

Louisiana Bridge Association April 2017

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President's Message April 2017

Wow!! What a month it has been.

As many of you may have heard, our sister ACBL Unit in Baton Rouge has suffered large losses due to an apparent defalcation. The accounts are still being audited but the amount of the initial loss exceeds \$40,000. The Unit is pursuing a claim against their bank for the forged checks and against the directors and officers bonding insurance company for the remainder. Our Unit is going to hold a game on Saturday, April 22 to raise funds for the benefit of the Baton Rouge Unit. Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us in this important endeavor. The games —there will be an open section and a 299er section—will be at regular rates (\$6.00 per player) but extra monies to help Baton Rouge may be contributed as players see fit. Our goal will be to raise \$2,000 for this worthy cause. The game will be a Club Championship and will have extra points. Baton Rouge members will be invited to attend.

On a more positive note, our membership continues to increase with easy bridge generating over 20 new members this month and our financial results are close to budget (no surprises is GOOD!!). David Bybee and Joan Quinlan are chairing our May Sectional and will undoubtedly be asking for your help and support as the time gets closer. It is always encouraging when folks step up to these tasks when asked.

Thanks again!!

Jim Thornton

April Events

***= Extra points, **=Extra points, no extra fee**

Apr 6 Charity Fund Game* Thurs aft \$7

Apr 6 Unit Championship** Thurs nite

Apr 7-9 Jackson Sectional Fri-Sun

Apr 17 Tablet Game Mon 7:30AM

(See page 4 for details)

Apr 21 Unit Championship** Fri

Apr 22 Baton Rouge Benefit Game* Sat noon

\$6 + Donation of your choice

Open AND 299er sections

Apr 25 Charity Fund Game*Tues nite \$7

Apr 27 ACBL-Wide Charity Game* \$7

Orange Beach Regional Firsts

William & Elizabeth Sewell **Mon Aft 299er Pairs**

Gail Fayard & Audrey Cerise **Mon Gold Rush Pairs**

JF Lowenstein & Beth Todd **Mon Eve Side Swiss**

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Elizabeth & William Sewell **Wed Aft 299er Pairs**

Hugh Lawson-Henry Bodenheimer **Wed Eve Swiss**

Sid LeBlanc-Greg Blum-Toby Young-Paul Freese

Thurs Aft Side Swiss

Paul Freese & Toby Young **Fri Open Pairs Flt B**

Mercedes & Wayne Wells **Fri Aft 299er Pairs Flt B**

Beth Todd **Fri Eve Side Swiss**

Myra Groome-Carolyn Dubois **Fri Eve Side Swiss Flt C**

Monday Evening EasyBridge! Lessons

Beginning Monday, May 1st, 6:30 PM

First 4 classes free! Teacher: Sharon Henry

For more information contact Sharon at club or at 504-458-5336

Kudos to Doug DeMontluzin

for giving a wonderful party open to the entire bridge club. Excellent food, good music, good times.

Rank Advancements and New Members are on page 4

Baton Rouge Sectional Firsts

Thurs AM 299er Mary Hanni & Morris Place Jr

Thurs AM Open Larry Federico & Idell Adams

Thurs PM 299er Paul Rosenblum & Jacob Karno Flt B

Fri PM Open Wayne Merkel & Hans Jacob

Sat AM Open Larry Federico & Idell Adams

Sat PM Open Jamie Bush & Bob Bowers; Beth Todd & David Wolf Flt B

Sun Swiss Joan Van Geffen-Jean Talbot-Judy Katz-John Federico

In Memoriam
Jeff Reilly
Shirley Ruckert

Seventy Percent Games

299er Pairs

Mar 9 Elizabeth Cordes & Linda Conner
72.02%

499er Pairs

Mar 17 Ronald Ocmund & Steven Plotkin
72.71%

Open Pairs

Mar 16 Larry Federico & Idell Adams 70.51%

Mar 16 David Bybee & Phantom 70%

Mar 18 John Onstott & David Williams 70.60%

Mar 21 John Onstott & Chuck Pitard 73.35%

Saturday Mar 25 Pairs Paul Rosenblum & Drew Casen 75.45%

Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpots

Mar 8 Linda Conner&Molly Sylvia; Helen St.Romain & Elaine Duplantier; John & Larry Federico; Jim Thornton & Beth Todd; Bummy Rosenfield & Carol Stribling

Unit 134 achievements at

Kansas City NABC

Jeffrey Juster 9th in Sililor Open Pairs,
35.71 Platinum Points,

total masterpoints 44.56

Nelson Daigle & Geoff Chichester

19.36 total masterpoints

Know the Director's Rulings

by Jennie Flynn Sauviac

Pass out of Rotation--Law 30—Part I

Before any player has bid--Right hand opponent is given the option to accept the pass. If the pass is accepted the auction continues with RHO's bid. If the pass is not accepted, the pass is cancelled, and the offender must pass when next it is his turn to call. That is, he must pass one time.

