

Louisiana Bridge Association May 2018

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President's Message May 2018

Our **April 299er Tournament** was a big success. We had a record turn-out in numbers of tables. Everyone had a great time thanks to our co-chairpersons, Kitty Klaus and Margaret Shirer who worked diligently throughout the whole tournament!

Don't forget to attend the **Derby Day Tournament May 3-6**. On the Saturday of the tournament, ladies are encouraged to wear their favorite hats. Everyone will be invited to drink slushy Mint Juleps during the Run for the Roses.

As part of the American Contract Bridge League, we support the charity, **The Longest Day**. The Longest Day is a sunrise-to-sunset event to raise funds to fuel the care, support and research efforts of the **ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**. Held on the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, **June 21, 2018**, will be chaired at our club by Steven Romig. Please make plans to play throughout the day and donate generously to this worthy cause. You will need partners for six 12-board games held throughout the day starting at 8am.

Our **parking is really, really tight**. Please park between the yellow lines, not on top of them.

Let's play bridge!

Linda Freese

May Events

*= extra points, no extra fees

**=extra points, extra fees

May 3-6 Derby Day Sectional Thurs-Sun

May 10 ACBL Grass Roots Fund Game**
Thurs

May 10-12 Lafayette NLM Regional
and Open Sectional Thurs-Sat

May 14-20 Club Championship Week*
Mon-Sat

May 21 ACBL Grass Roots Fund Game**
Mon

May 24 Unit Championship** Thurs

May 28 Unit Championship** Mon

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Joanne Espersen, Barbara Holdsworth

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Linda Neill, Claire Webb, Becky Zaheri

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Susan Glennon, Robert Reich, Joanna
Suravitch

NEW NABC MASTERS

Joan Lennox, Ronald Omond

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTERS

Mary Hanni, Elaine Wilczynski

NEW MEMBERS

Peggy Armstrong, Dean Bedekar, Charles
Carson, Angeline Christie, Charles Neuman

299er Sectional firsts

Thurs 0-20 Mary Fine & Kathy Plauche

Thurs AM Wayne Wells & Mercedes Wells **72.47%**;
Michael Schlosser & Peck Hayne Flt C

Thurs PM Bernie Vanderlinden & Ronald Omond;
Kathy Young & Millie Ortego Flt C

Fri AM Gigi Matthews & Kathleen Vogel **70.49%**; Mary
Hillery & Myra Menville Flt C

Fri PM Kitty Klaus & Denise Tabor; Melanie Thompson
& Peck Hayne Flt C

Sat AM Om Garg & Lallie Garg; Kitty Klaus & Denise
Tabor Flt B; Sarah Dabney Jacobs & Quin Bates Flt C

Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpots

Apr 11 Marti & Sandy Sisco, Red Hailey & Norma Phillips, Larry
Federico & John Federico

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Baton Rouge Sectional Firsts

