



The Future Life Master



Volume 7 Issue 1

Austin, Texas ACBL Unit 207, Laura Delfeld, editor

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Women and Men at Bridge



by LySa Nguyen

Bridge has changed my life for the better, so I was happy to be asked to contribute an article. But I struggled to find a topic or theme that I could write about with enthusiasm. Finally an idea came to me – how men and women approach the

game of bridge differently. I have sat in business meetings for years (often as the only woman) and to be effective I had to observe, and understand, the differences in how men and women think and react to things. These differences, I have found, carry over into the game of bridge.

In general, the men have a statistical, math-based approach to the game. Surprisingly, they do use intuition to their advantage (perhaps because they don't view mistakes as so devastatingly demoralizing.) They are less social, yet more open to providing feedback and advice (especially negative feedback!) They seldom apologize for their mistakes. When asked a question about the game, they are more apt to provide answers confidently, but they are also willing to re-think their answers. Several times my male partners have said things like "The other day my answer to your question was incomplete – here is what I should have said..." I so appreciate this. It gives me a chance to thank them for their willingness to share, and lets me ask further questions that may modify their thoughts on the subject – a win for both of us.

(con't on page 2)

Unblocking on Defense

by Mark McAllister

In a previous column we saw some hands that required unblocking plays by declarer in order to make the contract. Defenders also need to unblock now and then in order to take all the tricks they are due. Take the short quiz below. In all cases you are defending 3NT.

1. The underlined card is played from dummy. What card do you play? What card do you lead next? (You have an ace in another suit that declarer must develop.)

Dummy	
♠ A <u>2</u>	
Lead	You
♠ 6	♠ K Q 5

2. When the 3 is played from dummy, what do you play?

Dummy	
♠ 7 5 <u>3</u>	
Lead	You
♠ K	♠ A 2

3. When the 2 is played from dummy, what do you play?

Dummy	
♠ K 4 <u>2</u>	
Lead	You
♠ J	♠ Q 6

(con't on page 2)

Women and Men at Bridge (con't)

Women tend to focus more on the “rules” of the game. Surprisingly, they use less intuition than men. They are more social at the table, apologize frequently for their mistakes, are much more careful providing feedback/advice, and are less direct in answering questions. The rules of the game give us a framework for playing in the same ball park with men, but wouldn't it be great if we could temper the rules by “reading” our opponents and honing our natural intuition, so that we use balancing strategies when appropriate? I was taught early on by a female mentor not to apologize. She said “You didn't do anything wrong – you acted on the information you thought you had. Just say ‘It didn't work out that time.’” I heard what she said, but still find myself apologizing, darn it!

Loving the game as much as I do means I ask a lot of questions. Perhaps because we women are more nurturing and want to avoid hurt feelings, I have often received hesitant responses from female players. “ I am not really sure but I think it's...” or “You need to check me but I think....” or “I'm not sure I'm the person you should be asking this.” In trying to be protective of each other, we perhaps forgo opportunities to help each other learn and grow.

My observations are in generalities, but I find them helpful in increasing my awareness of my own tendencies as well as tendencies of others. They help me to recognize and appreciate when others go outside of their comfort zones and take risks in order to help me learn and improve.



Unblocking on Defense (con't)

4. When the 2 is played from dummy, what do you play?

Dummy	
♠ K 9 <u>2</u>	
Lead	You
♠ J	♠ Q 4

5. When the ace is played from dummy, what do you play?

Dummy	
♠ <u>A</u> 4	
Lead	You
♠ Q	♠ K 5

6. When the stiff king is played from dummy, what do you play?

Dummy	
♠ <u>K</u>	
Lead	You
♠ 5	♠ Q J 8

7. Your opening lead is 5 of spades against 3nt. The deuce is played from dummy, partner wins ace, declarer plays ten. At trick two partner leads 4 of spades and declarer plays king. What do you play? (You hold an ace in another suit.)

Dummy	
♠ Q <u>2</u>	
You	
♠ J 9 6 5	

Answers on page 3



**First overall in the January Sectional,
299er games**

Fiona Schuurman - Barbara Werth (Thurs. eve.)

Alan Wakefield - Martha McLain (Fri. am & aft.)

Russell Thomas - Robin Thomas (Fri. eve.)

