

## Louisiana Bridge Association February 2016

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### President's Message February 2016

The first board meeting of 2016 was held January 25. Officers for 2016 are **Larry Federico**, President; **Jim Thornton**, Vice President; **Vicki Willis**, Secretary; and **Sid LeBlanc**, treasurer.

A belated thank you to **Sharon Henry** for the wonderful work on our Evening Christmas party. Somehow she manages to outdo herself every year. Thanks also to **Keenan Romig** for her work on the January tournament.

Congratulations are in order for **Vicki Willis** who was recently elected president of District 10. Congratulations are also in order for **Reese Koppel** for his recent third place finish in the United States Junior Bridge Championship. Way to go Reese.

Players are reminded that our aging membership is susceptible to health problems such as colds, the flu and shingles. These problems should not be shared with others. If you are sick-stay home. If you have to sneeze, please do it into your elbow. Covering your mouth with your hand is a sure way to transmit germs to the cards. Frequent hand washing is the best way to avoid spreading germs.

The first week of February is STAC week. Many extra points. The playing fee is only seven dollars.

February 9th is our special Mardi Gras game. As usual the club will be providing hot dogs, and chili. Players are encouraged to bring side dishes and desserts.

The February board meeting has been moved from February 8th (Lundi Gras) to February 15th.

**Larry Federico**

**PLAY NICE PLAY NICE PLAY NICE PLAY NICE PLAY NICE PLAY NICE PLAY NICE PLAY NICE PLAY NICE PLAY NICE PLAY NICE PLAY NICE PLAY NICE**

**A New Approach to tournaments?** Our January tournament was run differently from previous tournaments. We hired a kitchen helper, and Keenan organized and divided the work among more than 30 volunteers. Thanks to all of those. This kept everyone's job to a minimum, and we hope this approach will make it easier to run tournaments in the future.

### February Events

**Feb 1-7** STAC Week Mon-Sun

\$7 entry, silver points all games

**Feb 8** Inter-Club Championship

Mon Night \$7 entry/Extra Points

**Feb 9** Mardi Gras – Upgraded Club Champ.

**Feb 12-14** Gulf Shores Sectional Fri-Sun

**Feb 19** Unit Championship Fri

**Feb 19-21** Lafayette Sectional Fri – Sun

**Feb 22** Unit Championship Mon AM

**Feb 26-28** Hattiesburg Sectional Fri-Sun

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patricia Mason, Alfred Rufty, Michael Mooney, Carole Stribling

**PLAY NICE**

### Special Games Achievements

**John Federico** and **Jim Thornton** placed first in **District 10** for the ACBL International Fund Game on Dec 21 and are receiving 10 red points on top of what they previously received. Their result was first reported only as a club result but that has now been corrected.

**Anne Plauche** and **Ronnie Berenger** placed first in the **111 table Interclub Championship** January 12 and received 12.63 mps for their efforts. Marcy Pick and Daisy Vandenbegh also placed overall.

### 70 Percent Games

**Open Pairs** Bill Weiss & Don Daigle Jan 13 74.68%

Bob Bowers & John Onstott Jan 18 **81.8% Rosenblum Tourney** Bob Bowers & John Onstott Jan 22 AM Open Pairs 72.29%

**99er Pairs** Tom York & Sandra Broussard Jan 15 **82.5%**

## RANK ADVANCEMENTS

### NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Lloyd Armstrong, Janet Genusa

### NEW CLUB MASTERS

Jerry Boyd, Jessica Clifton, Evelyn De Laureal, Helen Farris, Ellen Frischhertz, Jane Robinson, Tom Wasson

### NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Mary Dorsey, Roxanne Estrada, Robert Owens

### NEW REGIONAL MASTER

Reese Koppel

### NEW NABC MASTERS

Amy Nolan, Mae O Neil

### NEW LIFE MASTER

Jeannie Beaushaw

### NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Sharon Henry, Susan Sommer

### NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Nelson Daigle

## More Unit 134 Gems!

The ACBL has created two new masterpoint ranks. A **Ruby Life Master** is a Life Master with at least 1500 masterpoints, at least 300 of which are silver, red, gold or platinum. A **Sapphire Life Master** is a Life Master with at least 3500 masterpoints, at least 750 of which are silver, red, gold, or platinum and at least 350 of which are gold or platinum. The following Unit 134 members qualified for these ranks:

