

KIBITZER ♣♦♥♠

Louisiana Bridge Association January 2021

Editor Friends of John Liukkonen email: mail@la-bridge.com

President's Message January 2021

I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays. 2020 has been difficult, different, and emotional for all of us. So, let's welcome in 2021 with hope that we shall soon return to the Bridge Center, dining out, shopping and the way it was.

Please help me to recognize the hard work and dedication that John Liukkonen has given to our club. He is retiring as the editor of The Kibitzer. We appreciate your hard work and loyalty.

Kathy Plauche's first lessons online were very successful. She is working hard to develop continuing lessons while she is getting certified to be a teacher. Congratulations. Lowen and his committee are still working on our bylaws. We should be hearing from them soon.

Stay healthy and have a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Carolyn Dubois

In Memoriam *Dot Romig*

Coming Events

January 12 – Pro Am
Mentoring Game 7:15 pm
January 18-24 - Silver
Linings Week Double -
Points \$6

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Sherrie's Virtual Club News

We keep getting new items in our virtual club every time they upgrade the system. Last month it was Speak Chat, a robotic voice that, upon being enabled, speaks whatever you type. This has helped directors catch your attention when we come to your table.

Now we have voice chat. Everyone has to activate the voice button at their table in order for it to work; on the plus side, you can hear each other speak in your own voices. It's much more social. Pretty soon, you will be able to see your partner and opponents at the table.

Also, Swiss Team play is very close to being available to the virtual clubs. We are all ready for this!

This month our newest beginner bridge class will begin playing games, thanks to Kathy Plauche for getting them ready! We will offer 0-20 games 3-4 times a week, both day and night. Their tables will be added to our limited and Open game table count . . . a Win/Win for all!

Our big event this month is Silver Linings Week, January 18-24, with double points, and they are all silver! This is comparable to our Sectionals and STAC week games, only we get double points online! We will have extra games scheduled throughout the week. Enjoy!

For the I/N Crowd by Sue Himel

Forcing Bids #3

It is much easier to make rules for which bids are forcing in auctions that are not competitive. When our opponents step into the auction, the rules change.

Rule #3: Cue bids of the opponents' suit are forcing.

Examples:

You	LHO	Pd	RHO	
1C	1H	2H	P	2H is forcing and shows invitational or better values.
		1C	P	2S is forcing and shows a very good opening hand.
1H	1S	2S	P	

Exceptions:

			1C	Some play this bid as Michaels; some play it as natural.
P	1S	2S	P	Be sure you discuss this type of bid with your partners.

Are new suits in competitive auctions forcing? The answer is, "sometimes."

Rule #4: In competitive auctions new suits by responder are forcing; new suits by the advancer* may or may not be forcing according to partnership agreement.

You	LHO	Pd	RHO	
1D	1H	1S	P	1S is forcing.
1S	P	2C	P	Some partnerships play this bid, by a non-passed hand, as forcing, some play it as non-forcing, some as non-forcing constructive.

I prefer to play new suits by advancer as non-forcing, constructive, about 8+ points. Some play it non forcing and could be very light. I prefer to have a few points since partner's overcall could be light. Discuss these auctions with your partners so that you have an agreement and don't have to guess.

*The advancer is the partner of the player that overcalls. The advancer is said to advance the auction, not respond to partner.

If the cards say so, buy a lottery ticket! By: Arnaldo Partesotti

North NVD	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ J42 ♥ 63 ♦ K8 ♣ QT8754 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East V ♠ Q9 ♥ - ♦ T95432 ♣ J9632
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West V ♠ T863 ♥ 98752 ♦ AJ6 ♣ K 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South NV ♠ AK75 ♥ AKQJT4 ♦ Q7 ♣ A

