

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

By now you have all heard the news that Larry Cohen is coming to Albuquerque. Unit 374 is sponsoring this world-renowned bridge author, teacher and player to lecture and give playing lessons at the Duke City Bridge Club August 4-5. The club has room for 120 people to participate in this event and we have sold almost all of the seats to Unit members.

Felicity Moore has done an excellent job in making all the arrangements for Larry's visit which we all anticipate will be a success. This event is an excellent example of what your Unit 374 Board does with Unit 374 funds.

For some background, Unit 374 is the official local ACBL organization in which you become a member when you join the ACBL. The Unit currently has 622 members and elects a ten person board of directors. The Unit is responsible for putting on Sectional and Regional Tournaments; holding one game a week on Sunday afternoons at the DCBC; dealing with bridge administration; and promoting bridge. Our major sources of revenue are tournaments which succeed primarily through the efforts of volunteers.



Back to Larry Cohen – After a successful 2007 Regional, Felicity, or Felix as you all know her, proposed that we bring in Larry to teach for two days as a way to give something back to the Unit membership and promote bridge in Albuquerque. His lessons are primarily aimed at intermediate players but can benefit anyone who is interested – no matter what their experience.

Normally, bridge organizations sponsor events such as this to raise money and typically charge \$100 to participate. We are charging \$25 for the entire two day event primarily to assure that the participants are



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ASK AL

Q: What is your favorite convention?

A: (I've borrowed this idea from a District 6 website, and asked a panel of top local players their opinions. My comments are in parentheses.)

Judy Randel My favorite convention, I suppose, is the negative double, because there are so many hands that I would have no idea how to bid without it. I really don't care for exotic conventions, but really like those that come up time and time again.

Eddie Walker Stayman is still my favorite convention. Nothing fancy, easy to use, high frequency of applicability, easy to remember, never forgotten. I would not like to be without it. Rodney Wilton adds Jacoby Transfers in conjunction with Stayman. It seldom causes confusion and it is effective.

Merlene Krall One of my favorite conventions is Jacoby 2NT. I know partner has 4 cards in my suit and the rebids by opener are simple: 3 of a suit is shortness, rebid of the major 16-plus points, 3NT a good 14-15 points, 4 of a new suit a second 5-card suit, and 4 of the trump suit is minimum. *Jackie Evans* makes



serious about attending and to limit the size of the crowd to the capacity of the building. If this event proves to be successful, we will hold more of them in the future and also try to assure that we can include all New Mexico players who are interested.

There are several factors which make it possible to hold bridge events like this and which make bridge in Albuquerque a growing activity.

First, we created a cooperative work environment among the several organizations serving our bridge community. Working together, we have established a wider scope of alternatives and ideas. We plan to nurture these relationships in the coming years.

Second, facilities are needed in order to keep costs down. Thanks to the efforts of the DCBC Board and membership support, Duke City Bridge Club is a great facility. Recent remodeling made this club ideal for teaching as well as playing bridge. (I am also happy to add that the Unit made a substantial contribution to the remodeling.)

Third, we need volunteers who want to serve the bridge community by running for board positions, working at tournaments, providing hospitality, etc. You, the members, have shown that you are willing to volunteer and this is but one way that we can thank you.

Bill Kass

Ask Al, cont'd from page 1

the same choice, and adds that she can sometimes get to a slam that would otherwise not be reachable on high card points alone.

Rodger Arnold I like Flannery (a 2 diamond opening bid showing 4 spades and 5 hearts, 11-15 points usually). I find this more useful than some other 2 diamond opening bids, and it allows you to define your hand accurately and get to many superior contracts other players miss. Responses to the opening bid need to be discussed thoroughly.

