

Louisiana Bridge Association September 2020

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President's Message September 2020

Time seems to be moving on and we are still home. We have a lot of memories and miss our game at the club and friends. Still no sign of getting back to "THE WAY IT WAS" Thankfully, we have our VIRTUAL Games. Our directors are doing a fantastic job and we are grateful. We hope you are enjoying playing in the various games.

Your Board of Directors decided we needed a committee to investigate our By-laws. We have an ELECTION of Board Members upcoming and our By laws have specific rules to follow. Will keep you informed of our findings.

Kathy Plauche will start Online Beginning Bridge Lessons in mid September. Know anyone who would like to learn bridge? Let them know. SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS.

Hopefully, we will be getting some positive information on Covid soon. Take care of yourselves.

Carolyn Dubois

Alert—online beginning bridge lessons to be offered soon by LBA. If you know someone interested in learning bridge, email Kathy Plauche at kkbridge24@gmail.com. Lessons begin in mid September. Evening lessons and day lessons offered. More info including contact information on page 3.

Sherrie's report on upcoming events and online matters

By the time you read this, we will have had our 3rd online Regional in 5 months. I hope those of you who need gold or red points are getting them. **There will be another chance in October.** Mark your calendar for October 15-18 if you long for those precious gold/red points.

Sep 7 On **Labor Day**, we won't have hot dogs, but we still get our **Upgraded Club Championship Games**. There will be extra games on the schedule and all will have extra points (double club points) with no extra fee!

Sep 21-27 The fun continues with **Club Championship Week** September 21-27. Again we will schedule **seven** games for seven days to let you earn... **Double club points with 1/4 Gold and 3/4 Black points!**

Tuesday night is the night you will want to grab a partner or sign up at the partnership desk. Sam is rewarding the top mp earners **monthly** in all three strats(A,B, & C).

The 2nd Tuesday night of each month is our Pro Am Mentoring game. Please do register for this event so that we make sure we have enough Mentors for the Mentees. Prearranged partnerships are allowed, but not necessary.

If you are not getting your results from the Common Game, you are missing out on great information. It not only shows the travellers and play by play at every table, but you can also see what would have happened had you played x before y. There are some nice commentaries from the pros about some of the more interesting hands. So, if you are not getting these, please email help@thecommongame.com.

Beginning Bridge online. Do you have friends who wished they had a hobby like bridge to occupy their time during this pandemic? Kathy Plauche will start **beginning bridge online** in mid September. **See page 3 for details.**

In Memoriam *Joan Bailey*

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70 percent games by Unit 134 Members in our virtual club in August

Aug 9 299er Jeannette Gallegillos & Leonardo Gallegillos 70%
Aug 13 299er Elizabeth Sewell & William Sewell 76.39%
Aug 16 499er Mike Russell & George Wilson 73.61%
Aug 17 299er Myra Menville & Greg Browne 70.73%
Aug 23 Open John Onstott & Thomas Turgeon 71.81%
Aug 26 Open John Onstott & Jacob Morgan 76.79%

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTER
William Wright
NEW CLUB MASTERS
Janice Kishner, Jean McNeal, Laurie Milani
NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS
Joann Kennedy, Carol Rider
NEW REGIONAL MASTERS
Michael Mooney, George Wilson
NEW NABC MASTER
Dan Zelenka
NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER
Cindy Lewis
NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER
Connie Caffery

Unit 134 Wednesday Grand Slams

Aug 5 Open Jim Thornton & Dianne Chesson;
Larry Adler & Henry Bodenheimer; John Onstott
& Jacob Morgan; Kathleen Savino & Linda Freese

NEW MEMBERS

Bin Su

DIREKTORS KORNER

THIS MONTH'S DIREKTOR IN CHARGE: Diamond Lil

TOPIC: Oops, I misclicked!

Playing bridge online has some advantages over playing bridge in person. One advantage is that the online program prevents us from leading or playing out of turn, or from bidding some (but not all) illegal bids. In person, people sometimes bid one heart over the opponents one spade, for example. This kind of error is not possible online; you can try to click onto the one heart, but the program will not let you actually select one heart if the opponent has already bid one spade.

Despite these advantages, players do sometimes misclick. For example, they open two spades meaning to open one spade, or they open two diamonds but then realize that their partner does not play Flannery.

So, what is the appropriate thing to do when you misclick and opponents ask for an explanation? The appropriate thing to do is to explain **your partnership agreement**. For example, if your partnership agreement is that 2D is weak, then say that it is weak. **Do not** say that you misclicked (BBO is not Catholic and does not require confession). **Do not say what you meant to bid. Do not say anything to the table. After the hand is over, then tell the table that you misclicked.**

One way to avoid some misclicks is to get BBO to help you. If you want, BBO will ask you if you really mean the bid or the card. To take out this insurance, go to ACCOUNT, then turn on (swipe left) CONFIRM BIDS and CONFIRM CARDS. When you do this, BBO will ask you before it states the bid or plays the card.

