

KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association December 2021

Editor – Diana Powell with help from Sherrie Goodman and
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President's Message December 2021

Do you believe it? It's the last month of 2021. All of our lives have changed in so many ways. The one thing that has been a constant for all of us is that we have been able to PLAY BRIDGE.

Jack left to return to his home state of Florida, but we were lucky enough to get Sherrie back as club manager. Your club is in good hands with a board of directors and a club manager who work endlessly to give you every opportunity to play bridge.

On January 6th, 7th, 8th our club will host our first Sectional Tournament in 2 years. At the same time, we will be voting for new board members. I hope to see you at the tournament. Remember to vote.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Dubois

At the LBA Face-to-Face:

December is a month filled with Unit Championships. We will have them almost every day. What are Unit Championships and why so many all at once? Unit Championships are extra point games that are scored across the unit by participating clubs. Our Unit 134 is entitled to 24 of these per calendar year. Now that some of our clubs in our unit are having face-to-face games, I have scheduled them for the month of December since they expire December 31. If another club in our unit is having a game at the same time, there will be overall scores and more points for the winners. We usually use these on special events like the 4th of July and holiday parties. Enjoy the extra points with no extra fee. Next month will be our **Sectional Tournament January 6-8**, so start lining up your partners now. The games will be at 10 & 2 on Thursday and Friday and the Swiss on Saturday will be 2 sessions beginning at 10 with a break for lunch after the 3rd round.

At the Virtual Club:

We will continue to have the GNT qualifier Swiss games with double points ½ red and ½ black every Sunday and every 3rd Thursday through February. We have added a 0-2000 section to our Friday game at 9:55am. We will add this section to the Monday game next Monday. We continue to have a mentoring game at 4:00 on Wednesday. Please join in on the fun and help your favorite mentee.

Some of us are attending the NACB in Austin. We wish them luck and hope they will bring home the gold!

Sherrie Goodman

Welcome Our New Members

Jill Bellone
Lloyd Causey
Elycee Picciotti

Doubles #1

By Sue Himel

Doubles can be for penalty, for takeout, or to give your partner the option of bidding or leaving the double in for penalty. How do we sort out the various meanings of a double? Sometimes there are rules to help us, but sometimes we have to use common sense.

Rule: Doubles of the opponents below the level of game when our side has not entered the auction are for **takeout**. (Well mostly)

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1H	Pass	3H*	X

This is a **takeout** double even if that 3H* bid is a limit raise. If it is weak, you might have a nicely shaped minimum hand. AQT2, 8, KQT6, QT92

If it is a limit raise, you would need another couple of honor cards or a hand with more shape.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You
1H	Pass	2H	Pass
3H	X	All pass	

This is a **penalty** double probably based on a trump stack and maybe an outside trick. Partner could not overcall or make a takeout double over 1H. He might have even considered overcalling a good 4-card spade suit with a good hand and a good suit (see my early columns). Be sure to sit for this double even though partner already knows your hand is not going to be helpful.

Partner	LHO	You	RHO
1H	P	1S	2C
P	P	X	

The double says it is our hand. **Please bid**. Opener might show 3-card spade support, rebid a good 5-card heart suit, **or pass** and convert the double to penalty.

With Q74, QT874, A42, KQ
Bid 2S

With K7, AQJT9, K74, 532
Bid 2H

With K8, AK642, 74, KJT3
Pass and convert the double to penalty.

Never let your common sense be overruled by bridge rules.

Paul's Deal of the Month

Hand #17 in the club game on January 16, 2020 provoked considerable discussion because it appeared to have one loser in each suit, but the hand generator stated that N/S could make 4S with either N or S as declarer.

