

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

After the successful seminar by Larry Cohen last summer, Felix Moore once again has found another excellent instructor for us this year. To show our appreciation to all the New Mexico players who support our tournaments, Unit 374 will subsidize a bridge teaching weekend featuring Bernie Chazen, a well-known bridge teacher who regularly instructs on bridge cruises. Felix reports that he is highly recommended for his humor and efforts to emphasize the sociability of bridge. His teaching sessions are targeted primarily at new and intermediate players. More information about him is available at his web site at www.berniechazen.com. Bernie will hold four sessions of entertaining and informative bridge lessons on the weekend of September 13th and 14th, 2008. Flyers are available at Duke City Bridge Center. Space is limited, so sign up early.



By the time this column appears, you should all have had the experience of using our new electronic scoring system (Bridgemate). Unit 374 and DCBC have jointly purchased enough electronic scorers to use them at every club game and in our sectional tournaments as well. We have been using Bill Koehler's personal Bridgemate terminals at Sunday unit games and have been happy with their performance. We have come a long way since the manual match pointing of pairs games as recently as 15 years ago. The total purchase price for 40 units is about \$6500.00 and has been made possible, once again, by your support for bridge in Albuquerque and Unit 374 tournaments. Thanks once again.

We are continuing to plan for the 2009 Navajo Trail Regional to be held January 19th-25th, at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North. The location is the same as last year. We have modified the schedule slightly by changing the Senior Pairs games to Daylight Pairs games held at 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.



In This Issue

<i>President's Column.</i>	I
<i>Ask Al</i>	I
<i>DCBC News</i>	3
<i>299er Sectional</i>	4
<i>Bernie Chazen</i>	5
<i>Newer Players' Page</i>	7
<i>Memorabilia</i>	9
<i>Membership Changes</i>	10
<i>Unit Calendar</i>	11

ASK AL

Q: Can anything be done about players who make remarks, etc, during the auction?

A. Let me quote from Law 16.

"Extraneous information from partner: After a player makes extraneous information available to his partner by an action such as a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unmistakable hesitation, unusual speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement, mannerism or any other action that suggests a call, lead or plan of play, the partner may not choose from among logical alternative actions one that could have demonstrably been suggested over another by the extraneous information."

Without doubt, no other law in duplicate bridge is violated more frequently than the first part of that law. I don't know a player who is not guilty, although some are worse offenders than others. Most of the time, it is an innocent remark that should not be made, or a surprised facial expression, or simple thoughtlessness. Now, really, one should not blurt out during the auction, "Oh, I just found an ace." Or, "What does partner want from me?" Or we've all heard the famous, "Oh, well, it's the last board." But it happens.



President's Column, from page 1

The times are the same but the age restriction of senior events is removed to allow all players to have the choice of playing two session pairs games in the morning and afternoon or in the afternoon and evening. We hope you like this new flexibility. We have also added a Compact Knockout team event on Saturday afternoon and evening for those of you who want to play one more knockout.

We take most of the efforts of our volunteers for granted, so I'd like to especially recognize the work that Bill Isham does for us in producing our newsletter. He organizes all the edited articles, and very professionally puts them in the newsletter format. It's a formidable job, and quite time-consuming. I know we are all extremely grateful to him for providing us with a newsletter with polish.

If you have any suggestions for improvements to our tournaments (or anything else that is bridge-related) don't hesitate to contact one of the Unit 374 board members.

Bill Kass

Ask Al, cont'd from page 1

We should all try hard to guard against such extraneous information. However, it is the last part of that long sentence above from the laws that becomes important. Partner must simply ignore all those expressions, mannerisms, etc, and bid and play according to the dictates of his hand.

It's a law that can become a very difficult situation for the director. We often hear something like, "But I was always going to make that bid." And that may be an honest answer, but if it falls into the "demonstrably been suggested over another" category, then the director should rule against allowing the bid, if there has been damage to the opponents.

I hope those frequent violators of the first part of Law 16 note that it is the partner who is burdened with the responsibility for not violating the second part.

Q. I see there are going to be changes in the law again. Will we have to learn a lot all over again?

A. The Laws of Duplicate Bridge are revised about every ten years (last was 1997), and new Laws take effect in September. By the time you read this, the July issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin will have printed a summary.

My impression of reading the laws is that there is not a lot for players to worry about. Most of those laws you come across every day are unchanged. Many of the changes are simply language and clarification. There is more emphasis on giving discretion to directors.