Karin Griffin My favorite convention is Minorwood, which allows a try for slam in a minor at a low level. It is used in a power auction where either partner has bid clubs or diamonds, and it is just like Keycard Blackwood, with 4 of the minor suit asking for controls. The difference is you can sign off in 4 no trump. Ann Ingram also likes Minorwood, and gives this example: Partner opens 1H with S-xx, H-AJ109xx, D-void, C-Axxxx. Ann held S-Axx, H-Q, D-Axx, C-Kxxxxx and responded 2 clubs. After Ann responded two clubs and partner raised clubs, she had an easy path to 7 clubs from there.

Dennis Dawson I like RKC a lot, especially with kickback. (Keycard Blackwood includes the king of trump as a control. Kickback uses a bid at the 4 level in the suit just above the agreed trump suit as key card asking.)

Bill Kass My favorite convention is Compressed Bergen. After partner opens one of a major suit, 2NT is Compressed Bergen, and shows at least 6 high card points and 4 or more trumps, but may also be a much better hand. Opener now describes his hand, and responder may signoff, ask for information, or cue bid. The compressed aspect comes in because Jacoby 2NT and 3C/3D Bergen raises are all included in one bid of 2NT.

Q: Conversely, what is your least favorite convention?

A. (There is not as much agreement about this question, and some of the answers are rather popular conventions. That's partly why bridge is so endlessly fascinating.)

Judy Randel Really easy-I hate the support double. (This is a double by opener when an opponent has overcalled, and it shows 3 card support for partners suit.) I was coerced into playing it one time and picked up this hand, vulnerable: S-Kxxx, H-xxxx, D-QJx, C-xx. My partner opened one club, I scraped up a one heart bid, LHO bid 2 diamonds, and here came the support double by my partner to show 3 hearts. Ugh! Now what sports fans? Two spades? Horrible! Two hearts? Worse than horrible! 2 no trump? You have to be kidding! 3 clubs? That's a laugh. No matter what I bid, I saw a huge number looming in the distance, and I wasn't wrong. If my partner has a minimum hand, who cares if he has three hearts or not? 

DCBC NEWS

Many thanks to Marilyn and Dave Anderson for donating a new computer to our club. Also thanks to Bob Henderson and Russ Edwards for installing the new projector screen in the south room. A new projector is also being purchased. Russ did a great job of repainting our outside doors. He is also going to repaint the wall outside where the people smoke. Please don't put your feet on the wall. We need everyone to help keep our premises looking presentable.

As you have all heard, the new Duplimate machine has arrived. The board decided that it would be up to the director each day as to whether he or she will use it on that particular day. DCBC and the unit paid for the machine. Not everyone was in favor of this purchase, but it has been done, so let's give it a try with a positive attitude.

Regarding parking--thanks to Jerry Shinkle for making and posting a map designating where we could and could not park at the bank. Please DO NOT park in A and B. Also, we are still pursuing the possibility of using the Walgreens parking lot. I will keep you informed of developments. Please refrain from parking in our lot's fire lane. Also, if you park in a handicapped spot, please always display your handicapped card,

Bridge lessons will resume on Saturday, September 8, at 9:30 A.M.. Keesha Ashanti will guide new students . Francie Straw and Pat Plummer will work with Advancing/Intermediate students.

Mary Erickson

DISTRICT 17 NEWS

At the District 17 meeting in Denver, one issue pertinent to Unit 374 was voted upon and passed by the Board of Directors. Beginning January 1, 2008, card fees at District 17 Regionals will go up from \$10.00 to \$11.00. Remember, if you have any questions about District 17 action, you can contact me at Wargrif@aol.com.

Karin Griffin

Ask Al, cont'd from page 2

Merlene Krall The system I like least is the double negative bid of 2 hearts to the 2 club opening. To have to make a positive bid of 2 diamonds with only a king creates a lot of problems.

Karin Griffin My least favorite is a 2 diamond opening that some players use showing 9 cards in the majors but less than 10 points. I feel it is destructive, especially to newer players or to players that are not as strong. (The ACBL Convention Charts prohibit some bids except at the highest levels, in part because they can be destructive, especially to newer players, or even to players unfamiliar with the bid. Users of really unusual bids need to be able to tell opponents how to defend.)

