



The Future Life Master



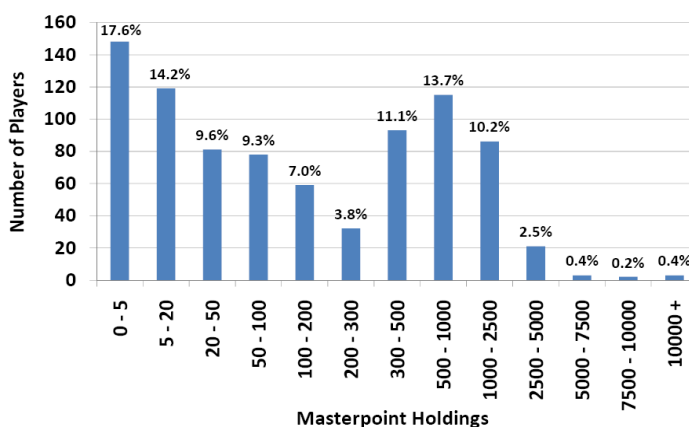
Volume I, Issue I Unit 207

Austin, Texas April, 2009

The Majority Speaks

This newsletter is dedicated to the developing player of Unit 207. Just a glance at the histogram below illustrates how the majority of our Unit is comprised of players with fewer than 100 master points. These players are the future of Austin-area bridge. Each bi-monthly issue of this newsletter is intended to introduce players to a variety of resources to further their understanding and enjoyment of the game. Please forward content suggestions to Laura Delfeld, 512.258.2117 or delhan@swbell.net.

Unit 207 Master Point Holdings



Web Corner:

TheWednesdayGame.com

This website features an expansive convention library in addition to helpful bidding archives. However, what really makes it special is that on the first Wednesday of each month the website sends out a set of computer-dealt hands to Clubs around the country. After their Wednesday Game, players visit this site for the week's **Hand Analyses**, **Bidding Quizzes** and **Play Problems** for the hands they have just played. Starting **Wednesday, April 1** the new 299er game held at the BCA at 11:30 will be utilizing this service by playing pre-duplicated hands the first Wednesday of each month. Just think...that means there will be one game per month where you can actually know, without a doubt, everything your partner did wrong ;-)

<http://www.wednesdaygame.com/index.htm>

Counting: More than the Goren Point System

One of the most constraining tasks for a newer bridge player is feeling comfortable at the table with more experienced players. No one wants to feel out-of-place...psychologically pre-defeated...especially in an environment where fun is an extensive part of the moment. The "good news" in Austin...the more experienced players are very approachable and willing to offer a thought when asked. They are a good resource and all newer players would benefit by taking advantage.

Picking the brain of experienced players is, no doubt, a plus for newer players. Picking your own brain is even better. One of the most fundamental aspects of bridge and one of the most compelling for long-term development is "Counting." Unfortunately, too often a player thinks about counting only in terms of the number of (Goren System) high card points in his/her hand based on Ace is four, King is three and so forth. Counting is much more.

A good rule of thumb to learn...and to implement on every hand, whether you are declarer or a defender...is to add your high card points to those in the dummy when it is faced on the table. Then, mentally review the auction. For example, if you are a defender and can see 14 high card points combined between your hand and the dummy and declarer opened a 15-17 point no trump...then your partner must hold 9 to 11 points. As the play proceeds you will often be able to place cards in partner's hand because you have counted declarer's points along the way. Assuming your partner is practicing the same skill when dummy is faced and the play progresses...this counting habit will serve your partnership well in designing a defensive approach to the final contract and increase/maximize success against the declarer.

Counting is a critical part of bridge. There are numerous books and lessons on counting. This is all good and well. Table practice, however, is the bottom line. Implement good habits at the table to improve your skill and results should tend more toward the positive.

Article by Tom Clark, BCA Club Manager

Novice Game Schedule

Novice or limited games refer to those games in which players holding more than a certain number of master points may not play. Novices are invited to play in **all** games throughout the Unit, however those games that cater specifically to the newer player are:

Monday, 7:00 p.m. BCA 0-199 points

Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. BCA 0-50 points

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. BCA 0-299 points (starts April 1)

Wednesday, 6:45 p.m. BCA 0-50 points

Thursday, 11:30 a.m. BCA 0-750 points

Additionally, Practice Bridge is held at the BCA on **Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Thursdays and Fridays from 12:00-2:00.** Scott Humphrey supervises the Sunday sessions and Rosemary Kelley the Thursday and Friday sessions. Details on Practice Bridge and a complete schedule of games in our Unit, may be found on the website: <http://www.d16acbl.org/U207/>



A bit of bridge slang will make you sound, if not feel, like a veteran. Here are a few bridge slang terms with a bird or animal twist:

Duck—To refuse to take a trick for whatever reason

Quack—A hand which has lots of queens and jacks, or "quacks," is really not as good as its point count would indicate.

