

KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association January 1, 2024

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

President's Message January 1, 2024

After two challenging years, my service as your president is ending. I thank the board and the membership for the trust placed in me. By working together, we survived COVID and extensive hurricane repairs. We also sponsored a very successful national tournament.

While many bridge clubs have gone under, we survived and are actually starting to thrive. Much credit is due to our members who unselfishly contributed their time, talent, and energy to make that possible. Some served on the board and others served in other ways. I thank you all.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Larry Federico

At the LBA Face-to-Face Club:

January is Jr. Fund month, and it's one of my favorite funds. You will earn extra masterpoints while helping the Junior program for youth; the program serves players up to age 26. I love going to an NABC and seeing these young players at the table. We will have two full weeks of Jr. Fund games ...Monday through **SATURDAY!** There will be an ACBL-wide Junior Fund game on Friday, January 19th. The other big event this month is our Rosenblum Sectional January 4-6. Silver points will be awarded, lots of good food, good friends, and good competition. Please let Susan Beoubay know if you are bringing a dish to share, and call Debbie Skorlich if you need a partner or teammates for the Swiss on Saturday.

Voting for the new board members takes place Jan. 1-Jan. 6 at the club. On Saturday the 6th, we will have three new board members to replace Jackie Madden, Suzanne Cliffe and Lowen. These are big shoes to fill. I urge you to familiarize yourself with all the candidates and make wise choices to fill these positions. The club has a great deal of business we are dealing with, and we need some strong leadership to get us through the next few years. You can read their bios by clicking here www.la-bridge.com

At the Online Club:

At the virtual club, we remain the 5th largest club in the ACBL. Our virtual club funds are shared by the 18 other partner clubs. Most are in District 10. We will continue to have GNT qualifier games on Sundays at 2:00, Tuesday mornings for 499ers at 9:45, and Thursday nights at 6:50. Play often for double MPs ½ red and ½ black. (See upcoming events for special weeks)

Remember if you play online, our face-to-face club receives almost half your fee for playing. So, if playing online, please play at LBA/LBC/ET AL, we have helped keep the doors open at LBA. Happy New Year!

Sherrie Goodman

SWISS (with CHEESE)

By Lil Range

{Note to readers: This column may not be for the lactose intolerant.} Swiss is an un-Brie-lievably fun form of bridge, and it is unique in that it involves 4-person teams, rather than the 2-person pairs involved in duplicate. If you want to join the fun, read this article to find out how to be the big cheese, or at least on the same charcuterie board.

The first step in playing Swiss is to form a team. Face-to-face, you would form this team pairing up with 3 other cheeses. You might invite them, or they might invite you. Online, you would form this team by first registering with your partner in the same way you register in a pairs event. Then you (paired up with your partner) join with your teammates.

Some people find this second online step confusing, if this happens to you, don't cheese it! In BBO, use the SELECT TEAMMATES button to join with teammates. Once you register with your partner, you and your partner will appear under the SELECT TEAMMATES list. Likewise, when your teammates register, they too will appear in the SELECT TEAMMATES list. Say Monterey Jack and Feta are planning to play with Cottage and Camembert. Monterey Jack registers with Feta, and Cottage registers with Camembert. The SELECT TEAMMATES will include the Monterey Jack and Feta pair, as well as the Cottage and Camembert pair. The SELECT TEAMMATES will probably have other cheeses as well, so watch which gouda you join up with. Online, either pair can invite the other pair. Invite by clicking on the blue INVITE box beside the name of your teammates. So, Monterey Jack (already paired with Feta) can invite the Cottage and Camembert, or Cottage (already paired with Camembert) can invite the Monterey Jack and Feta. Once one pair invites and the other accepts, all four names move to ENTRIES and (say Cheese!), the team is set to go.

Occasionally, people accept invitations from a pair that is not the pair they planned to join. For example, Monterey Jack and Feta might accidentally agree to play with Cream and Cheddar, now they have the wrong cheese! In this case, the ENTRIES list will include a team that is Monterey Jack, Feta, Cream, and Cheddar. Oops! To get the right cheese, use the DEREGISTER button (look for the word DEREGISTER near where the REGISTER button used to be) and then REGISTER again. Any of the 4 cheeses can deregister. A good guideline is to check which cheese is inviting you to make sure it is the cheese you were expecting. If you cannot navigate the system in Sunday Swiss don't be Blue! Call Lil (504 330 1158). It is tricky the first time, but you will get used to it. If you are registered with a partner, you will get to play, even if you don't have teammates when the game starts. Two cheeses are enough to make fondue.

One problem that can happen is that you find yourself without the 4 people to make a full team. Online, there is no reason for the cheese to stand alone! Call Lil (504 330 1158) or Dave (419 575 4513), who will line you up with a partner and/or teammates. There is an online Swiss team event every Sunday at 2, and every Thursday at 6:50. Swiss is growing! The online Sunday game reached 50 tables recently. Join in, we are aiming for 60 tables!

MENTORS - MY HEROES

By Kathy Plauche

Most often in a successful program within an organization there are people who never get “their due”. The management glows in the benefits of the program. The program’s director receives praises and is encouraged to continue her program. And such is the case for me and BEGINNER BRIDGE. I have three years of Beginner Bridge classes under my belt and close to 200 students have participated including those who felt better repeating the class. It is a great challenge to teach this game to a room full of students whose experience with the game run the gambit from never having played to having played years ago in college or having played rubber bridge with friends. To address all the issues and all the questions is quite a task. Especially when they go to the tables to play. With 25 students I would need to help players at 6 tables at one time. IMPOSSIBLE!!

