

# District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 7 Issue 1

## From the Editor

I hope all of you are safe and healthy! You've seen that face-to-face tournaments are cancelled through the end of April. I know we're all hoping vaccine is available to all quickly as that will help bring face-to-face bridge back.

D16 has started FREE online monthly classes to help players improve. Check out the D16 website and watch for e-mails. Next is Feb. 13 with Rosemary Kelley from San Antonio.

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

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## 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 2021. 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](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. 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](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:

A 2H response to partner's opening bid of 1S promises 5 hearts. [www.kantarbridge.com](http://www.kantarbridge.com)

## Its the Law



ACBL has issued the new Alert Chart. You can find information on the most important changes in the January Bridge Bulletin on page 35. Pre-alert is now required for short club and diamond openings. I prepare a chat to the opponents prior to the start of games on BBO to greet them and to inform them of our methods. By copying it, I can quickly advise the opponents as each round begins.

Another key change is to announcements. Instead of saying "transfer" we name the suit or suits the bid shows. On a common auction: 1NT, P, 2H the 2H bidder would say "shows spades" instead of transfer.

Many of you will ask why these changes are being made. ACBL adopted new convention charts a couple of years ago and players have been very creative in developing new methods. The alert changes are driven by a desire to have the opponents fully informed of the opponents methods especially at the upper levels of the game.