



Louisiana Bridge Association July 2017

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President's Message July 2017

Kudos to **Sherrie Goodman** and her team for all the work that was done at the immensely successful "Longest Day" games. We had 67 tables for the day and it looks like over \$13,000 was raised for the Alzheimer's Association. It was also a lot of fun for the participants. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make a difference!!

Carolyn Dubois and her team had a pre-teen 3 table group and a teen 3 table group at our first "Youth Day". Fun was had by all and all wanted to do it again soon!!! The Unit will accommodate them in any way we can as this is the future of our great game.

Finances for the month were near budget but we have a new A/C problem with a compressor out on one large unit. A decision as to how to proceed (new or repair) will be made soon. Please bear with us as we work through this newest issue.

Our **July Sectional** is on track and hopefully A/C repairs will be finalized by game time on July 13. Please sign up to bring food and dessert items. **Stephen, David and Mark** are doing their first run as Chairpersons and will welcome all the help you can give.

Mary LeBlanc and Ellen Lappa are doing the 4th of July game with hot dogs and fixings. Please join us on July 4th for a great day at the club!!

See you at the table!!

Jim Thornton

July Events

*= Extra points

Jul 3-9 Nashville Regional Mon-Sun
Jul 3 – NAOP Qualifier* MonAM
Jul 4 – Unit Championship* TuesAM
Jul 11 ACBL-wide Int.'l Fund Game #2* TuesAM
Jul 13-16 Wes Busby Sectional Thurs-Sun
Jul 17 Charity Fund Game* Mon AM
Jul 17 NAOP Qualifier* Mon night
Jul 20-30 Toronto NABC Wed thru second Sun
Jul 26 NAOP Qualifier* Wed
Jul 27 Unit Championship* Thurs noon
Jul 31 Unit Championship* Mon night

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New Members

Judith Danos, Cheryl Hauver

Rank Advancements

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Ronald Gravois, Sarah Luchsinger, Martha Wailes

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Phil Becnel, Adesh K Jain, Frieda Johnson

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

Barbara Hammett

NEW LIFE MASTER

Cindy Lewis

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Sherrie Goodman

Unit 134 member **Sherrie Goodman** has been selected by District 10 Director Russ Jones to a lifetime appointment to the **Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee**. She joins the following Unit 134 members to receive the honor of being selected to join this elite committee:

John Federico* 2012, Theresa Federico*2012, Suzanne Cliffe, Eleanor Onstott, Joan Van Geffen, Jean Talbot, Sally Touns, Jennie Flynn Sauviac*2007, Edward Baldinger
Sherrie Goodman

*National winner

Congratulations Sherrie!!!

In Memoriam

Dick Brammell

Louie Harris

Amelie LeBlanc

Yarboroughs and YARBOROUGHs. John Federico pointed out a recent* hand in our club containing no card higher than a 6. Realizing this was extremely unlikely, he wanted to check, exactly what are the odds against this, and more importantly, what should we make of this event. **Short answer:** There are over 635 billion possible bridge hands, of which 77,520 contain no card higher than a 6. So on average, you get a hand with no card higher than a 6 **once in 8,191,609 hands.** Or, on average, one **deal** in 2,047,902 will contain a hand with no card higher than a 6. Intuitively? I estimate there are something like 20,000 deals a year at our club, which would mean we expect such a hand at our club about once in a century! Perhaps there is a minor quirk in the random dealer** we use.

Other levels of yarboroughs. We use the term yarborough rather freely, but officially, a yarborough*** is a hand with no honor cards--i.e. which has no card higher than a 9. Here are numbers for various levels of yarboroughs: For highest card 9, the hand should occur on average once in 1828 hands (about once a week at our club); for highest card 8, once in 16,960 hands (about once in two months); for highest card 7, once in 254,398 hands (about once in three years). For highest card 6 once a century as stated above; for highest card 5 once in 1,113,952,785 hands (14,000 years—fuhgeddabouddit!!!—it ain't gonna happen).

* May 10, Board 20 East

** Computers can't produce truly random numbers; instead they produce pseudo random numbers--calculated sequences which look random but which are obtained by starting with an arbitrary "seed" number and applying an exotic formula first to the seed, then to the result, again to that result, etc etc to produce the sequence. Not random because calculated from a given number and a formula. It is not easy to come up with a procedure whose pseudo random output will pass all sorts of statistical tests, and development of these procedures has taken years, with slow improvement. But even though imperfect, pseudo random algorithms have proved to be very important and effective tools to approximately solve hard problems in math and science.