Because of that task, I rely heavily on MENTORS. Mentors are players from the club who come and help at each table as these beginners play bridge. They help the students learn the mechanics of the game like how to use the bid box or how to move from table to table. They help while the students are playing, answering questions about bidding and play. They also serve as great encouragers and motivators by sharing their experiences – both good and bad.

These mentors are the real heroes! Without them I think my drop out ratio would be quite high because I could not address all the questions and situations that come up. I have had mentors with as few as 20 masterpoints and grand masters with over 10,000 masterpoints. All have been the key to the success of this program. I thank them for the gift of their time and knowledge both to the students and to me. Most have said that they got a “good, good feeling down in their soul” as they helped others learn our game. I am blessed to have had help from each one of them. I have a special shout-out to **Maureen Richoux** who has valiantly helped coordinate the mentors who come and help, making sure each week we had enough mentors at each session. She stands in whenever we run short; a couple of times she even filled in for both the morning and evening session.

There are two teaching adages that I lean on:

1. **WHEN YOU TEACH – YOU LEARN AS WELL.** And in the context of bridge, I am still a student as much as a teacher. So, it’s a win-win for me. I learn when reading bridge books looking for material and better ways to present it. I learn as I develop the lessons. I learn new ways of looking at things when I interact with students and get their view of a problem or situation. And I learn by strengthening that memory muscle every time I say out loud: “This bid says...”
2. **TWO HANDS ARE BETTER THAN ONE.** The work is more easily accomplished, the burden is lightened, and the goals become attainable. I have never thought teaching should be a sole endeavor. Without MENTORS we could not have accomplished what we did with these students. I do love this game and love that I get to share what I know about it. Mentors make my time teaching a joy and not a duty.

Oh, by the way, I will certainly need Mentors with future classes. So don’t be surprised if Maureen and I come knocking for help. Just one time in 12 weeks would be a big help in either the morning or evening session. And there’s nothing like the great feeling of being a HERO.

LOTS OF FUN AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY



SETTING UP



SO MANY CHOICES



**UGLY
SWEATER
CONTEST**



**CATCHING UP
WITH FRIENDS**



**CONGRATS TO WINNERS:
Beth Bayer & Jim MacKay**

NEWS

AN UNSUNG HERO



Theresa Federico

The club recognized Theresa at the Christmas party with a gift of thanks for all of her tireless efforts on behalf of the club. When help is needed, Theresa is there to lend a hand, not to mention the meticulous job she does preparing the boards for our games.

UPCOMING EVENTS

At The Club

Jan.1-6: Voting for new board members

Jan. 4-6: Rosenblum Sectional Tournament

Jan. 19: ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game

At The Virtual Club

Jan. 8-14: Fundraiser week for Louisville NABC (\$6, 2X MP)

Jan. 15-21: Silver Linings Week (\$6, 2X silver MP)

Jan. 28-Feb. 3: Junior Fund Week (\$6, 2X MP)

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Cynthia Ellis
Debbi Funti
Shantiprakas Kedia
James Landis
Anne Lopinto
Elizabeth Magner
Jim McCarthy
Mary Ann McQueen
Linda Milazzo
Stacy Pugh
Faye Thomas
Lisa Waguespack

IN MEMORIAM



Bob Wooderson

ACHIEVEMENTS

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Junior Masters: Lisa Lapeyre, Thomas May, Carolyn Stolz, Faye Thomas

Club Masters: Gayle Martiwez

Sectional Masters: Wayne Henderson, Anthony Pastor

Regional Masters: Dr. Esther Dyer, Carolyn Herting, David Herting

NABC Masters: Peter Walker

Advanced NABC Masters: Nancy Arthur

Life Masters: Loretta Mercola

Bronze Life Masters: Barbara Fitz-Hugh, Loretta Mercola

Silver Life Masters: Diana Powell

**LIFE MASTER
BRONZE LIFE MASTER**



Loretta Mercola

BRONZE LIFE MASTER



Barbara Fitz-Hugh

SILVER LIFE MASTER



Diana Powell

ACHIEVEMENTS

70 % GAMES November 29 - December 27

11/28 Open Club	Sid LeBlanc, Bill Weiss	70.02%
11/29 Open Club	Larry and John Federico	74.00%
11/30 BEG Club	Gail Marie Arnold, Susan Stephens	70.15%
12/1 Open Club	Sid LeBlanc, Jim Thornton	70.58%
12/2 Open Club	David Wolf, Jim Thornton	71.00%
12/4 199 Club	Toni Talbott, Raphael Velazquez	70.14%
12/5 BEG Club	Susan Klees, Meg Adams	79.17%
12/7 Circle Club	Newt Jackson, Jennifer Holmes	75.67%
12/12 BEG Club	Robin Lunsford, Diana Lewis	70.83%
12/15 Open	Paul Freese, Toby Young	70.25%
12/18 199 Club	James MacKay, Raphael Velazquez	75.35%
12/21 Open	Denise Fuselier, Audrey Cerise	75.00%
12/21 Circle Club	P. Quin Bates, Wayne Weisler	73.61%