

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 5 Issue 1

From the Editor

I hope all of you are planning to attend the Lone Star Regional. We're offering Gold Rush Pairs Monday thru Saturday and Bracketed Swiss every day. In my view, these are the best events to win those needed gold points.

On Friday Feb. 8 at 5:30 pm there will be a presentation of the D16 Teacher of the Year Award. Come participate in the festivities!!! The winner has been nominated by their students, so start thinking now about nominating your favorite teacher for next year's award.

A new section has been added to the D16 website called "Teaching Materials". Take a look and enjoy!

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 hope all of you had wonderful holidays. It is encouraging to see fellow players on the Ace of Clubs and Mini McKinney winners list, and this year I know many of the players, but one really stands out. **James Sells** won the Unit Ace of Clubs and the Mini McKinney in the 20-50 masterpoint range. He was seventh in the

national 20 – 50 Mini McKinney. James is this month's Person of Interest.

James was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. He moved to Houston in 1969 to attend the University of Houston and with the exception of a three-year stint in Midland, has lived here ever since.

James has degrees from U of H in Engineering and Mathematics. He spent his first career in the oil industry – that explains the stint in Midland. He also had a second career as a professor in mathematics at San Jacinto College.

James is married and met his wife in a reading group. He enjoys reading history, literature, and mysteries. When you ask James if he has read any good books lately, he has. He also enjoys a good game of pool or dominoes.

Like many of the people who have appeared in this column, James played in high school and college. However, it was a bridge playing teacher who introduced him to the game. He is the only bridge player in his family.

James came back to bridge when he retired in 2017. He took Gary King's beginner class in early 2018 which James said was an excellent reintroduction to bridge. And he hasn't looked back. Several times in 2018 James was featured in the Westside Bridge Academy newsletter as the I/N player with the most points won and or the most times played during the month. James does play regularly and that contributes to his success. He wanted to thank his mentor, Delores Aquino for introducing him to Westside, where he plays most often.

When asked what he enjoyed about bridge, James said "It is difficult to say whether it is the challenges of the hands or the fascinating people I encounter. The people at Westside have been kind and supportive. I owe them"

Upcoming I/N Tournaments

WBA January 299er	January 17 - 20	Westside Bridge Academy
BCoH NLM/500 Sectional	February 21 - 24	Bridge Club of Houston.

Better Bridge Habits

Study Every Day

Developing good habits is an important part of learning bridge. This month I want to focus on daily study.

I'm sure many of you have made resolutions to improve your bridge game in 2019. I know I have. I've found that one of the best ways to improve is to develop a habit of daily study.

Whether you choose to learn from the web, books or CDs, I'd like to encourage you to pick a topic and then work your way through it by studying for 15 – 20 minutes a day. Eddie Kantar, Mike Lawrence and Larry Cohen offer both books and CDs and it is hard to go wrong with them.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

When the bid to your right is strong, a jump by you is weak; when the bid to your right is weak, a jump by you is strong.

East South (you)
2H 3S 3S is strong because 2H is weak.

North East South (you)
1D Dbl. 2H 2H is weak because 'double' is strong. 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:

Q 10 x

K x x

You are the declarer and the bidding has indicated East has most the missing HCP as he opened the bidding. Lead low to the King. If it wins, finesse the 10. There is a 51% chance of 2 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. If you play Standard signals, a relative high card shows an even number of cards and a relative low card shows an odd number. 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. Giving count is very important when you have supported partner’s suit. Here is an example:

N – Q85

W – AKJ94

E – 10732

S – 6

Partner has bid the suit and you supported. Partner leads a high honor and needs to know how many you hold to decide how to continue the defense. Here you play the 7 to show you raised with 4 pieces. Partner

knows declarer has a singleton and plays accordingly. 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:

A 2H response to partner’s opening bid of 1S promises 5 hearts. www.kantarbridge.com

Its the Law

Law 27 - Insufficient Bid

Insufficient Bid – We’ve all done it and seen partner or the opponents do it. The following is from Duplicate Decisions:

“An insufficient bid is accepted if LHO calls. Similarly, LHO should always be given the option to accept the insufficient bid. If accepted, the auction then proceeds as though there had been no irregularity. If either non-offender points out that the bid is insufficient, that does not suggest acceptance of the insufficient bid, nor is it an exercise of any options available to the nonoffenders.

NOTE: Especially when bidding boxes are in use, the Director needs to ascertain, away from the table, if the call was inadvertent (i.e., due to a mechanical error – Law 25A). Many times a player may be too embarrassed to relate that fact to the Director in front of other players. In addition, if the Director inquires at the table, he may pass unauthorized information.

When the insufficient bid is not accepted:

1. if the insufficient bid is corrected by the lowest sufficient bid

in the same denomination, and the director determines that neither the insufficient bid nor the sufficient substitute are artificial, the auction proceeds without rectification.

NOTE: In investigating other insufficient bids, outlined below, the director would be well served to move the bidder away from the table in order to investigate agreements, meanings and possible legal and illegal corrections.

Moving the player away from the table will negate any unauthorized information that may be transmitted.

2. if the insufficient bid is corrected by any other call that has the same meaning, or a more precise meaning, the director should allow the auction to continue. If later the Director determines that the offenders have gained some advantage, and the score on the board may well have been different without the original insufficient bid, a score adjustment may be due the nonoffenders.

3. except as in #1 and #2 immediately above, if the offender corrects his insufficient bid with any other bid or pass, his partner must pass throughout the remainder of the auction and lead penalties may apply.

4. the Director should caution the offender that a double or a redouble may not be substituted for the insufficient bid (except when that call has, in the Director's opinion, the same or more precise meaning as the insufficient bid). If a double or redouble is substituted, except as noted, the offender must replace this call with a legal action, partner must pass throughout the remainder of the auction and the lead restrictions of Law 26 may apply.

EXAMPLES:

1NT – 2♣ – 2♠ Here the 2♠ call, a transfer bid, may be legally corrected to 3♣ if this pair plays “transfer on” (same meaning). The Director would allow the auction to continue.

With one side only in the auction: 1♣ – 3♣

4NT – 4♣

Here the responder was answering his partner's ace-asking inquiry. The Director should allow a correction to 5D without penalty or rectification.

1NT – 2♣ – 2♣ Here the 2♣ call is simple Stayman. If this pair plays a cue bid of 3♣ as asking for a four-card major, such a correction should be allowed (same meaning as 2♣) without penalty. Similarly, if this pair played no conventions over their 1NT opening (unlikely as that may be), 2♣ showing clubs, a correction to 3♣ could also be made without penalty.

2NT – Pass – 2♣ Playing transfer bids, the Director should allow a correction to 3♣, same meaning.”