

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

I just talked to the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North and found that the rooms reserved for the upcoming 2008 Albuquerque regional are filling rapidly. I hope this is a sign that we will have another well-attended tournament like we did in 2007. The last time we were in the Marriott was 2003. It worked very well as a tournament site then and has excellent playing facilities. It only lacks the attraction of nearby Old Town, which is important to many out-of-town visitors. I hope all of you local players can come for at least a couple of days of play. Remember January 21-27 are the dates and the Pyramid is located west of I-25 between San Antonio and Paseo del Norte.

It is my habit to review the Unit 374 accomplishments in this end-of-the-year column. Most recently, we made charitable donations to Toys for Tots (\$300), which focuses on feeding the homeless; St. Martin's Hospitality Center (\$1000), which provides day care for low income families. Mary Symons was responsible for researching and recommending these charities and the entire board would like to thank her for her enthusiastic efforts.



Our Fall Roadrunner Sectional was again successful under the guidance of Felicity Moore. Attendance was about the same as previous years but the highlight was her response to a request by I/N players to provide for a separate Swiss Teams section on Sunday. The players themselves organized enough teams (eight) to qualify to play in their own section. Well done to all of you.

Another accomplishment that the Unit and DCBC made jointly was the purchase of a duplicating machine. The Duplimate generates random hands, deals the cards, puts them into the boards, and creates hand records.



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ASK AL

Q: Okay, so how can you really tell when partner has made a penalty double?

A. The easy answer is that a double is for penalty when it isn't something else. Originally in bridge, almost all doubles were penalty doubles, and those were quite rare. For that reason, other uses for the bid were developed, the most common being the negative double. I would guess that more than 90 per cent of all doubles made today are conventional of some sort.

The Bridge Encyclopedia lists many of them: lead directing doubles, cooperative doubles, support doubles, maximal doubles, Lightner doubles, Rosenkranz doubles, and my favorite, the striped-tail ape double.*So you and your partner need a good understanding of what conventional doubles you play.

But there are some instances when double is unequivocally for penalty. If partner has opened the bidding with a preemptive bid: three spades by partner, four hearts by opponent, double by you is definitely a penalty double.

Another is when you repeat a double after partner pulls your first double: one spade by

President's Column, cont'd from page 1

It allows for play to start faster, players get to play more common boards – all with fewer errors. No matter what you think of ‘computer’ hands, this system really works – all that is left for the players is to bid, play and defend the hands.

The highlight of the summer was the Weekend with Larry Cohen (this has since become known as the Larry Cohen Affair) organized by Felicity Moore. Responses to Larry’s teaching methods, delivery and humor were almost 100% enthusiastically positive. Larry and his wife Maria were also pleased with their visit to Albuquerque. Because they were vacationing in Utah at the time Felix was able to arrange this event and charge only a small fee to the participants (with some subsidy from the Unit).

At the beginning of the year we started with the 2007 Regional which was the largest financial success we have had – bringing in over \$10,000. This is what allows the Unit to do what it does best – promote bridge.

In November, Unit board elections were held. Newly elected members are Keesha Ashanti, Mike Gray and Bob Zipp. Bill Kass (President) and Susan Law (Secretary) were re-elected. Departing members are Nancy Kruger, Mary Symons and Rick Weigle. Members who have one year left on their term are Jill Burtram (Vice-Pres), Felicity Moore, Wilma Morris, Buck Schreyer, and Jerry Shinkle (Treasurer). Thanks to everyone for their service.

Bill Kass

Ask Al, cont'd from page 1

partner, two hearts by opponent, double by you; partner rebids spades, and the opponents bid hearts again. Your first double was for takeout, but a double now is penalty. You probably have something like 1-4-4-4 shape.

Similarly, when you get a second chance to double a contract you could not double the first time opponents bid because it would have been conventional: one heart by partner, opponent bids one spade, you pass, LHO bids two spades and partner passes to you, double is for penalty. You could not double one spade because it would have been a negative double.

Out-of-the-blue doubles at a high level: one spade by your right hand opponent, partner passes, three spades by LHO, opener bids four spades, and now you double. This double is usually based on a trump stack with high cards. I once played six spades missing the AKQ, all in one hand. Yes, I was doubled.

