



Louisiana Bridge Association September 2017

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President's Message September 2017

.We will be hosting a **299er Sectional** at our club October 10-12. Stratified pair games will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday with a 0-20 game on Thursday. Please line up your partners early as the good ones go fast!!!! Also, please volunteer to help or to bring something. Chairpersons are Lynden Swayze and Diane Scott (recent grads from EZ Bridge).

The **Unit seems to have turned the corner on finances** with a nice profit reported for July and one expected for August. Lower maintenance expenses and good cost control at the tournament in July coupled with the \$1 increase in card fees are the main differences.

As this year winds down, **please consider running for a seat on our Board**. These 11 folks do a lot and we have 4 openings to fill. Ben McKown, Vicki Willis, Larry Federico and Jim Thornton's terms expire and the election is in January. Please let Ellen Lappa know of your interest.

We are having a **mentoring game** on September 21. See the write up below and please sign up!!!

Another "**Youth Day**" was held August 26 with Carolyn Dubois reporting 6 pre teens having a fun day!! We also had a Times-Picayune writer and photographer present. See our writeup on p.3.

The **Labor Day game on September 4, 2017** will include extra points and hot dogs. Larry Federico and Idell Adams are doing much of the work. Thanks again to this great pair for all they do to support this game.

See you at the table!!

Jim Thornton

September Events

*= extra points, no extra fees

Sep 4-10 Club Membership Week Mon-Sun
all games Extra Pts to ACBL Members ONLY

Sep 4 Labor Day game*

Sep 11-17 Robinsonville Regional Mon-Sun

Sep 13 Charity Fund Game* Wed

Sep 14 Unit Championship* Thurs night

Sep 16 Unit Championship* Sat

Sep 21 Mentoring Game* Thurs noon

Sep 22 International Fund Game* Fri aft

Sep 25 Unit Championship* Mon AM

**New EZ Bridge classes starting Thurs Sep 14
the week after Labor Day.
Classes from 9:-11:30 First 4 classes are FREE!!!**

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NEW MEMBERS

Anne Curry, Marilyn Forneris, Kendall Genre, Caroline Koppel, Andrew Morson, Debbie Tabb

MENTORING by Sue Himel

There will be another mentoring game on September 21, 2018 at noon. Please sign up on the bulletin board at the entrance to the club. **Advance signup is required.**

This time, players will be allowed to sign up in a partnership of their choosing or sign up to be assigned a partner. Partnerships should be arranged based on one partner being a non-life master (up to 499 mp) and one being a life master. All players signing up to be assigned a partner will be called the evening before the game with their partnership assignments. **Whether you prearrange a partnership or ask to be assigned a partner, you must sign up by the previous day to be able to play.** This procedure will allow the directors to get the game started on time and accommodate as many players as possible.

A new mentoring program is being started. Brochures are available at the club on the directors' table that explain the program. Please take a minute to read the brochure and sign up to participate. Return the signup sheet to the directors. This is a program apart from the Mentoring Games that assigns non-life master players to a life master mentor to help the player advance in the game of bridge at their own pace through various activities that will be determined by the mentor and mentee.

Questions or comments? Please call Sue Himel at 402-214-8167.

Lake Charles Tournament Firsts

Regional I/N Sat Janice Zazulak & Maureen Richoux Gold Rush Pairs Flt 3
Sectional Sun Swiss Flt B Mike Lappa-Peggy McCranie et al

Rank Advancements

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS
 Susan Bateman, Carol Castle, Lorraine Friedrichs, Hubert Herre, Yvonne Hunter, Marilyn Wilson
NEW CLUB MASTERS
 Carolyn Abadie, Glenn Barnett, Edgar Bullard, Sarah Jacob, Sarah Luchsinger
NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS
 Jennifer Dennies, Jill Lane, Robert Parke, Clara Perry, Gloria Tisdale
NEW REGIONAL MASTERS
 Susan Danos, Sylvia Hansel
NEW NABC MASTERS
 Elizabeth Cordes, Judy Pyeatte
NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER
 David Williams
NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER
 Susan Gibbens
NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER
 Patricia M Roberts