Bill Kass I dislike the conventions that never seem to come up; for example, three of a major over 1NT showing a singleton in that major and game-going values. I seem to waste a lot of effort remembering something that never occurs and then worrying that partner forgot.

Ann Ingram NAMYATS, because no one plays it the way it was written, which is geared for slams and not preempts. (NAMYATS is Stayman in reverse, and is a system of opening transfer bids for hands with a long major suit.)

Dennis Dawson I don't like 2 clubs strong, artificial, and forcing--would much rather be playing Precision. (Precision is the most popular of several systems which use a one club opening bid to show all strong hands. It is considered especially accurate in bidding good hands).

Eddie Walker Some that I don't play, like the Wolff Signoff to name one, are okay but, because of frequency, are not worth trying to remember. If I don't like a convention, I don't play it. One always has to decide the worth of the natural bid the convention replaces.

Rodney Wilton My least favorite convention is Stolen Bid. (Partner opens 1NT, your RHO overcalls two diamonds, for example, and you double to say you would have bid two diamonds as a transfer.)



ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY AWARD

Two couples were nominated for the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award for 2007. James and Sue Azar and Henry and June Schutzberger are being recognized for signing the lease for the purchase of the Zuni Clubhouse. Ownership of the Zuni clubhouse made expansion to the Northeast facility possible several years later. We owe them a debt of gratitude for assuming that risk, and making club ownership not only possible, but profitable for all the members. Jim and Sue are no longer active in the club, but Sue served on the DCBC Board of Directors during its fledgling years. Hank has passed away, and we all know and love June. Thank you very much, Azars and Schutzbergers!

A WEEKEND WITH LARRY COHEN!

Larry Cohen, ACBL Player of the Year 2002, and winner of many National Championships, will be in Albuquerque during August to present a two-day seminar for intermediate players. Larry is the author of the best-selling bridge book, "The Law of Total Tricks" and has lectured all over the world.

Unit 374 is subsidizing this event and the charge to our members is very affordable. Larry's subjects will be "Competitive Bidding using the LAW", "Declarer Play - Larry's Key Thinking Points" and Opening Leads and Defense".

The seminar will take place on August 11th and 12th at the Duke City Bridge Club. There is enough space for 120 registrants, and 120 unit members have reserved their seats. It is possible that there will be some last minute cancellations, so if you would like to be placed on a waiting-list, please contact Felix Moore at f.moore@netscape.com <<mailto:f.moore@netscape.com>> or call her at 344-5209.

QUIPS & QUOTES

It's not the handling of difficult hands that makes the winning player. There aren't enough of them. It's the ability to avoid messing up the easy ones. *-Alan Sontag*

Learn from the mistake of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself. *-Alfred Sheinwold*

Ask Al, cont'd from page 3

Assigning a very specific meaning to double when the opponents overcall your NT makes many hands unbiddable.

Rodger Arnold I dislike Ogust and Drury because the opener will make bad bids thinking he can escape at a low level. (Both Ogust and Drury ask about the quality of opening bids-Ogust for a weak two opening, and Drury for a third or fourth hand opener.) Bad opening bids will often get partner off to the wrong lead.

Jackie Evans My least favorite convention is the 1NT-2NT relay to three clubs, showing a club bust hand or a hand with 4-4-4-1 shape with slam interest. The reason this convention is no longer on my card is because it comes up so rarely that I forget it and get the inevitable and well-deserved zero.

Jackie gets the final word: I believe if one cannot remember a convention after a normal period of trial and error, one should not play it.

Al Beebe, abeebero@comcast.net

ON RANDOM NUMBERS

by John Mantle

The use of computers to deal bridge hands, using a random number generator plus a program to arrange the cards into hands (N, E, S, W) ensures that hands can be pre-dealt free from the problems arising from manually dealt hands which can if not properly shuffled be too often of a similar type and shape.

