

## Louisiana Bridge Association February 2018

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbl@cox.net

### **President's Message February 2018**

Greetings from your new Unit 134 president! I am honored to be chosen to lead our board of directors into a challenging new year. We thank our retiring board members: Jim Thornton, Vicky Willis, Larry Federico, and Ben McKown for their tireless service to the club. The new board members are Lowen, Hunter McFadden, Suzanne Cliffe and me, Linda Freese. If you don't know us, our photos are on the main bulletin board, and on our website. Please feel free to introduce yourselves. We'd love to meet you!

Upon reviewing our club's By Laws (see our website under "By Laws"), I noticed that the objectives of our club are to promote competitive bridge, conduct tournaments, encourage high standard of conduct, recruit new members, and sponsor charity events. My personal objective for the club is to maintain a safe and happy playing environment so that members continue to love the duplicate bridge experience. Good things will be happening this year at the club. I'll keep you informed!

**Linda Freese**

### **February Events**

\*= extra points, no extra fees

\*\*=extra points, extra fees

**Feb 3** ACBL-wide Int'l Fund Game\*\* Sat aft

**Feb 12-18** STAC WEEK\*\* Mon-Sun

**Feb 13** Mardi Gras game Tues 10:30AM

Hot dogs for lunch

**Feb 19** Unit Championship\* Mon night

**Feb 21** ACBL-wide Charity Game\*\* Wed aft

**Feb 23-25** Hattiesburg Sectional Fri-Sun

**Feb 26-Mar 4** Club Championship Week\*

**Feb 26-Mar 4** Birmingham Regional

### **LBA Board Officers and New Members**

LBA Board elections were held during the recent Metairie sectional. Joining the board as a result are **Suzanne Cliffe, Linda Freese, JF Lowenstein ("Lowen")** and **Hunter McFadden**. The new board has met and elected the following **officers: Linda Freese**, president; **Carolyn Dubois**, vice president, **Sharon Henry**, recording secretary; **Suzanne Cliffe**, membership secretary; **Mary LeBlanc** with **Nelson Daigle**, treasurer.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Catherine Favret, Mary Beth Fine, Maxine Goodman, Clay Hunley, John Martin, Judy Perlman

### **RANK ADVANCEMENTS**

**NEW JUNIOR MASTER**

Lynden Swayze

**NEW CLUB MASTERS**

Roy Caffery, Gerry Gieseler

**NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS**

Janet Genusa, Philip Luchsinger

**NEW NABC MASTERS**

Christine Beesley, Sharon M Wood

**NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS**

Gail Fayard, Bill Gentry, Cindy Lewis

**NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER**

Nelson Daigle

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### **In Memoriam**

*Rufus Harris*

## Metairie Sectional Firsts

**Thurs AM 0-20** Regina Lebeau & Susan Stephens;  
Mary Krajcer & Kathy Plauche Flt H

**299** Gigi Matthews & Lynn Flynn;  
Sarah Dabney Jacob & Quin Bates Flt F

**Open** JF Lowenstein & Judy Katz; Eileen Bagnetto &  
Jackie Madden Flt B; Bill Gentry & Beverly Dupre Flt C

**Thurs PM 299** Kathleen Vogel & Kathryn Talbot;  
Bernie Vanderlinden & Michael Mooney Flt F

**Open** Jerrilyn Stumpf & Bobbie Gattuso;  
Cappy McIver & Pat Ellis Flt C

**Fri AM 299** Gigi Matthews & Kathleen Vogel; Quin  
Bates & Sarah Dabney Jacob Flt F

**Open** Bob Bowers & Chuck Pitard **71.15%**;  
Cappy McIver & Pat Ellis Flt B

**Fri PM 299** Gigi Matthews & Kathleen Vogel;  
Shirley Rhode & Frieda Johnson Flt E

**Open** Joan Van Geffen & JF Lowenstein;  
Wayne Weisler & Jacob Karno Flt B;  
Cappy McIver & Pat Ellis Flt C

**Sat AM 299** Margie Christian & Mary Dorsey;  
Michael Schlosser & Peck Hayne Flt E

**Open** Michael Falcon & Debra Falcon;  
Arnaldo Partesotti & Ronald Berenger Flt B;  
Janet Patterson & Judy Serou Flt C