Thurs AM Jamie Bush & John Onstott

71.21%

Fri AM Larry Federico & Idell Adams

Sat AM Bob Bowers & Jamie Bush

Sat PM Iype Koshy & Tim Joder

Sun Swiss Bkt 1 Jamie Bush-Bob Bowers-Iype

Koshy-Tim Joder

Bkt 2 Vicki Willis-Sue Himel-Janice

Henderson-Carol Hawley

Seventy Percent Games

Thurs Eve Fast Pairs Apr 19 Phantom & Louise Ritter

99er Pairs Apr 13 Thomas York & Sandra Broussard 71.88%

Apr 22 John Perkins & Lori Perkins 76.67%

Open Pairs Apr 23 Jacob Karno & Drew Casen 73.08%

See also BR Sectional Firsts and 299er Sectional Firsts

A Gatlinburg Regional First

Tues Wed KO 15 Mimi Groome et al

A Coral Springs Regional First

Sat Swiss Teams Bkt 1 Drew Casen et al

Kibitzer Kudos Large and Small

1. **Congrats to Jean Talbot and Larry Federico** who had a **70.71%** game in the March 19 **ACBL Senior Pairs**. They finished **first in District 10** and **seventh over the entire ACBL**.
2. **Recognizing unsung hero Bummy Rosenfield**. Whenever we have visitors or new players coming to town he always volunteers to play with them to get them started at LBA. He seems to run taxi service.....anyone needing a ride from uptown, downtown? No problem for him! He is our chief vote counter for our elections.....a total thankless job. And he has provided major assistance to Lil and Jack in building up the Sunday Swiss game. He definitely goes under the radar as a volunteer extraordinaire.
3. **Active ethics—Marti Sisco** claimed her contract and the claim was accepted and scored up. Though she had the high trump Marti realized she had not specified that she would pull trump, changed her claim to a trick less and got the server score corrected.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH. Let's begin by first getting the bridge terminology straight. A "double" at bridge is a "call," not a "bid," the latter of which is a "call" designating a number (bidding level) and a trump suit or NT. "Double" can have one of multiple possible meanings, depending upon the auction in which it is used. The call "double" will usually mean either (1) I don't think you can make what you have bid; or (2) My opponent has opened ahead of me but I have a good hand and would like for you to bid to describe and limit your hand offensively; or (3) I am suggesting a lead if you are on opening lead or gain the lead during the play of the hand. NOTE--In some sophisticated partnerships "double" can also mean "do not lead the suit I have bid," or "Partner, your forcing 1C or 2C opening bid has been overcalled by my RHO and I have no values at all to show," or other rarely used meanings not relevant to this discussion.

N	♠Kx	
	♥A10xxx	
	♦KQxxxx	
	♣void	
W		E
♠QJx		♠Axxxx
♥x		♥Qx
♦Jxxxx		♦void
♣Q10xx		♣KJxxxx
S		
	♠xxx	
	♥KJxxx	
	♦Ax	
	♣Axx	

Today's example hand (at left) illustrates an instance in which "double" conventionally meant "lead dummy's first bid suit," —a Lightner double. The auction at our table in a New Orleans Swiss Team event, with North as dealer and all not vulnerable, was replete with action and competition, all bids being natural unless otherwise explained, to wit, 1D-2C-2H-3C-4C (club control and strong heart support)-4S (two suiter)-X (I have two or more spade losers)-P (I can stand spades but have shown club support)-5H (good hand for hearts but no offsuit controls not already shown)-P (not sure whether we should save in clubs)-6H (I have previously unannounced diamond control)-P-P-X (lead directing--please lead dummy's first bid suit)-P-P-P (nowhere else to run). On the requested diamond lead East ruffed and cashed the ♠A, achieving a satisfying +100. When played at the other table our North opened 1H, not 1D, fearing that opening 1D and later bidding hearts (a

voluntary "reverse") would mislead partner by implying much greater high card strength than that held. The complete auction at that table was 1H-2C-3C (big heart support, limit heart raise or better, ambiguous about club control)-4C-5C (club control)-5S (two suiter save)-6D (control bid but have we managed to reach slam without a spade control?)-P-6H (lucky but I have second round spade control, as you will soon find out)-P-P-P (Not clear to either defender whether to save against the slam or not. Many experts would suggest saving at IMPs but not at matchpoints, i.e., bid one more if you're not sure.). By sheer happenstance the 6H slam makes from the North side, as only the ♠A will cash, all other losers being disposed of on the long diamonds. When 6H is played from the South side, either the ♠Q lead or a diamond lead will set the contract. Note that on the ♠Q lead the slam can actually be set two if West wins the ♠J at the second trick and gives East a belated diamond ruff. But the important point to be made by this hand is that East had the rare chance to "double" requesting an unusual lead, usually dummy's first bid suit, which would have set the slam even if South had held the ♠Q or a singleton.

