

## From the Editor

Spring is here. There are a lot of upcoming tournaments in D16 and I hope you attend and enjoy the events.

This month I'd like to highlight another **free** resource. It is Larry Cohen's website. Larry is a member of the ACBL Hall of Fame and is also a noted author and teacher. Take some time to explore his website and sign up for his newsletters. It's a great resource:

<https://www.larryco.com/>

I'm interested in your feedback, so please send your comments to [paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net).

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## Better Bridge Habits

### Learning to keep score

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month, I will focus on learning to keep score. Many players come to the ACBL after playing party bridge extensively, so they already know the scoring system. For people new to the game, scoring can be a bit of a mystery. Here are some links:

[http://www.acbl.org/learn\\_page/how-to-play-bridge/how-to-keep-score/](http://www.acbl.org/learn_page/how-to-play-bridge/how-to-keep-score/)

<http://www.rpbridge.net/2y66.htm>

No matter whether scoring is done with travelers, pick-up slips or electronic devices, each side should verify that the score is entered correctly. A very important part of scoring is to know the vulnerability of the declaring side for the board. A good habit to develop is to note that vulnerability as you place your cards back in the board so you will not have to ask.

Scoring and vulnerability are important parts of bidding decisions especially in competitive auctions. An old saying is that the worst part score contract is either +200 or -200.

## Eddie Kantar's Tip

### Two Five Card Suits

With two five-card suits: open the higher ranking suit, respond in the higher ranking suit, and

overcall in the higher ranking suit. Do not worry about which suit is stronger.

You hold: S. x H. J10xxx D. AKQxx C. Ax

Open 1H, not 1D. Respond 1H to an opening bid of 1C and overcall 1H if the opening bid to your right is 1C. [www.kantarbridge.com](http://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 when I open a weak 2 bid:

K Q 10 8 x x

x

We can maximize our chances of 3 tricks by leading a small card towards the 10. If your right hand opponent rises with the A or the 10 wins, you have a 68% chance of 4 tricks. If it loses to the J on your right, duck the next round. Overall there is a 94% chance of 3 tricks

## Demon Defense

## Unblocking doubleton honors

Eddie Kantar writes in his book “Modern Bridge Defense” about unblocking honors when you have a doubleton. “The general rule is: When partner leads an honor card against notrump and you have a doubleton honor, unblock your honor; play it, do it.” Here is an example with partner leading the J against 3NT:

	N – A	
W – J1097432		E – Q6 (you)
	S- K85	

At trick 1, you play the Q which loses to the Ace. If you can gain the lead, you will lead the 6 and partner will overtake if declarer ducks. Once the K is forced out, partner can run the suit if he has an entry. [www.kantarbridge.com](http://www.kantarbridge.com)

## Bidding Tips

### Support Doubles

In his book “Double! New Meaning for an Old Bid” Mike Lawrence talks about support doubles and re-doubles. This is one of the conventions that in an important part of all the major bidding systems. Mike Lawrence writes:

W	N	E	S
1C	P	1H	2D
?			

When you play support doubles, you can raise partner in two ways. You can raise or double. With 4 card support you can raise to the 2, 3, or 4 level according to the value of

your hand. With 3 card support you can double the 2D bid or re-double if S had doubled to show support. You have not limited your hand by doubling or re-doubling to show support. You may bid further with extras when the bidding comes back to you.

[www.michaelslawrence.com](http://www.michaelslawrence.com)

## Its the Law

### Revokes

We've all been in a position where we failed to follow suit and then discovered we had a card of that suit which we should have played. In bridge, this is called a revoke. ACBL's Duplicate Decisions discusses Laws 61 thru 64 concerning revokes:

#### **Law 61 Failure to Follow Suit: Inquiries Concerning a Revoke**

A revoke is the play of a card of another suit by a player who is able to either follow suit or comply with a lead penalty. NOTE: See Law 59, when a player is unable to comply.

Right to Inquire about a Possible Revoke:

1. Dummy may ask declarer.
2. Declarer may ask the defenders.
3. Defenders may ask one another and declarer.
4. DUMMY MAY NOT QUESTION THE DEFENDERS. If he does so, he is in violation of Law 42B1 and Law 43A1, which prohibit dummy from participating in or communicating anything about the play to the declarer. Law 16B may apply.

#### **Law 62 Correction of a Revoke**

A player must correct his revoke if he becomes aware of it before the revoke becomes established. A revoke is corrected when the offender withdraws the card he played in revoking and substitutes a legal card.

1. If the withdrawn card was from defender's unfaced hand, it becomes a major penalty card. (See Law 50.)
2. If the withdrawn card belonged to declarer or dummy, it is replaced without penalty.

Subsequent Cards Played after a Revoke May Be Withdrawn:

1. by a member of the non-offending side without penalty provided the card was played before attention was drawn to the revoke.
2. by the partner of the player who revoked if his RHO withdraws a card played after the revoke. This withdrawn card becomes a major penalty card if the player is a defender.

A Revoke on the 12th Trick

1. The revoke must be corrected if it is discovered before all four hands have been returned to the board.
2. If a defender revokes on the 12th trick before his partner has played, and if offender's partner has cards in two suits, offender's partner may not choose the play that could possibly have been suggested by seeing the revoke card.

### **Law 63 Establishment of a Revoke**

A Revoke Becomes Established when the Offender or His Partner:

1. leads or plays to the following trick.
2. names or designates a card to be played to the following trick.
3. makes or acquiesces in a claim or concession of tricks.

A revoke, once established, may not be corrected and stands as played, unless it occurred on the 12th trick and was discovered before the hands were returned to the board. (See Law 64 for the Director's responsibility to restore equity.)

### **Law 64 Procedure after Establishment of a Revoke**

The revoke penalty differentiates between cases where the player committing the revoke wins the trick and where his partner wins it. Two tricks are transferred to the

non-offending side if the revoking player won the revoke trick and his side won any subsequent trick. One trick is transferred to the non-offending side if the trick on which the revoke occurred was not won by the offending player, but the offending side won that or any subsequent trick.

There is no penalty for a revoke:

1. when the offenders do not win any tricks from the revoke trick on.
2. when the revoke is the second one is the same suit by the same player. The penalty still applies to the first revoke.
3. when the revoke involves a card belonging to dummy, or any other faced card (a penalty card, for example).
4. when one of the non-offenders has made a call on a subsequent deal.
5. when attention is first drawn to the revoke after the round has ended.
6. when the revoke occurred on the 12th trick. A revoke on the 12th trick must be corrected if discovered before all four hands have been returned to the board.
7. when both sides have revoked on the same board.

NOTE: In all of the above cases the Director retains the right to award an adjusted score. See the following discussion of Law 64 C. The Director Is Responsible for Equity

Law 64 C. provides that the offending side will not benefit and the non-offending side will not be damaged by a revoke. This Law gives the Director the right to restore equity in those revoke situations where the penalty does not restore equity and those that are not subject to penalty (such as a revoke in dummy).

**How Law 64 C. Works** — If a result is inequitable to the nonoffenders and there is no penalty or the penalty exacted is not equitable, the Director shall adjust the score. He should restore the likely result had the infraction not been committed (equity). When the result is in doubt, the non-offenders are entitled to the most favorable result likely had the revoke not occurred. The Director should strain to award a real score. In assigning an artificial score, however, the Director must be aware of the limits of the result had the revoke not occurred. The Director must ensure that the nonoffenders receive equity, not a reward. Any doubt in the determination of a likely result, however, should be resolved in favor of the non-offenders.

For additional information see: DD2020.pdf ([acbl.org](http://acbl.org))