**Sat PM 299** Irene Labiche & Michael Mooney  
**Open** Craig Cordes & John Onstott;

Guss Ginsburg & Jacob Karno Flt B;  
Gail Fayard & Audrey Cerise Flt C

**Sun Swiss Bkt 1** Iype Koshy-Bob Bowers-James  
Bush-Chuck Pitard

**Bkt 2** Beth Todd-David Wolf-Ernest Levinson-James  
Thornton

## Sectional at Sea (Nov 26-Dec 6) Session Firsts

Sid LeBlanc & Mary LeBlanc **Nov 27 AM**

Idell Adams & Larry Federico **Nov 27 PM,**  
**Nov 30 AM, Dec 3 AM, Dec 3 PM**

Sigurd Nordvoll & Judy Pyeatte **Nov 30 AM Flt C,**  
**Dec 1 AM Flt B**

Bob Dale & John Federico **Dec 3 AM**

John Federico & Charlotte Hammer Thompson  
**Dec 4 AM**

Lew Moore & Geoff Chichester **Dec 3 AM Flt B,**  
**Dec 4 PM**

## Gulfport Sectional firsts

**Fri PM 299** Curtis Castle & Carol Castle Flt F

**Sat AM Open** Chuck Pitard & Allan Siebert

**Sun Swiss Bkt 1** Bob Bowers-Jamie Bush-  
Rick Logan-Susan Hinton

**Bkt 2** Elaine Wilczynski-Mae O'Neil-David  
Scherer-Mike Anthony

## Jackson Sectional Firsts

**Fri AM 199** Virginia Dabbs & Denise Tabor

**Sat AM 199** Virginai Dabbs & Denise Tabor Flt C

**PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH.** Most tournament schedules feature both matchpoint pair and Swiss IMP or knockout team events. This month's column is one of a series which demonstrates and illustrates the differing declarer and defensive techniques employed because of the scoring methods in the two types of events. Remember the basic themes governing play and defense. At IMPs (or total points) declarers must stress safety to assure making the bid contracts, especially those involving game or slam bonuses. Defenders must take reasonable chances to defeat the contracts, because overtricks are relatively unimportant. At matchpoints, however, reasonable risks must be taken by declarers to make as many tricks as possible, while defenders must avoid allowing valuable overtricks because even the most modest hand can bring in just as many matchpoints as can a grand slam. Keeping those goals in mind, let's examine the diagrammed hand (below left) and the auction leading to a quite normal 3NT contract.

### NORTH

♠xxx  
♥AQ10x  
♦Q10xx  
♣Qx

### SOUTH

♠Ax  
♥xxx  
♦AKJx  
♣K10x

South will usually open 1NT when playing a 15-17 hcp range, despite the weak doubleton, thereby minimizing potential rebid problems. The typical auction will proceed 1NT-2C (Stayman)-2D-3NT. If West makes the opening lead of a small heart, indicating that he holds length and strength in that suit, the issue is whether to finesse or not. At IMPs the answer to that question is an immediate and decisive "NO" because declarer simply cannot risk the contract by giving East the chance to win the first trick and switch to a spade, potentially defeating the game bid. The safe course is to take the ♥A, knock out the ♣A and cash out the available nine tricks, scoring the game bonus. At matchpoints, however, an overtrick or two can make a huge matchpoint scoring difference, so refusing the finesse and making nine tricks presents a matchpoint problem. If most other declarers are making four or five NT, what good is a nine trick game except to produce a low matchpoint score? Using the "Rule of 11," determine how many higher cards are held by East. If it is only one, at matchpoints it is reasonable to take

the "top or bottom" chance of finessing the Queen in order to produce an overtrick but doing so does indeed expose declarer to the risk of going down on a cold hand. That is why some bridge commentators insist that matchpoint duplicate is not "real" bridge because the scoring method so often rewards making "bad" plays.

