

KIBITZER



Louisiana Bridge Association – September, 2012

Peggy Allen, Editor

President’s Message

The Houma club has closed its doors due to declining membership. It was killed by the obituary page. We have enough members today, but we will have problems in the future. Some of us would like to play for twenty more years and we’re not sure who else will be here. The ACBL has a program for youth bridge aimed at high school. I consider youth bridge as under age 60. All of you know bridge players who don’t play here. Ask them to come. If there are new players, infrequent players or 299ers in the open game, make them feel welcome. Go easy on director calls, don’t comment about bad plays, don’t intimidate. Be welcoming. One player suggested that everyone have nametags. This is a good idea, and I would encourage it. All players should, at least, have their names clearly written on their convention cards and introduce themselves. We have an EZ Bridge session starting September 20. Invite your friends to this. We are considering a member/guest party to introduce new players to LBA. We need all of our players to help in these efforts. Bridge is a wonderful game and it is dying. [Ed: The latest ACBL report shows the average age of members of our unit is 70.84 years, compared with an average age of 70 years for all ACBL members.]

Sid LeBlanc



EZ Bridge Starting September 20

Friends don’t let friends live without bridge. So be sure to tell your unbridged friends, neighbors, and relatives about the new EZ Bridge lessons coming this month. The first lesson is on Thursday, September 20, at 9:00 AM. The first four lessons are FREE. No reservations are required, but questions can be directed to **Suzanne Cliffe**, at 504-895-5553.



The Playing Director

NFL referees are in a lockout – but don’t worry: the regular season games will go on, with Drew Brees and his fellow quarterbacks from around the league officiating, in addition to playing their normal positions.

Not!! Competitors are not usually allowed to judge the competition. So why does the Director occasionally play in a duplicate? And what does ACBL have to say about this?

Allowing the director to play makes club games more enjoyable in three ways: (1) it can enable a player without a partner to play (2) it can help avoid the dreaded “sit out” round and (3) for smaller games, the addition of one pair can make the difference between having a game or not.

I found nothing in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge about the playing vs. non-playing directors, but the ACBL also publishes a handbook, with guidance for many aspects of club management. The handbook addresses the playing director question as follows:

“It is preferable for a game to have a non-playing director. A non-playing director can give more objective rulings concerning disputes and infractions of bridge laws and regulations than one who is personally involved in the session. Even when no rulings are called for, the non-playing director can give more attention to maintaining the quality of the game. Some special games require a non-playing Club or higher-rated director.

“Non-playing directors are encouraged, **but not required** for games having not more than one section of 17 tables or less for ... special events held at clubs [such as]: ACBL-wide International Fund Games, ACBL-wide Charity Games, ..., Club Appreciation Games, ... World-

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wide Pairs, Instant Matchpoint Game, ... NAOP Club and Unit qualifying stages, ... Unit Championships, ... and STACs.”— *ACBL Handbook of Rules & Regulations*, Chapter 4, Section Three. Available online at www.ACBL.org.

The *Handbook* thus addresses special games sanctioned by ACBL. Presumably, ordinary club games are not subject to these restrictions.

And, of course, in limited games – such as 299er and 499er games – if the director exceeds the point limit, neither he nor his partner can earn masterpoints.



Upcoming Special Events

Monday, September 3: Unit Championship, 10:30 AM, extra points, no extra fee, Labor Day Luncheon.

Friday, September 7: Unit Championship, Noon, extra points, no extra fee.

***September 10-16:** Tunica MS Regional.

Saturday, September 29: Unit Championship, Noon, extra points, no extra fee.

****Thursday, October 4:** Instant Matchpoint Game (**Gold Point Event**), 7:15 PM, extra points, \$7.00 fee.

***October 5-7:** Metairie 299er Sectional.

Monday, October 8: Unit Championship, 10:30 AM, extra points, no extra fee.

*See www.acbl.org/play/tournaments.html for complete information about upcoming tournaments.

**See www.acbl.org/play/special-events-info.php for information about the Instant Matchpoint game.



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Welcome to These New Unit 134 Members

Richard G. Crane
 Rayne S. Lykes
 James A. Mayfield III
 Blanche E. McCloskey
 Marguerite B. Taylor
 Gloria J. Tisdale
 Ginny Tuman



Unit Masterpoint Milestones

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Sandra J. Broussard
 William P. Cousins
 Thelma C. Kern

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Jeannine R. Richardson
 Elizabeth C. Sewell

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

Warrene Gambino

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

Sandra B. Brown

NEW NABC MASTERS

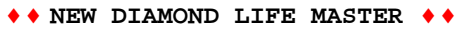
Sandra F. Dubroc
 Debbie Rothschild

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

Ben F. McKown, Jr.

