

KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association October 2021

Editor – Diana Powell with help from Sherrie Goodman and
Jim Thornton email: dspowell10@gmail.com

President's Message October 2021

I hope everyone is coming along with their recovery efforts after Ida. I look forward to our reopening on October 4. Although the playing areas were not affected, the breach in the roof over the board room and storage room damaged the facility and many of our supplies. There are a number of construction and restoration people working at the club to complete repairs and to get things ready for our return. I want to give thanks to Bill Weiss for handling the recovery.

In the meanwhile, Jack is working to introduce new games and move our face-to-face club forward. I wouldn't be surprised if he doesn't arrange for some extra points or other incentives when we return.

See you soon!

Carolyn Dubois

At the LBA Face-to-Face:

We are reopening the club for face-to-face games MONDAY OCTOBER 4. Hallelujah and pass the ammunition! It is time boys and girls. NOTE THAT OUR SCHEDULE WILL CHANGE that week! The Tuesday 299er game with a lesson at 9:15 am with Wayne (aka Mister Kranky) MOVES TO Mondays STARTING MONDAY OCTOBER 4 - same bat time, same bat channel – 9:15 am. All of the games that week will be special games with extra masterpoints to celebrate the return of our wayward people. A lot of folks have worked very hard to get our building ready for us to get back to playing bridge: First and foremost are Bill Weiss and Mary LeBlanc. Thanks Bill and Mary! A shout out should also go to Sherrie Goodman on the virtual club front for getting the Vanderbilt and Germantown clubs into the fold. I don't know how she managed it, but that is a coup that is already paying dividends in virtual attendance. Eleven full tables on a Thursday night! A historical first! See you in October!

Jack Lewis

At the Virtual Club:

It has been a busy month in spite of Hurricane Ida sending her wicked winds. We had 3 special events online this month, and Silver Linings was a really big hit! We had two clubs join our Virtual Club pool this week. So, our virtual club now has LBA, Lightman BC from Memphis, Baton Rouge BC, Acadiana Duplicate BC, Shreveport BC, Gulfport Club House, Les Amis Duplicate BC in New Iberia, Vanderbilt BC in Nashville and Germantown in Memphis. All of our clubs are in District 10. We have many players crossing club lines, and it's really nice to see our players venturing out. I personally have discovered 6 new partners that I really enjoy playing with. It will be so much fun traveling to tournaments and meeting everyone face-to-face if we can get rid of Covid.

October 11-17 is club appreciation week. In addition, Oct. and Nov. are Grand National Teams qualifiers. Kathy Plauche plans to start back with her online lessons to feed into our 99er games. More detail will follow in our club emails.

Sherrie Goodman

Double Backfires

By: Arnaldo Partesotti

Doubles have many meanings today, and penalty doubles have almost gone by the wayside, more so in team competition than at matchpoints. One big disadvantage is that usually a penalty double is a road guide for declarer, who might take unusual steps and make unusual plays, when he knows, or can assume, that trumps are stacked in a certain way. But... a double for penalty has great advantages also, at matchpoints particularly, when the same contract is not doubled at the other tables and you score a top by taking the exact same number of tricks in defense as everybody else, but you doubled, and the others did not.

North NVD		
S 763		
H QT9865		
D T95		
C 7		
West V		East V
S -		S KT842
H AJ3		H 74
D A82		D J74
C QT96532		C K84
South NV		
S AQJ95		
H K2		
D KQ63		
C AJ		

This hand is a good example for road maps. I was sitting South (hands rotated for convenience), and the bidding went:

West	North	East	South
	P	P	1S
2C	P	3C	3D
4C	4S	X	P
P	P		

I considered opening 2NT but I did not care for my two doubletons, 5-4-2-2 distribution. If I opened 1S and it is passed out, we probably have no game anyway. And I do not condone East's "X", she was lucky to find partner with two Aces, instead of a lot of quacks. Had she been in the West seat, I would understand the Double. In the East seat,

it is at least questionable.

The lead was the Club Queen, running to my Ace, and I immediately ruffed the Club Jack in dummy. I played the S6 for East's S8 (why cover?) and my Jack in case West had the S10. I played the Heart King for West's Ace, and he continued with the Diamond Ace (probably not best, you figure it out,) and a small Diamond. I won the Diamond Queen over East's Jack, played a Heart to the Queen, cashed the Diamond Ten in Dummy, everybody following (whew!) I then played the S7 East following low (this is where the S8 might be useful if it had not been wasted before), West pitching a Club. I continued with the H6, East elected to ruff with the S4, over-ruffed with the S9. I exited with the Diamond King and could score the Queen and Ace of trumps on any return.

Four Spades doubled and made was an absolute top, and we finished second with almost 62%. Four pairs were in 4H making, all the rest were in a partial or going down in a Heart or Spade game. I know that the pairs in 4H opened 2NT and transferred to Hearts, the best game just because of the unlucky Spade suit distribution.

Competitive Bidding #4

The Law of Total Tricks 1

By Sue Himel

The Law of Total Tricks (LOTT) is a complicated theory of competitive bidding. Several full-length books have been written on the theory, but there are a few principles that can help players at any level. Let's call this column LOTT Light.

The basic premise of the LOTT is that on competitive part score hands, with each side holding about 17 to 23 points, the approximate total number of tricks available on a hand is equal to the total number of trumps. What does this mean?

In competitive part score auctions, if your side has an 8-card fit and the opponents have an 8-card fit, there are approximately 16 total tricks available to both sides combined. That may mean each side can make 8 tricks or that one side can make 9 tricks and the other side only 7 tricks. If each side has a 9-card fit, then approximately 18 total tricks are available. The LOTT is most useful at the 2 and 3 level. At higher levels it is not as accurate.