Typically, the person who misclicks gives themselves a disadvantage. Partners are notorious for believing our misclicks, and taking us places we do not want to go. The odds are, misclicks will hurt the mislicker. Occasionally, the person who misclicks lucks into an unusual but working contract. If this happens, you are entitled to call the director, as you are at any time if you feel injured, but there is no adjustment for misclicking.



BEGINNER BRIDGE LESSONS

Don't give up on your dream of learning to play Bridge. The Louisiana Bridge Association is offering a 10-week set of online lessons for beginning players starting in September. You also get a free 3-month trial membership in ACBL, the premier national bridge club. This will allow you to play online and earn competitive points. Even though you face constraints in this time of the Covid-19 virus, you can still learn something new from the safety of your home. You don't need a partner but feel free to encourage a friend to learn alongside you. Day or night, here is your chance to fulfill that dream!

NIGHT CLASSES

Date: Monday, Sept. 14
Time: 7 – 9 pm
Cost: \$5/lesson

subsequent classes
each Monday, same time

DAY CLASSES

Date: Thursday, Sept. 17
Time: 9 am – 11 am
Cost: \$5/lesson

subsequent classes
each Thursday, same time

To Register: by email: Sherrie Goodman, Club Manager at mail@la-bridge.com
or Kathy Plauche, Instructor at kkbridge24@gmail.com
by text: Kathy @ 504-220-4815

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH It is often said that luck triumphs over skill in contract bridge. Is that what happened in the following matchpoint tournament hand?

	N	
	♠Kxx	
	♥KJ10xx	
	♦Jxx	
	♣AJ	
W		E
♠Qxx		♠xxxx
♥xx		♥xxx
♦Qxxx		♦xxx
♣8765		♣Qxx
	S	
	♠AJx	
	♥AQx	
	♦AKx	
	♣K1032	

I sat South as dealer, all not vulnerable, and opened with a standard 2NT call, showing 20-21 hcp with balanced distribution. To my pleasant surprise, with no opposing bidding, partner promptly raised to 7NT. West, searching for a neutral opening lead, sensibly avoided leading from either the ♠Q or ♦Q, and reluctant to break hearts from a low doubleton, chose to lead from the weak club sequence, which was likely to be a harmless lead. It was not, as it "pickled" East's Queen. The first trick consisted of the ♣8, ♣J, ♣Q and ♣K, raising the fast trick count for declarer from eleven to twelve in one blow. But where was the thirteenth trick to come from? There were three possibilities, a defensive error, the spade finesse and a possible squeeze position. So the next series of plays for declarer were aimed at establishing isolated threat cards for an unlikely squeeze. The ♣A was first cashed, following which declarer's hand (South) was entered with the ♦A, after which the ♠10 and ♦K were both cashed, establishing declarer's ♠2 and dummy's ♦J as threats, along with the ♠J. Both defenders followed those plays with low spot cards, giving declarer no clue as to which held the ♠5 or the ♦Q. Next it was time to run the five solid heart tricks to see what, if anything, defensive discards might reveal. West, feeling the increasing "pinch" of the heart run, had only one free discard, a small diamond on the third heart trick. On the fourth heart the ♠5 was discarded, seemingly a defensive error, establishing declarer's ♣3 as the thirteenth trick. A possibly stronger defense might have been made by discarding a low spade on the third heart trick, reducing West's holding from ♠Qxx ♥void ♦Qx ♠5 to ♠Qx ♥void ♦Qx ♠5. West could then have discarded the remaining low diamond on the fourth heart trick, leaving West with ♠Qx ♥void ♦Q ♠5, but what could be safely discarded on the fifth heart trick? The answer is that West had no safe discard, as the West hand would have been reduced to a classic "show up" squeeze position of ♠Q ♥void ♦Q ♠5. When declarer would next cash the ♠K in the dummy, the only logical play, the spade ♠Q would have fallen, exposing the fact that West had held all three threat cards (♠Q, ♦Q and ♠5) and had been the victim of a genuine simple show up squeeze, so there was no defense to North's overbid of 7NT. West had not made a defensive error at all.

ADDENDUM: When I asked North how he knew that I held all four Aces and why the bid of 7NT had been made, the answer was that North had simply incorrectly estimated the North/South hands to contain 37 hcp, when in fact they held only 34.

SECOND ADDENDUM: Should the bidding and making of 7NT be attributed to luck or skill or perhaps some combination of both?

THIRD ADDENDUM: I offered to buy a round of drinks for the three good friends at my table in the course of this interesting hand, primarily as solace to West for the necessary (for declarer) but unfortunate club opening lead.

