



Louisiana Bridge Association December 2017

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President's Message December 2017

It should not be a surprise but **expenses keep rising**. The Board has voted to pass along the \$1.00 surcharge for ACBL "Special Games" in 2018. The decision on including "Charity Games" will be made at our next meeting. It was also decided that fees for our Sectional Tournaments would increase from \$10 to \$12 starting with our Derby Day Sectional in May, 2018. We are among the last to still have a \$10 fee with some Units in District 10 going even higher.

The **XMAS party** scheduled for Saturday, **December 2, 2017** has been **canceled**, due to a number of conflicting events and other recent developments.

The **election for new members of your Board of Directors** will be held the week of January 8, 2018 starting on Monday the 8th and ending on Sunday the 14th before the Swiss Team event at our Sectional. Candidate names and brief biographies should be on the web site and posted at the club. The annual meeting will be held during the break at the middle of the Swiss Team at which time the newly elected Board members will be announced and introduced. Please try to attend on Sunday even if you don't play in the event and for sure, **PLEASE VOTE!!**

Unit Vice President Larry Federico, Secretary Vicki Willis, Ben McKown and I will be **leaving the Board** after the election. It has been fun coupled with hard work. We all sincerely hope your enjoyment of this great game has increased during the year.

See you at the tables!!

Jim Thornton

December Events

*= extra points, no extra fees

Dec 2 Holiday Party Unit Championship*

CANCELED

Dec 3 Unit Extended Team Game* Sun 1 pm

Dec 7-10 Baton Rouge Sectional Thurs-Sun

Dec 12 Charity Fund Game* Tues AM

Dec 15 Holiday Potluck Unit Champ*

Fri noon

Dec 28 Charity Fund Game Thurs 6:30PM

Rank Advancements

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

*Judy Bruce, Judith Danos, Sue Edwards,
Cheryl Hauver, Deborah Skorlich*

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Gail Lewis, Valerie Schlesinger, John Treen

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

Jane Robinson

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Gary Bergeron, Steven Plotkin

NEW NABC MASTERS

Irene Labiche, Alma Slatten

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Pat Emerson, Jim Kessler

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Sandra Weber

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER

Dee Moses

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NEW MEMBERS

Lou Broussaro, Andrea Cohn, Edward Cohn, Charles Genre, Mary Krajcer, Kathy Plauche, Elmo Price, Judith Talbot, Bernice Willis

70 percent games

99er Nov 17 *Ann Preaus & Bette Marks* 71.08%

Nov 24 *James H Reilly & Becky Zaheri* 73.33%

499er Nov 17 *Ronald Ocmoud & Steven Plotkin* 70.00%

Open Nov 21 *Doug De Montluzin & Emmanuel Benjamin*
70.71%

Nov 27 evening *Pat Ellis & Molly Sylvia* 70.31%

Nov 28 evening *Helen St. Romain & Nancy Gates*
70.26%

In Memoriam

Esther Rosenberg

Metairie Sectional Firsts

Thurs AM

0-20 *Deborah Skorlich & Mary Belcher*

299er Lynn Flynn & Rayne Lykes

Open *JF Lowenstein & Judy Katz; Juanita Heidingsfelder & Bobbie Gattuso* Flt B; *Paul Rosenblum & Erin Fleming* Flt C

Thurs PM

299er *Barbara Fitz-Hugh & Elizabeth Cordes; Lynn Flynn & Rayne Lykes* Flt C

Open *Chuck Pitard & John Onstott; Carol Bagalman & Debbie Rothschild* Flt B

Fri AM

299er *Mary Hanni & Morris Place Jr; Myra Groome & Diana Powell* Flt E; *Lorraine Friedrichs & Janet Bean* Flt F

Open *Jerrilyn Stumpf & Dee Moses; Karen Dugan & Ellen Lappa* Flt B

Fri PM

299er *Mary Hanni & Morris Place Jr; Dupree Parker & Robert Teel* Flt E

Open *Paul Rosenblum & Drew Casen; Nelson Daigle & Arnaldo Partesotti* Flt B; *Fred & Claudette Lay* Flt C

