

## Louisiana Bridge Association March 2018

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbl@cox.net

### President's Message March 2018

We made it through the Mardi Gras season, and our Mardi Gras Day game was a big success! A special thank you to Larry Federico who shopped for yummy Nathan's hot dogs, buns, potato salad and fixings for that day's game, and to all the people who chipped in to help make it a great day.

We've had several players who have donated new bidding boxes and bidding card sets. Thank you to all who have been so generous to the Louisiana Bridge Association.

Over the next year, we will be making some improvements to our club. The new bidding cards and boxes are just the first step in making our playing environment more pleasant and conducive to bidding and making impossible contracts and dazzling grand slams!

**Linda Freese**

### March Events

\*= extra points, no extra fees

\*\*=extra points, extra fees

**Mar 7-18** Philadelphia NABC

Wed thru 2nd Sun

**Mar 19** ACBL-wide Senior Pairs\*\*

Monday NOON

**Mar 14-17** Lake Charles Sectional Wed-Sat

But No Swiss teams!

**Mar 16-18** Gulfport 299er Sectional Fri-Sunday

**Mar 21** Unit Championship\* Wed AM

**Mar 22** Unit Championship\* Thurs

**Mar 30** Unit Championship\* Fri

#### NEW MEMBERS

J W Billy Groome, Patricia Leblanc, Bette Marks, Katherine Robison, Dan Zelenka

#### RANK ADVANCEMENTS

##### NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Mary Belcher, Stephen Romig, Susan Stephens, Melanie Thompson

##### NEW CLUB MASTER

Marcia Legendre

##### NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Susan Seago

##### NEW NABC MASTER

Mimi Groome

##### NEW LIFE MASTERS

Pris Daly, Gail Fayard, Linda Gallagher, Warren Gambino, Bill Gentry

##### NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Gail Fayard, Linda Gallagher, Bill Gentry

##### NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Cathy Alford

##### NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER

Chuck Pitard

#### Unit 134 Masterpoint Winners for 2017

(No star = won Ace of Clubs only,

\*=won Mini-McKenney only,

\*\*= won both A of C and MMK)

0-5 *Sarah Luchsinger* \*\*

5-20 *Theodore Brandon* \*\*

20-50 *Cecile Ruiz* \*\*

50-100 *Steven Plotkin* \*\*

100-200 *Mary Hanni* \*\*

200-300 *Janice Zazulak, Paul Rosenblum*\*

300-500 *David Williams*\*\*

500-1000 *Sherrie Goodman, Jacob Karno*\*

1000-1500 *Susan Sommer, Nelson Daigle*\*

1500-2500 *Dee Moses, Beth Todd*\*

2500-3500 *Paul Freese, JF Lowenstein*\*

3500-5000 *John Federico, Paul Deal*\*

5000-7500 *Larry Federico, Bob Bowers*\*

7500-10000 *Judy Katz*\*\*

10000+ *Jean Talbot, Drew Casen*\*

#### Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpots

**Jan 31** Judy Katz & Jean Talbot, Carol Stribling & Sue Himel, Larry Federico & John Federico

**Feb 21** David Woods & Mark Greensfelder

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### STaCkeroos—Firsts in recent STaC week

**Mon AM Open** *Larry Federico & Idell Adams*  
**Mon AM 299** *Robert Reich & Stephanie Reaves*  
**Mon eve Open** *Gail Fayard & Audrey Cerise Flt C*  
**Tues AM 299** *Sarah Luchsinger & Phil Luchsinger*  
**Fri AM 99** *Janet Genusa & Shirley Mirambell;*  
*Carole Katz & Diane Scott Flt B; Kendal Genre &*  
*Charlie Genre Flt C*  
**Sun PM 99** *Meryl Rosenbloom & Adesh Jain*

### Houston Regional Firsts

**Mon Swiss Bkt 8** *Edward Trapp-Carolyn Trapp-*  
*Loretta Mercola-Allan Chernov*  
**Tues nite 299er pairs** *Sheryl Thompson & Molly*  
*Silvia*  
**Thurs Swiss Bkt 15** *Mary Hanni-Morris Place-Betty*  
*Norton-Warrene Gambino*

### Hattiesburg Sectional First

**Fri PM Open** *Chuck Pitard & Richard Logan*

### Sarasota Regional Firsts

*Drew Casen-Jim Krekorian et al*  
**Sat Bkt Swiss 1 (tie) and Sun A/X/Y Swiss**

### TWO MONTHS OF 70% GAMES

#### Open Pairs

**Dec 29** *Larry Federico & Idell Adams* 71.02%  
**Jan 16** *John Onstott & Paul Deal* 71.02%  
**Jan 22** *David Bybee & Stephen Kishner* 70.67%  
**Jan 25** *Wayne Merkel & Bob Bowers* 74.69%  
**Feb 3** *Jack & Cindy Lewis* 70.83%

#### 499er Pairs

**Jan 5** *Bernard Vanderlinden & Michael Mooney* 70.71%  
**Feb 23** *Philip & Sarah Judith Luchsinger* 71.43%

#### 99er Pairs

**Jan 7** *Becky Zaheri & James Reily* 72.58%  
**Jan 19** *Peck Hayne & Melanie Thompson* **80.83%**  
**Jan 21** *John Treen & Susan Glennon* 70.83%

#### 299er Pairs

**Jan 4** *Michael Mooney & John Martin* 72.70%

#### Metairie Sectional Tournament

**Fri AM Open** *Bob Bowers & Chuck Pitard* 71.15%

**PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH.** This month we are revisiting the phenomenon which has earned the sobriquet "practice finesse," by definition, a finesse which, if successful, does not deliver the contract but if unsuccessful defeats it. Most often it is one of two available finesses, only one of which should be taken. Here is a classic example.

