

Region 9 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 9 Issue 9 - September 2023



From the Editor

It is hard to believe that last month marked my 12th issue as editor of this newsletter! For those of you who've contributed content for our monthly player highlight or feedback, thank you!

This month, our player highlight is that of Patricia Woods who turned 90 years old in May and plays in a weekly 499er game (and tournaments) in Beaumont. I'm confident you will be smiling after reading her story.

Special Request: I am in need of more player highlights to use in future issues and "my cupboard is bare". Your contributions are both needed and appreciated, so please send my way.

Housekeeping:

As over 2,500 of you receiving this email were not previously receiving this publication, please note that due to a recent reconfiguration in District 16 e-blast distributions, you are now able to select the newsletters and announcements you wish to opt-in or opt-out.

At any time, just click on "[Preferences](#)" at the bottom of the email, confirm your email address, and make your selections accordingly. Easy-peasy!

FYI: if you click "unsubscribe", you will no longer receive anything from D16 (or by D16 on behalf of your unit).

Here's hoping you are off to a fabulous September.

Lauri Laufman
Editor

INnewsletter.d16r9@gmail.com

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September/October Intermediate/Newcomer Tournaments

Non-Life Master (0-750mp) Regionals

Oct 27-29 Houston NLM Regional (in Galveston) * Flyer: [Click Here](#)

*This is being held concurrently with an Open Sectional.

IN Sectionals

Sept 14-16 Denton NLM <750mp Fall Pairs Flyer: [Click Here](#)

Sept 21-24 Bridge Club of Houston 499er Flyer: [Click Here](#)

Oct 28-29 Austin Fall 0-50 Flyer: [Click Here](#)

Upcoming Tournaments In General

Upcoming Tournament Info within our region:

For District 16, [click here](#).

For District 15, [click here](#).

Especially for Our 0-50 Players

District 16 provides a 12-board game on BBO just for players having 0-50 masterpoints for \$3 every Monday at 4:00. A director (Ken, Consie or Kim) and assistants will be on hand to offer guidance during the game.

For more information, check out our Frequently Asked Questions [D16 0-50 Game Frequently Asked Questions](#) or email Beginner20Bridge@gmail.com.



Highlight - I/N Player: Patricia Woods (Unit 201)



I began playing bridge when my husband was in the Air Force, and we were stationed in Illinois. Three other ladies and I learned that a lady was coming to the Officer's Club to teach bridge. She taught us many TRICKS. We played a minimum of twice a week. The four of us talked our husbands into playing with us two Saturdays a month. The men took every bid regardless of how many points they had. Our bridge playing was laughable, but the food served was delicious! When we were transferred to San Antonio, I had a neighbor who played bridge. I taught her all those "fancy" plays. We played at the clubhouse with other wives.

A few years later, we moved to Port Neches where I began playing with some wives of Texaco employees. It was too much party and little play for me. I thought that was the end of my attempt to become a bridge player. BUT!!! In Christmas of 2009 my children gave me a membership to the Port Arthur YMCA. There I met Lucille Armintor. One day as we were walking out, I asked her what she was doing the next day. She said she was going to Beaumont to take bridge lessons. I boldly said I used to play bridge. She asked if I would like to go with her and I blurted out "SURE!" Don Moss was our teacher. After we finished those lessons, I asked her what we were going to do with ALL that knowledge. We laughed because we weren't sure. Shortly afterward, we began playing in Nancy's 0-50 Tuesday morning game. We were scared but continued to play, finally working up courage to play in the 0-300 game on Wednesday morning. I have taken every lesson Nancy and Don have offered. I am still learning. Little did I realize I would be taking lessons forever and ever...AMEN!!! AND, after all these many years, Lucille and I are still partners.

Better Bridge Habits

Playing with a new bridge 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.

While filling out your convention card is warranted, Robert Todd recommends that you consider spending a little time to get to know each other's style of playing bridge. His article on this topic including a sampling of questions for discussion can be found [here](#).

Eddie Kantar's Tip

Opening Lead of Partner's Bid Suit

When leading partner's supported suit, lead your highest card with three or four small headed by the 9 or lower. The lead of a low card in a supported suit shows an honor.

When leading partner's unsupported suit, lead high from a doubleton but low from any three or four cards not headed by a sequence. With the ace, if you lead the suit, lead the ace.

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Improved 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 declarer and have 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

The following comes from Eddie Kantar's book on Modern Bridge Defense.

Auction:

N E S W
1NT P
2C P 2S P
3S P 4S P
P P P

S - A 7 3 2

H - 8 6

D - Q 10 7 4 3

C - Q 6

What do you lead?

"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."

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Better Bidding

Partnership Bidding: Our Preemptive Opening Auctions

The following comes from This Week in Bridge (TWiB) Lesson #457 by Robert Todd at advinbridge.com:

GENERAL

When we open the bidding with a preempt (2-level or higher) our agreements are different from when we open the bidding at the 1-level. Once our side starts preempting the auction then we often continue doing so. We have many bids that allow us to extend partner's preempt, but when Responder has a good hand they often need to try for game, and this is where the auction gets complicated, especially when there is competition. Let's take a look at some of these auctions and make sure we have good agreements with partner.