Sat AM

299er *Diana Powell & Janice Zazulak; Barbara Fitz-Hugh & Elizabeth Cordes* Flt E

Open *Jim Thornton & Marlene Ruckert; David Woods & Stephen Kishner* Flt B; *Alan Jacobs & Linda Jacobs* Flt C

Sat PM

299er *Claudine Cannon & Delphine Butler*

Open *Joan Van Geffen & Jean Talbot; Cindy Lewis & Colleen Walker* Flt B; *Alan Jacobs & Linda Jacobs--Sheryl Thompson & Molly Sylvia* Flt C (tie)

Sun Swiss

Bkt 1 *Carson Arnett-Rick Logan-Michael Moses-Arun Limaye*

Bkt 2 *David Wolf-Jim Thornton-Sherrie Goodman-Carol Bagalman*

Some San Diego NABC achievements (more next month!)

Martha Robson, 4th Thurs 299er pairs flt B, 5th Thurs eve open Flt C

Reese Koppel 5th Fri eve Swiss Flt B, **1st** Sat morn side pairs

JF Lowenstein & Eleanor Onstott 7th Fri eve side pairs Flt B, 10th Sat BC Open Pairs, **1st** Monday Daylight B/C Pairs

Sue Himel 19th Sat Daylight Open Pairs, **1st** Sun Daylight ABC Swiss, 6th Mon Aft Side Pairs

JF Lowenstein & Beth Todd **1st** Sun BCD Swiss

Bob Bowers & Jacob Karno 24th Super Senior Pairs—platinum points!

Drew Casen-John Onstott 31/32 Mitchell Open BAM—platinum points

Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpots

Nov 8 Sherrie Goodman & Carol Bagalman

Metairie Money Winners! For the November Sectional Swiss anonymous donors put up \$100 for the highest placing team with total master points under 2000 and another \$100 for the highest placing team with total points under 1000. Barbara Fitz-Hugh, Sheryl Thompson, Molly Silvia & Debbie Rothschild won the under 2000 category. Carla Seyler, Lynden Swayze, Deborah Skorlich, and Diane Scott won the under 1000. In fact, their combined points were under 25. Very brave of them to play.....We are proud of them!

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH. This month we are dealing with a frequently encountered "unnecessary finesse," often referred to in bridge literature as the infamous "practice finesse." This type of finesse earns its name by virtue of the fact that if it wins it gains little or nothing and if it loses it maximally penalizes declarer's terribly flawed play of the hand. Here is an example hand (see diagram at left) demonstrating this finessing error. In a typically classic matchpoint auction seeking to reach a sensible 3NT contract, our heroic bidders discover a flaw fatal to that contract (no heart stopper) and redeem themselves by arriving at a possibly makeable alternative game contract of 5C. The auction, with no interference: 1C-1D-1NT (balanced 12-14 hcp)-3C (invitational)-3S (maximum hand with a spade stopper but no heart stopper)-5C (also maximum with no heart stopper). The opponents, who could not miss the bidders' admission of no heart control, cash two quick heart tricks, with East winning the second. Then East follows with the inevitable spade lead toward dummy's weakness. Well, Dear Reader, do you take the obvious spade finesse, with your powerful ♠AQx opposite dummy's ♠J10? The answer is a resounding "NO." Why not? Because if it wins you still need the diamond finesse and if it loses you are already down one, even if the diamond finesse later wins. Your taking the spade finesse would be a glaring instance of a classic "unnecessary" or "practice" finesse. So up you go with the ♠A, followed by cashing one high diamond in case there is a bad diamond break of ♦xxxx/♦Q, with a singleton ♦Queen lurking in East's hand (and note the value of dummy's ♦8 in case diamonds break ♦Qxxx/♦x), drawing trumps and then taking the diamond finesse, a basic win or lose 50% play. If it wins you make 5C by discarding your two losing spades on the long diamonds, irrespective of whether the spade finesse would have won or lost. If the diamond finesse loses you will sadly go down two for a bottom board, rejoicing in the knowledge that despite the poor result you played the hand correctly.

