

# Albuquerque Bridge Player

*Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter*

## President's Column

We just completed our second consecutive financially successful Albuquerque Regional. The tournament success was the result of a lot of hard work by a now-experienced team of Unit 374 volunteers, tournament professional staff and hotel employees, as well as the loyalty of the players who attend year after year. Thanks to all of you who helped or participated.

First, I would like to thank the Unit board members. Susy Law handled the catering and made sure the hospitality desk was stocked and staffed. Susy also recruited and organized the caddies. Mark Steele published a restaurant guide and arranged for discounts and coupons at local eateries. He has promised to make this even better next year.

Felicity Moore edited and with her usual efficiency and bulletins and game results so they were nearly the players.



published the Daily Bulletin accuracy. She also put all on the Unit 374 web site immediately available to

Once again, and she says for handled partnerships. This is a and she does it with a smile. However, that she had enjoyed as much of this as she could stand. Her final job as Partnership chair was to find her replacement for next year. Keesha Ashanti has agreed. Thanks to both of you.

the last time, Jill Burtram difficult job to say the least she could be heard muttering

Buck Schreyer organized the move to and from the hotel and took care of tournament supplies throughout the week. Mike (Nerves-of-Steel) Gray is our new truck driver replacing Jerry Shinkle who feels he must concentrate more intently on his fiduciary duties as Tournament Treasurer. Mike, Buck, Jerry, Bob Zipp, Jay Armstrong, and Ted Stein are the crew of young hot-bloods who load, unload, set-up, take-down and put back the tournament equipment. 

### In This Issue

<i>President's Column.</i>	1
<i>Ask Al</i>	1
<i>DCBC News</i>	3
<i>District 17 News</i>	4
<i>Awards Day</i>	6
<i>Newer Players Page</i>	7
<i>Membership Changes</i>	8

### ASK AL

**Q. What is the purpose of "any questions, partner?" by the opening leader?**

**A.** The question is not an irregularity, but it is probably redundant. I do see the practice misused and there could be penalties when proper procedures are not followed.

The ACBL requires that the opening lead must be made face down. The opening leader, before making the lead, may ask for a review of the bidding and explanations of any calls. That player may also ask if it is his lead. The leader then makes the lead face down, and may not now change his mind and retract that card (unless allowed to do so by the director, usually because of misinformation). It is legal at this point (after the face-down lead) to say "any questions" and for the leader's partner to ask a question.

The redundancy part is that leader's partner has the right to ask a question when it is his first turn to play to the opening lead. Declarer has the same right at dummy's or declarer's first turn. So the question really seems useless and a waste of time.

An impropriety can occur when opening leader asks a question BEFORE placing the lead face down on the table. 

*President's Column, cont'd from page 1*

Second, I would like to thank the professional staff headed by Gary Zeiger. They were efficient and courteous and work well together and with the local volunteers. I include caddies in this group as well and would like to thank Tex Ritterbush and Billy Trabaldo for serving as head caddies.

Third, the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North staff. Megan Cooley was our hotel contact. She worked tirelessly to smooth the rough spots before, during and after the tournament. She was attentive to our needs and asked how she could help improve their service for next year's tournament. We have contracted to return to the Pyramid in 2009 and look forward to a long term relationship with this hotel.

Our attendance of 1763 tables was about 100 tables down from last year, which was an exceptional year. This year's attendance was on the high normal side while last year's was exceptional. Despite the lower attendance, we made about the same net profit of \$11,000.

In the coming months, the Unit 374 Board will be looking for ways to give back some of this profit to local players in appreciation for their support. If you have any suggestions, let a Unit Board Member know what you would like. In the meantime we have put some of our best big-spenders to work on the problem.

*Bill Kass*

*Ask Al, cont'd from page 1*

Sometimes, the leader's partner will say "no questions, partner," before the leader has the card face down on the table, and this also is completely improper, but not illegal. If leader's partner asks a question at that time, there is a danger of providing unauthorized information to the leader. Director could assess a penalty.