Bidding Can Always be Better By: Arnaldo Partesotti

Playing with a reliable partner, I pick up this hand with great potential in the South position:

♠AQT84 ♥T ♦AK52 ♣AT6

With the opponents always passing, I open 1♠, partner bids 2♣ (2/1 forcing to game), I jump to 3♦ to show my excellent hand, and partner bids 5♦. What is he doing? My guess is that he is showing 5-5 or 5-6 in the minors with excellent Clubs, and a very minimum 2/1 bid, he is afraid to go too high and is trying to put on the brakes. From my point of view, if he has the ♣KQ and the ♥A or the ♦Q, a slam should be cold. With no additional information, I jump "in the dark" to 6♦, the full hand (East Dealer, all vul) being below left.

North	
♠J	
♥A	
♦98764	
♣KQ9752	
West	East
♠K975	♠632
♥J98753	♥KQ642
♦J	♦QT3
♣83	♣J4
South	
♠AQT84	
♥T	
♦AK52	
♣AT6	

The slam is unbeatable, as long as Diamonds do not break 4-0. Win any lead, draw two rounds of trumps, cash the ♠A, run the Clubs and claim, East may win the ♦Q whenever he wants. Surprisingly, this was a top, out of 18 tables only one other pair bid the slam, everybody else was in 3NT, 5♣, 5♦ or lower. As I keep saying, at the club we should not be proud of our slam bidding abilities (or lack thereof!)

But Partner and I should not be proud of our bidding either on this hand. After 1♠ - 2♣ I should have bid 2♦, no need to jump to 3♦, partner had already established a game force. Partner should then bid 3♦, setting trumps, and I could start cue-bidding (first or second round controls indifferent, as is now played and recommended by all experts) to show my super hand and slam ambitions: 3♥ by me, 3♠ by partner, 4♣ by me, 4♦ by partner, 4♠ by me, 4NT by partner asking for Key-cards (do you have the ♦A and ♦K?), 5♣ by me (1 or 4 Key-cards, in this case clearly 4), 5♥ by partner (do you have the ♦Q?), 6♦ by me (no, I do not, end of transmission). If I had the ♦Q I would have bid 5♠ or 6♣ (K of the suit bid + the ♦Q) or 5NT (♦Q with no K's) and we could have bid 7♦ with confidence. Bridge is such an easy game!

Notice that playing RKCB1430 after a response of 5♣ you would like to bid 5♦ to ask for the trump Queen, but in this case 5♦ would have been a sign-off, thus the 5♥ bid to ask for the Queen.

Direktor's Korner

Topic: Opening leads: Etiquette, Partnership, Play

Director in Charge: Diamond Lil

We all know the rules: place the opening lead face down on the table, ask if partner has any questions, and then expose the opening lead. In addition, though, opening leads have etiquette, partnership, and play issues.

Etiquette issue: take as long as you need to decide on the lead, make the lead, and then record the contract. Many players mistakenly think that they should record the contract first. No. Recording the contract first slows play, a reason for some director calls.

Partnership issue: recording contract before making the opening lead slows down information going to your partner, giving partner more time to forget about your bids, opponent bids, and any inferences from tempo. Not good. So, go ahead and record the contract if your partner makes the opening lead, but make the lead first if you are the opening leader.

Play issue #1: maximize your time to consider the opening lead. Say you have a boring 7 points. Your right-hand opponent opens 1NT. Likely scenario: you are going to be on opening lead. So, should you be thinking about lunch? The cute earrings on South at the next table? Who is going to win the playoffs? No. You should be thinking about your opening lead. Did the opponents jump immediately to 3NT? If yes, are you going to try the ♠J from ♠JT87? Are you going to try your 2-card heart suit, hoping to hit partner's long suit? Give yourself the maximum amount of time to consider all variables by thinking about your opening lead during the auction, rather than after the bidding.

