

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 4 Issue 6

From the Editor

I hope all of you are having an enjoyable summer and have plans to attend one or both of the District's regional tournaments - July 2 to 8 in Austin and August 28 to September 3 in Richardson.

Don't forget the San Antonio NLM Regional from August 22 - 25.

Take the opportunity to attend with friends and you'll build memories that will last a lifetime. One of the most enjoyable aspects of bridge is meeting new people and then seeing them at tournaments.

Paul Cuneo

District 16 Director

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From Unit 174 - Susan Banks

Due to family obligations I haven't been playing the last two months but hope to be back at the tables in July. Please ask to see a photo of my newest granddaughter. I hope everyone enjoyed success at the Big Switcheroo tournament last weekend. Dr Dave Glandorf is this month's Person of Interest. Dr. Dave, as he is known, is the primary teacher at the Clear Lake Bridge Club.

And does he ever teach and lead by example. He teaches several courses each week over a 13 week "trimester". Dr. Dave provided the following statistics on the current term:

- 732 different students
- 3296 total enrollment
- 423 active contacts
- 3 or 4 classes per term (3 hr each per week, 13 weeks) plus two 3-hour "Bridge Labs" each week
- Have recruited several assistants for the bridge lab sessions, a couple of practice play courses and as substitutes in case of my absence.

He does not have current statistics on how many new students join ACBL or go on to play duplicate, but he thinks that most do. Most of the players in the two weekly 199er (about 5 tables) and two weekly 499er (about 7 tables) games came from his beginner

classes. Many more have graduated to the open games. Several of Dr. Dave's students have become active in club and unit activities - Chuck Ensor, Bob Dowlen, Nancy Guthrie, Ronnie Martin, to name a few.

Dr. Dave's list of honors include:

2013 American Bridge Teacher's Association - Master Point Press Teacher of the Year

2016 District 16 TOY (co-recipient with two other ABTA TOY's from D16) - this was the first year of this recognition

Became an ABTA Master Teacher in 2017 - this means passing an exam given at the annual ABTA convention.

Dr. Dave has also published six books that he developed over a period of several years for use in his three core beginner classes. This was done through Master Point Press under their Honors Books program. These are under the main heading and subheading "YES, NO or MAYBE" - "A New Way to Learn Bridge." There are three pairs of books, a textbook and workbook for each class.

Introduction and Card Play Basics

Bidding Basics

More Bidding Basics

Dr. Dave has also been a speaker at many of our local tournaments.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Dr. Dave is active in his church and volunteers in the community.

The following is an excerpt from Dr Dave's first nomination for Teacher of the Year in 2010. "Thanks to Dr. Dave's enthusiasm, teaching methodology, meticulous preparation,

and conscientious, masterful delivery, class atmosphere is highly charged and positive. Thus, classes are lively. Questions abound appropriately. This is because any reluctance or fear on the student's part that "my ignorance might be revealed," quickly dissipates under Dr. Dave's supportive, unassuming tutelage. He is especially talented at disarmingly sharing his own exploits or "adventures in bridge" (faux pas), as well as those of anonymous others. He does so with a mischievous grin (and sometimes a blush), and just enough humor to spur in the student supportive thoughts such as, "Gee, even master players make errors – so it's OK when I do," or "Well ... at least I will never make that mistake!" (little do they know ...). Never does one ever feel belittled. If a student persists in derailing class, Dr. Dave is a master at getting things back on course."

I have not had the honor of meeting Dr. Dave in person, but I have played against many of his students and he is doing a great job as they have all been impressive players.

Better Bridge Habits

Be Kind to Partner

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. The most important person in the game is your partner. From Dummies.com: "Most bridge players value a reliable, happy partner above anything else. It's important to the success of your partnership that you work together as a team. You both want to win, so you can't gain anything from getting upset when play doesn't go exactly as planned. It seldom does!

Here are a few tips on keeping your partner one happy camper.

Treat your partner like your best friend

Even if you don't know your partner well, treating her with respect improves her play. Treat your partner like your best friend, and you'll be repaid in "spades." Be a pleasant, courteous opponent, and you'll win everyone's "hearts."

Tolerate your partner's errors

Don't keep harping on your partner's errors — just forgive and try to forget (at least until after the game). After all, do you want to be reminded of all the mistakes you've made? (Everybody makes mistakes, including you.) If you have constructive criticism, save it for after the session, when you'll both be calmer. Expect (demand) that your partner show you the same respect.

