

Louisiana Bridge Association May 2016

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President's Message May 2016

Thanks to **Karen Lay**, **Annette Willie** and **Elizabeth Sewell** for their work during the 299er tournament. Thanks also to **Keenan Romig**, **Jim Thornton** and their helpers for putting together an outstanding game and lunch with the traveling group Finesse West.

The ACBL has announced fee increases for all clubs. The Board voted to absorb these increases rather than increase our playing fees.

Our next **mentoring game** will be on Wednesday June 29, 2016. This could be either a matchpoint game or a team game. Announcements will be made.

Our **Derby Day tournament** begins on Thursday May 5, 2016. Please plan to participate. Awards to 2015 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners will be given out between sessions on Friday May 6, 2016. Winners names have been posted on our bulletin board. Special congratulations to **David Williams** and **Jacob Karno** who achieved **national recognition** in their categories. See p.2 for details. Our Sunday team game in the tournament is on May 8, 2016. Because this is Mother's Day attendance may be smaller than usual. The club is requesting that players who plan to participate in the team game sign up on the list provided near the entrance doors. This will help us to avoid purchasing too much food.

We recently lost my friend and former partner Nancy Smit. She was unable to play recently, but she was an asset to the club for many years.

Larry Federico

May Events

May 5-8 Metairie Derby Day Sectional
Thurs-Sun

May 10 Unit Championship Tues night*

May 16-22 Jackson Regional Mon-Sun

May 23-29 Club Championship Week*

May 30 Unit Championship Mon night*

*extra points, no extra fees

Jackson Regional Transportation Note

The Jackson Regional will be May 16-22. Chuck Wilkinson points out that Amtrak Service between New Orleans and Jackson is less than \$30 round trip, and the train station in Jackson is less than one block from the hotel. See the tournament flyer for more information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Sally Lightfoot, Wayne Wells

In Memoriam
Musette Buckley
Nancy Smit

Baton Rouge Sectional Firsts

Ilype Koshy & Jamie Bush **Thurs AM Open Pairs**

73.44%

John Onstott & Drew Casen **Thurs Aft Open Pairs**

Nelson Daigle & Geoff Chichester **Fri AM Open Pairs**

Bob Bowers & John Onstott **Fri Aft Open Pairs**

Dee Moses & Eleanor Onstott **Sat AM Open Pairs Flt B**

John Onstott & Craig Cordes **Sat Aft Open Pairs**

Nelson Daigle-Geoff Chichester-Bill Beaushaw-Jeannie

Beaushaw **Sun AM Swiss Flt B Bkt 1**

Metairie 299er sectional firsts

Fri AM Janis Roberts & David Roberts; Linda Conner & Molly Sylvia Flt B; Jane Robinson & Joan Oppenheim Flt C

Fri Aft Sandra Freeman & Myra Menville; Gary Bergeron & Lloyd Armstrong Flt C

Sat AM Om Garg & Lallie Garg; Charles Waldrop & Evelyn Randall Flt B; Linda Conner & Barbara Fitz-Hugh AND Myra Groome & Virginia McMurray (tie) Flt C

Sat Aft Linda Conner & Elizabeth Cordes; Wanda Mikhail & Clyde Hairston Flt C

Sun Swiss Elaine Wilczynski-David Scherer-Mae O'Neil-Mike Anthony

Grand Slams and 70% Games on p.3

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTER

Michael Mooney

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Gary Bergeron, Barbara Hammett, Dorothy Romig, Tim Russell

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Valerie Chatellier, Sherie Linzy

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Nancy Arthur, Mimi Groome, Diana Powell, Carolyn Trapp

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Jane Goldring

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTERS

Sheena Dooley, Linda Freese, Ellen Pittman

NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

John Federico

2016 National MP Ranks, Unit 134

Rookie of Year (0-5 MPs)

Ace of Clubs

6. *David Williams*

18. *Mary Hanni*

Mini-McKenney

12. *David Williams*

Regional Master (100-200 MPs)

