



Louisiana Bridge Association October 2014

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President's Message -October 2014

How do you contribute to our club? We have so many workers doing so much for us. You come in and pick up a blank convention card and pencil (ordered by one of the members), have a cookie (another member bought those), check out the calendar in the hallway for upcoming events (another member), drink some water or coffee (paper products and coffee supplies—another member), grab a copy of the latest Kibitzer or upcoming tournament schedule (written/furnished by members)...and so on and so forth. Get the picture?

We are now actively recruiting new board members (we will have four openings in January) and are always looking for tournament chairs and volunteers for various events/responsibilities. Please consider giving back to your club. If interested in serving in any capacity, please see me or a board member...and if we ask, please say "Yes!"

We are continuing to offer a 499er game on Wednesdays at noon and are hoping to increase attendance and keep it viable. Life Masters will be allowed to play if they have less than 500 points.

Congratulations to Vicki Willis who was elected Vice President of District 10 for the coming year. Finally, don't miss out on our October events: the 299er Fall Sectional will take place October 10th-12th. We are also celebrating John Onstott's 25,000 masterpoint attainment with a special party on November 1st. See details in October Events and look for sign-up sheets at the club.

Keenan Romig

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October Events

Oct 1 – 7 – Club Appreciation Week (all sessions)– Extra points – No extra fees
Oct 10 – 12 – 299er Metairie Sectional
Thurs Oct 16 – Noon game (Open) – Instant Matchpoint Game – Gold point award – \$7.00 fees
Oct 17 – 19 – Gulfport Sectional
Thurs – Oct 23 – Noon games – Unit C.C. – Extra points – No extra fees
Oct 24 – 26 – Jackson Sectional
Sat Nov 1 Celebration honoring John Onstott's 25,000 Masterpoint Achievement. Cocktails at 5:30 PM followed by dinner at 6:30 PM. Music by Linda C -"cool dj"- Freese. Spouses invited. Advance signup required.

Heads Ups for Future Events

Nov 13-16 Dottie Toledano Tournament
Dec 13 Sat eve Christmas party
Dec 19 Fri noon Christmas party

70 percent games

Nelson Daigle & Geoff Chichester 71.88 Mon eve Sep 1
Toby Young & Paul Freese 71.73 Tues eve Sep 16

Road Warriors (Tournament firsts)

Bill & Jeannie Beaushaw Sat aft/eve flight C Swiss, at **Cincinnati June Regional**
Sherrie Goodman & Cathy Alford Fri eve side BAM flight B, at **Atlanta Regional**
Jeffrey Juster w Bob Hamman Sat Choice Pairs, at **Dallas Regional**
Paul Deal w Jan Galey Fri eve Swiss, at **Lafayette Sectional**
Robinsonville Regional firsts: *Roy Richardson, Helen St. Romain, Fay Batt, Patricia Kessler* Tues— Wed Compact KO Bracket 2;
Madeline Tonti, Susan Sommer, Janell Eberhart, Lawayne Eberhart Wed-Thurs KO bracket 4 AND Fri-Sat KO bracket 2;
Bill Beaushaw Sun Swiss flight X

NAOP DISTRICT FINAL INFO

NAOP rules have changed. The Unit now has the option whether or not to hold a Unit game as we have had to do in the past. We are taking the option not to hold a unit game; therefore, everyone who played in the June, July, and August NAOP Qualifying games and qualified, is now eligible to play in the District Finals to be held in Jackson (time TBA, usually February). Eligible names will be posted on the bulletin board. **Sally Toups** has a list of all who have qualified, so see her if you have lost your Q-slip that was issued at the time you played and she can issue you a Q slip.

Goodwill Nominee

In recognition of her many services to bridge and the LBA the Board nominates **Ann Barone** for ACBL Goodwill member. Congratulations and Thank You to Ann!

