

KIBITZER ♣♦♥♠

Louisiana Bridge Association November 2018

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President's Message November 2018

Our fall Sectional Tournament begins Thursday, November 1 and runs through Sunday. Don't forget to get your teams together for the Sunday Swiss.

It seems like we have a party or a tournament every month. This month's "thank you" goes to Susan Martin and Alison Vitter who co-chaired the 299er Tournament. We are so grateful to you for volunteering and then doing a great job! And thanks to all who donated food for the tournament.

Some of our games are shrinking in size. The rule at the Bridge Center is to send the players home if there are not enough people to make 2 ½ tables. We are so sorry if this happens; however, this has been a long-standing rule. Even if with 2 ½ tables, there is a long sit-out round for some pairs. These games are in jeopardy of being cancelled altogether. Please tell your friends to show up for the games that are dwindling in size.

If you don't see your picture on the wall of "Our Big Bridge Family," please let me know. Or, you can send me your picture at lcfreese@yahoo.com.

Linda Freese

November Events

*= extra points, no extra fees

**=extra points, extra fees

Nov 1-4 Dottie Toledano Sectional Thurs-Sun

Nov 5-11 Club Championship Week* Mon-Sun

Nov 12-18 Orange Beach Regional Mon-Sun

Nov 16,19,21,29 Charity Fund Games**

Fri,Mon,Wed,Thurs

Nov 22 Thanksgiving Club Closed

Nov 22-Dec 2 Honolulu NABC

Wed thru following Sun

299ER SECTIONAL FIRSTS

Thurs AM Loretta Martin & Charlotte Frattini

Thurs PM William McDonald & Linda Cotter; Walter Williamson & Dupree Parker Flt B

Fri AM Robert Reich & Buddy Massey; John Treen & Newt Jackson Flt C

Fri PM Wayne Wells & Mercedes Wells; Carolyn Abadie & Lynne Peterson Flt C

Sat AM Claudine Cannon & Delphine Butler

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTER

Joann Kennedy

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Gail Duffy, Kathy Plauche, Debbie Reily, Stephen Romig, Dan Zelenka

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Angeline Christie, Ronnie McGehee, Meryl Rosenbloom, Diane Scott

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Jo-Ann Couvillion, Abe Lubritz, Margaret Shirer, Earl Wattigny

NEW NABC MASTERS

Erin O'Sullivan Fleming, Kathleen Vogel

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

Reese Koppel

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Arnaldo Partesotti, Molly Silvia

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Mike Anthony

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Jackie Madden

Call the Director on Bridgemate!

See Sherrie's note on p3.

70 PERCENT GAMES

Open Pairs

Oct 18 Jamie Bush & John Onstott 81.68%

Oct 20 Paul Rosenblum & Jacob Morgan

70.41%

Table of Contents this issue

p1 president's message, November events, rank advancements, 299er sectional firsts, 70 percent games

p2 Robinsonville Regional Firsts, Pikes Peak Regional Firsts, Direktor's Korner, Paul's Deal

p3 letter from Lowen, Arnaldo column, Sherrie on new Bridgemate utility

Robinsonville Regional Firsts

Nelson Daigle-William Gentry-Judy Nordvoll-Sigurd Nordvoll **Tue-Wed KO 4**

Nelson Daigle-William Gentry-Helen St.Romain-Molly Sylvia **Fri-Sat Eve Swiss Flt**

C and Tue-Thurs Night Owl Swiss

Buddy Massey-Irene Labiche-Robert Reich-Dee Gerald **Fri Sat Jailhouse Rock 3**

Jacob Morgan-James Melville **Tue-Wed KO1, Thurs Open Swiss Teams, and**

Fri Open Pairs

Diane Scott-Virginia Dabbs **Thurs 2PM 199er Pairs, Thurs 7PM 199er Pairs, and**

Thurs 9:30AM 199er Pairs

Council Bluffs Regional Firsts

Jacob Morgan

Horsehoe Bracketed

KO Bkt 1

Pikes Peak Regional Firsts

Beth Todd **Sat Compact KO teams bkt 2**

Jacob Morgan **Mon-Tues KO teams bkt 1, Wed-Thurs morn swiss teams**

Direktor's Korner

This month's topic: call the director, please

Direktor in Charge: Diamond Lil

Common mistake: not calling the director, perhaps because you do not want to hurt the opponent's feelings, perhaps because you think it is unnecessary, perhaps because you do not want to bother the frazzled director.

The new rules are different in many respects from the old ones. For example the nuclear penalty for bidding at your RHO's turn or at your partner's turn is no longer in place. New rule: if you can make a bid that is essentially the same when your true turn comes, you can do so. Further, even if you change your bid, your partner is barred for ONLY ONE ROUND.

Bottom Line: Players do not necessarily know all the new rules. The prudent thing to do is to call the director for ANY irregularity.

Some people think that calling the director means that you are angry, or that you are reprimanding them. No so. In either case: best strategy is to say, "Director, please." Newcomers are reluctant to call the director. If you are one of these people, practice with a friendly table. Calling the director is the polite thing to do.