Some changes are updates for more common practices. For example, in the long Law 16 first part above, there has been inserted a phrase about "unexpected alerts or failure to alert."

Q. What is the NAP?

A. That stands for North American Pairs, and it is a grassroots national event. It starts with qualifying in clubs (in District 17) to District finals, and then to one of the North American Bridge Championships. In some districts, there is also Unit level qualifying.

In our District, club level qualifying games are held in June, July, and August, and they award extra masterpoints. If you score average or better, or are in the top half of your field (it is stratified), you qualify for the District 17 finals to be held in October at the Colorado Springs Regional. You may play there with the same partner, or with a different qualified partner. Three pairs from the District in each flight qualify for the national final.

There is a similar grassroots event for teams, the Grand National Teams (GNT), with qualifying games starting in the fall.

-Al Beebe

DCBC NEWS

There isn't much to report regarding our club.

The free beginning and intermediate bridge lessons will resume on Saturday, the 6th of September, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

There has been a lot of controversy regarding our change from two sections to one in the afternoon games. The board of directors decided to keep it as one section at this time, but it will be brought up again at our next board meeting in July. I deeply regret that all of this has caused so many to be upset at our club, and hope that it can be resolved.

A special thanks to Doyce King and her helper, Marge Brosnan, for all the time they have spent on our library in the North room organizing everything. It is greatly appreciated. Also many thanks to Jim Hull who spends so much time at our club with our electronic equipment. He is always there to lend a hand whenever asked.

Hope all have a nice summer.

Mary Erickson

NEW MEMBERSHIP/TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

In the very near future there will be a MASTER Membership/Telephone Directory kept on the table in front of the glass windows separating the north and south rooms. It will say "MASTER" very boldly on the front cover. Please do not remove it from the table. It will be everyone's responsibility to avail themselves of this book to make any changes to their addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc. If you have any problems, questions, or other issues, please contact Susy Law at 296-7719, or susylaw@msn.com. The deadline for making changes will be July 31, 2008. Then a draft will be placed on the table for people to check and make sure the changes that are made are correct. On August 15th, we'll go to press. Please pass this news on to members that you know don't read the newsletter or are not frequent visitors to the DCBC. Thank you!

HELPFUL HINTS COLUMN

We thought it would be nice to have a helpful hints column in our newsletter, so that the membership could pass along money- and labor-saving ideas. If you'd like to contribute, send your ideas to Susylaw@msn.com.

Pat Ward passed this gem on to me last month: If you are over 60, own your home, and have some yard work that needs to be done, the County of Bernalillo will send some men out to your home to do the work. They clean up weeds, remove leaves, trim hedges, etc. They dug up and hauled off a bunch of railroad ties for me! They ask for a donation of \$11.00 per hour, but you are not obligated to send them anything, and they will come out again the following year regardless of whether or not you decide to donate. They allow you to use this service once a year. Call 311 and ask for Senior Services. I only had to wait a week for them to come, but I imagine in the Fall it gets backed up, so call early.



Albuquerque 299er Sectional

August 16-17, 2008
DUKE CITY BRIDGE CENTER
 8616 Northeastern Blvd NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87112
 505-271-2877

Saturday, 16 August

10.00 am	Stratified Pairs	(one session)
3.00 pm	Stratified Pairs	(one session)

Sunday, 17 August

10.00 am & TBA	Stratified Swiss Teams	(two sessions)
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Pairs Events: A: 200-300, B: 100-200, C: 0-100

Swiss Teams: A: 200-300, B: 100-200, C: 0-100
 (Stratified by average masterpoint holdings
 of all team members)

Entry fees: \$8.00 per person/session (ACBL members)
 \$9.00 per person/session (non/unpaid members)
 \$4.00 per person/session (Juniors U19)

Chairperson: Felicity Moore (f.moore@netscape.com) 505-344-5209
Partnerships: Keesha Ashanti 505-890-8014
Director-in-Charge: Bill Koehler Sanction # SN0808079

Information and results at 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 the second building on the right.



PRESENTS

BRIDGE ON THE RIO GRANDE

WITH

BERNIE CHAZEN

on

**Saturday and Sunday
13th & 14th September 2008**

Join us for an interactive weekend with one of the best bridge teachers in the country.

"In everything, my purpose is to make bridge more interesting by explaining it properly, and to make sure that those who are learning are also having fun!"

♥ See over for more details and to sign up!