Wed Grand Slam Jackpots

Aug 2 Larry & John Federico, Sherrie Goodman & Carol Bagalman, Fred Lay & Lillian Range, Theresa Federico & Fay Batt, Joan Van Geffen & Jean Talbot
 Aug 9 Marilyn Ducasse & Fay Batt, Norma Phillips & Lynne Hand, Joan Van Geffen & Judy Katz

Seventy Percent Games

Open Pairs Aug 1 Bill Weiss & Sid LeBlanc 72.70%
 Aug 8 Eleanor Onstott & Jean Talbot 71.30%
499er Aug 4 Shirley Rhode & Freida Johnson 70.70%, Elizabeth Cordes & Linda Conner 70.17%
Sunday Pairs Aug 13 Philip Luchsinger & Sarah Luchsinger 79.37%

Hot Springs Village I/N Sectional First

Charles Waldrop & Gary Waldrop Sat AM 299er Flt C

Palm Beach Garden Regional Firsts

Drew Casen-Jim Krekorian et al
 Tues Wed KO, Wed PM Swiss, Thurs-Fri KO, Fri PM Swiss (tie), Sun Swiss

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH. If a competent bridge player could always make the best opening lead on defense, such a player could likely soon become a world champion. But it can't be done. True, there is an abundance of advice available about how to make the best opening leads. For instance, how often does one hear or read that "against NT lead fourth highest from your longest and strongest suit?" Such advice is reasonable if leading against 1NT but it is more often incorrect when leading into a strong notrump auction. When leading into an opening bid of 2NT or an auction ending in a solid 3NT, it is dangerous to follow such advice. It is frequently self defeating to lead fourth best from a weak four card suit containing only one or even two honors. More often when opponents have enough power to bid game it is better to lead from a three card sequence or to make a neutral lead. Here is a classic example of the folly of always leading "fourth best" against 3NT. Take a look at what befell poor East on this hand from a N.O. club weekly duplicate game when opening leader succumbed to following the recommended "fourth best" lead practice on the very first hand against me. (See below left) Our auction was a simple 2NT-P-3NT, against which West

N			
♠Ax			
♥J10x			
♦A10xx			
♣Jxxx			
W		E	
♠xxx		♠J10xx	
♥Qxxx		♥Kxx	
♦xxx		♦xxx	
♣109x		♣Kxx	
S			
♠KQxx			
♥Axx			
♦KQJ			
♣AQx			

led her fourth best heart from Qxxx. Dummy's Jack forced out East's King, which I won with South's Ace. After cashing the King and Queen of diamonds I overtook the Jack with dummy's Ace, putting me in position in the dummy to take the club finesse against East's King. When South's Queen held my next play was to lead toward dummy's ♥10. West won her ♥Q and exited with the third heart lead, won with dummy's ♥10. The next play was a low club to the South's ♣A to see if East's ♣K would fall but it did not. So a return to the dummy by way of the ♠A left dummy with ♠x ♥void ♦10 ♣Jx and East with ♠J10x ♥void ♦void ♣K, while declarer, South, held ♠KQx ♥void ♦void ♣x. When dummy's ♦10 was cashed, poor East was squeezed out of either her spade or club stopper, allowing declarer to take the last three tricks and to make 6NT. The squeeze was put in motion by West's low heart lead from only Qxxx, following which East was inevitably squeezed because of the position of the remaining cards. Note that if West had originally made the neutral lead of the ♣10 from ♣109x, no squeeze would develop and declarer would be held to making five. (It would be good practice, time permitting, to lay the hand out and play it through after making the two leads, first the low heart producing a squeeze and second the ♣10, giving nothing away to declarer.)

Bidding questions by Arnaldo Partesotti

On a recent Tuesday night game there were an unusual number of slams, we bid some, some we did not, and some were bid against us. This was one that I found particularly interesting, and perhaps you might want to discuss the different bidding options with your usual partner.

