

# District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 5 Issue 8

## From the Editor

The next six weeks have lots of gold point opportunities with the Dallas Labor Day Regional August 27 to September 2, Austin NLM Regional September 19-22 and the Beaumont Gusher Regional September 23 - 29. I'll be at both the Dallas and Beaumont tournaments and hope to see many of you there.

Please send comments on the newsletter.

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Paul Cuneo

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## From Unit 174 - Susan Banks

I hope everyone participated in the August Sectional. This month's person of interest is Mannie Magid. I enjoyed visiting with Manny and I hope you enjoy his story as much as I did.

Mannie and his wife Jeanette immigrated from South Africa to Houston in 1979. Mannie was a family practice physician for 50 years. Jeanette had played bridge in South Africa and was a regular bridge player in Houston before she passed away. Her bridge friends and partners, particularly Lew and Pat Levy created the Jeanette Magid annual memorial bridge game. There is a plaque at Westside Bridge Academy listing the winners for each year. This is the rest of the story in Mannie's own words.

It was three months until the tenth and final Jeanette Magid annual Bridge memorial game.

. Her surviving husband, Mannie, had recently retired and declared that he would like to play in that tournament. He began lessons with Joyce Ryan and asked his best friend and Bridge veteran, Jack Balter, to play with him. A few days before the tournament, Jack quizzed Mannie and tactfully advised Mannie to study quite a bit more before playing at the Westside Bridge Academy, particularly in an open game. The evening before that final Jeanette Magid annual event, however, Westside was holding a mentor-mentee game, and Jack Balter offered to partner Mannie in that contest. It would be a much gentler option for a beginner.

Now, Jack was not a well man. He was in renal and cardiac failure. So, they decided that Mannie would pick Jack up, and they could review a few basic bids in route to the game.

Upon entering the studio, Jack introduced Mannie to a few friends, telling them exactly who Mannie was, and all about his ambitious goal of playing in his late wife's memorial game, of how he considered diving directly into the deep end.

The game began, and surrounded by knowing smiles, Mannie actually developed a slight tremble. This was not helped by Jack's sporadic jocularity: "You're getting pretty good with the green card," he told Mannie. "Please don't misconstrue any delay by my partner as a tactic," he kidded with the opponents. Between these playful remarks, however, Jack did correct and mentor, and Mannie learned some valuable lessons. And at the end of the game, Jack complimented Mannie and congratulated him on earning his first quarter of a master point, thanks of course to Jack's play.

They drove home, Mannie helped a fatigued Jack out the car, and Jack made two remarks: "Hell! Can you believe this is me?" he said, as he stumbled toward the front door. "I enjoyed tonight. I really had a good time. Thanks."

Jack's wife, Debi, let him into the house and the two friends said, goodnight.

At 6 am the next morning, Mannie and his wife, Erika, received a call from Debi: "I lost Jack last night," she said. Unable to comprehend, Erika asked, "What do you mean?" and then incredulously actually added, "Was Mannie that bad?" "No, I really lost him," Debi sobbed. "But he told me what a terrific time he had last night."

That was Mannie's introduction to Bridge and to the Westside Bridge Academy. A night he cannot forget.

Mannie thank you for sharing your introduction to bridge with me and the newsletter readers. I found out that Mannie is also a published author. When I asked if he was still writing he said "No, I used to write as a way

to reduce the frustrations of the day. Now that I'm retired, I play bridge to get frustrated."

If you or someone you know would be interested in being profiled in this column, please email me at [sisbjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sisbjohnson@gmail.com).

## Better Bridge Habits

### **Playing with a New Partner**

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month's tip is about playing with a new partner for the first time.

The tip is to minimize memory load for your new partner and do NOT ask them to learn new conventions or methods. Building successful partnerships is a challenge for everyone. Don't add to the burden by asking partners to learn and play a new convention just before the game. Most players including me either miss a convention or forget the proper response a few times before getting it down.