Bernie Chazen, nationally renowned bridge champion, is perhaps best known for his lectures and writing. Bridge players at all levels have found Bernie's lessons both informative and entertaining. Bernie makes learning fun and exciting and his lectures and lessons are legendary. To find out more check out his website at www.berniechazen.com

This event is being sponsored by Unit 374 and while some priority will be given to Unit members, we are inviting participation from other units in New Mexico to thank them for supporting our tournaments, which has made this weekend possible. Space is limited so please sign up by 15 August.

Cost: \$15 per day \$30 for the whole weekend! Coffee and snacks will be provided but participants will have to make their own arrangements for lunch.

Schedule (same each day)

9.00 – 10.00	1 st Lesson segment
10.00 – 10.15	Interactive quiz
10.15 – 10.30	Coffee break
10.30 – 11.30	2 nd Lesson segment
11.30 – 12.00	Interactive quiz
12.00 – 1.00	Lunch break
1.00 – 2.00	3 rd Lesson segment
2.00 – 4.00	Short duplicate game with some hands illustrating the day's lessons
4.00 – 5.00	Interactive discussion on the hands played.

Saturday: Special Topics

- Is it a length bid or a strength bid
- When to open 1NT with a 5-card major
- You can bid Stayman with as few as 0 points
- Preempts when and how to use them
- Raising Partner's preempt
- Raising Partner's second suit to the 3-level after responding 1NT

Sunday: Doubles

- Penalty Double has died and gone to heaven
- Takeout Doubles and when not to make one
- Proper evaluation when responding to Partner's takeout double
- Negative Doubles at low and high levels
- Delayed doubles (passing or overcalling first)

----- detach here -----

Please complete and return with full payment to Jerry Shinkle at DCBC or mail to him at 9008 Hannett Ave, Albuquerque, NM87112

Name: _____

ACBL #: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Tel: _____

I would like to attend as follows:

Saturday ___ Sunday ___

My check, payable to "UNIT 374" for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Newer Players Page

Bridge Tips

1. The more you play bridge, the more comfortable and confident you will become. Try to play a couple of times per week.
2. Both you and your partner need a convention card. Review your card with your partner before each game to ensure that both cards are identical.
3. At the beginning of the deal, count your cards face down to verify that you have 13 cards. If you are short, or long, ask the other players at the table not to look at their hands, and call the director.
4. Do not look at your partner when trying to decide what to bid. Unconscious or spontaneous facial expressions can provide unauthorized information. (See Law 16 discussed on Page 1.)
5. Two common errors during the auction are insufficient bids and bids out-of-turn. These are both easily avoided. Each board indicates the Dealer. Check the board to verify who is Dealer. Pay attention to the bidding so you will know whose turn it is to bid. Insufficient bids are also easily avoided. Look at your bidding box. The bid you are contemplating must be further along the bidding ladder than the last bid. The further down into the bidding box you go, the higher the bid.
6. At the end of the auction, if you are on opening lead, do so immediately before recording the contract. This helps to speed up the game. Lay your lead face down, verify it is your lead, then turn the card over.
7. If your hand is dummy, after the right hand opponent leads, place your cards on the table in four suit columns with the trump suit on your right. Afterwards, keep your hands in your lap until Declarer has stated which card to play.
8. If a suit is led and you have a card in that suit, you must follow suit. Failure to do so is a revoke and can cost you up to two tricks. Revokes are avoidable. Arrange your cards in suits. Be aware of what is led.
9. If you reach a point in the deal where you know you will win the balance of the tricks, you can make a claim, but you must explain at that time how you intend to play the hand. If you are a Defender, do not show your hand until you understand the claim. Once a claim has been made, play ceases. If Defenders and Declarer agree to the claim, no problem. If a Defender disagrees with the claim or has a question in reference to the claim, call the Director. The dummy is not allowed to make any remarks about the claim.
10. At the end of the hand, verify that everyone agrees to the results before picking up your cards. Leave them intact, winning tricks up, losing tricks down, so if there is a dispute, you'll more easily discover which card has been incorrectly recorded as a winner or loser.
11. Everyone should keep a record of the contract and the results. The person sitting north keeps the official score for the table. At the end of the round North presents the score card to either East or West for verification. If the scores are correct, they will initial the card. This is the result that the director enters in the computer.
12. If there is an irregularity during the auction or play of the hand, call the Director quietly. Raise your hand and say "Director Please." The Director is there to help you by ensuring that the game is played according to ACBL laws.
13. Do not discuss the contract or the cards after a hand has been played. Players at adjacent tables may overhear and it may influence their auction when they play that hand. If you want to discuss a hand, make a note on your score card. At the end of the session you will receive a copy of all the deals, and you and partner can then go over the results.



