

Louisiana Bridge Association December 2016

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbℓ@cox.net

President's Message December 2016

The success of our November tournament was largely due to the efforts of Jackie Madden, Colleen Walker and Sharon Henry. They did a great job but have declined my offer to make them permanent chairs. We need some other folks to step up and volunteer.

I am delighted to announce that, for the ninth time, the Louisiana Bridge Assn. will sponsor a sectional tournament at sea. It's a nine day cruise on the Norwegian Pearl that leaves New Orleans on November 26th 2017 and returns to New Orleans on December 5th 2017. This is a Western Caribbean cruise with stops in Mexico, Grand Cayman, Honduras, Guatemala and Belize.

To book the trip and reserve your place in the bridge tournament (space is limited) please contact Chris Beasley at McGeehee Travel. Her number is 985-626-5454. Cruise flyers have been posted on our bulletin boards and are also available near our entrance doors.

Don't forget to sign up for our Holiday parties. The nighttime party is December 10th. The bar opens at 5:30, dinner is at 6:00 and bridge starts at 7:00. ACBL members pay only \$6.00 for dinner and bridge. Dinner is \$10.00 for non players and non members. My thanks to Sharon Henry who volunteered to coordinate this event. Again. We will have our daytime potluck party at noon on December 16th. We rely on food donations by our members for this event.

Larry Federico

December Events

(* = Extra points, ** = Extra pts, no extra fee)

Dec 8-11 Baton Rouge Sectional Thurs-Sun

Dec 10 Holiday Party Unit Championship
Sat Night**

Dec 12 – Inter-Club Championship Mon AM*
\$7.00 entry

Dec 16 – Holiday Potluck Fri noon
Unit Championship**

In Memoriam

Lil Breen

NEW MEMBERS

Barry "BJ" Baroni, Linda Neill,
Sue Himel (transfer)

(more Metairie Sectional Firsts)

Sat PM

Open David Williams & JF Lowenstein; William Langston & Ron Ashby Flt C

299er Myra Groome & Carolyn Dubois

Sunday Swiss

Bkt 1 Jason Holliday-Frances Schenk-Carol Hawley-Janice Henderson

Bkt 2 Beth Todd-JF Lowenstein-Toby Young-David Williams

Metairie Sectional Firsts

Thurs AM

Open Iype Koshy & Wayne Weisler; Bobby Gattuso & Jerrilyn Stumpf Flt B; Mary LeBlanc & Jean Faia Flt C

299er Linda Conner & Molly Sylvia **74.20%**; William & Elizabeth Sewell Flt E; Martha Baldwin & Cecile Ruiz Flt F

Thurs PM

Open Eleanor Onstott & Drew Casen; Doug DeMontluzin & JoAnn Ippolito Flt B; Karen Dugan & Ellen Lappa Flt C

299er Marylou Gilligan & Andree Herrington

Fri AM

Open Suzanne Cliffe & Betty Schwall; Pat Ellis & Di Lapeyre Flt C

299er Bernard Vanderlinden & Ronald Ocmund; Shirley Rhode & Freida Johnson Flt F

Fri PM

Open James Bush & Richard Logan **70.05%**; Jim Thornton & Marlene Ruckert Flt B; Dianne Butler & Susan Guarisco Flt C

299er Mike Lappa & Sheryl Thompson; Myra Groome & Diana Powell Flt E; Martha Baldwin & Cecile Ruiz Flt F

Sat AM

Open David Williams & JF Lowenstein; Sharon Henry & Michael Longmeier Flt C

299er Linda Conner & Lynn Flynn; Bernard Vanderlinden & Ronald Ocmund Flt F

(continued in column at left)

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Alfred Arnold, Frieda Johnson

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Delphine Butler, Claudine Cannon, Lydia Scanlon, Mary Smith, Linda Vining

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Lloyd Armstrong, Andree Herrington, Verline Olinde, J Michael Russell

NEW NABC MASTER

Muffin Balart

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

William Weed

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Janell Eberhart

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Susan Sommer

70 pct games—see also Metairie Sectional Results, p.1

Open Pairs

Oct 31 eve Judy Katz & Joan Van Geffen 71.13%

Nov 17 Judy Katz & Donald Daigle 72.22%

Nov 25 Judy Katz & Joan Van Geffen 71.45%

299er Pairs

Nov 14 Carl Koppels & Pamela Marinaro 72.62%

99er Pairs

Nov 18 Janet Genusa & Shirley Mirambell 74.80%

Road Warriors

Paul Rosenblum & Jacob Karno, firsts in Fri AND Sat Gold Rush Pairs **Abilene TX Regional** AND tie for first, Thurs Gold Rush Pairs, **Daytona Beach Regional**.

