

Louisiana Bridge Association January 2014

Editor John Liukkonen



President's Message Many thanks to all who helped to make our holiday celebrations a success. Sharon Henry and her volunteer staff did a wonderful job coordinating the nighttime party as did Colleen Walker, the coordinator of our daytime potluck; attendance was outstanding and there was a ton of food thanks to the many contributions of our members....a heartwarming event.

January means that we say good-bye to those board members who have completed their terms. Thank you to Jim Kessler, John Onstott, and Bill Weiss for their years of service on the board. We also thank Sid LeBlanc and Fred Lay who have also completed their terms but are running for re-election. We have an excellent group of candidates; bios and pictures are posted near the building entrance. There are five positions open. In addition to Sid and Fred, the other candidates are Ronnie Berenger, Paul Deal, Sherrie Goodman, Jackie Madden, Eleanor Onstott and Wayne Weisler. We appreciate their commitment to the club and willingness to run for the board. Most candidates will serve a three-year term so please become familiar with the candidates. Voting will be open before all games starting Monday, January 13th and closing Sunday morning of our Rosenblum tournament (January 16th -19th). Be sure to vote (open to all ACBL members in good standing).

Wishing all a safe and happy 2014!

Keenan Romig



January Events

January 6 – 12 – Biloxi Regional

Monday January 13 – 10:30AM – Unit Club Championship – extra points – No extra fees

January 16 – 19 – Julius Rosenblum Sectional

January 24 – 26 – Jackson Sectional with NAOP District Finals January 25-26

January 27 – February 2 – STAC week – All silver point awards – \$7.00 entry fee

70% Games

Open Pairs

Doug deMonthuzin and Emmanuel Benjamin, Tues 12/17, 70.26%

299er Pairs

Shirley Ruckert and Jim Kessler, Tues 12/3 70.42% and Tues 12/17 77.4%



In Memoriam
Eddie Federoff

Missing tablecloths: Maryann Joyner has misplaced three Christmas bridge tablecloths that were used on the bar at the nighttime Christmas party. If you know where they are or happened to take them home to wash them, please contact Maryann. Thanks.



Achievement at Phoenix NABC

Nelson Daigle and Sharon Henry 8.25 MPs



Memorial Recognition of Deceased Members

Our annual recognition of Deceased Members will take place between sessions on the Saturday of the Julius Rosenblum Sectional. To have the name of a loved one, friend, or bridge partner added to the Memorial Plaque, please give the name and \$20 to a director or to Elaine Prager by January 10.

Welcome to New Members

Barbara Holdsworth, Shenrui Li, Rena Strickland, Charles Zamjahn, John Clement, Sam Dillon, Rebecca Hannon

Rank Advancements

New Junior Masters

Dale Aronson, Marilyn Brown, Kanwal Dhir, Helen Farris, Ellen Frischertz, Blanche McCloskey, Diane Powell, Joan Quinlan, Jane Robinson

New Club Masters

Judith Bostwick, Barbara Claiborne, Patricia Dicorte, Sandra Freeman, Nancy Murphy

New Sectional Masters

Jacob Karno, Irene Labiche, Maline Levy, Paul Rosenblum, Kathleen Vogel

New Regional Masters

Muffin Balart, Amy Nolan, Scott Phelps, Sandra Weber

New Bronze Life Masters

Stephen Kishner, Tchavdar Marinov, David Woods

New Silver Life Master

Helen St. Romain



Improving your preempts—John Federico

First, to improve your preempts know your partner and your opponents

Classical preempts are those that conform closely to partnership agreement. For most partnerships this means your preempt will conform to the rule of 2,3, and 4. Simply put, in 1st or 2nd seat you will overbid by only two tricks at unfavorable vulnerability, three tricks at equal vulnerability, and four tricks at favorable vulnerability. All such classical preempts have one thing in common. **The number of winners can be easily counted.** This means that a classical preempt will always contain a suit with very **good internal meat.** It will also contain very little **defensive prospect.** Soft side values such as queens and jacks are especially bad. Suits such as KQJxxxx are particularly good candidate. This counts as six winners. So is QJT9xxxx. It counts as a little more than 6 winners. Suits such as KJ9xxxx are very poor candidates. It is impossible to judge the number of winners. Axxxxxx is even worse!

Marginal preempts contain long suits that are either broken or do not conform to the expected length. They are fine in 3rd seat but should be avoided at other times. If you are considering a marginal preempt, be aware they work best against opponents who are either overly aggressive or overly cautious. Against sensible opponents or well-established partnerships marginal preempts have a much lower probability of success.



