

Region 9 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 8 Issue 12



From the Editor

Happy Holidays!

I'd like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season along with a happy start to 2023.

As you prepare for the new year, please remember that bridge is fueled by the efforts of volunteers within our communities. So, please consider asking how you might help out - be it at your club or through your unit board where needed or at nearby tournament.

Speaking of tournaments, [click here](#) to see what is on tap around our District in 2023 and start making your plans to attend!

Bob's story below is a testament for those new to duplicate bridge to try out new bridge experiences. If you've a great I/N story you'd like to share, let me know.

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

Lauri Laufman
Editor

In this Issue

Highlight

Bob Domsalla

Better Bridge Habits:

Hand Records

Eddie Kantar's Tip:

Two Equal Cards

Declarer Play:

Card Combinations

Demon Defense:

3rd Hand Play

Better Bidding

Cardinal Sin #1

It's the Law:

Tricks Won

Highlight - I/N Player: Bob Domsalla



Upon noticing that a District 16 newcomer won 19.25 masterpoints at the recent NABC in Phoenix, I was curious about his story - and it is a good one.

Bob and Susan met in college in 1967. After dating a few years, they decided to get married...but Susan told him he needed to learn to play bridge in order to join her family. So, they signed up for bridge lessons at the student union. Since then, they've played social bridge off and on for 50+ years.

Susan started playing duplicate bridge in 2012 and since that time had tried to convince him to join her... he preferred working on his golf game. So, when

friends from their social bridge group asked them to go on an August Florida Sectional at Sea Cruise with them, it was to Susan's surprise that Bob said yes! She signed him up for an ACBL number and off they went.

Playing open pairs during their 10-day cruise, Bob won his first 11.91 masterpoints (yes, all silver) ...and was hooked.

When several folks they met on the cruise talked about going to the national tournament in Phoenix...Bob thought it sounded like fun.

"Two of the days we teamed with Susan Johnson and Cheryl Smith from Houston. We played in the 0-3000 Bracketed Swiss Teams and came in 2nd one day and 4th one day. The other four days we found pairs with similar total points at the partnership desk. It was great fun meeting new people and seeing how we could do. Two of the days we won several rounds and lost several rounds...but didn't place. One day we lost every round. And the last day we won the bracket."

While Bob still enjoys honing his golf game, he is working on improving his bridge skills by taking classes such as the advanced beginner class from Julie Halpern at Bridge Club of Houston and attending the free lesson prior to the weekly Tuesday open game.

Better Bridge Habits

Developing good habits at the table is an important part of learning bridge. This month I want to focus on analysis after the game. BBO and ACBL have them available. They are excellent learning tools. After every session, consider reviewing the hand record and look for the following:

- 1. What did we do well?** It's fun to look over our best boards. But we need to see whether we did something very well, or whether the opponents had a bidding problem and ended up in a poor contract. If the opponents had a problem, ask whether your partnership would have avoided the problem.
- 2. Where might I improve?** Look over the low boards to see what happened. Was it a bidding, lead, defense, or declarer play problem? Or was it that the opponents made a great bid or play. It is too easy to blame partner for the problems. Look primarily where you can improve and become a better partner.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

Play of Two Equal Cards

As declarer, being able to take a trick with one of two equal cards, take the trick with the higher equal. The exception is at notrump when you have an AK stopper. If you plan to take the trick, take it with the king. Taking the first trick with the ace is very suspicious. If that were your only stopper, why didn't you hold up?

<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.

This month:

Upon discovering opponents have the J in your trump suit with the following holding:

A K 10 x x

Q x

Playing the top honors will yield a 52% chance of securing the maximum of 5 tricks. Cashing the Q and lead to the 10 for a 93% chance of winning 4 tricks.

Demon Defense

Third Hand Play in a Trump Contract

When to Overtake Partner's Queen with the Ace

In Bridge for Dummies, Eddie Kantar illustrates the following.

When your partner leads the queen, you have the ace, and the king isn't in the dummy, the declarer must have the king. At times, that king will be a singleton.

