

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

### *October Tournaments for Silver Points!!*

**Three** tournaments are coming up in October. The first one is a Sectional Tournament at Clubs (STaC) and you can earn silver points right at your local club. It starts October 5<sup>th</sup> and continues throughout the week ending on Sunday. The second opportunity is at the Houston Bridge Studio at 9000 Southwest Freeway. The event is a tournament for players with 0-100 points and the events are Saturday, October 24 at 1:00 and Sunday, October 25 at 10:00 and 2:00. For more information visit their website at [houbriidgestudio@att.net](mailto:houbriidgestudio@att.net). The third tournament is in Humble at the Humble Civic Center. This is the October Halloween Sectional and it awards silver points too. The idea of playing in a tournament need not frighten you. In fact, playing in a tournament in the novice area will allow you to compete against other new players who have the same number of points as you! Come out and see your friends from classes and meet some new friends. Tournaments are a lot of fun. To find out about the tournament schedule go to [www.acblunit174.org](http://www.acblunit174.org). Need a partner? Call Don and Joyce Trimble at 281-444-8188. Another exciting event will be held October 22 at 6:00. It is the area ProAm game and it will be held at Clear Lake, the Houston Bridge Studio, and Bridge Club of Houston. Go to the ProAm without a partner and a Life Master will be assigned to play with you. Enjoy a meal at 6:00, a fun game at 7:00, and play with a master bridge player!

### *It's a Partnership Game*

"I have always believed that your attitude toward your partner is as important as your technical skill at the game"—Rixi Markus, one of the all-time great players. Before you sit down to discuss what you are playing, you should start your partnership off on the right note. Half the battle of winning is being a good partner. Always observe the following:

**Do not give lessons-unless you are being paid to do so. According to an evening paper, there are only five real authorities on bridge in this country. Odd how often one gets one of them as a partner: Punch (British magazine)**

### *Defense—Leading against Suit Contracts: choose the suit and choose the card!*

The opening lead is sometimes critical defeating a contract so you'll want to get off to the right start. Choosing the suit and choosing the right card in the suit are important decisions. Against a suit contract you can:

**Lead your partner's suit:** If your side has bid and raised a suit, it is a likely source of tricks and probably won't give anything away. If partner has overcalled a suit, then you can expect partner to have good holdings in that suit. If partner has opened one of a major, that is a promising lead. When partner opens one club or one diamond, it may not be a four or five card suit and partner might have a very good 4 card major, so more thought is required

**Lead an unbid suit:** It is usually a poor choice to lead the opponents' suits so you may wish to lead an unbid suit. You may be able to start developing winners in that suit.

**Lead a singleton or doubleton:** Leading a singleton is most likely to be effective when it is an unbid suit, when we can expect partner to gain the lead and return the suit before declarer can draw all of our trump, and when we hold the trump ace or king so that we are likely to regain the lead before our trumps are all gone. Leading a singleton is less likely to be effective when it is a suit bid by the opponents because there is less chance that your partner holds the ace and can give you a ruff. Leading a singleton is often less effective if you have 4 or more trumps because it makes it easier for the declarer to draw all of your trumps.

**Lead a trump:** If you suspect that declarer is going to try to ruff losers in the dummy, lead a trump. You might want to lead trump when the opponents settle on the declarer's second suit.

Now that you know which suit, you must choose the card. That is the easiest part:

- Lead the top of touching honors
- Lead fourth best (but don't underlead an ace)
- Lead the top of a doubleton
- Lead low from three to an honor

### *Director Please—When to call the director*

When the opponent leads out of turn, you should call the director. The director will give the declarer some options:

- You can accept the lead and see the dummy before you play from your hand
- You can accept the lead and become the dummy and let your partner play the hand (you may want to do this when the good hand would have been on the table)
- You can require or forbid the lead of that suit
- You can require the lead of the same suit from the correct hand (one time only).
- You can forbid the lead of the same suit for as long as the left hand opponent stays in the lead

- You can let the left hand opponent lead anything and the right hand opponent's card stays on the table. (As long as the penalty card is on the table, the declarer can require, forbid, or let the left hand opponent lead anything).

Remember—it is not unfriendly to call the director. The director's job is to restore equity when one side may have gotten an unfair advantage.

### *Lord of the Manners:*

Duplicate bridge is a timed event. It is improper and impolite to discuss a hand after the hand has been played and it delays the game. Play the boards without discussion and take the opportunity to learn after the game when the hand records are available.

### *Advice from the Expert, George Jacobs:*

Play up! As you start to improve, get into the open games once in a while. You'll be cannon fodder for a while, but sooner or later you will start making better plays and bids. You will learn more at the table than you will against your own peers because they are so much like you. Too bruised and bloodied? Go back to a novice game for a few more times and then try again!

Please send your comments, questions, and suggestions regarding this newsletter to [jryan9620@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jryan9620@sbcglobal.net).

**See you at the tables!**

*Joyce Ryan*