



# The Future Life Master



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## Is it in the DNA?



by *Gilda Reynolds*

I'm sure that there are many of you who, like me, grew up around bridge players. In my case, it was my father who inspired my interest in the game. He began playing in the 1950's in Dallas after emigrating from Jordan. Names like Oswald Jacoby, Bobby Wolff, Omar Sharif, and Edgar Kaplan were commonly heard around my house. I probably met these men at some point in my childhood, but had no idea that I would grow up to read their books and wonder at their genius.

As early as I can remember, our summer vacations were spent at huge tournaments....probably a regional or a national. It was always at a nice hotel with a great pool area, so we never minded. By the time I was a pre-teen, I had a budding interest in learning the game, but Daddy said, "Wait until you're out of college." I asked why and was told it was too addictive, and he knew me too well.

As teenagers, my sister and I would whine about having to leave our friends every summer, so Daddy got us jobs collecting the scoring slips. The pay was \$1.25 an hour which beat babysitting at \$.50 an hour. That kept us happy for several tournaments.

(con't on page 2)

## How to Cook a Bridge Lesson

by *Mark McAllister*

The transitive verb "cook" has a slang definition of "To spoil or ruin (something.)" Keep that definition in mind as you read the following bridge story.

Five years ago I was invited to give a series of four refresher bridge lessons at a retirement complex in west Austin. The attendees had all played some bridge in the past, but wanted an update on modern methods. (The complex had a weekly unsanctioned duplicate game.)

My first three lessons were on bidding (five-card majors, weak two's, transfers, negative doubles, etc.), but the final lesson was on play and defense. I pre-made hands into duplicate boards and the boards were passed from table to table, as in a game. To save time I specified the bidding and opening lead for each board.

For the very last board I wanted to illustrate a simple endplay, so I set up the following hand:

♠ Q 7 4  
♥ Q 8 7 4 2  
♦ K 5 3  
♣ K 6

♠ K 10 5  
♥ K J  
♦ J 10 9 2  
♣ Q J 8 3

♠ A 9 6 2  
♥ 10  
♦ Q 7 6 4  
♣ 9 7 5 2

♠ J 8 3  
♥ A 9 6 5 3  
♦ A 8  
♣ A 10 4

(con't on page 2)

## *Is it in the DNA? (con't)*

In my sophomore year in college, I walked in to the student union to get a cup of coffee one morning, and was recruited to be a fourth for bridge. I had always wanted to learn the game, so it was an easy decision to make. Well folks, as the saying goes, "Father knows best." I proceeded to the addiction stage very rapidly, skipped all my classes with 3 other losers, and played bridge all day every day in the student union. As you can guess, it was not long before I flunked out, and had to wait a semester to get back in. It was a hard lesson to learn, but after that I never stepped in to the student union again....no point in tempting fate.

After college, I took up bridge again with a boyfriend who was already a great player and life master at a very young age. He introduced me to thinking bridge....what a concept! That was when I really understood how rewarding the game could be.

By this point, my father had moved on to professional bridge and playing for money. I always wanted to play with him, so we set up a game in Lago Vista, where my parents lived. Needless to say, I was very nervous. He was very kind and patient. After the game, he told me that he was surprised by my skill, and that I had great potential. I melted! The man I had looked up to and admired all my life paid me the greatest compliment. There is not a time when I sit down to play that I don't think of him. I would like to think that he continues to watch me play, and sometimes is proud.

## Tourney Calendar

**Non-Life Master Sectional, BCA--Saturday, February 16 and Sunday, February 17**  
Games at 10:00 & 1:30 Saturday, and 1:30 on Sunday. Partnership Chair: Larry Davis, [larrysdavis@att.net](mailto:larrysdavis@att.net), 512-343-6942

**BCA Sectional--Thursday, February 28--Sunday, March 3, 2013.** Games at 10:00, 2:00 and 7:00, Thurs.-Sat. Sunday Swiss at 10:00 and TBA. Partnership Chair: Pat Rutledge, [pjsr65@gmail.com](mailto:pjsr65@gmail.com), 512-246-0547

More information on these tournaments may be found on the Unit website: [www.austinbridge.org](http://www.austinbridge.org)

## *How to Cook a Bridge Lesson (con't)*

I specified that South had opened the bidding 1 heart and that the contract was 4 hearts (how would you and your partner have bid it?) with opening lead jack of diamonds. The idea was that declarer should play ace of trumps at trick two, hoping to drop the king. When that doesn't happen, declarer plays out the minor suits, ending with a ruff in each hand, then leads a trump. Whoever wins must either concede a ruff-sluff or lead the "frozen" suit, spades. (Whichever side leads a frozen suit first loses a trick they would otherwise not lose.)

