



## Louisiana Bridge Association December 2015

Editor John Liukkonen email: jrdbl@cox.net

### President's Message December 2015

Sheryl Thompson and Kathy Gilmore did a great job chairing our November tournament. Thank you.

We have many special events and parties scheduled in December. Please review the calendar to be sure you don't miss any of the fun. Please remember to sign up for the mentoring game on December 30th. To set up the game properly we need prior information on how many mentors and mentees we will have.

The board is considering starting a fast pairs game on Thursday nights. The game would start early (6:00 p.m.?) and end early. Playing 24 boards with a time limit of six minutes a board would get the game over in two and a half or three hours. If you have an opinion please feel free to express it to one of your representatives on the board.

I'll close by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you prefer Happy Holidays, I'll wish you that.

Larry Federico

PLAY NICE PLAY NICE

### December Events

**Dec 3-6 Baton Rouge Sectional**

**Dec 12 Holiday Party and Unit Championship**

Sat eve cocktails 6:15, dinner 6:30, game 7:15PM

**Dec 18 Fri Noon Holiday Potluck and Unit Championship**

**Dec 21 International Fund Game 10:30AM**

NOTE MORNING TIME. \$7 entry fee

**Dec 25 NO GAME CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Dec 30 Mentoring Game**—sign up!

**Jan 1** Game if signup warrants—sign up!

### *In Memoriam*

**Richard Bagnetto**

**Sidney Lazard**

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Quin Bates, Jane Peatross

### Rank Advancements

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Gary Danos, Gerry Gieseler, Mary Hevron

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Carolyn Abaunza, Hunter Babin, Caroline Chiochio, Mary Hillery, Jeanette Ploger, Thomas York

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Mary Hanni, Judy Pyeatte, Judith Rowley, Edward Spooner, David Williams

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

William McDonald, Betty Norton

NEW NABC MASTERS

Dianne Butler, Jean Frank, Mike Lappa, David Roberts, Janis Roberts

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER

William Gentry

NEW LIFE MASTER

Fred Lay

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

Carol Bagalman

### Please sign up for

The Mentoring Game Dec 30

The New Years Day game—so that we can be assured of sufficient turnout

### Please help us

Set up for the Holiday Party Dec 12—set up after the day games Fri Dec 11 and Sat Dec 12

Find a housekeeper to help with our local tournaments. (Contact Sherrie Goodman.)

### 70 Percent Games

#### Open Pairs

Nov 9 JF Lowenstein & Paul Deal 71.43%

Nov 15 David Wolf & Jim Thornton 70.00%

Nov 27 John Onstott & James Bush 73.36%

#### 299er Pairs

Nov 10 Diana Powell & Janice Zazulak 75.0%

Nov 12 Lynn Flynn & Gigi Matthews 72.08%

Nov 17 Janice Zazulak & Susan Martin 72.42%

Nov 19 Janis Roberts & David Roberts 74.11%

### Grand Slam Jackpots

Nov 4 Sid LeBlanc & Bill Weiss, Paul Freese & Toby Young

Nov 11 Roy Richardson & Jennie Sauviac

## Dottie Toledano Sectional Firsts

### Thurs AM

**0-20 Pairs** Lloyd Armstrong & Gary Bergeron

**299er Pairs** Linda Conner & Elizabeth Cordes; Molly Sylvia & Barbara Fitz-Hugh Flt F

**Open Pairs** Lynne Hand & Ellie Brammell; Karen Dugan & Ellen Lappa Flt C

### Thurs PM

**Open Pairs** Paul Deal & Bob Bowers; Jim Thornton & Marcie Pick Flt B; Suzanne Baer & Susan Gibbens Flt C

**299er Pairs** Gigi Matthews & Lynn Flynn

### Fri AM

**Open Pairs** Eleanor Onstott & Dee Moses; Carol Bagalman & Sharon Henry Flt C

**299er Pairs** Myra Groome & Diane Powell; Barbara Fitz-Hugh & Kathy Gilmore Flt F

### Fri PM

**Open Pairs** Iype Koshy & Joan Van Geffen; Wayne Weisler & Sue Taylor Flt B; Linda Gallagher & Sylvia Kitziger Flt C

**299er Pairs** Linda Conner & Elizabeth Cordes; Barbara Fitz-Hugh & Molly Sylvia Flt F

### Sat AM

**Open Pairs** Lowen&Judy Katz; Bill Geary & Daisy Vandenburg Flt B; Betty Jones & Caroline Fisher Flt C

**299er Pairs** Sandra Brown & Patricia Burke; Bonnie Belanger & Rose Liljeberg Flt E; Nancy Murphy & Marian Bourgeois Flt F