## Eddie Kantar's Tip

When RHO uses Stayman and you have five or six clubs headed by three of the top five honors, double to alert partner you want a club lead against any eventual contract. Think of a double of an artificial bid as a length and strength showing lead directing penalty double.

You hold: S. xxx H. xx D. xxx C. AKJxx

West North East South

1NT Pass 2C ? Double. Caution! ..Do not double with club length (Qxxxxx) unless you have the necessary honor strength to go with it. [www.kantarbridge.com](http://www.kantarbridge.com)

## Improved Declarer Play

### Improving Declarer Play

As declarer, many times the ability to make our contract depends on playing one of the suits in a way that maximizes our chance to take tricks. You are declaring 4H and see the following trump suit:

	K5	
?		?
	Q87632	

You need 5 tricks from the suit. Lead low towards the K. If it wins, lead back towards the Queen and duck. The only hope is a 3 – 2 split with West having a doubleton A.

## Demon Defense

**Signaling** - Eddie Kantar writes in his book “Modern Bridge Defense” about making discards. Assuming you are playing standard discards where a high card encourages a suit

and a low card discourages you hold J10987. Discard the Jack promising the 10. When discarding from touching honors, discard the one you would have led. [www.kantarbridge.com](http://www.kantarbridge.com)

## Bidding Tips

A book worth owning and reading is “A Treasury of Bridge Tips” by Eddie Kantar. In it he offers the following advice: A single raise of an overcall is the same as a single raise of an opening bid: 7 – 10 points with 3 pieces. With more than 10 points, cuebid the opener's suit. Here is an example:

N        E        S        W

1D     1S     p     ?     You hold:

S – A87, H – 54, D – 632, C – KJ973    Bid 2Spades

S – A87, H – 54, D – QJ9 – C – KQ973.    Bid 2D showing a limit raise.

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## Its the Law

**Dummy's rights and Limitations** – Laws 42 and 43 address Dummy's rights and Limitations. The following is from Duplicate Decisions:

### “Law 42 - Dummy's Rights

Dummy has the following ABSOLUTE RIGHTS:

1. Dummy may give information, in the Director's presence, as to fact or law.
2. Dummy may keep count of tricks won and lost. In order to exercise this right, dummy has the right to follow the play as it occurs. If a player turns his cards in such a fashion that dummy cannot see them, the Director should require the player to fully face his cards as he plays them.
3. Dummy plays the cards of the dummy as declarer's agent as directed. Dummy may not inform declarer that he has a trick turned incorrectly unless he does so immediately (Law 65).

NOTE: There is no automatic penalty for an infraction of this nature. The Director should consider an adjustment whenever dummy's action may have aided declarer's play.

Dummy has the following QUALIFIED RIGHTS:

1. Dummy may ask declarer (but not a defender) whether he has a card of the suit led when he has failed to follow suit to a trick.
2. Dummy may try to prevent any irregularity by declarer. (He may, for example, warn declarer against leading from the wrong hand.)
3. Dummy may draw attention to any irregularity, but only after play is concluded.

### **Law 43 - Dummy's Limitations**

Dummy has the following general limitations and is subject to penalty under Law 90 for any violations.

1. Unless attention has been drawn to an irregularity, dummy should not initiate a call for the Director during play.
2. Dummy may not call attention to an irregularity during play.
3. Dummy must not participate in the play or make any comment or ask any question concerning the bidding or play.
4. Dummy may not exchange hands with declarer.

5. Dummy may not leave his seat to watch declarer.

6. Dummy may not, on his own initiative, look at the face of a card in the hand of either defender.

Violations: Dummy is liable to penalty under Law 90 for any violation of the limitations listed above. After violating any of the limitations above, dummy may no longer warn declarer not to lead from the wrong hand, nor may dummy now ask declarer about a possible revoke. For a violation of any of #4-6 listed above, if dummy is the first to draw attention to a defender's irregularity, there is no rectification. This section does allow for the possibility of an adjusted score if dummy's actions gained an advantage for his side after forfeiting his limited rights."