#### NORTH

♠xxxx  
♥Qx  
♦Kxxx  
♣J9x

#### SOUTH

♠AKx  
♥Ax  
♦AJ10x  
♣AQ10x

The simple auction, with no interference, was 2C-2D-2NT-3NT. The opening lead was a low heart. Dummy's ♥Q was topped by the ♥K and ♥A. Losing the lead would mean that opponents could cash at least four hearts, setting the hand. Only six top tricks were available but additional tricks could be developed by successfully finessing in diamonds and/or clubs. Our careless declarer started by taking the diamond finesse, first playing the ♦K and then finessing the ♦J against opponent's ♦Q. The finesse worked but declarer realized too late that his trick total had increased from six to only eight. He still needed the club finesse to reach the necessary nine tricks. This time declarer was careful to lead dummy's ♣9, following with declarer's small spot card, which would allow him to pick up the entire suit if the finesse was onside, even if the clubs broke 4/2. Eureka! This finesse also worked. So declarer proudly made five NT, earning what he momentarily thought was a top board. He was suddenly disillusioned by his partner, who pointed out that the event was Swiss teams, in which overtricks count for little but taking the best line of play to make the game bonus contract was imperative. It was plain to see that declarer had indeed taken a "practice finesse" when he started with the diamonds, as he still needed the club finesse to make 3NT. Declarer's correct play should have been to immediately take the club finesse, because if it worked he would have made nine tricks without the diamond finesse, two spades, one heart, two diamonds and four clubs. He would have still made five if the ♦Q had fallen doubleton but it did not. If the diamond finesse had lost, declarer would have gone down in a cold contract if the club finesse worked, so he should have made 3NT without risking the diamond finesse. The careless but lucky declarer actually gained two IMPs for successfully taking the unnecessary diamond suit "practice finesse" but he temporarily lost his partner's respect by not recognizing the correct technique. What he actually gained for his long run bridge success was learning that it is incorrect to take a "practice finesse" when there is another line of play which delivers the contract without taking an unnecessary finesse.

## Juvenile Bidding Exuberance

by Arnaldo Partesotti

In the hand which follows (rotated for convenience), due to some juvenile bidding exuberance, North-South end up in 7♥. Would you rather play the Grand Slam, or defend against it?

Dealer N all vul

North

♠AQJ98

♥T82

♦—

♣AJT98

West

♠5

♥765

♦J85432

♣K43

East

♠T742

♥93

♦AKQ7

♣Q52

South

♠K63

♥AKQJ4

♦T96

♣76

That was not a tricky question. Making or not making the Grand Slam depends only on what the Oppos will lead, you have no control. Say they lead a Diamond (the "natural" lead after you bid Spades, Hearts and Clubs): you ruff in dummy, enter your hand with a Heart, ruff a second Diamond, enter your hand with a Spade, pull trumps and claim. You make 5 Spades, 5 Hearts, 2 Diamond ruffs and the ♣A. If the Oppos lead something else other than Diamonds, after ruffing the second Diamond you are stuck in dummy and unable to reenter your hand to pull trumps, they will ruff the second round of Spades, down one, give it a try. Or, to add insult to injury, down two if they led a Club initially, ruff Spades and cash a Club

PIANOLA says that the hand makes 6♥ or 6♣. At the club, out of 20 tables, only 3 pairs bid slam, 2 making, one down in 6♣. Not a very good show of our slam bidding abilities, I am guessing if you do not "hog" Hearts and/or cue-bid the Diamond void, you will not get there.

So you end up in 4♠ with the vast majority of tables and receive a Diamond lead. At IMPs you cash your winners -5♠'s, 5♥'s and the ♣A, and it is on to the next hand, nothing to see here! At matchpoints you shoot for 12 tricks, trying to ruff a Club in

dummy. You know that Oppos will tap you again in Diamonds, so this works if Spades divide 3-2, a 68% chance. You go for it, Spades however break 4-1, you botch the end game and escape by making exactly four spades.

Let's see if I have this right: you could make all 13 tricks in Hearts, or 12 in Hearts, and in Spades, 11 off the top cashing your winners, but you just made only 10. Is bridge fun, or what?

## DIREKTORS' KORNER

This month's Director in Charge: **The Hat Lady**

Topic: **Hesitations**

Porridge, no, no, hesitations.

Relating bridge players to the family of the 3 bears. The bears knew when the porridge was just right, not too cold and not too hot. Bridge players know when the tempo of the bidding or play is just right, not too fast and not too slow.

Both could relay a message. Partner is allowed to bid after your hesitation, but should not make a call or play that was demonstrably suggested by the break in tempo. He must make a call based on the cards he holds, never an effie bid.

If there has been an obvious hesitation by one of the opponents, CALL THE DIRECTOR TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS. If the hesitation and resulting unauthorized information results in damage to the opponents, then the Director should award an adjusted score.

There should be approximately 5 seconds between each bid. Your hesitation or quick pass is a burden on your partner, and the Director will give every consideration to the opponents.