

KIBITZER

Louisiana Bridge Association March 2014

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President's Message

Let's take a walk down memory lane. Let's say we have 16 tables playing in a game so we need 32 boards in play. Boards are shuffled and played, scores entered on pickup slips, and everyone plays at most 26 of the 32 boards. Remember? ...Fast forward to the presentThe introduction of the web movement means everyone plays the same boards so pair rankings are based on all the same boards played. Board duplication allows us to provide hand record analyses and enhanced website information; the Bridgemates give us quick scoring results. The directors have had to learn how to accomplish all this and most of the time it works well. Recently we had several days in a row when things did not go as planned. In addition, the installation of new computers has created some issues with the clock timer and the game uploads. We recognize the problems and are working very hard to resolve them.

Congratulations to the 2013 Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners. Runners-up are also posted on the bulletin board by the front door. The Ace of Clubs masterpoint races are won by the player in each masterpoint category who earns the most masterpoints in club games during the year. Mini-McKenney awards are based on total masterpoints earned. Awards will be presented on Friday morning May 2nd during the Derby Day tournament.

Sherrie Goodman, who coordinated The Longest Day Alzheimer's Fundraiser last June, will chair again this year but would appreciate a co-chair/committee, particularly if you have a special interest in Alzheimer's; please see Sherrie if you are interested. Last year the club raised over \$5,000 for the cause.

Thank you to Joanne Chancey and Denise Nagim who are taking over the purchase of game refreshments for the club from Martie Sisco who has served in that capacity for the past year.

The Spring 299er is coming up at the end of March. Be sure to note that and other upcoming events.

Keenan Romig



Special Notices

MAY I HAVE A BOARD?

Effective March 1st, the Board is implementing a policy to avoid player disruptions. When you finish a board, please put it on an adjacent chair, readily accessible to the next table who will need it. This practice should eliminate the need to request a board if you are playing a bit faster than the table furnishing the boards to you. Please do not request a board if the round has not been called. If the round has been called and you do not have any boards, please call the director to get you a board if the next table is not quite finished.

PLAY NICE

The Board of Directors wishes to remind everyone that common courtesy is required when you come to the club. Do not berate your partner or your opponents; it makes everyone uncomfortable and the director should be called to the table IMMEDIATELY. We are all here to have a good time...please PLAY NICE.

NABC Sponsorships—see next page



March Events

Monday March 3 – Senior game(s) AT NOON. Extra points – 55 and older to participate. 299ers check in advance to see if there is a senior 299er game. NO OTHER GAMES MONDAY.

Tuesday – March 4 – Mardi Gras – Morning games– UPGRADED CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – Extra points

March 6 – 9 – Baton Rouge Sectional

Thursday – March 13 – Noon game (Open) – Intl. Fund Game – Extra

Wednesday – March 19 – Morning games – Unit C.C – extra points

March 20 – 30 – Dallas Nationals

March 28 – 30 – Metairie 299'er Sectional



Welcome New Members: Carolyn Abadie, Raynell Bourgeois, Augusta Flanagan, Jill Lane



70 percent games

Bill and Jean Weiss, 72.78% Feb 20 open pairs

Cily Winkeler and Roberta Hirsu, 70.45%, Feb 23 299er pairs.

NABC Sponsors New Orleans will be hosting the North American Bridge Championships in March, 2015. In order to raise funds for this tournament our unit has been given the opportunity to sell naming rights for certain events. At this point in time we are looking for ten commercial, individual, or groups of individuals who will underwrite a day of the championships at a cost of \$1000. If you or a group of friends are interested in being one of these sponsors, know a company that would like to do so, or have a contact we can use at any business that might be interested in becoming a sponsor would you please contact Jim Thornton, Eleanor Onstott, or Dee Moses.

Once we have these in place we will solicit our membership to sponsor individual events. It will be a great way for players individually or in groups to name a game in honor or in memory of a favorite partner, teacher, mentor, loved one or organization.

Rank Advancements

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Joy Arceneaux, Janet Gindro, Colette Greer, Mary Ellen Roy

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Jill Chenevert, Eileen Crane, Edward Spooner

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Margaret Cooney, Stephanie Reaves, Shirley Rhode

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

William Cousins, Ann Crane, Carolyn Dubois

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Jackie Madden[now also a Bronze Life Master!], *Jonny Roberts, Patricia Roberts*

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Juliette Dubea

2013 Unit Masterpoint Race Winners

*= won Ace of Clubs, ** = won Mini-McKenney, *** = won both AC and MM
 0-5 MP Judith Bostwick ***
 5-20 MP James Mayfield* , John Clement**
 20-50MP Elaine Wilczynski*, Sherrie Goodman**
 50-100MP William Cousins*, Jeannie Beaushaw**
 100-200MP Hugh Lawson*, Fred Lay**
 200-300MP William Gentry*, Sharon Henry**
 300-500MP Susan Sommer*, Beth Todd**
 500-1000MP Juliette Dubea*, Bill Beaushaw**
 1000-2500MP Dee Moses*, JF Lowenstein**
 2500-5000MP John Federico*, Paul Deal**
 5000-7500MP Larry Federico***
 7500-10000MP James Bush***
 10000+MP Jean Talbot*, John Onstott**