***Jan Miller - Hazel Medellin tied with Russell
Thomas - Robin Thomas (Sat. morn)***

Caleb Gordon - Andrew Hush (Sat. aft.)

**First overall in the March Sectional,
299er games**

Sally Sassen - Ron Sassen (Thurs. morn.)

Bennett Neiman - Lisa Holzgrafe (Thurs.aft.)

Sheila Milner - Anu Chhabra ((Fri. morn.)

Brenda McIndoo - Teresa Mack (Fri. aft.)

Dave Garman - Graham Duke (Sat. morn.)

Wendy Marks - Julie McKenna (Sat. aft.)

Tourney Schedule

**199er Sectional, BCA--Saturday,
April 11 and Sunday, April 12-- 1:30 pm**

**Spring Sectional, BCA-- Thursday, April 30
through Sunday, May 3**

**NLM Sectional, BCA--Saturday,
June 13 and Sunday, June 14--1:30 pm**

More details at: www.austinbridge.org

Answers to Unblocking Quiz

1. Play the queen, then lead the KING of spades. Save your five to lead to partner when you win your side ace. (From Rule of 11 declarer cannot have jack of spades or partner would have led differently.)
2. Overtake partner's king with your ace and continue the suit.
3. Overtake partner's jack with your queen. If you played low declarer could duck next trick to your queen, forcing you to switch suits, giving declarer a tempo.
4. Do NOT play the queen, since it sets up a finesse for declarer against partner's ten.
5. Sacrifice your king under the ace, otherwise the suit is blocked.
6. Play the queen. It guarantees the jack. If your partner started with A9xxx, when on lead later she can lead low to your jack and the suit can be run.
7. The nine or the jack. Declarer would not have played the king at trick two if he had another card, so partner's current holding is 8 7 3. Save your six to lead to partner after you win your side ace and play your high spade.



A Bridge Poem—As shared by one of LySa's Mentors

With 13 or more points I'm required to speak,
And mention a suit that is not very weak.
With 5 cards or longer, I need not be cute,
I merely will open with one of that suit.
But with a four-card major, ahh - that's the rub,
I know I must open, so I'll just say one club.
(or one diamond ..)With 15 - 17, one no-trump will
do, and with 20 - 21, I'll open with two.
When the opponents have opened, my back is to
the wall,
I have good points and length (5), so I must overcall.
My partner has opened, and I'm in a fix,
because I must pass with less points than six,
but if my count is six points to ten,
I must respond once, but not necessarily again.
Now 11 - 12 points is pretty nice,
I will plan to respond, not once, but twice.
With 13 or more points, I would be to blame,
if I let the bid end before we reach game.
With less than 13 and 6 in a suit,
I bid a weak 2 or else get the boot.
My partner will not think or reply,
unless there's 16 points, then a game we shall try.
Alas, with 22 or more points in my hand,
I must open 2 clubs and that is a demand.
With less than a King, 2 hearts I'll say,
we'll just find our suit and hope to bid game.
Although with 8 or more points, it is time to think,
once there's a fit, a slam's on the brink.



It's the Law!

The Revoke:

1. Remember that you do not have to “fess” up. It is up to the opponents to establish that you revoked. (And, no, you may not hinder them by messing up your cards. That is why it is imperative that you agree upon the result after the hand has been declared but before picking up your cards.)
2. There is no revoke on trick 12.
3. With the exception of Dummy, anyone has a right to inquire if a revoke has occurred (and you must answer honestly). Dummy's job is to watch for revokes by the Opponents. He never reports that Declarer has revoked. Only after the hand has been declared, he may then inquire as to revokes. If a revoke is missed, it is Dummy's fault.
4. There is no penalty if the person who reneged did not win the trick he reneged on and his side won no subsequent tricks.
5. There is a one trick penalty if the offender did not win the trick he reneged on, but his side won a subsequent trick.
6. There is a two trick penalty if offender won the trick he revoked on and his side won at least one subsequent trick.

In the case where the injured side believes the renege cost them tricks they should have had, the Director may make an adjustment. For example, an opponent reneges when Declarer is drawing trumps. Declarer has losers that can be discarded on a long suit in Dummy but doesn't get to discard them because the person who reneged, trumps. Now the losers have to be lost. Instead of making 5, Declarer only makes 2. If injury like this can be shown, the Director will adjust the score to bring it back to equity, allowing for penalties.