Procedural Penalties

by Jennie Flynn Sauviac

Law 90 Procedural Penalties

The Director, in addition to implementing the rectifications in these Laws, may also assess procedural penalties for any offense that unduly delays or obstructs the game, inconveniences other contestants, violates correct procedure or requires the award of an adjusted score at another table.

Offenses subject to Procedural Penalty

The following are examples of offenses subject to procedural penalties (but the offenses are not limited to these)

1. arrival of a contestant after the specified starting time
2. unduly slow play by a contestant
3. discussion of the bidding, play or result of a board which may be overheard at another table
4. unauthorized comparison of scores with another contestant
5. touching or handling of cards belonging to another player
6. placing one or more cards in an incorrect pocket of the board
7. errors in procedure (such as failure to count cards in one's hand, playing the wrong board, etc.) that require an adjusted score for any contestant
8. failure to comply promptly with tournament regulations or with instructions of the Director

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH. A potentially difficult bidding situation arose in a weekly club duplicate session. Partner opened 1C in first seat and my RHO quickly cuebid 2C, explained to be "Michaels," showing 5/5 or so in the majors. And there I was, vulnerable against non-vulnerable, holding ♠Qxxx ♥Jx ♦KQJ10x ♣Ax. Every regular partnership should have an agreed artificial defense against two suited overcalls such as "Michaels" and the "Unusual NT," such defenses typically referred to as "Unusual over Unusual," and I recalled that ours is rather complex, an explanation of which will be deferred until another column on that subject would be more appropriate. (For now, it suffices to say that a bid of 2D, normally forcing by an unpassed hand, would have only been competitive over Michaels, so a stronger response was in order.) From many years of experience in bidding in competitive auctions, I have learned that even at the highest levels, at which artificial bids can accurately indicate what contract might be makable but which at the same time tell the defense about your weaknesses, it is often "correct" to do the simple thing and immediately bid what you think you can make. In this instance the "softness" of my potential major suit stoppers indicated that it was highly unlikely that my hand would produce a slam but that it was indeed likely that combining my partner's opening hand and mine would produce a game. The question was, therefore, what was our most likely game? After a short delay for thought about that issue and the fact that this was a matchpoint event, in which an occasional unmakeable contract only results in one bad board out of 26, I avoided bidding 5C or 5D, which are frequently poor matchpoint contracts, and I shut my eyes and bid 3NT, hoping for the best and that opponents would not run the heart suit for a quick set. A heart was lead, as expected, and I held my breath until dummy was faced, revealing an unbalanced but highly satisfactory hand of ♠A ♥Qxx ♦Axx ♣KQJxxx. (Would top level matchpoint players consider this hand to be a "modern" 1NT opener at duplicate scoring? I think the hand is too good for that questionable treatment.) Making 5NT after bidding a "Gambling 3NT" was rewarded by a split top and a winning session.

ADDENDUM: On the theory that honesty is the best policy, I am forced to admit that over my "Gambling 3NT" bid my partner bid 5C, the bid which would have been more appropriate at rubber bridge, total point or Swiss Team scoring. Making 5C resulted in an average minus matchpoint score, relegating our partnership to once again being a bridesmaid rather than a bride and finishing second. THE END.

Power Cue-Bids by Iype Koshy

This is the first in a series of lesson columns by Iype. Iype intends these columns for intermediate to advanced players.

Two bridge experts playing together had a disaster on the following deal.

