

Region 9 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 8 Issue 10



From the Editor

Possibly along with the changing weather you might wish to mingle some travel and bridge together.

I highly recommend attending tournaments and still recall my first "road trip" in the fall of (well, suffice to say a while ago) to the Beaumont Regional. Not only was it fun, but also quite memorable as that is where I won my very first gold points.

Here's a listing of some upcoming events in which you can earn silver/gold masterpoints. Each offers limited point games specific for non-life masters (NLM)! Click "Flyer" for more details if available.

Within District 16:

Oct. 17-23 - Beaumont Gusher Regional - [Flyer](#)

Oct 28-30 - Fort Worth Sectional - [Flyer](#)

Oct 28-30 - Houston Halloween Sectional - [Flyer](#)

Nov 2-5 - Dallas Fall Sectional - [Flyer](#)

Nov 5-6 - Austin NLM 0-750 Sectional - [Flyer](#)

Nov 14-21 - District 16 Royal STaC* (held at clubs)

Dec 1-4 - BCOH 499er/NLM Sectional

Dec 2-5 - Austin Winter 0-200 Sectional

Within District 15:

Nov 4-6 - Kansas City Fall Sectional - [Flyer](#)

Nov 11-13 - Sooner OKC Fall Sectional - [Flyer](#)

Dec 12-18 - District 15 STaC Week (held at clubs)

Dec 26-31 - Kansas City Holiday Regional - [Flyer](#)

*STaC (Sectional Tournaments at Clubs) are sectionally rated games held at participating clubs in a specific geographical area. If you place at your club, you may just earn extra points if you also place in the "overalls" against others who play the same boards at their clubs on that day.

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

Lauri Laufman

In this Issue

Better Bridge Habits:

Plan Before Calling
the First Card from
Dummy

Eddie Kantar's Tip:

Before The Opening
Lead

Declarer Play:

Card Combinations

Demon Defense:

The Right Time to
Overtake and
Unblock Better
Bidding

Bidding after a 2-
level response to
your opening bid

It's the Law:

Mistaken Bid

Better Bridge Habits

PLAN BEFORE YOU PLAY

All too often as **declarer**, we rush ourselves and as soon as dummy comes down, immediately call for a card. Whoa there, partner. Take pause and "plan before you play" to the first trick. It just might make your play of the hand go smoother and with better results.

Much has been written on the topic. Thanks goes to Karen Walker, whose kwbridge.com website provides a wealth of bridge information for the following tips:

Don't play to the first trick too quickly. Force yourself to stop and think when dummy comes down. Look ahead and plan your play to at least the next few tricks.

Concentrate on the opening lead for a few seconds so you'll remember it later. Decide what it tells you about the leader's length or strength in that suit.

Mentally review the bidding. If one of your opponents has bid, try to come up with a general picture of his point-count and his length in the suit bid.

For *most* suit contracts, your general plan should be:

1 - Count your **losers**. Decide which ones can be disposed of or turned into winners (by trumping, by finessing or by discarding them on a side suit).

2 - Double check by counting your **winners**. Look at each suit and estimate how many tricks it offers -- top tricks and tricks that will be good after you establish the suit.

3 - If your plan calls for trumping one or more of your losers in the short-trump hand (usually dummy), do that **before** you lead trumps -- even if you have to give up tricks to set up the trumping position.

4 - Next, lead trumps, counting as the opponents follow to each trick. Pulling trumps will usually be your best plan if you have good honor strength and/or length in one or more of the outside suits.

5 - After you've collected all the opponents' trumps, lead your longest side suit. Give up your losers early.

6 - Last, cash honors in your short suits.

For *most* notrump contracts, your general plan should be:

1 - Count your **winners** and **potential winners**. If you don't have enough top tricks to make your contract, decide which suit offers you the best chance of creating more winners.

2 - Lead that suit first (it will usually be your longest side suit). Give up the tricks you have to lose early.

3 - Stick with one suit at a time. Keep leading it until you've

established your tricks (count the defenders' cards as you go), then cash your winners in the suit. When you move to a different suit, start counting again.

