

KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association August 2021

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President's Message August 2021

Good News!

The club members who are back playing face-to-face bridge are enjoying themselves. The ACBL supports these games and is working to encourage more players to join in. The Wednesday 499er game and the Friday games are very popular.

The Board of Directors will meet on August 9th to discuss where we go from here. Your suggestions are welcome. I would like to welcome Larry Federico and Jennie Sauviac as our newest Board Members. Both are enthusiastic about joining our team. WE thank the members of the Board for giving their time so generously.

Our club's success depends on everyone. Reach out to a player who you miss seeing. Encourage him/her to play at the club; offer to be his/her partner. I am very happy to be back at the club playing bridge.

Carolyn Dubois

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

At LBA Face-to-Face:

We are now open 4 days a week and if attendance continues to grow, I am sure we will have other games added to the schedule. The Tuesday morning lesson/game for 299ers with **Wayne**, and the Wednesday morning lesson/game for 499er with **Lowen** are becoming very popular. Our Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon games at 1 for 499ers and Open players are growing each week. The first 2 weeks of August will be NAP games (double points ½ red/½black) for 499er and Open games (Extra Points/extra \$1). We will have a STAC (Sectional Tournament at Club) August 24-27. These games award silver points, give extra points, and cost an extra \$1.

Please tell all your friends, relative, and neighbors that Kathy Plauche is teaching beginner bridge on Monday, September 13th at 9 am. Kathy is very organized and patient and will give them a great start to this fabulous game!

At the Virtual Club:

We have just added New Iberia to our Virtual Club. We are so happy to have them. We may not see any more Silver Linings or Stardust Weeks as ACBL wants to encourage you to play at the clubs and at the face-to-face tournaments, but they will decide as they see what this new virus variant is doing in the fall.

The first two weeks of online games will be NAP games (double points ½ red/½black) for 499er and Open games (Extra Points/extra \$1). There is a "Virtual Vacation" Regional online August 12-15. This is another opportunity to pick up some gold points. The schedule is not up yet, but you can check at www.acbl.org.

Hope to see you at LBA and the Virtual table.

To Bid or Not to Bid

By: Arnaldo Partesotti

Usually bridge articles look at hands at the game or slam levels, because they make for good stories with some fancy bidding, play, and defense. This month, however, we will be looking at a fairly common situation. Should you bid with an average hand, and if you do, what is the best course of action for competing at very low level? To entertain you, I will also tell you what happened to me after I won the low-level bidding.

	North VD	
	S A975	
	H Q9853	
	D T	
	C K93	
West NV		East NV
S KT6		S J32
H 642		H JT7
D AKQ6		D 972
C QT7		C A864
	South V	
	S Q84	
	H AK	
	D J8543	
	C J52	

In a regular online game, sitting North and South, my partner and I drew these really average hands. After North and East pass, what would you do with the South hand? I normally would open with 11 HCP in third position, but in this case, my regular 1D opening would give partner a very bad lead suggestion, so I passed. Sure enough, West opened 1D. What would you do with North's hand? Partner passed, which is reasonable, and would be very reasonable in a team match, but I do not agree with it at matchpoints. He could bid 1H with a really bad suit, or he could "X", bringing the spades into play. My preference would be to bid 2D, bringing both Majors into play. His hand is limited anyway by the prior

pass. He should have one more spade, but so what? Moysian fits are all the rage these days! Over partner's pass, East bid 1NT, very reasonable, and I passed again. West passed, and North bid "X", clearly a reopening double. You do not want to let opponents play in 1NT if you have a way to escape it. Over the "X," I was in a real pickle, so I bid 2C. It was the cheapest available suit, and it has the advantage of leaving room for partner to bid a Major if he has one.

Partner passed, and 2C was the final contract, in a 3-3 fit, with strength equally distributed between pairs. You cannot win them all, but you can give them your best shot! West led the DK and, after winning the trick, he switched to the H6, which I won with the Ace. I ruffed a diamond, came to my hand with the HK, ruffed another diamond. I played the HQ which won the trick (whew!) and continued with the H8. East and I each pitched a spade, and the trick was won by West with the C7. He exited with a spade which I took with my queen, and now there was a light at the end of the tunnel. I had made 6 tricks, and I needed 2 more. I played a diamond and ruffed with the Club King, but it was over-ruffed by East with the ace (never a joy but expected). East exited with the C4 on which I played the C5. West won with the C10 and cashed the Queen of Clubs. I still had the Jack of Clubs and Ace of Spades to make the contract.

Postmortem: The bidding and play were bad. Making the 2 club-contract only gave us a 40% result. Although a 2 heart-contract would have yielded a much better result, it would not have made a difference in our final placement (second). The first pair was still out of reach. The lesson: if you have a 5-card major bid it, and never give up!

