

KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association January 2022

Editor – Diana Powell with help from Sherrie Goodman and
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President's Message January 2022

It has been my pleasure to serve the members of the Louisiana Bridge Association. My tenure lasted much longer than I expected. I appreciate your standing with me through so many difficult times.

Going forward, I am confident that the Board will continue to work to encourage members to join in the fun of the face-to-face games at the club. The ACBL considers face-to-face bridge the lifeline for its continuing growth.

I want to thank the members of the board for hanging in there and thank those who joined us even though times were difficult.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Dubois

At the LBA Face-to-Face:

We are looking forward to hosting our first face-to-face Sectional Tournament on January 6-8. We will email any last-minute changes, but you can also check the club message (504)889-0869 for changes. It will help us immensely if you will let us know which days you will be playing.

Our election takes place the week of January 3-8. Your vote is important as we have 7 spots to fill on our Board of Directors. Since our bylaws require in-person voting, you need to stop by the club to cast your ballot even if you are not playing in the games next week. The voting takes place about 30 min. before and after each game. The last opportunity to vote is Saturday, Jan. 8 at 10 am. See page 4 for the voting schedule.

At the Virtual Club:

At the virtual club, we will be having Jr. Fund games Thursday-Sunday, January 6-9 for those of you who are uncomfortable playing face-to-face at this time. January 17-23 will be another Silver Linings week with double silver points awarded. Thus far, the points awarded in the online games have been multiplied by 1.25 as a nice bonus. After Jan. 3, that will no longer be the case. We have enjoyed the extra points and are grateful to ACBL for this gift for the past 21 months. We hope to see you at the face-to-face club and the virtual club.

Sherrie Goodman

Doubles #2

By Sue Himel

Rule: It is never necessary to double a slam that is sure to go down.

When the opponents bid a slam and you have enough winners to beat that slam, it is not necessary to double. The very fact that they have bid an unmakeable slam gives you a good result. So, we save the double of a slam to indicate a lead.

North
S AQT532
H KJ54
D A72
C

West
S J764
H 2
D Q984
C KT54

East
S
H T86
D JT653
C QJ987

South
S K98
H AQ973
D K
C A632

The Auction:

North	East	South	West
1S	Pass	2H	Pass
4C*	Pass	4NT*	Pass
5C*	Pass	7H	Pass
Pass	Double*	All pass	

4C Splinter, heart support and shortness, game forcing in hearts

4NT Roman Keycard Blackwood (0-3, 1-4)

5C 0 or 3 keycards

Double This double asks partner to lead dummy's first bid suit. It frequently indicates a void.

This double of a slam contract by a defender not on lead is called a Lightner Double.

Paul's Deal of the Month

What is the most helpful way to support an opening bid when the responder's holding includes ambiguous elements of a constructive raise, as well as preemption and power? There is no absolute answer to this conundrum but hand #26 in the club game of September 24, 2018 provides material supporting a discussion.

East was the dealer and opened a normal 1S in first position. Assuming no North/South interference, the issue is "What is West's most sensible response?"

Let's consider the possible rational responses.

(1) An immediate raise to 4S: This raise is primarily preemptive and is commonly used when holding five or more trumps, with a singleton side suit or other favorable distribution and a paucity of high cards. Some theorists assert that the responding hand should not contain an outside Ace or King, which might be enough to generate a slam, but that is not a universal rule.

Nevertheless, with both an outside Ace and King, the West hand is simply too strong and has too much trick generating potential for a preemptive call.

(2) A limit raise to 3S: This raise is generally used with a relatively balanced responding hand containing four trumps and a range of about 9+ to 11- hcp. The West hand, containing five trumps, a singleton and favorable shape has too much trick taking potential to chance the bidding stopping at 3S, usually played as an invitational but not forcing response.

(3) A natural or artificial game forcing response: Typical game forcing responses are an old -fashioned natural Goren type 3S direct raise, seldom employed in current usage or more likely an artificial raise, such as the Jacoby 2NT response. But this type of raise usually shows the equivalent of an opening bid with four or more trumps, in the 12 to 15 hcp range. West's hand does not fit that profile.

(4) A splinter raise to 4D: This artificial raise is favored to show a singleton in the suit bid by responder, combined with four or more trumps and 6-7 losers, the equivalent of a minimal strength opening bid. The advantage of this call is that it directs opener's attention to the elimination of more than one loser in the responder's bid suit, a singleton (some also use the bid to show a void, which most experts disapprove of as dangerously ambiguous). Note that the disadvantage of this bid is that it also advises the defending side that more than one defensive trick is not available in the bid suit, which can result in the defenders finding a more logical and productive opening suit lead.

We conclude that the best approach is option four, the "splinter" call, which at least gives the opening bidder a chance to gauge the ruffing potential of the intended dummy. In this case our opening bidder, holding the diamond Ace, could at least judge that it was unlikely that there would be any spade, heart, or diamond losers, leaving only clubs at issue. Our aggressive declarer "took a shot" at 6S, which was unexpectedly cold for seven. Without the advantage of a relay bidding system and/or complex asking bids, logically bidding 7S is virtually impossible. Opener potentially lacks two "key" cards, the Spade King, and the Club Ace, as well as third round control in clubs, making 7S a gamble even if somehow opener discovers the club doubleton Ace. But the "splinter" raise to 4D at least gives the declarer an opportunity to reach 6S if opener chooses to take a chance at slam despite being off one or perhaps two key cards and third round club control.

Does anyone still contend that our favorite card game, duplicate contract bridge, is a simple game?

West	East-Dealer
♠108652	♠AQJ943
♥KJ976	♥
♦9	♦A103
♣AJ	♣K976

BRIDGE ADVANCEMENTS

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Club Master: George Jeansonne

Sectional Master: Gail Marie Arnold

Platinum Life Master: Judy Katz

PLATINUM LIFE MASTER



Judy Katz

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Janice Mangipano
Duane Page

70 % GAMES

12/19	Swiss	Kathy Logue	70.00%
12/24	Open	Jean Talbot – Joan Van Geffen	71.43%
12/29	299	Penelope Randolph – Marva Arceneaux	74.44%
12/30	750	Diana Powell – George Wilson	73.36%

VOTING SCHEDULE

Mon., Jan. 3: 8:45-9:15 & 12:15-12:45
Tues., Jan. 4: 12:30-1:00 & 3:45-4:15
Wed., Jan. 5: 8:45-9:15 & 12:30-1:00
Thu., Jan. 6: 9:30-10:00 & 12:45-2:00 & 5:30-6:00
Fri., Jan. 7: 9:30-10:00 & 12:45-2:00 & 5:30-6:00
Sat., Jan 8: 9:30-10

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 6-8 - Rosenblum Sectional Tournament
Jan. 6-9 - Jr Fund Games Online
Jan. 17-22 - Silver Linings Week Online