

## Louisiana Bridge Association June 2017

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### **President's Message June 2017**

Our annual **Dot Babin Derby Day Sectional** was successful with the table count increasing slightly and our friend Marlene Ruckert donating prize monies for the Saturday events in honor of her late sister Shirley. Financially we did not do as well as we wanted with food expenditures being a bit more than we budgeted for. Nonetheless, the tournament was about break even and we learned a lesson or two in the process. Thanks to all who helped and played!!

**Our next Sectional will be July 13-16** with Stephen Kishner, David Woods and Mark Greensfelder acting as co-Chairmen. Please help them out any way you can.

**Baton Rouge is holding its Sectional June 1-4** at their clubhouse. They would love to see a big contingent from our club in attendance.

**Our annual "Longest Day" games** benefiting the Alzheimer's Association will be held **June 21**. Please attend as many of the games as you can. It is a great cause.

The big news for the month is our **increase in table fees from \$6 to \$7 effective July 1, 2017**. We are confident that this will restore our operations to a positive cash flow situation. Feel free to discuss this with any of the board members.

It has been noted that **many pairs do not have at least one convention card** filled out completely. This is an ACBL requirement and the Directors will be announcing this as a reminder before each game. Penalties will start being assessed starting in July so please give this item the attention it deserves.

Finally, **thanks to David Wolf for preparing and donating over 100 new laminated table cards** for use in our club games and sectional events.

See you at the table!!

**Jim Thornton**

### **June Events**

**\*= Extra points**

**Jun 1** NAOP Qualifier\* Thurs \$7

**Jun 1-4** Baton Rouge Sectional Thurs-Sun

**Jun 3** ACBL World-Wide Game\* Sat \$7

**Jun 5-11** STAC WEEK\* Mon-Sun \$7

**Jun 6** Gold Point Tablet game 3:45PM

**Jun 13** NAOP Qualifier\* Tues AM \$7

**Jun 17** Youth Day Sat Free. Snacks, drinks  
10AM for 9-11 yr. olds

Noon teens thru college

**Jun 17** NAOP Qualifier\* Sat \$7

**Jun 16-18** Gulfport Sectional Fri-Sun

**Jun 21** Longest Day Wed 8AM to 10:30PM

Short games with full points \$10/game

Benefits Alzheimer's Association

**Jun 23-25** Jackson 299er Sectional Fri-Sun

**Jun 29** Charity Fund Game\* Thurs \$7

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### **Website Reminder from Ellen Lappa**

Please remember to check out our LBA Website at [www.la-bridge.com](http://www.la-bridge.com). The website will keep you up to date on all upcoming events, news, notes, obituaries, etc. **If you have questions, or would like something included on our site, email me at [whodat@mlappa.net](mailto:whodat@mlappa.net)**

Ellen Lappa

### **In Memoriam**

*Merle Lachin  
Lynn McClure  
Linda Stockton  
Fred Woodruff*

**Drew Casen played a compound squeeze in the Dot Babin Sectional, and posted the following account at the online site Bridge Winners. It is given here with his permission.**

	N	
	♠7	
	♥A5	
	♦AKJ8752	
	♣K74	
W		E
♠KJ53		♠Q10962
♥J63		♥Q1082
♦3		♦Q10
♣Q10652		♣J8
	S	
	♠A84	
	♥K974	
	♦964	
	♣A93	

Every 30 years or so, I see a type of squeeze that I have never seen before. In the early 80's I made a slam on a criss cross squeeze, but I haven't seen one since. I have never had a smother play. Recently, playing in a New Orleans sectional with Paul Rosenblum, I received a club lead against my 3NT contract. (hand at left). Although I was disappointed that we didn't get to slam, I realized that our bidding was normal, so I needed to do the best I could do in 3NT. I was happy not to have received a major suit lead, which would have destroyed the communication required to execute this once in a lifetime opportunity. Having no table experience with compound squeezes, I simply had to use some logic. I recognized the only threat card in dummy was in clubs and that ♣7 had to do its work in order for me to take all 13 tricks, assuming diamonds were not 3-0 off sides. The first 8 tricks were easy. Win the ♣A in hand and run all the diamonds coming to ♠A8 ♥K97 ♦-- ♣--. West pitched 2 clubs and I was fairly confident that she had started with 5 clubs. East came down to 2 spades and 3 hearts. I could tell from the discards that West had unguarded hearts rather than spades. (She had to unguard one major to keep her club stopper.) So I played ♥K and heart to ♥A forcing

her to unguard spades. Then I cashed the ♣K squeezing East in the majors. If West had abandoned spades instead of hearts, cashing the ♠A at trick 9 would have achieved a similar end position. I am really glad this hand came up and it was a lot of fun to play. I hope the readers of this article enjoyed it.

