

## District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 5 Issue 6

### From the Editor

I hope all of you are enjoying summertime and all of the tournaments.

As a member of the ACBL Board, I receive notice of Disciplinary decisions. In my view, we are seeing too many ethical violations and some of these are by newer players.

Among them are "arranging" some of the cards when shuffling and dealing, and looking at the bottom card when hands are placed in boards.

Please be aware that penalties for these actions can be severe. Let's all practice active ethics and help everyone to enjoy the game.

Please send comments on the newsletter.

My e-mail is [paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net).

Paul Cuneo  
ACBL District 16 Director

### In this Issue

**Better Bridge Habits:**

Being a great partner

**Eddie Kantar's Tip:**

Cuebid with a void

**Declarer Play:**

Card Combinations

**Demon Defense:**

Reading Suit

Preference Signals

**Better Bidding**

Passed Hand Bidding

**It's the Law:**

Defender Lead out of Turn

### From Unit 174 - Susan Banks

#### Person of Interest

This month's person of interest is David Senior. David is a regular player at Westside Bridge Academy. He says he is in it for the mental

stimulation and competition. David said he just wants to regularly have 50% games. I know this is a goal we would all like to reach.

David was born in Brooklyn but grew up in Texas.

His family finally settled in Austin. David received his Bachelor's degree from UT Austin in Mathematics, a Master's Degree from Southern Methodist University in Industrial Engineering, and a PhD from Northwestern in Management Sciences.

Eschewing academia for corporate life, David spent many years in banking, primarily with Texas Commerce Bank and JP Morgan Chase. He was in charge of Corporate Real Estate for the Southern US when he retired. This means David was responsible for the acquisition and management of real property for bank offices throughout the South.

David has been married to his current wife Cindy for 7 years. Between them, they have five married daughters and 10 grandchildren under the age of 10. In addition to family and bridge, he and Cindy enjoy traveling and when this is published, they will be traveling in Northern Italy. David did mention he enjoyed lounging on the beach, as well.

David learned to play bridge after college and played party bridge for many years. He was always interested in playing duplicate and jumped in with both feet when he retired. David took Gary King's beginner class as a refresher when he returned to bridge. He improves by playing with regular partners.

David said he enjoys the stiff competition at WBA.

## Upcoming Tournaments

499 Tournament

June 27-30

Bridge Club of Houston



## 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://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".

## From Donna Compton - Master Teacher and World Champion

### Which Type of Contract Do You Prefer?

In the first lesson of Introduction to Bridge, the new players first experience playing a game of "high card takes the trick." The players then play a game of "trumps" where high card takes the trick, but there is a "boss" suit that trumps all other cards. At the end of the two games, I stop and ask the new players which game they prefer.

Usually, the class is split 65-35 with the majority preferring the game of trumps. As the lessons progress, months into years, I come upon players who have a true fear of playing in notrump contracts. Obviously, this influences how they bid since their main goal is to avoid being declarer in a notrump contract. So why is this?

It has to do with how the player go about their day-to-day interactions with the world. Let's take those players who prefer trump contracts over notrump contracts. This

player is rule oriented and prefers to be in control of all/most life situations ~ including as declarer. The trump card gives declarer the illusion of being in control. On the other hand, the player who would rather play notrump than trumps is peaceful being “out of bounds” and doesn’t mind mild chaos in their daily lives.

Chris and I are the perfect example of how we live our lives and approach our bridge games. I prefer trump contracts. I am a very rule-bound person. I like my desk neat and my life organized. In fact, my favorite store is Staples. When our kids were young, my children would gauge how my daily life was going (and whether it was safe to ask for something) based on the organization of my desk. Chris prefers notrump contract. He thrives when his surroundings are in disarray and he can find things fast as his desk looks like a cyclone blew through the room.

If you are one who dislikes playing notrump contracts because it makes you feel uncomfortable... you are not alone. Over the years, I have worked with players to help them overcome this fear of notrump by sharing with them notrump play techniques that put the declarer in control ~ such as ducking plays, creating positional stoppers, knowing the division of the opponents’ suit and endplays. All these techniques help declarer feel in control while playing in a notrump contract. Even if these plays sound like a foreign language to you now, bid those notrump contracts, take a deep breath while making your plan and tell your mind that “it’s just a game!” The play techniques will come with study and practice and eventually you will be bidding notrump without hesitation.

Please visit my teaching website [www.PlayBetterBridge.com](http://www.PlayBetterBridge.com) for tips, lessons, videos and bridge history. Also, visit [www.UltimateBridgeVacations.com](http://www.UltimateBridgeVacations.com) for upcoming Bridge Land Cruises and Power Bridge Retreats.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.kantarbridge.com)

### **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."