However, it is possible for a software bug to exist which could result in the auto dealer introducing the very problem it was meant to avoid. I must admit that I had become a little suspicious that this might be occurring when it seemed that there were more voids and singletons cropping up than normal, so I decided to do some research on the subject.

Taking a printout of the hands played for one particular evening, I decided to see how many hands contained two or more cards in every suit, compared with the number of hands which contained a singleton or void, the results were: singletons = 26 voids = 6 neither = 4, total number of boards = 24.

In other words, only four boards out of twenty-four did not contain a singleton or void; this seemed high, and checking in the Encyclopaedia of Bridge, a percentage table for all hand shapes produced 64 % for two or more cards in each suit, leaving 36 % for the average number of hands containing singletons or voids.

It took me a little while to realise that the problem was that I was confusing hands with boards, therefore, twenty four boards yield ninety six hands, of which, about sixty two or three will have nothing worse than a doubleton, and thirty eight/seven will have none or one. As there are twenty four boards, it is possible for each board to contain an average of one and a half voids or singletons!

To check this out for yourself, I suggest that you take the first 25 boards, not 24, as this will give you a hundred hands and avoid the maths needed to work out percentages. Take a sheet of paper and write the numbers 1 to 25 down the side, make two columns A and B for each board; enter the number of hands with 2 or more cards in each suit in column A and the number of hands with a void or singleton in column B. Add up each column and this should be a total of about 64 for column A and 36 for column B.

I have done this for thirteen Monday and Tuesday nights and got an average of 63.8 % for column A which I hope you will agree is pretty good.

Editor's Note: Its nice to know that the duplimate software is free of any software bugs and doing exactly what we bought it for - producing totally random hands.

PERPETUAL SERVICE AWARD

by Susy Law

Five people were nominated for the Perpetual Service Award this year. Their names were submitted to a selection committee composed of unit members who have belonged to the unit for more than 20 years, and are well regarded for their fairness and impartiality. The committee included the following members:

Marilyn Anderson
Al Beebe
Larry Bertholf
Sadie Bivin
Sherry Bradley
Azzalee Hayes
Joan Kabella
Merlene Krall
Mary Nelson
Tony Pazera

In order to be eligible for the Perpetual Service Award, a person must have donated at least 15 years of his/her time to the administration and benefit of duplicate bridge in Albuquerque, NM. It has nothing to do with playing skill or monetary donations. Instead, it recognizes the expenditure of time, hard work and continual oversight of the well-being of our players and the game over a significant number of years.

The five nominees were:

Mary Erickson
Joe Harris
Frank Hines
Norma Johnston
Bill Koehler

The vote was close, and all the committee members remarked that making a selection was extremely difficult. The unit is pleased to announce that Frank Hines received the most votes, and his name will be added to our Perpetual Service Award Plaque. His nomination form read as follows:

"Frank served as president of the Duke City Bridge Club from 1989 to 1998, and steered the membership through the difficult negotiations of purchasing the new clubhouse at Northeastern - an extremely difficult endeavor that required an abundance of patience and the ability to bring warring factions together to find a workable resolution. He presided over the institution of the no smoking rule - another divisive issue that required excellent leadership skills. Every week-end, for several years, he and a friend took care of the DCBC's maintenance, watering plants, trimming shrubbery, replacing ceiling tiles, and the like. Frank was an active member of the unit for over 40 years, and was a pleasant and humorous bridge opponent and partner."

DEALING THE CARDS

by Linda Hayes

For the past 5 months, the Duke City Bridge Club has been researching the use of machines for dealing cards, and whether or not one would be beneficial for use at the club. On Tuesday, May 8, the DCBC Board voted to purchase one – called a “Duplimate.” The Unit has worked in conjunction with us, voted unanimously for it, and graciously agreed to pay half of the price.

This is a new concept and practice. The following information is being offered to help all players understand what it will mean for us. Felix used it for years and will be leader of this.

