

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 5 Number 09

From the Editor

ACBL and the ACBL Educational Foundation have partnered to create a new website - TryBridge.org. Check it out and let your friends and family know about this new resource to help interest people in learning and playing bridge.

In response to a question on advice to newer players Jim Porter wrote: "Play to enjoy the personal friendships -- the social part of the game -- which is something to cherish as a special bonus to this amazing competitive game." I think this is great advice for all of us.

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

Paul Cuneo

District 16 Director

In this Issue

Better Bridge Habits:

Table Tips

Eddie Kantar's Tip:

Leading from a sequence

Improved Declarer Play: Ca
Combinations

Demon Defense:

Opening Lead

Bidding Tips:

Plan Your Rebid

It's the Law:

Calling the Director

From Unit 174 - Susan Banks



This month's person of interest is Jennifer Reichel. Since most of the people profiled in this column are people I have met through bridge, I find everyone is interesting, but Jennifer really leads an interesting and busy life .

Jennifer was born and raised in Lufkin. For those of you unfamiliar with Texas, Lufkin is in the heart of the Piney Woods of East Texas. Jennifer attended the University of Texas at Austin for her undergraduate degree in Education and University of Houston main campus for a Masters Degree and Doctorate in Education Administration and Supervision. Jennifer taught for 14 years, including 2 years in Singapore in the 70s. She was also a principal for 15 years. Jennifer opened a new school and she said it was one of the most challenging and rewarding years in her career. In addition to working in schools, she also taught Masters degree students at UH Clear Lake working on their principal certifications.

While living in Singapore, Jennifer lived there twice, she was able to travel throughout Asia. In addition, Jennifer and husband Robert, they married in 2005, have traveled extensively including a trip to Australia and New Zealand.

Jennifer said the more places she and Robert travel to, the more places they want to go.

Jennifer and Robert have four grown children and five grandchildren, two in Houston and three in Denver. They enjoy spending time with their combined family, especially spoiling their grandchildren.

It was on a transatlantic cruise that Jennifer was introduced to bridge. Robert was playing bridge and Jennifer was looking for an activity to pass the time and decided to take a 2-hour introduction to bridge. She enjoyed it, took formal lessons when they returned and is an irregular player now. Jennifer does enjoy the people she has met and the friends made playing bridge. However, Jennifer still does not understand how anyone can play bridge on a beautiful day since she prefers to be outdoors. She enjoys all outdoor activities, primarily tennis and running, but tennis is harder and harder to play. Jennifer has been a member of a Saturday morning running group for many years. They train and travel together for marathons and half marathons. Jennifer said there is no bonding experience quite like finishing a training run on a hot and humid summer's day. That and breakfast afterward.

Jennifer said, "My passion is anything that empowers women and girls to break the cycle of abuse and/or poverty." She volunteers at a number of charities which embody this ideal.

If you or someone you know would be interested in being profiled in this column, please send me an email at sisbjohnson@gmail.com.

Upcoming Tournaments:

October 499/NLM Sectional	October 3-6	Bridge Club of Houston
---------------------------	-------------	------------------------

Better Bridge Habits

Table Tips

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. Most new players have difficulty staying within the time for each round. This month we'll look at some best practices for staying within the allotted time to play the boards.

- When you come to the table, or when the opponents come to your table greet them and cease all conversation about the previous hands.
- Once the hands are removed from the board, all conversation should stop.
- As the bidding progresses, try to focus on what's being communicated by each bid. Before the last pass and picking up your bidding cards, try to memorize the auction.
- If you are to make the Opening Lead, ask your questions about the auction, select your lead, and place it face down on the table before writing down the contract. Everyone else should write down the contract while the lead is being selected. Then ask partner if they have any questions. Write down the contract while dummy puts their hand down.
- Do not expose your private score to the opponents.
- After the play of the hand, write down the score, and if you feel the hand needs further discussion with your partner, circle the board number and make a note on your private score.
- After the round is over, if there is still time available for discussion, you can ask partner or the opponents a question. Don't try to resolve partnership communication or play issues during the game. It's best to wait and look over the hand record first.

These tips can save you a few minutes each round. They can also lead to better partnerships by not being critical during the game and waiting until later to resolve issues. For further

reference: http://www.omahabridge.org/Library/mh_BRIDGE_ETIQUETTE.pdf

Eddie Kantar's Bridge Tips

To lead an honor card against a suit contract, two adjacent honors are necessary, not three, and the higher honor is led. Lead the ace from AKx(x), the king from KQx(x), the queen from QJx(x), the J from J10x(x) and the 10 from 109x(x). 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 seems to occur frequently:

A Q 10

x x x

We can maximize our chances of 2 tricks by leading a small card towards the 10. If that wins or our right hand opponent rises with the K, we have our 2 tricks. If it loses to the Jack, then finesse the Queen. The probability of taking 2 tricks is 76%.

Demon Defense

Opening Leads

Auction:				You hold:	
N	E	S	W	S	– J86
1S	P	1NT	P	H	– K843
2S	P	3D	P	D	– A72
3S all pass				C	– J108

What do you lead? In his book on Modern Bridge Defense, Eddie Kantar writes, “A spade lead is out of the question. Dummy may be void and partner may have the ace or king. A diamond does not look right either. Lead the Jack of Clubs, top of sequence.” www.kantarbridge.com

Bidding Tips

Plan Your Rebid

You hold:

S – K9

H – AJ984

D – A97

C – KQ6

What is your bid? In his CD on Conventions, Mike Lawrence writes, “1NT is the correct bid. The problem with 1H is that if your partner bids 1S you will be hurting for

a rebid. Over a 1S response, 1NT shows 12-14 HCP and 2NT shows 18-19 HCP. Both bids are flawed. To jump to 3H, you need a 6 card suit.” www.michaelslawrence.com

The rebid issue is why more and more players are opening 1NT with hands that have a 5 card major if they have 15-17 HCP. It is hard to show this range of high card points with a balanced hand if you do not open 1NT.

Its the Law

From the ACBL's Duplicate Decisions with respect to Bridge Law 9:

- Any player may call attention to an irregularity during the auction period, whether or not it is their turn to bid.
- Declarer or either defender may call attention to an irregularity that occurs during the play period.
- Dummy may not call attention to an irregularity until after the play is concluded.
- The Director should be summoned at once when attention is drawn to an irregularity.
- Any player including dummy may call the Director after attention has been called to the irregularity.
- No player shall take action until the Director has given their explanation.

Many mistakes are made by both new players and experienced players with respect to this law. Some new players feel offended when the opponents call the director. They would rather “work it out” at the table. Experienced players may feel they know the law and can correct it themselves. However, the law is clear and the director should be called whenever irregularities occur. The director is not there to

penalize either side, but to make the rectification of irregularities in accordance with the law and to protect the rights of both sides.

When the Director is called, the player should raise their hand and say in a normal tone of voice "Director please" at a volume sufficient to be heard given the circumstances. Often players put too much emotion into the call and it is much better to call in a neutral tone of voice.