

# District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

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## From the Editor

There is a new iPhone/Pad app called Tricky Bridge that teaches bridge. It is FREE and designed to appeal to people who enjoy games on their mobile devices. The ACBL Educational Foundation provided some funding for it. Go to the APP Store if you have an Apple device. The Android version is coming in a few months. It's an entertaining way to learn the game!!!

I've been reading a new bridge book called "Over My Shoulder" by Jerry Helms who is one of my favorite teachers. <https://jerryhelms.com/>

I'm interested in your feedback, so please send your comments to [paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net).

**Paul Cuneo**

**District 16 Director**

## In this Issue

Better Bridge Habits:

Describing a hand

Eddie Kantar's Tip:

Penalty Double of a  
1NT overcall

Declarer Play:

Card Combinations  
Demon Defense:

Signaling Against Suit  
Contracts

Better Bidding

Rebidding your minor suit  
opener

It's the Law:

Convention Cards

## From Unit 174 - Paul Cuneo

### **New 0 to 20 Virtual Club Games!!!**

The Unit Board is in process to activate its Unit 174 virtual club to offer 0 to 20 games for newer players. Watch the Unit 174 website for details. It should be up and running in the next week.

## Better Bridge Habits

### **Describing a hand**

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month I want to focus on a habit to develop.

We all like to describe the hands we've held and sometimes we would like to have a really good player help us with a bidding problem. The best way to do that is to write down your holding in the following order: Spades, Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs. Then write down the bidding noting which position is the Dealer and noting every bid that was made including all the "pass bids".

If you haven't written it down, then describe it in the same order. For example: S – AQ1054, H – xx, D – Kxx, C – AJx becomes "I held ace, queen, ten fifth of spades, a heart doubleton, king third of diamonds and ace, jack third of clubs."

Learning how to describe your hand in this way will help you and the players you talk with about bridge problems.

## Eddie Kantar's Tip

### Penalty double of a 1NT overcall

After partner opens and second hand overcalls 1NT (natural), double for penalty with 9+ HCP. Bidding a new suit is not forcing and a jump is preemptive. With 9+ points, double first. [www.kantarbridge.com](http://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:

Q 9 x x x

J x x x

Lead low to the Jack and then low to the Queen. 83% chance of 3 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

You can only give one of these signals at a time and partner needs to know which one you are giving. Attitude signals are far and away the most common. If you play Standard signals, a relative high card encourages and a relative low card discourages. Here is an example:

N – Q53

W – AK864 (you)

E – 92

S – J107

You’ve led the Ace of the suit and your partner plays the 9. Since you can see the Queen, your partner must have a doubleton to be encouraging you to continue the suit. [www.kantarbridge.com](http://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:

"Any time you skip over two suits, or one suit and notrump to rebid your original suit, you promise a 6 card suit or with exception a 5 card suit containing 100 honors.

South(you)      West      North(partner)      East

1C                      P              1D                      P

2C

You have shown 6 clubs because you have skipped over 1H, 1S, and 1NT to rebid your clubs. [www.kantarbridge.com](http://www.kantarbridge.com)

## Its the Law

### **Partnership Understandings - Law 40**

This law allows ACBL to establish its requirement that players complete a convention card prior to participating in a sanctioned event. ACBL requires each person to have a completed card that is identical to their partners.

Playing online using BBO, makes it easy for pairs to post a convention card. In the September edition of the Bridge Bulletin on page 20 there is an article with a step by step approach to completing and posting a card. You Tube has several videos on creating, editing and posting cards.

Unlike face-to-face bridge you may look at your card or your opponents card at any time during the bidding or the play. If you find a pair that does not have a convention card posted in a Virtual Club game, please call the director if you have a question

about their agreements. Most virtual clubs remind players to post a card at the start or every game.