

# KIBITZER ♣♦♥♠

## Louisiana Bridge Association May 2021

Editor – Diana Powell with help from Sherrie Goodman and  
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### President's Message May 2021

I am so excited! We are so close to seeing a date to reopen. I can't believe we are discussing opening our club and will be playing face to face with our friends. It's been a long time. Expect some changes, but we will return to normal conditions. Watch for more news!

I completed my survey. After the survey is completed and we receive the results, you will be informed about the results and the plan for opening.

I would like to thank our Directors for their support during Covid, and I am extremely happy that they will be returning to direct at the club.  
See you soon!

### Carolyn Dubois

#### Welcome New Members

Jeanne P. Buffat  
William L. Buffat  
Matti J. Hietalahti  
Elizabeth McAloon  
Denise Grady

#### Coming Events

May 8 Pro-Am Mentoring Game

May 15-16 Grass Roots  
Weekend - Double Points

May 24-30 Silver Linings  
Week - Double Silver Points

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#### Sherrie's Virtual Club News

April showers brings May flowers, but in the virtual world, we have Grass Roots games. ACBL's Grass Roots weekend is May 15-16. All games will receive double black points. When you play, you will also be supporting our area's local efforts to grow participation in a variety of events, including Grand National Trams and North American Pairs. Additional amounts raised will be sent back to each club's home district.

The May 24-30 Silver Linings Week is like the STAC Weeks we have had at the club. You get the bonus of double silver points.

Our next Pro-Am Mentoring game will be on Saturday morning, May 8. This is a great opportunity for our more experienced players to help develop a less experienced player. As usual, the Mentors will sign up at the partnership desk and the Mentees will select the Mentor. Prearranged partnerships are allowed, but not necessary. We hope you will all participate.

There is a lot of fun planned for the long hot summer, so stay in the air conditioning and let us entertain you!

See you at the virtual table!

**By: Arnaldo Partesotti**

This hand was played in a BBO mixed pairs tournament online about two months ago. The final contract was 6 Spades played by South (hands rotated for convenience). Before you read any further, look at the hand and decide if you would rather play as declarer, or defend.

<b>North V</b>		<b>East V</b>	
♠AJT76		♠9	
♥A84		♥KQJT765	
♦986		♦QT	
♣AT		♣974	
<b>South VD</b>			
♠KQ542			
♥-			
♦A542			
♣K865			
<b>West V</b>			
♠83			
♥932			
♦KJ73			
♣QJ32			

The bidding was fairly normal with lots of cue-bids:

	West	North	East	South	
				1S	
P	2nt*	3H	4H	*2NT Jacoby	
P	5C	P	5D		
P	5H	P	5S		
P	6S	All Pass			

6S by North was very pushy after South showed no additional values. It seems that the contract should be down 1, losing two Diamond tricks, but look at Declarer Versace performing his magic!

The lead from West was the H2, ruffed in hand. Declarer played a trump to Dummy's Ten. He ruffed the H8 in hand with the SQ, and played the S5 to the Jack. He played the Ace of Spades on which West pitched his last Heart (East keeps pitching Hearts, he is no longer relevant), and played the SK from hand under the Ace. South played the S7 and West pitched a Diamond. This is the final position:

<b>North</b>		<b>East</b>	
♠6		♠-	
♥A		♥K5	
♦986		♦QT	
♣AT		♣974	
<b>South</b>			
♠-			
♥-			
♦A54			
♣K865			
<b>West</b>			
♠-			
♥-			
♦KJ7			
♣QJ32			

On the play of the Ace of Hearts, pitching a Diamond from South, West is irremediably squeezed: if he pitches a Diamond, the Diamond Ace and a Diamond continuation make the last Diamond in Dummy good. If he pitches a Club, Ace and King of Clubs and a Club ruff make the last Club in hand good. After an agonizingly long pause, West pitched a Club. The only comment was from Versace's partner: "Wow!"

The last word: the key to declarer's play was likely the 3H bid by East, which suggested that West controlled Diamonds and Clubs but still... Wow!

