

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

Some Sad News

Lynne Graham passed on November 7, 2009, at about 1:15. A family memorial service will be held at her church and burial will take place in Eunice, LA.

Lynne and her family greatly appreciated the outpouring of love and support from her students and friends. In recent weeks Lynne and her family received dozens of cards, phone calls, and visits.

Lynne was at peace and unafraid of death. Her faith was strong and she was surrounded by her family at the end.

Lynne and her beloved friend Mary Lee Bentley will be honored in February at the Lone Star Regional bridge tournament. In the meantime, I know they are counting their cards and opening their bidding boxes happy to be together again.

Lynne loved bridge, loved teaching bridge and loved you, her students.

It's a Partnership game

Never say anything to your partner unless you would want him to say the same to you. If you are unsure whether your partner would want you to say something, don't. This is very much like the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you". To keep a good partner, be a good partner. "Only a few of us will win championships, but all of us can win new friends. And unlike the coveted silver trophies, we keep the friends without having to win them again and again." Dick Frey

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

Notrump is good, but majors are better! You may want to show a minor suit when you really should be thinking about notrump; and sometimes you should be showing your major when you feel that pull to bid notrump. Just remember "Notrump is good but majors are better" When you are required to respond to your partner's take out double, bid your major suit first even when you have a longer minor suit and only a 4 card major suit. When you are responding to your partner's notrump opener, don't forget to bid Stayman when you have a four card major rather than just raising the no trump bid. When your partner opens a minor suit and you respond with notrump, you are denying a four card major. In bridge, we are looking for a Golden Fit which is 4-4 in a major suit. Just remember "**No trump is good, but Majors are Better**" True Story....John Gerber tells his beginning class that after the first series of 10 lessons he will play a few hands with the best table. So the series is over and he picks out the best table and deals the first hand playing with his star pupil. He opens 1NT and his partner replies "2 no spades".

Defense--you do it half the time

Who are you guarding? Aces are meant for taking kings and queens and kings are made for taking queens and jacks. Don't let your Ace capture the 2, 3, and 4. When I was a ten year old playing this game we called the Ace, 2, 3, 4 a "wish" trick. Now I call it a "wish it hadn't happened trick". When you are sitting behind the dummy, you are

guarding the dummy's high cards. If a king is in dummy, your job is to guard it if you have the ace. Keep that king trapped. If you lead the ace and capture the 2, 3, and 4, you have set up dummy's king and are left with a "wish it hadn't happened trick". Maybe this saying will help you. "Dummy on the left, lead to the HEFT, dummy on your right, lead to the LIGHT."

Director Please---When and how to call the director

When someone at the table makes an opening bid out of turn, the director should be called. The declarer will be given five options including accepting the lead and seeing the dummy before playing from your hand, or accepting the lead and putting your hand down and becoming the dummy. You may also require or forbid the lead of that suit from the correct player, or you may want to let them lead anything they want and then the lead on the table will become a penalty card and must be played at the first legal opportunity. It's a good idea to be familiar with the five options before you are presented with them and have to make a choice. Putting your hand on the table and becoming the dummy is sometimes a good choice when it will keep the strong hand hidden.

Lord of the Manners

One of the biggest problems is slow playing, not only with experienced players, but with beginners especially. It is annoying to everyone at the table. Many bridge players believe that if they think and think the right bid or play will occur to them. It doesn't. By pausing so long, you lose your concentration, your focus, and you forget everything and so does everyone else at the table. So here's your mantra, it's better to play fast and dumb than slow and dumb" Roberta Salob, New York

Conventions- -We all need a FEW good ones

Negative Doubles Ain't No Big Deal by Chris Hasney

While double negatives are scary, there's nothing to worry about with negative doubles. They are simply another form of takeout double which says, "I have enough strength to force you to bid something at this level, so please do. If you leave in my double, you have converted my takeout to penalty because you think it's our best spot." Negative doubles say pretty much the same thing: "I have enough strength to force you to bid at this level, so please bid something, preferably something which has not yet been bid.

- Don't rebid your own suit unless you want to play there without any support from me.
- Don't pass unless you have at least KQ10 9 7 or better in the bad guys' suit
- Don't bid no trump unless it's the only thing that makes sense

Volunteer opportunities within the unit

The big Houston Regional tournament is coming up in February. It will be run by volunteers. Help is always appreciated. To help in the new player area, contact Kathy Hughes at 281-437-1339. Get involved—it's fun!

Upcoming events

The next Unit sponsored event is the North American Pairs. The C division will compete at the Houston Bridge Studio on November 15th at noon and again at 5:00pm. Find a partner or check the Unit partnership desk to find one. You must have qualified in a club game to compete. Check the unit website, www.d16acbl.org/unit174 for more information.

Please send your comments, questions and suggestions regarding this newsletter to 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