### Sat PM

**Open Pairs** Carl Merlin & Doug DeMontluzin; Jack Lewis & Vicki Willis Flt B; Ray Gandolfi & Jackie Madden Flt C

**299er Pairs** Charles Waldrop & Evelyn Randall; Linda Conner & Mollie Sylvia Flt E

**Sun Swiss** Paul Deal-Jan Galey-Walter Lewis-Jay Segarra Bkt 1; Reese Koppel-Nelson Daigle-Geoff Chichester-Lew Moore Bkt 2

**Cell phone policy.** The ACBL forbids cell phones and other electronic devices in the playing area of national NABC tournaments. **Specifically such devices must be turned off and must not be visible in the playing area between the start and end of play.** This policy has now been extended to District 10 sectional and regional tournaments, and **the LBA Board has voted to apply this policy to our club games as well. If your phone rings or is visible the penalty is 1/4 board. If you answer the penalty is 1/2 board. So turn off your phones and stow them out of sight during club and tournament play.**

The concern on the national level is not only the disruption cell phones can cause but also to prevent cheating. Thanks to Vicki Willis for bringing this to our attention and to Sherrie Goodman for additional help.

Our friend **Doc Bagnetto** has passed away. The bridge club's a bit diminished today.

We all have our good points,  
that's fair to say,  
but Doctor B was special  
in every single way.

Poet, painter, lover of life,  
family man with an exceptional wife.  
89 years, a pretty good run,  
in many ways a kid, full of fun.

Doc was truly a happy man,  
his glass half full and more,  
Tops in his field, Renaissance man,  
but unpretentious to the core.

So here's to Doc Bagnetto,  
we know he's up in heaven.  
When God has Wednesday bridge,  
he'll be bidding seven.

—Paul Freese

## Know the Director Rulings

By Jennie Flynn Sauviac

### FYI

**Repeat, Repeat, Repeat!!! To help you remember.**

You and your partner play a short club. You **MUST** announce, "could be short".

Your partner alerts, or announces your bid, and opponents inquire as to what the bid means. Partner's explanation does not describe the cards you hold, you **MUST** be silent.

Your bid is insufficient, you **MUST** not replace your bid. Your partner hesitates, you **MUST** judge your bid on the cards you hold, not because of the hesitation. You **MUST** bid and play all hands before the round ends.

When you are on lead, you **MUST** lead before entering the contract. This allows time needed to study and play the hand in the time allowed.

The score is entered, you **MUST** look at BOTH the results, AND the direction before accepting. You **MUST** call the Director for a ruling when applicable.

You **MUST** accept the Director's thanks, if you follow these helpful hints.

**Thanks to Carolyn Dubois for tending the potted plants for 3 years.**

**Sidney Lazard** was a member of the ACBL Hall of Fame, life long New Orleanian and member of our club until he moved to Dallas in 2001. He won national events over several decades from the 1950's to past 2000 and on one occasion represented the US in the Bermuda Bowl. But his most famous single bridge feat may be his spectacular bidding and play on a hand in 1954--to see it follow this internet link:  
<http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/sidney-lazards-great-coup/>

## Gulfport Sectional First

Chuck Pitard & Richard Logan Sat PM Open Pairs

## Did you know?

Four of the top 200 all time ACBL masterpoint winners play regularly at our club. Who? see p.3

*PLAY NICE*

**Paul's Deal of the Month.** There are often "hidden" chances for aggressive, adventuresome players to create a "top" at duplicate bridge. When such an opportunity occurs in a major tournament it is often published in the newspaper columns and bridge magazines. But when it happens in a local weekly game, it is usually lost to the bridge public. Take the hand below left, for instance, which was Board 1 in the November 9th, 2015 noontime local club game.