The reason it is important to follow uniform procedure in all these cases is that players might, intentionally or not, devise ways of conveying unauthorized information to their partners.

**Q. What are dummy's rights about playing a card?**

**A.** Dummy plays a card at the direction of declarer, and not before. It can be a serious infraction for dummy to touch or pick up a card before directed by the declarer. The director should be called, and might rule that dummy is aiding the declarer by making a suggestion, and an adjusted score could be awarded.

I see this rule violated frequently. Most of the time, of course, it is when there is only one card of the suit in dummy, or perhaps all equal cards, and there has been no damage. It is nevertheless a bad habit of many players. It may be disturbing to partner, as well. Suppose, for example, dummy holds QJ10 of the led suit, and picks up the queen. Declarer may prefer to play the 10 because it is easier to keep track.

Sometimes, dummy simply mishears declarer and picks up the wrong card. (Ace and eight can be difficult.) When this happens, the card declarer actually called is substituted, and a defendant may change his played card. Attention to the misplay must be called before both sides have played to the next trick, or the wrongly played card stands.

Another infraction I see committed by the dummy is calling the director illegally. The dummy may not be the first to call attention to any irregularity, until after the play is over. If dummy, for example, tells an opponent during the middle of play that he revoked, no penalty for the revoke can be enforced.

In ACBL-land (but not overseas) dummy may say "no hearts, partner" when declarer has failed to follow suit. Dummy may also warn declarer against leading from the wrong hand, but must do so before declarer pulls a card. Dummy, of course, should accurately keep track of tricks won and lost.



## DCBC NEWS

Our new year of 2008 seems to have started very well at our great Duke City Bridge Club. The bridge lessons commenced on February 2nd and there has been a tremendous turnout, thanks to our teachers. The lectures on the first Tuesday of the month started again in February. Our speakers, who spend so much time preparing for this day, are greatly appreciated. The cost of the lecture and lunch is \$2.00. This is a package deal, whether you eat or not. There has been confusion about this. Please sign up ahead of time if you plan to attend, so we know how much food to purchase.

Every month at our board meeting, we discuss member concerns; that is, suggestions or criticisms from our membership. They are discussed and hopefully resolved to the satisfaction of the majority of our club. We can't please everyone in an organization this large, but we do try to do the best we can. About a year ago we decided to try the concept of allowing players to briefly look at their convention card during the bidding. Please let one of our board members know how you like this arrangement so we can decide to continue this or go back to not allowing reference to the card, as in tournaments. We need your feedback on this matter before April 8th.

Our elected board members are: Mary Erickson, president; Jay Armstrong; vice-president, Lise Sullivan, secretary; Jim Drennan, Russ Edwards, Linda Hays, Sally Lohfeld, Pat Plummer and Elaine Stone. Appointed members are Al Beebe, Club Manager, and Jackie Bradley, Treasurer.

I want to especially thank Lori Schultz for routinely banking our game receipts. The job is a tremendous undertaking and we're glad to have Lori back playing again after a prolonged absence.

I want to again thank the people that provide snacks or cakes. Unfortunately, some of our members use our snacks to provide themselves with a full lunch. Please use moderation in helping yourself to food. We really cannot afford to serve complete meals to our members. Thanks!

*Mary Erickson*

*Ask Al, cont'd from page 2*

**Q. Please explain ACBL's new masterpoint awards.**

**A.** Most important to local clubs, as of January 1, the maximum masterpoint award for regular games was increased to 2.5 from 1.5 per section at 10 per table. Limited masterpoint games were increased by the same percentage. This has caused some changes in our games.

To obtain the maximum number of points for players, a two-section game usually has to award overall places. For example, winners in two 13 table sections would receive 1.3 each unless the sections are combined. The overall winner then would receive 2.5. Problems occur because Section A and Section B normally are not seeded for regular games, and the imbalance can be significant. Moreover, both sections must have the same stratification to win the overall. Previously, Section A might be stratified at 2500 for Flight A, and under 750 for Flight C. Section B the same day might be stratified at 1500 and 500.

