



The Future Life Master



The Start of Something Special



by Ruben Ramirez

Unlike most bridge players, I was never exposed to bridge until about ten years ago. Before being introduced to bridge, my father introduced me to dominoes and poker.

Just over ten years ago, I met Scott Humphrey and all he ever talked about was bridge. At the time I was working at a nursery in Liberty Hill. I asked my boss if she knew what bridge was, and she replied, "You don't want to know because only older wealthy people play it." Well, I started going to club games that Scott would direct, and there I met Mary Anne Laier and Rosemary Kelley. They asked me if I would caddy and help with food at the Christmas party. This was supposed to be a one-time deal, but they kept asking me back. Soon, I met caddy master Laura Delfeld, and eight years later I found myself still caddying.

After Scott became a tournament director, I began traveling with him and occasionally would caddy at other tournaments. When I went to Puerto Vallarta with Scott, I intended only to be on vacation, but the caddies did not show up, and I had to train the resort's cook, who only

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Declarer play--Card Combos, Part III

by Tom Clark

As DECLARER...how well do you know your card combinations? This is the third in a series for proper technique to improve declarer play when missing honors in a suit. **REMEMBER**-- certain ground rules apply...

- **Opponents' hands are unknown.**
- **A losing finesse to either opponent will not be detrimental to the rest of the hand.**
- **Communication back and forth from dummy to declarer's hand is not an issue.**

If exception exists to any of the above...a different approach could be essential.

Missing the Queen-Jack...

Finesse twice with 7 cards or fewer; finesse once with 8 cards.

A K 10 9 5
4 2

Finesse the 10. If it loses, finesse the nine next.

A K 10 9 6
5 3 2

Finesse the 10. If it loses, cash the Ace; if both follow suit, the rest are good.

If the ace and king are in different hands, cash one top card before taking any finesse.

A 10 9 7
K 4 2

Cash the King then finesse the 10. If it loses, finesse the nine next.

(con't on page 2)

Start of Something Special (con't)

spoke Spanish (I am bilingual). When he saw the dot matrix printer that Mexican director Guillermo Poplawsky was using, he pointed to it and said, "dinosauria." Guillermo yelled at him in Spanish.

By this time, I decided I finally wanted to learn how to play bridge myself. To me, it seemed like a foreign language, and I wanted to understand it. I took some classes from Scott, and it seemed fun but still very difficult. Then, I took classes from Laura, who is a great teacher--you can tell by the size of her classes. It has been a great learning experience, and I am starting to play competitively. I earned my first master point in 2009 on an Alaskan cruise. In our first two games on the ship, we came in second and then first. We even beat two life masters from San Antonio who were on the ship. After we won, Scott called Kevin Perkins long distance from Alaska to get me an ACBL membership and number so I could get my masterpoint credit.

Every time I play duplicate, I learn something different, but the best part is that I have met so many wonderful people. I never thought I could understand this complicated game, but little by little I am picking it up.

Bridge Lingo

Cheese--a reference to Swiss cheese: a hand with a lot of holes in it. "You opened that piece of cheese?"

Stiff--a singleton. "I had Queen-fourth, stiff King, three small, and King-Jack fifth" means your hand was Qxxx K xxx KJxxx. Obviously "stiff" derives from the fact that, like a dead person, the singleton must stiffly fall on the first round of the suit.

Tight--used to describe a doubleton set of honors. "King-Jack tight," "Ace-King tight" means KJ or AK doubleton.

Tap--when on defense, to lead a suit that declarer is void in so as to reduce declarer's trumps. If you continually "tap" declarer every time you are on lead you are employing a "forcing defense."

Declarer Play--Card Combos III (con't)

Missing King-Jack...

If the ace and queen are in the same hand, finesse for the king and jack with 8 cards or fewer. Finesse only for the king with 9 or 10 cards combined.

A Q 10 7
5 3 2

Finesse the 10. If it loses to the Jack, finesse the Queen next.

A Q 9 7 6
5 3 2

Finesse the nine; later finesse the Queen. Note that you always must lose at least one trick, even with the King onside.

A Q 10 8 7
6 5 3 2

Finesse the Queen. If it loses to the King, cash the Ace next.

If the Ace and Queen are in different hands: Cash the Ace then finesse for the Jack if possible, otherwise lead up to the Queen.

