

## Tidbits

Dear Newer Players,

The aim of this weekly column will be to offer bridge tips that may assist you improving your game.

They are one-off morsels intended to supplement the mainstream learning that you receive in lessons given by the Club.

To begin with I am going to explain, with examples from our weekly play, some of the "bridge idioms" (*sic*) that were once given to me by Ms Barbara Rosenthal, a USA bridge teacher and follower of the leading Canadian professional bridge educator, Ms Audrey Grant. While I think that these "idioms" are very worthwhile to keep in mind as well as being easily digestible and remembered, using Captain Jack Sparrow's terminology, I think they should be regarded as guidelines more than gospel. Bridge, being the intriguing game that it is, there can be exceptions.

As a taster, the first eight of her "idioms" follow below. I shall cover each of these in future weeks.

- Play the high card from the short side first.
- The one who knows, goes!
- Get the kiddies off the street unless there is something to ruff first.
- Clubs are for the golf course, diamonds are for your fingers (*source: Roberta Salob*)
- If it doesn't fit, quit!
- Cover an honour with an honour (generally)
- Second hand low, third hand high when defending.
- Bad hands go rapidly, good hands go slowly!

Alchemist, November 2020.