The Board at DCBC feels most players want to win the most points possible, even if sections may not be entirely fair and balanced. The determination of strata and the option for an overall remains at the discretion of each director.

For special games—club championships, North American Pairs, or charity—two sections are required by ACBL to be seeded as best as possible. That's why directors need the cooperation of players on those days.

Match awards at club Swiss Team events have also been increased.

Next January 1, the number of Unit Championships (Sunday games here) allowed will increase from 16 to 24.

There has been a very noticeable change at tournament knockout events. It was felt that the top brackets did not receive sufficient awards compared to the second bracket, which usually was about three-fourths of the top bracket. Previously, awards were calculated based on the number of tables in the event.



NEWS FROM DISTRICT 17

I attended a District 17 meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 1st. One of the items discussed was to keep the money that the district profits from the September Charity Game and to donate it to a charity to be voted on at a future meeting. If you have any ideas please contact me at 797-1837 or Wargrif@aol.com. I will submit them to the district.

I want to thank the following people for helping to clean and check the 600+ bidding boxes we used at the regional, and to get them sent off to the Las Vegas Regional: Susy Law, Wilma Morris and Sue and Ken Shoquist.

*Karin Griffin*

*Ask Al, cont'd from page 3*

Now, a new formula calculates awards based on the average masterpoint holdings of the players in each bracket. The result has been a big increase in awards in the top bracket, while the next bracket generally has stayed about the same, but is now only about half. The more masterpoints in each bracket, the higher the award.

*-Al Beebe*

*District 17 Representative*

---

UPCOMING SECTIONALS

- April 24-27 Colorado Springs
- April 25-27 Las Cruces
- May 2-4 Santa Fe
- June 20-22 Albuquerque

Check the District 17 website for full details..... [www.district17news.com](http://www.district17news.com)

---

QUIPS & QUOTES

Bridge is essentially a social game, but unfortunately it attracts a large number of antisocial people.

*-Alfred Sheinwold*

I'm not sure whether glory or masterpoints is first on the list of beginning tournament players, but I know learning to play better is definitely last.

*-Eddie Kantar*

The average defender operates in a fog of uncertainty.

*-H. W. Kelsey*



# Roadrunner Spring Sectional

**June 20-22, 2008**  
**DUKE CITY BRIDGE CENTER**  
**8616 Northeastern Blvd NE**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87112**  
**505-271-2877**

<b>Friday</b>	<b>June 20, 2008</b>	
Open Stratified Pairs	Single Sessions	9:00am / 1:00pm / 7:00pm
I/N Stratified Pairs	Single Sessions	9:00am / 1:00pm
Bracketed Knockouts	Round 1	1:00pm
Bracketed Knockouts	Round 2	7:00pm

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>June 21, 2008</b>	
Bracketed Knockouts	Final Round	9:00am
Open Stratified Pairs	Single Session	9:00am
Strati-flighted Pairs*	2 sessions	1:00pm and 7:00pm
*Single session entries available on request		
I/N Stratified Pairs	Single Sessions	9:00am / 1:00pm

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 22, 2008</b>	
Strati-flighted Swiss Teams	2 sessions	10:00am and TBA
A and A/X play together; B/C play together		
Separate I/N Swiss Teams (if sufficient entries)		

Stratified Events: A:2000+, B:750-2000, C: 0-750  
 Strati-flighted Events: Flight A: 3000+, A/X 0-3000,  
 B:750-2000, C: 0-750; Saturday Pairs  
 B:750-2000, C:200-750, D:0-200 Sunday Swiss  
 I/N Events: Strata: A:100-200; B:50-100; C:0-50  
 Mid-chart methods allowed in Flight A events and in top flight of KO.  
 Entry Fees: \$8.00/ person/session (ACBL Members)  
 \$9.00/person/session (non/unpaid members)  
 \$4.00/person/session (Juniors U19)  
 \$80.00 per Swiss Team (includes meal between sessions on Sunday)

Chairperson: Felicity Moore (f.moore@netscape.com) 505-344-5209  
 Partnerships: Keesha Ashanti 505-890-8014

Director-in-Charge: Bill Wittmann Sanction # S0806092

**Information and results at [www.abqbridge.com](http://www.abqbridge.com) Results posted online after every session.**

**Pre-duplicated boards for all pairs events.**

**Complimentary coffee, tea, snacks and finger food at all sessions.**

**Non-smoking tournament with breaks.**

Directions to DCBC: From I-40 take Wyoming Ave Exit North to Northeastern Blvd (approximately 1 mile) Turn right (E) on Northeastern Blvd (traffic light), DCBC is second building on right.