“It’s not enough to take the tricks which belong to you, try also for some that belong to the opponents.” —Alfred Sheinwold, quoted in Eddie Kantar’s excellent bridge site www.kantarbridge.com

Baton Rouge Sectional Firsts

Friday PM Open Pairs, *JF Lowenstein and Beth Todd* Flight B, *Jeffrey Perigoni* Slidell Flight C

Sat AM Open Pairs *JF Lowenstein and Beth Todd* Flight B

Sat PM Open Pairs *John Onstott and Craig Cordes* Flight A

Sat PM 299er Pairs *Mary Ellen Roy and Scott Phelps* Flight D

Sun Swiss *Jack Lewis, Vicki Willis et al*, Flight A

STAC Firsts

Monday Eve Open Pairs *Maurice Geisel and Michael Elias* Flight B

Tues AM open pairs *Susan Sommer and Jerrilyn Jones* Flight C

Tues AM 299er pairs *Kathleen Vogel and Ellen Frischertz* Flight B

Fri PM 299er pairs *Richard Whann and Robert Whann* Flight C

Fri Eve open pairs *Augusta Flanagan and Joanne Couvillion* Flight C

Sat PM open pairs *Carol Bagalman and Bonnie Belanger* Flight C

Sun PM open pairs *David Wolf and Beth Todd* Flight B



Four Reasons not to call the Director

By Jennie Flynn Sauviac with John Liukkonen

1. I'm a nice person and I am afraid my opponent will think I am being ugly.

But a director call is not an accusation of unethical play, just an effort to get an irregularity corrected in a fair manner according to the Laws. Simply call the Director (“Director Please”) whenever an irregularity occurs.

2. One of my opponents is an experienced player and seems to know how to correct the situation.

But that opponent may be wrong and if you do not call the director in charge of the game immediately you may surrender important rights, such as lead penalties or bid restrictions. Ask the director to bring the Law Book.

3. I'm not sure it is really important and will call later if it becomes important.

But failure to call the director immediately often surrenders important rights.

4. My opponent makes a dubious claim and I try to sort it out at the table by arguing the claim.

Correct procedure is to ask a claiming opponent immediately to put his cards down on the table and state his line of play. Do not allow declarer to say he has the rest of the tricks and quickly put his hand away. If not satisfied with the claim, call the director without further discussion from anyone. Arguing the claim may give the opponent a chance to amend the claim to cover missing trumps or other issues.

If an irregularity occurs, no need to get ugly or argue with the opponents about it. Simply call the Director and let the Director sort it out.



* ...in the land of the blind, the one eyed man is king...

A Few Comments on Modern Systems and Conventions
“you order corned beef, you get pastrami...”
Contributed by Ben McKown

Bridge “conventions” are **not** defined as a gang of politicians meeting somewhere with a bunch of balloons and noisemaker, but rather as “a play or call with a definite meaning which may be artificial”. The oldest known one dates back to 1740 when Bridge was not bridge but rather Whisk: “lead the fourth from your longest and strongest”. As for bidding, the “take out double” holds first place honors (circa 1912).

What’s in a Name?

Conventions are used to show to describe difficult hands in an effort to reach the optimum score. For example, some players have problems opening hand containing 5 Hearts and 4 Spades...enter Mr. William Flannery who devised the **Flannery 2 Diamonds** that exactly described this hand. Conventions use artificial bids, i.e., with meanings unrelated to the suit bid. The Stayman 2 ♣ bid over an opening No Trump **says nothing about a clubs**. Two ♣’s is artificial.

Many conventions are named after its inventor: Blackwood (Easley), Jacoby (Oswald), Gerber (John). Some take on regional origin or functional names: Neapolitan Club, Blue Team, Two Over One, Richmond Relay, Italian Club, Precision Club. Others are just simply crazy: Sputnik (first Russian satellite to orbit earth, later named Negative Double); ACOL (named after the Club’s street address); Jump Ball (perhaps, Bob Pettit?); DOPE, DOPI... Little Major (see below); and Namyats (Stayman spelled backwards). Wow, what a conglomeration.

In the 1970’s chaos prevailed as players created individualizes special meanings. Chaos prevailed. Governing bodies (ACBL or WBF) established a standardize convention card and “alert” system. The bidding boxes followed shortly thereafter. Now Mom and Pop could no longer bid “One Club” = short or “A Club”= long club suit....

Alvin Roth, generally considered the most original bridge theorist of the game, invented/popularized the Roth Stone System, Two Over One, Forcing NT, Inverted Minors, Weak NT, Unusual NT, and Negative Double. These bids were revolutionary bids at the time and are mainstays some 50 years later.

Some Come and Some Go and Some Stay,
What’s in the sandwich?

Over the 100 years of popularize contract bridge, systems and conventions wily nilly came and went. Organized bridge lay to rest many esoteric bids, but miss a few. For example, in the 1930’s, Easley Blackwood suggested a convention to ask for aces. The Establishment “pooped” the bid and declared, “This will never last”. Surprise! Welcome to the world of unpredictable outcomes.

Up until the late 1950’s the British ruled the Waves of bridge. The Italians (Blue Team et la) were hot on their trail. Besides stupendous play, insight and defense, the Italians developed a complete “synthetic system” ...basically lots of artificial bids. Feeling the pressure of again losing their Empire, Terrance Reese, Boris Schapiro, and Jeremy Flint set off to create their own artificial system. Thus was born “**Little Major**”. In short it contain very strange auctions...for example: 1 Club showed Hearts, while 1Diamond showed Spades. While playing in international competition in NYC, a bridge-wise waiter commented to Reese:

“We have a Little Major Menu, you order corned beef you get pastrami...”