PLAY NICE

Tournament Successes

STAC firsts

Monday AM 299er *Jane Meyer and Joy Eigher*
 Thursday Aft 299er *Fred Lay and Cathy Alford Flt A, David Roberts and Janis Roberts Flt B, Margaret Shirer and John Clement Flt C*

Fri AM open pairs *Deirdre Provosty&Mike Provosty Flt B*

Fri PM 299er pairs *Judy Serou and Jim Kessler Flt A, Dale Strickland and Susan Beoubay Flt B*

Sunday PM pairs *Sherrie Goodman & Cathy Alford Flt C*

Sunday Open Swiss *Jackie Madden, Ellie Brammell, Helen St Romain, Fay Batt*

Alexandria Sectional Firsts

Fri Aft open pairs *Jamie Bush and Curtis Carpenter*

Sat AM open pairs *Jamie Bush and Toby Bassett*

Sat Aft open pairs *Paul Deal and Jan Galey*

Houston Regional First *Beth Todd and JF Lowenstein*

Sunday BSwiss Bracket F

Hattiesburg Sectional First *Paul Deal and Allan*

Siebert, Fri Aft Open Pairs

TWO MORE QUEENS

Ben McKown returns with profiles of two more famous women bridge players in history. Match the profiles below to two of the names from the list at the bottom and submit your entry in a sealed envelope to the suggestion box by Mar 10. Ben will award a free play to a randomly selected correct entry.

Queen #1

I am Austrian and I escaped the Nazi's in going to the UK. While a previous Queen was "fiery," I was labeled "icy." I prefer high stakes rubber bridge to duplicate. I was the second woman to attain World Grand Master. My brothers, Hans and Paul, were international caliber bridge players in Britain and Argentina. Victor Mollo writes of me, "Few men play as well as [me]. No woman plays better. " My partner—also on the list below-- wrote of me in her autobiography: "...she [me] might have a slight advantage over me because she [me] is controlled and patient while I am impetuous..." Who am I?

Queen #2

I am a New Yorker, graduated from Smith College, and taught mathematics in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I had two former husbands before I settled on my journalist husband, "Mr. Right." I learned from my mom and dad to play Bridge at seven years of age. I have won a significant share of national titles, but the two that excited me most was playing on the Women Team in the Olympiad and winning a medal in the World Open Pairs (only woman, at the time). Although I did not single handedly invent Splinter bids, I was a very big and influential advocate of them. I wrote a book documenting the Dutch settlers in Harlem. Who am I?

Select your answers from the following list: Margaret Wagar, b. Rixi Markus c. Fritz Gordon d. Helen Sobel, e. Ester VanZant, f. Dorothy Hayden

Tips on Discarding from John Federico Part I

1. A high discard in an off suit **generally** suggests an interest in that suit and a promise to guard that suit. A small card **generally** says you have no interest in the suit.
2. Do not discard any card that might cost a trick
3. Try to keep length parity with the dummy for as long as possible if there is any possibility that you can eventually obtain a trick in that suit.
4. If partner cannot possibly have the length to guard a suit, you must guard it. Therefore, try to keep length parity with any suit shown by declarer in the auction.
5. Against no-trump contracts it is usually better to discard negatively in suits in which you have no interest in order to retain length in the suit that you wish partner to lead

More good discarding tips next month!

Unit 134 Ace of Clubs 2013 winners

0-5 Masterpoints

Judith Bostwick	30.18
Eileen Crane	17.63
Virginia McMurray	16.75

5 to 20 Masterpoints

James Mayfield	21.01
Richard Crane	20.04
John Clement	18.41

20 to 50 Masterpoints

Elaine Wilczynski	56.65
Mae O Neil	43.40
Sherrie Goodman	38.58

50 to 100 Masterpoints

William Cousins	63.14
Henry Bodenheimer	53.16
Mike Anthony	48.98

100 to 200 Masterpoints

Hugh Lawson	60.64
Loretta Mercola	56.18
Barbara Laverty	51.18

200 to 300 Masterpoints

William Gentry	59.50
Sharon Henry	57.70
Mary Regottaz	56.72

300 to 500 Masterpoints

Susan Sommer	117.48
Nelson T Daigle	94.29
Stephen Kishner	85.62

500 to 1000 Masterpoints

Juliette Dubea	92.47
Fay Batt	79.96
Helen St Romain	75.05

1000 to 2500 Masterpoints

Dee Moses	134.76
David Bybee	129.29
Donald Daigle	125.32

2500 to 5000 Masterpoints

Lynn John Federico	126.51
Nonie Leavitt	119.27
B. B. Gordon	116.62

5000 to 7500 Masterpoints

Larry Federico	243.60
Judy Katz	194.30
Kitten Haag 1	33.44

7500 to 10,000 Masterpoints

James Bush	44.01
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Over 10,000 Masterpoints

