

KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association June 2022

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President's Message June 2022

A very big thank you to Susan Beoubay the tournament chair, and Carolyn Dubois, the partnership chair, for their hard work on the Derby Day Tournament. Thanks also to Theresa Federico who worked many hours getting our kitchen back to order and Jackie Madden who used her considerable powers of motivation to get our air conditioner contractor back on the job.

Unfortunately, the attendance at the tournament was disappointing; we took a substantial loss. Our weekly face-to-face games have minimal attendance, and even our virtual games have started to decline. In the short run, people are more important than money, and while we are not in financial trouble now, we cannot sustain losses indefinitely. The LBA face-to-face games usually pay a lot more master points than the virtual games. I urge all to play in the face-to-face games when and if you can. If you play in the virtual games, please play in the LBA virtual games because they provide revenue to our club. Other games do not. In addition, LBA games often award more points.

The final check from our insurance co. for Hurricane Ida repairs has been approved and should be received this week. Our actual out of pocket cost, including our deductible, should be less than \$18,000. Delayed maintenance work due to Covid is being handled by Wayne Weisler. He will get bids for nonemergency work estimated to cost over \$1000. Wayne will ensure that all contractors have the required insurance and licenses. Thanks to Jackie Madden, Bill Weiss and Wayne Weisler for all their work helping to get Hurricane Ida repairs completed.

Larry Federico

At the LBA Face-to-Face:

We have a lot to look forward to this month. June at LBA means the **Longest Day**, our annual Fund raiser for the Alzheimer's Association which is also always a "FUN" raiser too! Linda Freese is our chairperson for this event on Friday, June 24, and the food is being donated by Michael Joyner Catering. We will have morning (9:30) and afternoon (1:00) games. Linda promises prizes for the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in A, B & C! June also begins our NAP Qualifying Games where we earn double points (1/2 red & 1/2 black). It's a great chance for those of you who need colored points! We also have a STAC week from June 6-11 (double silver points). If you make the overalls, look for more points. ACBL has just announced a gift of "Back to the Club" upgraded club championships (June 27-July 6). So come in out of the heat and enjoy your friends at LBA!

At the Virtual Club:

We have not received the summer schedule for the virtual clubs yet, but we will be having some NAP games online with double points (1/2 red and 1/2 black). The Longest Day games online will be June 18 & June 19. No catered lunch here, but all games will be double points!

Sherrie Goodman

For the I/N Crowd

The Rule of 15

By Sue Himel

When trying to decide whether or not to open the bidding light in 4th seat, many players use The Rule of 15, also known as Pearson Points or Casino Points. That rule says, if your high card points added to the number of spades in your hand is 15 or more, than open the bidding.

This is based on the theory that if you open the bidding without a solid opening bid in the 4th seat, the auction is likely to be a part score battle. Since the side with the spade suit usually wins part score battles, why open the bidding unless your hand indicates your side can compete in the spade suit? And if the opponents compete in the spade suit, you should at least hold enough spades to give them some trouble.

S 2 H KJT6 D A976 C K843

HCP + No. Spades = $11 + 2 = 12$ Pass the hand out.
Your side cannot compete in the spade suit and since the points are fairly evenly distributed around the table, you likely lose the auction to the spade suit.

S A976 H AQ9 D T97 C 875

HCP + No. Spades = $10 + 4 = 14$ Pass this one out.
Even though your side can compete in spades, the points are just too evenly distributed around the table and you don't have any side suits to set up.

S KQT9 H QJ5 D K9875 C 5

HCP + No. Spades = $11 + 4 = 15$ Open 1D. You can compete in spades if partner bids the suit, and you have a good enough holding to give the opponents trouble if they compete in spades.

S QT5 H Q8 D QJ65 C KQ76

HCP + No. Spades = $12 + 3 = 15$ **DON'T** open the bidding. Why break the rule this time? Your long suits are only 4 cards long and in the minors. This makes it very likely the opponents can compete in the majors. And your values are mostly soft (queens and jacks).

S 4 H AKT87 D AQ97 C 965

HCP + No. Spades = $13 + 1 = 14$ **DO** open the bidding.
This is an opening hand in any position with 13 points and 3 ½ quick tricks. Pearson Points are used when you are considering opening light in 4th seat.

Don't let any rule override your judgement. Use these numerical rules to help you decide what to bid.

Paul's Deal of the Month

The French have coined the phrase "en passant" (in passing) to refer to a play in which a lower ranking trump produces a trick because of its favorable location when played while a higher trump is outstanding. Today's hand, No. 10 from the club game of January 24th, 2019, illustrates this play. Sherlock Holmes might title this column "The Case of the Irrelevant Club Queen."

