

# District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 7 Issue 3

## From the Editor

The outlook has brightened significantly over the past month. More vaccine is available and a lot more of us have had at least one dose. Many clubs are planning for a return to face-to-face bridge and a few have announced April re-openings.

We're gaining a much higher confidence level that tournaments will return especially the NABC in Austin.

But we still need to be cautious and be responsible to protect our health and those around us.

I'm interested in your feedback, so please send your comments to [paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net).

**Paul Cuneo**

**ACBL District 16 Director**

## In this Issue

Better Bridge Habits:

Pre-game Preparation

Just Breathe!

Eddie Kantar's Tip:

Responding with Both  
Majors

Declarer Play:

Card Combinations

Demon Defense:

Suit Preference  
Signals

Better Bidding

Cue Bid a Limit Raise

It's the Law:

Answer Opponents  
Inquiry

## Better Bridge Habits

### Pre-game Preparation

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month's tip is to spend at least 10 minutes before each game discussing your conventions and agreements with your partner. Several good things will happen when you do this. Among them are that you'll get both of your minds focused on bridge, you can refresh one another's memories on the conventions you play and you'll have clarity on which conventions are "on" over interference.

### 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, as you know partner does not have four spades. [www.kantarbridge.com](http://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:

A Q x x x

10 x

You are the declarer and need 3 tricks from this suit. Lead low to the 10 and finesse the Queen. 71% chance of 3 tricks unless East has Kx. Then it is 78%

## 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





## **Answer opponents inquiries**

Playing online we often want to know more about the meaning of an opponents bid. Just as it is a requirement of the law to provide an explanation of your **agreement** with respect to your partner's bids, it's a requirement for you to give an explanation of your own bids when playing online. You must answer and disclose your **agreement** about the meaning whether the bid was required to be alerted or not.

The correct way to inquire is to click on the bid you'd like to receive an explanation at your turn to bid. It is not to chat to the table! The opponent can then type the explanation into the box BBO provides and you'll be able to see it.