

# KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association January 1, 2023

Editor – Diana Powell with help from Sherrie Goodman and  
Jim Thornton email: dspowell10@gmail.com

## President's Message January 2023

I want to thank all members for the support and assistance they provided during 2022. The LBA board provides guidance and direction, but the modest success we have enjoyed is due to the many workers and volunteers who have contributed their time and talents to keep our club open and functional. COVID and Ida caused temporary closures, but we are open and getting stronger. This is in stark contrast to the many bridge clubs around the country that are permanently closed.

Our Rosenblum sectional tournament is scheduled Thursday Jan. 5 through Saturday Jan. 7. Our annual general membership meeting will be held between sessions on Saturday January 7, 2023. Voting is taking place before and after games from January 2-7 to fill four vacancies on the board of directors. Information on the seven candidates is available on the LBA website. I urge all members to vote.

In conclusion, I want to thank my executive committee, Jackie Madden, Sherrie Goodman, Suzanne Cliffe, Mary LeBlanc, and the entire board for their support and for the opportunity to serve as your president. I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.

**Larry Federico**

### At the LBA Face-to-Face:

Happy New Year! 2023 promises to be an exciting year for our club. We are taking reservations online and at the front table at the club for the **Rosenblum Sectional** so that we can plan the refreshments. On Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am (before the 10 am game), we will welcome "home" **Reese Koppel** who will share what he has been up to since he went off to college.

Kathy Plauche's "**Beginner Bridge**" starts Jan. 12. See page 6 for details. We will begin our Continuing Education series with a 4-lesson package with **Iype Koshy**. This is a wonderful chance to pick up some of Iype's fabulous lessons at a reduced price of \$120 for 4 sessions. If you can't make them all, the classes are \$40 each on Saturdays from 9:30-noon, January 14, 21, 28 & February 4.

January is Junior Fund Month. If we are not having Club Championships, we will have Junior Fund games. Either way, all games in January will be 2x points! It's a busy month.....come join us for lots of learning and lots of fun!

### At the Virtual Club:

Our online games continue to generate income for our club. We will have Junior Fund games online the week of January 9-15 (2x pt). Reminder: The BBO ACBL World games do not support our club, but the **vacb221739 LBA/LBC/ET AL games help our club financially**. If you are playing online, please play in our club's games. Thanks for your support.

**Sherrie Goodman**



**YOU CAN DO BOTH . . .  
VOLUNTEER AND PLAY AT OUR NABC  
MARCH 9-19**

We need your help to make our tournament a success. You can set up your games and let us know your availability on those days, or you can set up dates and times to volunteer and ask partners to play on those days.

Most of the volunteers are needed an hour before the (8:50-9:50) 10am game and an hour before the (1:50-2:50) 3pm game. Therefore, you could play in both sessions and volunteer before one or both games. **If you plan to play at the tournament, please plan to help out.**

Volunteers will be offered a **\$10 coupon for each hour** of volunteer service to be used towards entry fees.

People are needed to help at the following desks:

Registration (Chair-Sherrie Goodman)

Partnership (Chairs-David Woods & Nelson Daigle)

Intermediate/Novice (Chairs-Kathy Plauche & Wayne Weisler)

**Email Diana at <http://dspowell10@gmail.com> (or fill out a form at the club)**

Please include the following:

**Name, email, and cell phone. Preferences (if any)**

We will contact you to work out the details. (Date, time, and assignment)

Thanks so much,

Diana Powell - Volunteer Chairman

Jim Thornton - Volunteer Chairman

## **A PRIMER ON SELECTING EVENTS AT THE UPCOMING NATIONAL TOURNAMENT IN NEW ORLEANS**

For those of you who are not experienced at larger tournaments or in team events, please read on!!

**There are two main event types each day at the Nationals – Teams and Pairs.** Pair play is scored by Match Points and team play by the IMP (International Match Point) scale. This scale is printed on your score card. As you know, Match Point scoring gives you 1 point for every pair you beat (even if just by 10 points) and ½ point for every pair you tie. **The key to Match Point scoring** is HOW OFTEN, not by HOW MUCH you beat your opponents.

**IMP scoring** on the other hand is different in that the key to winning is HOW MUCH, not HOW OFTEN you beat your opponents. With this scoring scheme, the winning strategy is to bid and make close vulnerable games and slams as these will score so much more with the game and slam bonus added. Remember, making your contract is paramount and a mere overtrick or undertrick in IMP scoring will rarely be determinative in winning - in Match Point scoring this can be crucial.

