of 3♥ promises 5 hearts. Since his negative double guaranteed only 4, he has to bid 3♥ to show 5. Opener raises to 4♥ and the best game contract is reached.

Hook, line and sinker

By Arnaldo Partesotti

During a recent Tuesday night game I pulled off the Deceptive Play of the year (or maybe just of the week), but I am very proud of it, so I am giving myself a pat on the back, and I am going to write about it. This was the full hand (below left):

Dealer S Vul All

North	
♠Q873	
♥KQ7	
♦Q1076	
♣86	
West	East
♠109	♠A2
♥J52	♥A109863
♦A842	♦KJ3
♣J972	♣54
South	
♠KJ654	
♥4	
♦95	
♣AKQ103	

As South, I became declarer in a 4♠ contract after East intervened with Hearts. After West's lead of the ♥2, the contract cannot be made, having to lose the ♠A, the ♥A, and the two top Diamonds. The normal play on the ♥2 lead is to go up with one of dummy's Heart honors, hoping to pitch a losing Diamond on the remaining Heart honor. This however could alert East to the imminent possibility of a discard by declarer, and might direct him to the right defensive play - the return of a Diamond. I therefore played low from dummy on the ♥2 lead: I just wanted to muddy the waters, and it did not make a difference in the end, having to lose a Heart trick anyway, but being able eventually to ruff out the ♥A and pitching on dummy's remaining Heart honor (OK, there might be some transportation/timing problems but I will not get into that.)

Now put yourself in poor East's shoes: he could see ten Hearts, six in his hand and three in dummy, plus the ♥2 lead which was either from 3 cards or a singleton. Since I played low from dummy he assumed that I had the ♥J in my hand and that he was going to lose his ♥A if he did not play it now. When the ♥J did not fall under the ♥A, to him it was clear that *the ♥2 lead must be a singleton*. He therefore returned a Heart for partner to ruff, only I was the one void in Hearts and I was able to pitch my two Diamond losers on the two Heart honors in dummy, making five for an absolute top. Brilliant!

Post-mortem: I believe that East's play was very reasonable, and that most, if not all, would have been fooled.