BRIDGE CLASSES

14. It is common practice for declarer to say thank you to his partner after the dummy has been tabled, regardless of the quality of the dummy. That is all that should be said. Do not remark on the bidding sequence, the length or strength of any of the suits, etc. Above all, do not criticize your partner, and do not give your partner, nor your opponents, lessons at the table. If you have a genuine concern, make a note on your score card. After the session you can have a calm, constructive, compassionate discussion over coffee and dessert. You pay.
15. Bridge is a timed game. Each player has a limited amount of time to bid and play or defend a hand. If you are declarer, take a couple of minutes to look over the dummy before you call for a card. Count your winners and losers, and develop your strategy. If you do this, you will not have to stop after every trick to consider what to do next. As a defender, when dummy comes down, use the thinking time declarer is using to decide what your best defense will be – what suit you will try to establish for your side, whether to cover an honor with an honor, when you'll take your ace, etc.
16. Never hesitate before playing a singleton. This implies you have more than one card to consider playing and it is unethical.
17. Most important of all; bridge is a game. Relax. You will have more fun if you relax and your bridge game will improve.

-Keesha Ashanti

We hope that all of you will encourage your friends to join the exciting world of duplicate bridge. Lessons will begin on September 6 at 9:30am at the Duke City Bridge Club. Keesha Ashanti and Marge Casados will be teaching the beginning class using Audrey Grant's Bridge Basics I and II. This class assumes that participants have little or no experience playing party or duplicate bridge. Francie Straw and Pat Plummer will teach the intermediate class focusing on defense. Eddie Kantar Teaches Modern Bridge Defense will be the text. Books will be available for purchase. Past participants will attest that the classes are conducted in a highly professional manner and that the experience is warm and friendly. This is an invaluable opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the wonderful and competitive game of bridge in a social atmosphere.

-Francie Straw

MEMORABILIA

Rudy Krall was kind enough to dig the following article out of his scrapbook for us to enjoy:

BRIDGE PLAYERS AWARD TROPHIES TO CLIMAX PLAY

It was midnight last night when bridge players from six states ended their eighth annual New Mexico sectional bridge tournament here. Trophies were awarded to climax the events in which Albuquerque members of the American Contract Bridge League won a majority of the prizes.

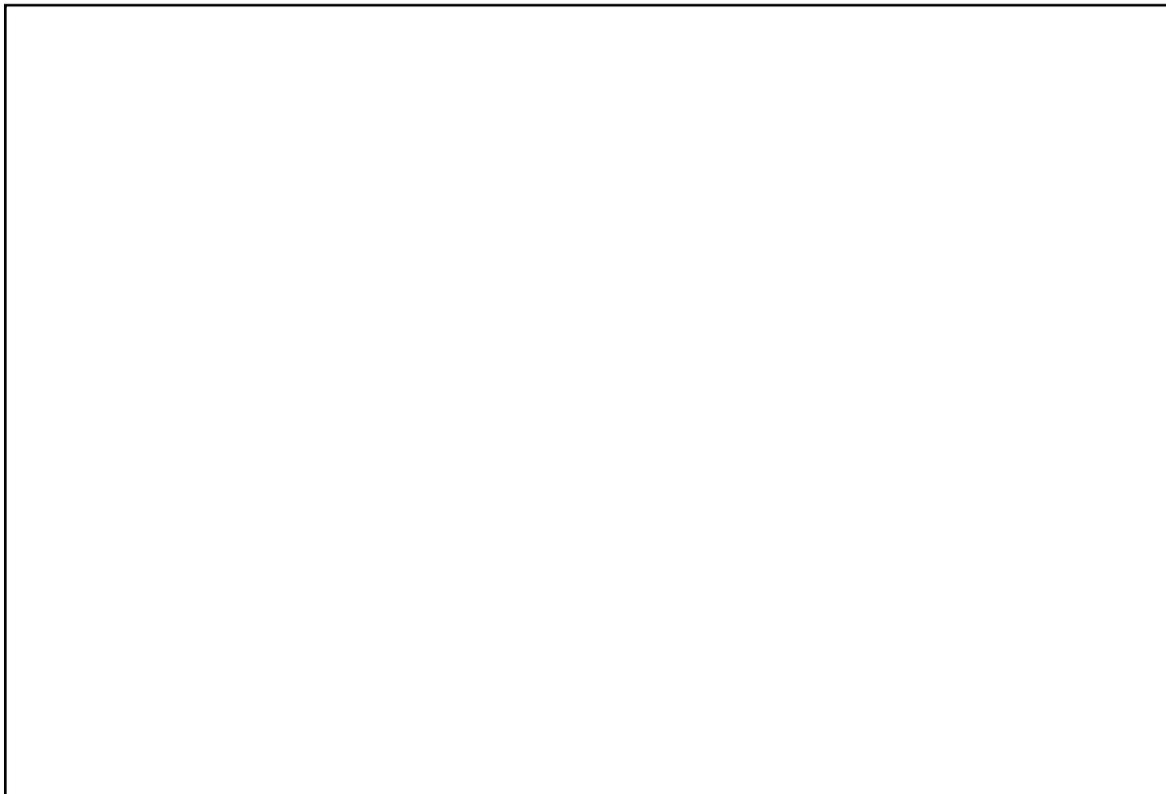
Three hundred Duke City players were joined by 150 bridge enthusiasts from out of town for the three days of the tournament at the Hilton. The players did take time out for a Saturday night banquet and a Sunday morning brunch and cocktail party. Major events at the tournament included the men's and women's pairs, team of four play and open pairs.