*** Yarboroughs are named for the second Earl of Yarborough who had a standing offer to anyone--if you put up one pound, and then shuffled the deck and dealt a true yarborough, he would pay you 1000 pounds. Since yarboroughs happen on average one time in 1828 hands he could be confident of making money in the long run. He took in one pound every bet and paid out 1000 pounds only one time in 1828 on average.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH.

N ♠10xx
♥AKQJxx
♦Axxx
♣VOID

S ♠VOID
♥xx
♦KQ10xxx
♣KJ10xx

I have noted that few, if any, internationally ranked European pairs play American matchpoint style "weak two bids," and yet they dominate and win major international events again and again. I also realized that a large number of excellent bridge writers have advocated so many contradictory do's and don'ts about weak two bids that some strong pairs have developed doubts about the advisability of playing the convention at all. One "don't" about which most advocates of weak two bids are in general agreement is that in first and second position opening weak two bids with hands either including a void or which are two suited should be avoided. A hand (see diagram at left) in a local weekly club game illustrates the wisdom of those particular "don'ts."

I was North in an unfamiliar partnership. South, vul vs not vul in first seat, violated both prohibitions simultaneously (void and two suiter) and opened 2D. The auction proceeded competitively, less wildly than opener should have expected it might, 2D-P-2H-2S-3C-P, and there I was, looking at three losing spades and thinking that opener had a worthless club "feature," the rebid style we were playing. So I rejected bidding 4H, which should make for a good matchpoint score, and instead jumped to 5D in an effort to make it more difficult for opponents to find a 5S save. Opponents did indeed give up further competition, so 5D was the final bid and contract. The opening lead was the ♠A, following which in less than a second or two, declarer ruffed and tabled his hand, claiming seven. We had succeeded in missing a hand cold for a grand slam, without even a finesse. Partner vigorously criticized my conservatism for bidding only 5D and not 7D or 7H, while I opined that he might have taken a shot at 6D with his spade void, after his having distorted the bidding so severely. But even looking at all four hands I could not figure out a logical reason to gamble and bid six, hoping that opener had a singleton spade, when the auction indicated that partner probably had two or more spades, and much less could I find reason to bid either 7D or 7H. Oh well, it was just another bad board for an unfamiliar partnership, which soon broke up anyway. I did not think about the hand again for a few days but when I did I realized that a few advanced partnerships play that over a weak two opener there is a rarely played "asking bid" convention which could have solved our "how to reach a cold 7D" problem. The convention works this way. Over 2D a jump shift of 3S asks for a control in the "ask" suit. A void is a 100% control, shown by the fourth "step response" (3NT=no control, 4C=second round, 4D= first round Ace and 4H=absolute control by void). My guess is that we could wait for a lifetime after adopting that convention and another hand with which it would work successfully would be unlikely to ever appear again. Alas, we had missed and wasted our once in a lifetime chance.

Bridge Achievements

Baton Rouge Sectional Firsts

Thurs AM open pairs Drew Casen & John Onstott
Thurs PM open pairs Drew Casen & John Onstott **78.30%**
Fri PM open pairs Bob Bowers & John Onstott
Sat AM open pairs John Onstott & Craig Cordes; Sally Toups & Leah Miciotto Flt B
Sat PM 299er pairs Judy Pyeatte & Virginia Dabbs
open pairs Bob Bowers & Jamie Bush; Sally Toups & Leah Miciotto Flt B
Sun Swiss John Onstott-Drew Casen-Jamie Bush-Bob Bowers

STAC firsts

Mon AM 299er Cecile Ruiz & Gary Bergeron Flt C
Mon eve open Derek Westwood & Jenny Flynn Sauviac; Elizabeth Cordes & Molly Sylvia Flt B
Tues AM 299er Linda Conner & Sheryl Thompson; Philip Luchsinger & Sarah Luchsinger Flt C
Tues Eve Aux Pairs Wanda Picarella & Ronald Haag Flt C
Wed AM open Sandy & Marti Sisco Flt B
Fri AM 99er Jackie Childress & Jane Robinson; Steve Romig & Dorothy Romig (tie)
Sat PM open Gail Fayard & Audrey Cerise Flt C

Gulfport Sectional Firsts

Sat PM 0-300 Mimi Groome & Myra Groome
Open Doris Liukkonen & Erin O'Sullivan Flt B

Denver Regional firsts

Beth Todd (w Martyn Cooper of Crested Butte CO and varying others): **Mt Antero KO Teams Bkt3; Quandary Peak Swiss Teams Flt B; Huron Peak Swiss Teams Flt B;**

