

Louisiana Bridge Association August 2018

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President's Message August 2018

Tournaments, holidays, vacations....we are busy this summer.

First, congratulations to **Reese Koppel**, who has been named **King of Bridge for the ACBL**. This award is made annually to an outstanding high school senior. See p.4 for more information on this.

Thank you to **Mary LeBlanc** and **Ellen Lappa** for organizing the **4th of July holiday lunch**. A big thanks to **Sharon Henry** who volunteered to direct the well-attended novice game that day. What a great turn-out on both sides!

Thank you to **Doris** and **John Liukkonen** for chairing the **July tournament** at our bridge club and to **Suzanne Cliffe** for organizing all the details. It was a great success thanks to all the players who contributed salads, dessert, time and effort during this tournament.

Upon thinking about our up-coming **Non-life Master Tournament Swiss Team games**, Sharon Henry decided to provide a venue for practice. Last month, one of her regular 299 games became a 299 Swiss Team game with mentors provided for each team. These practice games will help players get tons of points in the Non-life Master Tournament in April. Thanks to Sharon implementing this great opportunity and to Sherrie Goodman, Jackie Madden, Wayne Weisler, and Larry Federico for mentoring the players.

EASYBRIDGE! starts in September! Please tell all your bridge-eager friends to come out for the first classes with Elizabeth Sewell beginning at 9 am on Wednesday, September 12, or the evening classes beginning Monday, September 17, 7-9 pm. No registration is necessary...just show up and have fun!

If you are someone with a **structural engineering background, an architect or a contractor**, the board would like to consult with you on some of our **building issues**. Please see me!

Linda Freese

August Events

*= extra points, no extra fees

**=extra points, extra fees

Aug 1-4 Lake Charles Sectional Wed thru Sat
No Swiss teams!

Aug 2 NAOP Qualifier** Thurs Night

Aug 7 ACBLwide Junior Fund Game**
Tues Night

Aug 11 Unit Championship* Sat

Aug 13 NAOP Qualifier** Mon Night

Aug 17 NAOP Qualifier** Fri

Aug 23-26 Baton Rouge Sectional Thurs-Sun

Aug 27-Sept. 2 STAC WEEK** Mon-Sun

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Nancy Carson, Billy Groome, Bette Marks

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Angeline Christie, Shirley Friend, Mary-Madison Griswold, Peck Hayne, Hubert Herre

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Adesh Jain, Inda Kleinschmidt, John Treen

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

Virginia McMurray

NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTER

Idell Adams

Seventy Percent Games

Open Jun 29 Jamie Bush & John Onstott 73.38%

Jul 25 eve Stephen Kishner & David Woods 71%

99er Jun 29 Cheryl Hauver & Jim Koch 77.78%

Jul 6 Cheryl Hauver & Jim Koch 70.83%

Jul 22 Deborah Skorlich & Diane Scott 75%

Jul 23 Cheryl Hauver & Jim Koch 73.33%

NEW MEMBERS

Suzanne Brown, Neil Nadler

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In Memoriam
Rosemary Austin

Busby Sectional Firsts

Thurs AM

0-20 Debbie Reily & Dede Redfearn

299er Buddy Massey & Robert Reich; Gregory Ross & Helen Ross Flt F

Open Janice Henderson & Frances Schenk; Doug DeMontluzin & Joann Ippolito Flt B; Erin O'Sullivan & Paul Rosenblum Flt C

Thurs PM

299er Buddy Massey & Robert Reich; Diane Scott & Stacey Williams Flt F

Open Idell Adams & Larry Federico; Sheryl Thompson & Linda Conner Flt B

Fri AM

299er Buddy Massey & Robert Reich; Kathy Plauche & Mary Beth Fine Flt E

Open Joan Van Geffen & JF Lowenstein 77.46%; Pat Brion & Charles Brion Flt B

Fri PM

299er Ronald Omond & Gary Bergeron; John Treen & Quin Bates Flt E

Open Rick Logan & Jamie Bush; Ellie Brammell & Lynne Hand Flt B; Cappy McIver & Molly Sylvia Flt C

Sat AM

299er Kitty Klaus & Lucinda Stentz; Sarah Dabney Jacob & Quin Bates Flt F

Open Jay Segarra & Michael Moses; Marilyn Methvin & Red Hailey Flt B; Erin O'Sullivan & Reese Koppel Flt C

Sat PM

299er Mary Jane Gelpi & Annette McCaffery

Open Larry Federico & Idell Adams; Juanita Heidingsfelder & Erin O'Sullivan Flt B; Charles Brion & Pat Brion Flt C

Sun Swiss

Bkt 1 Chuck Pitard-Rick Logan-Jamie Bush-John Onstott

Bkt 2 (tie) Ellie Brammell-Colleen Walker-Jackie Madden-JoAnn Ippolito AND Keenan Romig-Lynn Giordano-Suzanne Cliffe-Juanita Heidingsfelder

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH Let's start with a question to set the scene for this month's sad bidding fiasco.

