

Louisiana Bridge Association April 2019

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbl@cox.net

President's Message April 2019

Greetings to everyone! It has been a busy spring. Many of our members attended the National Bridge Tournament in Memphis and all had a great time!

Thank you to Larry Federico for supplying the hot dogs and fixings for Mardi Gras day. Everything was yummy, and players had a great time.

One question I am often asked is where the Charity Game monies go. Some of the Charity Games our club holds support ACBL charities. Our bridge club, however, receives a modest amount to give to charities in our community. There is a committee that determines which charity. If you have a worthy charity that you support, please tell Jackie Madden so that the committee can consider your charity as a recipient.

Linda Freese

April Events

*= extra points, no extra fees

**=extra points, extra fees

Apr 3 ACBL-wide Charity Game** Wed
GAME TIME 11:45AM

Apr 8 Charity Fund Game** Mon Night

Apr 11-13 Lafayette Sectional Thurs-Sat

Apr 18 Charity Fund Game** Thurs

Apr 26-28 Jackson Sectional Fri-Sun

Apr 26-28 Jackson Final GNT/NAP Fri-Sun

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Albert Solomon, Dale Thompson

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Mary Belcher, Judith Freeman, Peck Hayne, Kathy Plauche, Philip Russo

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Rayne Lykes, Lucinda Stentz, Denise Tabor, Wayne Wells

NEW NABC MASTERS

Virginia Dabbs, Shirlann Finch, Nancy Linzy, Janice Zazulak

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

Mae O Neil

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Carol Bagalman, Di Lapeyre

Unit 134 2018 Masterpoint leaders

*No stars=won ace of clubs, * = won Mini-McKenney, **= won both Ace of clubs and Mini-McKenney, \$\$=in the top 25 nationally for both categories*

0-5 Ben Zelenka*, Newt Jackson

5-20 Peck Hayne*, Terry & Debby Habig

20-50 Robert Reich**

50-100 Judith Luchsinger**

100-200 Ronald Omond**

200-300 Molly Silvia*, William McDonald

300-500 Elaine Wilczynski*, Arnaldo Partesotti

500-1000 **Jacob Karno** \$\$**

1000-1500 Wayne Weisler*, Sherrie Goodman

1500-2500 Chuck Pitard*, Nelson Daigle

2500-3500 JF Lowenstein*, Paul Freese

3500-5000 Kathy Logue**

5000-7500 Larry Federico**

10000+ Drew Casen*, John Onstott

NEW MEMBER

Carol Jambon

In Memoriam

Wayne Merkel

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DIREKTOR'S KORNER

THIS MONTH'S DIREKTOR IN CHARGE: MR. KRANKY

TOPIC: INSIGHT INTO DIRECTOR'S JOBS

I thought it would be a good idea to give the players a little insight into what a director has to do to get a game started.

Aside from collecting money and attempting to seed the field as best as possible, the directors are constantly juggling players around from table to table. This table is too hot. That one is too cold. This player doesn't like to sit on that side of the room, etc. The list is endless. Add to this the fact that some players are arriving late, or not at all. These adjustments often change the movement completely. Bottom line--game time is chaos.

We directors attempt to accommodate everyone, but there are limits. Our population is aging which creates more issues. This will only get worse.

Please do not ask the director to do something that you can do yourself. And, do not ask any of us to act as your "social secretary." We do NOT have the time.

I guess that I shouldn't complain too much. If things get too bad I can always try "cat herding." I have a lot of experience.

Sectional firsts by our road warriors

Hot Springs Village

Charles Waldrop & Gary Waldrop **Fri AM 499er pairs 3**

Chuck Pitard & Allan Siebert **Fri PM Open pairs AND Sun PM Swiss**

Glitter Gulch (Las Vegas)

Jacob Karno, with Drew Casen et al **Round Robin Bracketed Teams 1 Monday, Tuesday, AND Thursday**

Wednesday Grand Slam Jackpots

Mar 13 Jacob Karno & Jacob Morgan

70 percent games

99ers

Mar 15 Bette Marks & Debbie Reily 71.49%

499ers

Mar 4 Newt Jackson & Jennifer Holmes 70.99%

Open

Mar 26 eve Michael Schlosser & Peck Hayne 74%

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH Once every so often an aggressive partnership will overbid a good hand, especially when pushed in competition, and arrive at what appears to be a makeable but unlikely to be made contract. Such a hand occurred for me in a local club game. (See below left.) North was dealer, with only E/W vulnerable. North and

N	♠72		
	♥9872		
	♦KJ1065		
	♣A9		
W	♠94	E	♠Q653
	♥KQ10653		♥AJ4
	♦73		♦A984
	♣Q83		♣64
S	♠AKJ108		
	♥void		
	♦Q2		
	♣KJ10752		

