

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 5 Number 10

From the Editor

TryBridge.org was delayed. It's now expected to be up by October 18.

There are great resources for learning more about bridge available on the internet. One of these is Bridge Master which is available on BBO. It is a series of declarer play problems and can improve your play of the hand. <https://bridgebase.com>

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

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District 16 Director

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From Unit 174 - Susan Banks

Since I last wrote both Westside Bridge Academy and the Bridge Club of Houston held Intermediate/newcomer games. I had a little success at each tournament and I hope you came out and played even if you did not win anything. If you don't play you can't win. This month's person of interest is Howard Pollack. I first met Howard several years ago when we were both newish

players. And I hope we have remained friends, if not partners, ever since.

Howard was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He received his undergraduate degree from Wayne State University, and attended the University of Michigan for Medical School, his Internship and Residency.

Howard is a retired Radiologist. He was a partner in a Radiology group in Houston and Kingwood.

Howard has three children and five grandchildren. Three in the Houston area and two in the Washington DC area.

Howard is an amateur photographer, but I imagine he has a collection of pretty amazing photographs based on all of the places he had taken photography-based trips. He has been to Tanzania on a photography safari, Machu Picchu in Peru, Costa Rica, a cruise down the Danube and several other trips to Europe. He especially enjoyed a trip to Israel about four years ago where he met Betty, his current traveling companion. Howard and Betty are currently planning a trip next spring to the Netherlands and Belgium.

In addition to photography and travel, Howard also enjoys golf. He considers himself an "intermediate" golfer, the quote is Howard's.

Howard did not grow up in a family that played cards, so he feels that he did not have that innate card sense of someone who has played cards from an early age. But he says he is slowly developing better card sense. Since he wasn't a card player, I asked Howard why bridge. He said, "When I retired about five years ago, I was looking for an activity that would stimulate my brain. Bridge seemed like a good choice."

He was looking on line and found Terry Currie's beginning bridge class. Howard has also taken classes from Betsy Dubose, Audley Karrasch and Gary King.

Howard said “Playing bridge is for me, more than filling time. I find it challenging and fun, and I have met some wonderful people.”

If you or someone you know would like to be featured in a future Person of Interest Column, please send me an email at sisbjohnson@gmail.com.

Hope to see you at the tables.

Susan Banks

Upcoming I/N Tournaments

299 Sectional Houston	November 7 - 10	Westside Bridge Academy
San Antonio NLM Regional	November 13 - 16	Fiesta Bridge Club
299 Sectional Houston	January 2 – 5, 2020	Westside Bridge Academy
299 Sectional Houston	January 23 -26, 2020	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.