

## Louisiana Bridge Association May 2017

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbl@cox.net

### President's Message May 2017

The **April 22 benefit game for the Baton Rouge club** was a success with 27 tables in play and over \$2,000 raised for this very good cause. THANKS to everyone who participated. It was fun and very much appreciated by our friends from Baton Rouge.

**Carolyn Dubois** is spearheading a "youth day" at the club on **June 17, 2017** (10-12 AM for 9 year old to teen, 12-3 PM for teen through college age). Attendees will be introduced to rudimentary trump based card games as a prelude to learning bridge. Please try to attend with a youngster or two. There will be no fees, and snacks will be provided.

A new **EZ Bridge class** will be started May 1 in the evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. This is a good way for working folks to learn the game. First four lessons are free. Please tell your friends.

New Orleans has been selected to host the **March, 2023 Spring Nationals at the Marriott**. We have also been allocated a Regional in 2021. The board you elect for next year will likely make the decision as to whether or not we will pursue this Regional as it is so close to the National. Both will require lots of volunteer time and energy.

On the subject of Regional, we are in the early planning stages for hosting a **Non Life Master Regional** at our clubhouse in early summer 2019. This tournament will be limited to Non Life Masters who have less than 750 points and will pay 25% GOLD points for overall places and section tops. Sounds like a great way to earn GOLD without leaving town. More on this later as plans are firmed up.

As most of you know the **299er Sectional** was a big success with the table count up from last year by 85% from 47 to 87. Finances were likewise up significantly. Changing to a Thursday, Friday, 1/2 Saturday from a Friday, Saturday, 1/2 Sunday schedule was a big factor in the improvements. Thanks again to Diana Powell and Myra Groome for heading up this event.

Don't forget the upcoming **Dot Babin memorial "Run for the Roses" Sectional** in early May. Get your partners and bring your "A" game to this very fun event. Derby wagering and whiskey slushes will be continued and hats are strongly encouraged!!

**Jim Thornton**

### May Events

\*= Extra points, \*\*=Extra points, no extra fee

**May 1** Grass Roots Fund Game\* MonAM \$7

**May 3** Charity Game\* Wed \$7

**May 4-7** Derby Day Sectional Thurs-Sun

**May 9** Unit Championship\*\* Tues nite

**May 15-21** Hot Springs Regional Mon-Sun

**May 21** D10 GNT Hot Springs Sun

**May 15-21** Club Championship Week\*\*  
Mon-Sun

**May 22** Charity Game\* \$7 Mon nite

**May 25** Unit Championship\*\* Thurs

Wed Grand Slam Jackpots—see p. 3.

**In Memoriam**  
*Roger Asher*  
*Kay Siebel*

**Want more info for the classes in Jim's memo?**

**Mon Eve EZBridge:** Sharon Henry 504-458-5336

**Youth Day:** Carolyn Dubois cdubois53@bellsouth.net

### Metairie 299er Sectional Firsts

#### Thurs Newcomer Pairs

Mary Bailey & Dianne Thames

#### Thurs AM Pairs

Joy Eigher & Jane Meyer;

Curtis Castle & Carol Castle Flt C

#### Thurs PM Pairs

Ruth Rosenthal & Jean Frank

Sarah Jane Luchsinger & Philip Luchsinger Flt B

#### Fri AM Pairs

Irene Labiche & Michael Mooney

Quin Bates & Sarah Dabney Jacob Flt B

#### Fri PM Pairs

Virginia McMurray & Virginia Dabbs

#### Sat Pairs

Margaret Shirer & Susan Martin

Molly Sylvia & Kathryn Talbot Flt B

## Now What? By Arnaldo Partesotti

I played this deal as South in a recent game. You however get to do one better, and play all four positions and see how you would have done with your bidding style with each hand. Or, in other words, let's play "Now What?"

