

# District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 3 Issue 5

## From the Editor

Thanks again to all who responded to my question about tournament attendance. I'll keep you updated as the taskforce does its work.

Please continue to give me feedback about the articles in the newsletter.

My e-mail is [paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net).

**Paul Cuneo**

**ACBL District 16 Director**

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From Unit 174 - Susan Banks

Hello everyone,

It is certainly springtime in Texas, when we are not staying inside during thunderstorms, we are outside enjoying the beautiful weather.

#### PERSON OF INTEREST

I had the opportunity to play against this month's Person of Interest, Ronnie Martin, in the BCOH 299 tournament earlier this month. He was playing with his regular partner, Russell Chandler. I had chosen Ronnie because he won the 2016 Unit 174 0-5 point Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs races. According to Ronnie, this honor would have belonged to Russell if he hadn't taken a 2 week vacation at the end of 2016.

Ronnie was born in Jacksonville, Texas, and grew up in Houston. After graduating from the University of North Texas (it was North Texas State Univ. then) in 1968, Ronnie was a

teacher and football/baseball coach in the Pasadena School District for 13 years. In 1981, he went to work in commercial real estate. He retired in 2008, but continued to work at leasing until he retired completely in 2012.

Ronnie said "I had never played bridge. But, I always wanted to get into it as I had played many other card games, domino games, etc. And, I always heard that bridge was the best game of them all."

In late 2014 Ronnie found the Clear Lake Bridge Club, and teacher Dave Glandorf. Ronnie took his first class in January, 2015 with the beginning bidding class and continued to take classes through the end of 2015. It wasn't until October of 2015, that Ronnie tried the Wednesday afternoon 99er game. He and his partner placed earning .37 master points. Ronnie continued to play pretty regularly, usually playing at least 4 days per week.

Since that time, Ronnie has gone on a bridge cruise and attended several tournaments including the Lone Star Regional, sectionals, and tournaments at BCOH and in Beaumont. Ronnie says "It is fairly clear that the best way to earn a lot of points is to play pretty often. I have been blessed with good teachers and good partners. And, I have enjoyed the camaraderie in the Clear Lake Bridge Club. We have a fun group and we have a lot of laughs in and outside of bridge."

If you have a teacher or player that you think would like to see profiled in the Person of Interest feature please contact me at [sisbjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sisbjohnson@gmail.com).

#### UPCOMING I/N EVENTS

499 Sectional Westside Bridge Academy                      May 18 – 21

499 Sectional Denton Bridge Club                              May 19 – 21

499 Sectional Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Waco    May 19 – 20

299 Sectional Dorsey's Bridge Studio, Richardson    June 2 – 4

Austin NLM (499) Sectional Austin Bridge Club    June 10- 11

See you at the tables

Susan Banks

## Better Bridge Habits

### **Learn hand and suit patterns**

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month's tip is to learn the hand and suit patterns. Here is a link to a paper by Ken Monzingo former ACBL President on the

topic: <http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/teachers/celebritylessons/handpatternsrevised.pdf>

Learning and applying these principles can significantly improve your declarer play and defense.

## Eddie Kantar's Tip

**Notrump responses to a takeout double guarantee at least one stopper (hopefully two), in the opponent's suit.**

You hold: S. KJ9x H. xx D. Q10x C. Jxxx (or AJxx)

West	North	East	South (you)
1S	Dbl.	Pass	?

With Jxxx of clubs, respond 1NT. With AJxx of clubs, respond 2NT. You don't need stoppers in the unbid suits to bid notrump. A good partner will have them. [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. Here is a combination that came up twice in the ACBL-Wide Charity game on April 27.

	AK10xx
Qx	
	J

Declarer leads the Jack from the South hand. What should West be thinking? The first question West should ask is what is the distribution. West knows that 6 cards are missing. If declarer held 3 would he lead the Jack?

Not likely as good technique would be to lead to the 10 and if it wins, you get all 5 tricks if both defenders follow suit. If it loses, you are guaranteed 4 tricks as long as West follows to the 1st trick.

