



Louisiana Bridge Association January 2018

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbl@cox.net

President's Message January 2018

I want to pass on some good news. Our late friend and everyone's favorite curmudgeon, **Marcie Pick**, left the Unit \$20,000 for our general use. Suggestions as to the best use of the monies will be appreciated. If you know her sons, please thank them when you next see them.

Unit Elections will be held the week of the January sectional and the slate of candidates is outstanding. It will be hard to decide who to support but in any event I know the new BOD will collectively do a great job. The remaining board members and the outgoing will do whatever is necessary to ensure a smooth transition. The newly elected Board members will quickly learn (if they don't already know), that the position requires both time and effort to effect positive changes. Please give them your support and vote for only those that you feel will meet the challenge.

Along with the elections, we will have our **January Sectional** starting on Thursday the 11th. Beth Todd and Linda Conner will be Chairpersons. Please help them out in any way you can.

This will be **my last message as your President**. While there were always differing views on the many subjects that came before the BOD, they were all resolved in a reasonable manner and hopefully I remain friends with all who had differing opinions. Please know that whatever was decided, all decisions were made with a focus on what was in the best interest of this great game with no other agenda operating behind the scenes. IT WAS FUN!!!

Unit Vice President Larry Federico, Secretary Vicki Willis, Ben McKown and I will be leaving the Board after the election. The Unit is in better shape financially, membership is up and we are getting younger!!! That aside, this great game is supposed to be fun and if you did not have fun, the year was not a success. Thanks to all the volunteers and directors who contributed so much. We know who you are and your hard work is appreciated.

See you at the tables!!

Jim Thornton

January Events

*= extra points, no extra fees

**=extra points, extra fees

Jan 2 Junior Fund Game** Tues

Jan 5 Unit Championship* Fri

Jan 8 Junior Fund Game** Mon night

Jan 8-14 Shreveport Regional

Jan 11-14 Metairie Sectional Thurs-Sun

Jan 15 Unit Championship* Mon night

Jan 19-21 Gulfport Sectional Fri-Sun

Jan 23 ACBLwide Jr. Fund Game** Tues aft

Jan 25 Unit Championship* Thurs

Jan 26-28 Jackson Sectional Fri-Sun

Jan 27-28 NAOP District Finals

Jan 29 Unit Championship* Mon

LBA BOD Candidates

As noted in Jim's message above, we will be electing four new members to the LBA Board in January. The candidates (in alphabetical order) are **Suzanne Cliffe, Barbara Fitz-Hugh, Linda Freese, Sherrie Goodman, JF "Lowen" Lowenstein, Hunter McFadden, and Jennie Flynn Sauviac**. Check our club website for bios and more info.

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2017 Wednesday Grand Slam Contest.

The winner of the 2017 Wed Grand Slam Contest is Joan Van Geffen. It was a very close race that went down to the last Wednesday. Larry and John Federico and Sherrie Goodman finished right behind Joan.

For future reference, recall that for this contest, only Wednesday grand slams count, and those count only when the slammer is in the jackpot.

70% Games

99er pairs Dec 10 Quin Bates & Peck Hayne 77.27%

Fast pairs Dec 21 Larry Federico & John Federico 70.18%

299er pairs Dec 26 Kathryn Wilson & Judee Flotron 70.67%
Dec 28 Kitty Klaus & Denise Tabor 71.14%

NEW MEMBERS

Bruce Butler, Wayne Delarge, Priscilla Whittington

Baton Rouge Sectional Firsts

Thurs AM Open *Idell Adams & Larry Federico*

Thurs PM Open *Chuck Pitard & Allan Siebert*

Fri PM Open *Eleanor Onstott & Jean Talbot*

299er Flt F Peck Hayne & Paul Brady

Sat AM Open *Eleanor Onstott & Jean Talbot*

Sun Swiss Brkt 2 *Beth Todd-David Wolff-Paul Deal-Jacob Karno*

STaCkeroos Event Firsts in recent STAC

Mon AM 499 *Linda Conner & Elizabeth Cordes*

Thurs eve open *Di Lapeyre & Molly Sylvia*

Fri AM 99 *Janet Bean & Tink Friedrichs*

Rank Advancements

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Marion Bruno, Debby Habig, Terry Habig, Carole Katz, Jack Kienzle