**For the I/N Crowd** Opening Leads #4 - Short Suit Leads by Sue Himel

When should you lead a singleton? Contrary to some advice I have seen, I do not automatically lead a singleton against suit contracts.

The reason we lead a singleton against a suit contract is to get a ruff. So there are two requirements the hand should meet in order to make that happen.

- 1) Can partner have a quick entry to give you the ruff, and
- 2) Do you have idle\* trumps that can only win a trick if you use them to trump.

The auction has gone:

LHO	Pd	RHO	You
		1H	Pass
1S	Pass	2H	Pass
4H	All pass		

- 1) You hold: S K3 H 8765 D 6 C KT9872 . This is a good hand on which to lead your singleton diamond. The opponents have bid a game so they should hold at least 25 points. You have 6 points. The math tells us that partner can have a quick entry to give us a ruff. You have four small trumps that will only win a trick if you get to trump a diamond or two with them.
- 2) You hold: S KJ84 H A432 D 6 C KQT9. This is not a good hand on which to lead your singleton diamond. The opponents have bid a game and you hold 13 points. Partner has almost nothing in his hand and certainly no quick entry. Lead the KC and hope to establish a club trick and perhaps pick up some spade tricks.
- 3) S T H QJT D 98753 C KQ92 This is not a good hand on which to lead your singleton spade. The arithmetic tells you that partner may have a quick entry to give you a ruff, but you have a natural trump trick and no small trumps with which to ruff. Ruffing on this hand will cost you a heart trick.

Think about the hand as a whole before leading a singleton.

\*An idle trump is a small one that is not guarding an honor and cannot win a trick except by trumping.

A52 The 5 and 2 are idle trumps

K4 The 4 is guarding the king so it is not an idle trump

K54 One of those small trumps is guarding the king, but the other one is an idle trump.

## Paul's Deal of the Month

Suppose your LHO opens 1C, your RHO responds 3NT and you find yourself on opening lead with KQ2 of spades as your most promising defense. You lead the King, dummy plays from a low doubleton, your partner signals encouragement, and declarer plays low. You decide to continue the suit, so which card do you play now? Why the Queen, of course, to be followed by the deuce if given the chance.

Now suppose the opponents bid the same way and you unexpectedly find yourself on opening lead holding KQJ10865 of spades. You lead the King and partner encourages. Which card do you play next? East, on hand #3 of the club game of October 18, 2018, faced that exact same issue and went catastrophically wrong.

S Deals		E/W Vul	
N			
♠ 72			
♥ 854			
♦ AKQ6			
♣ KQ42			
W		E	
♠ A93		♠ KQJ10865	
♥ Q732		♥ J10	
♦ 109852		♦	
♣ 8		♣ 10765	
S			
♠ 4			
♥ AJ96			
♦ J743			
♣ AJ93			

When East led the spade King, West playing standard signals correctly signaled encouragement with the nine. NOW THINK! If it is correct for East to lead the King followed by the Queen when holding KQ2, can it possibly be correct to lead the King followed by the Queen when holding KQJ10865? The answer is emphatically NO! If East wants to hold the lead, the second card is the highest available. But if East wants West to overtake and lead the suit back, East's second lead must be the lowest safe card available. In this instance that card is the eight, as West signaled with the nine and East holds all of the high cards between the King and the eight. If the leader wants to hold the next lead, then lead as high a card as possible. If the leader wants partner to overtake and return the suit, then lead the lowest safe card available. (For those who like mnemonics, try "high-hold, low-lose" the lead.) If West had held just two spades, such as A9, West would have to overtake the first lead by East and return West's low card to unblock the suit. Following this basic rule will also avoid the amusing "double unblock" when the leader holds KQx and responder Axx, and the leader plays the King and Queen while the responder carefully unblocks the Ace on the second lead, thereby allowing the declarer to win the third lead with the Jack.

Would you believe that I was West? My partner led the King followed by the Queen and I did not unblock.

