

KIBITZER ♣♦♥♠

Louisiana Bridge Association March 2019

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President's Message March 2019

Our **new board** re-elected several members to positions that they held last year. I (**Linda Freese**) remain your **president**, **Carolyn Dubois** remains your **vice-president**, and **Mary LeBlanc** remains as part of the **treasurer team** serving along with **Steve Romig**. **Suzanne Cliffe** is the new **recording secretary**, and **Ellen Lappa** is the new **membership secretary** and continues as **webmaster**. Our first meeting was productive.

Kudos to **Bummy Rosenfield**, **Jack Lewis** and **Lillian Range** for building the **Sunday Swiss Teams** games to 14 tables. Come on out on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM with your 4-person team!

I hope that everyone has been able to get to the **Bridge Center during Mardi Gras** season. Please call if you run into traffic so that your partner will know you are on your way!

Mardi Gras day we will be serving hot dogs and all the fixings. Come and spend the day playing bridge.

Linda Freese

March Events

*= extra points, no extra fees

**=extra points, extra fees

Mar 5 Mardi Gras Unit Champ* Tues

Mar 7 Upgraded Club Championship*
Thurs 6:30PM

Mar 11 ACBL-WIDE SENIOR PAIRS**
MONDAY NOON. MUST BE AT
LEAST 60 YEARS OLD.

Mar 13-16 Lake Charles Sectnl Wed-Sat

Mar 14 NEW EZBridge 9AM
in our clubhouse

Mar 15-17 Gulfport I/N Sectional Fri-Sun

Mar 25-31 Club Championship Week*

NEW EZBridge Class

Know anyone who would like to learn bridge? New EZBridge classes will begin in our clubhouse on **Thursday Mar 14 at 9AM.**

For more information contact Elizabeth Sewell or Sherrie Goodman.

NEW MEMBERS

John Cumberland, Margaret Cumberland, Lawrence Holbrook, Courtenay Matthews

RANK ADVANCEMENTS—WHAT A MONTH!

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Julie Essick, Carro Gardner, Elise Lapeyre

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Dr Gary Danos, Loretta Gerbracht

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Valerie Schlesinger, Michael Schlosser

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Peggy McCranie, Betty Norton, Robert Reich,
Elaine Wilczynski, David Williams

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Jane Patterson, William Weed, David Williams

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Lynn Giordano

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTERS

Alice Crull, Ernie Levinson

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS

Don Daigle, Eleanor Onstott

NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER

Lillian Range

NEW EMERALD LIFE MASTER

Bob Bowers

In Memoriam

George Runyan

Table of Contents this issue

p1 President's Message, March events, New EZBridge, New Members, Rank Advancements, In Memoriam

p2 Direktors' Korner, Lil Range on Sunday Swiss, Paul's deal of the month

p3 Arnaldo Partesotti's column, Onstott on Ethics

p4 Bridge achievements: 70 percent games, Wed GS jackpots, STAC, many tournament firsts

DIREKTOR'S KORNER

THIS MONTH'S DIREKTOR IN CHARGE: THE MERK-EH

TOPIC: FIVE MORE RULES TO MAKE YOU A BETTER PLAYER

As I pointed out in the January Kibitzer, any Bridge Player who has ever ordered bridge books or supplies for their home or for their bridge club will undoubtedly know about Baron Barclay, the authorized supplier of the ACBL. Again, one positive side effect of your order will be eMail's from Baron Barclay, including the AUTHOR SERIES by Baron Barclay founder Randy Baron. To add to the five good tips I gave in January, here are five more excellent tips which I have adapted for this column from those Baron Barclay eMails.

RULE 6)

Think before you play at trick one, especially as declarer. If you always take at least 10 or 15 seconds before calling a card from dummy, you have given the opponents less information than if you simply play quickly when it's an easy hand and you hesitate when the hand is more difficult. Just try to be as consistent as possible.

RULE 7)

Relax and keep your wits when things aren't going well. Experts can usually put the bad results behind them more easily than the good player. They have learned that some poor results are inevitable and you just have to go on to the next hand.

RULE 8)

Open 1NT with 15-17 HCP when you have a 5 card major. This makes bidding much easier most of the time. Even if you miss an 8 or 9 card fit in a major because you opened 1NT with a 5 card major, you might still achieve an average or better result.

RULE 9)

Practice counting as much as possible (how many points each player has during the hand and also how many cards they have in each suit). Counting definitely pays huge dividends in the long run.

RULE 10)

Make sure you are an ethical player. It is MUCH more important than winning. Grantland Rice, a brilliant early 20th century sportswriter said "When the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name, He marks, not that you won or lost, but how you played the game."

Sunday Swiss is splendid!

