District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

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From the Editor

The outlook has brightened significantly over the past month. More vaccine is available and a lot more of us have had at least one dose. Many clubs are planning for a return to face-to-face bridge and a few have announced April re-openings.

We're gaining a much higher confidence level that tournaments will return especially the NABC in Austin.

But we still need to be cautious and be responsible to protect our health and those around us.

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

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In this Issue

Better Bridge Habits:

Pre-game Preparation

Just Breathe!

Eddie Kantar's Tip:

Responding with Both Majors

Declarer Play:

Card Combinations Demon Defense:

Suit Preference Signals

Better Bidding

Cue Bid a Limit Raise

It's the Law:

Answer Opponents Inquiry

Better Bridge Habits

Pre-game Preparation

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month's tip is to spend at least 10 minutes before each game discussing your conventions and agreements with your partner. Several good things will happen when you do this. Among them are that you'll get both of your minds focused on bridge, you can refresh one another's memories on the conventions you play and you'll have clarity on which conventions are "on" over interference.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

When responding to an opening bid with two four-card majors, respond 1H giving partner a chance to bid 1S. If partner doesn't bid 1S, assume partner does not have four spades and bid accordingly.

You hold: S. AJxx H. KQxx D. Jx C. xxx

Partner You

1D 1H

2C ?

Bid 2NT and limit your hand to 11-12 HCP. Do not bid 2S, as you know partner does not have four spades. <u>www.kantarbridge.com</u>

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

AQxxx

10 x

You are the declarer and need 3 tricks from this suit. Lead low to the 10 and finesse the Queen. 71% chance of 3 tricks unless East has Kx. Then it is 78%

Demon Defense

Signaling against Suit Contracts – Eddie Kantar writes in his book "Modern Bridge Defense" that defensive signals come in 3 packages:

- 1. Attitude: how you feel about the suit partner has led
- 2. Count: how many cards you have in a particular suit

3. Suit Preference: which suit you want partner to lead

Suit Preference signals are the simplest and the most elegant of the signals, yet the average player has more trouble with them. Here is the first case of using suit preference signals playing standard signals. You are defending a 4H contract. Partner leads the A of spades:

You play the Queen and partner knows it is either a singleton or doubleton. He continues with the K and you discard a low Diamond. Partner then leads the 10 of spades. He plays the 10 to tell you to return a Diamond so he can give you a 2nd ruff and defeat the contract. If partner wanted a Club, he would lead his lowest remaining spade. 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:

With 3 card support and a hand that is too strong for a single raise of partner's overcall, cue bid the opponents suit. West opens 1H and your partner bids 1S. East passes and you hold S – A87, H- 54, D – KQ87, C Q652. You should bid 2H to tell partner you have a limit raise or better in Spades. <u>www.kantarbridge.com</u>

Its the Law

Answer opponents inquiries

Playing online we often want to know more about the meaning of an opponents bid. Just as it is a requirement of the law to provide an explanation of your **agreement** with respect to your partner's bids, it's a requirement for you to give an explanation of your own bids when playing online. You must answer and disclose your **agreement** about the meaning whether the bid was required to be alerted or not.

The correct way to inquire is to click on the bid you'd like to receive an explanation at your turn to bid. It is not to chat to the table! The opponent can then type the explanation into the box BBO provides and you'll be able to see it.