

Louisiana Bridge Association August 2020

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President's Message August 2020

HELLO EVERYONE.

I hope everyone is enjoying the Virtual Games online. Sherrie has worked hard at giving everyone an opportunity to play daily. It seems we will be playing online for a while. I would also like to thank our Directors who are giving of their time.

Your Board had a zoom meeting in July . We had to have the windows corked to prevent a leak, we bought several hand sanitizers and will have them mounted, and we are having a fixture replaced in the women's bathroom. Lowen is looking into the price of plexiglass dividers for our tables.

If we are not playing Bridge at our club before January, and it looks as though that will not happen because of the rise in Covid, we will need to decide on How to hold an election for OUR BOARD? More discussions will take place as we get closer to our opening. Sorry, I do not have good news about opening our club but the safety of our members are important to all of us.

Carolyn Dubois

NEW MEMBERS

Violet Bowers, Patricia Brinson,
Barbara Carmon

70 percent games by Unit 134 Members in our virtual club in July

Jul 3 299er William Sewell & Elizabeth Sewell 77.25%
Jul 7 299er Janie Gill & Janet Koppel 72.22%
Jul 12 299er William Sewell & Elizabeth Sewell 73.15%
Jul 19 299er William Sewell & Elizabeth Sewell 74.77%
Jul 27 Open John Onstott & Larry Federico 70.13%
Jul 28 Open Guss Ginsburg & James Bush 70.36%

Wednesday Grand Slams

There were no Wednesday grand slams bid and made in July in our virtual club. So the free plays are piling up!

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Janice Kishner, Gaynell Lawrence

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Karen Boquet, Suzanne Brown, Edward Kennedy, Gregory McKnight, Ray Nolan, Stephen Rider, Debbie Tabb, Kay Williams

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Jeannette Galleguillos, Leonardo Galleguillos, Mary-Madison Griswold

NEW NABC MASTER

Gigi Matthews

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Edgar Taylor

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Audrey Cerise

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER

Christopher Young

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER

Beth Todd

In Memoriam
Mary Asher

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DIREKTORS KORNER

THIS MONTH'S DIREKTOR IN CHARGE: Rule Ruleski

TOPIC: Of Alerts and Computer Genies

As much of our play during these trying times is online, I would like to take a little time to review alerting in these games, especially for those that don't...alert that is. There are many infractions that the online genies within the electronic sphere prevent.

You can click your mouse on a card in the wrong suit until COVID-19 is just a not so fond memory in the distant future and the genie in your computer will never allow you to revoke.

You can try all you like to make an insufficient bid and that same genie will not let you do it.

However, there are no genie protections for not making alerts and announcements when required.

The BBO genies are not well educated enough to read and understand your convention card and do this part for you. You are still liable when violating these laws, just as you would have been at the physical bridge center. I have come across many "lazy fingered" players that do not alert or announce when required.

Even though the online self alerting procedure is different in that YOU (the person making the alertable bid) do the alerting of your own bid instead of your partner supplying the alert, **you must continue to alert all of your conventions that would be verbally alerted in a face-to-face game or suffer potential penalty.** Don't assume your opponents "know" what your bids mean or worse yet, never unethically attempt to take advantage of an opponent.

The process to make an alert is part of the director's messages at the beginning of every game but we repeat it here: BEFORE making an alertable bid, click on the alert button in the bid area and **type your explanation in the EXPLAIN area BEFORE clicking on your bid.** Then your bid will appear, your opponents will see the explanation, but your partner will not see the explanation or even see that the bid has been alerted.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH In the early days of development of bidding methods in the United States opening one bids were sound, two bids were strong and forcing and even preemptive bids were constructive, based upon the rule of two and three. Single jump raises in response to openers were game forcing. Jump shift responses were ultra-strong, not only game forcing but strongly slam suggestive. Strangely, two over one responses were only game invitational and remained so for a while, even after the advent of the "forcing 1NT" response, until the currently popular "two over one game forcing" response style became standard practice.

Over the years preempts have become weaker, limit raises are preferred over forcing and major suit raises of 1M-4M became weaker, with "Namyats" showing close to 4M playing trick strength game values in a preemptive format in which opening 4C and 4D are "borrowed" strong 4M bids. Jump responses directly to game are currently based upon trump suit length, not strength.

In today's practice a two over one response followed by a trump raise to the three level is stronger than a raise to the game level. For example, a noncompetitive auction beginning 1S-2C-2S-3S is unlimited and stronger than 1S-2C-2S-4S. This "delayed" trump suit jump shows a minimum game bid and usually terminates the auction, while the raise to the three level leaves room for further slam exploration.