Play issue #2: make inferences about fast or slow opening leads. Say your partner has optimistically put you in a sketchy 6H contract, and opening leader takes a long time to think before leading. When dummy appears, you realize that you must finesse the ♥Q to make this contract, and you can finesse either opponent. Given all smooth passes from opponents during bidding, is there any other information to consider? Yes. Why did the opening leader take so long? One possible inference is that opening leader holds the ♥Q, and was thinking about protecting her. Not much, but more than nothing. Thinking about the opening lead during the auction can prevent you from hinting that you are trying to protect a valuable card.

Get Well Cards are Back!

Lillian Kirshbom will again take care of get well cards and sympathy cards. If you know someone who is ill, or someone who has passed, please let Lillian know. In the case of a death, she will need to know where to send the sympathy card. Remember, these need not be close friends of yours--we just need your help in identifying them. Lillian's contact information is (504)-289-8186 (phone) and lrk1939@yahoo.com (email)

Two Vienna Coups

Board 6 of the April 12 Thursday Open Game presented an interesting plan the play problem for East. EW were vulnerable and East dealt. The EW hands were

West ♠A9 ♥AKJ9 ♦AQ83 ♣A54 **East** ♠KJ6 ♥1053 ♦K2 ♣KQJ82.

At the table, twelve pairs got to 6NT and two others got to 7NT. Neither pair in 7NT made their contract, and only two of the twelve pairs in 6NT actually made 7NT, though there was an excellent line of play available.

Assume you are East, declaring 6NT with a lead of the ♦J. You win in hand, and cash the ♣A to check that clubs will run. Both opponents follow so the clubs will run. You can now count 12 tricks (5 clubs, 3 diamonds, 2 top hearts and 2 top spades.) The question is, how best to try for an overtrick. You note that a successful heart finesse or a successful spade finesse would bring in that overtrick, and does not risk the contract. But you can try only one of these, and it figures to be a 50% shot, and also causes no confusion to the defense. Can you do better?

Consider this squeeze line: Cash the ♠A, ♠K, ♥A and ♥K, and then run the clubs, throwing the remaining two hearts from dummy. After running all the clubs you will come down to 3 cards in your hand--the ♠J, the ♥10 and the ♦2. Dummy will have ♦AQ8. One opponent started with at least 4 diamonds, and he will be the only one who can guard the diamonds. If he also has either major suit queen he will have to give up that queen or unguard the diamonds, allowing you to make 7NT.

Let's evaluate these three lines--the two major suit finesses and the squeeze. Immediately taking either major suit finesse is straightforward and will not give the defenders any headache. If you gain some insight from the lead, and you know your opponents well, that may or may not alter your estimate of how likely one of these finesses is to succeed. Iffy. To keep things simple, let's say either finesse is a 50% shot. A layout enabling our squeeze to succeed is certainly more likely than that. In addition to the small chances that a major queen simply drops in the first five tricks, the probability that at least one major queen is in the same hand as the diamond guard should be in the 65 to 75% range, depending on how long you think the long diamond holding is. And the lengthy line of play increases the chance the opponents will misdefend, especially in a club field. So the squeeze looks like the best line.

At the table, in the actual Board 6 layout, the diamond leader had 6 diamonds and the ♠Q, while his partner had 5 hearts to the ♥Q. So both finesses fail but the squeeze works.

Pedagogic note: in this squeeze, we unblock the top honors in spades and in hearts before running the clubs. These maneuvers are known as **Vienna coups**, so called because such unblocking plays date from the early 19th century whist literature, where they were attributed to "the best player in Vienna." The point of these unblocks is not really to add genuine pressure on the opponents, but to clarify the major suit situation for the declarer. It makes it impossible for an opponent to unguard a major queen without discarding it. If you did not play off the top honors in a suit before running the clubs, and an opponent unguarded that queen, you would be guessing about whether that queen was unguarded. These coups simplify your work--either a major queen pops, or the diamonds run, or you fail.