

KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association February 2022

Editor – Diana Powell with help from Sherrie Goodman and
Jim Thornton email: dspowell10@gmail.com

President's Message February 2022

Happy New Year to all our members. We got the year off to a great start with a successful sectional tournament. Susan Beoubay and Maryann Joyner did a wonderful job as co-chairs and are owed a debt of gratitude as is Lucinda Stentz for handling the partnership desk.

Former president Carolyn Dubois worked tirelessly to put together a team to conduct our annual election. Many thanks to Carolyn and her workers for doing a great job under difficult circumstances. Congratulation to all of the newly elected board members. You will find them listed on our website. I consider myself very fortunate to have a very willing and capable team to work with.

When the club reopens January 31st with a regular schedule, proof of covid vaccinations will still be required but masks will be optional. To make the club as safe as possible, the board has authorized the continuation of game day fogging by our janitorial service through the end of February.

Larry Federico

At the LBA Face-to-Face:

We reopen on January 31 and will be so happy to see you. This first week back will be Upgraded Club Championship Week. All games will receive better than double points, so grab your favorite partners and make sure you get here early! The second week of February is Education Fund week. All games have an extra \$1 charge, but you will earn double points and it's for a good cause. Education is the most important thing for the future of bridge, our favorite pastime. The third week of February is STAC Week (Sectional Tournament at the Club). Silver points will be awarded. The fourth week of February will be another Education Fund Week. Lots of points to earn at the club. Welcome back!

At the Virtual Club:

Silver Linings Week was a tremendous success! We had the largest crowd ever, and the players earned the most points ever at our club. There were 1754 Silver Master Points earned by 2515 players. For a complete list of the masterpoints earned, check out our website at www.la-bridge.com. There are other special events to look forward to. Next month we have double red & black points for Valentine's weekend. Double black points will be awarded during the Education Fund Games the week of February 21-27. In late April, there will be another Stardust Week, so you will have a chance to earn some gold points!

While the club was closed, Kathy Plauche managed to get her beginners playing their first games online. She followed up with zoom meetings to go over the hands. I know the face-to-face students will be happy to get back to the club.

Sherrie Goodman

Redoubles

By Sue Himel

The SOS redouble is the most aptly named convention in bridge. SOS (Save Our Ship) is a universal call for help or rescue, and so it is at the bridge table also.

Rule: When a takeout double has been passed for penalty by one of your opponents, a redouble by your side begs partner to bid something else.

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
1C	X	Pass	Pass
XX	Pass	?	

You hold:

S JT542 H 93 D Q32 C J54

Bid 1S. Partner will have a tolerance for spades or he would have bid another suit himself.

S K6 H 9854 D 73 C T9542

Pass. I would not bid that heart suit. If partner had four hearts he might have bid the suit himself. And I certainly don't want to end up in a 4-3 fit on this hand. You have 5 clubs for partner and a potential trick in spades. Take your chances in a 1C contract.

Partner	RHO	You	LHO
1D	Pass	Pass	X
Pass	Pass	?	

You hold:

S J842 H T6542 D - C QJ96

Redouble. You are happy for partner to bid any suit other than diamonds.

S QT943 H J73 D 32 C T64

Bid 1S. Don't redouble here. Partner already knows you have a bad hand and you do not want him to bid hearts or diamonds.

Paul's Deal of the Month

The purpose of our next series of columns is to demonstrate that it is not just high cards but also shape, sometimes referred to as "playing tricks," that produce winning hands. These hands were actually played at my table in recent BBO ACBL tournament. I will give you our bidding and leave it up to the readers to provoke discussion. So here goes.

The opponents passed throughout the auction.

North	East	South	West
P	P	2C	P
2D	P	2H	P
4D *	P	5C	P
6H			

* Splinter - showing at least 4 hearts and a singleton diamond

This is a classic example of dummy bidding what he thought the hand would make with that shape, disregarding the lack of hcp cards except for the sterling ace of spades. Of course, the spade ace covered opener's singleton, the hearts broke 3/2, dummy's singleton took care of the losing diamond, and the club finesse was "on," so we made seven! We consider seven to be unbidable, a real wild shot on a finesse for a Grand Slam.

