



Louisiana Bridge Association July 2018

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President's Message July 2018

Great things are happening at our bridge club!

Our **Memorial Day game** was lots of fun. Thank you to Mary LeBlanc for purchasing the hot dogs, buns, potato salad and other fixings. Also thanks to Mary and Ellen Lappa for getting to the Bridge Center early to cook the hot dogs and chili and organize salads and desserts. Thank you to Sue Himel for the pasta salad and Sherrie Goodman for the green salad. Our members came through with desserts. Thank you to all.

The **Longest Day supporting Alzheimer's research** yielded over **twelve thousand dollars!** A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Steve Romig, a 299'er, who took charge as chairman and ran with it! Thanks to Sherrie Goodman for all her hard work as well as all the organizations and people who generously donated their time and money to this worthy cause. (Please see Steve's article on p.4 of this Kibitzer.)

Our **Wes Busby Sectional will be held at our club July 12-15.** We are hoping that our players **under 300 masterpoints** will get 4-person teams together to play on Sunday in our Swiss Teams game. What fun you will have!

Over the next few months, the **board of directors will be making decisions** on how to accommodate for having some **major structural work done in the ceiling of the entrance area at our bridge club.** Please be supportive of your board as they are working diligently for the good of our club.

Linda Freese

July Events

*= extra points, no extra fees

**=extra points, extra fees

Jul 4 Unit Championship* Wed
499er game at 10:30AM

Jul 5 NAOP Qualifier** Thurs

Jul 6-8 Nashville NLM Regional Fri-Sun

Jul 6-8 Nashville Sectional Open Fri-Sun

Jul 9 ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game**
Mon NOON

Jul 10 Sharon Henry 299er Swiss workshop
9:30AM

NAOP Qualifier** Tues night

Jul 12-15 Wes Busby Sectional at our
clubhouse Thurs-Sun

Jul 16-22 Club Championship Week*
Mon-Sun

Jul 24 NAOP Qualifier** Tues

Jul 25 NAOP Qualifier** Wed

Jul 25-Aug 5 Atlanta NABC

Wed thru following Sun

Jul 28 NAOP Qualifier** Sat

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Newton Jackson, Judith Johnson, Kathy Plauche,
George Wilson

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Philip Russo, Michael Schlosser

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

Carol York

NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

Bummy Rosenfield

Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpots

May 30 Sandy & Martie Sisco

Jun 6 Juanita Heidingsfelder & Jean Talbot

Jun 13 Nelson Daigle & Geoff Chichester; Ronald Omond &
Mike Russell; Keenan Romig & Suzanne Cliffe

NEW MEMBERS

Anne Labranche, Kelly Londeree, Lorraine
McDaniel, Robert Priddy

In Memoriam
Pearl Sackett

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Gulfport Sectional Firsts

Fri AM

299er Philip & Judith Luchsinger Flt E

Open Idell Adams and Larry Federico (tie for first)

Fri PM

299er Philip & Judith Luchsinger Flt E

Open Chuck Pitard & Allan Siebert

Sat AM

299er Curtis Castle & Carol Castle Flt E

Open Michael Arthur & Nancy Arthur Flt C

Sun Swiss

Bkt 2 William McDonald et al

STAC FIRSTS (for multi-location events only)

Mon Eve Bill Gentry & Audrey Cerise Flt B

Wed AM Joan Van Geffen & Judy Katz; Gigi Matthews & Lynn Flynn Flt C

Thurs AM Philip Backes & Helen Camp; Kanwal Dhir & Nancy Graham Flt C

Fri AM Open William Weed & Connie Caffery

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH

(1) HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: In past generations in the U.S. expert practice required a balanced hand of 16-18 HCP to open 1NT, preferably with honors in all four suits. Such was the recommendation of Charles Goren, the best known bridge guru of the day. Some European systems required even stronger hands, as much as 19-21 HCP. These high point count requirements resulted in a low frequency of opening 1NT bids. Competitive bidding frequency was even lower because of the high risk of significant penalty when intervening over such strong hands. As contract bridge bidding methods progressed and developed over the years bridge theoreticians gradually lowered the opening 1NT requirements. Today 15-17 and 14-16 HCP opening 1NT ranges are considered to be "strong," 12-14 are "weak" and lesser ranges, such as 10-13, usually played when not vulnerable in first through third positions, are popularly called "mini." As opening 1NT ranges shrank, conventional methods of intervention, initially restricted to overcalls, proliferated to the point that there are now 30 or more published conventions, with more entering the contract bridge jargon regularly. Contemporary bridge writers report that competitive bidding occurs in about 25-50% of NT auctions. Interestingly, because opposing games are unlikely against strong hands, weak but distributional interventions are favored over strong NT openers, often primarily to "disturb" the auctions. But because opposing games are frequently possible over weak and mini NT bids, sound overcalls are suggested so that defensive games may be sensibly bid and penalty doubles can be avoided. Despite the profusion of conventional methods of intervention, currently simple overcalls, as either one feature of such conventions or as ordinary natural overcalls, remain the most frequently encountered method of competitive intervention over 1NT openers of all ranges.

