

KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association November 2021

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

President's Message November 2021

It is wonderful to see so many members coming back to the club. Most of our face-to-face games are well attended. We faced the challenge of opening after the shutdown due to Covid. Just when things were settling down, Ida hit. It caused damage to the building and ruined some supplies. Nevertheless, we are back and going strong.

Bill Jatzlua, the project manager from the company handling our building repairs, met with the board at the October meeting. He gave a detailed description of the repair work that needs to be done. He explained that, due to supply shortages, some work will take longer than usual. Games will continue to be offered throughout construction in a SAFE and CLEAN environment.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Dubois

At the LBA Face-to-Face:

I don't think there is anyone out there that has not heard, but just on the possibility there may be, Cindy and I are relocating to New Smyrna Beach, FL on November 30. This will be my last column and a farewell to good bridge friends, partners and yes opponents as well. We have very much enjoyed our 40 years in New Orleans. We are, however, native Floridians so though we have been here a very long time, Florida remains in our blood, and this is a trip home. We will never forget all of you and the fond memories we shared with you of Dr. Morgus and Chopsley, the woman, Tiny Tim, the scarecrow, the hippie, the gorilla and the banana, and last but not least, the Joker and Harley Quinn. Have fun at the tables. We don't plan to be strangers and will stay in touch.

Jack Lewis

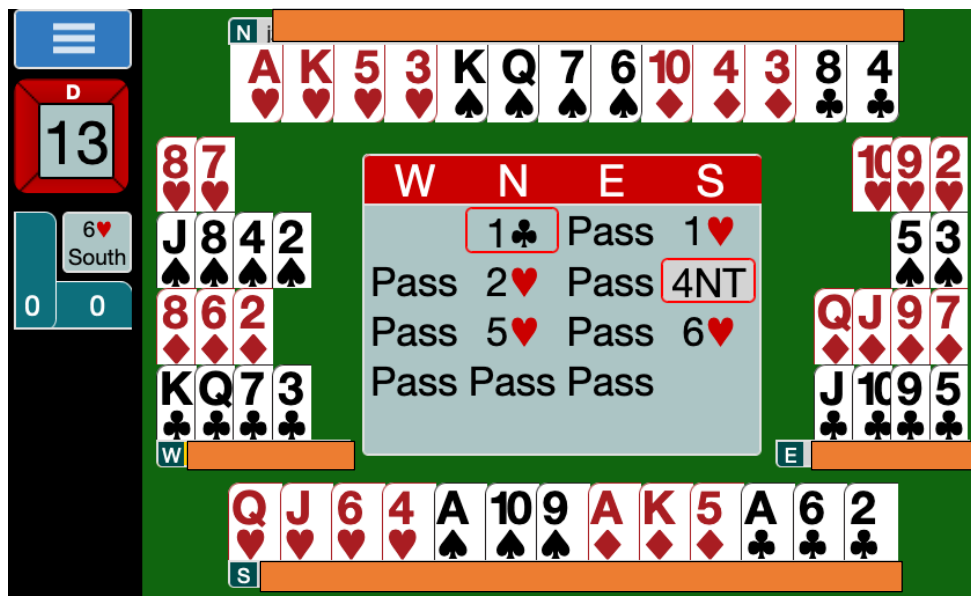
At the Virtual Club:

Thanks to the latest additions to our Virtual Pool, we are able to have more night games (4 nights a week) and more limited games. ACBL will be making some announcements in the coming weeks regarding guest policies. Luckily, our club is not worried about any changes as we follow the guest policies. If there are geographic restrictions added for clubs in a Virtual Pool, that is not a problem because all of our pooled clubs are in our district. In other words, our virtual pool is growing and healthy. ACBL has not announced the special events for November and December, but they have extended the GNT qualifiers through February for our online Swiss games. Double points (red & black) as well as GNT qualification will continue for 4 more months! The NABC in Austin November 25-December 5 is going forward. Face masks and proof of vaccination are required. If you are feeling more comfortable playing with these restrictions, it is a good time to check out an NABC. We are hosting an NABC in March 2023 and could use everyone's help to put on a great tournament!

Sherrie Goodman

ATTENTION ALL 0-199ers! ATTENTION ALL 0-199ers! Continue your bridge education with Lowen as he begins a series of lessons for those with a general knowledge of Standard American Bridge on Thursday, Nov. 11 at 9:15am. A game will follow with no extra fee for the lesson. Please contact Lowen at 504-452-2533 for more information.

