

# KIBITZER

## Louisiana Bridge Association June 2021

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### President's Message June 2021

HURRAY, we are opening our Club WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16. Finally, we can open our club. It will be great to see you enjoying the game and discussing bridge hands with your friends.

We are having our club thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. In addition, we are mounting hand sanitizers throughout the building and replacing some bathroom fixtures. The new plants you will find at the entrance and inside are courtesy of Sharon Henry's Memorial Fund. Sharon's vase collection will be on display at the club. Her family would love for you to take one in her memory.

Your Board of Directors and Club Manager welcome you back to the club Wednesday, June 16 at 9:30 for 0-499 and Open games. **Don't forget your proof of vaccination.**

SEE YOU SOON!

**Carolyn Dubois**

### Sherrie's Virtual Club and LBA Face to Face Club News

June is a busy month; it begins a three-month journey of qualifying for the North American Pairs Tournament. We will have many of these qualifying games both online and at the club. They will pay double points, ½ red and ½ black. If you score above 50% in an Open game, you will qualify for the District 10 competition. June 24-27 is the Endless Summer Regional with Gold and Red points awarded.

All of the online games held on June 19 & 20 will benefit the Alzheimer's Association as part of the Longest Day. Our club may also have Longest Day games on another, yet to be determined, day. Stay tuned!

As you know, you need proof that you were vaccinated to play at our club. **Masks are welcome, but not required.** Many of you have sent me a cell phone picture of your card. You are good to go. For those who haven't sent it in, please remember to bring it. Of course, Wednesday at LBA can only mean one thing.....Grand Slam Wednesday! You will have a chance to get double points for the first month the club is open. We hope to see you at the virtual table and the Edenborn tables!

#### Coming Events

**June 1-30**-North American Pairs (NAP)  
qualifying games

**June 21?** -The Longest Day games

**June 24 – 27**- Endless Summer Regional -  
Gold & Red MPS

#### Contents

**P2-** Arnaldo's Partesotti  
Column

**P3-** Sue Himel's Column

**P4-** Paul Deal's Column

**P5-** Direktor's Corner

**P6-** Guss Ginsburg's Column

**P7-** Bridge Achievements

#### Welcome New Member

Wendy Beron

## A Trojan Horse Offering

By: Arnaldo Partesotti

A problem for you excellent defenders! The bidding goes: 1D by South, 1H by North, 2NT by South, 3NT by North. Partner leads the S5 and you, sitting East, see the following Dummy, holding these cards:

### Dummy-North

♠ -  
♥ T987  
♦ 983  
♣ AJT532

### You-East

♠ AK82  
♥ J63  
♦ T62  
♣ Q86

You play the King and Ace of Spades and continue with the S8 on which declarer plays the S10, won by partner with the Queen of Spades. Partner returns a small spade, won by declarer with the Jack of Spades. West, therefore, initially had five spades. Declarer now plays the C4 to the Jack of Clubs, and it is up to you: do you win this trick and, if you do, how do you continue?

I would assume that partner has the King of Clubs, that Declarer has only two clubs and, therefore, if you do not play the Queen of Clubs, the clubs are now dead for declarer. This was the full hand:

### North V

♠ -  
♥ T987  
♦ 983  
♣ AJT532

### West V

♠ Q9753  
♥ K542  
♦ Q5  
♣ 97

### East V

♠ AK82  
♥ J63  
♦ T62  
♣ Q86

### South V

♠ JT64  
♥ AQ  
♦ AKJ74  
♣ K4

After seeing the full hand, it appears there are many ways to make this hand and to defeat it. It seems to me, the correct play of this hand, after the four rounds of spades, is to play the two top clubs and, if the queen does not drop, go after the diamonds. Or play the King of Clubs and finesse for the queen. When the Queen of Clubs does not appear, play diamonds and finesse for the Queen of Diamonds. I do not know which is the best percentage play, but they are all doomed. The only successful plan would be to play the diamond tops, which drops the queen, then play the clubs giving you 9 tricks: 5 diamonds, 2 clubs, 1 spade, 1 heart.

I was the devilish declarer who, for no particular reason and against logic, after the four rounds of spades, played the C4, concealing the King of Clubs. East could not resist my "Trojan horse" offer, won the queen, and now I could win any return and had nine tricks: 5 clubs, 2 diamonds, 1 heart, 1 spade.

For the record, I was the only one to make this contract, out of 17 tables, for an absolute top. Ten pairs went down 1 (or 2 if finessing for the Queen of Clubs) and the remaining six pairs had mixed results who were playing in a minor partial contract. Notice that five clubs or five diamonds should be easy to make, and you could make six if you guessed everything correctly. We were all deceived by the higher scoring 3NT, as always, which is kind of strange in the presence of a void and a six-card suit, opposite a 2NT rebid showing 18-19 HCP!