A 7 5
Q 10 4 2

Cash the Ace then lead the five. If no honor appears, finesse the 10. If this loses to the Jack, lead up to the Queen next.

A 10 8 6
Q 5 3 2

Cash the Ace then lead up to the Queen.

Exception: Holding 8 cards or fewer including the 10, nine and eight, do not cash the Ace first. It is better to finesse twice.

A 10 9 8
Q 6 4 2

Lead the two and finesse the 10. If this loses to the Jack, finesse for the King next.

A 10 9 8
Q 6 5 3 2

With the same holding, but having an extra card in either hand, the proper play is to cash the Ace first. The only time this loses is when KJx or KJxx is onside.

FOURTH OF JULY REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

by Nancy Dean

Plan to attend the Austin Regional, **July 2 - 8**, featuring many special events for our novice and intermediate players.

The tournament will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, just across I-35 from the Bridge Center. Each day at 1:45 we will be featuring a lecture from Unit 207's finest instructors. The classes will revolve around subjects that the instructors feel most pertinent to novice and intermediate players, and each lecture will be followed by a question and answer period, time permitting.



The N/S and E/W winners of each session will win a prize. They'll be able to choose from an array of books from noted authors such as Mike Lawrence, Marty Bergen and Audrey Grant.

At the end of the morning session, we'll hold a drawing for a gift certificate donated by one of the nearby restaurants such as Carrabba's and Pappadeaux.....these can be used during the tournament or later....winners choice.

Finally, on Friday night, the Unit will be hosting a dinner just for our 0-299er's (Yes, there will be wine!!)

We're all looking forward to an amazing Regional with lots of goodies, lots of points, and lots of fun! A complete tournament schedule may be found at: www.austinbridge.org

Congratulations

First overall in the April NLM Sectional:

Rachell Jackson and Ann Bower (Saturday am)

**Larry Johnson and Costa Triantaphilides--
(Saturday pm)**

Art Widen and Steven Andersen (Sunday pm)

**First overall in the March Sectional, 199er
games:**

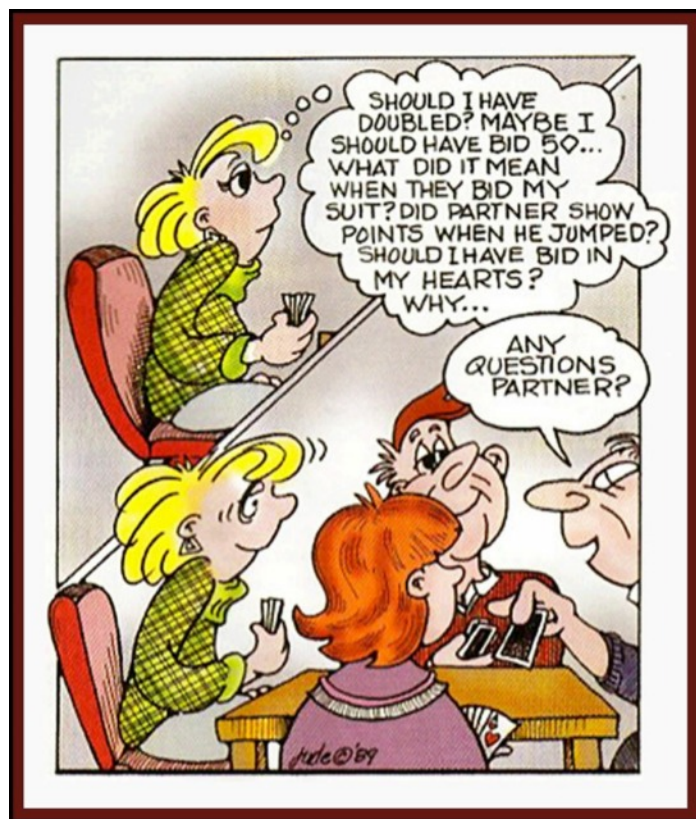
Linda Banks and Ron Mason (Thursday am)

Gilda Reynolds and Brett Bidwell (Friday am)

**Richard Greenbauer and Margaret Knaus (Friday
pm)**

Kathleen Sato and Jean Marsh (Saturday am)

Sandra Reynolds and Jeff Skillin, (Saturday pm)



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