



Louisiana Bridge Association August 2016

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President's Message August 2016

Thanks to all who participated in the mentoring team game on June 29th. I have received many favorable comments about this game. Nearly everyone who played won points. I expect mentoring games will be part of our future schedules. We may alternate between team games and pairs games. We may decide to have some games on a Tuesday instead of a Wednesday. Our next mentoring game will be a pairs game on August 31st. Anyone with constructive suggestions on this subject should feel free to express them to any board member or put a note in the suggestion box. This board is here to serve the membership.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our Independence Day game and our Wes Busby tournament successful. Congratulations to the winners.

On August 12th at 11:20/11:30 our resident professional expert Mr. Drew Casen will give a short seminar on bridge etiquette. Learn the bridge do's and don'ts. The seminar will conclude prior to the noon game and will be structured for our newer players but many of our experienced players could benefit. Everyone is invited.

Labor Day is September 5th and marks the beginning of a week of special games for member appreciation. There will be extra points but no extra costs. We usually provide food at the Labor day game. This requires volunteers willing to shop or do some work in the kitchen. Anyone willing to help should speak to me or any board member.

Larry Federico

August Events

- Aug 4 – NAOP Qualifier* Thurs Night \$7
 - Aug 8 – 14 Club Champ. Week Mon- Sun**
 - Aug 16 – NAOP Qualifier* Tues Night \$7
 - Aug 18 – NAOP Qualifier* Thurs noon \$7
 - Aug 27 - NAOP Qualifier* Sat \$7
 - Aug 31 – Mentoring Pairs Game** Wed
Mentors play free
- * = extra points
** = extra points, no extra fee

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Joan Oppenheim, Albert Solomon

Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpots

Jul 27 Jim Thornton & Jean Faia—Red Hailey
& Juanita Heidingsfelder

In Memoriam
Alice Wedekind

**Dr. John sez: Know what you play and
play what you know.**

Busby Sectional firsts

Thurs AM

Open Jean Talbot & Joan Van Geffen-Iype Koshy & Chuck Pitard (tie); Cappy McIver & Pat Ellis Flt B

299er Hope Read & Susan Guarisco; Carolyn & Edward Trapp Flt B; Susan Thompson & Carolyn Abaunza Flt C

0-20 Alfred Arnold & Gail Marie Arnold

Thurs PM

Open Frances Schenk & Dana Hastings; Cappy McIver & Pat Ellis Flt B

299er Judith Rowley & Betty Norton; Ronald Omond & Gary Bergeron Flt F

Fri AM

Open Frances Schenk & Janice Henderson; Sally Toups & Leah Miciotto Flt B; Molly Fraser & Irma Dearie Flt C

299er Om Garg & Lallie Garg; Earl Wattigny & Janie Wattigny Flt E; Ronald Omond & Raynell Bourgeois Flt F

Fri PM

Open Rick Logan & Susan Hinton; David Williams & Toby Young Flt B

299er Mary Hanni & Bruce Hanni

Sat AM

Open Carson Arnett & Dave McDonald; David Woods & Stephen Kishner Flt B; Sherrie Goodman & Carol Bagalman Flt C

299er Om Garg & Lallie Garg; Margaret Shirer & Bernard Vanderlinden Flt E; William Sewell & Elizabeth Sewell Flt F

Sat PM

Open Carl Merlin & Nonie Leavitt; Doug DeMontluzin & Lynn Giordano Flt B; JoAnn Ippolito & Karen Dugan Flt C

299er Earl Wattigny & Elaine Wattigny; Janice Wattigny & Margaret Cooney Flt E

Sun Swiss Iype Koshy-Wayne Weisler-James Bush-Larry Federico; Jim Thornton-David Wolf-David Williams-Toby Young Bkt 2

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Janet Bean, Patricia Newman, Heather Russell

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Ellen Manshel, Joan Quinlan, Ellaine Wilson

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Barbara Boegel, Kathy Gilmore, Ronald Omond

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Myra Groome, Mary Hanni, Mercedes Wells

NEW NABC MASTERS

Margaret Ellis, Theresa Federico, Ada Havener

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

Gail Fayard

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Karen Dugan

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Lawayne Eberhart, Madeline Tonti

Know the Director's Ruling

by Jennie Flynn Sauviac

Legal and illegal changes of call

A bid placed on or nearly on the table is considered played. What could be simpler? However use of the bidding boxes complicates matters.