## For the I/N Crowd

Opening Leads #5

Leading Trumps

By Sue Himel

When you lead a trump, you should have a specific reason for doing so. Don't fall into the trap of leading a trump when you don't know what else to lead or always leading a trump against a slam contract.

The auction has gone:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You	You hold: S 843 H KJ8 D 832 C KQ76
Pass	Pass	1D	Pass	
1S	Pass	2C	Pass	
2D	All pass			

LHO has preferred RHO's diamonds to his clubs. The dummy may well be shorter in clubs than diamonds. You really don't want declarer trumping out your potential club winners in the dummy so lead a diamond to try to cut down on dummy's ruffing power.

- 1) When the dummy has preferred one of declarer's suits over the other, lead a trump. It is especially important to do so when you hold high cards in declarer's other suit.

The auction has gone:

LHO	Partner	RHO	You	You hold: S KJ3 H 753 D QT87 C KJ9
		1H	Pass	
2H	Pass	4H	All pass	

The opponents have bid strongly. Partner will not have much and anything you lead besides the trump suit is likely to give up a trick. Lead a heart as a safe, passive lead.

- 2) When any other lead you make is likely to give up a trick, lead a trump.

LHO	Partner	RHO	You	You hold: S KT54 H QT52 D 87 C AQJ
	Pass	1D	Double	
Pass	Pass	Pass		

Partner has passed your takeout double. He should have five or more trumps and be capable of drawing declarer's trumps. Lead a trump and help him out.

- 3) If partner has passed your takeout double, converting it to a penalty double, lead a trump.

TIP: If you think a trump lead is right and you hold Axx, lead a small trump. Most of the time declarer will be playing in an eight-card fit. That means your partner has two, if you hold three. If either you or partner gain the lead quickly, you can continue the suit and then lead the third round, hopefully clearing the dummy of trumps.

Watch for an announcement of fall lessons for Intermediate to Advanced players on counting, inferences, and technique.

## PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH

Everyone knows that an alarm clock is used to awaken a sleeping person. But did you know that an "alarm clock lead" in bridge is an irregular lead used to awaken the players at the table and to make partner aware of an unusual situation which requires an out of the ordinary defensive play? Perhaps the best way to define an "alarm clock lead" is by example, so here is a hand from a recent New Orleans Sectional, followed by a sad tale of a lost opportunity when my alarm clock lead was not loud enough to awaken my sleeping partner, who shall remain nameless.

My immediate concern, as West, was to decide whether to preempt on adverse vulnerability with a seven-loser hand with only a fair suit, missing the Queen and Jack. But this was matchpoints, and highly distributional hands with low point count call for preemptive bidding, so I compromised with an opening bid of 3H, fully expecting lots more bidding from one or more of the other players.

Sure enough, our auction proceeded 3H-P-4H-5D-P-P-P, that final pass not at all anticipated. In retrospect and with the benefit of seeing all four hands, it seems to me that the bidding should have continued something like 3H-P-4H-4NT (unusual for minors)-P-5C-5H-6C-P-P-X (penalty). But there I was on opening lead against 5D by South, wondering whether one heart trick could be cashed and perplexed about how to get partner to give me a club ruff if he got in.

It was at that moment that I recalled much of what I had read over the last 65 years about...you guessed it, "alarm clock leads." I could not remember ever having made such a lead in my long history as a bridge player, but I surprised myself when I looked down and saw that I had led the tiny heart 3. Partner had raised hearts, so there was a fair chance that he could win the first trick with the heart Queen. If that occurred, he would have to wonder why he was able to win the trick with the Queen. He should then realize that I had underlead the Ace and King from a probable seven card preemptive suit, hardly a standard lead, and that the lowest missing heart must be a suit preference signal for clubs. RING, RING, RING went the alarm clock. Surely, he would then lead back his highest club to signal a spade preference after I ruffed, and we would then get yet another club ruff, for a two-trick set. Alas, the alarm clock did not ring loud and clear to partner, who quickly won the first trick with the heart Queen and, without thinking, even quicker played the spade King and Ace despite my freakish lead and my 3 of spades played on his spade King, declarer ruffing the second spade, making five diamonds. I made the antisocial mistake of then asking partner if he was still asleep. He ignored the question and did not answer. After the session was over, he disappeared. He had come in from his home in central Louisiana for three days of the local sectional tournament to play with me, and this incident occurred during our very first session. He never came back. I haven't heard from him since. So, I guess there goes another failed partnership. Will I ever get another opportunity to make an alarm clock opening lead?