Some penalty doubles are changing. In standard, if partner opens one no trump and the opponents bid a suit, your double is penalty. But many are now playing that a double is a takeout or conventional, so you need to discuss your meaning. Similarly, a double by you of one no trump once was definitely penalty—you believed you could set one no trump based on your own hand. That’s a rare hand, so most now play this double as showing an equivalent no trump hand, and partner is not required to pass. This means that if you have the real penalty double hand, you probably should pass and hope that you can double later, or at least get a plus score.

So, when should you pull partner’s penalty double? The real answer is, when it is right, and it is frequently right when you have not had a chance to describe your own, unusual hand. A big two-suited hand, for example, that is better suited to offense than defense may be a valid excuse to pull. It may also be right to pull when you don’t have the values for your original bidding, but you then run the risk of running into a huge penalty double yourself, as well as an upset partner.

But if your hand contains no surprises for partner or your opponents, based on your previous bidding, then you should pass and expect to get a good reward. Frequently, I hear players tell their partner, after pulling a penalty double, that "I had no defense." Many times, partner was not expecting you to have defense.

*A striped-tail ape double is a double of the opponent’s game contract when you think they clearly have slam. You hope they



DCBC NEWS

In June 2005, we returned to a Duke City Bridge Club that had been completely remodeled and freshly painted. Unfortunately, after only two years of use, we are starting to see unwelcome evidence of wear. We can minimize that by being more careful how we use our club. Following are some suggestions of how everyone can help to mitigate the problem.

Paint has been worn or chipped off the walls because the chairs have been placed too close to them. Please be sure your chair is not touching a wall when you are seated.

Coffee and other beverage stains are splashing on the walls adjacent to the waste baskets because people are throwing cups in the baskets that still have liquid in them. Emptying your cup before you discard it will eliminate the problem.

Food and beverage stains are appearing on the carpeting. We need to be more careful about how we handle our refreshments. If you spill something on the carpet, please obtain a wet towel and blot the stain as soon as possible. This will minimize a permanent stain.

Please don't place your foot against the painted wall outside that is next to the entrance door. Several months ago the wall was repainted and signs were posted asking individuals not to do this, and yet the problem persists. Please don't forget to dispose of your cigarette remains in the cans provided for that purpose.

We can reduce the amount of spillage on our carpet if we keep our tables clean during and after play. Please "police" your table, even if it means removing someone else's mess. This will also help to keep the damage to a minimum.

We'd also like to bring to your attention the following information: we have limited parking and only nine handicapped parking spaces in our parking lot, to the east of the club. If your handicap is not severe and you can tolerate a little extra walking, please avoid them. The Western Commerce Bank has graciously allowed us to park in some areas of their parking lot. Parking is allowed on the perimeter of the bank's lot to the east (adjacent to the DCBC), and to the south. When construction is completed across the street, additional parking may be available.

The six thermostats which control the air conditioning and heating are programmed to shut off when the building is not occupied, which saves energy and reduces our electricity and gas expense. Please do not re-adjust these thermostats. A temperature range has been selected to make everyone as comfortable as possible. We would encourage members to dress in layers so that attire can be adjusted to suit each individual's temperature requirements. If you find the temperature intolerable, please contact the director.

The goal of your Board of Directors is to manage the DCBC to the best of our ability. We welcome all constructive criticism and suggestions. Happy New Year to all!

Russ Edwards & Mary Erickson

Ask Al, cont'd from page 2

will play in the doubled contract and score less than the slam. If they redouble, thus foiling your strategy, you must run like a striped-tail ape. The Bridge Encyclopedia notes that apes do not have tails.

Q: Must everyone at the table have a convention card?

In our club games, at least one member of the partnership is expected to have a completed convention card. The reason is that without a card available, a player may have to ask a question which could give information to partner or the opponents, when they should be able just to look at a card.

At tournaments, the rule is strict. Both opponents must have a completed card and they must be identical, including both full names. If players fail to follow this rule, they are deemed to be playing the ACBL yellow card for that round and must fill out a card for the next round, or play the yellow card throughout.

In both club or tournament games, the director may assess a procedural penalty for failure to have a convention card, and should if it causes a problem.

-Al Beebe

NEWS FROM THE CASA DE AMIGOS DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

This year Casa de Amigos Bridge Club and Sandia West Bridge Club have contributed \$10,378 to Casa Angelica and \$424.00 to ACBL charities. This has been the most generous year for players who have supported the Charity games.