Let's start with mechanics. You are required to decide upon a bid before you touch a card in the bid box. To touch a card in the top tier and then bid from the bottom tier, or vice versa, is improper, and directors may treat such actions as passing unauthorized information. Think about it. You reach for a card from the top tier and then after a moment's hesitation pull a pass card. Partner knows you were close to bidding and any action your partner takes will be suspect.

Now suppose you take a card out of the bid box and place it on the table, only to discover that it is not the call you intended. Laws allow you to change your call provided partner has not yet called but penalties may apply. You may change your call if your call was inadvertent and the change was made without pause for thought, and partner has not called. If there is some question about this the director should be called, and complications ensue, including possible bid and lead penalties.

Other Tournament Achievements

First in Baton Rouge Sectional

Swiss Flight X *Vicki Willis* et al [inadvertently omitted from July Kib —Sorry!]

First in Crystal Springs Regional,

2nd Side Series *Bill Beaushaw*

70 pct games: Open Jul 11 John Onstott & Howard Parker

74.87%; **Jul 26** Jean Talbot & Judy Katz 70.03%; **Jul 29**

James Bush & Bob Bowers 70.02%

299er Jun 30 Janis Roberts & David Roberts 72.40%

Jul 14 Linda Conner & Elizabeth Cordes 75.73%

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH. The consistently successful teams in lengthy IMP scored high level knockout events are often those most proficient in handling the occasional slam hands. This follows from two significant facts---(1) At the international and national levels almost all of the players are relatively equally skilled in bidding, playing and defending part score and game hands, whereas slam bidding methods, such as those some forcing 1C bidders and relay partnerships enjoy, can provide an advantage to those players; and (2) It is the amount of gain on the big hands which is so significant in IMP scoring, even though the IMP scale somewhat diminishes the impact of a large gain when compared to total point scoring. In club level matchpoint duplicate events it is the pairs which best handle competitive bidding who are consistently successful. This is because it is the frequency of gain, not the size of an individual gain on any single hand, which is most significant in matchpoint scoring. But a good result on the infrequent slam hands can sometimes make a difference in duplicate games. Here is a recent example experienced when I held ♠Axx ♥AKxx ♦x ♣KJxxx and heard my partner open 1NT, showing 15-17 hcp and relatively balanced distribution. Although holding 15 points, my hand was not strong enough to justify an immediate slam bid. So I tried Stayman. The auction proceeded 1NT-2♣-2♠, reaching an early critical point. Partner's bidding denied a heart fit. I lacked a spade fit. The combined hands were slightly short of sufficient high cards to justify a blast into 6NT but were too good to only make a slam try. What to do? The answer was to explore for a club fit, while not bypassing 3NT, which might well be the limit of a making contract if the hands did not fit well. So I bid 3♣, which is game forcing and slam invitational in most partnerships. Partner's hand was ♠Kxxx ♥xx ♦AKQx ♣Axx. He correctly chose to raise to 4♣, a natural bid showing an adequate club fit, justifying further slam exploration. Well, now, there was no need for additional complex conventional or natural bidding. Having bypassed 3NT, which would predictably make about four or five on sheer combined hand power, my bidding 5C would have been a poor matchpoint choice. There were insufficient values to consider bidding a grand slam, so my obvious choice was to bid 6♣ without further ado. The opening lead was the ♠Q. The hand diagram is below left.

♠Kxxx
♥xx
♦AKQx
♣Axx

♠QJ10
♥Qxx
♦Jxxx
♣Q10x

♠xxx
♥Jxxx
♦xxxx
♣xx
♠Axx
♥AKxx
♦x
♣KJxxx

Note that the hand will generate only eleven tricks in notrump. But by playing for a 3/2 club break and cashing the ♣A and ♣K, 6♣ is cold by discarding one spade and one heart on dummy's diamonds and ruffing the fourth heart with dummy's remaining small trump. The only trick for the defense was west's long ♣Q. This result was a small triumph for us, as bidding and making six of a minor when there is no available major suit slam and notrump will only produce eleven tricks will always deliver a high matchpoint score.