ANOTHER OPTION Guest Contributor



This is a hand from a Virtual Club Game in August of this year. I was South and landed in a 6♥ contract, as did most of the field. West led the ♣K, and I took it with the ace. Right away, I saw I had 2 losers – one diamond and a club. My only chance to get rid of the second loser was to score 4 spade tricks. I drew trump and hoped that I could beat the odds with a 3-3 spade split. No luck. I was down one.

As I often do, I looked at the bidding and play of the other tables. Only one of the declarers in 6♥ made the contract. How did she do it? West led the ♣K, and declarer took the trick with the ace. Declarer drew trumps ending in the dummy. She led the ♣8 - ♣9 - ♣2 - ♣Q (West). It is highly unlikely that West would lead a club due to the void in dummy. A diamond lead would do no harm, but as luck would have it, West led the ♠2 which was won by declarer with the ♠10. That gave declarer the 4 spade tricks she needed to pitch a diamond and ruff a club to make the contract. If West lead a diamond, declarer could have tried a finesse to get the extra spade trick. This way she didn't have to take that chance.

I also looked at the play of several advanced players to see what they tried. In several cases, the declarer played the ♠10 towards dummy for a finesse. But when West failed to cover with the ♠J, declarer played the ♠K, assuming East had the jack. That only gave him three spade tricks and no chance of pitching the diamond loser.

There is much to learn about bridge. Giving up the lead at the right time is a strategy to keep in mind for future play.

Competitive Bidding #4

The Law of Total Tricks 2

By Sue Himel

Last month this column explained a basic premise of the Law of Total Tricks (LOTT) and how to apply it to competitive auctions. Your side is usually safe to bid to the number of trumps you have. With an 8-card fit, your side is usually safe at the 2 level; with a 9-card fit, your side is usually safe at the 3 level. Some popular conventions and agreements use the Law of Total Tricks.

Revised Bergen Raises

1Major Pass 3D* Pass This 3D bid shows a 7-9 point raise with 4 card trump support. The convention takes you to the 3 level quickly, the level at which you expect to be safe. This gives the opponents less room to compete.

Weak Jump Raises

1Suit Pass 3Suit Pass Many players use this jump raise as a preemptive raise showing 4 card trump support and about 3-6 points. By making the raise to the 3 level immediately, the level at which you expect to be safe, you interfere with your opponent's ability to compete. Raising to the 2 level, and later competing to the 3 level, would show a better hand with 4 trumps.

Preempts

Weak Two bids If responder has a couple of cards in our suit and a few points, we should be safe at the 2 level. If responder has 7 or more points and 3 card trump support, he should usually raise to the 3 level. When you hold only 2-card support for partner's suit, you would be wise to pass most of the time unless you have the values to bid a game.

Weak 3 Bids with a 7 card suit This bid assumes that partner has a couple of trumps, so with a 9-card fit, our side should be safe at the 3 level.

1-2-3 Stop

1Major Pass 2Major Pass
3Major Some play this auction as preemptive showing a minimum opening hand with a 6-card suit. Game tries are made by bidding a new suit.

There are more bidding agreements that use the LOTT, but you get the idea. Bid to the level of the number of trumps your side has.

Paul's Deal of the Month

After opening 2NT, one is not supposed to make a jump super acceptance without four good trumps, but in this case, the temptation was just too great. So, when the auction had proceeded P-P-2NT-P-3D (transfer to hearts)-P it was just impossible for declarer to resist bidding the 4H game.

West's opening lead was the ten of hearts, but South's momentary joy in seeing Ace fifth of trumps in the dummy was interrupted when East failed to follow suit when the second trump was led. There were indeed ten tricks in the N/S hands, but if declarer played the Ace of clubs and then ruffed a club to reach the dummy and then drew all of the hearts, the trumps would be exhausted, and the hand would be open to losing enough clubs to set 4H. Could there be a solution to this problem?

Dear reader, if so, can you spot it? Look studiously at the hand diagram and put on your thinking cap. How can you avoid losing all of those clubs if you are out of trumps by the time you lose the lead to the diamond Ace? Or if you don't draw trumps, East can hold off once before taking the diamond Ace and then give West a ruff to set the hand. Do not peek forward and read ahead. That's cheating! Can't find the solution without peeking?