In addition to the charities, Casa de Amigos has shared over \$6000.00 in revenue with the Duke City Bridge Club.

*Tony Pazera, Treasurer
Casa de Amigos Duplicate Bridge Club*

PERPETUAL AWARD AND ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY AWARDS

Sometime in February, nominating forms for the Perpetual Award and the Beyond the Call of Duty awards will be available at the Duke City Bridge Club. Last year, very few people filled out forms. However, many people asked me why certain people had not been selected. Obviously we cannot select people if they are not nominated. Your entry doesn't have to be wordy or beautifully composed. Just write the name of the person you'd like to nominate and briefly explain why you think they deserve the award. Remember the following guidelines:

The Perpetual Service Award is given to a person who has 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 Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award is given to a person who has demonstrated the ability to be eligible for the perpetual service award sometime in the future – someone who hasn't the longevity of some of our volunteers, but who deserves recognition for their short-term contribution to the unit's goal of providing superior educational services, distinctive charitable activities, and a pleasant atmosphere in which to enjoy the game of duplicate bridge.

Last year, some people nominated people who had already received the awards. Please check the awards board before submitting your nomination. Also, be sure you select the proper form for submittal – there are separate forms for each award, and each will be a different color.

Susy Law

A FOND FAREWELL

Ruth Davies passed away in October. A mainstay of the bridge community for many decades, Ruthie handled all the finances of the Duke City Bridge Club for well over twenty years. She was one of the original members of the Board of Governors, which monitors the legal and fiscal policies of the DCBC Board of Directors. A recipient of the coveted ACBL Goodwill Award, Ruthie was an excellent bridge player and a kind and generous partner. She will be sorely missed.

Susy Law

RESULTS OF THE UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Please welcome the following people to the Unit 374 Board of Directors:

Keesha Ashanti

Mike Gray

Bob Zipp.

Bill Kass and Susy Law were re-elected, and positions on the Board were assigned as follows:

Bill Kass: President; Regional Tournament Chair

Jill Burtram: Vice President; Disciplinary Chair

Susy Law: Secretary & Editor, Albuquerque Bridge Player

Jerry Shinkle: Treasurer

Wilma Morris: Membership; Publicity

Mike Gray: Hospitality Co-Chair

Bob Zipp: Hospitality Co-Chair

Felicity Moore: Unit Manager; Sectional Tournament Chair

Buck Schreyer: Equipment & Supplies; Charity

Keesha Ashanti: Education

QUIPS & QUOTES

Years ago there were only two acceptable reasons for not leading partner's suit: (1) having no cards in the suit;
(2) sudden death. *Alfred Sheinwold*

We had a partnership misunderstanding. My partner assumed I knew what I was doing.

Unknown

Newer Players Page

SPOT THE MISTAKES!

South cannot remember how he played the hand, but he knows that he went down and he wonders what went wrong. Tell him. What was his first mistake and what was his second?

North

♠ A32
♥ 8
♦ J84
♣ A109832

South

♠ Q54
♥ AK32
♦ Q1032
♣ KQ

East	South	West	North
1S	Dbf	P	3C
P	3NT	All pass	

Opening lead: King of spades

Solution Next Column

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LOTS OF 199^{ER} GAMES AT THE ALBUQUERQUE REGIONAL!

There will be 199er games twice a day during the Regional in January with prizes for the winners! Not to mention lots of masterpoints. Pick up a schedule at DCBC and make your plans for a week of bridge! On Thursday, 24 January, there will be two separate sessions of 199er Swiss teams at 1pm and 7pm.

SOLUTION TO SPOT THE MISTAKES!

His first mistake was playing the Ace of spades at trick one and the second mistake was not overtaking his second top club.

The more glaring error of the two would be to win the first trick, killing dummy's vital entry to the clubs. Surely he wasn't as bad as that! He probably played low and West continued with a second spade to the Queen.

South would then have led the King of clubs, followed by the Queen, playing low from dummy on both tricks. East showed out on the second club and declarer, cursing his luck, was confined to three club tricks, not enough for his contract. All South had to do was overtake the queen of clubs with the Ace and to concede a club to the jack while he still had the spade entry. Nine tricks ensured!