Ace of Clubs

17. *Jacob Karno*

Know the Director's Rulings by Jennie Flynn Sauviac

Declarer leads from the wrong hand

If the Declarer leads out of turn either defender may accept or reject the lead. They are not allowed to consult and the first to speak will speak for the partnership. If the defenders choose to reject the lead, declarer must lead from the correct hand but is not required to lead the same suit. The card incorrectly led will be restored to the proper hand with no further penalty and declarer will make any legal play from the correct hand.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH. The ACBL's random hand generator produced a deal at a Baton Rouge Regional which caused considerable consternation among the more aggressive bidders who held it. What would you bid, playing with your favorite partner, if you picked up ♠void ♥QJ10xxx ♦x ♣AKJxxx and heard your partner open 1NT (15-17 hcp)? Quite varying auctions were reported to me, most of which ended in 6H. The opening hand was ♠A10 ♥Axx ♦AKxxx ♣9xx, a minimum in point count but with four quick tricks quite a nice hand for slam bidding. Unfortunately for the bidders the hearts broke Kxxx offside and the clubs Qxx offside, so the maximum make was five hearts. The recap sheets showed that one optimist bid 7H, over half of the field bid 6H, a few pairs stopped at game and one confused pair somehow stopped in 3C, for which they were awarded a second level top for their plus score of 150 because they beat all of the pairs who went down in slam and lost only to those opponents who stopped in game, once again proving that matchpoint scoring is not real bridge. Several of the unsuccessful slam bidders asked me for a recommended bidding sequence stopping at 5H or 5C. Quite frankly, I don't see how normally aggressive matchpoint bidders could stop below 6H or 6C. But I can recommend a sequence to 6H employing a relatively rarely used bid denominated as "Exclusion Blackwood." The sequence goes 1NT-2D(transfer to hearts)-2H(nothing extra)-4S(Exclusion Blackwood)-5D(two keycards without the trump queen)-6H(or 6C, to be played if opener holds two hearts and four clubs). True, there are a few hands on which 6C would make when 6H does not but most matchpoint bidders will likely play in the major suit slam. For those unfamiliar with Exclusion Blackwood, it works like this. If you hold a void and want to know how many keycards partner holds in other suits, bid the void one level higher than a splinter would be. In this case, after 1NT-2D-2H, a bid of 2S would be natural and a jump to 3S would be a splinter singleton, so a double jump to 4S would be "EB." The responses are in steps, first step=0 keycards, second step=1, third step=2 without the trump queen, fourth step=2 with and fifth step=3 (don't hold your breath waiting for three). For those pairs not employing "EB" try 1NT-2D-2H-3C-3H-4C-4D-4NT-5C(3014)-6H (or 6C) or after 4D bid 4S(void)-5D-6H (or 6C). Perhaps this is an event in support of the Biblical saying that the "meek" (in this case the timid game bidders) shall inherit the earth.

Our New Website by Sherrie Goodman

Have you accepted my invitation to log into our new website on Pianola? If so, I hope you are enjoying the latest news at our club, in depth game results, special upcoming events and hopefully the find a partner feature. Those members who are using Pianola seem to enjoy these features. But if you need help logging in, or with any of these features, give me a call and I will be happy to help and walk you through.

Some of you have signed up for the free trial for Pianola Plus. There is a charge for this version after the trial period is over, but you really do not need this version, and in fact I myself am not signing up for Pianola Plus long term. The club news, bridge links, coming events, game results, travellers, hand records and find a partner features are all free. The only added features for Pianola Plus are: (i) you can replay hands with card-by-card guidance; (ii) you get an in depth analysis of the bidding (iii) you get an in depth analysis of the card play. By the way, if you did sign up for the free trial you will not need a new password if you decide not to continue with Pianola Plus.

A final note. The current, temporary URL (web address) for the incoming new site is

<https://site.pianola.net/louisiana-bridge-center>. Soon we will take down the old site, and the new site will appear at la-bridge.com, so that you will no longer need to know this temporary address.

