

KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association April 2022

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President's Message April 2022

Thanks to everyone for supporting our club either in our face-to-face or our LBA virtual games. I see encouraging signs that better days are ahead. We are finalizing plans for our Derby Day Tournament on May 5th through the 7th. We will provide lunch, drinks, and snacks but not breakfast. There is even a rumor that we will have adult libations during the race on Saturday. Thanks to Susan Beoubay for being the chair.

Plans continue for our NABC in March 2023. The only committee chair still open is the fund-raising chair. The primary role of this chair is to sell naming rights to events at the NABC. Naming an event is a perfect way to honor a friend, spouse, or partner. It starts at the \$100 level to name a single session event. Other fund-raising activities are optional. Anyone interested please talk to me or to Jackie Madden.

I will be out of town from March 29th through April 4th. Jackie Madden will be acting president.

Larry Federico

At the LBA Face-to-Face:

Spring is in the air and with it comes some refreshing changes. We hope to announce some new games in the next couple of weeks. We already have a new 0-50 game on Monday morning, so if you have friends who started EZ or beginner bridge before covid and would like to get back into it, this is the perfect place to start. Kathy Plauche gives a brief lesson before the game. Meanwhile, I hope you are enjoying the Royal STAC Week and are winning some of those colored points. The last STAC game is Saturday at 1:00. we will be having Charity Fund games every day this month. The table fees from these games will go towards humanitarian relief for Ukraine. Our Derby Day sectional is May 5-7, so get your partners lined up for this tournament. Hats are welcomed but not required.

At the Virtual Club:

April 4-10 will be Charity Fund games with double black points (\$1 extra.) All of the table fees will go to humanitarian relief for Ukraine. April 25- May 1 is the long-awaited Stardust Week. All virtual games will award ¼ GOLD and ¾ Black. I hope we will have some new Life Masters after this event. 🙌

Sherrie Goodman

The Rule of 11

By Sue Himel

There are numerous “Rule of (some number)” bridge tips. I will explain the most useful ones in this next series of columns. The most used, and most useful, of all the rules is the Rule of 11. You may have learned this rule early in your bridge career, but do you remember to use it?

The Rule of 11: Subtract the number of partner’s 4th best lead, usually against a NoTrump contract, from 11. Then count the number of cards in your hand and the dummy and subtract from that result. The remaining number will be the number of cards in declarer’s hand larger than partner’s lead.

If you and partner lead 4th best against No Trump contracts, look at the following examples to see just how useful this rule can be.

Dummy	You	Partner leads the 4	11-4=7. You can see 7 cards larger than the 4.
Q	A		7-7=0. Declarer has no cards higher than the 4.
9	J		It is safe to play the T if declarer plays low from the
8	T		dummy.
	7		

It is important on this lie of the cards to NOT play the A. If you do, then if declarer later leads toward the Q, partner will play his K and set up the Q in the dummy for a discard.

Declarer can also use the Rule of 11 to his advantage.

Dummy	LHO leads the 5	11-5=6. You can see 6 cards higher than the 5.
Q		6-6 = 0. RHO has no cards higher than the 5.
T		There is no guessing now. You can play low
7		and win the trick in your hand with a spot card.

Declarer
A
9
6

The results won’t always be so clear cut, but use the Rule of 11 whenever you think partner, or your LHO, has led 4th best. It will help you decide which card to play.









Corollary to the Rule of 11: Subtract the number of your LHO’s 4th best lead from 11. Then count the number of cards in your hand and the dummy and subtract from that result. The remaining number will be the number of cards in RHO’s hand larger than LHO’s lead.

The Rule of 11 is most useful against No Trump contracts when players tend to lead from 4 card or longer suits. So, what do you use against suit contracts when players frequently lead from 3 card suits? Stay tuned for next month’s column.

Paul's Deal of the Month

This is the third column in the series that demonstrates the offensive power of shapely hands.

North	East	South	West
		P	P
P	2H	3C	P
P	3H	3S	P
4S	P	P	P

N/S Non Vulnerable	
N	
	KQ109
	Axx
	Jxxx
	xx
S	
	Jxxxx
	J
	Q
	AQ1098x
E/W Vulnerable	

It was a good day to take an aggressive save against a strong opponent who did all he could to preempt with a full opening bid and then rebid in a futile effort to keep us out of the auction. Naturally the opening lead was a heart, which I won with the ace. With such good spot cards, I

immediately led the spade king from dummy which East won with the ace and returned the jack of clubs which looked like a singleton. Up with the ace was an easy play, followed by another spade; the trumps broke 2/2. After losing to the offside king of clubs, the hand was a claimer, losing only one spade, one diamond and one club. The hand proved several old adages, i.e., it's a bidder's game, shape counts, aggression is good. Who counts points.?