The full hand

	<u>North</u>	
	♠ A32	
	♥ 8	
	♦ J84	
	♣ A109832	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
♠ K7		♠ J10986
♥ 7654		♥ QU109
♦ 765		♦ AK9
♣ J765		♣ 4
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ Q54	
	♥ AK32	
	♦ Q1032	
	♣ KQ	

U.S. Bridge Players' Protest and Punishment Sparks International Debate

by *Stephanie Strom*

In the genteel world of bridge, disputes are usually handled quietly and rarely involve issues of national policy. But in a fight reminiscent of the brouhaha over an anti-Bush statement by Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks in 2003, a team of women who represented the United States at the world bridge championships in Shanghai last month is facing sanctions, including a yearlong ban from competition, for a spur-of-the-moment protest.

At issue is a crudely lettered sign, scribbled on the back of a menu, that was held up at an awards dinner and read, "We did not vote for Bush."

By e-mail, angry bridge players have accused the women of "treason" and "sedition."

"This isn't a free-speech issue," said Jan Martel, president of the U.S. Bridge Federation, the nonprofit group that selects teams for international tournaments.

"There isn't any question that private organizations can control the speech of people who represent them."

Not so, said Danny Kleinman, a professional bridge player, teacher and columnist.

"If the USBF wants to impose conditions of membership that involve curtailment of free speech, then it cannot claim to represent our country in international

competition," he said by e-mail.

Martel said the action by the team, which had won the Venice Cup, the women's title, at the Shanghai event, could cost the federation corporate sponsors.

The players have been stunned by the reaction to what they saw as a spontaneous gesture, "a moment of levity," said Gail Greenberg, the team's nonplaying captain and winner of 11 world championships.

"What we were trying to say, not to Americans but to our friends from other countries, was that we understand that they are questioning and critical of what our country is doing these days, and we want you to know that we, too, are critical," Greenberg said, stressing that she was speaking for herself and not her six teammates.

The controversy has gone global, with the French team offering support for its American counterparts.

"By trying to address these issues in a nonviolent, nonthreatening and lighthearted manner," the French team wrote in by e-mail to the federation's board and others, "you were doing only what women of the world have always tried to do when opposing the folly of men who have lost their perspective of reality."

The proposed sanctions would hurt the team's playing members financially. "I earn my living from bridge, and a substantial part of that from being hired to compete

in high-level competitions," said Debbie Rosenberg, a team member.

A hearing is scheduled this month in San Francisco, where thousands of players will be gathered for the Fall North American Bridge Championships. It will determine whether displaying the sign constitutes conduct unbecoming a federation member.

Three players, Hansa Narasimhan, JoAnna Stansby and Jill Meyers, have expressed regret that the action offended some people.

The federation has proposed a settlement to Greenberg and the three other players, Jill Levin, Irina Levitina and Rosenberg, who have not made any mollifying statements.

It calls for a one-year suspension from federation events, including the World Bridge Olympiad next year in Beijing; a one-year probation after that suspension; 200 hours of community service "that furthers the interests of organized bridge"; and an apology drafted by the federation's lawyer.

It would also require them to write a statement telling "who broached the idea of displaying the sign, when the idea was adopted, etc."

Alan Falk, a lawyer for the federation, wrote the four team members on Nov. 6, "I am instructed to press for greater sanction against anyone who rejects this compromise offer."

Greenberg said she decided to put up the sign in response to questions from players from other countries about U.S. interrogation techniques, the war in Iraq and other foreign policy issues.

"There was a lot of anti-Bush feeling, questioning of our Iraq policy and about torture," Greenberg said. "I can't tell you it was an overwhelming amount, but there were several specific comments, and there wasn't the same warmth you usually feel at these events."

Rosenberg said the team members intended the sign as a personal statement that demonstrated American values and noted that it was held up at the same time some team members were singing along to "The Star-Spangled Banner" and waving small American flags.

Through a spokesman, the other team members declined to discuss the matter. Narasimhan, Stansby and Meyers have been offered a different settlement agreement, but Martel declined to discuss it in detail.

Robert Wolff, one of the country's pre-eminent bridge players, who has served as an executive and board member of several bridge organizations, said that he understood that the women might have had a legal right to do what they did but that they had offended many people.

"While I believe in the right to free speech, to me that doesn't give anyone the right to criticize one's leader at a foreign venue in a totally nonpolitical event," he wrote by e-mail.