Sherrie 504-329-7411

First Quarter Masterpoint Leaders for Unit 134

No stars = Ace of Clubs competition only,
One star = Mini-McKenney competition only,
Two stars = Ace of Clubs AND Mini-McKenney

0 to 5 *Michael Mooney* **
5 to 20 *Gary Bergeron, Steven Plotkin* *
20 to 50 *Jennifer Dennies, Barbara Fitz-Hugh* *
50 to 100 *Mary Hanni, Sharon Wood* *
100 to 200 *Kanwal Dhir, David Williams* *
200 to 300 *William Weed, Mike Anthony* *
300 to 500 *Jacob Karno, Cindy Lewis* *
500 to 1000 *Susan Sommer* **
1000 to 1500 *Sheena Dooley, Nelson Daigle* *
1500 to 2500 *Don Daigle, JF Lowenstein* *
2500 to 3500 *Ronald Berenger, Jeffrey Juster* *
3500 to 5000 *Julius Rosenfield, Paul Deal* *
5000 to 7500 *Bob Bowers* **
7500 to 10,000 *Judy Katz* **
Over 10,000 *Jean Talbot, John Onstott* *

Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpots

Mentoring Game Mar 30 *William Gentry & Ronald Ocmond; Nonie Leavitt & Ruth Rosenthal; Wayne Merkel & Ellen Manshel; Henry Bodenheimer & Kaki Birtel; Mary Regottaz & Reese Koppel; Ann Crane & Sherrie Goodman*
Open Pairs Apr 6 *John & Larry Federico*

70 Percent Games

Baton Rouge sectional *Ilype Koshy & Jamie Bush* **Thurs AM Open Pairs 73.44%**

299er Pairs *Pam Marinaro & Carl Koppeis*
71.48% Apr 4
Kathy Gilmore & Barbara Fitz-Hugh 73.88%
Apr 7
Lynn Flynn & Rayne Lykes 70.53% Apr 7

99er Pairs *Glenn Barnett & Meryl Rosenbloom* 71.67% Apr 8
Jane Robinson & Jackie Childress 70.53%
Apr 22
Martha Wailes & Marise Lapeyre 75.83%
Apr 29

Open Pairs *Wayne Merkel & Red Hailey*
71.12% Apr 6
Doug DeMontluzin & Linda Stockton
70.74% Apr 18

Leap of Faith by Arnaldo Partesotti

In a recent game, in fourth seat, I picked up the following pretty hand: ♠974 ♥A6 ♦K ♣AKQT543. I am thinking 3NT, with the opponents holding all the Diamonds and leading away from the Ace for an easy 9 tricks. I am also wondering what to open. In our system this hand is not strong enough for opening 2C, which we do with 23+ balanced points, or with 4 losers or less if unbalanced. This has 5 losers. While I am daydreaming, LHO opens 3♥, partner bids 3♠ and RHO passes. Whoa, I guess they just killed my Clubs! Partner is an aggressive but solid bidder, after thinking a while I take a leap of faith and jump to 6♠ which makes easily, after losing a spade, for an absolute top.

This is the hand (rotated):

	♠AK632	
	♥8	
♠JT5	♦AJT83	♠Q8
♥KQT75432	♣J2	♥J9
♦VOID		♦Q976542
♣97		♣86
	♠974	
	♥A6	
	♦K	
	♣AKQT543	

There are some lessons to be learned from this hand:

- 1) My leap of faith to 6♠ was unnecessary and reckless, we could have ended up in an unmakeable contract. I should have bid a simple 1430 4NT, partner would have responded 5♦, 0 or 3 key cards, in this case 3 key cards easily identified as ♠AK and ♦A, I could have continued with 5♥ asking for the ♠Q, partner would have denied with 5♠, and we would have settled in 6♣. Notice that if partner had the ♠Q we could have confidently bid 7♠.
- 2) LHO should have doubled the slam for an unusual lead, he ruffs Diamonds. In this case it does not do him any good because he ruffs with his own trump trick but, in my opinion, it was worth a try. Against 7♠, when we hold the ♠Q also, this double and unusual lead is the only play which defeats the slam.
- 3) I could have taken another leap of faith and jumped to 7♣, which always makes. Have fun figuring it out against a heart lead AND a trump lead.

In conclusion, good bidding is always good but, sometimes, leaps of faith are good too... and trust your partner!

PLAY NICE