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Robert Reich, Diane Scott

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Theodore Brandon, Sandra Broussard, Sarah Luchsinger, Ellen Manshel, Denise Tabor, Wayne Wells

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

J Michael Russell

NEW NABC MASTERS

William McDonald, Morris Place Jr, Molly Silvia

NEW LIFE MASTER

Dr William Weed

San Diego NABC achievers (see also Dec Kibitzer)

Regionally rated Firsts

Reese Koppel Sat Morn Side Pairs

Sue Himel Sunday Day A/B/C Swiss

JF Lowenstein & Beth Todd Sunday B/C/D Swiss

JF Lowenstein & Eleanor Onstott Monday B/C Pairs

NABC rated outcomes

Bob Bowers & Jacob Karno 24th Super Senior Pairs

Drew Casen-John Onstott 31/32 Mitchell BAM

Total masterpoints

John Onstott 68.49

Drew Casen 68.49

J.F. Lowenstein 65.84

Eleanor Onstott 50.56

Sue Himel 38.96

Beth Todd 38.82

Jacob Karno 24.80

Bob Bowers 24.80

Reese Koppel 8.72

Martha Robson 2.03

December Wednesday Grand Slams

Dec 6 Paul Deal & Beth Todd, Bill Weiss & Don Daigle, Jim Thornton & Henry Bodenheimer, Bill Geary & Daisy Vandenburg

Dec 27 Joan Van Geffen & Dee Moses

Reese Koppel's Bridge Adventures

Though still a high school senior, Reese went to San Diego for the NABC, and then captained a team in the USBF Under21 Junior trials in Atlanta, the winner of which will represent the US in China. Though his team performed creditably, they have now been eliminated. Keep up the good work Reese! We are proud of you.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH. At matchpoints, and only at matchpoints, it is occasionally "correct," if the odds are sufficiently in your favor, to risk not making a cold contract in order to gain an overtrick or two. My guess is that the odds should be at least three to one in your favor to risk being set in a cold contract because of reaching for an overtrick. At the risk of being called "too conservative," I stress that even at matchpoints it is important to be sure of making your contract whenever possible. Here's an example of the type of risk about which I am speaking/writing.

	N	
	♠Q10x	
	♥AJxxx	
	♦K	
	♣QJ9x	
W		E
♠Axx		♠Jxx
♥xx		♥K10xx
♦J10xxx		♦xxx
♣Kxx		♣xxx
	S	
	♠K9xx	
	♥Qx	
	♦AQxx	
	♣A10x	

South opened 1NT and the auction proceeded 1NT-2D-2H-3NT, with no adverse bidding. West naturally led a diamond, won in the dummy with the singleton ♦K, the issue being where to go from that point. Declarer correctly led a low heart to his ♥Q, which held. Facing another crossroad decision, it was tempting for declarer to lead a spade toward dummy and to finesse the ♠10 but second thoughts prevented him from doing so. How could declarer possibly tell in which direction to finesse against the missing ♠J? He couldn't tell, nor could you if at the table. That play could potentially expose declarer to the loss of two spades, a heart, a club and a couple of diamonds when run out of stoppers in opening leader's suit. It was also tempting to cross to the ♥A and take the club finesse but that line also presented a serious risk of eventually losing five tricks. And transportation between the dummy and declarer's hand was also somewhat problematical. Taking everything into consideration, the correct play to insure nine tricks plus continuing transportation between the two hands appears to be playing the ♣10 to locate the ♣K. If the ♣10 loses to the ♣K, win the next trick and play a spade toward a high honor, establishing and in due course cashing three clubs, three diamonds, two hearts and a spade. If the ♣10 is ducked, play a spade to dummy's queen and return to clubs at first opportunity whether the spade wins or loses. Nine tricks are virtually guaranteed and you might even make ten if the ♠J falls doubleton. Yes, even at matchpoints it is often best to play as safely as possible to make your contract when there are as many pitfalls and losing play options available as there happen to be in this example. You won't often get a poor matchpoint score on a board by guaranteeing the making of your bid contract in difficult to impossible to diagnose lie of the cards hands such as this one.