Sunday Swiss starts at 1PM, is over by 4:20PM, and involves 4-person teams. A special feature of the New Orleans Sunday Swiss is that when there are at least 3 C teams (definition of C: team average less than 500 points), the winners of the C flight receive a FREE PLAY. Winners of a FREE PLAY for each team member on 2/17/2019 were **Jennifer Holmes, Kathy Plauche, Debbie Reily, and James Reily**; and on 2/10/2019 were **Jim Kessler, Sylvia Kitziger, Joey Lebeau, and Susan Beoubay**. If you want to try it and do not have a partner, or if you have a partner but not another pair, contact Bummy Rosenfield (504-427-2948) or Lillian Range (504-330-1158).

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH Prolific bridge writer Marty Bergen coined the Yiddish sounding phrase "Points schmoints," loosely meaning that high cards don't take tricks against distributional holdings. He (and others) have also been heard to say that "Good luck trumps skill every time." Both of those cliches' applied to a hand which was dealt to me in a club game here. (see those NS hands below left) I held the South hand in first seat, all not vul, and opened 1S, curious as to where this would take us on such a highly distributional holding. West overcalled 2D, over which North made a negative double (!), which guarantees four or more hearts. East raised to 3D. So when the bidding reverted to me, South, the auction had been a simple 1S-2D-X-3D-(?). It occurred to me that if partner had as little as Qxxx of hearts and the club Ace or just Axxx or better in hearts, this hand was "odds on" for a slam. So I anxiously bid 6H, eager to know what would happen next. West passed but partner bid an "impossible" 6S, and we all passed that unexpected bid. West led the Ace of diamonds, which I quickly ruffed and drew trump, which broke the expected 3/1. And there I sat, on lead at the fifth trick, with the Queen and two little hearts opposite my six to the K9. Being short changed the deuce of hearts in the dummy gave me an awful feeling in my stomach. But maybe West, the overcaller, would have the singleton Ace of hearts, as they would probably break 1/3 (or 3/1), so I used up what little courage I had under the circumstances and led a low heart toward dummy. Curtains! West played a small heart. Convinced that I had guessed wrong and that East probably had the singleton Ace, I decided to play low from dummy when I impulsively called for dummy's Queen. Sure enough, East won the Ace, thought for a moment and led a club, which I won with dummy's Ace. Nothing left to do but to lead a little heart from dummy at that point. When I did so East played the ten, I played the King and to my everlasting surprise West followed with the Jack. Hearts had broken 2/2 and the slam was always "cold!" When our euphoria subsided and the opponents' chatter complaining of their horrible luck had diminished I asked partner why he had made a negative double with only three hearts. He replied that he always intended to correct to spades if I bid hearts, as indeed he had done. Bridge! An amazingly entertaining game!

N ♠xxx
♥Qxx
♦KJx
♣Axxx

S ♠AKQJ10x
♥K9xxxx
♦void
♣x

Refusing Transfers by Arnaldo Partesotti

Recently I got into a fairly heated discussion with partner, after I opened 1NT and refused her transfer... twice. Do not do as I did, do as I say, and I say accept your partner's transfers, at least the second time around! Our event makes for some interesting discussion between you and your trusted partner, should the same situation happen to you. These were the hands (see below). I opened the West hand 1NT and partner bid 2D (transfer to Hearts). Had South passed,

| West NV | East NV |
|---------|----------|
| ♠AKT | ♠2 |
| ♥62 | ♥AKT8754 |
| ♦KJT64 | ♦A2 |
| ♣KJ9 | ♣T32 |

then I would have accepted the transfer and bid 2H. South however bid 3C. Our system agreement with this partner is to play natural on any suit interference over 1NT and this created some interesting possibilities:

- I could PASS, which I did. It should tell partner that I have a minimum opening and no support for Hearts/two small;
- I could double with a penalty oriented hand and no support for partner, what is your agreement on this double?

- I could bid 3H to accept the transfer. What is your agreement? Do you accept the transfer without good Hearts support, after the opponents interfere?

- I could bid 3D to tell partner that I have a 5-card Diamond suit, and no support or limited support for her Hearts. What is your agreement, should you make this bid?

- I could bid 3NT to tell partner that I have a double stopper in Clubs. I do not like this bid because if partner is weak we are almost sure to go down.

Over my PASS partner bid 3D (re-transfer) and I bid... 4D. We never discussed re-transfers with this partner and I thought that 3D might be her second suit. If in doubt, I should have bid 3H anyway. The bids made however should tell partner (almost) everything about my hand: a minimum 1NT opening, no support for Hearts, and a 5-card Diamond suit. Only the double Club stopper info was missing. Now, she should be in the best position to place the final contract, by bidding 4H directly. We ended up in 6H down one; we lost the ♣A and a Club ruff, and we reached slam missing an Ace, and the Q and J of trumps, but they were in the right place. 6H cannot be made because of the Club ruff, but 6NT is the top spot, not that you should be there.