70 percent games

99er Jun 2 Janet Genusa & Shirley Mirambell 75%
299er Jun 1 Lynn Flynn & Gigi Matthews 80.44%
Jun 26 Molly Sylvia & Elizabeth Cordes 72.78%
Open Jun 14 Judy Katz & Joan Van Geffen 70.24%
Jun 19 Larry Federico & Jean Talbot 70.56%
Longest Day Jun 21 Pairs: Margaret Ponseti & Lynn Flynn 73.33%; Jim Thornton & Wayne Weisler 70.83%; Norma Phillips & Helen St.Romain 79.17%
Individual: Steven Plotkin 75%, Pamela Marinaro 75%, Vicki Willis 71.43%

Las Vegas Regional

John Onstott & Drew Casen--high finishes in many knockouts, 88.79 and 99.78 mps respectively

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE KIBITZER.

We are interested in bridge stories of all kinds—technical or human interest. They should not all be written on an expert technical level. Anything that might benefit your peers at the table, or amuse or appeal to some of our readers, is welcome. Remember, we have a great variety of club members, so we need variety in our Kibitzer articles too.

Please contact the Editor if you can help.

The Longest Day was long on rain, but it didn't stop this club from reigning in lots of fun and funds for the Alzheimer's Association. While we played bridge from 8 am to 9:30 pm, we managed to raise almost \$14,000. Over 150 master points were earned by those in attendance. **Dabney Jacob** was our lucky raffle winner for a year of free play at our club.

Thanks to all of the following:

Our sponsors: Schonberg Memory Care Communities: Vista Shores, Beau Provence, Park Provence & Ashton Manor plus Access Sleep & Wellness Center, Ann and Price Crane, Jane Goldring, Gary Allen, Cathy Alford, and Sherrie Goodman.

Our directors who donated their services: Tippi Ellis, Lil Range, Sue Himel, Doug deMontluzin, Wayne Weisler, Linda Freese, Suzanne Cliffe, Sharon Henry, and Jack Lewis

Theresa Federico for making all those boards for us and helping to run the entire day.

Dolph Federico and Pelican Events for the well-discounted use of his portable toilet trailers.

Larry Federico, Jim Thornton, Wayne Weisler and Jackie Madden for helping to solve our plumbing issues so the games could be held!

Our guaranteed partners for the day: Mary LeBlanc, Ellen Lappa, Vicki Willis, Larry Federico, Steve Plotkin, Sharon Henry, Nelson Daigle, Carolyn Dubois, Jim Thornton, Wayne Weisler, Ben McKown, Cathy Alford and Sherrie Goodman.

Meredith Delord from Baudry Therapy Center, who helped us to get the blood flowing midday so that we wouldn't get too stiff from playing bridge all day.

Our food donors: Hobnobber's Cafe, Martin Wine Cellar, Trader Joe's, Maurice's French Pastries, Canseco's Market, Papa John's Pizza, Dorignac's Food Center and Langenstein's.

Our fabulous committee who sold raffle tickets, solicited and picked up food donations, decorated the club and put on a fabulous day for everyone. Cathy Alford, Diana Powell, Mary Ann Joyner, Sarah Pasternack, Janice Zazulak, Ann Crane, Roxanne Estrada, Jim Thornton, Myra Goome, Virginia McMurray, Sharon Henry, Carol Bagalman, and many others.

And last but not least, thanks to all of you who came out to support Alzheimer's, purchased raffle tickets, and sent in checks. May we all be blessed with healthy minds so that we never have to experience the Longest Day every day of our lives!

Sherrie Goodman

YOUTH DAY SUCCESS SUCCESS

Our first YOUTH DAY bridge class Saturday, June 17 was a fun filled morning. Eight children from the ages of 8-teen learned how to play bridge.

I feel we were very successful when we finished and one of our youngest players wanted to know ARE WE COMING BACK NEXT SATURDAY. That's SUCCESS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sharon Henry continued with the instruction on how to play BRIDGE with our teenagers at NOON with three tables. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot of bridge. Our Youth went home with cups, cards, books, back pack, all given by Theresa Federico. There were also numerous individuals that supported our endeavor. I want to personally thank our board for support, Gail Fayard, Diana Powell, Lillian Range, also Jo Ann Chancy who was by my side for two very long tiring days. A SPECIAL THANKS to TREVOR THOMPSON who supported the Youth in learning to play BRIDGE. THANK YOUTH!

Carolyn Dubois

ART WALL

I will start collecting Art this month from any member willing to loan or donate. Members that would like to provide a piece of their Art for the Art Wall contact Carolyn Dubois (cdubois53@bellsouth.net). The members will be able to remove the art they loan at any time.

I will hang pictures behind the table that dessert is placed for tournaments. Thank you.

Carolyn Dubois