

Louisiana Bridge Association January 2019

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President's Message January 2019

Before we leave the holiday season, I want to thank **Sharon Henry** for running our annual **Christmas Party on the evening of December 8th**. The food was delicious and the bridge was fun! Thanks also to **Jim Thornton** and **Roy Richardson** for bartending.

A big thank you also goes to **Hunter McFadden** and **Carolyn Dubois** for running a very successful **Pot Luck Holiday Party that was held on Friday, December 14**. Thanks to all who generously donated dishes for everyone to enjoy.

Our next event is **VOTING** for board members. This will take place before the games during the **week of January 21 through January 27, 2019**. There are three vacancies so that each member may vote for three candidates.

Please make dates to attend our **January Tournament held Thursday, January 24, 2019 through Sunday January 27, 2019**. We will have our annual GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP on Sunday, January 27, 2019 during the break between the Swiss Team sessions. At that time, the newly elected Board of Directors' names will be announced.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone. May 2019 bring happiness to you and your families.

Linda Freese

January Events

*= extra points, no extra fees

**=extra points, extra fees

Jan 3 Junior Fund Game** Thurs

Jan 7-13 Baton Rouge Regional Mon-Sun

Jan 18 Junior Fund Game** Fri

Jan 18-20 Jackson Sectional Fri-Sun

Jan 19-20 Jackson District GNT/NAP Sat-Sun

Jan 21-27 Sandestin Regional Mon-Sun

Jan 22 -ACBLwide Jr Fund Game** Tues

Jan. 24-27 Rosenblum Sectional Thurs-Sun

Metairie clubhouse

PLEASE—If you are running late for a game call the club. On at least one recent occasion, several prepared boards were wasted and a restart needed when a pair showed up late with no warning. This major disruption could easily have been avoided.

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Edward Kennedy, Jim Koch

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Cheryl Hauver, Yvonne Hunter

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

Curtis Castle

NEW NABC MASTER

Robert S Reich

NEW LIFE MASTER

Gaye Wilson

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Henry Bodenheimer

25000 MASTERPOINTS

Jacob Morgan

Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpot

Dec 26 Stephen Kishner & David Woods

70 percent games

Open

Dec 3 Paul Rosenblum & John Onstott

70.51%

Dec 6 Ernie Levinson & John Onstott

71.79%

Dec 14 Jacob Karno & Don Daigle 70.75%

Dec 22 Jack & Cindy Lewis 71.43%

Fast Pairs

Dec 6 David Woods & Stephen Kishner

73.50%

299er Pairs

Dec 9 John Treen & Martha Robson

71.67%

NEW MEMBERS

Dan Thi Ha, Larry Minton, Julia Newchurch, Elizabeth Rhodes, George Van Hoose, Sandy Villere

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Hawaii NABC Platinum Points for current or recent Metairie club affiliates

Platinum points are awarded for overall finishes in NABC rated events.

Drew Casen got 156.76 platinum points, including first place in the Baze Senior KO teams, a national event.

Jacob Morgan got 48 platinum points, including 11th place in the Keohane North American Swiss Teams also a national event.

Drew and Jacob are both grand life masters, as is John Onstott.

DIREKTOR'S KORNER

THIS MONTH'S DIREKTOR IN CHARGE: THE MERK-EH

TOPIC: FIVE RULES TO MAKE YOU A BETTER PLAYER

Any Bridge Player who has ever ordered bridge books or supplies for their home or for their bridge club will undoubtedly know about Baron Barclay, the authorized supplier of the ACBL. (see www.baronbarclay.com). One positive side effect of your orders will be eMail's from Baron Barclay. The following rules are taken from my favorites among those emails. In the interests of space I have cut down the number of Randy's topics and thinned out his discussion. I hope to present my remaining favorite topics in the near future.

AUTHOR SERIES by Baron Barclay founder Randy Baron.

RULE 1) Play only with partners you like and enjoy playing with. Who needs the aggravation when you play with someone who isn't compatible with you? Choose someone to sit across from you who allows you to be yourself.

RULE 2) Consent to play only conventions you are totally comfortable with. Stayman and Blackwood are the only conventions that are absolutely necessary. The important point is that if you place a convention on your card, make sure you understand it and have discussed it at length with your partner.

RULE 3) Use specific opening preemptive bids. When you open the bidding on the 2 or 3 level, make sure you and your partner have discussed the quality of your suit and the limits to your outside cards. For example, I play that I don't open on the 3 level with an outside ace. This makes it easier for my partner to evaluate their hand and decide whether to bid or defend

RULE 4) Do not underlead an ace on opening lead against a suit contract.

RULE 5) Play structured take-out doubles. I have 12-17 high card points when I make a take out double. This means I have tolerance for all three unbid suits. If you have 18 or more HCP, you don't need to have tolerance for all three unbid suits, because you can double and then bid again to show a huge hand.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH This is the era of abundance of worldwide published bidding systems available to be employed by tournament players. At the upper levels of competition several 1C forcing methods, especially "Precision" variations, remain popular, as do complex relay systems employed by a small number of enthusiasts. Free wheeling Acol players are practically extinct. For many American enthusiasts "two over one game forcing" styles, often with carefully selected conventional gimmicks, such as Serious 3NT, Roman Keycard Blackwood and Gerber modifications, have essentially replaced traditional Goren "approach forcing" practitioners. Such "two over one" players appreciate the simplicity of knowing which bids are game forcing and which are not, thereby avoiding the necessity of using up bidding space by jumping during the auction. "Two over one" methods are noteworthy for producing lengthy but efficient auctions exploring slam possibilities. But then again, "two over one" bidding often abbreviates the auctions, allowing the declaring side to refrain from providing an abundance of information to the defending side.

