

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

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From the Editor

Fall is almost here and it is a good time to assess progress on your goals for 2018. Hopefully, each of you have some bridge goals for the year and you are well on your way to achieving them. /even during the pandemic there is time to learn more, and work with your partners as well as volunteer at your clubs and units. Half of the people who played in clubs are not playing online, so help by reaching out to people and showing them how to play online. Let's finish the year strong!

If you have a Facebook account, I'd like to encourage you to follow the ACBL page and share it with your friends. Bridge Feed on the ACBL website has some interesting articles and is well worth a visit.

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

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Better Bridge Habits

Habits to break

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month I want to focus on a couple of habits some players have that should be broken.

First is too much chatting once the bidding has started for a hand. Bridge requires concentration and if everyone is busy chatting, they're not concentrating and may not do their best.

Second is spending time looking back at the "History" and analyzing what went wrong on past hands. This distracts from the current board and can lead to poor results. I recommend displaying your convention card rather than the history

By breaking these two bad habits, you'll find your ability to focus will improve and you'll make fewer mistakes.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

Hand Evaluation

When the opponents bid and support each other, and you have the jack or queen of their suit and are considering bidding, don't count points for those honors. They are usually worthless. 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:

K 9 x x x

Q x x x

Lead low to the Queen; if an honor appears, then finesse the 9. 53% chance of 4 tricks 95% 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 – 432

W – KQ96 (you)

E – 7

S – 5

You've led the King of the suit and your partner plays the 7. Since you can see all of the spot cards lower than the 7, it is a discouraging signal. You need to switch to another suit as Declarer (South) holds A J 5 and has cleverly played the 5 hoping you'll continue the suit and that he'll score the Jack. 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:

“As responder, when you have a game going hand respond to your partner's opening bid in your longer suit first! Re-read this!” Partner opens the bidding 1C and you hold:

S - AK32

H – 42

D – AQ765

C – 32

Respond 1D intending to rebid 2S after partner's next bid if it is not 1 Spade.
www.kantarbridge.com

Its the Law

Law 45 addresses the issue of played cards. Here is a situation that is not uncommon:

N - Dummy – A Q

W - K

Declarer leads the 5, West plays the King and Declarer says: “Queen uh King; play the Ace. The Director is called. Partner of the person who played the King tells the Director what happened. Declarer agrees, but says the statement was all in one breath without pause for thought, so the Ace should be the card played from Dummy.

The following is from Duplicate Decisions:

“A player may correct the call of a card if it is inadvertent (i.e., a slip of the tongue) and if there was no pause for thought in indicating a desire to change the card called. An opponent, however, may change a legal play made in turn prior to the correction.

Example: It frequently occurs that declarer leads and his play from dummy is intended to be conditional on the play of LHO. He then prematurely calls a card from dummy and, observing that LHO’s card makes his choice unpalatable, endeavors to change it. The change must not be allowed regardless of the tempo, for his first designation was not inadvertent.

Declarer leads a club, intending to ruff in dummy. As he says “ruff,” he notices that LHO has ruffed with a trump higher than any in dummy. Regardless of how quickly he says “pitch a diamond,” such a change may not be allowed, because “ruff ” was not inadvertent.”

The Director ruled that the Queen was played as Declarer had intended to finesse and changed his mind after calling for the Queen and noticing that the King hand been played by the defender.