QUESTION: Under what circumstances is it appropriate to use Blackwood when the asker holds a low doubleton, tripleton or longer in an unbid suit? **ANSWER:** None! **THE REASON:** Unless the responder has every missing keycard, the asker cannot determine whether there are zero, one, two or more losers in the unbid suit. Here's a hand from a club game June 12th of 2017 which illustrates why that rule is a good one.

N	♠Axx	
	♥AKQxx	
	♦xxx	
	♣Qx	
W		E
♠K10x		♠QJ9xx
♥Jxxxx		♥xx
♦Jx		♦KQ109x
♣109x		♣x
S	♠xx	
	♥x	
	♦Axx	
	♣AKJ8xxx	

I sat South and opened 1C, vul vs not vul. West passed and my partner, North, responded 1H. East, with his weak two suiter, bid 1S, although 2NT (unusual or "sandwich" NT) would have been more descriptive. The South hand, an "in between" type, was slightly too light to jump to 3C, so I rebid 2C, itself a slight underbid. The auction had been and proceeded 1C-P-1H-1S-2C-P(shouldn't W have bid 2S?)-2S, North's 2S cuebid being ambiguous for the moment, either asking South for a spade stopper or showing game forcing strength, the meaning to be clarified in further bidding. Having no spade stopper, I had little choice but to rebid 3C, another slight underbid, made because I did not want to bypass 3NT, which North might wish to bid. To my pleasant surprise North raised to 4C. Readers, 4C "sounds" a bit like an invitational raise but it was a strong, game forcing call. Remember, North was an unpassed hand, had bid 1H forcing, had cuebid 2S, now known to be game forcing, was unlimited in strength and was supporting my thrice bid trump suit, so we were "on our way

to the races," so to speak, now that we had established "trump suit agreement in clubs." Holding an excellent club suit, the Ace of diamonds (an unbid suit), only one heart opposite a strong bidding North hand and only two spades opposite a now known spade control cuebid, I launched into 4D, so called "Minorwood" (kickback) asking for keycards, with clubs being trumps. That's when the roof caved in. When West asked what 4D meant, North replied that his 4C was "Minorwood" and that my 4D showed that I had only one keycard. North then bid 5C to sign off (by happenstance his correct response to my 4D to show two keycards plus the trump queen, which is what he held) and East passed. And there I was, fully aware that my partner had bid 5C, thinking that I had only one keycard, when I actually held three, which turned out to be all of the missing keycards. (My partner would have survived his "forbidden" Blackwood keycard ask when holding three losing unbid diamonds.) I initially thought of bidding 7C to correct partner's error (I held two keycards more than he thought I had), then I thought of bidding 6C on the theory that most pairs would play 6C with our cards, when I realized that I would likely be thought to be unethical if I bid anything more at all. So rightly or wrongly in my reasoning about "what was the ethical thing to do," I wrote the board off in my mind as a well earned "zero" and sadly said "I pass" as I put down the green card. (At matchpoints I have a self-imposed rule that I will not play five of a minor suit except on April Fools' Day.) And so I ask you, dear Reader, what would you have done if in my shoes that day? Bid 7C and gone down one, which would have been "poetic" justice? Bid 6C and feel guilty? Or pass 5C and write off the board as just another unfortunate bad result? Bridge can be such a tough game, especially in such unanticipated circumstances.

P.S. Some partnerships play that trump suit agreement at the four level, in this column North's 4C, is itself "Minorwood". With rare exception, our preference is otherwise, so that "agreement" is not the "ask", thereby making "kickback", in this case "4D" by South, the "ask". North's forgetting this rule is what caused the bidding confusion in our auction.

Fireworks! by Arnaldo Partesotti

When both pairs at the table hold two-suited hands, you never know who can make what. Sometimes both pairs can make game, and sometimes they both can even make a slam. It is usually said that the 5-level belongs to the opponents. In the case of 2-suited hands with a fit, however, my (not so solid) advice is to “bid on”, which is good insurance, particularly at IMPs. At matchpoints, who knows? Passing might be the right strategy.