So once again we ask, dear reader, what would your partnership have done with this interesting hand?

Director Issue: Slowness

One frequent reason for director calls is player slowness. At the regular and virtual clubs, 7 minutes is a typical amount of time per board. Some games, such as speedball, allow less time. What should you do if someone is slow?

- First, remember that players are within their rights in taking time to consider their actions. This consideration sometimes makes for a pause in tempo. We all strive to be consistent in tempo, but we can only think as fast as we can. Sometimes there are multiple considerations, or what is obvious to one person may not be obvious to another.
- Second, refrain from reminding opponents they are taking a long time or asking people to play faster. General guideline: one question, such as “East?” is acceptable. Not acceptable: telling the opponents that they are taking a long time, saying to the table that time is short, or threatening to call the director.
- Third, you cannot take any inferences from your partner’s taking longer, or shorter, than usual. However, you can take inferences from opponents taking longer or shorter than usual. Special caveat: do so at your own risk.
- Fourth, call the director.

What can the director do about slow play?

- At both face-to-face and virtual clubs, the director can make adjustments, such as giving the slow side average minus for a board, and the injured side average plus for that board.
- At the virtual club, the director can replace a slow player with a robot, or with a human substitute.
- At the virtual club, the director can go back and examine exactly how long each person took to make each action. The actual amount of minutes and seconds helps in making adjustment decisions.

There can be many causes for slowness. If the cause is a lost internet connection, BBO automatically puts the player back at the table as soon as they re-connect. If there is a substitute, BBO automatically puts them back at the beginning of the next hand after they reconnect, unless they are dummy. If they are dummy, BBO puts them back immediately. If the cause is your children, phones, and pets, etc., you may need to ask the director to replace you. At the virtual club, the director can replace you temporarily or permanently. If the cause is you are thinking, good etiquette would be to say something to the table, such as “thinking.” Life happens, be nice, have a good time!

Diamond Lil

NEWS

THE NEW ORLEANS NABC COMMITTEE

The New Orleans NABC Committee met, and we would like to ask for some help from our members.

- 1) If you have Mardi Gras beads and throws you would like to donate, please bring them to the club.
- 2) Anyone with media contacts (print, radio, or television) please contact Sue Himel at 402-214-8167 or jim.sueh@cox.net.
- 3) If you are traveling to any large regionals, especially outside of District 10, or any NABC's later this year, please contact Sue Himel. She would like to send some promotional materials with you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In New Orleans at the Marriott & Sheraton

March 9 – 19, 2023 - NABC Tournament

At the Club:

Month of April – Charity Fund games

May 5th – 7th – Derby Day Sectional Tournament

At the Virtual Club:

April 4-10 – Charity Fund Games

April 25 - May 1 – Stardust Week – ¼ gold, ¾ black

Welcome New Members

Patricia France
Cole Mills

In Memoriam



Mary Lou Gilligan

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Barry Crane Top 500 players for 2021 from Unit 134

27. John Onstot -	898
104. Sherrie Goodman	607
139. Joan Van Geffen	562
217. Jean Talbot	460
266. Paul Freese	433
434. Kathy Logue	356
442. Jim Thornton	354
460. Don Daigle	350
482. Jacob Karno	343

Winning at Bridge – 3 Days in a Row



Red may have retired from practicing law and very recently retired from chasing tennis balls, but at age 94, he has reached a new goal.....to win at bridge THREE DAYS in a row! Red is the perfect example of use it or lose it! Congratulations, Red!

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Junior Master: Lynn Lightfoot
Sectional Master: Mariann Wilson
NABC Master: Dottie Stephenson
Gold Life Master: Colleen Walker

GOLD LIFE



Colleen Walker

70 % GAMES

3/3	Club Open	Kathy Logue, Larry Federico	72.92%
3/4	Club Open	Larry and John Federico	71.73%
3/6	Swiss Open	John Onstott and teammates	74.00%
3/13	Swiss Open	Julius Rosenfield, Ernest Levinson and teammates	74.00%
3/13	Swiss Open	John Onstott and teammates	73.00%
3/13	Swiss Open	James Thornton, Sherrie Goodman, Joan Van Geffen, Jean Talbot	71.00%
3/15	Open	Jacob Karno, Drew Casen	77.08%
3/15	Open	James Thornton, Sherrie Goodman	71.06%
3/16	Open	Larry and John Federico	70.68%
3/17	Open	Iype Koshy, James Bush	72.22%
3/17	Club Open	Larry and John Federico	75.89%
3/22	Open	Larry and John Federico	72.22%
3/26	Open	Sid LeBlanc, James Thornton	71.11%
3/26	499	Tish Counselman, Barbara Barnes	72.92%
3/27	Open Swiss	John Onstott and teammates	79.00%
3/29	Open Club	Jean Talbot, Guss Ginsburg	71.00%