A reminiscence

The recent passing of Helen Furr reminded many of our older club members of the gracious couple Bill and Helen Furr. Bill was a SUNO math professor, colleague of Frank Hoadley and excellent player at our club, as was Helen. Larry Federico told us the story of how Bill and two rank novices, Dave McDonald and Andy Ward, did amazingly well in a KO event at the 1983 New Orleans Summer Nationals. Dave and Andy went on to become very strong players. Dave now lives in Baton Rouge and plays periodically, often at tournaments. Andy moved to Illinois. At our request, they gave us the following account of that 1983 event.

Bill and Helen Furr

Dave McDonald and I had been playing bridge for less than one year when we played against Bill and Helen Furr in a Sunday night team game at the Metairie Bridge Club. During the 6 or 7 boards, I recall that I horribly misplayed a hand, but found a way to make the contract. Bill asked Dave and me to play on a team with Bill and a partner in an upcoming National to be played in New Orleans. We gladly accepted. Note that Dave and I each had fewer than 5 ACBL points at the time.

Bill Furr's partner was a postman whose name I cannot remember. We entered to play in a flighted knockout. We were in either the 2nd or 3rd flight because Bill and his partner had significant skill and masterpoints. I remember that Bill and his partner produced great results round after round. The semifinal match went down to the wire and we won by single digits. We ended up playing in the finals before and between the open pairs on the last Saturday of the Nationals. The first half was close and the second half was also a squeaker. When we compared the final results we had lost by 1 imp. Bill's partner apologized for splintering into a small doubleton because he could not see well. Dave and I discussed a hand where the opponents had a bidding misunderstanding that propelled them into 5 of a minor on 22 HCPs. Upon post-mortem, no one could find a killing defense.

But Dave and I had won almost 15 gold points!

The most impressive thing I learned from the experience, was the grace and kindness from Bill and his partner. They never complained or criticized any of Dave's or my mistakes. They were the perfect teammates. They would answer our questions without casting blame. What wonderful gentlemen!

Andy Ward

♠xx

♥Ax

♦QJ10xx

♣AQJx

♠Qxx

♥Jxxxx

♦Kxx

♣xx

♠Axx

♥xx

♦Axx

♣10xxxx

♠KJ109x

♥KQ10x

♦9x

♣Kx

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH. This month's hand is intended primarily for beginning players interested in developing a habit of careful declarer play. The column could be titled "SIMPLE HAND CALLS FOR SIMPLE BUT CAUTIOUS DECLARER PLAY." With North dealer and opponents passing throughout, the auction went 1D-1S-2C-2NT-3NT. South's decision to forego bidding 2H turned out well, as it was unlikely that North held four hearts or three spades, so West had no reason not to lead a heart from his jack fifth. With a heart opening lead declarer, South, ducked in dummy, thereby immediately developing eight cashable tricks between the two hands, four hearts and four clubs. What should declarer then do to guarantee a ninth trick so as to make three notrump? It would be incorrect for declarer to cash the eight obvious tricks and then put the opponents in because that would create the possibility of the opponents cashing their four likely defensive tricks (two spades and two diamonds) plus the fifth card in one of their long suits. So the correct declarer play at trick two was the ♦9. Whether the ♦9

won the trick or not, declarer could not be prevented from developing a diamond trick through leading diamonds twice as soon as possible. Starting diamonds instead of spades was a superior play because it left open the possibility of making four notrump if declarer ultimately correctly guessed the spade position. If the reader does not immediately recognize that playing the ♦9 at trick two is the correct play, I suggest that you lay the cards out and do your double dummy best to try to defeat 3NT on a heart lead if the ♦9 is played at trick two. Even looking at all four hands the defense cannot stop declarer from successfully making 3NT.

Explanation of Special Games at our Club

You frequently see that we are having a special game with extra points. Some cost an extra \$1, some don't. And how do we get these extra points?

Let's start with the most frequent. **Unit Championships** are scheduled up to 24 times in a calendar year. These pay 63.6% extra and are free to the club. **Club Championship Games** are scheduled quarterly and they pay 63.6% extra. **Upgraded Club Championships** are compliments of all of our new members. For every new 10 members we get, we earned another Upgraded Club Championship. (Thanks, Suzanne, Sharon & Elizabeth for bringing in so many new members!) These games pay 81.8% extra. Then, there's **Club Membership Week** where every game for a week pays 81.8% to current ACBL members (keep your dues current!) None of these games cost extra.