Playing South recently, vulnerable against not, I held the usual collection of flies:

♠85 ♥J92 ♦AQ92 ♣T543

RHO (Dealer) opened 2♥, weak, I passed, and LHO bid 2♠. How do you play this with your trusted partner? Is it forcing to game, forcing 1 round, or not forcing at all (partner, we have a misfit and I believe that my Spades are better than your Hearts.) I do not have a suggestion, forcing 1 round is the common treatment, just make sure that you and Partner are on the same wavelength. Anyway, over 2♠ partner came alive with 4♦. Logic says that to make this bid, vulnerable, when I am holding the ♦A and ♦Q, Partner must have 7 or 8 Diamonds and a great distributional hand with values on the side. RHO bids 4♠, I bid 5♦ (I owe it to partner if he can bid 4 vulnerable on his own), LHO bids 5♠ which is passed around to me and I Double, everybody passing. The full hand is below left.

North V		
♠ —		
♥A		
♦KT86543		
♣A9762		
West NV	East NVD	
♠AKJ97642	♠QT3	
♥Q76	♥KT8543	
♦ —	♦J7	
♣QJ	♣K8	
South V		
♠85		
♥J92		
♦AQ92		
♣T543		

Partner cashed the ♥A, the ♣A and switched to a Diamond but it was too late, 5♠ made. Notice that if partner had not cashed the ♥A declarer might misguess the Hearts, losing the ♥Q to the ♥A and going down. In reality however I had no business doubling with zero defensive tricks. If I had not doubled partner might have gone on to 6♦, which makes on the 2-2 split of the Clubs. As I said at the beginning, when in doubt, holding double fits, bid one more!

Editor's Note: In last month's Arnaldo column there were some typos involving the second hand in that column. These typos have been corrected and the July Kibitzer now posted at our website contains the typo-free version of that column. **Sorry about that!**

Direktor's Korner

This month's topic: what riles the director

Director in Charge: Mr. Cranky

Just a little information about things that truly rile Directors!

The most frustrating situation for Directors is “Slow Play.” Bridge is a timed event. Most slow play is a result of poor time management. Discussing with partner, everything that partner did incorrectly, should be done in the “Post-moron.” (We know that your own play was flawless!) Furthermore, staring at the cards in your hand will not change the spots.

Another top issue is arguing with the Director about a ruling. Do Directors make mistakes? Of course we do. But in difference of opinion, the “smart money” will always be on the Director!

Finally, we ask that everyone please check their ego at the door. If the egos get any bigger, THERE WILL BE NO MORE ROOM FOR THE PEOPLE.

Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpots

Jul 11 Sherrie Goodman & Carol Bagalman

Jul 25 Dee Moses & Joan Van Geffen, Daisy Vandenburg & Juliette Dubea, Jean Talbot & Judy Katz, John Onstott & Howard Parker

Lowen on Zero Tolerance

In recent months, we have had several disturbances that have interrupted the normal flow of our games. We have also received complaints from several members. The LBA Board established the Zero Tolerance Policy to ensure that players who act inappropriately receive immediate penalty from our Club Directors. Our directors are not only entitled but encouraged to act appropriately and decisively. It is important that all club directors enforce this policy at every game and he or she must record any incident deemed a violation of the Board and ACBL policy. A copy of the Zero Tolerance Policy is available to all members. Please ask the director for a copy.

The Conduct and Ethics Committee was created to assist if you feel that an incident is questionable in bridge logic and/or unpleasant behavior. If any member feels that appropriate action was not taken, he or she may file a grievance with our committee. Recording forms for both ethics and behavior are available from the director. It is important that a complaint be filed through the proper channels. Please file your complaints with the Conduct and Ethics chair or committee member.

It is our sincere hope that all our interactions and experiences at the bridge table are pleasant. Unfortunately, at times our emotions are running high and they get the best of us. We urge and remind all members to be nice and friendly to each other.

Let's all enjoy the game we love and thank you for your cooperation.

Lowen
Ethics and Conduct Chair
LBA Board of Directors

Reese Koppel

Each year the ACBL names a high school senior as King or Queen of Bridge, based on strong tournament play and activity promoting bridge. The award includes a \$2000 scholarship.

Some past winners have become famous players: Jeff Meckstroth, Bobby Levin, Eric Greco, Steve Weinstein, and Joel Wooldridge, to name just a few.

This year the award went to our own **Reese Koppel**. For a detailed article on Reese and the award, go to the ACBL website, migrate to the Atlanta NABC and in the section on daily bulletins find the Wednesday Aug 1 Daily Bulletin, page 1. Very interesting article, with a picture of Reese too.