Jannersten Forlag AB is the originator of the Duplimate and has been in business the longest with the most progressive technology. Their equipment is also the most expensive. After research and discussions with other clubs and club members, DCBC decided to purchase the “best”. There is also a 12 month return guarantee with full refund if we are not happy with it. The following lists the pros and cons we considered before purchasing.

Pro	Con
Boards prepared ahead of time so the game can begin promptly. Finish in time to beat the rush hour traffic.	Expensive at \$5000 for machine and 4 sets of boards and cards
One full set of boards can be prepared in 7 minutes (prior to game).	Bar coded cards – will take time for players to adjust to seeing them.
The machine can be set to deal randomly, or from prepared deals (ACBL-generated).	Negative perception by many club members of “computer hands.”
The machine prepares hand records. Director does not need to hand enter during game.	
Machine cross checks for errors and will alert the error.	
Compatible with our current software.	
Cards have four colors for easier sorting, and last up to twice as long.	
Multiple educational advantages: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vu-graph or TV demo the deals 2. Can use previously dealt hands 3. Can set up certain type of hands (INT openers) 4. Replay at home software 5. Download championship hands hours after play 	
Security built in—no one can see hands until “unlocked” by director.	

Newer Players Page

SAVING TIME WHEN IT'S TIME TO MOVE!

West leads the King of hearts and finds his partner with A842 and the opponents take four heart tricks before West continues with the King of diamonds. The round has just been called so to save time declarer spreads his cards and claims nine tricks. What will be his ninth trick?

<u>North</u>				
♠ K6532				
♥ J3				
♦ AJ	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
♣ QJ76				1♠
	P	P	2♣	P*
	3♣	P	3NT	All Pass
 <u>South</u>				
♠ A10				
♥ 976				
♦ 542				
♣ AK1098				

ABQ 299^{ER} SECTIONAL IN AUGUST

If you are a 299er, you have a chance to win silver points right here at Duke City Bridge Center.

The tournament will take place on 18th and 19th August at the DCBC, and there will be stratified Pairs and Swiss Teams. As always there will be great snacks coordinated by the Unit Hospitality Chair, Wilma Morris.

So mark your calendars and come out for a great week-end of bridge!

SOLUTION TO SAVING TIME

Answer: The jack of diamonds or a small spade.

On the bidding, West is marked with five spades and the Queen of diamonds. Remember East passed his partner's opening bid and turned up with Axxx in hearts.

When declarer leads his last club, the position will be:

Solution Next Column

SCHEDULE OF DUPLICATE GAMES FOR NEWER PLAYERS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Starts</u>	<u>MstrPt Range</u>	<u>Director</u>
Mon	9 am	0-99 MPs	Marilyn Anderson
Tues	12:30p	0-199 MPs	Jerry Duncan
Wed	6.30p	0-299er MPs	Rick Wiegler
Thurs	12.30p	0-199er MP	Marilyn Anderson
Fri	9 am	0-99er MPs	Felix Moore
Sat	1 pm	0-199er MPs	Bill Koehler

Contact Duke City Bridge Club (271-2877) or any of the directors for more information or if you need to find a partner.

<u>North</u>		
♠ K65		
♥ ---		
♦ J		
♣ ---		
<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	
♠ QJX	<i>Immaterial</i>	
♥ ---		
♦ Q		
♣ ---		
<u>South</u>		
♠ A10		
♥ ---		
♦ 5		
♣ 8		

West will have to discard on the club before dummy. This is called a POSITIONAL SQUEEZE. Reverse the East and West hands and there would be no squeeze, because East would not discard until after he had seen dummy's discard.

Odds & Ends

FAST PAIRS' GAME

Don't have time for a three-hour game? Try Fast Pairs! A Fast Pair game is held on Friday mornings at 9:30. You are allotted 5-1/2 minutes to bid and play each board. With one break, you will finish by noon, guaranteed!

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

☞ Have a favorite bridge snack?

