

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 2 Issue 12

From the Editor

Happy Holidays!!! I want to wish you and your families a very joyous holiday season and great year in 2017.

Year end is a time for reflection and planning and I want to encourage each of you to reflect on your bridge journey and make plans for learning and improving in 2017.

Bridge is fueled by the efforts of volunteers at all levels. Please consider volunteering in 2017 to help your clubs and units with all the work.

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

Paul Cuneo

District 16 Education Chair

In this Issue

Better Bridge Habits:

Learn from the Hand Records

Eddie Kantar's Tip:

Responding with two 4 card majors

Declarer Play:

Card Combinations
Demon Defense:

Signaling Against Suit Contracts

Better Bidding

Opening 5 Hearts and 15-17 HCP

It's the Law:

Inadmissible Double

From Unit 174 - Sheryl Thomas

Hi Everyone,

It's that time, a time for holiday cheer, joy and peace. A time for reflection of 2016 on and off the bridge table. Hopefully it was a very happy and productive year!! Now on to a bigger and better 2017!! I really hope everyone has a wonderful holiday full of laughter, drink, great food and of course bridge!!

Now, let's take a look at the overall winners from the 299r tournament held at held at one of my favorite places, Westside Academy, November 17-20th.

Thursday AM - Robert & Gale Vilyus 66.35%

Thursday PM - Jack Adams & Ronnie Klein 63.4%

Friday AM - Kris Sankaran & Michael Wexler 61.4%

Friday PM - Sara Crabtree & Phyllis Dillard 62.38%

Saturday AM - Daryl Dunn & Ian Fetterly 60.23%

Saturday PM - Mary Dodson & Sandra Hudson 57.31%

Sunday AM - Elaine Brill & Ann Tramell 74.5%

Sunday PM - Gregory & Paul Andrews 67.9%

Thanks to everyone for coming out. A complete recap of the tournament can be found on WBA' s website.

Now, it's time for our person of the month. I'm very happy to highlight Terri Currie. She's such a fantastic player and knows this game in and out!! Here is Terri' s biography:

I was born in Guam and graduated from Siena Heights University with a degree in Biology/Chemistry. I worked briefly as a medical technologist, but basically I became a "stay at home " raising 4 children. We lived in many parts of the world because of work assignments. My children were all born in different states and countries.

I took up bridge in 1989 and became so involved with the game that I was determined to learn everything as quickly as possible! My bible was "Watson's Play of the Hand" and "5 Weeks to Winning Bridge". I read them like a novel!! I studied and studied and went to many tournaments, both nationals and regionals.

I am an Emerald Life with over 7700 MPs. It's been an amazing journey, lots of fun and happiness along the way!!

At present, I'm an accredited ACBL instructor. I have many students and my goal is to make bridge Fun, Enjoyable and Easy to learn!! My "Thinking Bridge" class forces each student to stay focused, make a plan, and watch every card as it is played. Each lesson is associated with boards that shows the bidding, the opening lead, play of the hand and the defense. It's a pleasure to see

them venture into the open games and do well.



I have two classes scheduled for the New Year. One on defense, starting January 4th and one on Beginning Bridge, starting January 9th. I look forward to teaching these classes. Much love to all!

Thanks Terri for sharing your most interesting bio. Please go to Westside's webpage for all the dates and classes offered.

Please don't forget our "Lone Star Regional", January 23-29th at Westchase Marriott. There is gold in them there hills!! LOL!! Seriously, come out and have a great time. Also, mark your

calendar for the conjoined ACBL/ABA annual game, February 4th held at Tracy G. It is pot luck, so please feel free to bring your favorite dish or dessert.

Ok guys, that's it until next year. A sincere thanks to everyone that helped with the I/N desk and to



those that allowed me to highlight them!!

Happy Bidding ♠️♦️♥️♣️

Better Bridge Habits

Learn from the Hand Records

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month I want to focus on analysis after the game. I hope your club has hand records and either provides a printout or posts them on the website. They are excellent learning tools. After every session, I review the hand record and look for the following:

1, What did we do well? It's fun to look over our best boards. But we need to see whether we did something very well, or whether the opponents had a bidding problem and ended up in a poor contract. If the opponents had a problem, ask whether your partnership would have avoided the problem.

2. Where do I need to improve? Look over the low boards to see what happened. Was it a bidding, lead, defense, or declarer play problem? Or was it that the opponents made a great bid or play. It is too easy to blame partner for the problems. Look primarily where you can improve and become a better partner.

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. Partner does not have four spades and bidding the 'fourth suit' has a special meaning. It is frequently used as an artificial force when no other rebid describes the hand. www.kantarbridge.com

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:

K Q x x x x

You've preempted with your 7 card suit and found that partner is void. You should play low on the first round and then play the K. 36% chance of 5 tricks and 86% chance of 4 tricks.

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

Count signals are used to tell partner and declarer how many cards you hold in the suit being led by declarer or dummy. Once your partner knows how many cards you have in the suit, he knows how many declarer has and can improve his count of the distribution of all 4 suits around the table.

If you play **Standard** signals, a relative high card shows an even number of cards and a relative low card shows an odd number. Giving count is very important when dummy has a strong suit missing the A, K or both. Here is an example:

N – KQJ9

W – 2

E – A863

S – 5

You know from the bidding that declarer is short in this suit. Declarer leads the 5. Partner plays the 2, showing an odd number. Partner can't five or declarer would be void, so it must be 3, meaning declarer has 2. Hold up on trick one and take the second trick to cut declarer off from the suit. 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 a balanced hand containing 5 hearts and 15-16 HCP open 1NT. With 17 HCP open 1H. These hands are always 5-3-3-2 distribution with 5 hearts.

The problem with the 15-16 point hands is that there is no accurate rebid if partner bids 1S or 1NT over your 1H opening bid. www.kantarbridge.com

Its the Law

Law 36 - Inadmissible Double and Redouble

This doesn't happen very often, but it is embarrassing when it does and we need to keep our wits about us to salvage the situation. Recently a hand was played with the following auction:

S (dealer) E N W

3C dbl P dbl The double of partner's bid is inadmissible and the director was called.

From Duplicate Decisions:

“An inadmissible double or redouble:

if LHO calls before the director explains the Law, the inadmissible call and all subsequent calls are cancelled. The auction reverts to the player whose turn it was to call. Proceed as if no irregularity occurred, no lead penalties apply.

Otherwise, the double or redouble is cancelled; offender must substitute a legal call; offenders partner must pass throughout the auction; lead penalties may apply; Law 23 may apply.”

Thus the double by West was cancelled and a legal call needed to be made. West needed to consider that this bid would likely end the auction as East was barred from further bidding.