OK, then, here it is and it's really simple. Play a low club from both hands before trumping a club to enter the dummy. Then you will still have the Ace to stop clubs when you lose the lead to the diamond Ace. You will have to duck one spade if East leads one after winning the first club trick, but you need only ten tricks to make the game, not all of the tricks.

| | | |
|----------|--------|--------|
| N dealer | | |
| | N | |
| | ♠874 | |
| | ♥A6532 | |
| | ♦10853 | |
| | ♣8 | |
| W | | E |
| ♠KQ2 | | ♠9653 |
| ♥10987 | | ♥4 |
| ♦74 | | ♦A92 |
| ♣KJ64 | | ♣Q7532 |
| | S | |
| | ♠AJ10 | |
| | ♥KQJ | |
| | ♦KQJ6 | |
| | ♣A109 | |

Direktor's Corner

There Are No Secrets in Bridge

I have been meaning to write about this for some time. On numerous occasions, I sat at a virtual table in a virtual club with my virtual clothes on and watched opponents make what is clearly an alertable bid, but they failed to alert it. Yes, most people play Jacoby 2NT, and yes, most people play Jordan, but not all. When a bid is required to be alerted, then alerted it must be. Besides, there are many, many, and I say again, many systems in bridge with much convolution to them. What YOU think may have a certain meaning in 2 over 1 or SAYC may have an entirely different meaning in Canape or some other rogue system out there. An opponent may make a bid and not alert it, and you know what it means in your bidding system, but it may mean something entirely different in the system he uses. Which brings me to my final point on the subject. Give your opponents a FULL explanation of your alerted bid. Don't name the convention and leave it at that or say something like "clubs" when your alerted bid actually means clubs and preemptive, or clubs and constructive raise, etc. Don't say "Jacoby" or "inverted minors" either but tell the opponents simply and concisely the meaning of your bid. AND if you are the opponent, don't be timid about standing up for your rights and ask for a further explanation other than just a name of a convention that you may not know or understand fully.

Rule Ruleski

BRIDGE ADVANCEMENTS

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Club Master: Matti Hietalahti, Peter Walker

Sectional Master: Dorothy Weisler

Regional Master: Renee Mueller, Sara Mundie

Adv NABC Master: Dan Zelenka

Gold Life Master: Jacob Karno

Sapphire Life Master: Chuck Pitard

GOLD LIFE MASTER



Jacob Karno

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER



Chuck Pitard

Coming Events

Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 – GNT Qualifier – Swiss – Online – 2PM

Nov. 18 - GNT Qualifier – Swiss – Online – 7:15PM

Nov. 25 - Dec. 5 – Fall NABC in Austin

Nov. 4 - Dec. 2 – Online Novice lessons (Kathy 504-220-4815)

Nov. 8 – Beginner bridge classes begin at LBA. (Kathy 504-220-4815)

Nov. 11– Continuing education lessons begin at LBA (Lowen 504-452-2533)

70 % GAMES

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 10/4 Online Open | Ellen Lappa – Karen Dugan | 75.58% |
| 10/7 750 | Newt Jackson – Michael Russell | 71.79% |
| 10/11 199 | Penelope Randolph – Marva Arceneaux | 74.07% |
| 10/12 Open | John Onstott – Thomas Turgeon | 71.02 |
| 10/14 Open | Vicki Willis – Bummy Rosenfield | 70.00% |
| 10/14 Club Open | Charles Waldrop – Newt Jackson | 71.03% |
| 10/24 Swiss | Chuck Pitard | 72.00% |
| 10/30 Open | Jean Talbot – Joan Van Geffen | 71.03% |

TRICKS AND TREATS REGIONAL TOURNAMENT-TOTAL MP (In top 1000)

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|------|
| Kathy Plauche | 17.95 | George Wilson | 4.83 |
| Reese Koppel | 13.92 | Jacob Karno | 4.2 |
| Richard Logan | 11.32 | Deborah Skorlich | 4.2 |
| Chuck Pitard | 11.32 | Diana Powell | 3.73 |
| Charles Waldrop | 6.14 | Janice Zazulak | 3.73 |
| Debbie Reilly | 6.13 | Ronald Ormond | 3.66 |
| Newt Jackson | 6.07 | Denise Tabor | 3.06 |