Dealer N E-W Vul

<p><b>North</b>                  ♠K98753                  ♥5                  ♦6542                  ♣53</p> <p><b>West</b>                  ♠QT                  ♥976                  ♦KQJ7                  ♣AJ64</p> <p><b>South</b>                  ♠---                  ♥AT432                  ♦AT983                  ♣KQT</p>	<p><b>East</b>                  ♠AJ642                  ♥KQJ8                  ♦---                  ♣9872</p>	<p>North passed as dealer - I assume that you agree. East opened 1♠ - I assume that you agree also, nine cards in the majors, eleven HCP and a void make for an opening hand.</p> <p><b>Now what?</b> As South over 1♠ I bid 2♠ (Michaels cue-bid: five hearts and a five card minor - not identified - with close to an opening bid or better.) In my mind this is the hand they use in bridge books to illustrate this type of bid, but it might be a bit too strong. Nobody's perfect! Would you have done the same thing, or would you have doubled, or would you have bid 2♥? I stand by my bid.</p> <p><b>Now what?</b> West passed, I am guessing she was awaiting developments, or she was trapping, and she had no spade support, and no stopper in hearts. All good reasons, but bridge is not a game for the faint of heart. I would definitely enter the bidding with a double to let partner know that we have the stronger hands, and we should try for game or, since I am holding both minors, we should have excellent prospects for penalizing the opponents. Would you pass or double?</p>
--	--	---

**Now what?** North was in a pickle! From his point of view my minor suit was most likely clubs and he had no bright prospects. After a lot of thinking he passed. I disagree with this decision. Knowing that you have 5 or 6 spades on your left, and at best 1 in partner's hand, I would take my medicine and bid 2NT inquiring about partner's minor. At worst we will play in a 7 cards club fit, instead of a 6 or 7 spade fit with a known bad split.

**Now what?** With a known ♥ suit in South and a ♠ suit in North, and a silent partner, East had no bid left and passed. She could have doubled - the penalty would have made no difference - but she could have brought her partner back to life. Would you have reopened with a double?

As it is we ended up playing 2♠ down one (do not ask) for a top. Truth is that N-S could make 3♦, so North's decision to pass 2♠ was wrong. And E-W can make 4NT, so East's and West's decisions to pass at their respective turns were wrong also. I guess the moral of this story is, if you are not sure, just bid one more, don't we do that all the time anyway?

## OOPS!

In the April Kibitzer we reported Paul Rosenblum & Jacob Karno were first in Flight B of the Thursday PM 299er Pairs in the Baton Rouge Sectional. Of course that was in Flight B of the **Thursday PM Open Pairs**. Another senior moment by yours truly! Sorry about that.

**PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH.** This month's column is intended for intermediate level players and could be titled "MAINTAINING CONTROL WITH A WEAK TRUMP SUIT." See hand below left.

<p>♠AQx                  ♥A10xx                  ♦KJ10xxx                  ♣void</p> <p>♠Jxxx                  ♥QJxx                  ♦Qxx                  ♣Jx</p> <p>♠Kx                  ♥987x                  ♦Ax                  ♣Axxxx</p>	<p>♠xxxx                  ♥K                  ♦xx                  ♣KQ10xxx</p>	<p>On the oft stated maxim that "it's a bidder's game," South, as dealer, started things with 1C. Without interference, our entire auction proceeded 1C-1D-1H-4H, the final contract. It could be said that South bid too much and North bid too little but the two hands averaged out nicely at 4H. The opening lead from West was a low spade, won by declarer's king. Having luckily avoided a club opening lead, the only lead which could have given declarer an immediate control problem, the question became "what should declarer lead at trick two?" At rubber bridge or IMPs, one sensible line would be to cash the Ace of hearts, leave the remaining trumps outstanding and ruff out the diamonds, conceding three trump tricks but making game when the diamond suit sets up. At matchpoints, declarer could first duck one round of hearts, win the next trick and then play a second round of trumps, finessing if West played low trumps on both leads, losing at most two trump tricks, making five.</p>
--	---	---

At our table, on declarer's lead of a low trump at trick two, West made the mistake of splitting ♥QJ honors, in effect forcing declarer to win the ♥A immediately in case the ♥J was a singleton but to everyone's surprise except East, down came the ♥K. I leave it to the reader to work out how declarer could then make six for an absolute top board but that is not the point of the column. The real point is that declarer could afford to lose three trump tricks and still make game successfully with such a weak trump holding by setting up diamonds after one round of trumps. On a club opening lead, there being a 4-1 trump split, playing only one round of trumps before starting diamonds would have been essential to achieve success making four hearts.