### RUBY LIFE MASTERS

Richard Bagnetto, Margaret Booth, Ellie Brammell, Louise Brandon, Lillian Breen, David Bybee, Dianne Chesson, Frank Corredine, Donald Daigle, Erin Deloney, Tipping Ellis, Audrey Evans, Linda Fox, Nancy Gates, Guss Ginsburg, James Hailey, Leslie Kolb, Julie Lewis, Jack Lewis, J F Lowenstein, Carl Merlin, Maebeth Merritt, Dee Moses, Eleanor Onstott, Marcelyn Pick, Chuck Pitard, Anne Plauche, Louise Ritter, Rose Mary Schembre, Linda Stockton, Carole Stribling, Dloye Swift, James Thornton, Sally Touns, Daisy Vandenburg, Colleen Walker, J A Weber, Vicki Willis

### SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTERS

Paul Deal, B. B. Gordon, Nonie Leavitt, Wayne Merkel, Julius Rosenfield, Jennie Flynn Sauviac

## Biloxi Regional firsts by Unit 134 Members

### Mon Aft

**199er Pairs** Linda Conner & Molly Sylvia; Kaki Birtel & Evelyn De Laureal Flt C

**Mon Aft Open Pairs** Howard Parker & John Onstott; Paul Rosenblum & Jacob Karno Flt C

**Tues AM 199er Pairs** Shirlann Finch & William McDonald Flt B

**Mon-Tues KO Bkt 4** Madeline Tonti-Sharon Wood-Carroll Wood-Janell Eberhart-Lawayne Eberhart

**Tues Aft 199er Pairs** J. Michael Russell & Steven Plotkin Flt C

**Tues daylight pairs** Iype Koshy & Chuck Pitard

**Tues Prime Time Open Pairs** Linda Freese & Paul Freese; Roy Richardson & Trish Kessler Flt C

**Tues Eve Swiss** Guss Ginsburg-Hans Jacobs-Louallen Thomassen-Scott Stearns; Nelson Daigle-William Gentry-Sharon Henry-Sherrie Goodman Flt C

**Tues Wed KO Bkt 1** John Onstott-Drew Casen-Jim Krekorian-Oren Kriegel-Chris Compton;

**Bkt 2** Bobbie Gattuso-Jerrilyn Stumpf-Eleanor Onstott-Dee Moses

**Wed AM 199er Pairs** Shirlann Finch & William McDonald

**Wed Aft Swiss** Ueli Geissmann-Tom Dunn-Mike Anthony-David Scherer

**Wed Daylight Swiss** Larry Sealy-Jim Munday-Iype Koshy-Chuck Pitard; Jack Lewis-Cindy Lewis-John Federico-Theresa Federico Flt B; Linda Gallagher-Bonnie Nelson-Janet Patterson-Pris Daily Flt C

**Wed Eve BAM** Cappy McIver-Beth Todd-Molly Silvia-Linda Conner Flt C

**Wed Gold Diggers Swiss** Ueli Geissmann-Tom Dunn-Mike Anthony- David Scherer

**Thurs Gold Diggers Pairs** Pat Emerson & Warren Gambino Flt B

**Thurs-Fri KO Bkt 2** Bobbie Gattuso-Jerrilyn Stumpf-Eleanor Onstott-Dee Moses-JF Lowenstein-David Williams

**Thurs-Fri KO Bkt 3** Susan Gibbens-Suzanne Baer-Hugh Lawson-Henry Bodenheimer

**Fri AM 199er Pairs** Carroll Wood & Sharon Wood

**Fri PM 199er Pairs** Christina Beesley & Stephanie Reaves

**Fri Primetime Open Pairs** Ben McKown & Beth Todd Flt B

**Fri Eve Side Swiss** Mike Lappa-Peggy McCranie-Gail Fayard-Audrey Cerise Flt C

**Fri-Sat AM Compact KO Bkt 2** Ueli Geissmann-Tom Dunn-Donald Hopes-Janelle Kunellis Bkt 2

**Sat Eve Side Swiss** Karen Lea-Susan Sommer-Carol Perrin-Jerrilyn Jones Flt B; Mike Lappa-Gail Fayard-Audrey Cerise-Joy Van Meervald Flt C