Another game you will see frequently over the summer is the **NAOP (North American Open Pairs) Qualifier Games**. You want to score above 50% on one of these games to compete at the District level. These games cost an extra \$1 and pay 81.8% in red and black points.

ACBL has 4 named fund games that occur during different months of the year. Each of the fund games cost an extra \$1 but they pay 63.6% extra. The **Junior Fund** supports the Junior Program and youth up to age 26. The **Charity Fund** supports the ACBL Charity Foundation. The **Grass Roots FUND Games** help fund Grand National Teams and the North American Pairs. The **International Fund Games** support North American participation in International events.

The next group are the ACBL-wide games and all cost an extra \$1. The **ACBL-wide Charity Fund Games** pay 81.8% extra points. This also pays extra to those who score in the top 10 pairs nationally and the top 5 pairs in the district. The **ACBL-wide Senior Pairs Game** pays 72% extra points. Participants must have been born before January 1, 1959. **ACBL-wide International Fund games** pay 81.8% with 50% of the points being red and 50% being black points. The **ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game** pays 1 Gold point to the top N-S-E-W players in each section. Last year we awarded 16 players with a gold point each. This game also pays 81.8% extra points in red/black. Overall 10 pairs score nationally and top 5 in District.

The **World-wide Bridge Contest** costs \$1 extra and is scored internationally with 81.8% extra red and black points. The top 2 in our District win extra points, not to mention our international top winners.

I hope this clears up some of your questions about all of these games. If you have other questions, please see me.

Your humble Club Manager,

Sherrie

Freezing Weather and Sharing the Wealth

The LBA held its annual Rosenblum Sectional Tournament in Metairie January 5-8, 2017. That turned out to be the coldest weekend of the year, with unusual freezing temperatures. Players were warm and cozy at our center while daily dining on fine Southern fare. Our caterer fired up his gigantic black iron pot outside and endured the cold while preparing his Chicken & Andouille Sausage Jambalaya on Thursday and Red Beans and Rice on Friday. We told him to prepare 200 servings each day, but he probably made 300. Saturday, we all cheated on our diets and ate Popeyes fried chicken, potato salad and green beans. Club member Audrey Cerise made her famous Chicken and Sausage Gumbo for Sunday's Swiss crowd. (No leftovers!)

Anyone who has run a Club tournament knows how difficult it is to estimate how much food you will need. You never want to run short. That was our situation. So we ended up with all that leftover Jambalaya, Red Beans, and Popeyes chicken. LBA member Jackie Madden came to the rescue. She does volunteer work at the Lantern Light Ministry for the homeless. She took our abundance to them, and what a happy ending! The pantry was empty at Lantern Light, but the inn was full because of the cold snap. We were able to share our wealth with them. A happy ending for all!

Submitted by Co-chairs Carolyn DuBois and Sharon Henry

Electronic Device Only Pairs Game (tablet game)

Win Gold Points at our Club!

The Gatlinburg Regional is offering a special 2-session event on Monday, April 17th that will allow players from all over the country to earn regionally-rated Gold Points by participating via electronic device at their local club using **BridgeBaseOnline (BBO)**.

All you need to do is sign up (both you and your partner), and bring any portable device with Internet access to the club on April 17th and you will have the chance to win regionally-rated Gold points without having to travel to the tournament.

Strata: 0-750, 750-2000, 2000+ by average

When: Monday, April 17th at **8:30 AM ET so 7:30AM CT**- sessions will occur back to back and you will need to participate in BOTH sessions. Each session will be 18 boards.

Cost: Tournament Entry Fee: \$22/per person to ACBL and \$18/per person to LBA

What you and your partner will each need: A device capable of Internet access (a laptop, tablet, iPad, Kindle, or even your phone if you choose; make sure that it's fully charged beforehand or capable of lasting 2 – 2.5 hours easily) AND the BBO application for your device

Visit <https://sites.google.com/site/tabletbridgepilot/home> for more information about this game and sign up instructions.

NOTE: If interested, see Sherrie Goodman if you can use help in the sign up procedures. It will also be good for her to know how many are signing up.

NEW MEMBERS

Sue Aupied, Janice Bruner, Philip Luchsinger,
Sarah Luchsinger, Robert Reich, Stephen Romig,
Deborah Skorlich, Lauren Stentz, Susan Stephens,
Lynden Swayze

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTER

Gail Duffy

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

Gregory Blum

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Patricia Burke, Paul Rosenblum