W Deals  
E/W Vul

N

♠ J1052

♥ J

♦ K3

♣ KJ8762

W

♠ 9843

♥ AK109753

♦ 72

♣ void

E

♠ AKQ6

♥ Q862

♦ 1086

♣ Q3

S

♠ 7

♥ 4

♦ AQ954

♣ A10954

## Direktor's Corner

Hopefully, it is getting closer to playing bridge in the clubhouse. But are we really? Can we swap our pajamas and slippers and go back to picking out an outfit to wear to the game? Can we give up on not being able to sleep late? Now we can log onto Bridge Base after 10 AM. We can now accept last minute invites to play in the game, even if we are still drinking our morning coffee, and dare not look in the mirror at our hair, which looks like a bad - hair day. No worry if staying at home increased our appetite and added a few extra pounds, we can keep our comfort clothes on and play. Just remember to avoid answering any facetime phone calls. Also, there is no Direktor taking points off because we arrived at the club after game time. Even though all these comforts will be lost, there is a good chance we will return to playing bridge at the clubhouse, and happily return to greet our bridge family.

MISS YOU ALL,

The Hat Lady

## Slam Bidding with Voids

### By Guss Ginsburg

The following hand came up in a recent virtual club game:

6	♠1032 ♥98432 ♦AK1075 ♣	
W	W    N    E    S	E
♠J ♥QJ10 ♦J92 ♣AKJ987	1♠ Pass 2♣ Dbl 4♦ Dbl 5♣ Pass 6♣ Pass Pass Pass	♠AKQ975 ♥K5 ♦ ♣Q10654
	S	
	♠864 ♥A76 ♦Q8643 ♣32	

East opens 1 spade, and our table was one of the few where the opponents did not enter our auction. West bid 2 clubs, and east considers her hand, which can make a slam if partner has the AK of clubs plus the queen of hearts or some luck to score a heart trick. The solution to this issue is Exclusion Blackwood, where a jump to an “unnecessary” level says you are void in that suit and asks how many key cards you have that are outside of the void. Since most pairs today play 2/1 as game forcing, a rebid of 2 diamonds by dealer would show a diamond suit, and a bid of 3 diamonds would show shortness in that suit. So, 4 diamonds is the bid to ask for other key cards. The table shown in the diagram shows the auction by two expert players. East is missing 3 key cards, the ace and king of clubs and the ace of hearts. Over 4 diamonds, in this example, responder bid 5C, which shows two plus the queen of clubs, which responder judged to show in lieu of his extra length. Most declarers made 7 after a diamond lead, but I think a heart lead is called for in this auction. But many pairs that got to slam did so without tipping off their distribution, so the hand on lead with the AK of diamonds led that suit.

At several tables, north entered the auction over 2C with a 2D bid. Now, exclusion blackwood is not available because, in this auction, 3D is a general cue bid, 4D would be a splinter. In this case, 4D as a splinter is the best you can do, which will elicit a 4H cue bid with the ace.

The specific calls and the level depend on the trump suit and which suit the void is in. If spades are the agreed trump suit, then an unusual jump to any unbid suit at the 5 level is exclusion. If hearts are trumps, then 4S would be exclusion if you are void in spades, and 5 of a minor would be exclusion for that suit.

## BRIDGE ACHIEVEMENTS

### RANK ADVANCEMENTS

**Junior Master: Delores Heglar  
Pierce Jonassen**

**Sectional Master: Laurie Hart**

**NABC Master: George Wilson**

**Adv NABC Master: Janice Zazulak**

### SILVER LIFE MASTER

**Barbara Zelenka**

### BRONZE LIFE MASTER



**Mimi Groome**

### SILVER LIFE MASTER



**Ellen Lappa**

### 70 % GAMES

May 1 PM	Open	<b>Jean Talbot – Joan Van Geffen</b>	<b>73.15%</b>
May 3 AM	Open	<b>John Onstott – Larry Frederico</b>	<b>71.99%</b>
May 9 AM	Open	<b>John Onstott – Larry Frederico</b>	<b>71.96%</b>
May 10 PM	Open	<b>Sherrie Goodman – Brad Shefloe</b>	<b>70.30%</b>
May 11 AM	99	<b>Lynn Jambon – Carol Jambon, Jr.</b>	<b>70.00%</b>
May 19 PM	Open	<b>John Onstott – Jacob Morgan</b>	<b>73.15%</b>
May 22 AM	Open	<b>John Onstott – Howard Parker</b>	<b>70.83%</b>
May 24 PM	299	<b>Gloria Tisdale – Evelyn Contis</b>	<b>71.83%</b>