

KIBITZER ♣♦♥♠

Louisiana Bridge Association June 2020

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President's Message June 2020

Hello Everyone and I hope you are all well.

It is nice to know that John Liukkonen's computer is working again and he will be able to continue to write and publish our Kibitzer .

We want to thank Sherrie again for her hard work so we can play Bridge on line. I hope that you are enjoying the games.

There are some rumors going around about the opening of our club. No decisions have been made by your Board. We are all looking forward to the day we will be playing Bridge at the club.

With regret our former Bridge players and friends, Shirley Buisson ,Geoff Chichester,and Nonie Leavitt passed away last week. They will be missed.

Carolyn Dubois

The Online Regional Achievements (overalls)

Dee Moses & Eleanor Onstott

28/29th Evening Side Series

Jacob Karno

41st Evening Side Series

Bummy Rosenfield & Lilian Range

70th Sunday Open Pairs

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Pat Galloway, Laurie Hart, Carolyn Herting, David Herting, Liz Talbott, Dorothy Weisler

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Lawrence Holbrook, Carla Seyler, Alfred Arnold, Neil Nadler

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Gail Duffy, Shirley Friend, Sarah Dabney Jacob, Ann Mahnke, Linda Neill, Joan Quinlan, Heather Russell, William Varney, Janice C Bruner, Evelyn De Laoreal, Janet Koppel, Nancy Marks

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Carol Castle, Curtis Castle, Evelyn Contois, Jane Reynolds

NEW NABC MASTER

Sandra Brown

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Molly Silvia

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER

Daisy Vandenburg

NEW MEMBERS

Margot Anderson, Richmond Eustis, Thomas McDaniel, Helen Morrison, Clydia Hebertt, Ivy Kushner, Tom Schwaner

In Memoriam

Sue Balmer

Shirley Buisson

Geoff Chichester

Lilian Kirshbom

Nonie Leavitt

Jean Russo

Martie Sisco

John Treen

Tadeusz Wiewiorowski*

Mathilde Wiewiorowski*

Jack Zoller

*LBA members who moved to Texas in 2008

Contents this issue

p1 President's message, online regional achievements, rank advancements, new members, in memoriam

p2 Direktors Korner, Paul's Deal of Month

p3 Arnaldo column, Sue Himel column

p4 club manager report, 70 percent games in the Virtual Club

p5 a story from Don Daigle

DIREKTORS KORNER

THIS MONTH'S DIREKTOR IN CHARGE: Chog

TOPIC: Chog's Log #2

Robert Kennedy once said, "There is a Chinese curse which says, "May he live in interesting times." Like it or not, we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty; but they are also the most creative of any time in the history of mankind.

Well, some of us are using this time to learn how to play bridge on-line. I have often said that one's bridge journey is similar (but different) to one's spiritual journey. There is no waking up knowing the path. That's why to walk the bridge path, one needs a certain amount of study, fanny time, and reflection. Therefore, learning to play online is a creative way to learn this game of bridge.

My bridge path during the quarantine has been to play computer bridge on Bridgebase.com. Robots are quirky just like playing with a human partner. Study, fanny time, and reflection will make the bridge journey smoother. My electronic bridge journey, however, started six or so months ago on the acbl.org site where there are no fees. Bridgebase.com offers these same bridge games also for no charge. I suppose I've played over a thousand hands. Remember, study, fanny time, and reflection.

And I've been successful accumulating some black points along the way these past couple of weeks. Consider enhancing your bridge skills by playing online.

Oh, and as a concluding thought, slightly buzzed bridge isn't so bad. But more than a slight buzz doesn't work so well.

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 a hand from a club game (see box at left) provides

W ♠ 108652	E ♠ AQJ943
♥ KJ976	♥ void
♦ 9	♦ A103
♣ AJ	♣ K976

material for 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 seriatim. (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. Having considered all of the four possible bids, 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?

Going Fishing for Hands by Arnaldo Partesotti

I had to fish the hand which follows out from my records, simply because I run out of interesting hands played here during the pandemic (everybody is on-line). You are selected to be on the jury and, should you accept, you are asked to apportion the blame between North and South, for failing to bid game, or the slam which, in my opinion, is a lot more difficult to reach.