Recently, I came across an interesting hand during our regular online tournament that raises a few questions. Partner sits South and I am an (almost) innocent spectator in North. After two passes, partner opens 2C. I do not like opening 2C with 2-suited or 3-suited hands, because frequently you run out of bidding space. I would rather risk a pass by partner than open with 2C, but this time I will go along with it; this hand is really too strong to risk a pass when it can practically make game on its own. I respond 2D, an Ace or a King or 6+ HCP. I do not like this system, but it is almost painless, and I play it with this partner - I prefer 2D "waiting". South bids 2H, I bid 3C (denying a 3-card Hearts support or 4 Spades), Partner bids 3S and I bid 3NT. This should tell partner that I have no Hearts or Spades support, that I have Clubs, and that I can stop Diamonds. Partner, with 9 top tricks, should pass or bid 4H (second choice). Partner bids 4C instead, which he intends as Gerber. But it could not be, because I already bid Clubs on my own, so I take it as a delayed Club support, something like Ax or Kx - discuss with your trusted partner if you could use Gerber after partner has already bid Clubs. I bid 5C because I want to end the auction, not seeing any future in it. Partner bids 6H, promptly going down 2. I dislike the entire sequence but, if you bid this slam, you must make it. You win the (usual) Diamond lead, or any other lead, pull trumps in five rounds, cash the Club Ace, on which the King drops, and cash the two top Spade honors, on which the queen drops. You now enter dummy via the Spade jack and cash the Club queen, on which you pitch the last Spade in your hand - 6 made. I believe the probability of the king of Clubs and queen of Spades dropping in this combination is less than 1%. Two pairs bid and made this slam, and 2 pairs went down 2. With the incredibly low probability of making it, it should not be bid. The top spot was 6NT, which was bid and made in the same way as above, by one lucky pair. Did they run out immediately and buy a lottery ticket?

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH

NEVER USE BLACKWOOD WHEN HOLDING A VOID OR TWO OR MORE FAST LOSERS IN AN UNBID SUIT!
How many times have we seen this admonition proffered by recognized bridge authorities?

	N	
	♠ 87432	
	♥ 10	
	♦ 1083	
	♣ 10532	
W		E
♠ void		♠ AQJ96
♥ AKQJ7632		♥ 4
♦ AK		♦ QJ6
♣ Q64		♣ AKJ9
	S	
	♠ K105	
	♥ 985	
	♦ 97542	
	♣ 87	

And yet hands continue to appear with such flaws, but Blackwood, in one form or another, nevertheless sometimes luckily solves a serious bidding problem. Hand #9 at the club duplicate game on July 2, 2018 was such a hand. North was the dealer, with E/W vulnerable. N/S passed throughout. When East opened the bidding with 1S, many Wests, those who were not familiar with the referenced admonition, had no problem immediately jumping into old fashioned Blackwood with 4NT. (Even when playing Roman Keycard Blackwood most pairs play that an immediate 4NT, without confirming a trump suit, is simple Blackwood for Aces only.) When East responded 5H, two Aces, 5NT brought a 6D response, meaning one king (or 6C, specifically the King of Clubs for those partnerships using Roman Keycard Blackwood and specific King responses). Some pairs, if not all, had no problem bidding 7NT after learning that opener had two Aces and one King (any King would do).

The reason that Blackwood worked so well in this case becomes obvious after giving the problem some thought. It worked because the responder held both missing Aces and the club King. But if one Ace had been missing and one held by responder, there would have been no way to know which Ace was held. And the same for those partnerships that do not use specific King responses to 5NT. Please note that at my table I, as West, used a different inquiry, not Blackwood at all. Our auction went 1S-2H-3C, over which I bid 5NT, an old fashioned- call known as the "Grand Slam Force." That bid asks for the responder to bid seven if holding two of the top three honors in that particular suit. East responded 7C, holding both the Ace and King of clubs, over which I corrected the final contract to 7H, my solid suit. However, I could not learn whether East held the spade Ace also, so I could not bid the highest scoring contract of 7NT. ADDENDUM: Is there a lesson to be learned from this narrative? Yes, and it is this. While perhaps one should never say "never," the admonition is a valid one. The bidder will be faced with a hopeless ambiguity any time the responder does not hold all of the missing keycards.

