

## FOR THE NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK.....

*Henry Ford said, "If you think you can or can't, you're right!" It's a self fulfilling prophecy.*

Many of you saw that at the Lone Star Regional Tournament! I saw lots of photos of smiling novice players on the bulletin board and in the daily bulletins. Congratulations for winning and even greater kudos for believing in yourself and coming out to the tournament. You gave it a try and I hope you had a great time. Your next opportunity is just around the corner when the Board of Directors hosts the Election Sectional in April. Tell your friends about your good times and encourage them to believe in themselves and give it a try. They'll be right!

### ***Zero Tolerance***

#### **Zero Tolerance---Begins with You!**

#### **Rate yourself from 1 to 10 with 10 as the ideal player:**

1. Am I a good host at the table? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do I greet others in a friendly manner? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do I praise the bidding and/or play of the opponents? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do I have two clearly completed convention cards readily available to my opponents? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Or do I:**

5. Engage in badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, and violence. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Make negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Give constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Engage in loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your score lower than you'd hoped? Don't despair. It's New Year's Resolution time, and an opportunity for each of us to improve the playing environment at our games and create a more enjoyable experience for everyone.

Your Unit 174 Board of Directors has made a resolution, too. We are focused on Zero Tolerance in 2010. We held an education session on Zero Tolerance at the Regional. The Board strongly encourages Club Managers and Directors to enforce the Unit's Zero Tolerance Policy and impose the penalties for violations specified in the policy. The policy is posted on the Unit website.

### ***Back to the Basics---It's not only for school children!***

Remember these suggestions when you are getting ready to play a hand.

- It's often a good idea to review the bidding just to make certain you remember it correctly.
- Thank your partner as soon as he lays down the dummy.

- Play your cards and the dummy's cards in turn.
- Hold your cards back toward your chest.
- Remember the opening lead—it should give you some information about the hand.
- Ask about your opponents' leads and discards before the play begins.
- Do not give your opponents information about the contract with your facial expressions or mannerisms.
- Do not ask for explanations of the opponents bidding until the bidding is over.
- Do not keep your short suits at either end of your hand.

### ***Defense--you do it half the time***

- Always make your opening lead face down and ask, "Any questions partner?"
- When the dummy comes down add your high card points to the dummy's high card points and make an estimate of the declarer's strength. From this information try to estimate your partner's strength.
- Compliment your opponents occasionally.
- Do not be intimidated by the opponents
- Do not try to intimidate your opponents
- Hold your cards back.
- Be courteous, polite, and ethical.
- Save the discussion for after the game.
- Never ask for an explanation of the opponents' bidding until after the bidding has ended.

### ***Director Please***

The ACBL Convention Card is printed in three colors to aid in the Alerting process:

**Black:** Does not require an Alert.

**Blue:** Requires a descriptive announcement like "transfer" or "forcing" immediately after the bid is made.

**Red:** Requires an alert immediately after the bid is made. Partner must make the alert.

What happens if partner makes a mistaken explanation, an incorrect Alert or fails to Alert? If partner has erred in one of the above ways, the declarer or dummy must notify the opponents and call the director after the final pass. BUT a defender facing the same situation must notify the opponents and call the director after the play ends.

### ***Lord of the Manners***

Manners are the grease that keeps the wheels from squeaking is true in the world of bridge, too. Bridge is a game with manners and protocols that have nothing to do with counting points and counting tricks and everything to do with interaction with others and with being accepted and having fun. Normal, courteous bridge behavior includes making the opening lead face down, calling the director with “Director, please” and realizing that the director is a problem solver rather than an enforcer. You might be surprised and disappointed that not everyone behaves courteously at the table and that there is even a need for a Zero Tolerance Policy. Bad manners should not be tolerated. Do not passively endure bad behavior. You have the right to expect to play in a tranquil atmosphere as well as the means to redress if there is a problem. Calling the director is not accusatory or “not done”. When you realize that you have that option, you will be on your way to becoming a full citizen of our bridge world.

Please send comments regarding this newsletter to [jryan9620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jryan9620@sbcglobal.net). If you would like to be added to the mailing list just give ACBL your e-mail address and you will get it automatically.

See you at the tables

*Joyce Ryan*  
*St. Martin's Bridge School*