

District 16 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

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From the Editor

The Delta variant of Covid 19 has caused cancellation of most face-to-face tournaments. I'm hopeful that they can be back in October. In the meantime, let's stay safe and work on improving our partnership communications and play.

Please send comments on the newsletter.

My e-mail is paulcuneo@sbcglobal.net.

Paul Cuneo

ACBL District 16 Director

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Correction

In last month's issue, I incorrectly stated that it is no longer required to announce the 15-17 opening no trump range. Please remember that in face-to-face play we must always announce partner's opening 1NT range.

Better Bridge Habits

Playing with a New Partner

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month's tip is about playing with a new partner for the first time.

The tip is to minimize memory load for your new partner and do NOT ask them to learn new conventions or methods. Building successful partnerships is a challenge for everyone. Don't add to the burden by asking partners to learn and play a new convention just before the game. Most players including me either miss a convention or forget the proper response a few times before getting it down.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

When RHO uses Stayman and you have five or six clubs headed by three of the top five honors, double to alert partner you want a club lead against any eventual contract. Think of a double of an artificial bid as a length and strength showing lead directing penalty double.

You hold: S. xxx H. xx D. xxx C. AKJxx

West North East South

1NT Pass 2C ? Double. Caution! ..Do not double with club length (Qxxxxx) unless you have the necessary honor strength to go with it. 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. You are declaring 4H and see the following trump suit:

K5

?

?

Q87632

You need 5 tricks from the suit. Lead low towards the K. If it wins, lead back towards the Queen and duck. The only hope is a 3 – 2 split with West having a doubleton A.

Demon Defense

Signaling - Eddie Kantar writes in his book “Modern Bridge Defense” about making discards. Assuming you are playing standard discards where a high card encourages a suit and a low card discourages you hold J10987. Discard the Jack promising the 10. When discarding from touching honors, discard the one you would have led. 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 single raise of an overcall is the same as a single raise of an opening bid: 7 – 10 points with 3 pieces. With more than 10 points, cuebid the opener's suit. Here is an example:

N E S W

1D 1S p ? You hold:

S – A87, H – 54, D – 632, C – KJ973 Bid 2Spades

S – A87, H – 54, D – QJ9 – C – KQ973. Bid 2D showing a limit raise.

www.kantarbridge.com

Its the Law

Dummy's rights and Limitations – Laws 42 and 43 address Dummy's rights and Limitations. The following is from Duplicate Decisions:

“Law 42 - Dummy's Rights

Dummy has the following ABSOLUTE RIGHTS:

1. Dummy may give information, in the Director's presence, as to fact or law.
2. Dummy may keep count of tricks won and lost. In order to exercise this right, dummy has the right to follow the play as it occurs. If a player turns his cards in such a fashion that dummy cannot see them, the Director should require the player to fully face his cards as he plays them.
3. Dummy plays the cards of the dummy as declarer's agent as directed. Dummy may not inform declarer that he has a trick turned incorrectly unless he does so immediately (Law 65).

NOTE: There is no automatic penalty for an infraction of this nature. The Director should consider an adjustment whenever dummy's action may have aided declarer's play.

Dummy has the following QUALIFIED RIGHTS:

1. Dummy may ask declarer (but not a defender) whether he has a card of the suit led when he has failed to follow suit to a trick.

2. Dummy may try to prevent any irregularity by declarer. (He may, for example, warn declarer against leading from the wrong hand.)

3. Dummy may draw attention to any irregularity, but only after play is concluded.

Law 43 - Dummy's Limitations

Dummy has the following general limitations and is subject to penalty under Law 90 for any violations.

1. Unless attention has been drawn to an irregularity, dummy should not initiate a call for the Director during play.

2. Dummy may not call attention to an irregularity during play.

3. Dummy must not participate in the play or make any comment or ask any question concerning the bidding or play.

4. Dummy may not exchange hands with declarer.

5. Dummy may not leave his seat to watch declarer.

6. Dummy may not, on his own initiative, look at the face of a card in the hand of either defender.

Violations: Dummy is liable to penalty under Law 90 for any violation of the limitations listed above. After violating any of the limitations above, dummy may no longer warn declarer not to lead from the wrong hand, nor may dummy now ask declarer about a possible revoke. For a violation of any of #4-6 listed above, if dummy is the first to draw attention to a defender's irregularity, there is no rectification. This section does allow for the possibility of an adjusted score if dummy's actions gained an advantage for his side after forfeiting his limited rights."