Keep a poker face

Never make any facial or body mannerisms that indicate whether you're pleased or displeased with a bid or play. You'll lose the table's respect. Facial and body mannerisms can be construed as illegal signals.

Deal well with disaster

A truly good partnership handles the inevitable disaster with a touch of humor. If your partner doesn't have to worry that you'll have an apoplectic fit whenever something goes wrong, he'll play better.

Play conventions you both want to play

Don't force your partner to play your favorite conventions. A partner worried about a convention inevitably makes more errors in the bidding, play, and defense, not to mention screwing up the convention if it comes up.

Pick up the slack for the weaker player

The better player in a partnership should make the weaker player feel at ease. Make your bids, leads, and signals as simple and clear as possible, and don't give an inexperienced partner tough contracts to play. When you judge that it's going to be a tough hand to play, bid conservatively.

Own up to your own errors

Avoid the human tendency to lay your own errors at your partner's doorstep. It makes a weaker partner feel good to know that you, the stronger player, make errors as well — and are a big enough person to admit them.

Offer words of encouragement

Give your partner a few words of support after the hand is over, particularly if he doesn't make his contract. "Tough luck" and "Nice try" go over better than "My great-grandmother could've made that hand in her sleep."

Treat your partner the same whether you win or lose

When the session is over, win or lose, tell your partner how much you enjoyed playing with her (no matter how you feel). Kind words mean the world to a player who knows that she hasn't played well. It also shows class.

Know when to have fun. When all is said and done, you play bridge to have fun, and so does your partner. You've done your job if your partner leaves the table happy."

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/being-kind-to-your-bridge-partner.html>

Eddie Kantar's Tip

Takeout Double by a Passed Hand

A takeout double by a passed hand shows 9-11 HCP with shortness in the opener's suit. If the opponents have bid two suits, the double promises at least four-card support in the other two suits.

You hold: S - AJxx H - xx D - KJ10xx C - xx

South (you) West North East

Pass 1C Pass 1H

Dbl. (Your double shows diamonds and spades. A 2D bid might lose a spade fit.)

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 that I hate to have as declarer:

K x x x
J x x x

Lead Low to the King hoping West has the A Q doubleton. If it is covered, return to dummy and lead to the Jack. Only a 3% chance of 3 tricks. To maximize chances for 2 tricks, Lead low to the King. If the Q fails to appear, duck. When you regain the lead, return to hand and lead low to the King. 50% chance of 2 tricks.

Demon Defense

Third Hand Play – Eddie Kantar writes in his book “Modern Bridge Defense” about third hand play. We’ve all heard the axiom “third hand high”, but that is not always correct.

When partner leads a trump and you have an honor that might be used to overtrump dummy, save your honor. Spades are trump:

	S – 985	
	H – K	
S – K4		S – J32 (you)
H – Q10972		H – J3
	S- AKQ107	
	H – A8654	

Eddie Kantar writes: “Partner anticipating heart ruffs in dummy leads a trump. You can “see” that

you can overtrump the third round of hearts with the Jack, if you keep it.” www.kantarbridge.com

Bidding Tips

Reopening after opponents bid and raise

In his book “The Complete Book on Balancing” Mike Lawrence states “On sequences where your opponents have shown a fit and limited values, your attitude on reopening should vary from strongly inclined to obsessive. It is almost inexcusable to let your opponents play at the 2 level when they want to do so.

The sequence: 1S pass 2S pass

pass ?

This is the only sequence in this family which is often passed out. This is because you must reopen at the 3 level and all suits are dangerous in that either opponent may have a long, strong holding.” www.michaelslawrence.com

Its the Law

Alerts As a part of Law 40 which discusses partnership understandings, both partners are required to have filled out identical convention cards. All conventions marked in Blue on the card require an announcement. All conventions marked in Red and all unusual treatments require an alert.

To assist players, the ACBL has published an “Alert Chart”:

<http://cdn.acbl.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/AlertChart.pdf>

The chart is supplemented by a document on alert procedures that must be followed: <http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/AlertProcedures.pdf>

Please note that while a player's bids above 3NT at their second turn to bid or later are not directly alerted, there is a requirement to provide a delayed alert or explanation of the calls at the end of the auction before the defender has selected their opening lead.