(2) THE AUCTION: This month's hand (below) is taken from a June 16th, 2017 club game in which I was a player. It is a classic example of what can happen now that competitive bidding against a 1NT opener has been popularized.

N	♠Ax ♥KQ9xx ♦void ♣KJ10xxx	
W	♠xx ♥A10x ♦Q10987x ♣x	E ♠QJ10xx ♥Jx ♦AKJ ♣Axx
S	♠Kxxx ♥xxx ♦xxx ♣Qxxx	

Holding a strong, highly distributional hand, defenders are no longer timid about jumping right into a strong NT auction. I was North in fourth seat, not vul vs vul. East was the dealer and opened 1NT, 15-17, including a decent five card major, a holding disfavored for opening 1NT in earlier years but common today. South, with his benign holding, never expected to be involved in the bidding, so he passed. West chose to bid 3D "invitational," also intending to preempt his opponents out of the auction. However, with favorable vulnerability and a good, highly distributional two suiter, there was no way to keep me out of the auction, especially since there was no cash at risk. My immediate problem was how to show my interesting hand to best advantage. I settled on a simple overcall of 4C, my longer suit. The bidding reverted all the way back to West, who competed to 4D. At this point our auction had been 1NT-P-3D-4C-P-P-4D. Having only matchpoints and no hard cash at risk, I bid my second suit, 4H, whereupon East, with his AKJ of his partner's diamonds, surprisingly passed again. Poor South, who had not yet contributed to our aggressive auction, correctly reasoned that I was either a certified nut case or had a good 6/5 club/heart hand, so he sensibly took a simple preference to 5C, which surprisingly became the final contract.

(3) THE PLAY: East led the ♦A, which I trumped. I correctly reasoned that to make this hand the ♣A had to be with East so that dummy's ♠Q would be one of two necessary entries to the board and the ♥A had to be in West's hand. At this point I made a fatal error by leading a low club through East toward dummy's ♠Q. I should have first led a high club from my hand in case clubs were divided 3/1, which they were. I had to lead hearts through West twice, so I led a low heart from dummy, which West correctly ducked. I won that trick with the ♥K. I led a second round of clubs, which East won with the ♣A. He then led the ♥J to West's ♥A. East then trumped the third round of hearts, putting me down one on what should have been a cold 5C hand. Double dummy, the only opening lead to beat 5C was the ♥J, which West would have to duck one time or I'd make the hand. It was then that I realized that my first play should have been a high club from my hand, forcing East to either win the first or second club lead, which would have allowed me to draw trumps after winning the first heart trick, thereby avoiding any adverse ruff.

(4) DOUBLE DUMMY ANALYSIS: (1) The only opening lead which would allow the hand to be set was the ♥J, which East did not find. (2) Without a heart opening lead 5C was cold. (3) I misplayed by not leading a high club from the North hand at trick two. (4) E/W were cold for 3NT, which they failed to bid. (5) N/S were cold for 4H, which they were "in" briefly before South took a preference to 5C, which I should have made without a fatal heart opening lead by East. (6) The "par" result on the hand would have been 5D by E/W doubled by N/S, down one.

(5) CLOSING COMMENT: Contract bridge. What a great and complex game we play!!!

Bidding slam, or NOT! by Arnaldo Partesotti

North V	
♠AJT54	
♥T	
♦AJ5	
♣QJ72	
West VD	East V
♠K82	♠7
♥A874	♥J6532
♦T9862	♦Q74
♣T	♣8752
South V	
♠Q963	
♥KQ9	
♦K3	
♣AK43	

Playing with a reliable partner in the hand to the left, with the opponents always passing, I am preparing to open 1NT as South when I am pleasantly surprised by North opening 1♠. I smell slam, I bid Jacoby 2NT, showing good Spade support and asking Partner for strength and distribution, he bids 3♥, not minimum and a singleton or void in Hearts, I cue-bid 4♣, he cue-bids 4♦, I do not want to cue-bid 4♥ in the suit in which he has the singleton, showing my useless ♥K, he will think that I have the Ace, so I bid 4NT, 1430 to check on the solidity of the Spade suit, and he answers a disappointing 5♥. He has the ♦A, which he cue-bid, and one of the top Spade honors, missing the other. After some agonizing over a slam I bid 5♠, ending the auction. Partner makes 6♣ losing only the ♥A, when the ♠K is in the right place for a finesse. It looks like this is a 50% slam based on a finesse, should we be in it on a good day? I do not think so. From my point of view we will lose the ♥A and we are missing a top Spade, it might be the Ace, and we might also lose another Spade trick if partner is missing the Jack or Ten. Had partner asked for key-cards, he knew he had the ♠A, J and T, and he might have gone on to slam. For the record we received 7 points out of 18, with 8 pairs being in slam (7 making it).