Active Defense By: Arnaldo Partesotti

Last month I wrote about passive defense, and promised you an article about active defense for this month. What is active defense? It is a defense where you might take some unusual, aggressive steps, in bidding as well as playing, to try to get a result which you might not achieve, should you simply follow meekly the bidding and play of your opponents. You must also be very alert, and take advantage of the opponents' mistakes - this is always

North NVD	
♠JT94	
♥9743	
♦A7	
♣T84	
West V	East V
♠AKQ75	♠862
♥Q5	♥JT2
♦KQ5	♦963
♣962	♣KQJ5
South NV	
♠3	
♥AK86	
♦JT842	
♣A73	

true!

Here at left is an example of an active defense, which occurred during recent play (hands rotated for your convenience). All vulnerable, I was sitting South.

The bidding was aggressive, particularly my doubling of two Spades, which told Partner that I could support the other two suits, and pushed the opponents to a level too high :

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1D
1S	P	2S	X
3S	P	P	P

Partner led the ♦A, followed by a small Diamond, based on the bidding. This trick was won by declarer with the ♦Q. Declarer pulled two rounds of trumps - he should have pulled three but, I am guessing, he was afraid to lose control - and played a Club. I won the trick with the ♣A, cashed the ♥K to let partner know where my Ace was, and played a third round of Diamonds for partner to ruff. He promptly returned a Heart for my ♥A, and I played another Diamond to promote Partner's now singleton ♠J. The result was a terrific "down two vulnerable" for an

88% result for us.

The moral is simple: do not be afraid to be aggressive, the modern style of bidding frequently prevents the Opponents from doubling you at a lower level. Sometimes you will be right with your aggressive bidding, sometimes you will get lucky or just get away with it!

For the I/N Crowd by Sue Himel

Balancing #3

Balancing in a suit, as opposed to No Trump, is as undefined as direct suit overcalls at the one level. If the auction proceeds:

LHO	Pd	RHO	You	That 1H overcall has a range of about 7 to 16 high card points
1D	1H	P	?	

1D	P	P	1H	1H in this auction has a very wide range also.
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The 1H balancer may have a bit less than the 1H overcaller. The balancer needs to protect his side from the player in the direct seat having a good hand, but no call available. Suppose, after a 1D opening on his right, partner holds: ♠K3 ♥QJ96 ♦KJT ♣QT65 That is an opening hand, but partner has no suit to overcall and cannot make a take out double since he does not have at least three spades. The correct call with this hand is to pass and hope partner can reopen with a bid or a double.

I use a simple rule to guide my suit balancing bids. Borrow a king from partner's hand and then make the same call you would in the direct seat. Since you can't literally grab a king from partner's hand, that just means borrow three points from partner. There is one major exception to that rule that I will address in a later column.

So, when the auction proceeds 1D P P ? what is your call with each of these hands?

♠AQJT3 ♥83 ♦K32 ♣97	10 hcps plus 3 is 13 hcps and a 5 card spade suit, bid 1S
♠A2 ♥KQ32 ♦QT42 ♣J75	12 hcps plus 3 is 15 hcps, balanced hand with stoppers in opener's suit, bid 1NT . Don't forget what you learned about balancing already
♠K2 ♥QJ ♦J832 ♣AT987	11 hcps plus 3 is 14 hcps and a 5 card club suit, bid 2C
♠87 ♥KQT54 ♦98 ♣T876	5 hcps plus 3 is 8 hcps and a 5 card heart suit, bid 1H . I would never overcall in the direct Seat with this hand, but I would balance with it.

References and additional comments for my hand records article on p 5. 1. I learned this copy link technique and got additional recorder tips from a **Kit Woolsey article on Bridge Winners: link to that Woolsey article is** <https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/tracking-suspicious-actions/>

2. In the **current September ACBL bulletin there is an article on page 18 by Sue Munday** discussing when a board is recorder level suspicious, and also ways to report such to the National Recorder.

3. Finally from the Bridge Winners site (article link <https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/too-tough-or-too-lax/>) it seems that **Sylvia Shi, the youngest Grand Life Master and cover girl on the January ACBL Bulletin**, has been given 3 years suspension plus 3 years probation for self kibitzing certain ACBL hands she played on BBO. **So it appears that BBO and ACBL are getting serious about online cheating.**

BBO HAND RECORDS—GETTING, USING, SAVING

We are all playing more on BBO these days, and many of us will continue to play on BBO. BBO has some wonderful diagnostic utilities to help us improve our game. The BBO Movies include the auction and card by card records of the play at our table, and the Travellers include the results and movies for every table where the hand was played.