Being a member of the old bidding school which today favors modified strong, single jump shifts of 2M in response to a 1m opener (game forcing but only slam suggestive, not necessarily a powerhouse as required by Charles Goren in his earlier writings), when my partner opened the East hand 1D, I responded 2S. This led to our simple auction of 1D-2S-2NT-3S-4S, opponents passing throughout. The final contract of 4S was quite sound and somewhat conservative, as only one key card, the Ace of trumps, was missing. There were two other apparent losers, only one of which could be disposed of on the diamond King.

I won the opening diamond lead with the singleton Ace in my hand and immediately played the spade King, taken by South with his Ace. I ruffed the diamond return instead of winning it with dummy's King, as it is often necessary to reduce declarer's extra trump length to match that of the opponent, in case of a bad split, which can lead to a coup position in the end game. Sure enough, cashing the trump Queen revealed the second trump unavoidable loser, so I next cashed the trump Jack, leaving South with the outstanding high trump, the ten, and then went about an effort to avoid the obvious two losers. I crossed to dummy's heart Ace, cashed the heart King and disposed of the heart loser on the diamond King. I then trumped a heart, just in case they split 3/3 and provided for a place to dump the losing club in declarer's hand but no such luck. Dummy was down to void=9=void=KJ10, South to 10=void=void=874 and declarer to 5=void=void=A92. North still held the high heart 10, so it was apparent that I had to either guess the location of the club Queen or come up with a better play than a guess. Having correctly reduced my trump length to the same as that of South, the danger defense hand, it was easy to see that I could win three of the last four tricks by the simple expedient play of cashing the club Ace and King, leaving the club Queen outstanding in either defense hand, and then ruffing dummy's last heart with my last little trump. It gave my partner and me a feeling of satisfaction to see North's good club Queen and South's even better trump spade 10 fall together on the thirteenth trick. The declaring side had won trick twelve with a losing trump "en passant," making five spades and rendering the club Queen irrelevant.

E Deals		Both Vul	
N			
♠ 6			
♥ J1052			
♦ Q9542			
♣ Q53			
W		E	
♠ KQJ542		♠ 93	
♥ 874		♥ AK93	
♦ A		♦ K63	
♣ A92		♣ KJ106	
S			
♠ A1087			
♥ Q6			
♦ J1087			
♣ 874			

No Explanation Available

One cause for much frustration, and director calls, is that one person asks for an explanation of a bid and gets no information. At the face-to-face club, the partner of the bidder may say, "I don't know." At the online club, the bidder may say, "no explanation available." Here are some guidelines that may alleviate some frustration.

Guideline #1: the opponents have a right to know everything your partner knows (or is supposed to know). This right to know includes the actual meaning of the bid, not simply the name of the convention. For example, your partner opens 1NT, the next person passes, and you say 2C, and the next person, before bidding, asks for the meaning of the 2C bid. The asker has a right to know not only that it is Stayman, but that Stayman means that you are asking if partner has a 4c major.

Guideline #2: the opponents have NO RIGHT to know that you misbid or misclicked. For example, your partner opens 1NT, the next person passes, and you say 2C, and the next person, before bidding, asks for the meaning of the 2C bid. Ordinarily, your 2C bid is Stayman, but in this case you meant to bid or click 2D. The correct answer to the query is "Stayman: Asking for a major." Yes, this is actually the correct answer! The opponents are not entitled to know what you meant to bid. Confess that you misbid or misclicked after the hand is over.

Guideline #3: if you are in a bidding situation and you believe that your bid is obvious, and you hope that your partner sees the obvious, the appropriate answer is no agreement, or no explanation available. For example, your partner opens 1NT, the next person passes, and you say 2C, and the next person, before bidding, asks for the meaning of the 2C. Your answer is "Stayman: Asking for a major." Now your partner says 2H, the next person passes, and you say 3D. This person to your left who keeps asking all the questions again asks for the meaning. You and your partner have never discussed this bid, but you mean it as a diamond suit. Your correct answer is "no agreement," or in BBO lingo "No explanation available." You are not required to tell the opponents that the bid means diamonds; THE you are only required to tell them of partnership agreements.

Guideline #4: it is human to want to know the meaning of a bid, and to ask when it is your turn to bid. However, rethink this natural tendency. If you are going to pass no matter what, then wait until the auction is over. Your query might actually wake up the bidders to some convention they had forgotten, or some nuance of the bidding they had not considered.

