

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 2 Issue 5

From the Editor

San Antonio is hosting the District's first Non Life Master Regional Aug. 3-5. You can find the flyer here: <http://web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2016/08/1608107.pdf>

Last year the ACBL Board increased the Gold Point award percentage for these NLM regionals from a maximum of 10% to 25%. To win any Gold points the following criteria must be met:

1. Events must be 2 sessions or more as in Open regionals. NO Gold for single sessions.
2. For pairs or traditional Swiss teams, you must finish in the overall awards in the "A" strat. Or at pairs by having a Section Top.
3. Bracketed Swiss will be as for an Open event, but the Gold points will be capped at 25% of the award.

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

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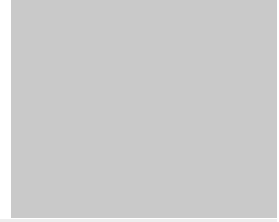
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Claims

Paul Cuneo

District 16 Education Chair



From Unit 174 - Paul Cuneo

Unit 174 is hosting a MiniBridge party on June 11 at the Marriot Westchase in conjunction with our Sectional from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. The party is an opportunity to bring friends and family for an introduction to bridge.

Learning to play MiniBridge is easy and fun! For more information see the Unit 174 website

From Unit 174 - Sheryl Thomas

May is here already!!! A time for backyard BBQs and honoring our veterans. Many thanks for your dedicated service!!!

We started May with the end of Westside Bridge Academy's 4 day 299r tournament. Here are the overall winners for the 4 day event.

Thursday AM - 17 tables

Julia Thompson & Myra Marsh 64.8%

Thursday PM - 9 tables

Linda Lewis & Mary Nelson 62.22%

Friday AM - 19 tables

W. & B. Clingo 62.7%

Friday PM

(A tie for 1st)

Jack Adams & Ronnie Klein 63.8%

Jessie Allen & Jerry Hoffman 63.8%

Saturday AM - 11 tables

Stacey Lodden & Kimberly Sunderland 63.55%

Saturday PM - 15 tables

Jack Adams & Ronnie Klein 67.24%

Sunday Swiss - 6 teams

The winners with 4/4 wins!!!!



Tamara Dyer

Dorether Faubin

Diane O'Neal

Ann Trammell

I was only able to post the overall winners for each session.



Please go to the Westside's website for a complete list of all the winners and their lovely pictures!!!

Many thanks to Westside Bridge Academy and the directors for making the tournament such a well run event.

See you at the upcoming 299r tournament hosted by Bridge Club of Houston (BCOH), May 19-22, 2016. Remember to bring your appetite. The food is just delectable!!!



It's time for our person of the month and I'm so excited to highlight Mr. Gary King!!! No one can really advance their bridge game without a solid foundation. It's just that simple!!! So, if you want that solid foundation, you CANNOT go wrong with Gary. Without further ado, Mr. King in his own words.

I have made Houston my home since 1967 and a graduate of Texas A&M University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I am employed full time as the Director of

Corporate Communications of Powell Industries, a manufacturer of custom-engineered electrical equipment for the oil and gas industry.

My parents and grandparents played bridge socially and taught me the basics starting at age 11. But it was at Texas A&M when the interest really took hold.

There was a small students bridge club that the core members wanted to grow the number of players, so my teaching career began. I have been teaching bridge players of all levels since 1974.

I am a Diamond Life Master and play the game for enjoyment favoring team of competitive duplicate play. I spend 3-4 nights each week either holding class at Westside Bridge Academy in Houston or coaching groups of players.

I am a member of the ACBL Goodwill Committee.

Thank you so much for sharing your amazing bridge biography. Gary is also kind and thoughtful enough to share a weekly bridge lesson free of charge with us. Please go to Westside Bridge Academy's website for more information and his entire curriculum. I'm sure you will benefit for those weekly pearls of wisdom!!

We have one new Life Master, Dr. David W. Morris.
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Until next month all. Happy bidding ♠♦♥♣ !!!!



Stacey Looden & Kimberley
Sunderland



Myra Marsh & Julia Thompson



Linda Lewis & Mary Nelson



B. & W. Clingo



Jack Adams & Rony Klein



Jerry Hoffman & Jessie Allen

Better Bridge Habits

Dealing with Emotions

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. We've all had bidding miscues and ended up in a contract that is not the best. When this happens two things are very important:

1. Don't let your emotions take over. Stay in control and focus on playing the contract you are in. At that point, your job is to take the maximum number of tricks; not to decide how to prevent future bidding problems.
2. Don't telegraph your dismay at the contract to the opponents by making a comment or through your body language. Nothing can be gained by telling the defense you are in a bad contract.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

Major suit rebids

After you open 1H or 1S and partner responds 1NT denying support for your major, don't repeat your major unless you have a six-card suit. 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 9 8 x

Q J x x

Lead the Queen. If it is covered, cash the Jack. If it holds, lead the Jack. Overall probability of 4 tricks is 16%; 3 tricks is 97%.

