

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 6 Issue 11

From the Editor

Happy Thanksgiving!!! Despite the pandemic, I have much to be thankful for this year and I'm sure you do as well. Let's enjoy this season and reach out to family, friends and neighbors to tell them how thankful we are to have them in our lives.

When I look back, early March seems very distant as does face-to-face bridge play. While we're getting encouraging news on the vaccine front, the increase in daily cases emphasizes the need to continue to be cautious about social interaction. I doubt we'll have a majority of clubs playing face-to-face before summer, but hope I'm wrong.

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

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District 16 Education Chair

In this Issue

Better Bridge Habits:

Forcing Bids

Eddie Kantar's Tip:

Opening Bids

Declarer Play:

Card Combinations

Demon Defense:

Signaling Against Suit
Contracts

Better Bidding

Opening 4-3-3-3 hands

It's the Law:

Mistaken Bid

Better Bridge Habits

Forcing Bids

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month I want to focus on knowing which bids in your system are **forcing**. Most new players start learning Standard American. ACBL offers a free booklet which explains the basics. You can view, print or download it at: [http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/play/SP3%20\(bk\)%20single%20pages.pdf](http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/play/SP3%20(bk)%20single%20pages.pdf)

Many new players are migrating to the 2/1 system early in their bridge journey. While I play 2/1 and strongly recommend it, most books and teachers start with the premise that you have a good understanding of Standard American on which to build. My encouragement is to get that foundation as quickly as you can and start by knowing which bids are forcing and the requirements to make the bid.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

When holding three four-card suits and a singleton, open the bidding 1D. When your singleton is in diamonds, open 1C. You need 12+ HCP to open with this distribution.

You hold: S. AKxx H. KJxx D. J10xx C. x Open 1D. 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:

A Q 10 9 x x

x

Lead low to the Queen hoping West has the KJ doubleton; 2% chance of 6 tricks. Finesse the Queen and then play the A. 40% chance of 5 tricks. Lead toward the long suit and play the Ace unless the Jack appears. 89% 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

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

W – AK104 (you)

E – QJ2

S – 96

You've led the Ace of the suit and your partner plays the Queen. The play of the Queen promises the Jack and tells you that if you want to continue the suit, you should lead low to 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:

With any 4-3-3-3 distribution open with any 13+ HCP hand. Pass with any 11HCP hand and with 12 HCP use the intermediates to judge whether to open or pass. You hold:

S – KJ84, H – A63, D- Q43, C – Q76 You should pass as there are no intermediates

S – KJ10, H – A1032, D – K82, C – J104 Open this hand. www.kantarbridge.com

Its the Law

Mistaken Bid Law 75

Very important for online play too!

We've all had this happen at one time or another. We look at our hand and make a bid without thinking about our partnership agreements. My right hand opponent deals and opens 1C which is announced as "could be as short as 2". Sitting South, I have the following hand: S- x, H – Kx, D – xxx C – AKQJ10xx. I bid 2 Clubs. My left hand opponent asks what the 2C bid is and my partner responds: "Michaels showing both majors." The opponent passes and my partner bids 2S. I am dying! I forgot we play Michaels! The opponents have been given our agreement, but not what I intended. **What should I do?**

Law 75 addresses this issue. From Duplicate Decisions:

"A player makes a bid that is not the partnership agreement but the opponents are informed of the agreement. The partnership agreement is as explained; the mistake was in the bid. Here there is no infraction of law, since East–West did receive an accurate description of the North–South agreement. They have no claim to an accurate description of the North–South hands.

Regardless of the outcome, the Director shall allow the result to stand. The Director, however, is to presume a mistaken explanation rather than a mistaken bid in the absence of clear evidence to the contrary. South must not correct North's explanation (or notify the Director) immediately, and he has no responsibility to do so later."

Having heard North's explanation, I know that my own bid was wrong and was explained according to partnership agreement. This knowledge is unauthorized information. Consequently, I must be careful not to base further actions on this information (if I do, the Director shall award an adjusted score). So I have to pass the 2S bid and hope my partner is not in a 3/1 fit. If we get a bad board, it was my fault for making the wrong bid. In our methods, I should have bid 3C to show long, strong clubs.

If the opponents get a bad board, say they were cold for 4H, unfortunately they were "fixed" by my mistake. I will apologize for making it, but no score adjustment is made. If the Director is called by the opponents, he will look at my hand and convention card and realize that it was a "mistaken bid" not a "mistaken explanation" by my partner.