CONSTRUCTIVE BIDDING

Even when the opponents are nice enough to stay out of the bidding, auctions that begin with a preempt can still be complicated.

Example 1

2♠ 3♠

____?

What does 3♠ mean from partner?

This 3♠ bid is not invitational. Partner is just extending the preempt. Partner could have 0 HCP for this bid. We should not bid 4♠, even if we love our preempt.

Example 2

♠ AQJ6542

♥ Q3

♦ 64

♣ T3

2♠ 2NT

____?

Assuming we open 2♠ with this hand, what do we rebid?

When partner bids 2NT they are interested in game – asking for a Feature (or Ogust if that is what we play.) But, given that partner is inviting game and showing interest in our suit (they did not bid a new suit of their own) then we should simply bid 4♠ and see if we can make it.

Example 3

♠ KQT954

♥ A4

♦ 43

♣ T43

2♠ 3NT

____?

What do we bid now?

Partner is not asking our opinion. We simply pass – hopefully partner has a long running ♦ suit. If partner wanted our input, they would have bid 2NT or a new suit.

Example 4

♠ KQT954

♥ A4

♦ 43

♣ T43

2♠ 2NT

3♥ 3NT

____?

What do we bid now?

This 3NT bid is a “choice of games”. With such a good ♠ suit, we should rebid 4♠. If partner does not have the ♠A, a ♥ lead will likely defeat 3NT. Partner usually has 2-card ♠ support on this auction.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Auctions that begin with a preempt get even more complicated when the opponents bid too!

Example 5

2♦ 2♠ 2NT

What does 2NT mean in this auction?

It is useful to play (either after an overcall or a double) that a 2NT bid by Responder is not a natural bid. Instead, it can be used as an asking bid (Feature or Ogust, whatever you normally play) to allow Responder to investigate game.

Example 6

2♦ 2♠ 3NT

What does 3NT mean in this auction?

If we play that 2NT can be used to investigate game, then 3NT is to play and shows a ♠ stopper and likely a source of tricks!

Example 7

2♥ X 4♥ 4♠

X?

What does double mean here?

Preemptive bidders do not make penalty doubles. The modern expert standard is interesting here.

Double is used to suggest a “sacrifice”. Since Responder could have a good hand or bad hand for bidding 4♥ – preemptor should not act unilaterally – we may be killing them in 4♠. So double is “I want to bid” and Responder can then decide to either bid 5♥ (with a shapely hand) or leave the double in with lots of HCP.

CONCLUSION

When we preempt the bidding, we make things more difficult for the opponents, but also more difficult for partner. We have very little room to communicate, and the auction can get complicated fast. We need to make sure that we have good agreements to make sure that the auction doesn't get out of control. Make sure you discuss these auctions with your partner.

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It's The Law

Do Not Pass Go: The Inadmissible Double

A double out of rotation can be more complex than a bid or pass out of rotation because it is possible that the double is inadmissible as well as out of rotation. Several laws apply to doubles:

Law 19A, Doubles, defines the circumstances under which a double can be made: “A player may double only the last preceding bid. That bid must have been made by an opponent; calls other than pass must not have intervened.”

Law 32, Double or Redouble out of Rotation addresses a legal (or admissible) double made at the wrong time. Law 32, Double out of Rotation, addresses this situation. However, before Law 32 is applied, the director will apply Law 29, Procedure after a Call out of Rotation. Our LHO may accept our bid out of rotation and the auction continues as if our bid were legal. If our LHO does not accept our bid then Law 32 applies.

Law 36, Inadmissible Doubles and Redoubles, addresses illegal (or inadmissible) doubles no matter when they are made. An inadmissible double may not be accepted by the next player to call. Two common occurrences of an inadmissible double have to do with doubling partner's bid:

1. We have just learned support doubles We have opened a minor and have three-card support for partner's major. After RHO calls, we double to show our three-card support, neglecting to notice that RHO's call was a pass, not a bid. The last bid was partner's, not an opponent's.
2. Partner opens a minor and we hold four hearts. We expect RHO to overcall 1S and plan to make negative double, showing four hearts. Unfortunately, we fail to revise the plan when RHO passes, and we end up doubling partner.

Law 36B, Offender's LHO does not Call before Rectification

If the director is called at this moment of the inadmissible double, before another call is made,

1. The inadmissible double is cancelled.
2. The offender must replace the inadmissible double with a legal call and the auction continues.
3. The offender's partner must pass for the remainder of the auction.
4. Lead restrictions may be imposed on the offender's partner, if the offending side ends up defending.

Note that if the inadmissible double were made out of rotation, the auction reverts to the player

whose turn it was to call. The offender may make any legal call and items (3) and (4), above, apply.

Law 36A, Offender's LHO Calls before Rectification

If our LHO calls, "accepting" the inadmissible double, the illegal acceptance negates the negative consequences of the inadmissible double. As long as the opening lead has not been faced, the auction is rewound to the point of the inadmissible double. The inadmissible double is replaced with a legal call and the auction continues as if the inadmissible double had not occurred.

Law 36C, Irregularity Discovered after the Auction Period

Once the opening lead is faced, the final contract is played and scored as if the inadmissible double had not been made.

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