Few hands later I pull this “freak” out of the box: ♠Q ♥A3 ♦T2 ♣AKQJT965
(see full hand at right)

After three passes, I have 9 tricks off the top, which in our system qualifies for opening 2♣, but I opt for 1♣, awaiting developments. LHO overcalls 1♠, Partner bids 1NT, RHO passes and, after some more agonizing about a slam, I bid 3NT, the money bid, ending the auction. The full hand is at the right. After the lead of the ♦3 partner makes 3NT+3. Should we be in 6NT? Again, I do not think so. On a Spade lead, with Spades bid by West, the slam always makes. On a Heart lead, impossible to find in East, it is always down. For the record 6 pairs bid the slam (6NT or 6♣), 3 making and 3 going down. This time we received 13.75 points out of 18, proving that, after all, there is some justice for the meek!

North V	
♠KJT2	
♥JT65	
♦AQ54	
♣2	
West VD	East V
♠A9754	♠863
♥KQ98	♥742
♦J98	♦K763
♣8	♣743
South V	
♠Q	
♥A3	
♦T2	
♣AKQJT965	

Direktor's Korner

Topic: Card Played

Director in Charge: Hat Lady

That Card is Played, “True” or “False”? The ACBL Law 45 explains the, “True”, if a card is played. Different rules apply, if Declarer or Defender.

Declarer's card is played when it is held face up, touching or nearly touching the table, or maintained in such a position as to indicate that it has been played. Simple? NO. There are more than 10 other laws that may apply, given the specific situation.

A defender's card is played when it is held in a position where it could be possible for his partner to see its face. It doesn't matter whether or not his partner is paying attention and wasn't looking at the time. The position of the card is the key here. Simple? YES. But sometimes King Solomon's wisdom is needed for this decision. All rules must be considered for the, “True”, if a card is played.

Do not allow the opponents to bully you into accepting their limited knowledge of the rules.
CALL THE DIRECTOR.

Seventy Percent Games

Open

May 31 Jamie Bush & John Onstott 70.14%

499er

Jun 1 Patricia Burke & Margaret Shirer 78.50%

Jun 7 Diane Scott & Deborah Skorich 71.88%

99er

Jun 8 Bette Marks & Denise Tabor 71.89% Jun 10 Jennifer Holmes & Denise Nagim 77.42%

Jun 15 Meryl Rosenbloom & Glenn Barnett 71.25%

Longest Day Larry Federico & Idell Adams 73.0% and 70.83%; Drew Casen & Jacob Karno 72.22%; Jim Thornton & Sherrie Goodman 70.0%

Longest Day Report by Steve Romig

Thanks to the efforts of our committee, the LBA board, volunteer directors and our members who played and contributed financially, our club was able to hold a very successful fund-raising event supporting Alzheimers' research.

As our last game ended on the 21st, a total of \$13,185 had been raised. After expenses we will be sending a check for more than \$12,000 to the Alzheimers' Association.

Our committee members included our ticket salespersons **Sarah Pasternak, Janice Zazulak, Steve Romig** and **Sherrie Goodman**; raffle tickets sales exceeded \$6,500. Congratulations to raffle winner **Virginia Dabbs**! Thanks to **Cathy Alford** who donated club decorations. All food was donated thanks to the efforts of **Maryann Joyner** and **Diana Powell**. Food donors included **Michael Joyner Catering, Papa John's Pizza, Maurice's French Pastries, Cansecos**, and **Martin's Wine Cellar**. The board should recommend patronage of their businesses as much as possible.

Directors for the event—**Linda Freese, Sandra Dubroc, Elizabeth Sewell, Wayne Weisler, Martha Robson, Jennie Sauviac, "Lowen" Lowenstein** and **Ben McKown**—all donated their services and added considerably to the success of our event.

Theresa Federico donated her services in making the many sets of boards needed for the event, as well as for pitching in wherever needed (such as last minute egg peeling).

Additional volunteers included those members who were "guaranteed partners" as needed: **Wayne Weisler, Sherrie Goodman, Theresa Federico, Larry Federico, Anne Crane, Price Crane, Vicki Willis, Ellen Lappa, Nelson Daigle, Carol Bagalman, Jim Thornton** and **Mary LeBlanc**.

Major gifts totaling \$3,000 were received from **Jane Goldring, Ann** and **Price Crane** and from the **Schonberg Memory Care Communities: Vista Shores, Beau Provence, Ashton Manor** and **Access Sleep & Wellness Center** secured by **Cathy Alford**.

I enjoyed participating in this wonderful event. Our club members, board, committee members and vendors all deserve a great deal of thanks for this significant contribution in the fight against Alzheimers.

Steve Romig
Chairman