For the I/N Crowd
 Competitive Bidding #2 Negative Doubles II
 By Sue Himel

Negative doubles usually show the unbid suits. Everyone knows what to do when you, as opener, have a fit with one of your partner's suits shown by a negative double. But when you don't have a fit, how do you handle the auction?

LHO	Pard	RHO	You	You hold: S QJ3 H KT942 D T2 C KQJ
			1H	
2D	Dbl	Pass	?	

Bid 2S. With no diamond stopper, a 1 NT rebid is not appropriate. Your hearts are not good enough to rebid. You will have to bid your 3-card spade suit. If there was no interference and you had opened 1H and partner responded 1S, you would raise to 2S with 3-card support. This is a similar auction.

LHO	Pard	RHO	You	You hold: S JT H AQJT9 D JT3 C A42
			Pass 1H	
2D	Dbl	Pass	?	

Bid 2H. Once again you have no stopper in the opponent's suit, no fit for partner's suits (spades and clubs) and a minimum hand. You have a good suit, so rebid it. It is not a perfect rebid, but it is probably your "least lie."

LHO	Pard	RHO	You	You hold: S KJT54 H Q2 D KQJ C AQ4
			Pass 1S	
2H	Dbl	Pass	?	

Bid 3H. If partner has a heart stopper you would like to play 3NT. This Q bid tends to deny a heart stopper. If partner has hearts stopped, he should bid 3NT.

LHO	Pard	RHO	You	You hold: S K9764 H A4 D KJT C JT5
			Pass 1S	
2H	Dbl	Pass	?	

There are no good choices. You have a heart stopper, but 2NT in this auction would show extra values. Since partner's call could have been made with only 8 or 9 points you don't want to end up in 2NT with only 20 or 21 points in the combined hands. Partner has the minors and you have no fit. I would try 2D and hope I have guessed the correct minor. Some may disagree with that bid. I don't claim it is perfect. All of my choices are imperfect.

When you don't have a fit with one of partner's suits, you sometimes have to make a less than perfect rebid. Remember to tell the "least lie" and don't overstate your points. Practice playing 4-3 (Moysian) fits just in case you have to play these hands.

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

Paul's Deal of the Month

Low and middle level spot cards can add to the offensive strength of a hand by providing length in a suit headed by appropriate high honor cards. Only rarely do they take tricks, but they can create a favorable finesse position. The play of Hand #7 in the club game on January 3rd, 2019 illustrates the value of these spot cards.

I sat West and opened a routine 1S after South's pass, with no opposing bidding throughout. Our auction continued smoothly and simply, revealing suit lengths and strong values, 1S-2C (game force)-2D-2H-2S (no heart stopper, nothing further to add)-3H (heart length and strength)-3NT (nothing to add)-6NT (final bid and contract). North's safest and obvious opening lead was the Jack from his spade sequence. Dummy revealed that I had only two entries to my hand. I quickly counted that we held only eleven top tricks. The apparent source of a twelfth trick was the heart suit in which I held the "98" of hearts opposite "AQ753." The obvious heart finesse position of AQ provided a tempting 50/50% chance of a finesse producing the necessary twelfth trick. But not so fast, I told myself, with another look. That "98" opposite the "AQ763" generates a limited percentage safety play position. Lead the nine and let it ride, if not covered, thereby protecting against North holding KJ10, KJ, K10 and especially J10, with the King offside. The risk against taking the safety play was that even if I cashed both AKs in my hand after the first unsuccessful finesse (because I could not thereafter get back to my hand), I would likely go down more than one if the second finesse also failed. This would be a clear matchpoint-disaster because I had eleven sure tricks for down only one even if I started with the finesse of the Queen against the King and lost. I decided to play as if I were playing rubber bridge or IMPs with the goal of making the contract even if doing so cost us to an go down an extra trick(s). So, I led the heart nine, closed my eyes and let it ride. When I heard North grumble a soft "lucky you" comment, I opened my eyes to see South somewhat reluctantly taking the trick with the heart King. Taking the safety play had revealed the most favorable holding of "J10" onside in the North hand. We took twelve tricks after losing the one "King" trick to the opponents. Numerical Addendum: Immediately finessing the queen would provide a 50% chance of success for the slam. But running the nine of hearts first adds an extra chance of 13%, and on today's actual layout that extra chance was critical.

S Deals		
Both Vul		
	N	
	♠	J1092
	♥	J102
	♦	Q543
	♣	86
W	♠	AK754
	♥	98
	♦	AK92
	♣	94
	E	
	♠	6
	♥	AQ763
	♦	7
	♣	AKQJ73
	S	
	♠	Q83
	♥	K54
	♦	J1086
	♣	1052

Direktor's Corner

To lecture or not to lecture?

That is the question. Whether 'tis nobler...