North VD		
♠AQ2		
♥KT53		
♦T854		
♣95		
West NV	East NV	
♠43	♠T95	
♥AJ876	♥Q942	
♦KJ632	♦A97	
♣Q	♣J62	
South V		
♠KJ876		
♥-		
♦Q		
♣AKT8743		

After two passes, South opens with 1C, West interferes with 1H, North bids 1NT and East raises Partner's bid to 2H. South bids 2S, West continues the interference with 3H, North doubles and this is the end of the bidding. 3H doubled fails by 3 tricks for an excellent result for non-vulnerable East-West.

Here are some comments: North's bidding appears quite normal, while South's bidding is very questionable. South opening 1C is fine. The second bid of 2S is OK, but it does not describe sufficiently the strength of the 2-suited (5-7) hand. After North doubles, passing is not an option for South. With such strong distributional hand, which has not yet been fully disclosed by the bidding, South has several options: 3S appears to be an underbid, 4S is fine, 4H appears to be the strongest bid at this point, showing the power of the distributional hand and the singleton/void in Hearts, with a potential hint at interest in slam. After North supports Spades at the 4-level, South may use 1430 to inquire about the Ace and Queen of Spades. I would absolve North and place 100% of the blame on South.

Two final observations: the actual result shows how effective interference can be, but it should have not prevented North-South from reaching at least game. Also, had West used a Michaels cue-bid of 2NT over the 1C opening, I believe he would have helped, rather than obstructed, the North-South bidding.

For the I/N Crowd by Sue Himel

4-3 Fits #2

When your partnership has decided to play in a Moysian fit it is usually because major suit contracts score higher than minor suit contracts, an important factor in matchpoint (pair) scoring. You will frequently have a longer side suit in the minors. It is usually right to set up the side suit in order to force the defenders to use their long trump to ruff it or in order to run the suit without losing the lead if all of your trumps are used drawing the opponents' trumps.

Dummy
♠2
♥AT2
♦AJT73
♣K932

Declarer
♠AT6
♥KQJ9
♦K86
♣654

Contract: 4H **Opening lead:** ♠K

You win the opening lead with the ♠A and count your losers. You must lose 2 or 3 clubs and you might lose a diamond. That may be too many. If the diamonds behave you can set up the suit to discard two clubs. Should you draw trumps first then work on diamonds? Trump spades in the dummy?

You have several choices, but the safest one is to win the opening lead and lead a diamond to the jack. If it loses the opponents have no return that is dangerous for you. If they return a club you have the ♣K in a safe spot. If they return a spade you can trump in the dummy, draw trumps and run the diamonds. If they return a diamond, win the ♦K, trump a spade in dummy and draw trumps. If trumps are 3-3 or 4-2

you will make 4, ♠A, spade ruff, 4 hearts, 4 diamonds. If the ♦Q is onside you get to make 5.

Plan carefully when your partnership lands in a 4-3 fit. You will have to use certain tools in order to maintain control of the hand. Look for loser-on-loser plays and set up your side suits safely.

Online Report from Sherrie

Congratulations! Over 300 of you are playing successfully online. It has been a struggle since I couldn't be with you to show you how to get online, but even our least "techie" players are playing and enjoying having bridge to occupy their days while we trudge through all the uncertainty. We've made some new friends from Memphis, Baton Rouge and Lafayette, but mostly it has been nice to see all of our LBA buddies daily even though it is just online. In the very near future you will be able to see who is sitting at your table and speak to them without typing. Yes, a "Zoom-like" program is being implemented on BBO. At first it will be used in the teaching rooms, but very soon it will be on the playing tables. Amazing.

We have even made some money for our club to help pay the bills. We made over \$11,000 for March and April before expenses (table fees and director fees). So, yes, we will be able to keep the lights and air conditioning, etc. on at the club.

Meanwhile, ACBL and BBO are listening to us and understand that we are missing all of our special events. They are working on team games, but that will take a while. They had a regional last week and you can be sure there will be others to follow probably quarterly. We are having a Triple Silver point week the last week in May. June 20 and 21 will be Longest Day games at our virtual club. All events will be extra fee and extra points above the extra points we are already getting. I am sure there will be a lot more special events coming our way. I hope you are getting my emails, but if not please call me and let me know.