## AWARDS DAY

On April 20 the Unit will hold its annual Awards Game honoring the 2007 winners of the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs Awards as well as announcing this year's winners of The Perpetual Service Award and The Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award. The festivities will begin at 1:00 and the game will follow at the usual time of 1:30. Get a partner and help us celebrate!

Winners of the Mini-McKenney Award are:

0-5 MPs – Donald Wunsch  
5-20 MPs – Leo Pigaty  
20-50 MPs – Marilyn Rost  
50-100 MPs – Timothy Long  
100-200 MPs – David Kelsey  
200-300 MPs – Linda Hays  
300-500 MPs – Dawne Parker  
500-1000 MPs – Michael Gray  
1000-2500 MPs – Jay Armstrong  
2500-5000 MPs – Ted Stein  
5000-7500 MPs – Steve Cooper  
7500-10000 MPs – Kitty Cooper  
10000+ MPs – Joe Harris

Winners of the Ace of Clubs Award are:

0-5 MPs – Donald Wunsch  
5-20 MPs – Leo Pigaty  
20-50 MPs – Jo Ann Allen  
50-100 MPs – Patricia Henckel  
100-200 MPs – Nancy Burleson  
200-300 MPs – Doyce King  
300-500 MPs – Norman Cliff  
500-1000 MPs – Michael Gray  
1000-2500 MPs – Alan Goldman  
2500-5000 MPs – James McHollan  
5000-7500 MPs – Jackie Evans  
7500-10000 MPs – Rudy Krall  
10000+ MPs – Joe Harris

## Newer Players Page

### HAND EVALUATION

Your partner opens the bidding with one spade. How do you respond with each of the following hands?

- A. ♠Q43   ♥KT98   ♦KT   ♣7532  
 B. ♠J954   ♥KQ32   ♦Q987   ♣4  
 C. ♠QT97   ♥AQ43   ♦Void   ♣T9873

Each of these hands has eight high card points (HCP) and at least three cards in your partner's bid suit (spades). But your response is different with each hand. When you have support for partner's suit, you may revalue your hand using distributional, or "dummy" points. For a void, you may add 5 points to your HCP; with a singleton, add three points, and add one point for a doubleton.

Hand A is worth nine points (8 HCP + 1 point for the doubleton). Bid 2S to show a minimum strength hand.

Hand B is worth 11 points (8 HCP + 3 for the singleton). Bid 3S to show an invitational hand.

Hand C is worth 13 points (8 HCP + 5 for the void). Partner opened the bidding so he is likely to have at least 13 points. You need 26 points for game. With your combined points, you have enough for game. Get there! Bid 2C, which is forcing for one round. Opener must bid again. Rebid 4S at your next opportunity.

### ETIQUETTE CORNER

There are several ways that you can help a game move along at a good pace, here are two of them.

- 1) If you are to make the opening lead, please make the lead before you write the contract in your personal scorecard.
- 2) If you are North, please enter the score on the the pick-up slip or traveller before you make any notation in your personal scorecard. By doing this the whole table can move onto the next hand without delay.

By following these two simple rules you are not only speeding up the game but also displaying correct table etiquette.