There are many things in this world that people find irresistible: fast cars, good boats, beautiful women (and men) and Strawberry Yum Yum (on Monday nights, especially). But one big thing bridge players find irresistible is the need to lecture other "more unfortunate" bridge players than themselves. The other day in online play, my wife made a support double and dutifully DID NOT alert it in accordance with the latest (2021) ACBL rules. One of the opponents began to berate and lecture her that the call should be alerted, and that he was damaged. Well, you know someone named "Big Foot" won't stand for that kind of thing, and in all probability, he would use that foot on some anatomical part if needed. He told the opponent what the rule is, and furthermore, where he could take his antiquated ideas. Support doubles do NOT have to be alerted any longer, but here are two important points to this parable: 1. Try to resist the human urge to lecture other players. You may find you are not as smart as you originally thought you were, AND it isn't your place anyway. If you feel a call should have been alerted, and it was not, and you were damaged by the other player's inaction (failure to alert), call the director. Remember that Hooper drives the boat, chief. 2. Take the time to read up on the latest ACBL rules and note the changes that took place. Some of them may seem a little odd to you such as DON'T announce "transfer" or "transfer to hearts, etc." anymore, but simply name the suit you hold - "hearts, etc." BUT a rule is a rule...

Big Foot

Counting is All It is Cracked Up to Be, And More

By Guss Ginsburg

One of the most significant skills in bridge is being able to keep track of the cards that have been played in a hand.

Keep in mind some basic principles:

1. Each player starts with exactly 13 cards
2. Each suit has exactly 13 cards

Using the above principles to guide us, look at the following diagram:

You	Dummy
♠AJ9X	♠KQ10x
♥AX	♥KX
♦AXX	♦Kxx
♣A10XX	♣KQ98

You arrive in six spades and plan the play with a low diamond lead that you win in your hand. Your RHO plays the ♦J. If you can draw all the trumps in three rounds, play the two high hearts, play another high diamond, and exit with a diamond, whoever wins this trick will be endplayed. If they lead clubs, you get 4 club tricks. If they lead a red card, you ruff in one hand while discarding a club from the other and take the remaining tricks with high clubs.

However, if spades are 4-1 with you LHO holding the spade length, can you still make the contract? If you pull all the trumps an endplay will not work. Lets' pause a minute and assimilate some information. LHO started with 4 spades, and RHO with 1. We also know that a diamond was lead and everyone followed. We know 5 of LHO's 13 cards. It seems more likely that RHO has club length, but there is also room in LHO's hand for 4 clubs. After all, we only know 5 of his cards at this time. How can we get other clues to the distribution?

We can play another high diamond and two high hearts, and if all follow, we will now know 8 of LHO's cards: 4 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds. The other five cards can still include 4 clubs. If we have been keeping track, we also know 8 of RHO's cards. Did RHO discard any clubs when you were pulling trumps? Let's assume not.

Another approach after drawing trump is to duck a diamond out of both hands. Nobody will be endplayed when you do this, but you still have control of all the other suits. RHO wins the diamond and leads a heart. You win this in one hand or the other, cash the diamond winner, and RHO shows out! Another clue: LHO started with 4 spades and 5 diamonds, leaving room for only four other cards. Since he followed suit on the heart return, he only has room for 3 clubs. You can play another high heart if you want, but you now have enough information to play the club suit correctly. The only player who can possibly hold 4 clubs is now your RHO.

Here are the opponent's holdings:

LHO	RHO
♠XXXX	♠X
♥JXX	♥Q10xxxx
♦Q10842	♦J9
♣X	♣JXXX

Counting the cards played is a habit you can develop with practice, and it can give you a terrific advantage over those who don't make that effort. Remember the two principles about 13 cards in each suit and each hand.

BRIDGE ACHIEVEMENTS

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Sectional Master: Catherine Favret

Regional Master: Marva Arceneaux
Denise Fuselier
Janet Genusa
Philip Luchsinger

NABC Master: Diane Scott

LIFE MASTER



Lallie Garg

BRONZE LIFE MASTER



Erin O'Sullivan

Coming Events

August 12-15 Virtual Vacation
Regional Online

August 23-29 – STAC Week @LBA

In Memoriam

Bill Geary

70 % GAMES

7/5	Open	John Onstott – Larry Federico	75.26%
7/7	Open (Club)	James Thornton – Sid LeBlanc	71.13%
7/7	299	Ray Nolan – Karen Boquet	72.92%
7/7	Open	Jean Talbot - Juanita Heidingsfelder	70.35%
7/9	Open (Club)	Carl Merlin – Doug DeMontluzin	70.00%
7/9	Open	John Onstott – Jim Krekorian	71.67%
7/10	Open	Jacob Karno – Howard Parker	70.68%
7/11	Open (Team)	John Onstott, James Krekorian, Jack Wynns, Thomas Turgeon	70.0%
7/25	Open (Team)	James Thornton, Sherrie Goodman, Jean Talbot, Joan Van Geffen	80.0%
7/28	Open	Howard Parker - Jacob Karno	70.16%
7/29	299	Deborah Skorlich – Debbie Reily	70.00%