



The Future Life Master



Why am I Playing this Game?



by Art Roberts

As I respond to Laura's request to write my second article for her newsletter, I am reminded of how delighted I was when she first asked me to do so. What I have learned during these last three years is:

How much more I have yet to learn about our fascinating pastime...and yet that reality does not concern me at all.

On the beautiful streams of Colorado and Yellowstone, I can spend many hours casting my favorite "fly" into a world where there may not even be a fish. Admittedly, when those few fish "rise" to my bait right in front of them, it is a reward only a fisherman can understand...but it doesn't take a fisherman to understand the similar pleasures we each enjoy when you see that special "play" you or your partner made that got you a good score.

Our game is so easily accessible every day at the Bridge Center, it rivals my other hobby: Each day I play, I see a "Rainbow Trout" within my range every time I open the thirteen cards I am dealt.

As a fisherman admires the beautiful change of foliage colors and the reflections of the early morning sun against the quaking aspen trees, I find that my weekly visits with so many friendly game-foes, is, in its' own way, invigorating in itself.

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Get these Card Combos Right

by Mark McAllister

Although you do need to learn the basics of bidding to enjoy the game of bridge, players new to duplicate sometimes over-worry the bidding and under-worry play and defense. Just because "all the good players" play some convention doesn't mean you have to play it! Keep the bidding simple as you gain experience playing and defending hands; this will maximize both your enjoyment and your learning.

You will impress both your partner and your opponents if you know how to play card combinations that occur frequently. These are often misplayed, trust me! In the combinations below, you are South, declarer, your trump suit is shown, and you have plenty of entries to both dummy and your hand in other suits. What is the best way to play these suits? (Yes, you will end up in seven-card trump fits now and then.)

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|-------------|---|-----------|---------|----|--|-------------|---------|
| 1. | <table border="1"><tr><td>7 6 3 2</td></tr><tr><td>K J 9 8</td></tr></table> | 7 6 3 2 | K J 9 8 | 2. | <table border="1"><tr><td>A Q 9 6 5 4</td></tr><tr><td>J 7 3 2</td></tr></table> | A Q 9 6 5 4 | J 7 3 2 |
| 7 6 3 2 | | | | | | | |
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| A Q 9 6 5 4 | | | | | | | |
| J 7 3 2 | | | | | | | |
| 3. | <table border="1"><tr><td>K Q 6 5 4</td></tr><tr><td>J 9</td></tr></table> | K Q 6 5 4 | J 9 | 4. | <table border="1"><tr><td>A K Q 5 2</td></tr><tr><td>10 9</td></tr></table> | A K Q 5 2 | 10 9 |
| K Q 6 5 4 | | | | | | | |
| J 9 | | | | | | | |
| A K Q 5 2 | | | | | | | |
| 10 9 | | | | | | | |
| 5. | <table border="1"><tr><td>A 10 4 2</td></tr><tr><td>Q 9 5 3</td></tr></table> | A 10 4 2 | Q 9 5 3 | 6. | <table border="1"><tr><td>A Q J 4</td></tr><tr><td>10 6 2</td></tr></table> | A Q J 4 | 10 6 2 |
| A 10 4 2 | | | | | | | |
| Q 9 5 3 | | | | | | | |
| A Q J 4 | | | | | | | |
| 10 6 2 | | | | | | | |

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Why am I playing (con't)

And, although I am often disappointed when my partner and I spend much of our time on defense, I must recall that there is an equally great reward to those who may find defense as challenging as we find we play a hand! On the trout streams, you judge yourself on how many "catches" you pulled to shore, but some of my most rewarding bridge moments come from one good play that I or my partner made that day.

Whether each of us has ever sought to hook a wily trout or not, we can claim that special moment when we hooked "the big one" at the bridge table: My "greatest bridge moment" occurred when I bid and made the only 6NT contract on one specific hand. When I saw the dummy, I knew that not only would I lose the missing Ace, I was destined to lose either a club or diamond ... and I determined that my opponents did not know which suit to save...Every time I made a discard on the dummy, I discarded a club, and my very capable opponents drew the logical conclusion, as they each saved their top diamond. With two cards remaining on the dummy, I led from it to the Ace of Diamonds in my hand, and then turned over my last card, the deuce of clubs! Each opponent logically had assumed that the other remaining diamond was in my hand, not in their partners! It will, for me, remain one of the most memorable and rewarding bridge moments I have ever enjoyed.