David Anderson, a bridge player who supports the team, said it was common to see players at international tournaments sporting buttons bearing the date "1-20-09," when Bush will hand off to a new president, as well as buttons reading "Support Our Troops."

"They don't go after those people," Anderson said.

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CHANGES TO DIRECTORY

Please change your telephone books to show the following new data:

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November Roadrunner Sectional Results

Friday Morning Stratified Pairs

- iA Jerry Shinkle & John Munford
- iB Nancy Kruger & Jan Pequette
- iC Kent Jones & Al Dennis

Friday Morning 199er Pairs

- iD Norman Pare & Dale Hanson
- iE/F Sue Berry & Sara Currens

Friday Afternoon Strat. Pairs

- iA James Fowlkes & Patricia Fowlkes
- iA/B Bobby Naranjo & John Neff
- iC Keesha Ashanti & Barbara Sims

Friday Evening Stratified Pairs

- iA/B Christa Cooper & Gay Gillia
- iC Tom Estenson & Jan Evans

Saturday Morning Strat. Pairs

- iA Rodney Wilton & Kathryn Ritterbush
- iB/C Dawne Parker & David Kelsey

Saturday Morning 199er Pairs

- iD/E Richard Allen & JoAnn Allen
- iF Terry Moynihan & Ed Gosnell

Saturday Afternoon Stratified Pairs

- iAB Sue Lawrie & Sally Van Valin

Saturday Afternoon 199er Pairs

- iE/F Richard Allen & JoAnn Allen
- iG Mac Taylor & Lorraine Taylor

KO Teams

Bracket 1

- Cindy & Joe Harris,
- Ann Economidy,
- Karin Griffin

Bracket 2

- Jim Hull, Karl Swartz.
- Joy Sjogren, Judy Wissert

Bracket 3

- Kent Jone, Doyce King,
- Buck & Marian Schreyer

Bracket 4

- Geri Borin, Jane Morgan,
- Sherril Walters,
- Jim Johnson

Stratiflighted Pairs

- iA Cindy & Joe Harris
- iX Alan Goldman, Mike Gray
- iBCMarian & Buck Schreyer
- iB Joy Sjogren & Lise Sullivan
- iD Panola & Frany Lisle

Stratiflighted Swiss Teams

- iA Kitty & Steve Cooper, Bill Kass, Steve Kemic
- iX Mark Mundt, Siefried Lodwig, Barbara & Mike McCombie
- iB Roland Kurth, Jo Parish, Bill Nelson, Sharon Proctor
- iC Peter Schultz, Judy Tripp, Pat Durgin, Dan Lucas
- iD Doyce King, Kent Jones, Lisa Torres, Keesha Ashanti
- iEF Teri Didrickson, Sandy Thompson, Nancy Banes, Bev Listek

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

Junior Master

John Knight
Liz Kuo
Linda McCormick
June Willging
Ed Gosnell
Sandy Thompson

Club Masters

Lita Johnson
Linda Stuart
Diana Noya
Gordon Tolle

Sectional Masters

Carol Hanson
Leo Pigaty
Ray Renaud
Carol Barkoff
Ethel Giovania
Theodore Giovania

Regional Master

Tom Estenson
Jeannine Rosenstock
Melvin Schwartz
Clement Koogler
Marilyn Rost

NABC Masters

James Munroe
Robert Zipp
Doyce King

Life Masters

Geri Borin

Bronze Life Masters

Robert Warriner
Keesha Ashanti

Silver Life Masters

Mike Gray

Gold Life Masters

Norma Casey
Alan Goldman

NEW MEMBERS

Agnes Bernhardt
Suzanne Slankard
Kaye Vesely
Pamela Gatschet
Martha Johnson
Don Austin
Jerry Harper
Nissim Kanekar
Clarence A. Mette
Dave Morrone
Mary Ann Krotzer
Michael K. Schmidt



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

Sunday games at 1:30p are hosted by Unit 374.

January

13th: Unit Pairs Championship
21st – 27th: Albuquerque Regional

February

10th: Unit Pairs Championship

March

2nd: Swiss Team Championship
16th: Unit Pairs Championship
30: ACBL Charity Pairs Game

April

13th: Pairs Championship

All other Sundays will be either Pairs or Swiss Teams. Please see unit schedule at the club.

UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST

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