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Margaret A. Grainger
 Marilyn Kelly
 Kathleen R. Savino



Larry J. Federico

Congratulations to these Unit 134 members upon their advancement in rank.



Happening Online This Month

The biennial Buffett Cup competition will be shown on the BBO Vugraph from September 10-13. The Buffett Cup is modeled loosely on golf's Ryder Cup. Teams from Europe and North America compete head-to-head in pairs, teams, and individual matches. And throughout the month, as usual, see games from around the world. Check the BBO web site for exact dates and times: www.bridgebase.com; click on "Vugraph Schedule".



In Memoriam

Carl E. Kemmerly III



Know the Director's Rulings

Jennie Flynn Sauviac

Legal and Illegal Changes of Call

A bid placed on or nearly on the table is considered played. What could be simpler? However, when it comes to bidding from a bid box, lots of wrinkles complicate this simple rule.

Let's start with the mechanics of making a bid from the bid box. You are required to have decided upon your bid before you touch a card in the bid box. To touch a card in the top tier and then bid from the bottom tier, or vice versa, is improper procedure, and directors can treat such actions as passing unauthorized information. Think about it. You reach for a card from the top tier of the bid box and then after a moment's hesitation, you pull a pass card. Your partner now knows that you are close to bidding; you've transmitted that unauthorized information, and any action that partner now takes will be suspect.

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Now suppose that you have taken a bid out of your bid box and placed it on the table, only to discover that the bid lying there is not the bid that you intended. The Laws allow you to change your call, **provided that partner has not yet called**, but penalties may apply. Law 25A says you may change an INADVERTENT call if partner has not subsequently called, provided that you make the change (or attempt the change) without pause FOR THOUGHT. This Law sets up two criteria the Director must apply: Inadvertent and without pause for thought. Inadvertency covers "slip of the thumb" type errors. You thought that you pulled 1 Heart, but instead pulled 1 Spade (or 2 Hearts, etc.). The Director will usually try to ascertain what you intended to call, and if he is convinced that your call was inadvertent allow you to change your call without penalty. Please note that whether your LHO has bid or not does not change your rights here nor does LHO have a say in whether you may change your call.

The second criteria of without pause for thought is thornier. The Director must make a judgment call. If you put your bid on the table, begin thinking about what to have for dinner, and only after a moment or two realize that your bid is wrong, the Director may be persuaded that your wish to change your bid is "without pause for thought". However, if you make a bid and then discover a hidden card in your hand that would change what you might have bid, your change of call is with pause for thought. The Law still allows you to change your call, but penalties will apply.

The penalties are conditioned on the choices of your LHO. She may accept, under Law 25B, your change of call (i.e., make it legal). In such a case, the Director will allow your change of call without penalty and the auction proceeds normally. However, if LHO refuses to accept your change (she is legally allowed to do so), your first call stands as legal, and penalty, your partner must pass at his next turn to call. If you do not wish to keep your legal first call, you still may change your call under Law 25B, **but** penalty, your partner will have to pass whenever it is his turn to call. Further, in either case, your partner may be subject to lead penalties if he becomes the opening leader. Finally, if you change your call to a pass or a double, the best score that you can receive on the board is Average minus.

In the end, you need to be alert during the auction. Make up your mind about your call before you touch the bid box and double check the call that you have taken from the bid box before you place it on the table. However, if you find that you have made a mistake, call the Director immediately to make sure that everyone's rights are protected.



Wednesday Jackpot Report

Joan Van Geffen and Dee Moses shared a \$40 jackpot on August 22 for bidding and making 7NT.
 Linda Freese, Director.



70% Games

- 08/17 Beth Todd & Molly Silvia 72.92%
- 08/18 John Onstott & William Weiss 70.83%
- 08/23 Bob Bowers & Fred Woodruff 74.77%
- 08/25 Doris & John Liukkonen 70.57%

Did you have a 70% or better game? We want to report it in the *Kibitzer*. As soon as you complete a 70%+ game, have the director put a note in the *Kibitzer* envelope on the bulletin board in the hall.