4 - Last, cash honors in your short suits.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

Before Making Your Opening Lead

Before making your opening lead, add your HCP to declarer's estimated HCP.

For example, say you have 10 HCP and RHO opens 1NT (15-17) and winds up playing 3NT dummy also having 10 HCP. Take declarer's middle count, 16, and add that to dummy's 10 HCP telling you that the opponents are playing 3NT with 26 HCP give or take a point.

That 26 added to your 10 HCP tells you that partner has 4 HCP. Say you lead a suit and partner plays the ace. Don't look around for any more high card points in partner's hand because if you do, you will be sorely disappointed. OK, partner may have a jack.

Making a habit of doing this will turn you into a better defensive player, much better.

<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 (which by the way weighs almost 4.5 lbs) has a section on playing card combinations. Upon discovering the defense has the K-J in your trump suit with the following holding:

A Q 9 x x

x x x

Finesse the nine and then the queen for a 50% chance of winning 4 tricks. Win 3 tricks 87% of the time if you finesse the nine and if it loses, finesse the queen (best) or play the ace.

Demon Defense

Overtake and Unblock

From *Bridge for Dummies*, Eddie Kantar suggests the following line of play when your partner leads the spade king, and you have ace doubleton (Ax).

	North (Dummy)	
	7 5 4	
West (Partner)		East (You)
K Q J 3 2		A 6
	South (Declarer)	
	10 9 8	

Partner leads the K, showing he also has the Q. When you have an Ace doubleton, overtake the K with the A and return the suit! By doing so, give yourself a surefire way of taking three tricks in the suit.

How you take three tricks depends on one of these two scenarios:

- Your partner has led from a KQJ combination in which case your side takes the first three spade tricks.
- Your partner has led from KQ (no J), and declarer has the J109. Your partner wins the second spade with the queen and then leads a third spade, which you trump.

Bidding Tips

From Eddie Kantar's Bridge Tips:

After a two-level response to an opening bid, a new suit by the opener is forcing; after a one level response it is not, unless it is a reverse.

Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
1H	2C	1D	1H	1C	1H
2D (forcing)		2C (not forcing)		2D (forcing -a reverse)	

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

Its the Law

Mistaken Bid and Law 75

Note: Very important for online play too!

We've all had this happen at one time or another. We look at our hand and make a bid without thinking about our partnership agreements. My right-hand opponent deals and opens 1C which is announced as "could be as short as 2". Sitting South, I have the following hand: S- x, H - Kx, D - xxx C - AKQJ10xx. I bid 2 Clubs. My left-hand opponent asks what the 2C bid is and my partner responds: "Michaels showing both majors." The opponent passes and my partner bids 2S. I am dying! I forgot we play Michaels! The opponents have been given our agreement, but not what I intended.

What should I do?

Law 75 addresses this issue. From Duplicate Decisions:

“A player makes a bid that is not the partnership agreement, but the opponents are informed of the agreement. The partnership agreement is as explained; the mistake was in the bid. Here there is no infraction of law, since East-West did receive an accurate description of the North-South agreement. They have no claim to an accurate description of the North-South hands.

Regardless of the outcome, the Director shall allow the result to stand. The Director, however, is to presume a mistaken explanation rather than a mistaken bid in the absence of clear evidence to the contrary. South must not correct North’s explanation (or notify the Director) immediately, and he has no responsibility to do so later.”

Having heard North’s explanation, I know that my own bid was wrong and was explained according to partnership agreement. This knowledge is unauthorized information. Consequently, I must be careful not to base further actions on this information (if I do, the Director shall award an adjusted score). So, I have to pass the 2S bid and hope my partner is not in a 3/1 fit. If we get a bad board, it was my fault for making the wrong bid. In our methods, I should have bid 3C to show long, strong clubs.

If the opponents get a bad board, say they were cold for 4H, unfortunately they were “fixed” by my mistake. I will apologize for making it, but no score adjustment is made. If the Director is called by the opponents, he will look at my hand and convention card and realize that it was a “mistaken bid” not a “mistaken explanation” by my partner.



Website: www.d16acbl.org

 [Forward Email](#)

 [Join Mailing List](#)