The participants in a New Orleans club game held the hands below left and made use of a jump bid to

N ♠10xxx ♥KQJxx ♦Ax ♣AK
S ♠AKQx ♥Ax ♦Kxx ♣Qxxx

show weak trumps in a strong hand in an otherwise strong auction. South was dealer on this all vul hand. The auction went 1C-1H-1S, at which point North realized that her hand was too strong to just bid 4S, so she first made a "fourth suit game forcing" bid of 2D. The extended auction became

1C-1H-1S-2D-2NT-4S, North using the delayed jump to show a strong hand with weak trumps. South, who held a not yet fully disclosed strong hand and excellent spades as trumps, continued the auction with 4NT (3014)-5H (2 keycards)-5NT-6H (specific king)-7S, gambling that North's hand and hearts in particular would support a grand slam bid. (Note that if South had employed the specific suit inquiry of 6H in place of 5NT, North's response would have been 7H, showing both ♥K and ♥Q, allowing South to bid 7NT, for a top board.) But 7S netted a shared top, as no pair bid 7NT. So what do we learn from this example hand? Three things. (1) Value your hands carefully and appropriately, noting that Aces and Kings are relatively undervalued in Work's 4-3-2-1 point count method. (2) Learn that delayed jump bids can be used to describe certain hand weaknesses, even in the trump suit. Be sure to first discuss this with your partner to make certain that both of you are on the same wavelength. And (3), an experienced partnership can make good use of Keycard Blackwood methods, which are complex but well explained in Eddie Kantar's 5th Edition handbook entitled simply "Roman Keycard Blackwood," Final Edition.

Passive Defense by Arnaldo Partesotti

Defense is in my opinion the most difficult part of our lovely game. Excelling in it makes your overall bridge life a lot easier. Usually there are two prevalent modes of defense: active and passive. A lot of it depends on the circumstances and each situation is unique. The mode of defense is frequently dictated by what you play: if it is team play, be aggressive, at the worst they will make their contract with an extra trick... big deal, and on you go! At match points it might be the difference between a top and a zero.

North NVD	
♠Q	
♥T84	
♦K9862	
♣JT92	
West V	East V
♠A9543	♠T762
♥AQ65	♥9732
♦J	♦T73
♣Q64	♣73
South NV	
♠KJ8	
♥KJ	
♦AQ54	
♣AK85	

You must also be very alert, and take advantage of the opponents' mistakes - this is always true! Here is an example of a passive defense, which occurred to me during recent play.

The hand at left was quickly bid with South opening 2NT, and North raising to 3NT. I was on lead with the West hand, I knew that Partner had "zero", and I led a natural ♠4. With my hand I wanted to take as many tricks as possible (don't we always?) while not counting on Partner, and avoiding being end-played. After winning the ♠Q, Declarer ran all the Diamonds, which was a mistake because on the last one from dummy he squeezed himself out of a club. Next, Declarer took the Club finesse.

The correct play is to take one top Club just in case the ♣Q is singleton, take three top Diamonds ending in dummy, and take the Club finesse. You can always reenter dummy with the ♦9 to collect the last 2 Diamonds. Let's see, Declarer could make 5 Diamonds, 3 Clubs and 2 Spades for 3NT + 1 and a shared top. I always win 2 Aces and the ♣Q, and nothing else. In the real situation all I had to do was play passive, and return a Club after I won the Queen. Dealer was pitching before me and I could follow what he did, and act accordingly. When he tried to cash one of the two remaining Spade honors in his hand, I won the trick with the ♠A and put him back in with the last Spade, and he had to bring me the last two Heart tricks. This kept the contract at 3NT making, for our 69% gain.

Next month we will look at an active defense case from the same session.

Sherrie's Online Club Report

Our Virtual club gets bigger everyday. Thank you **Sue Himel, Linda Freese, Lil Range, Kathy Logue** and **Sam Whitten** for your generosity and tireless energy for this virtual club! We are #9 in the country in Table Counts and #1 in the District. We are up to 1154 members (542 from LBA)! Some people are playing once a week, some several times a day. We are still helping people get online. If you need help, Lil Range, Linda Freese and Sherrie Goodman are happy to help you get started. It's a lot of fun in a not so fun time. We enjoyed greeting each other in the virtual games and catching up while socially distancing and being safe.

We have just completed the **2nd Regional Tournament**, and many of you earned some nice Gold/Red masterpoints. We also had a 2-day Longest Day Event. There are many more special events to come. With double Silver Points July 27-August 2nd is a Silver Linings Week with double silver points being awarded. We have added a few games to give you lots of opportunity to earn those silver points. Also, Labor Day will have extra points with no extra fee, so we will add extra games that day, too. Watch for emails or check the Website regularly.

Grand Slam Wednesday Jackpot is back! In any game on Wednesday a pair that bids and makes a grand slam will receive free plays. Free plays will be added each week so the pot could get big! Any game....299, 499, Open!

The Longest Day When the Board told me we were having the Longest Day on a weekend day, I thought it would be a very small event this year. Our virtual club doesn't seem to realize that weekends are smaller participation days, since this pandemic has made us forget which day of the week it is! You came out and supported The Longest Day, and I hope you all got some rewards! Out of our 127 tables playing in our two day event, 235 Master points were awarded. Congratulations! We also received some very nice monetary donations. We raised over \$3,000 in cash contributions. BBO donated half of their income, ACBL donated all of their income, and the Directors donated their pay! Thank you **Sue Himel, Linda Freese, Lil Range, Kathy Logue** and **Sam Whitten** for your generosity and tireless energy for this virtual club! You all make it happen! Sorry for the repetition, but I can't thank these people enough! Thanks to all the members who contributed by playing and supporting our efforts for the Alzheimer Association.