So test yourselves and discuss how your bidding would have developed and what contract would have been your final word on this splendid hand.

N Deals	
N	
 Axxxx	
 98xxx	
 x	
 xx	
S	
 x	
 AKQ10x	
 AKx	
 AQxx	
Non- Vulnerable	

DIRECTOR, PLEASE!

Bridge players can be unsure about when to call the director. Directors are there for you. Call them for any irregularity, or any time you have a question.

How do you call the director? At the face-to-face club, say something to the table such as, "This is an irregularity," raise your hand, and say "Director, please." In addition, you may have the option of pushing a button on your Bridgemate to call the director. Some clubs have this option. At the virtual club, there is a blue box with three lines. When you click on that box, one of the options is Call Director. If you choose this option, BBO will ask you to state why. Say something like "hesitation," or "no response from East."

Why do you call the director? At the face-to-face club, directors handle such issues as bidding or playing out of turn, hesitations, or mistaken explanations. At the virtual club, BBO prevents us from bidding or playing out of turn. However, we still have the problem of hesitations and mistaken explanations.

Are there other reasons to call the director? At both the face-to-face club and the virtual club, directors can get calls for irritating behavior. Both clubs have a zero tolerance policy. If the opponents are doing something irritating (well, not counting making that doubled contract), call the director. Zero tolerance means no gloating, no lecturing, no belittling remarks, nothing.

Do opponents' questions count as irritating behavior? Opponents may ask questions about the meaning of a bid. For example, you open 2D. The opponents may ask what the 2D means. Opponents are not required to look at your Convention Card to discover the meaning. When the opponent asks about 2D, your answer might be "Weak," or "Flannery: 5 hearts, 4 spades," or something else, depending on your partnership agreement. If you make a bid that you consider to be a normal bid, and the opponent asks, it is reasonable to say "No agreement," if indeed you have no agreement. At the face-to-face club, opponents ask YOUR PARTNER about YOUR bid. At the virtual club, you must self-alert, or answer their questions about your own bid. At the virtual club, answer privately, not to the whole table. At both face-to-face and virtual clubs, if you mistakenly make a wrong bid, DO NOT CONFESS. At the virtual club, if you misclick and they ask, answer their question based on your partnership agreement. Make your answer private, not to the whole table. Save confessions until the hand is over or mass on Sunday.

BRIDGE ADVANCEMENTS

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Junior Master: Deborah Lloyd, Gary Lloyd

Sectional Master: Matti Hietalahti, Diane Share

Regional Master: Debby Habig, Terry Habig

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Deborah Lloyd
Gary Lloyd
Doug Matthews
Paige Morrison

MEMBERS NEW TO OUR UNIT

Janice Gleason
Lcol John K. Selfe
Jane Rhea R Vernier

70 % GAMES

1/3	Open	Sherrie Goodman	70.68%
1/4	Open – Club	Jackie Madden – Wayne Weisler	73.53%
1/5	Open	Jacob Karno	70.75%
1/18	Open	John Onstott	71.97%
1/25	99	Mary Beth Fine - Ann Jennings	70.00%
1/28	499	Mercedes and Wayne Well	70.51%
1/29	Open	Jean Talbot – Joan Van Geffen	72.44%
1/30	Swiss	Kathy Logue - Jim Thornton - Sherrie Goodman	74.00%

UPCOMING EVENTS

At the Club

Jan. 31 – Feb. 4: Upgraded Club Championship Week-double points+

Feb. 7-11: Education Fund Week- double points

Feb. 14-18: STAC Week- Silver points awarded

Feb. 21-25: Education Fund Week

Virtual Club

Valentine's weekend: double red & black points

Feb. 21-27: Education Fund Week- double points

April 25-May 1: Stardust Week – gold points awarded