

Louisiana Bridge Association April 2020

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbl@cox.net

President's Message April 2020

Great news!. I have not been notified of any person or persons at our club having the Corona Virus. I know of one Bridge Club in Colorado that has a few cases of Corona Virus. I thank my Board for being Pro-active and taking the initiative to act quickly to protect its members.

Sherrie is working on some exciting and creative ideas for us to play Bridge online. Check your e-mails. Also, check the La Bridge Association website for announcements pertaining to our club.

BIG THANKS to **Larry, Idell**, and **Steve** for making sure you enjoyed yourself on Mardi Gras Day. Thanks you to all members who brought food, worked in the kitchen, and helped with cleaning. Hope to see all of you soon!

Carolyn Dubois

Message from the Club Manager:

Your Board and I have been hard at work cleaning the club, making repairs, and replacing some of our supplies with fresh, new ones. There will be no playing bridge at the club until further notice. The dates in the Kibitzer may still happen even if the club at 2709 Edenborn is closed. I am working with Acbl and BBO to try to get a private "room" on BBO for our tournament, and special games.....stay tuned! Meanwhile, we will try to keep the message machine at the club current, so you can also check there for updates. I know you all miss the club, but it is important to stay home and stay healthy.....we can weather this storm.

Sherrie Goodman

Original schedule of April Events Highly uncertain—check website for updates!

*= extra points, no extra fee

**=extra points, extra fee

Apr 1 Charity Fund Game** Wed

Apr 6 Charity Fund Game** Mon

Apr 19 Swiss Birthday Unit

Team Party* Sun

Apr 29 ACBL-wide Charity Game**

Tournament Firsts

Birmingham Regional

Tues Bracketed Open Swiss Jacob Morgan et al

Wed AM Open Swiss Nelson Daigle-Bill

Beaushaw et al Ft C

Wed Aft Open Swiss Carole Stribling et al Ft B

Thurs Bracketed Open Swiss Jacob Morgan et al

Thurs Bracketed Open Pairs JF Lowenstein &

Eleanor Onstott

Hattiesburg Sectional Firsts

Fri Aft Open Pairs Jane Reynolds & Dottie

Stephenson Ft C

Sat AM Open Pairs Dale Thompson & Peck

Hayne Ft C

Sun Swiss Buddy Massey-Bill Beaushaw-Jeannie

Beaushaw-Frank Corredine Ft B

RANK ADVANCMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Vicki Miller, Lynne Stern

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Celia Deininger, Toni Nadler, Carol Rider, Dale Thompson

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

Ellen Frischhertz, Martha Robson, Melanie Thompson, George Wilson

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Gregory Browne, Ellen Manshel, Dan Zelenka

NEW NABC MASTER

Gregory Blum

NEW MEMBERS

Nancy Davis, Jean Johnson, Robert Johnson, Peggy Lorino

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DIREKTORS KORNER

THIS MONTH'S DIREKTOR IN CHARGE: The Hat Lady

TOPIC: Can I change my bid?

At a bridge game as the opening bidder I placed a 1 spade bid on the table. My LHO passed, and looking down I saw the bid was not the 1 heart bid I intended. Quickly I said I made the wrong bid. NO, you can't change your bid, my LHO said in a commanding voice, I already bid, and now you cannot change your bid. Knowing the DIRECTOR should always be called for any infraction, I said, Director please. The correct rule is you can change a bid, but only before your partner bids, and only if the bid was not the intended bid, you did not simply change your mind. Now the LHO can also change his bid, or not.

On the next board my LHO over called 1 heart, over my 1 spade opening bid. He said he did not see my bid and hurriedly tried to correct to 2 hearts, but I said his bid was Insufficient and my partner had options. Knowing the DIRECTOR should always be called for any infraction, I said, Director please. The first option was his LHO could accept the insufficient bid, and overcall any legal bid. He could accept the insufficient bid, and even overcall 1 spade to let his partner know he liked spades, or 2 hearts for a limit raise in spades, or 2 of a minor for the lead, all before the opponent can have the option to correct to 2 hearts. The final bid was 3 hearts. Sometimes by accepting an insufficient bid you can overcall at a low level, giving information to your partner. Think if your overcall could help your partner, before not accepting the insufficient bid. My partner did over call 2 clubs, which allowed me to make the only lead to set the contract. Club lead to partners A, spade return through declarers K, then Q, A, and a spade, trumped by my partner, and later collecting another trick for down one. Any other lead would allow the declarer to discard his losing spades.

