KIBITZER ♣♦♥♠

Louisiana Bridge Association December 2013

Editor John Liukkonen

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President's Message Suzanne Cliffe and I would like to thank everyone who helped to make our November tournament such a success. As usual, our players were very generous with salads, desserts, deviled eggs, etc., as well as cash donations and offers of help in the kitchen. We really appreciated it!

We are looking forward to our holiday parties; please see "Holiday Parties"below and the bulletin boards at the club for more information. **Advance signup is required for the nighttime event on December 14th** so that we will have an accurate count for the caterer. Also check out "Holiday Game Schedule."

Ben McKown is offering some enhancements for the Tuesday night game; they have included guest speakers, wine and cheese, pizza. Honoring players who have advanced beyond Life Master is in the works for early next year.

As we come to the end of the year, we would like to thank everyone who has supported the club in various roles—tournaments and special events, snack purchases, decorations and fresh flowers, Kibitzer, website, bridge supplies, publicity, Memorials, sanctions, club managers, board members—so many volunteers who help us to function smoothly (and my apologies if your job is not mentioned). We are truly blessed.

Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season!

Keenan Romig

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Holiday Parties

December 14 6PM. A catered dinner followed by open and 299er games. Preregistration at the bulletin board in the front of the club is mandatory, so that we can give the caterer an accurate count. Non-playing guests are welcome at $10 per head. For more information or answers to your questions, text or call Sharon Henry at 504-458-4336.

December 20 11:15AM potluck party followed by usual Friday bridge game. Colleen Walker coordinates.

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Holiday game schedule: Day games will be held Christmas Eve Dec 24 and New Years Eve Dec 31. No night games on those dates, and also no day games on Christmas Day Dec 25 or New Years Day Jan 1.

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Other December events

Dec 5 – 8: Baton Rouge LA Sectional**.**

Dec 9 – 15: STAC week, silver point awards, $7 entry fee.

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70% Games

Open Pairs
Jennie Flynn-Sauviac and Juanita Heidingsfelder, 73.84%, Oct 30.

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Grand Slam Jackpot. Sanford and Marti Sisco Nov 13.

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Welcome to New Members

Kylinn Abujita, Margaret Buchler, Carol De La Houssaye, Karen Eustis, Shirlann Finch, Betsy Henson, Colleen Kirkley, Brenda Manard, Connie Nagim, Clara Perry, Mary Ellen Roy, Diane Share, Mary Smith, Anita Thigpen, Frankie Wittemberg.

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NOTICE: The Board of Directors has approved an increase in game fees from $6.00 to $6.50 for one year, beginning January 1, 2014, to support expenses of the New Orleans Nationals in March 2015.

In Memoriam

Arnold Levy

Rank Advancements

New Junior Master
Kathleen Wiseman
New Club Masters
Marian Bourgeois, Stanley Chiocchio, Alan Goodman, Janice Zazulak
New Sectional Master
Ada Havener
New Regional Master
Marilyn Ducasse
New NABC Masters
Pat Emerson, Fred Lay, Betty Parke
New Advanced NABC Master
Susan Sommer
New Bronze Life Master
Roy Richardson

Illnesses: If you know someone in the bridge club who has fallen ill, please notify Lilian Kirshbom via email lrk1939@yahoo.com or cell 504-289-8186. She will arrange such things as a get well card from the club.

Kibitzer Online: To read the Kibitzer Online, go to the club website and click on Newsletter/Archives. Then select the issue you want to see. If the most recent issues are not listed, you will need to refresh/reload the webpage to update the list of issues available. You can do this by clicking on the refresh/reload button (usually with a counterclockwise arrow near the address bar) or hitting the F5 key, or control + F5. Sorry about this complication. **Online this month: more details on Jennie's article and notes on the Principle of Restricted Choice.**

Two Queens Contest Results. In last month's contest Queen #1 is Rixi Markus and Queen #2 is Margaret Wagar. Correct answers were submitted by Lillian Range and Jean Talbot, and the free play was given to Lillian by random draw.

Bid Out of Rotation by Jennie Flynn-Sauviac

This month's rule usually arises from players not paying close attention to whose turn it is to bid it is. The first question that the Director will ask when called to the table because someone has bid out of turn will be directed to the LHO of the player who wrongfully bid. The LHO always has the option--without consulation with partner--to accept the out of rotation bid. If the bid is accepted the auction proceeds.

However if LHO does not accept the bid, the bid is cancelled. Then numerous conditions apply to the Director's ruling. If the bid was made at RHO's turn to call and RHO passes, then offender may repeat his legal call with no further penalty. If RHO acts (bids, doubles or redoubles) then offender's partner must pass at his next turn as long as offender repeats the denomination of his call out of turn. If offender makes any other call, offender's partner must pass for the rest of the auction.