Another Missed Slam By Arnaldo Partesotti

I recently ran into a nice slam, and promptly botched the bidding, but it could make for an interesting discussion between you and your trusted partner, so here it is (below left, hands rotated for convenience):

Dealer W Vul E/W

North

♠AK843

♥—

♦AQ9

♣J8643

West

♠J7

♥QT98532

♦43

♣52

East

♠Q

♥74

♦JT652

♣AQT97

South

♠T9652

♥AKJ6

♦K87

♣K

At most tables West passed, North opened 1♠, South responded 2NT (Jacoby), North bid 3♥(his void) and most pairs stopped in 4♠, making 6. When South learns of North's singleton or void in Hearts, he puts the brakes on. Six Spades however is lay down!

At our table things were more interesting because, after North opened 1♠, East interfered with 2NT for the minors. Here are your options as South:

- You could **trap Pass** for penalties. I would not even consider it because it does not tell partner of your spade support or the strength of your hand, and it might let the opponents find a good sacrifice. On the other hand you could learn more about the hand after West bids, and they are vulnerable...

- You could **Double**. Not in my book, because it tells partner that you are interested in penalizing at least one of the opponents' suits, and it does not tell him about the spade fit. Discuss with partner if you do not have a clear agreement on "double" in this situation.

- You could use **Unusual vs. Unusual**. This is the bid recommended in the books. You cue-bid "their" suits to show "your" suits: 3♣ shows a forcing hand in Hearts and 3♦ shows a forcing hand in Spades. There are variations, we will discuss them another time.

- You could **Splinter 4♣**. This is not recommended by the experts, you never splinter with a singleton K, but... you may downgrade the K, and learning of this singleton will be music for your partner's ears and probably drive you to slam.

- You could bid **4♠**. This is what I did, shame on me! This bid will put you in the vast majority, with a "minus" result. And, if you decide to shut your partner down, ask yourself where his opening points are.

- You could bid **4NT**. Your partner does not know what you are doing, or anything about your hand, but it will bring you to an unbeatable slam. Better lucky than good!

Let's say that you bid the recommended 3♦, the bidding should be as follows:

West	North	East	South	
pass	1♠	2NT	3♦	
pass	3♠	pass	4♣	cue-bids
pass	4♦	pass	4♥	cue-bids
pass	4♠	pass	4NT	nothing else to say / RKCB1430
pass	5♦	pass	6♠	3 key-cards / life is good

Our Directors on Claims

We hope to change the format of our director columns on laws and ethics, to bring you what our directors as a group think are most important for you to know about various common procedural and ethical issues. In the new format there will be fewer detailed rundowns of the laws and more focus on key points. This particular column was written up by Sue Himel after discussion and consultation with other directors and experts. Comments and requests for future topics are invited.

Making a claim on a hand when the result is obvious saves time and effort for all players involved. However, if you claim in a sloppy manner and the opponents contest your claim it can actually take your table longer to finish the hand than if you had not claimed. You can avoid having your claim contested by facing your hand and making a clear statement about the line of play you plan to pursue. Don't forget to mention pulling any outstanding trumps or any finesses you plan to take. Tell the opponents about how you will play any long suits. If you do not include these plays in your claim statement the director will not allow you to make these plays should he be called to the table.

How many times have you made a claim and the opponents said, "Play it out"? Before the 2017 changes to the claim law playing out the hand after a claim was made was not permitted. It was necessary to call the director to adjudicate the claim.

Now, if all four players at the table agree, at the request of the side contesting the claim, the hand may be played out by the player who made the claim. The stated line of play is cancelled and the claimer picks up the hand and may take any line of play. No one should call the director because the results of playing out the hand will stand.

Should you ever allow play to continue when your side contests a claim? The authors of this column and several experts we consulted could not think of any instance where this would be to the advantage of a player objecting to a claim. When the director is called to adjudicate a contested claim the director is not limited to considering only your objection but may take into account any other circumstances that you may not have been anticipated when you objected to the claim. The director will protect your side to the fullest extent possible. If you allow play to continue, you forfeit that protection.

Perhaps this change to the law was made to legalize all the times a hand was played out after a claim was contested and the director was not called. But don't allow a hand to be played out when you disagree with a claim. If you do not agree with the claim call the director to receive a full measure of protection under the laws.