Jean Talbot	249.92
Joan Van Geffen	239.84
John Onstott	139.07

2013 Unit 134 Mini-McKenney winners

0 to 5 Masterpoints

Judith Bostwick	30.18
Alan Goodman	22.80
Virginia McMurray	21.50

5 to 20 Masterpoints

John Clement	29.56
James Mayfield	25.19
Janice Zazulak	24.26

20 to 50 Masterpoints

Sherrie Goodman	117.97
Cathy Alford	73.28
Elaine Wilczynski	71.77

50 to 100 Masterpoints

Jeannie Beaushaw	139.10
Henry Bodenheimer	92.80
Claudette Lay	89.88

100 to 200 Masterpoints

Fred Lay	121.58
Hugh Lawson	91.30
Loretta Mercola	74.15

200 to 300 Masterpoints

Sharon Henry	152.59
Carol Bagalman	84.14
Barbara Zelenka	80.63

300 to 500 Masterpoints

Beth Todd	250.62
Nelson Daigle	223.56
Susan Sommer	189.49

500 to 1000 Masterpoints

Bill Beaushaw	292.98
Geoff Chichester	172.79
Helen St Romain	135.97

1000 to 2500 Masterpoints

J F Lowenstein	226.36
David Bybee	216.05
Dee Moses	211.43

2500 to 5000 Masterpoints

Paul Deal	222.80
Julius Rosenfield	191.09
Lynn John Federico	175.22

5000 to 7500 Masterpoints

Larry Federico	391.45
Judy Katz	307.81
Bob Bowers	247.51

7500 to 10,000 Masterpoints

James Bush	175.52
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Over 10,000 Masterpoints

John Onstott	655.67
Jean Talbot	445.74
Joan Van Geffen	356.51

Notes on Double Dummy by John Liukkonen

In hand records we are given double dummy analyses and may sense these are a little bit bogus. How so? And why are they provided? In these notes I will try to explain. First, there are single dummy problems and double dummy problems. In a single dummy problem we are given the contract, our hand, the dummy and the lead and told to "plan the play." We must figure out the line of play most likely to succeed, which means we must consider the likelihoods of all the possible layouts of the four hands. When we decide at the bridge table how to play an actual hand, among other things we are doing our best to figure out which layouts are most probable. In a double dummy problem, we are given all four hands--the actual layout--and told to find the best play for the contract, based on the assumption that all four players know where all the cards are and make the best plays based on that assumption. We no longer have to worry about which layouts are most probable. **It is important to realize that for some layouts of all four hands, the optimal double dummy answer to what contract can be made is different from the single dummy answer. Example below.** At the bridge table, we really want the answer to the single dummy problem based on our hand and the dummy but in hand records we get the double dummy answer based on all four hands. Why is this? Because computers can solve any double dummy problem quickly but there is no computer program which will solve all single dummy problems. I.e., the double dummy answer is always available, even though in some situations it may not be the right answer.

The most commonly used computer double dummy analyzer is "Deep Finesse". It is used for tournament hand records, and on BBO VuGraph events. It can be downloaded free from the web. You type in 4 hands and a contract and DF will lead you step by step through the hand in double dummy fashion. At each point it will indicate what are the winning plays and what are the losing plays. At any point you are allowed to choose any play and the program will update what are the winning plays from that point. This enables you to go play by play through a hand you bungled and pinpoint where you went off the track. While this program uses double dummy play instead of single dummy play, it gives you valuable help in coming up with a complete analysis of a tough

hand. For hand records it provides the best contracts for each suit for each player given the actual layout of all four hands and double dummy play.. While not always the right answers these are generally close to the right answers.

Example: Here is a simple situation where the double dummy answer can differ from the single dummy answer. Suppose you are in 7 spades on a club lead with no clues from the bidding and the following layout. Dummy: A5432 AK2 432 K2 You: QJT97 Q43 AKQ A3. You would have no trouble with this problem at the table. Missing K86 in spades you know from experience that you should win in hand and finesse against the K rather than play to drop the K. Only the finesse works whenever the K is guarded onside and only the drop works when the K is singleton offside, and onside is more likely than singleton offside. Careful analysis gives 37% to 13% but you don't need this precise detail at the table. So the single dummy answer to this problem is: lead toward the dummy at trick 2 and plan to finesse against the K unless it pops up.

But if you get these cards at the club or in a tournament, what will the hand record say? the computer will also know the opponents' cards and for the hand record will analyze the hand on a double dummy basis. **Will this hand record answer agree with the single dummy answer? Maybe.** The double dummy answer agrees with single dummy answer if the K is onside (7S makes!) or if the K is guarded offside (7S fails!). But if the K of spades is singleton offside, the computer knows this and will play for the drop and report that 7S makes. So if K is singleton offside in the actual layout the hand record will say 7S makes but at the table 7S goes down because everyone would (and should) take the finesse.

Double dummy problems originated in whist magazines and are still given as entertainment puzzles in bridge magazines. In the February ACBL Bulletin Mike Lawrence gives two small double dummy problems, involving only 3 cards per player but still taking a little time to solve. More complicated double dummy problems are available in old books and online for aficionados. These range in level of difficulty up to ridiculous.