☞ Need to try out a new recipe?

☞ Have an urge to bake/buy a goodie and don't want to admit you "ate the whole thing"?

Call Wilma Morris at 255-6505 to donate one of the above or to volunteer your hospitality services for an April, May or June Sunday game.

P.S. All surprises welcome!!!

NEARBY TOURNAMENTS

July

12-15th Denver Sectional
 13-15th Prescott Sectional
 13-15th Ruidoso Sectional

August

10-12th Grand Junction Sect.
 18-19th ABQ 299er Sectional
 13-19th Phoenix Regional
 20-26th Western Conference
 Swiss Team STAC

September

31st -3rd El Paso Sectional
 6-9th Colorado Springs Sect.
 28-30th Los Alamos Sect.

A Double Squeeze

by Al Beebe

<u>North</u>		
♠	953	
♥	108	
♦	Q10976	
♣	J83	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠	K2	♠ 1084
♥	AQJ964	♥ K2
♦	KJ	♦ A843
♣	A107	♣ K962
<u>South</u>		
♠	AQJ76	
♥	753	
♦	52	
♣	Q54	

Rodney Wilton came across this nice example of a double squeeze play at Duke City BC recently (see box at left). West reaches 4 hearts after a spade overcall by South, and can see 11 tricks after the first two spades. The diamond finesse for the queen is an obvious chance for a 12th trick, but loses in this case. The first thing to do is to recognize that a squeeze might exist: a double squeeze on this hand. On the run of six heart tricks, North will have to hold diamonds, and South must hold spades. Declarer must take care not to pitch the 10 of spades from dummy. It is called a threat card. Dummy can discard two clubs and one diamond.

On the sixth heart, north will have to pitch a club in order to hold three diamonds. Dummy can then discard another diamond. South must hold the high spade. But when declarer plays a diamond, South is squeezed and must discard a club, allowing declarer to win the last trick with a diamond and three clubs.

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

Junior Master

Joseph Kavanaugh
 Suzanne Star
 Martha Trainer
 Tex Ritterbush
 Craig Tyner
 Ruth Webb
 Lore White
 Donald C. Winsch

Club Masters

Leo Pigaty

Sectional Masters

John Curro
 Katherine L. Irwin

NABC Masters

Teri Carpenter
 David Kelsey
 Cindy Bennewitz
 Robert Carr

Life Masters

Albert Dennis
 Linda Hays
 Elaine Stone

Bronze Life Masters

Norman Cliff
 Bill Fickel
 Suzanne Fickel

Silver Life Masters

Don Huffine
 Marc Stone

Gold Life Masters

Bill Koehler
 Mary Lou Arnot

**NEW MEMBERS /
 TRANSFERS IN**

Ed Gosnell
 Linda McCormick
 Jo M. Rose
 Georganne Seeley
 Patricia Elder
 June Lobberegt
 Dr. James Negro
 Gordon Tolle
 Marybeth Miller
 Arjune Bose
 Dr. Ranjit Bose
 Bonnie Bright
 Dennis Cloyd
 Ulrich L. Hetmaniuk
 Laurine S. Howard
 John G. Knight
 Billie H. Erickson
 David G. Hettema
 Darius V. Jackson
 Jean O'Hara



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Sunday games at 1:30p are hosted by Unit 374. They are regular Pair Games, *except* for the following special games:

July:

- 1st Swiss Team Championship
- 8th North American Pairs/
Board Meeting
- 15th Regular Game

- 22nd Unit Pairs Championship
- 29th Regular Game

August:

- 5th North American Pairs
- 12th Unit Pairs Championship*
- 18 - 19th 299er Sectional**
- 19th Regular Game
- 26th Western Conference
Swiss Team STAC

September

- 2nd Swiss Team Championship
- 9th Regular Game/
Board Meeting
- 16th Unit Pairs Championship
- 23rd Regular Game
- 30th Regular Game

* Larry Cohen Weekend

** See Flier, enclosed

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