

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 3 Issue 6

From the Editor

I hope all of you are enjoying summertime and all of the tournaments. I'm visiting a number of units in the next month and will be speaking and playing as follows:

Corpus Christi - June 16 - 1pm game

Lubbock - June 20 - 6pm game

Abilene - June 21 - 1pm game

Odessa - June 22 - 1pm game

Midland - June 22 - 7pm game

San Angelo - June 23 - 1:30 pm game

San Antonio Regional July 3 - 8

I hope to be able to meet and talk with many of you!

Please send comments on the newsletter.

My e-mail is paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net.

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Paul Cuneo

ACBL District 16 Director

From Unit 174 - Susan Banks

This month's Person of Interest is Michael Wexler. I first met Mike about a year and a half ago at a lesson with Betsy Dubose. My husband and I occasionally run into Mike and his lovely wife Sandy at Sweet Tomatos on the Katy Freeway. Mike like many of us returned to bridge after a long hiatus.

Mike was born in Greenville, MS but was raised in the Chicago area. His first introduction to bridge was as a freshman in high school. Apparently the boys on his bus played bridge to and from school each day. Mike learned bridge so he could be part of this group. Mike continued to play bridge while in college at the University of Michigan and medical school in Chicago. Mike came to Houston for his residency in Pediatrics and ended up staying.

Mike was a practicing Pediatrician for 42 years. During that time he played party bridge, but agrees with many of us that started playing duplicate after playing party bridge or after a long break, that they are two different games. When I asked Mike why bridge he replied "I always enjoyed bridge for the social interaction and friendships, but I also appreciate the intellectual stimulation. Bridge players are kind and helpful." I have to agree. Mike is a gentleman and a pleasure to play with or against.

Don't forget the WBA July 299er Sectional - July 13-16.

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.

See you at the tables

Better Bridge Habits

Being a great partner

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month's tip is about being a good partner. Here are a couple of good articles:

http://omahabridge.org/Library/mh_Are_you_a_good_partner.pdf

<http://www.fifthchair.org/pdfs/21%20Rules%20of%20Being%20a%20Good%20Partner.pdf>

Your partner is the only one in the room trying to help you so treat your partner as your best friend. Encourage them when they do well and avoid verbal and nonverbal emotion when things go wrong. It's best to wait for discussion until the game is over. If you make a mistake start any discussion with "sorry partner".

Eddie Kantar's Tip

Cuebid to slam with a void

It is dangerous to use Blackwood holding two aces and a void. If partner shows one ace, you won't know which it is. Better to start with a cuebid after agreement. 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 fairly common problem when declaring a notrump contract. Your opponent leads the 6 and you see:

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| | 952 | |
| 6 | | 10 |
| | A87 | |

If you can afford to lose 1 trick in the suit, let the 10 win this trick and then take the next trick. The suit is more 1 1/2 times more likely to split 5 to West and 2 to East, than be 4-3. Since West did not lead from a sequence, it's possible East has a high honor in addition to the 10. West becomes the "danger hand" so take finesses into the East hand if possible.

Demon Defense

Signaling – Eddie Kantar writes in his book “Modern Bridge Defense” about reading partner’s discards. Assuming that you are playing standard discards where a high card encourages a suit and a low card discourages, it’s hard to know whether cards like the 4 or the 7 are high or low.

“To determine the real meaning of the discard you should look around to see whether any lower spot cards are unaccounted for. If all the lower cards are visible, assume it is a discouraging signal. If 2 or 3 lower spot cards can’t be seen, assume it is a positive signal. With one missing, you’re on your own.” www.kantarbridge.com

Bidding Tips

Passed Hand Bidding

A book worth owning and reading is “**A Treasury of Bridge Tips**” by **Eddie Kantar**. In it he offers the following advice: “As a passed hand, a direct 1NT overcall of a major suit opening is unusual for the minors. You should be 5/5 or 6/5 with 7 – 10 HCP.” Be sure to discuss this with your partner. www.kantarbridge.com

Its the Law

Defender's lead out of turn

Have you ever thought you won a trick and then made a lead from your hand? I have and it is embarrassing!!! And you should call the Director!

If declarer or dummy won the trick, your card becomes a major penalty card to be played at the next legal opportunity. But what if your partner won the trick? If the declarer accepts your lead, then there is no further problem. If the declarer refuses to accept the

lead, your card becomes a major penalty card and they may require or forbid your partner's lead of that suit. If declarer requires the lead of the suit, they may specify that your partner play the highest or lowest card of the suit you led out of turn. In either event, you will have to play the penalty card.

From Duplicate Decisions:

Law 57

"Premature Lead or Play

Declarer's Options: When a defender leads to the next trick before his partner has played to the current trick or plays out of turn before his partner has played, the card so led or played becomes a major penalty card.

Declarer has three options:

1. He may require offender's partner to play the highest card he holds of the suit led.
2. He may require offender's partner to play the lowest card he holds of the suit led.
3. He may prohibit offender's partner from playing a card of a different specified suit.

NOTE: When offender's partner is unable to comply with the choice made by declarer, he may play any legal card."