Now if the call out of turn was made at LHO's turn to call or offender's partner's turn to call and offender has

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Dottie Toledano Sectional Firsts

Thurs AM 0-20 Pairs *Jane Hufft & Mary Smith*
299er Pairs *Fred Lay & Cathy Alford* Flights D,E; *Irene Labiche & Freida Johnson* Flight F
Open Pairs *Frances Schenk & Dana Hastings Flight A, Lynne Hand & Ellie Brammell flight B, Karen Dugan & Ellen Lappa Flight C*

Thurs PM Open Pairs *Jean Talbot & JF Lowenstein* Flight A, *Mary LeBlanc & Jean Faia* Flights B,C
299er Pairs *Mike Lappa & Sheryl Thompson* Flights D,E, *Joseph Gaudette & Carole Leslie* Flight F

Fri AM 0-20 Pairs *Kathryn Wilson & Patricia Durel*
Open Pairs *Joan Van Geffen & JF Lowenstein* Flight A, *Sid LeBlanc & Robert Wooderson* Flight B, *Stephen Kishner & Beth Todd* Flight C
299er Pairs *Kathleen Vogel & Susan Guarisco, Susan Beoubay & Dale Strickland* Flights D,E(tie), *Frederick Bott & Mildred Bott* Flight F

Fri PM Open Pairs *Anne Plauche & Paul Freese* Flight A, *Eleanor Onstott & Dee Moses* Flight B, *Roy Richardson & Patricia Kessler* Flight C
299er Pairs *Patricia Burke & Muffin Balart* Flight D, *Bernard Vanderlinden & Elaine Vanderlinden* Flights E,F

Sat AM Open Pairs *John Onstott & James Bush* Flight A, *Dee Moses & Eleanor Onstott* Flight B, *E Michael Kerns & Anne Monteiro* Flight C
299er Pairs *Patricia Smith & Elouise Lee* Flights D,E, *Glenda Nelson & Pat Duplessis* Flight F

Sat PM Open Pairs *Joan Van Geffen & Jean Talbot* Flight A, *Sue White & Jennie Ford* Flights B,C
299er Pairs *Sandra Weber & Beverly Basha* Flight D, *Margaret Shirer & John Clement* Flights E,F

Sun Swiss Bracket 1 *Bill Weiss, Judy Katz, Jean Talbot, Joan Van Geffen*
Bracket 2 *JF Lowenstein, Beth Todd, Ben McKown, David Wolf*

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Two Declarer Play Tips by Larry Federico

Here are two examples of nonstandard tactics in declarer play. In both cases you are playing a side suit in a suit contract, and trumps and transportation are not an issue.

Example 1. Dummy holds AQ2; you hold 754, and you need to win two tricks. If LHO has the king a simple finesse will work. To give yourself an extra chance, try leading the two towards the seven. If RHO has the king doubleton he may grab it. Even if he has three or more hearts he may get nervous and grab the king. It cost nothing to try as the finesse will still be available.

Example 2. Dummy holds AQ32; you hold J6, and you need to win two tricks without losing any. If the bidding or play strongly suggests that RHO has the king, try leading the 6 to the A and the 2 towards the J. RHO will often duck expecting you to ruff. If he does you get two tricks and RHO will probably get a lecture. What fun!

Bid Out of Rotation, continued

not previously called, then offender's partner is barred from the auction, lead penalties may apply, and director may adjust the score. If the offender has previously called in the auction, then change of call penalties apply and offender's side may earn no better than an average minus on the board.

From **Richard Pavlicek** www.rpbridge.net

Be an expert! Never take a finesse to make a contract when you can go down on a squeeze play.

Notes on Restricted Choice by John Liukkonen

Many of us have heard of the Principle of Restricted Choice, and some of us have an idea of how it applies in certain situations, but I would wager that few of us really understand what is being said. This note is an effort to clarify what is being said and to give examples of how it can apply and when it doesn't really apply. While this can all be backed up with calculations based on specific mathematical assumptions, I will leave out most of those and emphasize the varying validity of the assumptions and consequent variable applicability of the principle of restricted choice.

The **classic example** is the following suit combination: with no extra information and no transportation problems, you hold 5432, dummy has AKT98, so you are missing QJ76, and you want to bring in the whole suit. On the first trick you lead toward dummy, LHO follows low, you play the A, and RHO plays the J. On the next trick in this suit you again lead toward dummy and LHO plays low. Now the only missing card is the Q. Where is it? Should you now put in the T i.e. assume the J was singleton, or put up the K, i.e. play to drop the Q? Most write-ups of restricted choice tell you that the odds are about 2-1 that the J was singleton, so that you should take the finesse, and while this claim points you in the right direction, it is not exactly correct and more importantly leaves most of you in the dark as to what is really going on.