Demon Defense

Third Hand Play – Eddie Kantar writes in his book “Modern Bridge Defense” about third hand play. We've all heard the axiom “third hand high”, but that is not always correct. Partner opened and you bid a spade. You end up defending a suit contract.

N – 643

W – Q7

E – AJ85 (you)

S- K1092

Eddie Kantar writes: “When partner leads the queen, he probably has a doubleton leaving Declarer with K109x. If you overtake with the Ace and return the suit, declarer can insert the 10 and later lead to the K9 holding you to one trick. If you play low at trick 1, you are sure to get 2 tricks.” www.kantarbridge.com

Bidding Tips

Takeout doubles - Bid or double and bid

In his book “The Complete Book on Takeout Doubles” Mike Lawrence talks about the choice of bidding or making a takeout double with a strong hand. He writes: “In general, if you have just one suit to show, you should overcall with 17 or less high card points. If you overcall and partner cannot raise your suit, you are unlikely to have game in your suit.

It is when you have 18 or more HCP that you consider doubling as opposed to overcalling. If you fear that your partner can have enough for game but will not be able to raise, then you need to double first and then show your suit. Points alone will not tell you what to do. Points do not take tricks, and not all points are equal. Some 16 point hands are better than some 18 point hands. “ Here are two examples:

W	N	E	S
		1C	?

S – KQJ96 H – AQ D – AQ96 C – 52

This is a minimum double given that you intend to bid spades next.

S – AKQJ9 H – KQ D – J653 C – Q4

Bid 1 spade. This hand has the same shape and better spades, but the rest of the hand is poor. Many of the honors in this hand have the potential to be worthless.”

www.michaelslawrence.com

Its the Law

Claims Players are encouraged to claim when it becomes obvious to them that they know exactly how many of the remaining tricks will be taken. The claim should be accompanied by a clear statement as to the order in which cards will be played, and the line of play or defense through which the claimer proposes to win the tricks claimed. In a suit contract, do not claim if there are trump outstanding unless you are completely sure that you can draw all of the trump with your line of play. If you are almost sure the trump are in, say "I'm going to play trump from the top to draw the remaining trump" and then complete your claim.

Here's the discussion of laws 68 - 71 from Duplicate Decisions:

68 - Claim or Concession of Tricks

NOTE: For a statement or action to constitute a claim or concession of tricks under these laws, it must refer to tricks other than the one currently in progress.

A Contestant Makes a Claim Whenever:

1. he announces that he will win a specific number of the remaining tricks.
2. he suggests that play may be curtailed.
3. he intentionally faces his hand.

A Contestant Makes a Concession When:

1. he announces he will lose a specific number of tricks.
2. he abandons his hand.
3. when a defender concedes, and his partner immediately objects, no card exposed is a penalty card, but may be treated as unauthorized information. Play continues.

A Clarification of a Claim:

A claim should be accompanied at once by a clear statement of the order of play. Keep in mind that failure to do so does not in itself void a claim to the tricks indicated. Once a claim is made, play ceases, but see Law 70D.

69 - Agreed Claim or Concession

Agreement occurs when a contestant assents to an opponent's claim or concession and raises no objection before his side makes a call on a subsequent board or before the round ends, whichever is first. The board is scored as though the tricks claimed or conceded had been won or lost in play.

A player may withdraw an agreement within the correction period established by the sponsoring organization if he has agreed to the loss of a trick his side had won; or if he agreed to the loss of a trick his side would likely have won had the play continued. In either instance, the board is rescored with such tricks awarded to his side.

70 - Contested Claim or Concession

NOTE: Laws 70 and 71 are both footnoted to remind the director that when applying these two Laws "normal" play includes play that would be careless or inferior for the class of player involved. The Director's Goal in ruling on a contested claim is to adjudicate the board as equitably as possible to both sides, but any doubtful points should be resolved against the claimer.

1. The director should have the claim statement repeated.
2. The director should hear any objections.
- 3 The director may require all hands to be faced.
4. No unstated line, not encompassed in the original statement, should be accepted unless failure to take such a line is inconsistent with the claim.

Play ceases following a claim or a concession. The Director must decide who wins the remaining tricks. However, if any play has occurred subsequent to the claim, the director may take this as evidence of the plays probable from the claimer and from his opponents. When a claim is made and there is an outstanding trump, the Director should award a trick(s) to the opponents only when all of the following circumstances are present:

1. claimer did not mention the trump(s) in his statement, and
2. there was a chance that the claimer did not realize a trump remained in an opponent's hand, and

3. there is a normal line of play (which may be either careless or inferior for the class of player involved, but not irrational) that would allow the claimer to lose a trick to that trump.

71 - Concession Canceled

A concession may be canceled by the Director in the following situations when made within the correction period established in Law 79:

1. If a trick has been conceded that has already been won.
2. If a trick is conceded that cannot be lost by any normal play of the remaining cards