

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 4 Issue 7

From the Editor

Make your plans now to attend our upcoming regional tournaments in San Antonio on August 22 to 25 and Richardson on August 28 to September 3.

The San Antonio tournament is limited to Non-Life Masters and the Gold point portion of the masterpoint award is 33% of what the open regional in Dallas will award for comparable events.

Get a partner or a team and join the fun and excitement!

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

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From Unit 174 - Susan Banks

This is “going to press” during the 299 Tournament at Westside Bridge Academy. I hope everyone is having a good time and doing well. This month’s Person of Interest is Moira Morris. When I asked if she would be willing to be profiled, her reaction was like most people, but I’m not interesting. As usual, she was wrong.

Moira was born and raised in South Africa. Her husband Michael and she grew up in the same town. Their parents were good friends, so she has known him most of her life. After graduating High School, Michael moved to Johannesburg to start Medical school and they met up again 5 years later when she started college.

When he finished medical school, they got married and left the very next day for London, England, where Michael began a surgical residency and Moira started working in the Archeological Department in The British Museum. The first of their three children was born in London.

Moira and her family returned to South Africa for a short period and it was then that her interest in bridge began and she signed up for six lessons. The standard system was Acol, the standard British system. They emigrated to the United States in 1979 with their now two daughters. Houston was their destination and they felt fortunate to be part of this growing vibrant city. Moira’s only complaint was that there was no cappuccino available at that time.

Moira became friendly with a fellow South African who also played the Acol system. All she can say is that ignorance is bliss as the two of them would go off to the bridge club on a Saturday afternoon, totally oblivious to the fact that they were such beginners in that strong arena. Returning to the club after a 30 year sabbatical, Moira actually prayed that no one would recognize her from those disastrous early days.

Moira had the opportunity to bring an English retail concept to the states. She opened the first Tie Rack store In the Houston Galleria. Soon there were stores located in malls and airports around the country. Just 6 weeks after opening the first store, Moira and Michael had their third child. Retail hours are long and grueling; Moira found it impossible to commit to bridge until she retired a couple of years ago. Moira also has seven grandchildren, including five teenagers who live in Houston.

Upon her return to bridge Moira was looking for a teacher. Audley Karrasch was recommended and thanks to Audley, she has embarked on this crazy journey. Moira is enjoying the many aspects this incredible game has to offer. She primarily plays at WBA and she is so grateful for the Mentor/Mentee program. Her Mentor, Ann Ankrum, is not only Is a great teacher but a terrific entertainer as well. Her sincere thanks to the many players who so generously give advice along the way. Moira said, "This is a Autough game, an ongoing challenge but at the end of the day, indeed most rewarding."

Upcoming Tournaments

The Awesome August Sectional is coming up on August 9-12th at the Westchase Marriott.

Better Bridge Habits

Anticipate

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month I want to focus on anticipating your next bid.

As you evaluate your hand, start to think about your initial bid. If you have an opening hand, plan what you will rebid in an uncontested auction in response to partner's responses. That way unless there is a skip bid, you are ready to bid in tempo.

If you are in 3rd or 4th seat, plan your bids in case partner opens the bidding at the 1 level. Plan whether you will make an overcall if the opponents bid. If your initial bid is pass, plan what bids you might make in case either partner or the opponents open.

Repeat this process for every round of bidding and you'll find it much easier to bid in tempo.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

NT Response to a takeout double

A 1NT response to a takeout double shows 6-10 HCP. A 2NT response to a takeout double shows 10-12. Some 10 point hands are better than others because of strong intermediates. You cannot be a slave to point count. Intermediates count!

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

A K J x x x x x

x

Play the A and then the K. You have a 53% chance of 8 tricks which is 8% better than finessing. If you only need 7 tricks, finesse the Jack in case East is void. 95% chance of 7 tricks

Demon Defense

Third Hand Play – Eddie Kantar writes in his book “Modern Bridge Defense” about what to do when you win the trick as third hand. If you choose to return partner’s suit, give count by leading back as follows:

With 2 remaining cards lead the higher

With 3 cards return the lowest

With more than 3 cards, return your original 4th best.

With an honor sequence return the higher www.kantarbridge.com

Bidding Tips

Pearson’s Rule

In his book “The Complete Guide to Passed Hand Bidding” Mike Lawrence states : “A rule was formulated many years ago by one of my early partners, Don Pearson. Widely known as

Pearson's rule, his rule for 4th seat openers was this: Add your high card points together with 1 point for each spade in your hand to get your Pearson points. If you have 15 or more Pearson points, open the bidding. Otherwise you tend to pass." www.michaelslawrence.com

I've used Pearson's rule for years and found it to be very effective. The exceptions usually occur when you are short in spades, but otherwise have a very good offensive or defensive hand. With these, I'll open anyway. Be careful about violating Pearson's rule by opening with 12 or 13 HCP where a lot of your HCP are from Queens and Jacks and you have 1 or 2 spades. Frequently you'll end up with a negative score either by bidding your suit too high or the opponents making a spade contract. PLC

Its the Law

Unauthorized Information

Most new players understand they are required to bid in tempo. Many have a misunderstanding that "as long as my partner makes a bid, I can do what I choose even though it there was a long hesitation". As you can see from the following, the Law places an ethical burden on the partner of the huddler when this occurs. Here's an excellent article on the subject: <http://www.jeff-goldsmith.org/bridge/talks/UITalk.html>

ACBL's Duplicate Decisions explains Law 16 on Unauthorized Information:

"NOTE: Players are authorized to base their actions on information from legal calls and plays; and illegal calls and plays that are accepted; and from the mannerisms of their opponents. Players may take into account their current score, the traits of their opponents or any tournament regulation. No player may base a call or play on other extraneous information.

Extraneous information from partner: After a player makes extraneous information available to his partner by an action such as a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unmistakable hesitation, unusual speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement, mannerism, an unexpected alert or failure to alert or any other action that suggests a call, lead or plan of play, the partner may not choose from among logical alternative actions one that could have demonstrably been suggested over another by the extraneous information. If the director is called before the recipient of the unauthorized information

takes action, he should instruct the recipient to ignore the information and tell the opponents to call him back after the play if they feel the opponents have gained an advantage.

1. At ACBL sanctioned events, competitors may now announce that they reserve the right to summon the Director when extraneous information may have been made available.

There is no penalty for calling the Director early.

2. When a player feels an opponent has taken action that could have been suggested by such information, he should call the Director when play ends. Again, it is not an infraction to call the Director earlier or later. The use of the word “DEMONSTRABLY” is intended to remove from consideration logical alternatives that are not obviously suggested over another by the unauthorized information. The Director should not change a result unless the action chosen can be shown (demonstrated) to have been suggested. The actions that will now be removed by Law have to be suggested in an obvious, easily understood way — it must be readily apparent rather than a product of some subtle bridge argument.

Steps in dealing with unauthorized, extraneous information such as tempo variation (e.g., huddles).

1. Was there unauthorized information available? Was there a huddle? If yes, proceed.

2. Were the opponents damaged? If yes, proceed.

3. Were there logical alternatives to the call chosen by the partner of the huddler? (Remember that a logical alternative is a call that, among the class of players involved, would be given serious consideration by a significant number of such players.) If yes, proceed.

4. Could the extraneous information demonstrably suggest the call chosen over a likely less successful logical alternative(s). Is it obvious? Is it readily apparent? Is it easily understood? If yes, proceed.

5. Assign an adjusted score.”