Let me clarify. Imagine that you are Bill Murray in the film "Groundhog Day" and are playing this exact suit combination against the same opponents day after day forever. Our question is: on those days when LHO follows low and RHO drops the J at trick one and LHO follows low at trick two, how often did RHO start with J singleton and how often did RHO start with QJ? It is true that RHO will be dealt the J singleton about as often as RHO will be dealt QJ. But there is more to the story. When RHO has the J singleton he will always play the J at trick one but when RHO has QJ RHO will sometimes play the J and sometimes the Q at trick one. The promulgators of Restricted Choice (Alan Truscott, later Terence Reese) assumed that an expert RHO would play randomly from QJ, **so that you will see J from QJ about half as often as you will see J from J singleton and it's 2-1 to finesse**. **Go over this Groundhog Day analysis--it is the key to understanding Restricted Choice.**   You are invited to ask me for clarification.

But now let's give a more realistic description of this classic example. In reality, RHO is not always the perfect expert. **If you want the correct conclusion for this suit combination at the table you must size up your RHO correctly**. If RHO is a rank beginner, RHO would nearly always play J from QJ, and then the odds would be roughly equal between RHO holding QJ and RHO holding J stiff, given LHO playing low twice and RHO dropping J at trick one. On the other hand, if RHO is a smart aleck who would always play Q from QJ then the J appearing at trick one virtually guarantees the J is singleton. Most RHO with a bit of experience would play J from QJ some of the time but not all of the time and probably not exactly half the time, so the odds of the J being singleton are not exactly 2-1 but are certainly greater than even. So the conclusion drawn from the idealized Restricted Choice Principle—take the finesse—is correct except against a naïve beginner.

[Those comfortable with simple probability calculations and curious about the numbers—e.g., attended my Tuesday night lecture a few months ago—can work out the relative odds of RHO being dealt QJ tight and RHO being dealt J stiff (taking into account that LHO has 76 we arrive at odds of 12 to 11 for QJ tight), mix in an estimate of how often RHO plays J from QJ, and come up with an exact odds figure for the finesse. Against the perfectly randomizing expert RHO the odds would be 11 to 6 in favor of J stiff over J from QJ, which is about 2 to 1. But you should realize that the right play is the finesse without these detailed calculations.]

Here are two more application examples. The first is reported by Willie Zurfluh online (google Restricted Choice to find this). In the 1958 Bermuda Bowl a contract of 3NT was reached where declarer held QT3 AK8 QJ62 A85 and dummy held 4 Q954 AK74 KJ93. The 2 of spades was led by LHO and won by RHO with the K. Low spade back. Should the declarer rise with the Q or put in the T? The American declarer put in the Q and went down, while the Italian declarer put in the T and made the contract. The online article maintains that restricted choice applies. Assuming correctly that LHO has 4 spades, we consider only the relevant RHO holdings of KJxxx and AKxxx. Presumably with KJxxx RHO will always rise with the K and play low back, but (it is claimed) with AKxxx RHO would frequently rise with the A and play low back. So under the circumstances the RHO holding of KJxxx is more likely than AKxxx. Hence play the T not the Q. The article claims 2-1 odds, but you may not agree that the play of K from AKxxx and A from AKxxx are equally likely. Maybe in high level international bridge but at our club? The **reality** here is: against a sophisticated RHO who would play randomly from AK to fake out declarer, then the odds are indeed 2 to 1 to play the T. Against club players who would routinely rise with the K from AK the right play is much closer to an even guess. I would say the more sophisticated RHO is, the more superior the play of the T is. A good example of what Restricted Choice tells you and what it does not tell you.

A last extended example I broached in my Tues evening lecture notes is: you hold Q32 dummy holds AK84, with no transportation problems. You are missing JT9765 and want to bring in the whole suit. You start with Q, low from LHO, 9 from RHO. Next play A, J from RHO, low from LHO. Back in hand, lead low toward dummy, LHO again plays low. Only the T is now missing. Do you finesse the 8 or play to drop the T? The numerics of this one are especially murky. If RHO started with exactly J9 in the suit, he must play J,9 in some order. But if he started with JT9, he has three possible pairs to dump on the first two tricks: 9T or 9J or TJ. If we believe that each of these pairs would be an equally likely choice then we would say the odds are about 3-1 for the finesse. But I ran this example by experts and none said they would exactly randomize from JT9 but none would just play up the line. So the exact odds depend not only on the deal odds but also on the choices likely to be made by your local RHO from JT9. But it is clear that the finesse is the superior play.

In sum, the models put forth to support the Principle of Restricted Choice are not completely realistic, because they assume opponents play perfectly randomly from equivalent cards, and neglect the human element—just who are our opponents? But the Principle usually points us in the direction of right play, even if it is difficult to supply exact odds for the differing lines of play.