Indeed, I sat South when our auction went 1S-2C-2D-3C-3S-4S. We went down one after a heart opening lead, which seemed normal and in defiance of the computer's analysis when the E/W trumps broke 4/2 and the diamond queen did not come down. (Note that our dealing machine generates randomly distributed hands and analyzes them on a double dummy basis but only gives us the end results possible, not a play by play analysis.) After the session when we saw the machine's analysis stating that 4S could make, we tried several lines of play but they all led to down one or more. Later on that evening I tried replaying the hand again, I discovered what the computer had figured out immediately. Taking the hand card by card, I won the opening heart lead and soon reasoned that I should first try to set up the side suit. That didn't work when the queen of diamonds failed to fall on the third lead ruff of diamonds. I next started on trumps. East immediately took the ace and returned a heart to West, so another heart was played, trumped with the spade deuce by North, so I played the last three trumps, necessary to exhaust East of all of his four trumps. That left North on lead with the jack of diamonds and Q3 in clubs, having lost two tricks, a spade, and a heart. To make four spades North would have to win two of the last three tricks, but North had no winning tricks in hand and South only held one, the club ace. But look at what happened when North played the diamond jack. East won the diamond trick with the queen but then was down to Kx in clubs. East was end played. All declarer would have to do was guess the position of the split club honors and N/S would end up with ten tricks. Our trusty dealing computer had figured all of that out in a split second. But all it had ever told us was that 4S could be made. I still think that 4S makes because of luck, not skill. And I'll leave it up to the readers to determine whether the hand can be made with perfect defense, such as E/W finding a way to cash both the outstanding heart and diamond before getting stuck into having to break the club suit at the end of the play of the hand. I wonder???? Maybe East should have ducked a spade or two, which would lead to ...(?)

Dealer N		
Vul none		
N		
♠KQJ102		
♥98		
♦KJ86		
♣Q3		
W		E
♠93		♠A764
♥QJ643		♥K75
♦1095		♦Q743
♣J74		♣K8
S		
♠85		
♥A102		
♦A2		
♣A109652		

Direktor's Corner

Online Swiss Etiquette

Online Swiss is a popular forum. It is wonderful to have three people on your side instead of only one. Our club has an online game on Sundays at 2:00 (Central Time), and a once-per-month Swiss game on the third Thursday at 7:15 (Central). The Sunday afternoon game is 20 boards, 7 minutes per board, 5 rounds of 4 boards each. This 5-4 format gives many people a chance to win at least a few rounds. The monthly Thursday evening game has the same 5-4 format but is a little faster at 6 minutes per board. Many people find Swiss to be an especially enjoyable type of bridge.

The high number of people and the online format mean that we are all working on appropriate etiquette. Therefore, I am proposing the following guidelines:

- Sign onto BBO at least 15 minutes before the game starts. Register with your partner.
- Look for your teammates under the SELECT TEAMMATES list. When you see them, invite them by clicking the blue INVITE box beside their names. When you click this box, an invitation goes to them. Nothing appears on your screen until they accept. When they accept, your team is listed in the ENTRIES list. You are in!
- DO NOT accept invitations from people other than your teammates. DO NOT invite people other than those you arranged to be your teammates.
- At 10 minutes before game time, if you do not see your partner or your teammates, call your teammates to make sure they are coming. If you cannot reach them, call the director (typically Lil, 504 330 1158 or Jack, 504 201 3348).
- The period right before game time is typically very busy for the director. If you do not get an answer, the director is helping someone else.
- At 5 minutes before game time,
 - if you are registered with your teammates, move your mouse, or touch your I-pad to make sure that BBO knows you are there.
 - If you did not find your teammates, look at the SELECT TEAMMATES list to see if there is any other pair there without partners. If so, invite them. The rule about not making or accepting invitations from pairs other than your agreed teammates is off.
- Remember the bottom line: Have fun!

Diamond Lil

BRIDGE ADVANCEMENTS

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Sectional Master:
Mary Marks

Regional Master:
Deborah Skorlich

Adv NABC Master:
Diana Powell

LIFE MASTER



Reese Koppel

LIFE MASTER



Kathy Plauche

EMERALD LIFE MASTER



Richard Logan

ACBL LIFETIME TOP MP HOLDERS (MP as of Oct. 6) CONGRATULATIONS!

34th



31,417.83 MP
John Onstott

141st



20,043.31 MP
Joan Van Geffen

157th



19,095.38 MP
Jean Talbot

70 % GAMES

11/2	Open	Jim Thornton – Sherrie Goodman	70.74%
11/5	Open Club	David Williams – Judy Katz	71.97%
11/7	Swiss	John Onstott et al	79.00%
11/8	Open	J. F Lowenstein – George Wilson	71.15%
11/8	499 Club	Mike Russell – Charles Waldrop	77.78%
11/9	Open	Paul Freese – Don Daigle	72.29%
11/18	Swiss	Sherrie Goodman – Tipping Ellis	72.00%
11/18	199 Club	Bette Marks – Jim Koch	70.00%
11/21	Swiss	John Onstott et al	77.00%
11/26	Open Club	Judy Katz – David Williams	70.60%
11/30	Open	John Onstott – Thomas Turgon	70.83%