Grand Slam Jackpot Winners

Sep 3 *Joan Van Geffen & Judy Katz, Dana Hastings & Guss Ginsburg, Eileen & Richard Bagnetto, Juanita Heidingsfelder & Jean Talbot*

Rank Advancements

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Elizabeth Cousin, Virginia Dabbs, Jane Hufft,
Nancy Sandidge, Thomas York

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Kanwal Dhir, Janet Gindro

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Angie Krieger, Joan Lennox, Jeannine
Richardson, Mercedes Wells, Janice Zazulak

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Terrence Marr, Katsumi Sohma

NEW NABC MASTER

James Kessler

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

Sherrie Goodman

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Sharon Henry, Marilyn Seward

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Gussie Dunn, Ellen Lappa

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Beth Todd, Jean Weiss

Observations by Joan Van Geffen

When John asked me to write something for the Kibitzer, I told him I was not qualified on bridge info, but I have played long enough so I can give you some of my observations. First of all, and very important, is to stay calm, enjoy your partner and decide this is the day on which your luck and skill will unite. Smile, it makes your partner and opponents feel good and at ease. Remember, Rome wasn't built in a day, and start to work but keep in mind this is a game--for enjoyment and also to keep our minds working and alert.

Don't be afraid of the better players. They all had to start just as you. After the hand is over, if you ask, they will be happy to answer your questions and help.

I think the most important part of the start of your game is counting. Count points and the number of cards in each suit. When you are the dummy watch the play and practice counting. Begin by making standard leads (4th best and such) and then you can more accurately begin your count. Give any bidders credit for the points it takes to make their bids.

A few of my observations, probably contrary to the bridge books. With 4-3-3-3 distribution and 13 points just double--you may find your partner with a 5 or 6 card suit which he cannot bid unless he knows you have some points to help. When partner opens--especially a minor and right hand opponent doubles, with no 4 card major and one major stopped, holding 6-9 points, bid one no trump--I call it "beat them to the no trump."

I would rate New Orleans Bridge Club as one of the friendliest in the country. Take advantage of this and when the hands are finished, talk to your opponents introduce yourself and be friendly. Most of all, enjoy! This is a game!

Basics from the Director

by Jennie Flynn Sauviac Psyches, conclusion

Another type of bid that is mislabeled as a psyche is a gambling bid. For example when partner asks for control in a suit and the person accepts the invitation without the necessary stopper, that player has gambled. All players have held three small in a suit bid on your left and your partner has invited 3NT if you can stop the suit. Five of a minor would be risky so you decide to shoot it out in 3NT! Or, partner invites a small slam with a bid of five of your trump suit asking for second round control of a suit in which you hold xxx. You could well go down in five so you brazenly try the grand in hopes your expert opponent believes you and eschews the lead of that suit. These have worked and will work again.

So what is a psyche? Most typically it is an opening bid made severely distorting the strength of the hand. A player who holds 97542 Q84 J9 T52 and opens 1 spade is psyching. On the other hand if a player occasionally opens 1NT holding only 14 HCP that player has not grossly misstated her hand's strength. (However if a player frequently decides to open 14 HCP 1NT's that player's partner will come to expect it and sound ethics requires that every 1NT bid be announced as 14-17.)

What recourse do you have if you believe that a player has psyched against you? First of all our local regulations ask the player who makes the psychic bid to self-report the bid to the game director. If the psycher does not do this, the opponents may report it. What good does reporting do, you ask? The Laws specifically ban excessive or frivolous psyching. The reporting of a psyche provides a means by which a player's bidding can be tracked. ACBL suggests that more than two psyches per session of play meet the definition of excessive. Such bidding contributes to the implicit formation of a partnership understanding and that is banned by ACBL regulations. Further a frivolous psyche--one made without good bridge reason--may be penalized on the spot. If players will report true psyches when they occur, the problem can be addressed by the Director.

PAUL'S DEAL OF THE MONTH

Can a hand be defeated when there is no defense in the cards? That question sounds like a "self-contradiction" but once in a while conditions are perfect for a "stealth defense." Here is one such occasion which arose at a recent Sectional. Your RHO opens 4H not-vul vs vul, and all pass. You hold KQx=10xxx=x=xxxxx. You forego the normal spade lead and put your singleton diamond on the table. You made a great and against the odds lucky lead, as dummy comes down with AJ10xxx=J=Qxx=AQx. Partner wins the diamond jack, continues with the king and then the ace, to which declarer follows. The question is "What do you discard on the diamonds?" It looks as though the contract is "cold" unless declarer has two spades, which seems highly unlikely considering that he held three little diamonds. So try discarding the king and queen of spades on partner's diamonds. If you don't end up looking foolish when declarer has two or three spades, you will look like a genius when he has none, quite a likely holding. With his actual hand, void=AKQxxxx=xxx=Kxx, declarer is sure to ruff high when partner cooperates and leads a spade. And there goes another cold contract down the proverbial drain when your ten of hearts is promoted to the setting trick.