**Sun Gold Diger Swiss (tie)** Walker Jones-Hugh Lawson-Henry Bodenheimer-Robert Pettit

**PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH.** I have learned from personal experience that among the most difficult auctions to judge accurately are those arising out of fourth position reopening bids. The very first hand my partner and I encountered in the opening matchpoint event in a New Orleans sectional illustrates why such auctions can give players evaluation problems. My LHO opened 1C in first seat, all vul, which was passed around to me in fourth seat. I held ♠Ax ♥AKQxx ♦Qxx ♣Jxx. I clearly had to bid but the issue was "bid what?" I considered 1NT but that call is typically played 12-14 hcp in the reopening seat. The most flexible call is "double," but this hand, while stronger than average, was not big enough to rebid 2H over the probable 1S bid expected from partner or to rebid 1NT, for which it contained the appropriate point count of 15-17 but lacked a club stopper. Note that this good hand actually contains 7 (6 1/2?) probable losers, one spade, three diamonds and three clubs. Because of that obvious flaw, I settled on a simple 1H, with the intention of hoping to bid again to show extra strength. The opponents remained silent as partner somewhat surprisingly bypassed 1S and raised to 2H. Recalling that when opener bids 1H, responder in most partnerships can raise to 2H on roughly 6-9 hcp with a touch of favorable distribution and three or more trumps but that a raise to 2H over a reopening 1H, which can be as weak as 10 or even less hcp and a four card suit, is best played to show a "good" 8 to a "bad" 11 hcp, it was apparent that my hand was worth a game try but what game try? Raising to 3H seemed pointless, as advancer could not hold strong trumps. After all, I held all three top trumps. Bidding 2NT would show the appropriate strength but my club holding was much too weak for that call. Reasoning that opener apparently held strong clubs for his bid, I decided to make a so called "long suit" or "help suit" game try of 3D. Eureka! Partner jumped to 4H and all passed. The opening lead was the ♣K. Down came the dummy with ♠xxxx ♥653 ♦AKJ ♣xx. Opening leader continued with the ♣A, dropping his partner's queen. Holding the high ♣J, I nevertheless wasted the ♥6 on the third lead, RHO overtrumping for the third defensive trick. There were no more high card tricks for the defense and the trumps broke favorably, so we made ten tricks and 4H, consisting of one spade, five hearts and four diamonds, for a lucky dummy and trump division but a well earned split top on the board. Only three pairs reached 4H, so they each collected all but 1 1/2 matchpoints on that "difficult to reach game" hand. Matchpoints is not a game which favors aggressive "close" game bidding but going slightly against the odds assuredly paid off in this case.

