

Defensive Strategies for New Players (And some Seasoned Players) by Edith Knowlton

Enroll in a Math refresher class to confirm that you can count to 13, 26, and 33

Make an appointment with a Board Certified Dermatologist to check thickness of skin

Have eyes checked, periodically by Optometrist to certify the ability to distinguish spades/clubs, hearts/diamonds and Kings/Jacks

Develop a photographic memory to recall all contracts, bids, and leads made at current game. (Don't forget to include last week/month)

Schedule frequent yard and bake sales to supplement fees and travel expenses

Join a SPA or the "Y" for weightlifting (carrying a heavy load); Running (an uphill battle); Walking (falling by the wayside)

Purchase a First-Aid Kit to treat the wounds, shock, battles, scratches, and bruised egos encountered along the way

Take a correspondence course on, "How to Defend Oneself" as you will be constantly "Tried" and "Judged" by peers and seasoned players

Decide and discuss with partner before attending games whether you want to be a yard chicken that only scratches or become Mrs. Winner's delight

Carry a supply of nitroglycerine to ward off heart attacks as partner bids/displays hand

Become a Psychic in order to interpret/predict partner's hand

Order a Prayer Cloth; NEVAH leave home without it, as you will use it frequently for controlling emotions, not cussing at the table, and specially to make an impossible bid

Engage an Exorcist to rid self and partner of bad leads, incorrect responses, poor defense, inattention and animation at the table

Hire a sitter to keep Arrogance, Ego, Attitude, Fear, Intimidation, Boasting, and Rudeness safely at home

Employ an Exterminator to destroy negative vibes, poor sportsmanship, discourtesy, and dishonesty at the bridge table

Check frequently with a Psychiatrist to determine that you are, indeed sane as you continue to play this challenging game

Enroll in a "Manners" class; refresh memory of how to treat opponents, partners and Directors. Review process of winning graciously and losing without rancor

Swim carefully in the Bridge Ocean as there are sharks barracudas, and stingrays lurking in these waters. However, you will be surrounded by schools of angelfish, minnows, shrimp, and even dolphins

Finally, **devote** time, resources, expertise and energy toward improving the status of our historical Organization, **The American Bridge Association**. Encourage others to join and actively participate in meetings (Local, Sectional and National). Become a leader and recruiter. Change can and will come with your involvement We need **you and your support**.