The bottom line is that if your side has an 8-card fit, you are usually safe at the 2 level. If you have a 9-card fit, your side is usually safe at the 3 level. The arithmetic can get complicated, but if you follow the LOTT on this, you will come out ahead most of the time. As you gain experience, you can take vulnerability, card placement, extra values, and judgement into account to determine your call. For now, let's look at some competitive auctions and consider how you should use The Law to help make your competitive bidding decisions.

LHO Pard RHO You

1**H** 1**S** 2**H** 2**S**
 3**H** Pass Pass ?

You hold: S K76 **H** 84 **D** A432 C J876

With only an 8-card fit and nothing special in the way of extras, you should pass.

 1**S** 2**H** 2**S**
 3**H** Pass Pass ?

You hold: S KT76 **H** 864 **D** A43 C J87

Most players will compete to the 3 level with a known 9-card fit. Bid 3S.

The partner who knows about the 9th trump is the one who should usually be making the decision to bid to the 3 level.

Keep in mind that The Law of Total Tricks is not really a law, but a theory that usually helps make competitive bidding decisions more accurate. It does not always work, but it is something you should have in your bidding toolbox.

Paul's Deal of the Month

Every now and then a partner passes a forcing bid, leaving the pair playing a contract that was not intended. Most often that leads to a disaster for the declarer, but occasionally the pair ends up in a golden position, much to the disdain of the "victim" pair. That came close to what happened in a club game some time ago.

The entire field but one arrived at 4S after a two over one auction of something like 1S-2D-2S-4S and went down one when both key finesses (the spade and diamond Kings) were offside. But one sleepy West abruptly concluded the auction at 1S-2D-2S-3S when he forgot that 3S was forcing. Mysteriously the hand was down one at that table also. How could that happen? So dear reader, take a good second look at the hand diagram and see if you can figure out how declarer went down one in 3S. Can't do it?

OK, here is the solution. On a low club opening lead from North, South won with the Jack. Instead of cashing the club Ace, she led her small diamond directly into East's diamond suit, convincing declarer that she held a singleton. So, declarer concluded that even if the spade finesse lost, he would still make 3S, losing only two clubs, a spade and the expected diamond ruff. But what actually happened when declarer took the seemingly safe spade finesse? It indeed lost. However, when North then led a diamond for South to ruff, South won the diamond King, returned a low club to North's club King and then got a diamond ruff. This solves the mystery of the 3S down one story. Now it's time to acknowledge that Lady South had made a truly spectacular defensive play.

Dealer W		
	N	E
	♠K3	♠Q8
	♥8753	♥J104
	♦732	♦AQJ106
	♣K953	♣Q107
W		
♠AJ10964		
♥AK		
♦954		
♣84		
	S	
	♠752	
	♥Q962	
	♦K8	
	♣AJ62	

Direktor's Corner

How to Respond to Opponents' Questions

Players are sometimes confused as to how to respond to a question from the opponents. Opponents have a right to know what your partner knows. They do not have a right to know that you misclicked. They do not have a right to know what you think your own bid means. So, if an opponent asks for the meaning of a bid, respond with what is on your card (your partnership agreement). If you misclicked, do not confess. Save the confession until the postmortem.

Example #1: you have 3 points and 5 spades. Your partner opens a standard 15-17 point NT. You mean to click hearts, meaning spades, but you accidentally click diamonds, meaning hearts. Now your opponents ask for the meaning of your diamond bid. The correct answer is HEARTS. Hearts is what your partner knows, and opponents are entitled to know that. After the hand is completely over, tell the whole table that you misclicked.

Example #2: you have 15 points and 5 spades. (Much better hand!) Your partner opens a standard 15-17 point NT. You transfer to spades, and partner accepts the transfer. Now you bid 4 clubs. If you have a partnership agreement that the 4 clubs is Gerber, alert the 4 club bid (ace asking) at the time of the bid. If you have a partnership agreement that the 4 clubs bid is splinter, alert the 4 club bid at the time of the bid. If you say splinter, and opponents ask what that means, tell them. They are not required to learn the names of all conventions. So, the correct answer to "What is the splinter?" would be *Strong hand, 1 or 0 clubs*.

Example #3: you have 15 points and 5 spades. Your partner opens a standard 15-17 point NT. You transfer to spades, and partner accepts the transfer. Now you bid 3 clubs. If the opponents ask about the 3 club bid, and you have no partnership agreement, say *No agreement*.

Diamond Lil

BRIDGE ACHIEVEMENTS

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Club Master: Elise Read

Sectional Master: Debbie Tabb

Regional Master: Frieda Johnson

NABC Master: Janet Koppel, Elizabeth Sewell, Lucinda Stentz, and Earl Wattigny

Adv NABC Master: Newton Jackson



Joan Van Geffen
Reaches 20,000 MP
We are so proud of you!

Coming Events

October 11-17 – Club appreciation week (double pts)

October and November – Grand National Teams
qualifiers.

All Swiss Team Games – double pts – ½ red & ½ black
(Including 3rd Thursday night game)

Welcome Our New Members

Maneck Contractor
Joyce Walker
Harry Stansbury

70 % GAMES

9/11	299	Susan Barnwell—Mary Schauer	70.14%
9/12	Swiss	Kathy Logue	84%
9/16	Swiss	Christopher Young, Paul Freese, Janice Zazulak, Diana Powell	83%
9/17	Open	Jean Talbot—Joan Van Geffen	73.61%
9/19	Swiss	Chuck Pitard—Ric Logan	72%
9/23	Open	Joan Van Geffen—Sherrie Goodman	72.53%
9/23	Open	Iype Koshy—Nelson Daigle	72%
9/25	Open	Jean Talbot—Joan Van Geffen	71.04%
9/28	Open	Sherrie Goodman—Donna Towlitos	71.76%