♠9543  
♥AJ8  
♦Q932  
♣64

♠8762  
♥109753  
♦4  
♣1092

♠QJ10  
♥K64  
♦J8765  
♣87

♠AK  
♥Q2  
♦AK10  
♣AKQJ53

Several but far from all N/S pairs bid and made 6NT, which brought them a split "top." It seems that these declarers, whether in game or slam, won an opening spade or club lead, cashed the Ace and King of diamonds and when West showed void they next took the easy and obvious risk free heart finesse, which was offside. On an opening lead of the ♥10, the same finesse was available but should not be taken because it was unthinkable that the opening lead could have been from a K10(x) combination. Making 6NT would not have been put at risk by winning the ♥A immediately, as declarer has twelve top tricks. And with that certain to lose heart finesse, "down the hatch" would go the golden opportunity to make seven and earn a top! No one bid or even made 7NT, which is cold on any lead as the cards lie. On the ♥10 lead all the declarer had to do was win the ♥A (or even win any other lead

in declarer's hand and then cash the ♥A to establish the layout for a Vienna coup) and then run enough club tricks to total six played tricks, discarding two clubs, two hearts and one spade from dummy. On the play of declarer's sixth winner the dummy will be reduced to ♠945 ♥void ♦Qxxx ♣void. East's last eight cards will be ♠QJ10 ♥K ♦J876 ♣void before discarding on the sixth trick. As you can plainly see, East cannot discard down to seven cards without establishing an additional (13th) winner for declarer. So the faint of heart could reasonably go "with the field" and take the simple heart finesse to try for seven, with no risk to the guaranteed twelve top tricks. But the "aware" declarers (not necessarily experts?) who got the ♥10 lead, and thereby "knew" that the ♥K was offside, could win the ♥A and play for the beautiful three suit Vienna coup squeeze without any risk to making 6NT. Any declarer who got the ♥10 lead and was not "asleep at the switch" would have been rewarded with a well earned ice, cold "top" by making 7NT. Bridge! What a fascinating game!

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** As Paul notes above, the heart finesse would clearly be wrong given a heart lead and that is what led Paul to consider the Vienna coup leading to the three suit squeeze against East on the actual lay of the cards. Paul asked the editor to compare the success probability of this squeeze line of play against that of the straightforward heart finesse, given some other lead and no knowledge of the opponents' hands. If the cards are distributed as they were in the actual hand, cash the heart ace and East will be the victim of a three suit squeeze at trick six. But in many other cases thirteen tricks also come in by cashing the ♥A early and running winners in hand. If diamonds break 3-3 there are thirteen tricks on top. But also if (a) either defender holds four diamonds and the heart King or (b) LHO holds five or more spades and the heart King or five or more spades and four or more diamonds, a two suit squeeze will develop and provide the 13th trick. **Now for the probabilities:** The straightforward heart finesse has a 50% chance of success given a neutral lead. But clubs will run for six tricks about 96% of the time. An even diamond break, or squeeze for seven, in Vienna Coup three suit or two suit form, will then develop about 70% of that time. **Therefore, on any opening lead declarer's best line to make seven is to refuse the heart finesse, cash the heart Ace and play for diamonds to run or one of the possible Vienna Coup squeezes to develop. Not obvious when you first look at the hand!**

**Carl Merlin Brings in a Slam.** This hand was played by Carl Merlin Friday Nov 20. An excellent example of using inferences to reach a good line of play. Thanks to Carl for supplying us with his observations and reasoning.

|                              |         |     |     |      |   |                   |
|------------------------------|---------|-----|-----|------|---|-------------------|
| North ♠KQ97654 ♥8 ♦K2 ♣AQ3   | Auction | N   | E   | S    | W | DLR N NONE VUL    |
| South ♠ AJ102 ♥AQ943 ♦9 ♣652 |         | 1S  | 3D* | 4D** | P | * preemptive      |
|                              |         | 4NT | P   | 5H   | P | **♦A or splinter  |
|                              |         | 6S  | P   | P    | P | support of spades |

East leads the ♦Q and declarer studies before play. The most obvious play is to pitch a club from dummy on the good ♦K and take club finesse for no losing clubs. West wins the ♦A and returns the ♣10. Declarer realizes that East must have one or both missing kings for his preempt. West knows declarer has ♦K and did not lead a safe diamond. Why? West is making North commit early. Should North finesse or is there another way to make the hand? West did not double the 5H response so it is likely that East has the ♥K. If hearts break 4-3 there is no need to risk the club finesse. Declarer wins ♣A and plays the ♠K. East shows out. Now declarer plays the ♥8 and finesses the ♥Q. It wins! A low heart from dummy is ruffed and a spade is led to dummy clearing opponents' spades. Now another low heart is ruffed as both opponents follow. Another spade is led to dummy and the ♥A pulls the last heart from opponents. A club is pitched on the ♥A and now the 13th heart is led from dummy to pitch the last club in the North hand. Plus 980!

**Top MP winners:** according to the November ACBL Bulletin, John Onstott, Drew Casen, Joan Van Geffen, and Jean Talbot are in the all time top 200 ACBL MP winners.