



# The Future Life Master



## On and Off and On and Off and On Again



by *Judy Alpert*

My first experience with bridge was as an outsider. I saw my sorority sisters play, and wondered where they found the time. As an undergraduate music major at USC in Los Angeles, I was so busy with mandatory and frequent choir rehearsals, piano practice, recitals, compulsory music classes, plus the usual requirements of a University undergraduate, that I barely had time to sleep. Bridge definitely had no place in my life! Besides, I had just met this guy who I later ended up marrying. I had not much time for him either. He used to sit in the practice room with me, doing his "home work," while I practiced piano, so we could spend more time together. Given all that, we ended up together. Who knew we'd start to play duplicate bridge some 45 years later?

So, in 1968, UT hired my husband, and we moved to Austin from Los Angeles. A few years after that a very persuasive friend said, "Let's learn how to play bridge together." So, we learned very basic social bridge and, sadly, when these friends moved away we stopped playing. By the way, during all this time my husband was our informal teacher, as he had learned how to play in his undergraduate days in Boston.

(con't on page 2)

## How Would You Play These Hands?

by *Mark McAllister*

Here are four declarer play problems with a common theme. Decide how you would play each one to make your contract and, after all four, identify the common theme. You are South in each deal. The top hand is dummy, the bottom hand yours.

1. Contract: 3NT. Opening lead five of spades. East wins the ace and switches to the queen of clubs. Which will be your nine tricks?

♠ J 10 9  
♥ 7 3  
♦ A K Q 8 6 5 4  
♣ 7

♠ K 6 4  
♥ A K Q 10  
♦ void  
♣ A K 8 4 3 2

2. Contract: 3NT. Opening lead king of diamonds. You duck the first diamond and win the continuation, East following both times. East's holding in clubs is J 7 4. (HINT: Don't take a 50% shot when you have a slam dunk.)

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

♠ A K 10  
♥ A Q 8 4  
♦ A 5  
♣ 10 9 8 6

(con't on page 2)

## On and Off (con't)

About 15 years later we started playing socially again for 3-4 years, then stopped as the group again dispersed. About 25 years later we picked it up again, and this time it STUCK! I guess timing is everything, and for the last 5-6 years I've been taking lessons. I realize I have a lot to learn and I focus on the "lesson" in front of me, instead of what I don't know. Accepting where I am on this fascinating journey is a key to my enjoyment, as well as having a good sense of humor. Sharing this game with my fellow bridge players, friends, and my husband has been the best part of my bridge experience. Among my teachers, Leona Rieger and Laura Delfeld stand out. They have increased my enjoyment and understanding of the game ever so much. Many times when I encounter a challenging situation at the bridge table, I hear their voices in my head, giving me instruction and encouragement

## CONVENTIONS

*Advice from bridge expert, Jerry Helms, on which conventions newer players may want to learn.*

**Level 1:** Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Limit Raises, Weak Two Bids, Negative Doubles, Unusual 2NT, Weak Jump Overcalls, Michaels Cue Bid, Blackwood, Gerber, DOPI.

**Level 2:** Minor Suit Transfers/Stayman, Texas Transfers, Preemptive Raises, Jacoby 2NT, Splinter Raises, Reverse Drury, New Minor Forcing, Responsive Doubles, Maximal Doubles, A conventional defense to 1NT openings, Jordan 2NT, Key Card Blackwood, DEPO.

**Level 3:** Lebensohl, Smolen, 1NT Forcing, Any system over Reverses, Inverted Minors, McCabe Adjunct over Weak Two Bids, 4th Suit Forcing, Unusual/Unusual, Support Doubles

*Despite these recommendations, Helms agrees with the following advice: "For those players ambitious to improve I should proffer the following advice: study card valuation, develop your imagination, rely on your common sense, and adopt as few conventions as possible."*

*—Lelia Hattersley, Contract Developments, 1928.*

## How would you play (con't)

3. Contract: 3NT. Opening lead is six of hearts. East wins the ace and returns the deuce. (HINT: East starts with three diamonds.)

♠ 7 6 2  
♥ J 9 4  
♦ 7 4 5 4  
♣ K 7 5

♠ A K J  
♥ K 10 3  
♦ A Q J 10  
♣ A J 3

4. Contract: 3NT. Opening lead is king of hearts. You duck, and West continues with the queen of hearts.

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

♠ A J 2  
♥ 10 8  
♦ K 9 8 6  
♣ A K 10 2

**Answers:** 1. Your tricks are one spade and 3 diamonds in dummy, AKQ of hearts and AK of clubs in hand. Oh, you *did* play your king of spades under East's ace at trick one, didn't you?

2. After you play two high clubs and realize the blockage, lead a diamond from dummy and pitch a blocking club. This is 100% safe since East has followed to two diamonds, meaning West started with at most five. Let West have his three or four total diamond tricks, you have nine tricks in all after that.

3. Play the *king* of hearts under East's ace to create a second entry to dummy with the jack or nine. You need two entries to finesse in diamonds twice in case East has Kxx.

4. Duck the second heart as well. If West continues hearts, take ace and pitch a blocking diamond. If West switches to spade, win ace, then go to dummy, take ace of hearts and pitch blocking diamond. Nine tricks.



**First overall in the February NLM Sectional:**

*(Art Roberts - Jean Stone (Sat.))*

*(Catherine Supple - Lisa Holzgrafe (Sun.))*

**First overall in the BCA Winter Sectional, 299er games**

*George Ricker - J Martin (Thurs. am)*

*Fiona Schuurman - Barbara Werth (Thurs. pm)*

*Leah Margerison - Rick Margerison (Fri. am)*

*Vickie Reeves - Gloria Bennett (Fri. pm)*

*Suzanne Deaderick - Fiona Schuurman (Fri. pm)*

*Bennett Neiman - George Steele (Sat. am)*

*Three-way tie for Sat. pm:*

*Alan Wakefield - Martha McLain*

*Sally Hillis - June Mattila*

*Linda Gurasich - John Gurasich*



## It's the Law!

### Opening Lead out of Turn

Know Declarer's five options:

1. He can elect to be dummy and make his partner declarer. There is no penalty for the defense. If the legal declarer exposes his hand he is deemed to have chosen this option.
2. He can elect to remain declarer but accept the opening lead, playing next from his own hand so that the lead effectively runs round to dummy.
3. He can refuse to accept the lead and require that the correct defender lead the *same suit* as the illegally led card. The illegally led card is returned to its owner's hand and there is no further penalty. If the defender on lead is void in the illegally led suit then he can lead whatever he pleases.
4. He can refuse to accept the lead and require that the correct defender lead a *different* suit from that of the illegally led card for so long as that defender remains on lead. The defender may choose any other suit and the illegally led card is returned to its owner's hand. There is no further penalty.
5. He can refuse to accept the lead but allow the correct defender free choice of opening lead. In this case, the illegally faced card must remain down as a major penalty card.

## Tourney Calendar

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

**Austin Sectional, BCA-- Thursday, May 1  
through Sunday, May 4**

**NLM Sectional, BCA--Saturday,  
June 14 and Sunday, June 15**

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