



The Future Life Master



Volume 4, Issue 4

Austin, Texas ACBL Unit 207

August-September 2012

To err is human; to learn, divine



by Rachell Jackson

It had been a long day at the bridge tables. Now it was the final hand in the second game of a simple NLM tournament — one of our first tournaments. As I evaluated my cards, I thought, “Wow, what a great hand, 23 points. Wonderful way to end this

this thing!” So I bid two clubs. My partner, Ann Bower, bid two hearts, and I thought, “This is so good. She has hearts, I have hearts! She’ll play it, and I’ll just lay down the dummy.” So I placed the contract in four hearts. Momentarily puzzled by Ann’s look of dismay and the look of amazement on our opponents’ faces, I suddenly recalled that the two-heart response means a bust, less than three points, not hearts at all. Then I did what every serious new player does — I shook my head, laughed out loud, and winced as I watched the contract go down, down, down. But miracles do happen, even in bridge. We scratched in that event, and Ann continues to partner with me.

Since then, there have been many unfortunate contracts. Call it a brain cramp, a senior moment, a corrupted file system, or simply convention overload, sometimes I just retrieve the wrong information. The right information is in there, just not accessible at that moment.

Implementing new conventions further scrambles my bidding. And replacing one convention with a similar but different one (for example, replacing DONT with Cappelletti), that’s like

(con’t on page 2)

Declarer play--Card Combos, Part IV

by Tom Clark

As DECLARER...how well do you know your card combinations? This is the fourth 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 King-Queen...Finesse twice with any length.

**A J 10 4
5 3 2**

Finesse the Jack. If it loses, finesse the 10 the next time.

**A J 10 9 7
6 4 3 2**

With nine cards it is still best to take two finesses; **however**, if this is inconvenient (or risks a ruff if this is your trump suit), it is almost as good to cash the Ace first (cashing the Ace first is only wrong when KQx or KQxx is onside).

**A 10 7 4
J 5 3 2**

Finesse the 10. If it loses, cash the Ace; there is no second finesse available. The hope here is honor-doubleton onside.

(con’t on page 2)

To Err is Human (con't)

trying to write with my left hand. Another good lesson: learning is easy; unlearning takes time and hard work.

Of course, making mistakes and living with the consequences is an excellent learning tool for life lessons and bridge lessons. Nothing reinforces what *not* to do quite as well as prolonged pain. A fellow bridge player often prefaces laying out dummy with, "Hope I didn't throw you under the bus, partner." Well, I've been on that bus and under that bus — on the bus is better.

In the recent Regional Tournament, most of my opponents had many more master points than me, with much more "board time." They, too, made unfortunate bids. How human and how encouraging! Not only that experts get tangled up in their conventions, but that they get tangled up and still collect all those points. There is hope.

Bridge is challenging, rewarding, and the ultimate brain candy. Plus, you get to meet all those wonderful people. I'll keep showing up. . . .

Tourney Calendar

Inter-Club Championship, BCA--Monday, August 13, 7:00 pm. 199ers in Austin and other parts of Texas will play the same hands. Masterpoint awards are made at the local level and then later, when scores are compared between the clubs.

Unit 207 199er Sectional, BCA--Saturday, August 25, 1:30 pm and Sunday, August 26, 1:30 pm

Unit 207 September Sectional, BCA--Thursday, September 20--Sunday, September 23. 199er games at 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, and 7:00 pm.,

Did you know?

Unit 207 sponsors **free** monthly lessons by local, expert players on a variety of interesting topics. The Unit website, www.austinbridge.org, lists these lectures as they are scheduled.

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

A J 9 6
5 3 2

Finesse the nine first, and then finesse the Jack. You are hoping for K-10 or Q-10 onside, which is a much better chance (2 to 1) than hoping the K-Q is onside.

Missing the Ace...Lead toward your honors.

K Q 9 7
5 3 2

Lead up to the King. If it wins, later lead up to the Queen.

9 7 5 3
Q J 4 2

Lead up to the Queen. Later lead toward the Jack.

If your two highest cards are not touching, try to finesse against the in-between card(s).

Q 10 8 7 4
5 2

Lead toward the Q-10 and finesse the 10. Hopefully this will lose to the ace or king; next time lead toward the queen.

7 4 3 2
K 10 9 6

Finesse the ten; later finesse the nine. This gains if LHO has either the Jack-Queen (or both).

With equal honors in each hand, lead to the shorter hand first.

Q 5 7 6
K 10 3 2

Lead up to the Queen. Whether it wins or loses, next time lead toward the K-10 and finesse the 10.

J 5 4
Q 9 8 2

Lead up to the Jack. Whether it wins or loses, next time finesse the nine.

K 8
Q 7 5 4 3 2

Lead up to the King. If it wins you know that LHO has the ace, so it would be futile to play the Queen next — you should duck the second round hoping the Ace falls.

Resource; Richard Pavlicek



First overall in the July 4th Austin Regional, 299er games:

Mike and Sybil Lowey (Tues. morning)

Sandra Ingram and Adrienne Watt (Tues. afternoon)

Diana Chen and Pat Rutledge (Tues. evening)

Neil Lorenz and Scott Defoyd (Weds. morning)

Bob Matlock and Bill Chamberlain (Weds. afternoon)

Rowland Bartoo and Lennie Wilkins (Weds. evening)

Lynne Andress and Jenelle Rae McGinnis (Thurs. morning)

Nancy Ring and Gilda Reynolds (Thurs. afternoon)

Gary Marquart and Bruce Mansbridge (Thurs. evening)

Richard Greenbauer and Wyn Coleman (Fri. morning)

Larry Johnson and Costa Triantaphilides (Fri. evening)

Michael Luckenbach and Lucille Morley (Sat. morning and afternoon)

First overall in the July Non-Life Master Sectional:

Barbara and Richard Clements (Sat. morning)

Steve Andersen and Art Widen (Sat. Afternoon and Sun. Afternoon)

Bidding Quiz from Eddie Kantar

YOUR PARTNER OPENS 1H, you respond 1S, partner rebids 2H showing six hearts, and now it is your turn again. What action, if any, do you take with the following six hands?

1. ♠ AJ843 ♥ 4 ♦ KJ974 ♣ 108
2. ♠ AJ932 ♥ Q7 ♦ K743 ♣ 98
3. ♠ AQ87 ♥ 2 ♦ Q873 ♣ K843
4. ♠ A10832 ♥ K104 ♦ 2 ♣AQ93
5. ♠ AQJ1074 ♥ 2 ♦ A98 ♣874
6. ♠ J95432 ♥ void ♦ A976 ♣Q65

*Mind
Candy*



Solutions :

1. Pass. 2S on a five card suit is out. 3D showing opening bid values is also out. What's left is the best bid in bridge, PASS!
2. 3H. You have enough to invite. That heart Queen is a big card.
3. Pass. 11 HCP is enough to bid 2NT, but the singleton heart reduces the value of your hand a point or two. This could be wrong, but more often than not you will be right.
4. 4D. A slam try splinter showing a singleton diamond, three card heart support, and slam invitational values. Perfect.
5. 3S. Invitational. With one more spade and one less club, you should jump to 4S.
6. Pass. Don't look for trouble with a likely misfit. If your spades were stronger, you would say 2S.

"The Future Life Master" is a bi-monthly publication of ACBL Unit 207. Laura Delfeld, editor. Please forward information regarding local novice news to delhan@swbell.net.