Ugly Duckling—A hand with 5-3-3-2 distribution

Moose-- A huge hand, typically with lots of high cards in all the suits. "I had a real moose."

Dog-- A pitiful hand, the opposite of a moose. "That bidding sequence shows a real dog."

Walk the Dog—Now this is very different. "To walk the dog" means to purposely underbid an excellent hand (usually with one very long suit) in the hopes of being doubled.

Forcing versus Non-forcing Bids

Knowing whether partner has made a bid you may or may not pass greatly alleviates some of the tension encountered during the auction. Test yourself on the following common bidding scenarios:

Is partner's last bid forcing, invitational or a sign off?

a) 1♦ 1♠ or 1NT	1♥ 3♥?	b) 1♦ 1♠	1♥ 2NT?
c) 1♥ 2NT	1♠ 3♠?	d) 1♦ 1NT	1♠ 2♥?

a) A jump rebid of his suit by responder after having made a one level response, facing a non-reversing opening bidder is invitational. It is also invitational after a 1 NT rebid.

b) Partner's second round jump to 2NT is invitational, not forcing. It shows 11-12 HCP.

c) Forcing. After you jump to 2NT, any three level bid (other than 3NT) is forcing.

d) Signoff. After you rebid 1NT, a new lower ranking suit at the two level by partner is not forcing. (Unless you are playing some conventional bid like new minor forcing.) You have only two options.--pass or give a preference to 2♠. 2NT doesn't exist on this sequence!

Spring 2009 Classes

Bridge Basics I (Beginning Bridge) Monday, May 11-July 6. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Rosemary Kelley, \$90

Beginning Bridge Play of the Hand (Diamond Series) Tuesday, April 21-June 14, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Scott Humphrey, \$90

More Commonly Used Conventions Thursday, May 14-July 2. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Laura Delfeld, \$90

Bridge Basics IV (Play of the Hand) Sunday, April 26-May 24. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Rosemary Kelley, \$50

All of these classes are held at the Bridge Center of Austin and the text is included in the tuition. Call 300-BRIDge (2743) to register.

Novices in the News

Kudos to **Marlene Golden** and **Sandy Potts** who took top honors during the Saturday, March 7 Unit 207 99er tournament and to **Ed and Judy Parken** who were the big winners on Sunday. Rounding out the top ten winner list were: **Kent and Peggy Stewart, Opi Stielow, Kar-Yee Nelson, Susan O'Dell, and Esther Ellis.**



Tourney Calendar

Mark your calendars with these upcoming tournaments featuring sessions for the Non-Life-Master.

April 4-5 Unit 207 Non- Life -Master Sectional at the BCA--Sessions on **Saturday, 1:30 and 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30.** Partnership chair is Mark McAllister, Markmc9@austin.rr.com 512-587-8524

May 7-10 Unit 207 Spring Sectional at the BCA--199er sessions Thursday through Saturday, 1:30 and 7:00 p.m. Partnership chair is Clara Wood, austin.bridgepartnerships@yahoo.com 512-459-5854

June 18-21 BCA Summer Sectional--199er sessions Thursday through Saturday, 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. Partnership chair is Laura Delfeld, delhan@swbell.net 512-917-5036

Bridge Puzzles

1) Can you construct a deal (meaning all four hands) where North-South are cold for 4 spades against any defense, with North-South holding ZERO high-card points between them?

2) At duplicate bridge there are several ways to score +550. What are the three ways +550 may be obtained?

(Answers in next newsletter or if you can't wait-- on the BCA classroom bulletin board.)



Testimonials



Yup, it's a great game! Here are a few quotes to share with your non-bridge playing friends.

Everything is an opportunity. Everything is possible. Wind and rain, sunshine and snow -- all are the same for the bridge player, for one's success in the game depends not on whether you win or lose, but on how you cope with what you have. You are not playing the cards, but the people."

-**"Vulnerable in Hearts: A Memoir of Fathers, Sons, and Contract Bridge"** By Sandy Balfour, 2006

"Remember when playing bridge was a sign you were becoming your parents? It ranked right up there with golf, knitting and accordions. And then, one day, you looked up and all those things were hip."

-**Albuquerque Journal**, July 24, 2005

"There is an adrenaline rush to this game that should be the subject of a scientific study."

-**Peter Schneider**, Former Chair, Walt Disney Studios

"It's a game you can play at any age. If you take it up young, you have fun doing it the rest of your life. A lot of games don't have that depth. This one does."

-**Bill Gates**, Microsoft founder and ACBL member.

"Bridge is the most entertaining and intelligent card game the wit of man has so far devised."

-**W. Somerset Maugham**, Novelist

"Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players and who were willing to keep the game going 24 hours a day."

-**Warren Buffett**, Investor and ACBL member