

Region 9 Newsletter for Future Life Masters

Volume 9 Issue 6 - June 2023



From the Editor

Summer Solstice coming up! And things heat up with ACBL's annual fundraiser in support of the Alzheimer's Association, The Longest Day. At this writing, almost 30 clubs within our District are holding a special event one day during the week of June 18-25. For more information or to locate a club participating near you, [click here](#).

Highlighted this month is Marcia Lepore and her story of how she got her "start" into duplicate bridge as relayed to us by Cindy Bell.

Next up, is the San Antonio Fourth of July Regional, July 3-9. If you haven't made plans yet for that week, do consider attending. There will be daily events and speakers tailored for I/N players! See next section for more info.

A story of your own to be highlighted in a future issue or there is a certain "law" you would like covered, please email me.

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In this Issue

Highlight:

Marcia Lepore

Better Bridge Habits:

Hand and Suit Patterns

Eddie Kantar's Tip:

Doubling Artificial Bids

Declarer Play:

Hexagon Squeeze Play

Demon Defense:

Opening Lead

Better Bidding:

Basic Principles

It's the Law:

Bid out of Rotation (31)

San Antonio Fourth of July Regional

Flyer with schedule (including Gold Rush Pairs Tues-Sat), [click here](#).
Guest Speakers Daily for I/N Players at 2:15, for schedule, [click here](#).

Upcoming Tournament Play

Upcoming Tournament Info within our region:

For District 16, [click here](#).
For District 15, [click here](#).

Especially for Our 0-50 Players

District 16 provides a 12-board game on BBO just for players having 0-50 masterpoints for \$3 every Monday at 4:00. A director (Ken, Consie or Kim) and assistants will be on hand to offer guidance during the game.

For more information, check out our Frequently Asked Questions [D16 0-50 Game Frequently Asked Questions](#) or email Beginner20Bridge@gmail.com.

Highlight - I/N Player: Marcia Lepore (Unit 207)



Marcia, one of the most positive people you will ever meet, has been playing duplicate bridge in Austin over the last year and a half. Her introduction to bridge came when she was a child, and her parents would play bridge. The children always had a ball when it was bridge time because they got to play with each other while the parents played bridge.

Then when Marcia's own children were little, she started playing herself. She and a group of other moms that she had met at her child's school decided it was time to learn bridge. So, they found eight interested people and played - a social game with lunch and lots of fun. Five years later, Marcia and family moved, so within a short time, Marcia was playing social bridge with a new group of friends. They decided to take lessons and then played as a group for years. There was another move, and no more bridge.

Then in 2019, right before Covid hit, a friend encouraged Marcia to return bridge, and so she did. She had barely restarted when Covid hit, and so after two years, she again restarted. She took duplicate lessons at the Bridge Center of Austin (BCA), and then learned about the Unit 207 Mentor Program that was about to begin. She applied to the program and has been working with her mentor, Orlin Johnson, over the last four months. She can't say enough good things about him. She also took a class on the Two-Over-One system, which she now practices in her games with her mentor.

In addition to playing with her mentor, she plays on Fridays and Saturdays in limited duplicate games. She also plays every Monday with a group of friends she has met playing duplicate. This is a social game that they use to strengthen their skills for duplicate and encourage each other as bridge players. She admits she definitely has bridge fever. Hopefully she is now back to bridge for good with lots of fun times ahead.

Better Bridge Habits

Hand and Suit Patterns

Particularly helpful when at the bridge table is to understand hand and suit patterns and Former ACBL President, Ken Monzingo prepared a wonderful presentation on this topic.

He explains that "A Hand Pattern is how the 13 cards you own are distributed in suits. A Suit Pattern is how the 13 cards of any suit might be distributed around the table in the four hands." He continues with "So, of the 39 possible distributions, what are the most common patterns?"

This month's tip is to learn these hand and suit patterns by [clicking here](#) for Ken's one page article. Why the link? Chances are you will want to print or download it.

It is followed by a 2nd page with his entertaining story titled "Aunt Lucy". You won't be disappointed.

Eddie Kantar's Tip

Doubling Artificial Bids

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

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 Squeezes which by definition is a play that forces an opponent to discard at a time when he would prefer not to. The forced discard will cost the opponent at least one trick sooner or later.

Many "squeeze" variations are presented; here is one.

Hexagon Trump Squeeze.

A hexagon squeeze in which both opponents are trump squeezed.