I am not sure when the club will reopen. If you are not playing online and would like to be, feel free to call me and I will help you. The virtual games are here to stay for the foreseeable future. So please join us.

Sherrie Goodman
Club Manager
Virtual Club Pool Master

VIRTUAL CLUB SEVENTY PERCENT GAMES

Apr 6 Guss Ginsburg & John Onstott **71.64%** *Open*
Apr 17 Sid & Mary LeBlanc **70.88%** *Open*
Apr 18 John Onstott & Dave McDonald **73.61%** *Open*
Apr 20 Jacob Karno & Don Daigle **71.4%** *Open*
Apr 21 Jacob Karno & Wayne Weisler **79.41%** *Open*
Apr 26 Janice Zazulak & Diana Powell **70%** *499er*

May 2 Paul Freese & Toby Young **74.81%** *Open*
May 4 Leonardo Galleguillos & Jeannette Gallieguillos **75.46%** *199er*
May 4 Richard Oshlag & Larry Adler **72.07%** *Open*
May 9 Frances Jay & Dianne Mall **73.75%** *199er*
May 10 Linda Dunn & Sharon Ohlstedt **70.83%** *Open*
May 11 Hayley Hudson & John Wagner **77.92%** *199er*
May 11 Jim Munday & Richard Oshlag **76.34%** *Open*
May 13 Jeanette Galleguillos & Leonardo Galleguillos **74.10%** *199er*
May 13 Cindy Barksdale & Iris Stewart **70.56%** *199er*
May 16 Ishmael Del'Monte & Margaret Hart **70.64%** *Open*
May 17 Howard Morris & Stephen Vaughan **70.83%** *Open*
May 20 Jean Talbot & Juanita Heidingsfelder **70%** *Open*
May 21 Elizabeth McBurney & Patricia Harris **71.11%** *499er*
May 25 Paula Ann Grabon & Wendy LaMore **73.64%** *Open*
May 25 Linda Green-Whitten & Linda Dunn **72.73%** *Open*
May 26 Mark Huffman & Christine Tatum **75.56%** *Open*
May 27 Steven Plotkin & Ronald Omond **79.17%** *499er*
May 27 David Woods & Stephen Kishner **71.43%** *Open*
May 28 Byron Jenkins & Rich Boardman **70.83%** *199er*
May 28 Sriram Ganesan & Reese Koppel **70.83%** *499er*

A story from Don Daigle

The baby seals were swimmingly well. Then they saw the Orcas come to the table and one of the orcas was the best of them all. The baby seals fear that a slaughter may be in store. And on the first board their fears were proven to be right. In the diagram below left we see the hands.

	♣9642	
	♥QJ5	
	♦J	
	♣Q9643	
♠Q75		♠ KJ83
♥AK7432		♥6
♦A9		♦KQ10432
♣J10		♣AK
	♠A10	
	♥1098	
	♦9765	
	♣8752	

The bidding was fast and furious...typical of the orcas. West was opening bidder: 1H-2D, 2H-2S, 3D-4D, 4NT-6D. It was a laydown and in less than 2 minutes, the orcas had a top. No one else was even close to a slam. The blood was in the water and the orcas were ready for their next top.

Baby seal in south was the next board's opening bidder and as the diagram below left shows: a great hand.

	♠92	
	♥J94	
	♦10932	
	♣KQ65	
♠K764		♠Q10853
♥Q875		♥102
♦J65		♦Q874
♣J9		♣A7
	♠AJ	
	♥AK63	
	♦AK	
	♣108432	

As the opening bidder the baby seal showed his five card club suit: One club. North had his 6 points and not much to call except the 4 small diamonds which he declared. North was shocked to hear South bid TWO Hearts. A reverse or a heckava 6-5 hand...but which one. If South had only 4 hearts the play may be tricky. With all of the points seem to be working North took the plunge and bid 4 Hearts. South came thru with the play of the day after losing to the club Ace and subsequent spade lead back taken with the Ace of spades. South led a small heart out of his hand and now West had no choice but to play small. South immediately took the trick with the Jack and led a small heart to his A and K of hearts playing clubs until West took a trick with the Queen of Hearts. Result: a TOP. The baby seals had fought for a draw and lived to swim again in the deep waters of bridge.