One is tempted to note and say once again, "Bridge, what a fascinating game."

Unit 134 Midyear MP leaders

no stars = Ace of Clubs leader

* = Mini-McKenney leader

** = leader for both Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney

0-5	Meryl Rosenbloom**
5-20	Lloyd Armstrong, Steven Plotkin*
20-50	Ronald Omond**
50-100	Mary Hanni**
100-200	David Williams**
200-300	William Weed**
300-500	Jacob Karno, Cindy Lewis*
500-1000	Susan Sommer**
1000-1500	Helen St.Romain, Nelson Daigle*
1500-2500	Don Daigle, JF Lowenstein*
2500-3500	Paul Freese, Jeffrey Juster*
3500-5000	Julius Rosenfield, Paul Deal*
5000-7500	Larry Federico, Bob Bowers*
7500-10000	Judy Katz**
10000+	Jean Talbot, Drew Casen*

Help everyone enjoy our wonderful game—

PLAY
NICE

TAKE ALL YOUR CHANCES! Here is a board from a recent club game where simple careful bridge would get you an 83% board. In fact, a little imagination got one pair a top. In third seat you hold ♠AQ86 ♥AK9 ♦AK103 ♣A8 and pard holds ♠KJ3 ♥73 ♦Q87 ♣KQ642. One pair was in 7NT making. Six pairs were in a NT game contract or a failing club slam. Of the 9 pairs in 6NT, 4 made seven but 5 made only six.

But EVERYONE in 6NT should make seven. You have 12 tricks on top: 4 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds and 3 clubs. You want one more trick from diamonds or clubs, and of course you do not want to risk the cold 6NT you already have. So if you want to finesse against the ♦J you must do so before unguarding any other suit. But you should reject that line. It is a 50% play, while the probability of dropping the ♦J is 52%, and added to that are the possibilities that your LHO will show out on the first or second round of diamonds, giving you a marked finesse for the ♦J, or that clubs will divide 3-3 even if diamonds don't work out. So you should try the running the diamonds and then the clubs. The probability of this compound line working out is much more than 50%.

But there is one additional chance you should cater to, and on the actual layout that chance is critical. Namely, even if neither the club suit nor the diamond suit work out individually, it may be that one opponent holds both the long diamonds and the long clubs. To take advantage of this possibility you should play off all six major suit winners right away, before going after the diamonds and clubs. Neither opponent will be able to hold onto more than 7 minor suit cards. So if either opponent started with at least 4 cards in both minor suits, that opponent will be forced to come down to 3 cards in at least one minor suit. In such a case his partner started with fewer than 3 cards in the suit so that suit will run for you when you try the minor suits.

Thus the recommended line of play is: run off your six major suit winners, play ♦A, ♦Q to see if a marked finesse for the ♦J has shown up. If not then try the ♦K to see if the diamonds break 3-3. If not, try the clubs to see if they break 3-3. None of these possibilities excites, but they do add up.

Here are the success probabilities, based on initial deal probabilities. The probability that the diamonds break, or the diamond jack drops, or a marked finesse against the diamond jack shows up is 60.9%. The probability that the diamonds don't work out but the clubs break is 13.7%. The probability that neither of these minor suit situations occurs but someone holds length in both minors is 7.9%. Adding these up gives a probability for making seven no trump of 82.5%! With a very straightforward line of play.

Looks like complex math? In fact you do not have to figure out all the probabilities or to be a squeeze expert, to find this line. You do need to recognize that the probability of bringing in the diamonds or clubs without a risky finesse is way over 50%. So you should know to try the minor suits in turn. But before trying the minor suits, run all your major suit winners. That cannot cost, and it might be that an opponent will be forced to make a fatal discard or just blunder. And on the actual hand, your LHO started with 4 diamonds including the ♦J and 5 clubs, so does have to make said fatal discard.