	♠ A J	
	♥ A 6 5	
	♦ 4	
	♣ —	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ K 5		♠ Q
♥ Q J 3		♥ K 8 7
♦ Q		♦ K 6
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ 3	
	♥ 4	
	♦ A J	
	♣ J 10	

Clubs are trumps. South is on lead needing all the tricks. South leads the ♣J. West must discard a heart, dummy can discard a diamond, and East is squeezed in three suits. If East discards a spade, West can be finessed. East obviously cannot discard a diamond, and if he lets go a heart, the ♥A and a heart ruff will establish an extra heart trick.

Alternatively, when West discards a heart on the ♣J, suppose North and East both discard spades. South leads to the ♥A and ruffs a heart. A spade to the ace then squeezes East in hearts and diamonds. In this variation, the squeeze of East occurs three tricks later than the squeeze of West.

Demon Defense

Opening Lead

Auction:

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1S	P	1NT	P
2H	P	P	P

You hold:

S - AJ98
H - 862
D - A93
C - J106

What do you lead?

In his book on *Modern Bridge Defense*, Eddie Kantar writes, "Dummy is likely to have one spade and three hearts. Lead a heart to cut down on dummy's ruffing power. Later, when in with the A of spades, lead another heart. Every trump you lead translates into one less spade ruff in dummy and another eventual spade trick for you. When dummy prefers declarer's second suit, and you have winning tricks or eventual winning tricks in declarer's first bid suit, lead a trump to protect those winners."

www.kantarbridge.com

Better Bidding

Basic Principles

Reprinted from Gamesman Bridge, Play Better with Kantar

A while back while looking for potential newsletter content to share, I was presented this book which I opened last week. The conversational nature between the authors, Eddie Kantar and Jackson Stanley, is entertaining. Thinking I might continue reading... this is from the first chapter.

"Since bridge is a partnership game, communication is all-important. The language is severely limited. You have eight nouns (notrump, spade, heart, diamond, club, double, redouble, and pass) and seven adjectives (one, two, three, four, five, six, and seven) which combine to form a total of only thirty-eight phrases with which to describe the 635,013,559,600 possible hands in bridge. You might bid your hands perfectly but unless your partner understands what your bids mean, you might as well be talking to him in Urdu.

As a basic principle, I do suggest that you keep all your bidding simple to cut down on the ambiguities, you and your partner might encounter. If you want potatoes, don't ask for *pommes de terre* unless you know your partner speaks French."

**Originally published in 1972 (reprinted in 2013); authored by Edwin B Kantar and Jackson Stanley*

It's The Law

Again, Wait Your Turn: Bid out of Rotation - Law 31

Have you ever picked up a hand where your bid is so clear-cut that you bid it before it is your turn to do so?

Law 31, Bid out of Rotation, addresses this situation. However, before Law 31 is applied, the director will apply Law 29, Procedure after a Call out of Rotation. Our LHO may accept our bid out of rotation and the auction continues as if our bid were legal. If our LHO does not accept our bid then Law 31 applies.

Law 31 covers two situations: (1) when it is our right-hand opponent's (RHO) turn to call and (2) when it is either our LHO's or our partner's turn.

The first situation (RHO's turn) is covered by Law 31A: RHOs Turn to Call. When we bid at our RHO's turn to call and our call is withdrawn, our next action depends on the call made by our RHO.

- If our RHO passes (Law 31A1), we repeat our canceled call, and the auction continues as if there had been no infraction.

- If our RHO makes a legal call (Law 31A2), we may make any legal call. If the director deems our call comparable to the withdrawn call, the auction continues as if there had been no infraction. However, if the director deems our call not comparable to the withdrawn call, then our partner must pass at his or her next turn to call. And if we become the defenders, the declarer may impose restrictions on partner's first lead (which may or may not be the opening lead).

The second situation is covered by Law 31B: Partner's or LHO's Turn to Call. If this is the first action we have taken in this auction, our partner, at his or her turn, may make any legal call, but that call may not take into account our withdrawn call. At our proper turn to call, we may make any legal call and the director will apply the comparability determination described under Law 31A1.

If our out-of-rotation call was made at LHO's turn to call and it was not our first action, the out-of-rotation call is treated as a change in call and Law 25 applies.

It is important to understand the implications. If our replacement call is not deemed comparable to our withdrawn call, partner will be required to pass at his next turn, no matter what our replacement call is.

SK

