

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 2 Issue 9

From the Editor

Fall is almost here and it is a good time to assess progress on your goals for 2016. Hopefully, each of you have some bridge goals for the year and you are well on your way to achieving them. There is still time to learn more, and work with your partners as well as volunteer at your clubs. Let's finish the year strong!

I hope everyone read our CEO Robert Hartman's article in this month's Bridge Bulletin. It was devoted to the topic of cheating. He cited a tournament director finding notes from a 99er event with a pair documenting their illegal signals.

Remember that full system disclosure is a bridge principle. The laws define what is acceptable and ethical. Any deviation is cheating!

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

Paul Cuneo

District 16 Education Chair

In this Issue

Better Bridge Habits:

Habits to break

Eddie Kantar's Tip:

Competitive Bidding

Declarer Play:

Card Combinations

Demon Defense:

Signaling Against Suit
Contracts

Better Bidding

Responder's call with
game going hands


It's the Law:

Change of call by
declarer

From Unit 174 - Sheryl Thomas

Hi Everyone,

It's official. Summer is over and the holidays are just around the corner!! The seasons will

always change, but one thing will remain the same, our love  for bridge!!

Let's take a look at our "Awesome August Sectional". The 299rs really showed up and out!
Yay!! Here are the winners:

Thursday AM - 299rs - 7 tables - Rogie Peyton & Marion Shortle 64.5%

Thursday AM - 49rs - 3 tables - Marcia Chambers & Vera Annenkova. 55%

Thursday PM - 299rs - 10 tables - Bárbara & Richard Chappell 64.2%

Thursday PM - 49rs - 4 tables - Cullivan Hock & Patricia Freeman 61.8%

Friday AM - 299rs - 15.5 tables - Linda McMasland & Charlotte Howell 67.01%

Friday AM - 49rs - 7 tables - Teresa Clifford & Dianne Watts 65%

Friday PM - 299rs - 10 tables - Patricia Kay & Mary Toland 66.67%

Friday PM - 49rs - 3 tables - Leslie Brewer & Joan Slayden 68.4%

Saturday AM - 299rs - 10 tables - Cecilia Tse & Joseph Tse 64.5%

Saturday AM - 49rs - 4 tables - Joan Slayden & Leslie Brewer 60.4%


Saturday PM - 299rs - 10 tables - Karen Winston & Connie Conover 61.31%

Congratulations to all the winners and don't forget our up coming "Leads on the Lakes
Sectional", October 28-30, 2016!!

A tip for those of you that play Bracketed Swiss. Make sure are in the correct bracket!! Don't be like you know who and put your team in the wrong flight! Of course we were in first place. Let's just say I'm lucky to be alive!!

Now on to our Person of the Month!! I'm so excited to share William Forkner's story. Bill has recently reached the rank of Junior Master.

Bill retired from careers in the automotive industry, namely Mercedes Benz and Infinity. He came from Albuquerque in 1981 as a Branch Office Manager for Clayton Brokerage to

Houston. He graduated  from the University of New Mexico with a B.S. in Business and Computer Science.

He served in the United States Army as a Field Artillery Officer, including 2 tours of duty in Vietnam while holding several different executive positions. He learned to fly when he was just 16 while in Germany with his parents. After all, he is an Air Force brat!! He is still flying today!!

Now, to bridge. He learned to play bridge in high school and was made to substitute in his parents' monthly bridge games as needed. He states he didn't love it, but got the hang of it anyway and played way too much in college!! (who could ever play too much bridge?)

Family, career, etc., happened and he didn't play for almost fifty years until last April, taking lessons from Eric Watson. He loves the game today with all its new advancements, bells and whistles!!

He has been married to Priscilla Forkner for 36 years and have 4 sons. The picture of Bill was taken at the finish line of the Army's half marathon last March that he ran with two of his sons. It was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and to honor those that served us so bravely!!

Bill, thank you for your military service and for sharing your story!!

Until next month all.

Happy Bidding ♣♦♥♠ !!

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 “card snapping.” Players from the party bridge world are frequently card snappers. Some do it every time they bid or play a card. Others snap some cards, but not others. Bridge requires concentration and if everyone snapped their cards, no one could concentrate and do their best with all the noise.

Second is talking once the cards are removed from the Board. Once you take your cards out of the Board, it is time to focus on the new hand and cease all conversation until that hand is complete.

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:

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 had been played by the defender.