You are my partner and you hold this average hand with some potential: ♠T732 ♥— ♦A7532 ♣AQT7

You hear me open 1♦, which we play 11+ HCP and at least 4 Diamonds, and your hand just turned into gold: five trumps support with the Ace, an AQ on the side and a void. Spades seem the weak spot. What do you bid? These are the options:

- **1S** This is the most natural continuation. It might help find a Spade fit and prevent a Spade lead if we end up in NT. The problem is that it does not say anything else to partner, particularly about the Diamond fit and the void, and the Spades are very weak.
- **2♦** We play inverted minors, this shows great Diamond support and forces to game. It distorts the hand a little bit, with inverted minors you are not supposed to have a 4-card Major, or you would bid it. I would not mind "losing" the four weak Spades.
- **3♥** This is a splinter bid, showing excellent Diamond support, forcing to game with some slam interest and showing a single or void in Hearts. To me it looks like the most descriptive bid but it eats up bidding space.

You bid **1S** and hear **2NT** from me (18-19 balanced.) You bid **3NT** which ends the auction for a sub-par score. As soon as you bid **3NT** you say that you regret your bid, but it is too late.

Here is the actual hand:

Dealer S All Vul

North	
♠Q85	
♥KT987	
♦J6	
♣864	
West	East
♠AK	♠T732
♥A652	♥--
♦KQT8	♦A7532
♣K95	♣AQT7
South	
♠J964	
♥QJ43	
♦92	
♣J32	

If you had splintered with 3♥, this would have been the bidding, opponents always passing:

W	E
1♦	3♥
3♠	
	4♣
4♥	
	5♣
5♠	
	6♦
Pass	

Cue-bid. We play Italian cue-bids showing indifferently first or second round controls, with the exception that the first cue-bid by either partner always shows a first round control, so this is the ♠A.

This shows the ♣A, which west knows since he holds the K. This shows the ♥A, in case East has a singleton. It could not be the ♥K, which would be useless opposite a singleton or void.

By repeating the cue-bid, East confirms the first round control. Having shown the ♠A, West now shows the ♠K.

Nothing else to show. It would be nice to be able to show the ♣Q by bidding 6♣ but East is afraid that West might think he has the ♣K.

OK, there are 7♦ to make but it is very difficult to get there. The hand also makes 6NT and 7♣ but only because the clubs split 3-3.

Thank You by Carolyn Dubois

Thank you! Ronald Omond, Kitty Klaus, Denise Tabor, Carole O'Hare, Mike Lappa, Michael Russell for helping with the **Art Wall and Bulletin Boards**.

Linda Conner will **spearhead** our discussions and playing of **Swiss Games**.

As you know a NLM Regional will be held at our club next year and we would like to offer our guests a Swiss Game.

Swiss is a fun game and instant points after each eight boards. Linda will be speaking to you with more information in the next few weeks at the 299er Games.

It takes a community ! Thank you everyone.

BRIDGE FOR THE YOUNG by Carolyn Dubois

Our second **Youth Day Bridge Game** was held Saturday, August 26. Although attendance was light our kids enjoyed the game and said, "may we play just one more hand." They went home with a backpack filled with a pen, cards, candy, sunglasses, and a HAUNTED HOUSE (thanks to Theresa Federico),

I was fortunate to receive help from so many. Special thanks to Sharon Henry, Gail Fayard, Kitty Klaus, Myra Groome, Reese Koppel, Larry Federico, and Jim Thornton.

Special thanks to Phil Luchsinger who came to take pictures but brought a Times picayune writer and photographer. Several interviews and pictures were taken and I am hoping to see an article about our Bridge Center.

Thanks to Denise Tabor and Jack and Cindy Lewis for bringing their grandchildren.

Trevor Thompson will help spearhead our new adventure into a monthly or weekly Youth Game. Look for more information on this in coming issues and posted on the bulletin board at our Bridge Center.