Six Aces? by Arnaldo Partesotti

Some gadgets almost never come up, but when they do they are very useful. So much better if they do not tax your/your trusted partner's memory, and cause unwanted misunderstandings.

We recently ran into a situation where we bid two agreed and supported suits on our way to slam, and should have used a gadget known by its abbreviated designation 6A-RKCB or Six Ace Blackwood, (more technically Six Ace Roman Keycard Blackwood). The 6A-RKCB asks for six known Key Cards, the four Aces, and the two Kings in the suits bid. It also allows for finding out about the two queens in the suits bid. The beauty of this convention is that it uses, in one of its variations, the same scheme used in 1430 RKCB, with some additions, so it does not tax your memory. Here is the scheme:

<u>Asking Bid</u>	<u>Responses</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
4 NT	5♣	Shows 1 or 4 Key Cards.
	5♦	Shows 0 or 3 Key Cards.
	5♥	Shows 2 (or 5) Key Cards. Denies possession of either of the two Queens.
	5♠	Shows 2 (or 5) Key Cards. Promises 1 of the 2 Queens.
	5 NT	Shows (2 or 5) Key Cards. Promises both of the 2 Queens.
	6 any	Shows 3 Key Cards with a void in the suit bid (if the void is above the two proposed trump suits, bid 6 of the suit you want as trump).

Queen Ask

After a 5♣ first response, the 4NT asker can bid 5♦ to ask about the 2 Queens. The responses:

5♥: Denies having either of the two Queens.

5♠: Shows one of the two Queens.

5 NT: Shows both of the two Queens.

6 (x): A 6 level bid shows all Key Cards, both Queens and the King of the bid suit. Notice that the same principle may apply to a 5♦ response, where 5♥ asks for the Queens. Same responses as above, one step higher.

An Example (Modified from recent play)

<u>You</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>Partner</u>	
♠AQxxx	♠KJx	1♠	2♣	You play 2/1
♥A	♥KQx	3♣	3♠	You have two suits supported
♦Ax	♦Kxx	4NT	5♠	Asking 6A-RKCB/Shows 2 key-cards and 1 Queen
♣Txxxx	♣AQJx	6♠	P	You have both Queens but a Key-card is missing.

In real life we bid up to 6♠ which made 7 for a slightly below average result. Two pairs bid 7♠ missing the ♣K (a 50% slam, they were lucky, the ♣K was in the right position), three pairs bid 6NT (excellent!) and two pairs did not bid slam (awful). It would be very difficult to bid 6NT with this system, cue-bids instead of 6A-RKCB might do the trick, nobody is perfect.

TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME EXPERIENCE

(Part One)

Your game director is not only responsible for setting up and scoring the bridge game, but also for the smooth and timely flow of the game. Today's column focuses on procedures, etiquette and common sense that help a bridge game move along efficiently and keep the director happy. Bridge, by law, is a timed event so anything the players can do to make more time available to actually play a hand helps us all. Today's column provides some tips to help players do just that.

If you are sitting North/South please pass the boards as you finish playing them. If the next table is ready to play early it will prevent the director from having to interrupt your play of the next hand to get a board to move to the next table. If you are sitting East/West please get up from the table when you are finished playing the round. This frees up the North/South pair to start the next round as soon as the next pair is free. If you are finished early and don't want to (or can't) stand very long there are nearly always numerous empty chairs available in our club.

When you are on opening lead please lead before you write down the contract. If you are North, please lead before you record the contract in the Bridgmate. This saves a few seconds on each hand and will add up over the course of the game.

Discussing the hands causes more players to be late than any other thing except director calls. You have hand records available to help you remember the hands. Circle the hands on your score sheet that you want to discuss with your partner and do it later. This is not the first time any player has seen this comment. It really does apply to you and your partner on every single hand. If you play quickly enough you may have time to discuss the hand before the next round begins. If not, save it until after the game or the next break.

Since calling the director to intervene takes up a lot of your playing time it is to your advantage to not have to call the director. The most common director call is an opening lead out of turn. Years ago the ACBL invented a device to avoid opening leads out of turn nearly 100% of the time. It is the face down opening lead. You should get into the habit of leading face down all of the time. Lead face down and ask partner if they have any questions. If there are no questions turn the lead face up. This takes very little time and would prevent nearly all opening leads out of turn.

—Sue Himel