Guideline #5: it is not appropriate to ask for the meaning of a bid as a way to communicate with partner, or because you think partner may not know the meaning of a bid.

Guideline #6: it is always correct to call the director. Fun fact: the director's job is to answer these queries.

Guideline #7: remember to have fun!

Diamond Lil

NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

In New Orleans at the Marriott & Sheraton

March 9 – 19, 2023 - NABC Tournament

At the Club:

June 6 – 11 – STAC week (2X silver points)

June 24 – Longest Day (9:30 & 1:10)

June 27-July 6 -- Upgraded Club Championships

NAP Qualifying Games (2X points – ½ red & ½ black)

At the Virtual Club:

June 18 & 19 – Longest Day

NAP Qualifying Games (2X points – ½ red & ½ black)

In Memoriam



Sigurd Norvoll

New Members

Patricia Helm

Lynne Howard

Ward Howard

A Shout Out To The I/N Crowd From Mary Belcher

Want an opportunity to play great bridge, enjoy the camaraderie of fellow bridge enthusiasts, and improve your game? Then, come out to the club and join us for face-to-face bridge.

Don't let the label "Open" game deter you. Yes, the competition level is higher. Yes, many of the players will have more experience than you. What a golden learning opportunity! It has been my experience that these very same experienced players are more than willing to share that experience and knowledge with you - you just have to ask! I feel like my game has improved just playing at this level - I've learned so much playing in these games.

Concerned about points? Keep in mind that "Open" games award a higher number of points overall, and the games are stratified. You can earn just as many points (maybe more) coming in first in C in an Open game as you can coming in first in a limited game.

Remember. OPEN

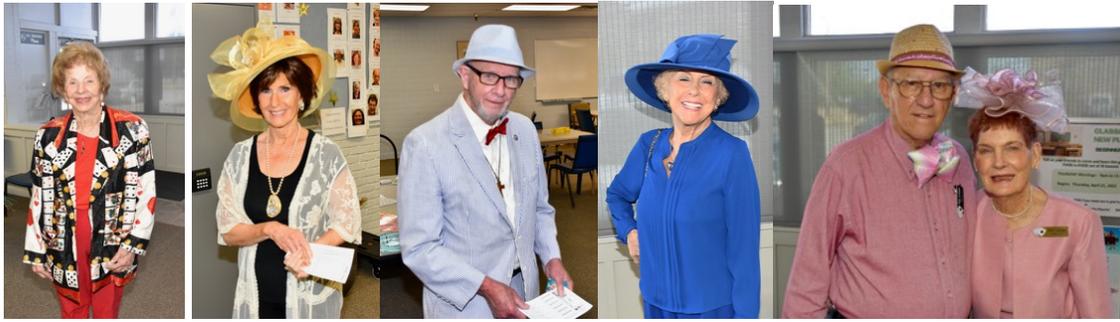
O - Opportunity is knocking!

P. - Play bridge!

E. - Elevate your game!

N - Numerous games at the club every week!

DERBY DAY FUN



ACHIEVEMENTS

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Regional Master: Catherine Favret,
Nancy Sandidge
NABC Master: Merilee Vanderbrook
Life Master & Bronze Life Master: Sarah Pasternak
Ruby Life Master: Ralph Chesson & David Woods
Sapphire Life Master: John Liukkonen

LIFE MASTER & BRONZE LIFE MASTER



SARAH PASTERNAK

BRONZE LIFE MASTER



GARY BERGERON

RUBY LIFE MASTER



RALPH CHESSON

RUBY LIFE MASTER



DAVID WOODS

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER



JOHN LIUKKONEN

70 % GAMES

5/4	750	Club	Charles Waldrop – Newt Jackson	70.0%
5/5	499		Ray Nolan – Karen Boquet	72.22%
5/10	Open		Sherrie Goodman – Ellen Lappa	70.37%
5/10	Open	Club	John and Larry Federico	70.63%
5/12	499		Ray Nolan – Karen Boquet	77.08%
5/15	Open Swiss		Jean Talbot - Joan VanGeffen and teammates	70.00%
5/15	Open Swiss		John Onstott and teammates	70.00%
5/20	Open		John Onstott – Sam Whitten	75.69%
5/23	Open Club		John Federico - Judy Katz	70.63%
5/27	Open Club		Margie Christian – Michael Schossler	71.43%
5/27	Open		John Onstott - James Krekorian	75.00%
5/28	Open		Jean Talbot – Joan VanGeffen	72.92%
5/30	299		Carro Gardner – Debbie Webb	70.37%
5/30	Open Club		John Federico – Judy Katz	78.00%