N ♠AJxxx
♥x
♦Q
♣Axxxxx
S ♠10
♥AKxx
♦KJxx
♣KQxx

Here's an example (see hands at left) of abbreviated "two over one" bidding from a New Orleans club game. I sat South and had the task of choosing which suit to open. Acolites would open 1H. Most Americans, including my partnership, employ "five card majors," and would have to open one of the minors. Some few pairs foreswear playing weak 2D bids and use that opener to show a strong 4-4-4-1 or 4-0-5-4 distribution, with the five card suit always a minor. That convention would certainly have been accurate and handy to open South's hand but because of the lack of frequency of opportunities to use a strong 2D convention we elect to play weak 2D bids, especially at matchpoints. So I was relegated to the minors and chose to open 1D, which proved to be fortuitous. I opened 1D with modest reservation, concerned that a 1S response would give me an awkward rebidding problem. But the bridge gods were with me and to my pleasant surprise, with no opposing interference, my partner responded with a "two over one" 2C call. I rebid 3S, a "splinter" bid, which guarantees a singleton in the

jump bid suit, with at least four card trump support and a sound opening bid. North then made the simple bid of 6C, the contract for which the hand was so likely to provide a good play. The suits broke normally, so our only loser was the ♦A. Partner smiled contentedly but I silently thought to myself that he was lucky that I had the KJ of diamonds without the Ace. After all, over 3S he could have bid 4C, which would have been Roman Keycard Blackwood ("Minorwood"), to get a count on my keycards, just in case that we held them all between us. He would have found out that we were missing one keycard but that I held the ♣Q and two keycards, seemingly enough for 6C to succeed. But the point was made that all "two over one" slam auctions do not require a complex series of bids.

Best Defense of the Year Competition by Arnaldo Partesotti

Some hands just bid themselves, and some... you have to make choices. Say that you have 19 HCP balanced: do you bid 1C followed by 2NT, or do you upgrade to a 2NT opening, perhaps due to Aces and Kings, or some good 9's and 10's? Generally, I would upgrade: it describes your hand (almost) perfectly and might keep the opponents out of the auction. If you open 1♣ any opponent with a half-decent hand (and some "indecent") will enter the auction at the one or two level, suggesting a lead that might hurt you.

I recently held this hand as Dealer in the South position (hands rotated for convenience): ♠AQJ982 ♥J4 ♦QT94 ♣9. I could PASS and wait for developments. With the good master suit, the side suit and the singleton, I could open 1♠. Or, I could "play chicken", like I did, open 2♣, and try to keep the opponents out of the auction. West passed, North bid 3♠ (preemptive), East (male) was in a lot of labor pains but eventually passed, and I bid 4♠ because: (A) my hand was stronger than the initial weak-2 bid, (B) partner is a conservative solid bidder, her 3♠ bid was pre-emptive but, with the opponents silent, she must have had some values, (C) the bridge gods smile on those who dare.

North V	
♠T753	
♥AQ62	
♦8	
♣7632	
West NV	East NV
♠K	♠64
♥9875	♥KT3
♦AJ762	♦K53
♣J85	♣AKQT4
South VD	
♠AQJ982	
♥J4	
♦QT94	
♣9	

West led a small Club, won by East's King, and he followed with the ♣A, which I ruffed, West following with a higher Club, so he had at least 3 Clubs. Due to East's "pregnancy" pause I did not think the Heart finesse would work but, if it did, I would not have to worry about finding the ♠K to make 4♠. I therefore played the ♥J and, sure enough, it lost to the King in East. He cashed the ♦K and played a Spade. He now had located the ♠K for me, since most likely he would not play a low Spade from ♠Kx (assuming the remaining three Spades split 2-1). I went up with the Ace, and the King came tumbling down from West. 4 Spades made for a top, only another pair bid this game, and went down. The full hand is at the left.

Now imagine for a moment that the ♠K was in East, and he had led the small Spade from ♠Kx, I would go up with the Ace as above and would be down. This play would earn East a spot in my competition for the "Best Defense of the Year Award", because it would free the King from the danger of being captured with a finesse. Would you find this defense at the table? I think not!

Did you know?

Dwight Eisenhower learned bridge at West Point and was an avid bridge player during his military career and throughout his Presidency. Even in the stressful days leading up to the Normandy Invasion he would squeeze in bridge games along with too much coffee and too many cigarettes. When he became Supreme Commander of NATO he factored bridge ability into choosing Alfred Gruenther over Bedell Smith as his aide. Oswald Jacoby described Eisenhower's bridge abilities as follows: "he tries to break 90 in golf; he plays bridge in the 70's."

Did you know?

In the Horatio Hornblower novels about the Royal Navy in Napoleonic times, Hornblower owed his initial rapid ascent up the ranks to his excellence as a whist player--he impressed admirals who asked him to sit in their whist games.

Do you agree? Your editor thinks bridge can be of value for commanders of large organizations because it so aptly replicates "the fog of war."

PLEASE—We are in the flu season. But ALWAYS, whether in the flu season or not, IF YOU HAVE A COLD OR THE FLU, DO EVERYONE A FAVOR AND STAY HOME. Your partner and your fellow players would appreciate it.

For our aging membership catching a cold or the flu is a major inconvenience and in a few cases has been a serious health problem.