## Know the Director's Rulings

by Jennie Flynn Sauviac

**Pass Out of Rotation, part 2, Law 30.** See the April Kibitzer for Part 1.

### If the pass is not accepted--After any player has bid

1. When a pass out of rotation is made at offender's RHO's turn to call after any player has bid, offender must pass when next it is his turn to call
2. When, after any player has bid, the offender passes out of rotation at his partner's turn to call
  - (a) the offender must pass whenever it is his turn to call, and Law 23\* may apply, and
  - (b) offender's partner may make any sufficient bid or may pass, but he may not double or redouble at that turn, and Law 23 may apply
3. After any player has bid, a pass out of rotation at offender's LHO's turn to call is treated as a change of call and Law 25\*\* applies.

\*Law 23 provides for redress when offender could know his action might damage the other side

\*\*Law 25 governs legal and illegal changes of call. It has been discussed in previous articles. Issues include whether the original call was unintended and change was made without pause for thought.

## Seeing spots

An important element of good declarer play is keeping track of the spots in a suit you are playing. Suppose this is your trump suit, you are pulling trumps and you have no transportation or control problems and no worthwhile additional information.

Dummy ♠AJ54      You ♠Q876.

How should you play this suit?

Of course you should lead the ♠6 toward dummy and if West plays low, finesse the ♠J.

**Take 1:** Suppose on that trick LHO played the ♠2 and RHO the ♠3. What now? Since you are still missing the ♠KT9, your best shot is to cash the ♠A, hoping that LHO was dealt the doubleton ♠K. If so, you lose no trump tricks.

**Take 2:** Suppose instead that when you lead the ♠6 toward dummy, the ♠2 appears on your left, you put in the ♠J, and the ♠9 appears on your right. What now? Evidently the still guarded ♠K is on your left and RHO was dealt the doubleton ♠109 or the stiff ♠9. So your best move is to return to hand and play the ♠Q toward dummy. If RHO was dealt the doubleton ♠109 then you now pin the ♠10 on your right and pick up the whole suit, while if RHO was dealt the stiff ♠9 you now hold your trump losers to one instead of two.

**Gotcha!** Actually RHO was dealt ♠1093 and dropped the ♠9 at trick one. This gave you a losing option which you unfortunately accepted. You lost a trick you did not need to lose. This play was risk free for RHO since if he had followed with the ♠3 you were going to roll up the suit anyway.

This play by RHO is called an **obligatory false card**. An obligatory false card is the play of unnaturally high spot to give declarer a losing option in a situation where he could not go wrong against straightforward defense. It is called "obligatory" because it cannot cost and might gain, so it is the **only** proper play.

To pull off one of these at the table you must be ready to play smoothly and in tempo, and advance familiarity with such positions helps a lot. You can read examples of such positions in the Encyclopedia of Bridge, or in the book Eddie Kantar Teaches Advanced Bridge Defense, or in any number of sites on the web (Google "obligatory false cards"). They are fun to read about. The example above was taken from Eddie Kantar's book.

These false cards won't work against players who don't keep track of the spot cards—they work best against good players. But they do not cost, and executing one of these would make your day!

## Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpots

**Apr 26** Toby Young & Paul Freese, Larry Federico & John Federico,  
Sherrie Goodman & Carol Bagalman, Joan Van Geffen & Dee Moses,  
Ilype Koshy & Linda Freese