If declarer holds 2 cards would he lead the jack? Yes, to insure he could finesse twice if it wins. Thus West must cover the Jack with the Queen and hope that declarer has 2 cards in the suit and that partner with 4 cards has the 4th trick. Nothing is lost if declarer has 3 cards. Both times we saw the combination, the hand with Qx did not cover and got a bad board.

## 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

**Suit Preference** signals are the simplest and the most elegant of the signals, yet the average player has more trouble with them. Here is the first case of using suit preference signals playing standard signals. You are defending a 4S contract. The bidding was:

N	E	S	W
			1H
Dbl	2H	4S	all pass

Partner leads the A of hearts:

N – H – KQ3

W – A

E – S - 64

H - 1094

D – AJ86

C – J843

Partner leads the Ace and you see the KQ in dummy. Play the 10 of hearts signaling that your entry is in Diamonds. [www.kantarbridge.com](http://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 4-4-4-1 distribution and 11 to 17 HCP, pass if they open one of your 4 card suits. Later if they agree on the suit in which you have a singleton, double for takeout. [www.kantarbridge.com](http://www.kantarbridge.com)

## Its the Law

### **Partnership Understandings**

Last month we covered the Alert Procedure. It is based on the principle that everyone is entitled to know the methods their opponents use and their agreements. Law 40 on Partnership Understandings covers this.

### **From Duplicate Decisions:**

"Players agreements, whether implicit or explicit, must be available to your opponents. However, a player may make any call or any play (including an intentionally misleading one that departs from commonly accepted or previously announced conventional practice) without prior announcement, provided it is not based on a partnership understanding. In other words, a player may make any bid that will fool partner and his opponents equally. ACBL or other sponsoring organizations, however, control the use of psychic bids by controlling the conventional usages which may impact them.

Prohibited – Partnerships may not vary their agreements during the auction or play period following a question, a response or any irregularity.

Psychic Calls – While psychic bids are an integral part of bridge, a player does not have the right to psych as frequently as he wishes simply because he enjoys doing so. A series of tops and bottoms so earned by one pair can unfairly affect the final results of a tournament.

ACBL's Policy on Psychs: Psychs are regulated by taking disciplinary action against a player who disrupts a game with frequent, random psychs. The ACBL Board of Directors has defined types of disruptive bidding that make the offenders subject to penalty.

## REGULATION OF CONVENTIONS

NOTE: See the ACBL web site for the Convention Charts ACBL has established for various levels of tournament competition. In general, club games are played under the ACBL's General Convention Chart. Clubs may allow experimental conventions or agreements if they believe their particular club can handle them.

NOTE: In ACBL competition, both members of a partnership must use the same system. They must have two identical convention cards made out for the use of the opponents. Both members of a partnership must employ the same methods. Players must not refer to their own convention cards or use any other aids to their memory, calculations or technique.

## CONVENTION CARD REGULATIONS

1. The Laws allow any player to refer to an opponent's convention card: prior to play; during the clarification period; and at his own turn to call or play. In addition any player may consult the opponent's convention card at RHO's turn to call; and, except for dummy,



may refer to an opponent's convention card at his own turn to play. No player, however, may refer to his own convention card at any time during the auction or play.

NOTE: A player may refer to his own written defenses to unusual methods played by his opponents. ACBL has designated as unusual those methods played under the authority of the ACBL Mid-Chart and Super Chart.

2. ACBL has established for all sanctioned events:

- a. a convention card on which players list their conventions and agreements.
- b. regulations for the use of the card, including the requirement that both partners use identical methods. This requirement does not extend to style and judgment. Note: A pair is required to have 2 identical convention cards available for their opponents.
- c. a regulation that both members of a partnership must have the same point limits for an opening bid of 1NT.
- d. a regulation barring opening one bids which may, by agreement, be made on fewer than 8 HCP (not applicable to a psych).
- e. a regulation barring conventional responses or rebids of any kind when an opening natural notrump bid has a lower limit of fewer than 10 HCP or a range of more than 5 HCP.
- f. a regulation barring conventional responses or rebids of any kind when the agreed range of a weak two-bid is greater than 7 HCP or the suit could contain fewer than five cards."