## That Pesky 2C Opener Just got a Little Peskier by Rule Ruleski

The 2 club very strong hand opener was affected by the 2021 rule changes. A 2C opener - that once was NEVER alerted - may now require an alert. First let's address how the rules define a VERY STRONG HAND.

VERY STRONG HAND: A hand with

- At least 20 High Card Points (HCP) OR
  - A hand with at least 14 HCP and within 1 trick of game assuming suits break evenly OR
  - A hand with at least 5 Control Points and is within 1 trick of game assuming suits break evenly
- BTW for those in Rio Linda an Ace is 2 Control Points and a King is 1 Control Point – if you are counting Control Points, nothing else has value toward the Control Point count – just aces and kings

The new rules state that if your agreement is that 2C is opened ONLY with hands that are defined as VERY STRONG as outlined above, then you would NEVER alert a 2C opening.

These hands do not meet the definition of VERY STRONG HAND:

1. AKQJxxxxx, Qx, x, x
2. AKQJxxxxxx, x, x, x

IF you and your partner WOULD open two clubs with hands like these that do NOT meet the VERY STRONG HAND rule definition, THEN ALL 2 club bids that you make MUST be alerted. Your explanation is that "we may open 2 clubs based on suit length and distribution and not always HCP" or something like that.

I spoke with an ACBL National director in preparing this column. They said this new rule would take a lot of getting used to and they foresee some "forgiveness" in applying it, at least for a while.

Now here is the tricky part: At the club, we are not very particular about which convention chart rules you use as long as alerts are used properly. When you play in an ACBL tournament, that is NOT the case at all. There are 4 Convention Charts. Two of them, Basic and Basic+, are for limited games, such as 0-750 or less and 0-3000. In the Basic and Basic+ chart, NO opening of 2c is allowed UNLESS the hand meets the VERY STRONG HAND definition. I don't believe you will be strapped to a post and pilloried at the club for alerting your 2c openers and applying it for hands like 1 and 2 above in a limited Master Point club game. This is not going to be the same in an ACBL tournament where different convention charts are applied for limited MP games and where you may be playing for all the marbles like a free trip to the next face-to-face national...whenever that will be...

ANOTHER NEW RULE TEASER: Weak jump shifts – though some were not alerting them anyway – now officially no longer require an alert.

# BRIDGE ACHIEVEMENTS

## RANK ADVANCEMENTS

**Junior Master:** Matti Hietalahti

**Regional Master:** Jeannette Galleguillos  
Philip Russo

## BRONZE LIFE MASTER



Mae O'Neill

## GOLD LIFE MASTER



Dianne Chesson



## RESULTS

1<sup>st</sup> Place Overall in Toe Sock Top Flight were Jamie Bush and Ric Logan winning 27.87 Gold

1<sup>st</sup> Place Overall in Easy Chair Side Games were Jacob Karno & Jacob Morgan winning 8.19 Gold

5<sup>th</sup> place Overall in Sweatpants Mid-Flight Pairs were Jacob Karno & Wayne Weisler winning 7.72 Gold

### Other Club winners of Gold and Red points were:

Ric Logan	29.45
Jamie Bush	27.87
Jacob Karno	18.59
Wayne Weisler	9.32
Kathy Plauche	6.12
Newt Jackson	6.06
Janice Zazulak	3.50
Diana Powell	3.50
John Onstott	3.39
Tippi Ellis	3.39
Ronald Ocmund	2.97
Barbara Zelenka	2.95
Dan Zelenka	2.95
Myra Groome	2.87
Mimi Groome	2.87
Sherrie Goodman	2.76
Steve Plotkin	2.42
Jim Thornton	2.33
Charles Waldrop	2.19
John Liukkonen	1.08
Paul Deal	1.08
George Wilson	1.07
Bill Varney	.85
Peter Walker	.85
Mike Russell	.56
Beth Todd	.46
Mary Belcher	.39
Elizabeth Sewell	.39

## 70 % GAMES

April 9 - Open

Doug DeMontluzin - Carl Merlin 72.45%

April 20 -Open

Sue Himel – Kenneth McNary 72.22%