

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 5 Number 11

From the Editor

I hope that you find the articles helpful as you continue on your journey in bridge.

A reminder that your Teacher of the Year Nominations are due by Dec. 31. Please send to Buck Buchanan at: rcb722322@gmail.com.

We're entering the Holiday Season and I'd like to wish each of you a joyous holiday season and a great year in 2020!!!

I'm interested in your feedback, so please send your comments to paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net.

Paul Cuneo
District 16 Director

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From Unit 174 - Susan Banks

Person of Interest

This month's person of interest is Sara (Sally) Hundley. I want to thank Sally for stepping in at the last minute when I saw her at the WBA Mentor-Mentee game Wednesday. It is already time to start making plans for the Lone Star Regional the first

week in February. One of my regular partners has already reserved a day.

Sally was born in West Virginia, but her family moved to Texas soon after. She lived in Dickinson, Texas until she went to Austin to attend the University of Texas. She graduated with a double major in Economics and English. She married the love of her life after graduation and they celebrated their 51st anniversary this year.

Sally worked in Houston for Faye Sarofim and Company as a staff assistant. She really enjoyed her time working and the excellent work environment. Mr. Sarofim decorated the offices with his personal art collection and Sally had an original Rothko to look at every day.

Sally quit working when her daughter was born and became a full-time mom and avid tennis player and golfer. Her daughter, son-in-law and their two children live in Austin. Sally was also involved for many years with the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show, where she served on the executive committee. Loving and showing horses is a joint endeavor, as she and her daughter currently own a horse together. Sally made a point that they are involved with American Saddle Bred horses. Her daughter continues to show their horse at the national level.

Sally said she doesn't play tennis anymore but is still an avid golfer and now bridge player. Sally's parents were social bridge players, so she learned the basics at a young age. Like many of us, she played bridge in college. About 10 years ago she was invited to play social bridge by a friend. She found beginning bridge lessons in Spring Branch where she met a group of women to play with. One of those ladies invited Sally to play duplicate. And as they say, the rest is history.

When not playing bridge or golf, Sally's passion is creating art quilts. If you have a chance, ask her to show you some photographs of her work. Amazing.

If you or someone you know would like to be featured in a future Person of Interest Column, please send me an email at sisbjohnson@gmail.com.

Better Bridge Habits

Bid and Play in Tempo

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. Learning to bid and play in tempo is a challenge for all players and it takes time. Here are some tips to help with the process of bidding in tempo:

Always take about 5 seconds to bid. Use the time to think about the auction and how it might develop. What call by partner or an opponent would be the most difficult to handle? Anticipating the auction will help you maintain tempo when a difficult choice is presented. Keep thinking as the auction proceeds.

When a skip bid is made, you must pause for 10 seconds before bidding whether the opponent used the Stop card or not.

Know the system you're playing with your partner. It helps to review the entire convention card prior to the start of the game. This is critical if you play with several people and have different conventions with them. Not only will you improve your tempo, but your results will be better as you avoid bidding mishaps.

Avoid body language and facial expressions in reaction to partner's or opponents bids. Keeping a "poker face" helps maintain tempo, avoids causing partner ethical problems, and does not give information to the opponents.

It is unethical to attempt to communicate information to partner or to deceive an opponent by varying your tempo.

Here are two articles by Andrew Gumperz who is a professional and frequent commentator on BBO: <http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/better-tempo/> and <http://bridgewinners.com/article/view/tempo-and-bridge-ethics/>

Eddie Kantar's Bridge Tips

If you lead the ace from AKx(x) against suit contracts: (1) The lead of the ace is a trick one convention only. After trick one, the king is led. (2) In a supported suit, or in any suit partner

has bid, the king is led from the ace-king. Leading the ace in either of these situations, denies the king. (3) From AK doubleton, everything is reversed.

www.kantarbridge.com

Improved Declarer Play

Card Combinations

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. The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge by ACBL has a section on playing card combinations. Here is a combination from the Encyclopedia that seems to occur frequently:

A J 10

x x x

We can maximize our chances of 2 tricks by leading a small card towards the J. If that wins or our left hand opponent rises with the King or Queen, we have our 2 tricks. If it loses to the King or Queen, then finesse the 10. The probability of taking 2 tricks is 76%.

Demon Defense

Auction:

You hold:

N	E	S	W	S – A732
		1NT	P	H - 86
2C	P	2S	P	D – Q10743
3S	p	4S	all pass	C – Q6

What do you lead? In his book on Modern Bridge Defense, Eddie Kantar writes, “Lead a diamond. Even though the opponents are playing in a 4-4 fit, if you can make either hand ruff a diamond, they will be playing a 4-3 fit. Later, if you can force the hand with 4 trumps to ruff a diamond, your trump holding will be longer than that of either opponent and you will have wrested control of the hand from the declarer.” www.kantarbridge.com

Bidding Tips

You hold:

S – A106432

H – KQ62

D – 86

C – 7

Your partner opens 1NT. What is your bid?

In his CD on Conventions, Mike Lawrence writes, “Basically with 6 - 4 in the majors, you choose an approach that seems best and fits into your system.” Most players will start by bidding 2C Stayman and raising either major to game if partner bids a major. If partner denies a 4 card major by bidding 2D, a delayed Texas transfer can be used as shown below.

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2C	P
2D	P	4H	p
4S all pass			

Be sure to discuss this sequence with your partner before using it.

www.michaelslawrence.com

Its the Law

Asking Questions about the Bidding

Law 20 section F states: “During the auction and before the final pass, any player may request, but only at his turn to call, an explanation of the opponents’ prior auction.”

The law is clear on when we may ask for explanation during the auction, but is silent about whether we should ask. Here are some tips to guide your thought process:

Do NOT ask until the auction is completed unless the answer will affect your decision to bid or not to bid. Asking when you have no intention of entering the auction may allow the opponents to benefit by the explanation.

Do not ask for partner's benefit. This is a violation of Law 20 G1.

If you are defending and must make the opening lead, you may ask for explanation at the conclusion of the auction.

If you are the partner of the opening leader, wait until your partner has selected the opening lead and places it face down on the table and asks "Any questions partner?"

To ask after the auction is completed, "Will you please explain the auction?" is the best way as you do not bring attention to a specific bid.