So, in third seat, overtake the Q♠ with the A♠. If you don't and the declarer has a singleton K♠, you will never hear the end of it. Later, when you do play your ace, declarer will trump it and you will have gone to bed with it.

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

Bidding Tips

From Robert Todd's article "The Cardinal Sins of Bridge", we cover #1 this month.

Cardinal Sin #1: Preempting and then Bidding Again!

When you open the bidding with a weak-2 (or 3-level preempt) you are declaring to your partner and the opponents that you have a weak hand that has playing strength based on suit length, not HCP.

Simultaneously, you have eaten up a large amount of bidding room from your opponents - causing them difficulty in properly communicating their shape and

values to each other. You have forced your opponents to guess at the right action to take. Sometimes your opponents will guess correctly and sometimes they will not - but the key is that you have made their lives difficult by making them guess.

If you open the bidding with a weak bid and later bid again (when you have not been invited to do so by your partner), then you have violated one of the major philosophies of playing bridge -- "make your opponent's guess last." Additionally, you will have given the opponents an opportunity to survive (get a good board) when they might have been headed for disaster. If your hand is so good that you are not going to be happy passing after preempting, then don't preempt - either pass or open at the 1-level.

Example

You hold a hand with 8 HCP and 6-1-4-2 distribution. You open the bidding with 2♠ and the auction progresses from there:

2♠ 3♥ 3♠ 4♥
__??

Your only option is to PASS! You were not invited to bid! Your partner is the captain - he may want to double 4♥ for all you know. That might have been his only reason for bidding 3♠ in the first place!

Note: In the vernacular of bridge, we call the player on our right "right hand opponent" (or RHO), and the player on our left "left hand opponent" (or LHO.) When your partner does something like preempting and bidding again, then he has become your "Center Hand Opponent!" Try to be a good partner, not another opponent!

Some *Philosophical Approaches* to playing bridge that are important here - and the violations of which make this a cardinal sin are:

- Get into and out of the auction as quickly as possible with weak hands
- If you can, try to describe your hand in one bid
- Make the opponents guess last
- Help partner make good decisions (don't be his opponent)
- Give partner a chance to make a winning decision

www.advinbridge.com

It's the Law

How Many Tricks?

Law 79, TRICKS WON, covers three things:

- A. Agreement on Tricks Won
- B. Disagreement on Tricks Won
- C. Error in Score

We will look at common best practices below.

Agreement on Tricks Won

Agreement as to the number of tricks should be agreed to before all four hands are returned to the board. As a practical matter, we suggest that the number of tricks be agreed to before **any** hand is returned to the board. The arrangement of your cards represents your "history" of the hand. Returning your hand to the board is the equivalent of deleting your history and makes it difficult to resolve discrepancies. Consider leaving your cards arranged until after the score is entered into the scoring device.

Disagreement on Tricks Won

If there is a disagreement as to the number of tricks won by each side, the Director will determine the score to be recorded. The director will rely on the history described by the arrangement of the cards. If only one version of history is available, that version will likely be the starting point of the decision. It is difficult to re-create a line of play after cards have been shuffled and returned to the board.

Error in Score

If an error in the recording or computing of a score has been made, it can be corrected during the Correction Period. The Correction Period is specified by the club or tournament. For players using electronic scoring devices, error include recording the:

- Wrong side declaring (North declaring instead of West)
- Wrong number of tricks made (Declarer made five but the scorer entered four)
- Wrong contract denomination (Scorer entered the contract as 4D, not 4H)

For players using paper travelers, errors include the recording errors listed above as well as miscalculations of the score of a correctly entered contract. (On board 4, 4S making was entered as 420, instead of 620)

Two practices can mitigate recording errors:

1. Before the round score is submitted, circulate the scoring device among all four players at the table. It is sometimes easier to notice a “wrong side” contract when the scores from the entire round are presented together.

2. Before leaving the club, ask the director for an ACBLScore summary for your pair. Verify that the scores recorded in ACBLScore match those recorded in your personal scoresheet.

Keep in mind that no one cares more about your scores than you do.

Above provided by Sam Khayatt, Director and D16 IN Coordinator



Website: www.d16acbl.org

 **Forward Email**

 **Join Mailing List**