Similar information is available through the Common Game emails that are sent to you after every online session you play. Sherrie strongly advocates accessing travellers, movies and other utilities through those emails and that's not very hard to do. I on the other hand like working directly with BBO, and here I explain how to do it my way. You can also use my method to get hands for any player whose BBO userid you know. BBO tells me they keep about hands for about two months back for every player. So you can pull out two months of hands for any player!

To get the Travellers and card by card movies for the hands we have played. First get the hands. Go to the login page of BBO, but don't login. At the top of the page, or available through a 3 line menu at the top, you see "GET HANDS". Click on GET HANDS and a drop down box of options will appear. A picture of such a box is **below this article on the left**. Enter your BBO userid OR THE BBO USERID OF THE PLAYER WHOSE BOARD(S) YOU WANT TO SEE. In the illustration below I entered the userid JoeBlow. Then enter a date, and number of days(up to 6), or weeks (up to 4), or months(1) of sessions you want. Now click on GET HANDS and you will be given all the sessions meeting those time specs. Thus you can download a month or two of sessions for yourself or another player.

Each session will consist of a list of boards, and each list item will contain the players, scores, matchpoint percentages for that board, and also the link options Movie and Travellers. Click on Movie and you will get the picture of the hand played on BBO, containing the auction and NEXT and PREVIOUS buttons to move through the board card by card. **See picture of such a Movie below this article on the right**. You see the auction for the hand, and repeatedly clicking on the NEXT button at the bottom of the movie, you can walk through the play card by card.

Comparative diagnostics via super travellers: on the other hand for any particular board you could have clicked on Travellers instead of on Movie to see a list of all the results for that board you're interested in. You will get the scores, and the matchpoint percentages for every pair that played that board in your session. Also, on each line there will be a Movie link which enables you to pull up the movie for the hand at that table. It will also look like the movie picture below right. You can see auction for your board at that table and you can go through the play card by play for your board at that table. In short, you can not only see how the result at you table compares with results at other tables, you can see the auction and play by play at other tables and so pinpoint why your result was good or bad.

Finally, to save boards of interest in a file for you own use, or to report one or more suspicious boards to a recorder, you need to save links to the board(s) in question. (You save the links, not the actual board files, which remain on the BBO server.) To save a movie link, RIGHT CLICK on MOVIE for the board. A drop down list of Options will appear. Click on *Copy Link* under *Save Link as*. That link will be copied to your own computer's "clipboard." Now open a text file and click on Paste for your text file. The link, whose text looks something like <http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/handviewer.html?bbo=y&myhand=M-303203734-1598197399> will be copied to the text file. You can send that link to anyone, and if they paste the link into the URL space on their browser and hit enter, the actual movie will come up on their computer. The URL space is the space at top of your browser where you normally enter the address of a website you wish to visit. **A similar technique can be used to save the link to any Traveller, or even a link to the whole session .**

Let me emphasize: anyone with the link can paste it to the URL space in their browser, hit enter, and they will see the movie of the board, the auction and card by card play. If you don't believe me paste the link "http://www.bridgebase.com/tools/handviewer.html?bbo=y&myhand=M-303203734-1598197399" into the URL box of your browser and hit enter. Yes! You got the particular movie pictured below!

Final Remember--to deal with a suspicious board don't complain publicly --send the board links and comments to the appropriate recorder. **Public claims that a specific person is cheating are themselves ethical violations subject to discipline.**

ADDITIONAL REMARKS AND REFERENCES—see the bottom of the previous page for additional recorder oriented remarks and links to relevant articles. Remember that to use the given links, just copy them and paste them into the URL section of your browser and hit enter. The article(s) will appear on your computer.

from_login=0

RECORDS BBO POINTS BBS

[Click here for results of recent tournaments](#)

Get hands played by a user between two dates

*Enter username: JoeBlow

Enter the start date: 2020 Jul -14

Interval to retrieve: week(s) (2)

Interval direction: Backward Forward

Show summaries every: Don't show

Get hands Reset

Logged in as liukk [Logout](#)

* denotes required field

which program should be used to open the file. Select c:\Bridge Base Online

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https://www.bridgebase.com/tools/handviewer.html?bbo=y&myhand=M-303203734-1598197399

D	N Robot	W	N	E	S
1	♠ AKJ62		1♠	P	2♣
	♥ KJ6	P	2♦	P	3NT
	♦ 9743	P	P	P	
	♣ 6				
W Robot		E Robot			
♠ Q1094		♠ 87			
♥ A8		♥ 97532			
♦ KQ		♦ A105			
♣ 75432		♣ 1098			
	S liukk				
	♠ 53				
	♥ Q104				
	♦ J862				
	♣ AKQJ				
		3NT S			NS: 0 EW: 0

Rewind Previous Next Options GIB Play

BBO