**At the upcoming Nationals, the most popular events** will likely be the two-session Bracketed Round Robin teams, regular Swiss teams and two-session and one-session pairs events. Many of the pair events are restricted by upper Masterpoints requirements (Gold Rush Pairs for example require both members of a pairing to have 750 or less Masterpoints). Check the total Masterpoint restrictions in advance and pick events that most closely match your skill level. In addition, the events will be flighted within the overall Masterpoint limits. As a general rule, events without an upper Masterpoint limit (Open) will have a stronger field.

**Team Bracketing** means the teams are placed into brackets of 8 teams of similar total Masterpoint holdings and you play the other teams in your bracket once. This is generally believed to be fairer because in a regular Swiss your reward for winning early matches is getting more difficult opponents in later rounds. In the Round Robin format, your new opponent is not a function of your current score – it's a pre-determined schedule.

**Pair events** are generally one or two sessions in length. If you select a two-session event, you must play in both sessions to get awards. Two-session events with an upper Masterpoint limit of at least 750 will award Gold points to overall and section winners. One-session events are frequent but to obtain Gold points, you must play in at least two sessions of the SAME SERIES and finish in the Open overalls. There are pair series scheduled almost every day and as these events are Open, competition can be tough. You do not need to play with the same partner in other sessions of a pair series to get Gold points, but in addition to finishing in the Open overalls, you must play in at least two sessions of the same series.

**My humble opinion** is that Bracketed, Round Robin teams and restricted two-session Pairs events (Gold Rush e.g.) are the best avenues for Gold. Remember, you can play in 3 sessions a day for 10 days and 2 sessions on the final day. Don't give up if you have a bad day.

**GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!!**

Jim Thornton and helpers Sid, Sherrie, Paul, Suzanne and Diana

## TEAM GAMES By Lil Range

Bridge players often find the different types of team games confusing. All Swiss events have commonalities. One, team events involve four people playing on the same team. Two, team events all allow for the possibility of substitutes, so they may in actuality be five- or six-person teams. Everyone who plays at least half the time gets all the points that the team earns. Typically, the team must declare the members (if there are more than 4) at the start of the event. Three, team events all give you a score after each round. So, you can see how you are doing throughout the event, rather than waiting until the end as happens in a pairs game.

**Swiss team** games start with the teams paired by number of points on the team, so that the teams with the highest number of points start against each other. If your team is in the middle of the field in terms of numbers of points, you will start against another team that is in the middle of the field. Then, if you win, you play against other teams that won, and if you lose you play against other teams that lost. In-person events usually pair you against new teams every round. If the Swiss game is **stratified**, then your team has a chance to place overall, but your team also has the chance to place against the other teams in your level. So, you can win overall, but you can also win in B or C bracket as well. The online Sunday Swiss is stratified.

**Bracketed Swiss** teams divide teams, depending on the number of entries, into groups of similar levels. For example, if there are 49 teams, the division might be groups of 7. The team plays all 6 of the other teams in their level. An advantage here is that you are consistently playing against teams of roughly the same level as your team. Bracketed events typically give the team credit for all the other teams in lower brackets.

**Round Robin** is a term that is used to describe an in-person Swiss team event in which there is an odd number of team in the field, for example 29. If there is an odd team (well, odd in the sense of numbers), then there will always be a round robin group. In this group, there will be three teams playing each other, and each team will have to wait for two rounds to see how they are doing. For example, teams 27, 28, and 29 might be the round robin group. North/South 27 will play against East/West 28 one round, and East/West 29 the other round. BBO does not currently have the capability of handling odd numbers of teams, so that if there are 29 entries, BBO will add a table of substitutes.

**Knockout** team events eliminate approximately half the field each round. So, if you start with 16 teams the first round, the second round will involve 8 teams, the third round (semi-finals) 4 teams, and the final round 2 teams. Typically, a knockout event will have two rounds in the early part of the day, say 10 a.m., and two rounds later in the day, say 3 p.m. Often the initial number of teams is not as easily divided as 16, so sometimes teams can lose one initial round but win in the other and advance to the afternoon part of the event. Teams that get knocked out in the 10 a.m. part of the event are free to play in another event in the 3:00 schedule.

**Flighted** team games are similar to bracketed. Flighted events typically have three flights, A, B, and C, and teams play only against other teams in their flights.

One more commonality for team games: they are all lots of fun. Come join us every Sunday for the online Swiss at 2 p.m. CT or check out your local club for the possibility of team games. For questions, comments, or suggestions for future columns, contact LIL 504 330 1158.

## PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH

Hand 14 in the club tournament of July 8th is a good example of the defense being able to achieve a good save. Most Easts would open 3S with that suit and shape. Because it is usually better to bid rather than to pass in questionable situations, we would expect South to make a takeout double or to bid 4H. West would certainly bid some number of spades with such support, probably 4S but perhaps more, and North should be adventurous enough to offer 5H or more likely 6H. Whether or not East saves or passes, West will surely more likely save than pass, recognizing the possibility that there could be two spade voids. We leave it to the reader to work out how and why North can make 6H double dummy and why South cannot succeed without a ruff and sluff on opening lead or with a double dummy opening club lead. But would E/W always save in this case? Or would N/S make 6H under the circumstances?.

E Deals

None Vul

		N		
		♠		
		♥	A1086	
		♦	973	
		♣	AQ10986	
W			E	
♠	KJ10654	♠	AQ98732	
♥	4	♥	J93	
♦	K10	♦	Q84	
♣	KJ74	♣		
		S		
		♠		
		♥	KQ752	
		♦	AJ652	
		♣	532	

## NEWS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### In New Orleans at the Marriott & Sheraton

March 9 – 19, 2023 - NABC Tournament

#### At the Club: (all games 2x pt.)

Jan 5-7: Rosenblum Sectional Tournament

Jan 6: Conversation with Reese Koppel

Jan. 14-Feb 4: Iype's Saturday morning lessons

#### At the Virtual Club:

Jan. 9-15: Junior Fund games (2x pt.)

### Welcome

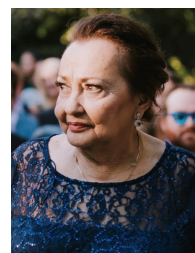
#### New Members

Judith Haber-Becnel

Barbara Kraus

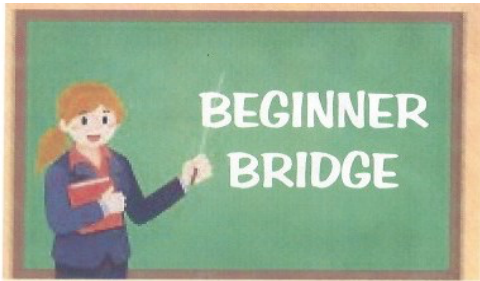
Matt Kucera

### In Memoriam



Doris Canter

## NEWS



### ***BEGINNER BRIDGE LESSONS***

**JANUARY 2023**

The Louisiana Bridge Association is offering a 12-week set of lessons for beginning players starting January 12, 2023. One charge of \$50. You don't need a partner but feel free to encourage a friend to learn alongside you.

***INTERESTED IN  
LEARNING THE BEST  
CARD GAME EVER ??***

### **DAY and NIGHT CLASSES**



#### **BEGINNER BRIDGE DAYTIME CLASSES**

Date: THURSDAY, Jan. 12, 2023  
Time: 9 – 11:30 am



#### **BEGINNER BRIDGE NIGHT CLASSES**

Date: THURSDAY, Jan. 12, 2023  
Time: 6:30pm – 9pm

To Register: by email: Kathy Plauche, Instructor at [kkbridge24@gmail.com](mailto:kkbridge24@gmail.com)  
or by text: Kathy @ 504-220-4815



LOCATION: LOUISIANA BRIDGE CENTER, 2709 Edenborn Ave., Metairie, LA 70002

### **NABC UPDATE**

All plans for the NABC in March are proceeding satisfactorily. We had our monthly conference call on December 28<sup>th</sup>, and we are meeting with the ACBL planners at the Marriot on January 4<sup>th</sup>. One of our priorities for that site visit is resolving questions on the discount parking program. All committee chairs are performing well, but I need to give a special accolade to **Jennie Flynn Sauviac** and **Sid LeBlanc**. Many thanks to **Henry Bodenheimer** for all of his work reaching out to donors. They worked on fund raising from event naming. Jackie and I budgeted \$5000 and thought we were being optimistic. They have actually raised over \$20,000.

### **LOOKING FOR A TOURNAMENT?**

January 13-14: **Montgomery I/N Sectional**

January 20-22: **Gulfport Sectional**

January 27-29: **Jackson Sectional (Flowood)**

January 28: **GNT/NAP District finals – Jackson (Ridgeland)**  
Find out more:

<https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/lay/coc/nap/10.pdf>

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### RANK ADVANCEMENTS

**Junior Master:** Yvonne Bayhi

**Life Master:** Barbara Fitz-Hugh

**Gold Life Master:** Jeffrey Perigoni

### LIFE MASTER



**Barbara Fitz-Hugh**

### 70 % GAMES

**November 26 – December 25 (Next issue starts with December 26)**

12/5	Open – STAC	David Williams, Judy Katz	74.33%
12/10	Swiss	John Onstott and teammates	70.00%
12/15	99 – Club	John Hurley, Kathy Folsie	89.28%
12/22	Open – Club	John and Larry Federico	73.02%