Do NOT allow your opponents to make the rulings.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH Overbidders understandably get a thrill out of bidding too much on a hand

N ♠A984	
♥J43	
♦AK1065	
♣K	
W ♠QJ752	E ♠3
♥52	♥KQ1076
♦J942	♦873
♣75	♣9832
S ♠K106	
♥A98	
♦Q	
♣AQJ1064	

but find that the cards are situated just such that the opponents are victimized when the contract turns out to be indefensible and makes. The board at left occurred in a local club game and was such a hand. Our opponents' bidding without diamonds ever being mentioned should never be seen in print, so please just take notice that they bid this 12 winner hand up to 7NT, declared by North. East's obvious ♥K opening hit the table without delay. West (me) began to squirm immediately upon realizing that there was serious danger that North had concealed length in diamonds and that West held length and strength in both of North's suits. That West's cards could have been torn into pieces and tossed in the waste basket was even more obvious when declarer won the ♥A and then played a low club off of the dummy. It was clear that West's worst fear, that he was about to be fatally squeezed, was about to happen. Sure enough, North returned to the dummy with a spade to the ♠K and began to run the club suit. North, not realizing that he was about to commit a fatal error, quickly discarded five losers from the North hand, two small hearts, one small diamond and two small spades, reducing his hand to ♠A ♥void ♦AK106 ♣void. North's premature discarding of the two losing spades had allowed West to discard his spades without risk and to save all four diamonds, thereby defeating the grand slam by winning the ♦J at trick thirteen. North could have squeezed West by the simple expedient of saving ♠Ax before playing the last of dummy's winners. North would then have seen that West would have been inexorably squeezed at trick seven and his hand destroyed at trick eight, as he could not have retained ♠QJx and ♦Jxxx with only six cards in his hand at trick seven or QJ/Jxxx at trick eight. Whichever suit West discarded would create a spot card winner in that same suit in North's hand. This was truly a case in which North's carelessness let the big one get away.

Do Not Preempt Partner! By Arnaldo Partesotti

During a regular game at the club, I picked-up the following "blah plus" hand in South:

♠J732 ♥AJ ♦KJ6 ♣K532

It is nothing to write home about, but good enough to open 1C. See the full hand in the box at left.

North V	
♠T	
♥KQT8753	
♦T82	
♣T4	
West NV	EastNV
♠A6	♠KQ9854
♥64	♥92
♦AQ75	♦943
♣AQ876	♣J9
South VD	
♠J732	
♥AJ	
♦KJ6	
♣K532	

West passed and Partner (North) bid 3H (!?) What is Partner up to? In the Bridge Bulletin there was recently a series of articles by Larry Cohen addressing how to respond to minor suit openings. His comment on bidding 3H/3S over a 1C/1D opening was simply "do not make this bid". My additional 2 cents opinion is "you NEVER preempt partner". This is on Page 1, chapter 1, paragraph 1 of every bridge book! You are only allowed to use jumps at the 2 level (1C -2H for instance) to tell partner that you have a specific limited hand of 7 - 9 HCP and, presumably, can only play in the suit bid by you. Of course this leaves enough room for opener to make another bid if he is strong enough, has the right distribution, fit, etc. At the 3 level the options become much more limited.

Over the 3H bid by Partner I bid 3NT because I could count 7 tricks in the Heart suit (with my two honors), most likely one more trick on any lead and (unreasonably) maybe one more trick with the end game, or if Partner had a side feature. I admit that I should have passed. Partner corrected to 4H which went down two for a bottom.

The best bid for Partner over my 1C opening was 1H, and after repeating the Hearts bid at the lower possible level if necessary. Otherwise Partner could bid 2H, which normally has only 6 Hearts but exceptions are possible, which I would pass.

The lessons from this hand are obvious: 1) Do not preempt partner, period. You crowd the auction unnecessarily, and better bids are available. 2) When Partner does something which is not clear, I would never pass, but in this case Partner's bid was clear, and I should have passed. 3) Do not bid twice the same hand: Partner had no business correcting 3NT to 4H, she had already told her story. 3NT is down one, which is OK if not doubled, East-West can make a number of Spades.

For the I/N Crowd by Sue Himel

4-3 Fits #1

I have addressed raising responder's major with three card support in this column. But, those methods may land you in a 4-3 fit. This month and next let's take a look at how to play those fits. 4-3 fits are referred to as Moysian fits, named in honor of Sonny Moysie who loved to play them. He also published techniques to use to successfully make those contracts.

The main technique for playing these hands is to avoid trumping in the long trump hand.

In the hand below you are playing 2H and the opening lead is the ♠K. Another high spade is led. How do you proceed?

Dummy ♠76 ♥AK3 ♦KT532 ♣K74 Declarer ♠3 ♥Q964 ♦A987 ♣A65

First let's count losers. You must lose one spade, one or maybe no diamonds, one club. The heart suit could be anywhere from no losers to 3 losers if the hearts are 5-1 or 6-0. But, we'll be optimistic and count on the most likely 4-2 split. Then you would not have more than one heart loser.

If you are going to avoid trumping in the long trump hand, then you cannot trump that second spade. If you do, then you could go out of control and the opponents would end up with a long trump and a hand full of good spades. Since you have a club loser that you cannot avoid, why not discard a small club loser on the spade? Now, if the defenders continue spades you can trump in the dummy, the short trump hand. Whether or not you lose one or no diamonds or zero or one hearts, the successful play of this hand depends on the **loser on a loser** play. It is an essential tool for you to have in your arsenal for playing Moysian fits.