**A Note from Theresa Federico.** Many of you know of the recent unexpected death of my son Neil. While my family was saddened and supportive, the Bridge Club truly showed compassion, caring, support and comfort. In fact, I consider the Bridge Club my second family because of the love shown to me. For those of you who sent cards, had masses said and gave financial support, I can never express enough thanks in words or show my true and genuine appreciation. Monies donated were used for expenses such as the coroner, funeral home, cremation, religious services, burial plot and more. Neil could not have had a more beautiful send off. All of you will forever be in my heart and prayers.

With much love,  
Theresa Federico

**PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH.** This hand was dealt by a computer for use in a New Orleans sectional matchpoint event. There was no tricky bidding or difficult declarer play involved. My purpose in reporting it is to remind the readers that hand strength is often provided by distributional values rather than just by high cards. The issue to be explored is whether or not aggressive bidding is appropriate in matchpoint scored duplicate events. I held the South hand (see below) in first seat, all vulnerable. As much as I thought the South hand should be opened, I refrained from doing so for two reasons. First, the hand contains only nine hcp; and second, it has only 1 1/2 clear defensive tricks, potentially misleading partner, who would expect two defensive tricks and a few more high cards if opened at the one level. So I passed, fully intending to reenter the bidding during the auction. Sure enough, my LHO opened the bidding with 1H, partner passed, my RHO raised to 2H and there I was, initially mute but holding a distributional freak of sorts. Clearly my hand was worth a bid but what bid? I decided to cuebid hearts, a "Michaels" type of bid, showing at least five spades and a long minor. The auction continued P-1H-P-2H-3H-X-P-P-4D-P-4S-all out, leaving North as declarer in 4S, vulnerable and undoubled. There was little to the play of the hand. East led a heart, won by West, who switched to a diamond, apparently hoping to develop a ruff. East took North's diamond King with the Ace and returned a diamond for West to ruff. But it turned out that West held a doubleton and it was North who held the singleton and won the second diamond trick in the dummy, South. A club to declarer's Ace put the lead in North's hand for a hopeful lead of the spade Jack, which held. Continuing leading spades, which broke 3/2, East's King fell on the third round, setting dummy "up" for the rest of the tricks, N/S making 4S, for a split top board. The hand was unusual in that North and South could not open or enter a natural suit bid until the four level and yet it produced a "cold with one finesse" game for the side holding a minority of the high card points. There is no moral in this report but it does serve to remind players in competitive bridge games to aggressively bid highly distributional hands, which often produce positive scores, even games, based upon distribution and fit rather than sheer point count power. So the answer is "yes," once again there is support for the often stated observation that bridge, and matchpoints in particular, is an aggressive bidder's game.

North	♠J10x
	♥Qxxx
	♦K
	♣Axxxx
South	♠AQ9xx
	♥x
	♦QJ109xx
	♣x

# Bridge Achievements

## Metairie Derby Day Sectional Firsts

**Thurs AM 0-20** Babs Saik & Carol Lavin

**299er** Margie Christian & Mary Dorsey; Carole O'Hare & Sarah Luchsinger Flt E

**Open** J.F. Lowenstein & Judy Katz; Sid LeBlanc & Greg Blum Flt B; Henry Bodenheimer & Hugh Lawson

**Thurs PM 299er** Irene Labiche & Steven Plotkin; Evelyn De Laoreal & Barbara Claiborne Flt C

**Open** Sue Himel & Nonie Leavitt; Nelson Daigle & William Gentry Flt B; Henry Bodenheimer & Hugh Lawson Flt C

**Fri AM 299er** Linda Conner & Elizabeth Cordes; Shirley Abels & Michiyo Snow Flt E; Loretta Martin & Charlotte Frattini Flt F