### Rosenblum Sectional firsts

#### Thurs AM

**0-20** Janice Medlin & Joanne Hilton

**Open Pairs** William Weiss & John Onstott; Mary Regottaz & Charles Waldrop Flt B

**299er Pairs** Diana Powell & Janice Zazulak; Kathy Gilmore & Barbara Fitz-Hugh Flt F

#### Thurs PM

**Open Pairs** Dana Hastings & Frances Schenk; Carolyn York & Betty Townsend Flt B

**299er Pairs** Ruth Rosenthal & Jean Frank; Molly Sylvia & Kathryn Talbot Flt F

#### Fri AM

**Open Pairs** Bob Bowers & John Onstott; Rufus Harris & Louise Saik Flt B; David Williams & Toby Young Flt C

**299er Pairs** Ruth Rosenthal & Jean Frank; Molly Sylvia & Kathryn Talbot Flt F

#### Fri PM

**Open Pairs** Ellie Brammell & Marlene Ruckert; David Williams & Toby Young Flt C

**299er Pairs** Louie Harris & Shirley Friend; Molly Sylvia & Kathryn Talbot Flt F

#### Sat AM

**Open Pairs** Todd Lusk & C Reis; Susan Gibbens & Suzanne Baer Flt C

**299er Pairs** Marva Arceneaux & Stephanie Rhodes Navarre

#### Sat PM

**Open Pairs** C.Reis & Todd Lusk--Paul Deal & Jan Galey (tie); C.Reis & Todd Lusk Flt B outright win; Ray Gandolfi-Jackie Madden Flt C

**299er Pairs** Linda Conner & Barbara Fitz-Hugh

#### Sun Swiss

**Bkt 1** Bob Bowers-Chuck Pitard-Rick Logan-Jamie Bush

**Bkt 2** Beth Todd-David Wolf-JF Lowenstein-David Williams

### Easy Double Dummy Problem

Last 4 tricks of a NT contract. North on lead, needs 3 tricks. Assume best play all around, and that everyone knows where all 16 remaining cards are.

	North	
	♠AQ2	
	♣2	East
West		♠KJ
♠1098		♥87
♣A		
	South	
	♥AKQ	
	♣3	

*Solution on next page*

## When the bidding system fits the hand like a glove

By Arnaldo Partesotti

At the recent Natalie and Julius Rosenblum Sectional you pick up this pretty hand: ♠K98 ♥KJ5 ♦KJ96543 ♣-- . And you hear partner open 1NT with ♠AJ5 ♥QT84 ♦A62 ♣KQ4.

You have visions of slam, but how do you get there? First you transfer to diamonds by bidding 2NT, on which partner bids 3♦. You play "if you like it you bid it" so partner likes diamonds, if he did not like them (he had no support) he would have bid 3♣. Looking at your hand, partner must have ♦AQ(x) or ♦Ax(x) or ♦Qxx or, possible but not likely, ♦xxxx. Following a transfer to diamonds your choices are simple: you pass (or correct 3♣ to 3♦) with a weak hand, bid 3NT with a hand good for game but not good enough for slam, or cue-bid with visions of slam. You play Italian control bids (cue-bids), bidding indifferently first or second round controls, with the exception that the first control bid by either partner is a first round control. You bid 4♣, which gives partner plenty of information: you have a diamond suit good enough for slam, you have a first round control in clubs, and you do not have a first round control in hearts or spades, or you would have bid them ahead of clubs. Partner now has doubts only about the heart suit, so he bids 4♦ which is not a sign off (your 4♣ cue-bid invited slam and forced to game) but confirms a control in diamonds (the A, seeing your cards) and gives you space for another bid, which you oblige by bidding 4♥ (again, this can only be a second round control or you would have bid 3♥ over 3♦). Partner now knows that you are missing the ♥A, he holds the ♠A and bids 6♦, presumably you have the ♠K and/or the ♣A or the slam will depend at the most on a finesse for the ♠K or a ruffing finesse for the ♣A. The slam is actually lay-down. Well done and... good system!

**Post mortem:** only five of twenty-seven pairs bid this slam, which is lay-down. Most of the other pairs bid 3 NT, which is always a good bid at matchpoints but... should not this give you some thoughts about your system and bidding agreements? For the record, because of bad judgment, I ended up in 5♣ making six for a near zero. You have company...

### Solution to Double Dummy Problem.

North should play the ♠A and then the ♠2. This will throw East in, who must then lead a heart giving South the last two tricks. When North plays the ♠A, East should unblock the ♠K to try to avoid the throw in. If North then carelessly plays the ♠Q, that will be the last trick for North-South, as West will gain the lead at trick 3 and also win trick 4. But if North properly plays the ♠2 at trick 2, East will be thrown in and give up the last two tricks.