East passed, so I opened the South hand with 1C, bidding the longer suit of this strong 6/5 hand first. Everyone bids with any excuse at matchpoints, so West could not resist making a weak jump overcall of 2H. North stretched a point or two and tried 3D, a sensible but distinct overbid but who wants to pass at matchpoint duplicate? East chimed in with 3H but who wouldn't do so with such strong hearts and an outside Ace? That brought the auction back around to me, South, after P-P-1C-2H-3D-3H(?). It seemed to me that my hand was worth a jump bid to show both strength and distribution, so I bid 4S, hoping that would convey to partner that I held a strong 6/5 hand opposite North's 3D call, for which I had a modest partial "fit." West passed. After a pause for thought North took a preference to 5C, which even in retrospect seems to me to be the correct call, although 4S would make. Suspecting that 4S might have made and that 5C typically does not score well at matchpoints when there is an alternative higher scoring contract available, I boldly raised to 6C,

which became the final contract. West led the ♥K, which I ruffed and then took time to think about what to do next. North's hand was a disappointment because although the diamonds were about what I expected (we play weak 2D openers, so North would not likely have a long diamond suit on this auction) but I had bid a slam hoping for a three card club fit and North held only two, the ♣A9. With a certain diamond loser and two possible Queen black suit losers, what was the best line of play? If I played East for both black Queens I would need three entries to dummy to finesse clubs once and spades twice. I had only two sure entries to dummy, the ♣A and overtaking the ♦Q (if no ruff followed), so that plan would not work. Further reasoning that if the Queens were divided between East and West, I would have to play East for the ♠Q to finesse in that suit, so the ♣Q would have to be with West. Eureka, I saw the light in the road ahead. If that were the way the Queens lay, dummy's ♣9 was as good as an Ace! So first I played a low club to dummy's ♣9. Another "Eureka." It held! Now a low spade to the ♠10 in my hand. A third "Eureka." That held! Back to the ♣A in dummy, both opponents following, and then another spade, this time to the Jack. A fourth "Eureka" when it held. West followed and didn't ruff. Now nothing left to do but to cash the ♣K, clearing trumps, cash the ♠AK, dropping East's ♠Q, give up a trick to the ♦A and then claim, making 6C. So you see, dear readers, bridge is an easy game. Just a couple of simple finesses against two black Queens and the small slam came home with "flying colors."

Joue Mal Mais Vite by Arnaldo Partesotti

When I was growing up playing bridge in Italy, we had a French say going around the club: “joue mal mais vite”, translated “play badly but fast” or “you better play fast even if you play badly”. Not very good advice. Nobody enjoys slow play but playing fast may cause mistakes, and this applies also to making claims too fast, which happened to me recently. The hand in question is below left (rotated for convenience).

North NV	
♠K96	
♥7653	
♦A	
♣87543	
West NV	East NV
♠4	♠J532
♥AT8	♥942
♦KJ842	♦QT9765
♣AT62	♣—
South NVD	
♠AQT87	
♥KQJ	
♦3	
♣KQJ9	

With the opponents always silent, the bidding was very quick. Sitting South I opened 1S, North bid 2S and I jumped to 4S, ending the auction. West led the ♠4, not wanting to lead away from his Aces and King. After the lead I faced my hand and said “I have to give you the two aces”. What I meant of course was “I will pull all trumps (after the lead), I will give you one ace, win any return, give you the other ace and win the rest”. The way I made the claim was wrong in two ways. It did not explain that I was pulling all trumps first and how I would continue after that, and it did not account for the 4-0 Club split, where I would lose to the Ace and Ten of Clubs under most conditions (you could pitch the ♣9 over the fourth Heart in dummy with very favorable defense, you figure it out). This did not sit well with the opponents, and one of them claimed that, because I did not announce that I was pulling trumps, he was entitled to club ruffs, setting the contract. We ended up calling the director, who adjudicated the hand at 4S making four. This makes for a good teachable moment. Claims and Concessions are covered in Laws 68-71 of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, and you may check them out on your own. I just want to give you some quick pointers, perhaps obvious, which should cover most situations, if

something similar ever comes up.

Claims save time. As declarer, even if you are clear from trick one as to how many tricks you will make, it is sensible to delay making your claim until it will also be equally clear to the defenders. If you claim too early, they may be unsure of their defensive prospects, refuse your claim and call the Director. Instead of saving time on the play of the hand, the opposite will be true.

When a claim is made by declarer or he shows his remaining cards as a claim, all possibilities of further play cease. A claim must be accompanied by a clear statement about the order of play of the remaining cards and the line of play to win the claimed tricks. If in doubt, simply play off your hand instead of making a claim. If the opponents ask you to “play on” after you make a claim, call the Director. Play stopped when you made the claim.

If a defender attempts to concede tricks and his partner immediately objects, no (claim)/concession has occurred. This means that play continues. There might be some consequences for “unauthorized information” between defenders, call the Director.

Do not let the defenders, even experts, tell you how to play the hand. If there are any disagreements call the Director, and let him decide. The claimer is bound to “normal” lines of play, including inferior or careless, but not irrational plays.

In the end, as Onstott suggested last month “BE NICE”. Let your friends (fellow players) pick up dropped cards, correct misbids, etc. Our minds are not as quick, our hands not as steady as they once were. We all make mistakes. Do you really want to win on a technicality?

Some Memphis NABC results

National level event overalls

10K Swiss Guss Ginsburg et al **6th**

Silver Ribbon Pairs Chuck Pitard & Rick Logan **53rd**

Vanderbilt KO Teams John Onstott-Jacob Morgan-Drew Casen et al **9/16 (tie)**

Regional level event firsts

Thurs Gold Rush Christine Beesley & Nancy Linzy (tie)

Thurs Open Pairs Jacob Morgan & James Melville

Fri Daylight Open Pairs Jacob Morgan & James Melville

Sun Daylight Bktd Flight B Teams 2 Henry Bodenheimer et al

Sun Eve 299er Pairs Steve Plotkin & Mike Russell

Mon-Wed KO Sheryl Thompson-Molly Silvia-Cappy McIver-Di Lapeyre

Wed Daylight A/B/C Open Pairs Wayne Weisler & Jacob Karno Flt C

Thurs Aft Side Swiss JF Lowenstein-Eleanor Onstott-Wayne Weisler-Jacob Karno Flt B

We hope to have more Memphis results next issue!