Player A: ♠AK ♥x ♦AKJ9x ♣KQ98x Player B: ♠QJ108xxx ♥Kxx ♦Void ♣A10x

Player A opened 1 Diamond. The next player overcalled 1 Heart. Player B bid 1 Spade. The next player passed. Player A jumped to 3 Clubs, intending his bid to be game-forcing. After the overcaller's pass, Player B bid 4 Spades, ending the auction. Obviously Player B didn't take partner's 3 Club bid as game-forcing. As a result, the pair missed a lay-down slam.

Where did the bidding go wrong? In my opinion, Player A should have made a Power Cue-Bid of 2 Hearts (game-forcing, guaranteeing 19 plus points) at his second turn to bid. Over that, Player B should jump to 3 Spades, guaranteeing a 6-card or longer suit and a decent hand. Over 3 Spades, Player A can take control of the hand by bidding Roman Key Card Blackwood and ultimately bidding a small slam in spades.

Most of the conventions we use as a partnership (with no interference) are off the moment either opponent interferes (for example: Forcing No Trump, Drury, Jacoby Two No Trump, New Minor Suit Forcing, Fourth Suit Forcing, Reverse, Jump Shifts, and even Two Over One). When there is interference in the form of an overcall, a cue-bid is available for both parties (opener and responder) to create a game-force. Responder's Power Cue-bid would promise 12 plus points and therefore game values.

The next question is what kind of a hand Player A should have had when he jumped to 3 Clubs. In that auction, considering the interference, he could have had any of the following four hands:

(1) ♠x ♥Qx ♦AKQxx ♣KQJ10x (2) ♠x ♥x ♦AKQ10xx, ♣KQJxx
(3) ♠K ♥xx ♦AKQJx ♣KQJxx (4) ♠Kx ♥Q ♦AKJ10x, ♣KQ9xx.

Player A held a much stronger hand than any of the previous four hands. He had AK of his partner's 5-card suit, a singleton in the opponent's suit, two powerful 5-card suits, and a total of 20 HCP. His Power Cue-bid would have saved the day!

Egregious bids and plays - Part 1 by Arnaldo Partesotti

When you read about bridge hands, most of the times - but not always - it is about some good or exceptional bidding and play. Today instead I want to write about a real bad result and, since I was the victim... of my own bad judgment, there is nobody else to blame. Plus, this is Thanksgiving, when the turkeys come a-callin, you may stick your fork into me!

In first seat I pick-up: ♠QJ532 ♥K7652 ♦AKT ♣VOID. I like this hand, with the two five-card majors (even if they are full of holes), the side AK and the void. I open 1♠, LHO unexpectedly bids 2♥, partner cue-bids 3♥ and RHO passes. I am pretty sure partner has good spades support, a void in hearts (because of the bidding, my cards and the law of symmetry - but it could be a singleton), top values in clubs and, maybe, some diamonds support. I should cue-bid 4♣ but I do not want to confuse partner with the good clubs which he holds for sure, so I bid 4♦ instead. Partner bids 4♠ and now it is up to me. Let's see: partner did not bid 4♥, which would have confirmed a void, and 4♠ was the most discouraging bid he could make. If I bid 4NT 1430, with an Ace and a void he will bid 6♠ and I will there anyway (and you live only once) so I jump to 6♠. Disaster strikes when LHO doubles and cashes the A and K of Spades!

The full hand:

♠T874	
♥VOID	
♦8432	
♣AKT87	
♠AK	♠96
♥QJT94	♥A83
♦J6	♦Q975
♣QJ63	♣9542
	♠QJ532
	♥K7652
	♦AKT
	♣VOID

OK, I am not very proud of myself for bidding a slam missing the two top trumps. But I am not alone: a world-class Dutch pair did it some years ago at the European championships, and one of the top Norwegian pairs did it this year at the 2016 World Bridge Games (ex-Olympiads) in Poland. I could not be in better company!

Post mortem: It is easy to find faults when this stuff happens. I think partner was a bit too light for his 3♥ bid (it's always partner's fault anyway...) I think I should have passed partner's 4♠ bid with my weak trumps. Or, I could have bid 5♠ instead of jumping to 6♠, and probably we would have stopped in 5♠. The best bid probably would have been a jump to 5♣ (Exclusion Blackwood) over partner's 3♥. Partner would respond 5♦, no A or K outside of Clubs, and we would have stopped in 5♠. But then I would have no story to tell you...