Every one of us has had a few such moments, and I offer them to you as the additional reward you receive each time you open those thirteen cards and, like placing that special bait across a mountain stream, you reach for a card in your bid- box and cast it in front of you, hoping that the opponent will rise to the bait, or that your partner will come to assist. And in those moments, often repeated every time you play, lies the answer to the question each of us asks: "Why am I playing this game?"

Card Combos (con't)

7.

10 9 5 4
J 6 2

8.

Q J 6
A 7 4 2

9.

K J 4
A 10 8 5 2

10.

5
A J 10 7 4 2

11.

A J 5 4 3 2
Q 6

12.

A Q 3 2
7 6 5 4

Answers:

1. Lead low to the eight. Gives you better protection against a 4-1 split than low to the jack.
2. Lead the jack and let it ride. Only way to avoid a loser if West has K 10 x.
3. Low to the nine is better than playing jack and hoping for 3-3 split.
4. Lead the ten and let it ride. Loses only when East has precisely Jxx. Wins much more often.
5. Play ace and lead low from dummy...play nine if East follows low.
6. Do not lead the ten for a finesse. West will cover with Kx and East will win trick four with the nine. Lead low from hand and play Q; if it wins, get back to hand and lead low again.
7. Yes, it does matter. Lead low toward the ten. When back in, lead low toward the nine. Don't let West win your jack with Qx, Kx, or Ax.

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First overall in the December 199er Sectional:

Kathleen Monahan - Nola Ray (Sat.)

Jackolyn Richards - Patricia Moore (Sun.)

First overall in the January Sectional, 299er games

Anu Chhabra - Sheila Milner (Thurs. am)

Thomas Smith - Charles Dalton (Thurs. pm)

Sheila Stein - Jack Stein (Fri. am)

Suzanne Deaderick - Fiona Schuurman (Fri. pm)

Thomas Smith - Charles Dalton (Sat. am)

Mindy Kerber - Thomas Hughes (Sat. pm)

It's the Law!

Reviewing the Bidding

During the auction a player may review the bidding at their turn. After the final Pass, declarer may ask for a review before playing from dummy for the first time (even after the opening lead). Either defender may ask for a review at their first turn to play. Declarer cannot review the bidding at their first turn, only at dummy's first turn to play.

After the opening lead is faced, a player at their turn to play, may ask what the contract is and if it is doubled (but not by whom). During play, players at their turn may request an explanation of the opponent's auction, or an individual bid, but not ask to review all the bidding. Players may not ask a question just to suggest to their partner a line of play.

Card Combo answers:

8. Do not lead the queen! Lead low toward the queen. If it wins, get back to hand and lead low again toward jack.

9. You don't know who has queen, but it's best to play East for queen, since you can pick up the suit if East has Q9xx. Lead king, then let jack ride; if East covers and West shows out, get back to dummy and finesse the eight.

10. Best is to play ace first, then lead a low card, hoping for honor doubleton in either hand.

11. If trumps split 3-2, doesn't matter. If trumps split 4-1, only hope is a singleton king, so play the ace first.

12. A beginner will finesse the queen right away. Impress your pard and opps by playing the ace first, then leading toward the queen. They will be even more impressed if East plays singleton king under your ace (which is why you played it that way, to limit possibility of three losers.)

Tourney Schedule

**NLM Sectional, BCA--Saturday,
February 15 and Sunday, February 16**

**Winter Sectional, BCA--Thursday, February 27-
Sunday, March 2**

**NLM Sectional, BCA--Saturday,
February 15 and Sunday, February 16**

**199er Sectional, BCA--Saturday,
April 12 and Sunday, April 13**

UNIT 207 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, February 8. Meeting at 1:00, **FREE** game at 1:30 for all Unit members who attend meeting. **Open and 299er games.** Don't miss this opportunity to learn what is going on in your Unit and meet candidates seeking election to the Board of Directors.