I observed the play at a nearby table, where a lady I will call Mrs. Y was declarer. She won the opening lead in hand, and with hardly a pause led the THREE of hearts.

Put yourself in the West seat. Based on the bidding, your holding, and dummy's holding, your partner can have at most one heart. Furthermore, declarer cannot have the ace of hearts or she would have led it. The logic is ironclad...your partner must hold a singleton heart, and it is the ace!

West, a thoughtful gentleman, hesitated briefly but then played the card that every expert in the world would have played – the jack. So Mrs. Y won the queen and finished pulling trumps with the ace. She did eventually lose three spade tricks, but made her contract.

Yes, Mrs. Y had truly cooked my lesson hand, but that's not the end of the story. As I pondered this development with bemused fascination, East wrapped up the episode and tied a bow around it. She chastised her poor partner for not taking the king of hearts at trick two!

## Unit 207 Annual Meeting and Game

**Saturday, February 9**

Attend the Unit meeting at 1:00 and play for free in the 1:30 game. Open and 0-200.

The nominees for three positions on the nine-member unit board are: **Harry Ingham, Blair Lapwing, Gayle Moyers, Gilda Reynolds, Pat Rutledge and Patty Webb.** Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Ballots will be mailed to all Unit 207 members a few days later. They may be returned by mail or at a local club game.



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

***Martha Thurlow - Jeanne Brown (Thurs. am)***

***John Graves - Phyllis Graves (Thurs. pm)***

***Pat Disanza - Barbara Rodriguez (Fri. pm)***

***Brett Bidwell - Lisa Holzgrafe (Sat. am)***

***Margaret Bennett - Fiona Schuurman (Sat. pm)***

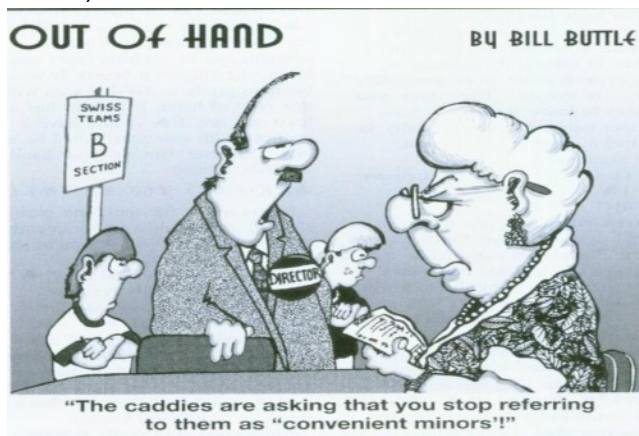
***It's the Law!***

***Any questions, partner?***

It's always a good idea to make your opening lead face down just in case you got it wrong and aren't on lead. Having selected your lead, though, you cannot change it even if you haven't faced it yet.

While your lead is face down, partner or declarer may ask questions or ask for a review of the auction but, contrary to popular belief, this is not their last chance to do so.

Partner or declarer may ask for a review of the auction when it is their first turn to play (either from hand or dummy). This right only expires when they, themselves, play a card. Throughout the game, whenever it's your turn, you can ask a question about the meaning of any opponent's bid or playing agreements. You can also ask what the contract is and whether it is doubled or redoubled (but not by whom).



## Fun Questions from Mike Lawrence

1. The opponents end up in 4S. Your side hasn't bid. You have the A974 of hearts. How often will a good player lead the ace of hearts?

- A) 2% of the time
- B) 15% of the time
- C) 35% of the time

2. How many points, counting distribution, does it take to make a takeout double when your RHO opens 3S?

- A) 14 points
- B) 17 points
- C) 20 points

3. Partner opens 1S. RHO bids 1NT. Which spade should you lead from the Q82?

- A) The queen
- B) The eight
- C) The two

4. The opponents bid 1NT - 3NT. What card should you lead from the KJ1074 of spades if using normal leads?

- A) The jack
- B) The ten
- C) The seven
- D) The four

5. You bid 4NT asking partner for aces. What does he bid if he has all four aces?

- A) 5C
- B) 5NT
- C) 6C

**Answers:** 1.-A, 2.-B, 3.-C, 4.-J, 5.-A.

Visit Mike's website at:  
[www.michaelslawrence.com](http://www.michaelslawrence.com)

"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](mailto:delhan@swbell.net).