

Region 9 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 8 Issue 9



From the Editors

After 7 full years as editor of this newsletter approached, I realized it was time to switch editors and get another editor's perspective. I hope you'll welcome Lauri Laufman and provide her feedback as you've done for me. I think Lauri was a great choice by D16 and know she'll do a great job.

Paul Cuneo

Thanks goes to Paul for all he has and continues to do within in the bridge community! I have big shoes to fill and hope you find the following articles helpful.

ACBL has a nice collection of videos inclusive of a nice selection specifically for beginners and intermediate bridge players. The weblink is acbl.org/video-library. Presenters include Patty Tucker, Barbara Seagram, Reese Koppel and Donna Compton among others. Check it out and let me know what you think.

Please send your comments and suggestions to INnewsletter.d16r9@gmail.com.

Lauri Laufman
Editor

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Better Bridge Habits

I have seen many "lists" created on the topic of bridge etiquette and table manners. These **10 suggestions** come from a combination of sources including the Unit 254 San Miguel de Allende and District 20 website.

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE - TABLE MANNERS

- Greet your opponents at the table and treat them with respect and courtesy. Be nice, smile. No matter how good or poor you play bridge, you are an ambassador for the game. Help them have an enjoyable experience and want to return again.
- Wait to take cards out of the board until all players are at the table. And then do count them to ensure that you have exactly thirteen cards.

- If on opening lead, make your lead and then write down the contract to give declarer a little extra time to make a plan and keep the game moving.
- Avoid snapping your cards or making any unusual movements to express irritation.
- Don't discuss the hands until the round is over and do so without the opponents or any other players nearby. It may actually be in the best interest of a partnership effort to wait until after the game.
- Don't give lessons to anyone at the table. If your opponent or your partner wants to know what they did wrong or how to better play or bid a hand they will ask.
- Compliment your opponents for fine bidding or play.
- Be modest and don't gloat upon getting a good board. Wait until the opponents leave the table to compliment each other on the bidding or play of the hand.
- When calling the director, say 'Director Please' in a pleasant tone and keep your hand up so that the Director can quickly determine who requested their assistance.
- Support your partner at all times. She/he is the only player in the room that is on your side!

Eddie Kantar's Tip

Lead Directing Doubles

Be on the lookout to double artificial bids (Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, cuebids, Blackwood responses) to help partner out on opening lead.

However, low level doubles of artificial bids require both length and strength (typically five or six card length with 3+ honor cards in the suit). The higher the level of the artificial bid, the shorter your length must be-but you still must have honor strength in the suit (KQx, for example).

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. With only a combined holding of these 6 cards:

A K Q 10 x

x

Finesse towards the 10. You have an 81% chance of taking 4 tricks and 31% for 5.

Demon Defense

Setting Up Your Suit

Ever wonder why your partner's opening lead was a trump instead of the suit he overcalled (and you supported)?

Our 2022 District 16 Teacher of the Year recipient, Sam Khayatt, shared this interesting hand.

Bidding	W	N	E	S		
	P	P	P	1H		
	1S	P	2S	3H		
	P	P	P			
		<u>Dummy (S)</u>				
		S 6 5				
		H J 6				
		D K T 9 5 3				
		C A 9 8 3				
<u>Partner (W)</u>					<u>You (E)</u>	
S					S 9 7 4	
H 2					H Q 8	
D					D A 8 4	
C 2					C K 7 6 5 4	
		<u>Declarer (N)</u>				
		S				
		H A				
		D				
		C Q				

Partner led the H2, won by declarer with the HA.

Declarer led the CQ, won by your CK.

Now what?

Answer: Lead a Spade

Deductions made from the bidding, partner's opening lead, your and dummy's hand:

- West didn't lead a spade because he has a broken suit headed by the A.
- Declarer has three spades.
- West has another trump and can knock off dummy's second trump.
- When East gets in with the DA, East should lead another spade.

End Result: EW can pick up three spade tricks, the CK and DA to set the contract.

The key is the inference East should make from the fact that West didn't lead the suit his side bid and raised is that he doesn't have a sequence and probably has the A. Thus, he wants the lead coming through declarer to him.

Bidding Tips

From Eddie Kantar's Bridge Tips:

When partner opens 1H and you have five spades and three hearts, raise to 2H

with 6-9 HCP. With 10-12 HCP, respond 1S and bid 3H at your next opportunity.

a. **S** - KQ876 **H** - Q43 **D** - 65 **C** - 876

Raise 1H to 2H (See next tip)

b. **S** - KQ876 **H** - AJ3 **D** - 65 **C** - 876

Respond 1S and if partner rebids 2C, 2D or 2H, bid 3H.

<http://www.kantarbridge.com>.

Its the Law

Law 45 addresses the issue of played cards. Here is a situation that is not uncommon:

N - Dummy - A Q

W - K

Declarer leads the 5, West plays the King and Declarer says: "Queen uh King; play the Ace. The Director is called. Partner of the person who played the King tells the Director what happened. Declarer agrees, but says the statement was all in one breath without pause for thought, so the Ace should be the card played from Dummy.

The following is from Duplicate Decisions:

"A player may correct the call of a card if it is inadvertent (i.e., a slip of the tongue) and if there was no pause for thought in indicating a desire to change the card called. An opponent, however, may change a legal play made in turn prior to the correction.

Example: It frequently occurs that declarer leads and his play from dummy is intended to be conditional on the play of LHO. He then prematurely calls a card from dummy and, observing that LHO's card makes his choice unpalatable, endeavors to change it. The change must not be allowed regardless of the tempo, for his first designation was not inadvertent.

Declarer leads a club, intending to ruff in dummy. As he says "ruff," he notices that LHO has ruffed with a trump higher than any in dummy. Regardless of how quickly he says, "pitch a diamond," such a change may not be allowed, because "ruff" was not inadvertent."

The Director ruled that the Queen was played as Declarer had intended to finesse and changed his mind after calling for the Queen and noticing that the King hand been played by the defender.



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