# Changes in Unit 374 Membership

## RANK PROMOTIONS

### Junior Master

Hong Hai Dubroff  
Athena Kelly  
Cheryl E. Mitchell  
Sally A. Storrs

### Club Masters

Janice A. Bauer  
Ranjit Bose  
Martha C. Trainer  
Craig E. Tyner  
Katherine A. Tyner

### Sectional Masters

William M. Clithero  
Sara S. Curren  
Marianne Helgesen  
Sharon K. Knowles

### Regional Master

Alla Hernandez  
Richard C. Allen  
Dale L. Hanson  
Leo Pigaty

### NABC Masters

Russell E. Edwards  
Wayne Godsey  
Otis J. Killian  
Timothy S. Long  
Mary N. Symons  
Diane R. Todd  
Polly Wimer

### Life Masters

Barbara Briscoe  
Teri L. Carpenter  
Marsha L. Postar  
Patricia M. Ward

### Bronze Life Masters

Barbara Briscoe  
David Fugelso  
Tom Mehrhoff  
Patricia Ward

### Silver Life Masters

Viorel Atudorei  
Dermod Kelleher  
Katherine Stewart

### Grand Life Masters

Kitty Cooper

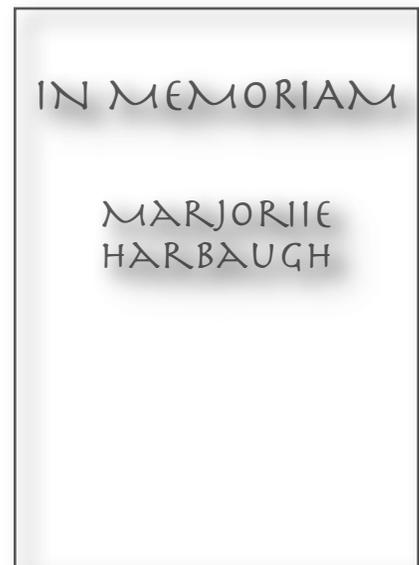
## NEW MEMBERS

Edwina Andrews  
John Caffrey  
Harold Gladstone  
Harry T. Season  
Lawrence P. Rifchin

## CHANGES TO DIRECTORY

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

William Isham  
(505) 243-0395  
[wpisham@gmail.com](mailto:wpisham@gmail.com)



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE**

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

**April**

6<sup>th</sup>: Open Pairs  
13<sup>th</sup>: Unit Pairs Championship  
20<sup>th</sup>: Awards Day/Open Pairs  
27<sup>th</sup>: Open Pairs

**May**

4<sup>th</sup>: Open Pairs  
11<sup>th</sup>: WC STAC Pairs  
18<sup>th</sup>: Unit Pairs Championship  
25<sup>th</sup>: Open Pairs

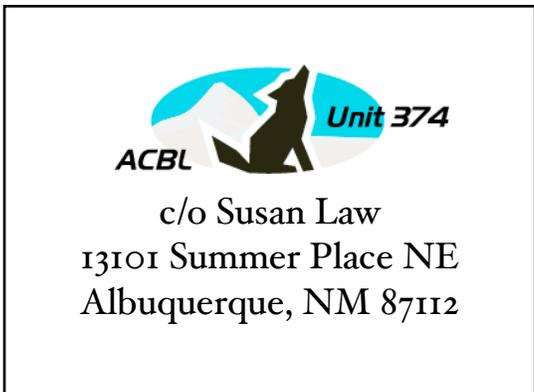
**June**

1<sup>st</sup>: Swiss Team Championship  
8<sup>th</sup>: NAP Qualifier  
15<sup>th</sup>: Open Pairs  
20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>: ABQ Sectional  
29<sup>th</sup>: Unit Pairs Championship

**UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST**

Jill Burtram 842-1817; jburtram@nmcourt.fed.us;  
Buck Schreyer 299-3102; bschreyer@comcast.net;  
Michael Gray 292-6175; mgray62@comcast.net  
Bill Kass: 268-5922; kwjdr@msn.com  
Susy Law: 296-7719; susylaw@msn.com

Felix Moore: 344-5209; f.moore@netscape.com  
Wilma Morris: 255-6505; wmorris@unm.edu  
Jerry Shinkle 299-8686; jnshinkle@aol.com  
Robert Zipp; 884-6308; zipp\_bridge@yahoo.com  
Keesha Ashanti; 440-2314



Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Albuquerque, NM  
Permit No. 100