

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 4 Issue 10

From the Editor

The Holiday Season is coming quickly. I'm already seeing Christmas decorations arrive in some stores. Many times family members ask us for gift suggestions, or we're searching for gifts for friends and relatives. Bridge books, teaching CDs and subscriptions can make great gifts for bridge players.

Check our BridgeClues2.com and VuBridge.fr as these are two of my favorites.

If you'd like to introduce people to bridge, I highly recommend Bridge in a Box by Patty Tucker. Lots of features including an App. Here's a link:

<http://www.greatgameproducts.com/bridgeinabox>

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

Paul Cuneo

In this Issue

Better Bridge Habits:

Describing a hand

Eddie Kantar's Tip:

Penalty Double of a
1NT overcall

Declarer Play:

Card Combinations
Demon Defense:

Signaling Against Suit
Contracts

Better Bidding

Rebidding your minor suit
opener

It's the Law:

Revokes

From Unit 174 - Susan Banks

Sorry to have missed you last month but I was traveling to cooler climes. This month's person of interest is a long-time partner and friend, Kathy Pflueger (Flee-ger). She said she wasn't a very interesting person, but I assured her we are all interesting.

Kathy was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She has a BA from the University of St. Thomas

Kathy was the Manager of Corporate Secretarial Services of a mutual fund company from which I retired early at 55. After a year off, she became a member of the

Appraisal Review Board of Harris County. Even though this is a year-round position, Kathy has always referred to this position as a seasonal job because the bulk of work is conducted during the summer months, giving her flexibility the remainder of the year. Kathy resigned from that position early this summer when she moved from Harris County to Ft. Bend County to be closer to her family.

Kathy, like many bridge players is also a veteran traveler. Each summer her family takes a beach vacation, her favorite will always be the Outer Banks of NC, but her family have enjoyed the beaches of Hilton Head, St. Augustine and Destin. Kathy said "The Outer Banks because the beauty of the sun dancing on the water and the roar of the ocean opens my mind for reflection. A place where my family can reconnect." Kathy also travels regularly to Montana, a

place to escape the heat and humidity of Houston. Fly fishing (she claims to be a novice) first took her and her oldest son (he is an expert) to Firehole Ranch outside West Yellowstone. They continued that adventure for many years including a short visit in early September. By far, her coolest (really freezing) experience in Montana was a trip in the winter where the temperature plummeted to a low of -55 degrees in the Lamar Valley. Kathy recently returned from a Lindblad trip on the Snake River that followed the route of Lewis and Clark. Outside the U.S., Kathy has visited England, Ireland, Scotland, France and Italy, some as walking trips or river trips. Kathy said "By far, my trips to Italy have brought me the most joy. The landscape, the architecture, the food, the people, and especially the wine, create an unforgettable experience."

In addition to bridge and travel, Kathy loves to garden, read and especially spend time with her family.

Kathy did not play bridge growing up or in college, but card games were always a part of her life. After retirement she searched for a group of card players when she found Westside Bridge Academy and began taking lessons from Terry Currie. She was hooked!

She has taken lessons from many talented and patient teachers. In addition to Terry, she has been privileged to take lessons with Gary King, Vinh Tran, Betsy DuBose and Audley Karrasch. Always a student, she began lessons in September with Audley.

When asked what she enjoys about bridge, Kathy replied, "Of course I enjoy the game, the competition and the mental stimulation, but more important are the friendships I have developed. Friends always there to share in accomplishments, be it coming in first in your section or earning your first gold point. Friends always there for a pep talk after a disastrous game or when you feel like quitting.

Like most bridge players, her goal is to become a Life Master. Unlike many of the players who began their bridge journey about the time she did and have achieved Life Master, she claims to be a Tortoise. Slow but steady, and truly enjoying the journey.

Upcoming I/N Tournaments

WBA November 299er	November 1 - 4	Westside Bridge Academy
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Fall BCoH 299er	November 29 – December 2	Bridge Club of Houston
WBA January 299er	January 17 - 20	Westside Bridge Academy

In addition to the upcoming local 299 tournaments, the unit Fall Festival Sectional will be November 16 – 18 and there are always I/N sections available.

Better Bridge Habits

Describing a hand

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month I want to focus on a habit to develop.

We all like to describe the hands we've held and sometimes we would like to have a really good player help us with a bidding problem. The best way to do that is to write down your holding in the following order: Spades, Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs. Then write down the bidding noting which position is the Dealer and noting every bid that was made including all the "pass bids".

If you haven't written it down, then describe it in the same order. For example: S – AQ1054, H – xx, D – Kxx, C – AJx becomes "I held ace, queen, ten fifth of spades, a heart doubleton, king third of diamonds and ace, jack third of clubs."

Learning how to describe your hand in this way will help you and the players you talk with about bridge problems.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

Penalty double of a 1NT overcall

After partner opens and second hand overcalls 1NT (natural), double for penalty with 9+ HCP. Bidding a new suit is not forcing and a jump is preemptive. With 9+ points, double first. 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:

Q 9 x x x

J x x x

Lead low to the Jack and then low to the Queen. 83% chance of 3 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

You can only give one of these signals at a time and partner needs to know which one you are giving. Attitude signals are far and away the most common. If you play Standard signals, a relative high card encourages and a relative low card discourages. Here is an example:

N – Q53

W – AK864 (you)

E – 92

S – J107

You've led the Ace of the suit and your partner plays the 9. Since you can see the Queen, your partner must have a doubleton to be encouraging you to continue 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:

"Any time you skip over two suits, or one suit and notrump to rebid your original suit, you promise a 6 card suit or with exception a 5 card suit containing 100 honors.

South(you)	West	North(partner)	East
1C	P	1D	P

2C

You have shown 6 clubs because you have skipped over 1H, 1S, and 1NT to rebid your clubs. www.kantarbridge.com

Its the Law

Revokes – Laws 61 thru 64

At some point in your bridge journey, you will fail to follow suit and not discover it in time to correct it. This is called a revoke. There is no requirement in the law that you inform the other side that you revoked. The vast majority of revokes are by the defending side. One of Dummy's major responsibilities is to watch for revokes by the defending side. However, Dummy must wait until play is concluded to inquire about a possible revoke. Once attention is called to a revoke, the Director should be called.

The following is from Duplicate Decisions:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.)

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 in 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).