For the I/N Crowd by Sue Himel

Balancing #2

On rare occasions you may hold a 20-21 point hand in the balancing seat. After this auction: 1H - P - P - ? you hold: ♠KQT ♥KJT ♦AK ♣KJT98. None of the options discussed in the last column allow this hand to be described. If your Left Hand Opponent (LHO) opens at the one level and you hold 20-21 high card points, a balanced hand and stoppers in LHO's suit, balance with 2NT.

I don't use 2NT in the balancing seat as Unusual 2NT. That is meant to be a bid that is somewhat preemptive. On the above auction there is no need to preempt. I know that this is not a common treatment of this call, but it is what I recommend. Mike Lawrence, in his definitive book on the subject, *Balancing*, agrees.

Suppose you are in the balancing seat on the above auction and you hold this hand: ♠6 ♥J2 ♦QJT54 ♣AJ753 In the direct seat over 1H you would be right in there with 2NT, preempting the opponents. But if LHO opens 1H and the next two players pass where do you think the spade suit is? With this hand I am going to pass and prevent the opponents from finding what is likely a good, if not massive, fit in the spade suit. Could I be wrong? Absolutely. But, I'll go with the odds and pass.

No Grand Slams on Wednesday, but... by Guss Ginsburg

I am happy to see our Unit resuming the Grand Slam Jackpot Wednesday games. This is good for attendance, but sometimes players bid very aggressively to get to some very long shot slams. However, this past Wednesday provided a plethora of part-score battles and struggles on defense, but nothing sniffing close to a slam, much less a Grand.

But Friday evening's online game provided at least 2 hands where it was possible to take all the tricks. On one, we got to 6 Spades, making 7. We had an accident in the auction and settled for the small slam. The other grand, which is detailed in the box below left, was bid by only one pair in the field (us), but a misguess in the play resulted in down 1. The auction is given below right. North was dealer and both sides were vulnerable.

<p>North</p> <p>♠void</p> <p>♥AK42</p> <p>♦A109842</p> <p>♣A104</p> <p>West East</p> <p>♠Q107632 ♠AK985</p> <p>♥98 ♥J63</p> <p>♦QJ3 ♦76</p> <p>♣Q7 ♣863</p> <p>South ♠J4</p> <p>♥Q1075</p> <p>♦K5</p> <p>♣KJ952</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The opening lead of the ♥9 was won by declarer with the ♥10. Declarer pulled trumps in 3</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> <th>W</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1D</td> <td>P</td> <td>1H</td> <td>1S</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3S*</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>* splinter, 0 or 1 spades</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rdbl**</td> <td>P</td> <td>4C</td> <td>P</td> <td>** first round control of spades</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4D</td> <td>P</td> <td>5D</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7H***</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>*** I hope you have the Queen of trumps,</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	N	E	S	W		1D	P	1H	1S		3S*	Dbl	P	P	* splinter, 0 or 1 spades	Rdbl**	P	4C	P	** first round control of spades	4D	P	5D	P		7H***	All Pass			*** I hope you have the Queen of trumps,	<p>rounds, then established the diamonds with a ruff in the north hand. Then all we had to do was bring in</p>
N	E	S	W																													
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the club suit without a loser. It was not our day, and the misguess of the ♣Q resulted in failure. Looking back at this hand later, it became clear that to make this, we needed some good things to happen: 3-2 trumps, manageable diamond break (QJ doubleton, or any 3-2 break, or finding East with a singleton honor, which allows you to establish the suit with a ruffing finesse), and clubs not 5-0). Here is a line that would work: win the opening trump lead with the ♥10, ruff a spade in dummy, cash one high heart in dummy (relief when all follow), come to hand with the ♦K, ruff your last spade in dummy. Then come to your hand with the ♣K, draw the last trump discarding that club ♣10 from the board. Now a diamond to the dummy followed by another diamond establishes the suit with a ruff. Dummy is now high. Our tricks are 6 heart tricks (counting the two spade ruffs in dummy), 5 diamonds, and 2 clubs.

Some comments on the wisdom of bidding a grand like this at matchpoints. Out of almost 100 tables, 4 pairs bid 6H and got to play it there, and 3 of them made 7, and the 4th made 6. So, bidding the small slam and making 7 was worth 99% of the matchpoints, and making only 6 earned 97%. The risk-reward proposition on this deal says "Don't bid this grand!" Many EW pairs saved in 6S, in which you lose 2 tricks in each side suit, down 5, for -1100, a good save against 6H, but a terrible match-point result of 7% for EW. Our down 1 result in 7H earned us 1% of the matchpoints. Yes, 2 other pairs were in slams going down, one was in 6C, the other in 6D. So, unless this hand comes up on Grand Slam Jackpot Wednesday, it's usually not worth bidding.