DIREKTORS KORNER - Is it Natural or is it Clairol?

Recently there has been a not-so-small controversy in the electronic club games involving a weak no-trump system and bids following the weak no-trump opening. This is ONLY controversial because some players do not announce transfers and assume everyone on the planet plays them after any no-trump opening. Let's provide some clarity.

1. Natural bids are neither alerted nor announced and are not required to be.
2. Transfers MUST be announced.
3. IF someone plays a natural bid over their partner's WEAK no-trump, no alert or announcement is necessary.
 - a. Some within your online club do indeed play this way.
 - b. Be forewarned that NT openings may be played by some as variable (strong OR weak) based on vulnerability.
4. If you want a bid explained to you online by the bidder, click your mouse on the bid. Wait for the explanation. If the explanation seems slow, click again. You may be told (in the bubble in the bottom right-hand corner) the opponent is already typing his answer.
5. IF a bid was not explained in accordance with the partnership agreement, or you are ignored, you have recourse with the director
6. BBO is not perfect and does have flaws. It is difficult, but not impossible, to show transfer and non-transfer responses and variable NT on the convention card

Now...Let's all just forget about what happened in 2020 and try to get along...

JOE

BRIDGE ACHIEVEMENTS

70 PERCENT GAMES

- Dec. 3** - Open - Jim Thornton & Paul Freese
70%
- Dec. 5** - Open – Jean Talbot & Joan Van Geffen
72.75%
- Dec. 9** - Open – Chuck Pitard & Guss Ginsburg
71.88%
- Dec. 15** - 499er - Kathy Plauche & Debbie Reily
70.37%
- Dec. 18** - 0-99er- Greg McKnight & Randolph Penny
78.75%
- Dec. 19** - Open – Jacob Morgan & John Onstott
71.14%
- Dec. 21** - Open – Jacob Morgan & John Onstott
70.83%
- Dec. 26** – Open – Richard Oshlag & Jim Mundy
74.95%
- Dec. 28** – Open – John Onstott & Jacob Morgan
71.06%
- Dec. 31** – Open - John Onstott & Jacob Morgan
71.19%

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Junior Master

Peggy Bolton, Charles Carson

Club Master

Vicki Miller

Sectional Master

Karen Boquet, Gregory McKnight,
Ray Nolan, Kay Williams,

Regional Master

Marda Johnson, Maline Levy

NABC Master

Gregory Browne, Debbie Reily

Advanced NABC Master

Barbara Fitz-Hugh

Life Master

Denise Tabor

Silver Life Master

Jean Faia

WINTER WONDERLAND UNIT 134 OVERALL FINISHERS

Thursday, December 17

Carol West and Peggy Rather

6th overall – 99er Pairs

Laurie Hart and Liz Talbott

4th overall – 99er Pairs

Diana Horowitz and Jackie Childress

4th overall – 99er Pairs

Friday, December 18

David Wright and Larry Holbrook

1st overall

Kathy Plauche and Newt Jackson

17th overall – Friday Gold Rush

Saturday, December 19

Reese Koppel and Sriram Ganesan

16th– Top -Flight Pairs

William Varney and Clare Brown

4th – 99er Pairs

Om Garg and Lally Garg

tied 1st – 499er pairs

Tipping Ellis and Mohamed Saad

8th - Open Side Game

Sunday, December 20

Lillian Range and John Sitton

11th – Top - Flight Pairs

Liz Talbott and Vicki Miller

4th – 99er Pairs

Mary Schauer and Theresa Weyland

10th in C – Gold Rush Pairs

Michael Moses and Ric Logan

7th

NEW MEMBERS

Pat G Florey
John Kallenborn
Elizabeth Macdiarmid
David W Perlis
Suzanne G Perlis