My non-acceptance of the transfer was vindicated by no other than Zia Mahmood at the recent Reykjavik Bridgefestival, attended by some of the major International players. The NS hands and bidding are given below left.

| North(Zia) | West | North | East | South |
|------------|------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| ♠AK | P | 1NT | P | 2H |
| ♥J8 | X | P | P | 2NT |
| ♦KJ874 | P | 3C | P | 3S |
| ♣A963 | P | 4S | (All Pass, making 5) | |

| South |
|--------|
| ♠QJT85 |
| ♥65 |
| ♦AQT3 |
| ♣K7 |

With only two Spades (but the two top honors) Zia passed the double, presumably telling partner that he did not have a 3-card Heart support, and giving partner room to bid his hand farther. I do not know their system but it looks Lebensohl-ish to me.

In conclusion there is nothing wrong in not accepting partner's transfer, assuming you and partner have an agreement and a continuation bid available.

ONSTOTT ON ETHICS:

After over 50 years of bridge experience and a certain modicum of success, I would like to think that bridge is a ladies' and gentlemen's game. I have noticed lately that we are becoming more and more lax in our ethical behavior and may need a little refresher course. Often it is unintentional or ignorance of the laws..often we should know better. A few points to remember the next time you sit down:

1. Your bridge face should be less expressive than your poker face. When the cards are out of the board, the only communication between you and your partner is the bidding box. There are no facial expressions, heavy sighing, gestures or comments. You bid, you alert, you explain (only when asked) period. You should never answer a question with.." Well, I think she has..." You answer only what your specific agreement is with your partner, not what you think they mean by their bid. If you don't have an agreement..fine. Say so.. " No agreement".
2. Although I hope you do one day, you are not playing in the finals of the Reisinger. Let your friends (fellow players) pick up dropped cards, correct misbids. Our minds are not as quick, our hands not as steady as they once were. We all make mistakes. Do you really want to win on a technicality?
3. The Director is your friend. Not the police, not the enemy. Call politely or use your BridgeMate to summon. (Did you know you could do this?)
4. Be aware of players with less knowledge or experience. They are playing the same game, with the same entry fee and deserve the same respect. Help..don't humiliate. You were there once, too.
5. Zero tolerance is not just a yellow card in the bid box. Don't criticize, gloat, whine or teach (unless asked)..at the table.
6. In short...BE NICE

Tournament Firsts and other bridge achievements

Club stuff

70 percent games

99ers

Feb 1 Cheryl Hauver & James Koch 70.24%

Feb 8 Peck Hayne & Dale Thompson 72.92%

499ers

Jan 31 Patricia Burke & Robert Whann III 70.60%

Fast Pairs

Feb 14 Jane Goldring & Jean Frank 73.50%

Wednesday Grand Slam jackpots

Feb 13 Jean Talbot & Joan Van Geffen;
Sherrie Goodman & Carol Bagalman

Feb 27 Bummy Rosenfield & Sue Himel

STAC firsts

STAC FIRSTS

Mon AM 499er Charles Waldrop-Evelyn Randall

Thurs aft Elaine Wilczynski-Betty Norton Flt C

Fri AM 99er Peck Hayne-Dale Thompson; Jean McNeal-Sara Mundie Flt B

Fri aft 499er Susan Martin-Frieda Johnson Flt B; Jennifer Holmes-Kathy Plauche Flt C

Sectional firsts

Gulfport Sectional firsts

Fri AM Open pairs JF Lowenstein & Eleanor Onstott

Sat PM 299er pairs Hubert Herre & Carolyn Herre flt F

Open pairs JF Lowenstein & Eleanor Onstott

Sun Swiss Bkt 1 Chuck Pitard et al

Bkt 2 Mae O'Neil-Christine Beesley-Nancy Linzy-
Fran Early

Hattiesburg Sectional firsts

Sat AM Open

Robert Reich & Buddy Massey Flt B

Sun Swiss

Chuck Pitard et al Flt A; Robert Reich-Buddy
Massey-Jeannie Beaushaw-Bill Beaushaw Flt B

Regional firsts

Houston Regional firsts

Mon Bktd Swiss Bkt 1 Jacob Morgan et al

Wed Gold Rush Pairs Buddy Massey & Robert Reich

Fri Bktd Swiss Bkt 8 Nelson Daigle-Robert Reich-Buddy
Massey-Bill Beaushaw

Other regional firsts for Jacob Morgan

Navajo Trail Regional Albuquerque: Zuni KO 1, Zia Morn Bracketed Tms #1, Sun A/X/Y Swiss Teams

Riverside CA Regional: Charity Bktd Swiss, Wed Thurs KO Tms 1