**Open** Doris Liukkonen & Arnaldo Partesotti; Carl Koppels & Audrey Cerise Flt C

**Fri PM 299er** Mary Hanni & Morris Place Jr; Myra Groome & Diana Powell Flt E; Barbara Fitz-Hugh & Kathy Gilmore

**Open** Paul Freese & Ron Berenger; Nelson Daigle & Sharon Henry Flt B; Gail Fayard & Marilyn Methvin Flt C

**Sat AM 299er** Ronald Ocmund & Irene Labiche; Virginia McMurray & Janet Genusa Flt F

**Open** Iype Koshy & Chuck Pitard **71.63%**; Gaye Wilson & Eileen Bosworth Flt B

**Sat PM 299er** Linda Conner & Barbara Fitz-Hugh; Michael Mooney & Bernard Vanderlinden Flt F

**Open** Iype Koshy & Chuck Pitard; Janet Patterson & Bonnie Nelson Flt B

**Sun Swiss Bkt 1** John Onstott-Drew Casen-C.Reis-Todd Lusk

**Bkt 2** Beth Todd-David Wolf-Jim Thornton-David Williams

## Shirley Ruckert Memorial Prizes for Derby Day tournament

Iype Koshy-Chuck Pitard \$300

Gaye Wilson-Eileen Bosworth \$240

Janet Patterson-Bonnie Nelson \$160

Ronald Ocmund-Irene Labiche \$140

Linda Conner-Barbara Fitz-Hugh \$90

Virginia McMurray-Janet Genusa \$40

Michael Mooney-

Bernard Vanderlinden \$30

## Hot Springs Regional Firsts

**Mon Tues KO** Iype Koshy-Allan Siebert-Jay Segarra-Mark Jones

**Fri-Sat KO** Iype Koshy-Mark Jones-Allan Siebert-Jay Segarra-Mike Cook-Thomas Turgeon

**Sat 299er Pairs** Charles Waldrop & Gary Waldrop Flt C

## Rank Advancements

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Tanya Everett, Peggy Joffrion, Joan Oppenheim

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Raynell Bourgeois, William Knecht, Alison Vitter, Wayne Wells

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Rayne Lykes, Cecile Ruiz

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

Janice Wattigny

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Patricia Kessler

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER

Geoff Chichester

## USA SENIOR TEAM TRIALS

**REACHED SEMIFINALS IN USA2 TEAM TRIAL** DREW

CASEN, JIM KEKORIAN, PAUL & LINDA LEWIS;

MARK ITABASHI

## 70 percent game

**99er Pairs** May 19 Judy Danos & Cheryl Hauver 70%

## New Members

Lynn Jambon, Pamela Rein

## Slam Bidding By Default by Arnaldo Partesotti

In a recent night game, seven tables, we were the only ones to bid and make a minor suit slam, when everybody else was in 3NT, making 5. At the end somebody asked me how we got to slam when nobody else did, and I replied: "by default". This might sound a bit smug, but we really reached slam automatically, more because of our bidding style than anything else. This was the hand and the bidding, with the opponents always silent (I was South):

Dealer W Vul All

♠AJ62  
♥AKQ3  
♦VOID  
♣AK432

♠9754      ♠KQ8  
♥T6542     ♥987  
♦K            ♦QT8732  
♣875        ♣Q

♠T3  
♥J  
♦AJ9654  
♣JT96

Auction

W	N	E	S
P	2♣	P	2♦
P	3♣	P	4♣
P	4♥	P	5♦
P	6♣	ALL PASS	

You will notice that no other slam is possible. The hand however is interesting because it gives you the opportunity to examine which bidding options are available, and how you would handle it with your favorite partner. Let's review our bidding:

2♣ is the general forcing opening, and I am the first one to tell you that this opening bid was instrumental in getting us to slam. But it is not recommended with three-suited hands - see Larry Cohen's article on page 49 of the May 2017 Bridge Bulletin. This hand should open "1♣", and risk the "pass" by partner.

2♦ is the conventional response very popular at our club. It is positive (an Ace, or a King, or 6+ HCP) as opposite to 2♦ being negative. Personally I favor 2♦ "waiting" ("lower minor" = second negative) which I play with other partners, and which is played by all US and International top players. Additionally, the other night I had a very interesting discussion with one of our good players and he told me that with a very good partner he only plays "an Ace or a King", and not "6+ HCP." Only Aces and Kings are useful opposite a 2♣ strong hand. I agree with him on unbalanced hands but on 22+ NT hands, even Quacks (Queens and Jacks) have value. But he has a point, who says that bridge is boring?

3♣ is natural.

4♣: the 3♣ bid turned my hand into gold: 4-card support with 2 (minor) honors, with an A and a void on the side. At this point I smelled slam and decided to "suppress" the Diamond suit and show support for the suit bid by partner, to set trumps. I have to believe that most players opening 2♣ bid 3♦ at this point, which resulted in the 3NT final contract.

4♥ is a cue-bid. Or maybe partner wanted to show one of the Major suits, I never asked him. It was a good "two-way" bid.

5♦ is a cue-bid, having suppressed the Diamonds suit, it was now important to show this Ace.

6♣ is the logical conclusion by partner who has Spades under control.

Only one more observation: in sequences like this always try to set the trump suit as soon as possible. The 4♣ bid (suppressing the Diamond suit) was critical in driving to slam.

## New Mentoring Program by Sue Himel

Unit 134 is starting a new mentoring program. The program will pair experienced players (300+) with less experienced players (299ers) for 9 to 10 months for the purpose of helping less experienced players advance within the ACBL.

There are numerous ways to accomplish this so watch for flyers and brochures in June that will explain our approach. A mentor might play bridge with you occasionally or just talk about hands you have played with someone else. He might watch a pair play a few hands and then discuss them. Maybe you'd like to learn to play online and a mentor could help with that. We'd like to pair players with similar styles of learning or teaching so that each mentor/mentee pair will have a unique relationship suited to their own style.

Our committee will have applications for the program ready in early July so that we can get started sometime in August. If you have questions or comments please talk to someone on the committee: Sue Himel, Mike Russell, Jennie Sauviac or Suzanne Cliffe.