

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 4 Issue 12

From the Editor

Happy Holidays!!! I want to wish you and your families a very joyous holiday season and great year in 2019.

Year end is a time for reflection and planning and I want to encourage each of you to reflect on your bridge journey and make plans for learning and improving in 2019.

Bridge is fueled by the efforts of volunteers at all levels. Please consider volunteering in 2019 to help your clubs and units with all the work.

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

Paul Cuneo
District 16 Director

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From Unit 174 - Susan Banks

I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays, no matter which ones you celebrate. This month's Person of Interest is Patricia Kay, bridge player and author.

Pat was born in raised in the Youngstown Ohio area where she attended college and met Dave her husband and learned to play bridge.

In the mid 70's Pat and Dave and family spent several years living in Sweden. Pat said, "How many girls from a steel town get to play bridge with the Swedish Ambassador's wife."

After returning to the states, jobs and family pushed bridge aside. Pat said she had so many jobs over the years there was no way to list them. However, when most people are beginning to think about retiring from their career, Pat started a new one. She has had a 30-year career as a published author in the field of women's fiction and romance. She published her first novel at 53 and she now has 53 total novels published (in print). Currently Pat spends her "work" time reissuing novels for which she has regained the publishing rights as e-books. She even has a website www.patriciakay.com. I enjoyed Pat's books I found on Amazon, so please give her a try.

After her husband passed away in 2012, Pat reconnected with a bridge friend, Mary Toland, who is still her primary partner. It shows in the quality and consistency of their play. Pat and Mary have taken lessons from many of the local teachers including Joyce Ryan, Gary King, and currently Audley Karrasch. Pat said when she was researching playing bridge again "I called the studio to see what might be offered to someone wanting to start playing again. That call changed what I thought my life was going to be in the future and has brought me so many wonderful new friends. Westside rocks!"

Upcoming I/N Tournaments

WBA January 299er	January 17 - 20	Westside Bridge Academy
Austin NLM Sectional	February 2 - 3	Bridge Center of Austin

Don't forget the Lone Star Regional, February 4 – 10, at the Marriott Westchase. There are I/N games daily, and don't forget the gold rush pairs and stratified swiss teams. There is something for everyone.

Better Bridge Habits

Learn from the Hand Records

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month I want to focus on analysis after the game. I hope your club has hand records and either provides a printout or posts them on the website. They are excellent learning tools. After every session, I review the hand record and look for the following:

1, What did we do well? It's fun to look over our best boards. But we need to see whether we did something very well, or whether the opponents had a bidding problem and ended up in a poor contract. If the opponents had a problem, ask whether your partnership would have avoided the problem.

2. Where do I need to improve? Look over the low boards to see what happened. Was it a bidding, lead, defense, or declarer play problem? Or was it that the opponents made a great bid or play. It is too easy to blame partner for the problems. Look primarily where you can improve and become a better partner.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

When responding to an opening bid with two four-card majors, respond 1H giving partner a chance to bid 1S. If partner doesn't bid 1S, assume partner does not have four spades and bid accordingly.

You hold: S. AJxx H. KQxx D. Jx C. xxx

Partner	You
1D	1H
2C	?

Bid 2NT and limit your hand to 11-12 HCP. Do not bid 2S. Partner does not have four spades and bidding the 'fourth suit' has a special meaning. It is frequently used as an artificial force when no other rebid describes the hand. 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. The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge by ACBL has a section on playing card combinations. Here is a combination from the Encyclopedia:

K Q x x x x x

You've preempted with your 7 card suit and found that partner is void. You should play low on the first round and then play the K. 36% chance of 5 tricks and 86% chance of 4 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

Count signals are used to tell partner and declarer how many cards you hold in the suit being led by declarer or dummy. Once your partner knows how many cards you have in the suit, he knows how many declarer has and can improve his count of the distribution of all 4 suits around the table.

If you play **Standard** signals, a relative high card shows an even number of cards and a relative low card shows an odd number. Giving count is very important when dummy has a strong suit missing the A, K or both. Here is an example:

N – KQJ9

W – 2

E – A863

S – 5

You know from the bidding that declarer is short in this suit. Declarer leads the 5. Partner plays the 2, showing an odd number. Partner can't five or declarer would be void, so it must be 3, meaning declarer has 2. Hold up on trick one and take the second trick to cut declarer off from the suit. 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 a balanced hand containing 5 hearts and 15-16 HCP open 1NT. With 17 HCP open 1H. These hands are always 5-3-3-2 distribution with 5 hearts.

The problem with the 15-16 point hands is that there is no accurate rebid if partner bids 1S or 1NT over your 1H opening bid. www.kantarbridge.com

Its the Law

Law 36 - Inadmissible Double and Redouble

This doesn't happen very often, but it is embarrassing when it does and we need to keep our wits about us to salvage the situation. Recently a hand was played with the following auction:

S (dealer)	W	N	E	
3C	dbl	P	dbl	The double of partner's bid is inadmissible and the director was called.

From Duplicate Decisions:

“An inadmissible double or redouble:

if LHO calls before the director explains the Law, the inadmissible call and all subsequent calls are cancelled. The auction reverts to the player whose turn it was to call. Proceed as if no irregularity occurred, no lead penalties apply. Otherwise, the double or redouble is cancelled; offender must substitute a legal call; offenders partner must pass throughout the auction; lead penalties may apply; Law 23 may apply.”

Thus the double by West was cancelled and a legal call needed to be made. West needed to consider that this bid would likely end the auction as East was barred from further bidding.