## They Yelled at Me! By Arnaldo Partesotti

At the recent Sectional, Partner and Opponents “gently” chewed me out for breaking a cardinal rule of bridge. I bid 2/1 and when Partner, the opener, rebid his suit, I passed, which apparently was a “No-No” for everybody at the table. This was the hand and the bidding:

Dealer N	Vul	E/W	West	North	East	South		
				North	—	Pass	1♥	Pass
				♠Q96	2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
				♥KT83	Pass	Pass		
				♦T93				
				♣753				
West		East						
♠AJ4		♠K87						
♥4		♥AQJ952						
♦AJ8652		♦4						
♣982		♣AJ4						
		South						
		♠T532						
		♥76						
		♦KQ7						
		♣KQT6						

It is easy to see that the hand makes only 3 Hearts. By passing we scored 16 out of 20 points because we made 4 Hearts when the opponents misdefended. Had we made only 3 Hearts, it still would have been 12.5 points, well above average. The hand can make 3NT, very difficult against good defense, four pairs made it.

Apart for the “yelling” there was nothing special about the hand, but it makes for some interesting discussion:

- **“Rules are made to be broken”** might be true in love and war, but not at the bridge table. If you want to keep your trusted partner, you better agree on some rules and agreements, and stick with them. If partner never knows if you have, or do not have, what you bid, she will bolt! In the hand above, after I bid 2/1 I should have bid again over Partner’s 2♥.

- **“Always be prepared for the next bid”**. When you make a bid, try to anticipate what partner might bid next, and plan accordingly. In the above hand if you bid 1NT forcing over Partner’s 1♥, you should be prepared on what to bid, including “pass”, if he rebids 2♥’s. Or will you bid 3♦’s? Personally I would pass, which I did, but 3♦’s is not unreasonable, it might get you to 3NT.

- **“Always evaluate and reevaluate your hand”**. This might seem a given, but Partner’s and Opponents’ bids usually change your initial evaluation of your hand. If Oppo behind you bids a suit in which you hold a King, for instance, your King might have no, or limited, value.

- **“Trust your instinct”**. If by now you played a lot of bridge and your instincts are usually good, trust them! On the average, most of the times you will more right than wrong.

## Carolyn Dubois Intermediate Shout Out

**Congratulations to 299er Michael Mooney** for scoring big two days in a row.

On Thursday, January 4 Michael had a **72.70%** game and on the next day a **70.71%** game.

**Well done Michael!**

## TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME EXPERIENCE by Sue Himel

(Part Two)

Making any bridge game more pleasant and trouble free is in the best interest of both the players and the directors. This column will continue last month's theme of improving everyone's experience at the club.

**Our bridge population is aging** and that age progression brings a multitude of **physical limitations** for us. In order to accommodate players with failing vision or hearing, please speak clearly when you alert or announce partner's bids. Remove the ALERT card from your bidding box and wave it back and forth on the table to give players with imperfect hearing a better chance to know that a call may not have a normal meaning. The ALERT card should be used for both "alerts" and "announcements." Experienced players are expected to protect themselves on routine alerts or announcements (transfers, short club, etc.) but they are entitled to be informed when not so routine calls are made (Puppet Stayman, Smolen, etc.).

**When you call the director to the table** you should always raise your hand and say, "**Director, please.**" If you just call a director by their first name they will not be expecting a call that requires a ruling. If we hear our name called we anticipate someone asking for a thermostat adjustment or letting us know where we are going for dinner on Friday night. I don't grab the law book for those calls. When I hear, "Director, please," I nearly always grab the law book on my way to the table just in case it is something I have to look up. This saves the time it takes the director to run back to the desk and grab the law book.

**And speaking of saving time...bridge is a timed event.** While the laws do not mandate a specific amount of time for each hand, the generally accepted universal standard is seven minutes per board for most games. Everyone has an occasional hand that requires a few more minutes; no one should have frequent hands that require more time than that. Your game director is charged with finishing a game on time while making sure that no one is forced to play insanely fast during the event to catch up. The director must juggle slow play with the requirement to finish on time (usually 3.5 hours for an open game). If your partnership gets a few minutes behind it is your and your opponents' responsibility to catch up during the current or following round.

**Directors don't always get it right** any more than bridge players always get it right. We usually know who is causing the slow play but we do get distracted by having to make a ruling or another pot of coffee. We are all trying our best, but **bring your smile and good attitude to our club** to help yourself cope with cranky players, slow play and imperfect directors.

### **A Kibitzer Thank You**

to ***Marcie Pick***

for her generous donation of \$20,000 to our club