The director's job is to make rulings. Calling the director is prudent, polite, and politically correct. Call the director, please.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH

Perhaps the title of this column should be "HOW TO BE A MODERN BIDDER AND MISS AN EASY SLAM." As most active players are aware by now, the ACBL "modernized" its rules by progressing from having no rule on distributional limits for opening 1NT to the current standard that 1NT within the pair's announced NT range can be opened holding a singleton, as long as the singleton is an ace, king or queen. While the wisdom of mandating such a rule is open to question, it is indeed the "current law," enforced by the ACBL rulemaking heads. My partner took a grand leap into

N ♠10xx
 ♥A
 ♦AQxxx
 ♣AQxx

S ♠KQJx
 ♥KQxx
 ♦void
 ♣KJxx

modernism and opened 1NT in first seat, all vul. (See hand at left.) I tried to find a four card major in opener's hand by bidding a simple 2C "Stayman" but opener naturally rebid the usual 2D major suit denial. Still searching for a major, I bid 3S "Smolen," showing that I held at least four spades and five hearts. Opener responded 3NT this time, denying holding three hearts. Holding no aces and by this time in the bidding fearing that partner's opening 1NT was likely to be based upon good diamonds, I failed to bid 4C (or more), fearing what partner might think that bid meant, or that 3NT might be the last playable and "makeable game" (an improper phrase often used by bridge players) on such a misfitting hand. Once again the Bridge Gods struck me down because the opening lead was a diamond and our hands produced twelve runners after knocking out the ace of spades. Of course, without a diamond lead there were only eleven NT tricks but that did not affect the Gods' thinking. "Why didn't you bid a slam with 15 good points, etc, etc etc," my partner implored? Better for me to say nothing, I opined to myself silently, so I let partner's question remain unanswered. But deep down inside I knew that we would have easily reached 6C if partner had only opened 1D and rebid 2C as I know I would have if holding that hand. My best guess is that opener's hand will more often, indeed much more often produce a minor suit slam than a NT slam if bid properly. But I did learn a lesson from this episode. I learned that I am a hopelessly old fashioned bidder who will continue to count distributional points and tricks and will bid accordingly for the foreseeable future. I'm afraid that opening a good hand 1NT with three losing spades and a singleton ace of hearts will always be an error in my book, a text with which the ACBL and my partner obviously disagree.

Letter from Lowen

Dear LBA Members:

In recent months, we have observed an increase of players not finishing on time and repeating the offense in more than one round. It is imperative that we play on time and that we are ready to play when the next round starts. All players are expected to be aware of the time limit when the time clock is in use or a time announcement has been made.

Slow play is a violation of law and subject to penalty. When a pair has fallen behind, it is incumbent on them to make up the time lost as quickly as possible whether at fault or not. All players are expected to make a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, regardless of the reason for their lateness. Unless there is compelling evidence, our club directors should presume that a pair finishing a round late on more than one occasion is responsible for the lateness. There is a strong expectation that the director will penalize that pair. These penalties will increase with subsequent instances of slow play. While warnings may be given before a penalty is assessed, failure to do so in no way limits the director's authority to issue a penalty. The penalties will increase if the responsible pair argues with the director. Arguing with our club directors is a violation of our club's Zero Tolerance Policy.

We thank you for your cooperation; please let me know if you have any questions. Let's all enjoy the game we love and please remember to play on time.

Thank you,

Lowen
LBA Board of Directors
Ethics & Conduct Chair

Fear of flying! By: Arnaldo Partesotti

If you read my articles, you know that once in a while I complain about our slam bidding ability - or lack thereof. The hand below left is a perfect example. As you can see, North-South can make 7NT or 7S (only 6S if played by South

North NV ♠K986 ♥A ♦AK876 ♣A32	West NVD ♦J72 ♥KJ ♦QT54 ♣J754	East NV ♠54 ♥QT9876432 ♦J2 ♣--	because of the potential Club ruff.) At the club, only one pair bid 7NT down 3, I assume they did not finesse the ♣J, which is automatic once you play an honor in South to discover the 4-0 distribution. One pair bid 7S, down two, I assume they made the same mistake in Clubs or there was a revoke, there are 13 tricks off the top once the ♣J is located. Two pairs bid 6S+1, 11 pairs out of 18, the large majority, bid 4S+3, the remaining pairs had different results. I find it difficult to put my finger on the reason for failing to bid slams. One reason I call "fear of flying", a lot of players will avoid uncertain territory and bid slams only if they are sure that they will succeed. Yet, watching top experts on BBO, I witnessed a top pair bid 7 missing the trump A, another famous pair bidding 6 missing the trump A and K, and another equally famous pair bidding 6 missing two outside Aces, and no void to take care of them. Sometimes you will fail... Part of the reason is also due to the scoring system: in the example above, if you bid "4 making 7" you should get a below average score, instead, at the club, you got 10 points out of 17. This is just the way it is, I do not have a remedy. If you bid a slam and go "down 1" you almost surely get a zero.
South NV ♠AQT3 ♥5 ♦93 ♣KQT986			

Another reason is the opponents interfering. In the hand above, after West passes and North opens 1D, East will interfere with a number of Hearts, anywhere from 1H to 5H, 3H being most likely. The higher the interference, the more difficult it will be for N-S to reach slam.

One more reason is the lack of tools for bidding slams. Yes, everybody plays 1430 and Gerber, cue-bids however are another thing. Italian cue-bids are mostly ignored, yet they are now played by all experts and recommended by all major bridge writers because they allow pinpointing the location of first and second round controls (and NOT because I am Italian!) I also have to question our ability to stop below slam when it is clear that two controls are missing: do you have a system/agreement to do so and have you discussed it with partner? Or do you avoid bidding slam when not sure (more fear of flying!)

THE NEW CALL THE DIRECTOR FEATURE ON BRIDGEMATES by Sherrie Goodman

Tired of director calls interrupting your concentration? We have the perfect solution! The directors will be wearing a pager, and there is a "CALL TD" button on the screen of the Bridgemates (where the score, and rank buttons are). You press that button and then press the call button that appears. The pager will tell the Director which table needs him/her. The rest of the room doesn't have to know your issue, and if the director has stepped into the kitchen to fetch more cups for you, they will receive the page wherever they are. Save your vocal cords for your spouse or kids!