The team-of-four trophy went to Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Thieman of Colorado Springs, Lionel Wolfers and Robert Groetzinger of Denver.

A trophy in the open pairs over-all section went to Col. Tripp (*that's Judy's dad*). Consolation flight in the open pairs section was won by James Lynn and Dick Tischhauser, Kingston, N.Y. Second place went to Mrs. H. F. Harris (*that's Joe's mother*) and Mrs. E. L. Barraclough.

Winners of the master pairs were Mrs. Thieman and Mrs. Wolfers, Mrs. Kennedy Moore & Mr. Tischhauser were second, and Col. R.K. Jacobson and Harold Larkin were third.

Albuquerque will play host to its first regional bridge tournament next fall when players from throughout the West compete for regional prizes. Dates of the tournament are October 29th to November 3rd.



Albuquerque Tribune, circa 1956-1958

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

Junior Master

Teresa Bottomly
Susan Hetteema
Grazina Klein
Larry Kuo
Beverley Phelps
Mary Udell
Rebecca Vogl

Club Masters

Joel Barkoff
John Berry
Charleen Bishop
Bonnie Bright
Harold Gladstone
Terry Moynihan
Hilda Ripley
Ruth Webb
Mai Wilhelmi

Regional Master

Jerry Alcone
John Curro
Frank Lisle
Panola Lisle
Charles O'Connor
Barbara Schneider

NABC Masters

Jan Evans
Jim Johnson
George Soto
Susan Vidrine

Life Masters

David Sanchez

Bronze Life Masters

Sandy Doyle

Linda Hays
Patricia Plummer

Silver Life Masters

Gerald Duncan
Claudia Sanchez
R C Naranjo
Maxine Nunn

Silver Life Masters

Carolyn King

Diamond Life Masters

Cindy Harris

Emerald Life Masters

Clement Jackson

NEW MEMBERS

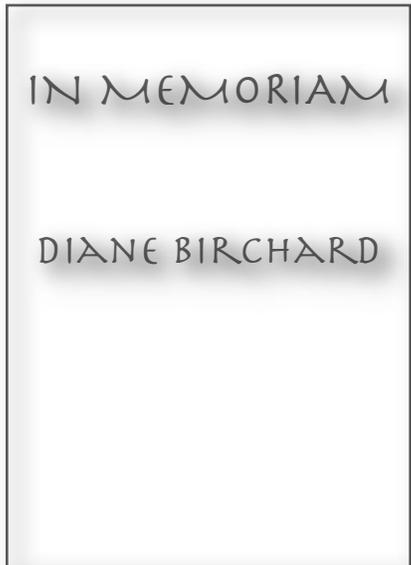
Jan Bennett
Jean Bischoff
Daniel Funk
Richard Greenfield
Michael Hannah
Virginia Kilkuske
David Klein
Kurt Lehmann
Mary Ann Lehmann
Nancy Pierce
Linda Schardt
Gary Scrivner
Mary Scrivner
Arlene Snider
Mary Udell

CHANGES TO DIRECTORY

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

Sylvia Wenaas
4101 Meadowlark Lane
Apartment #61
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Susan Vidrine
P. O. Box 14937
Albuquerque, NM 87191



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

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

July

- 6th: NAP Pairs Qualifier
- 13th: Open Pairs
- 20th: Unit Pairs Championship
- 27th: Local Charity Pairs

August

- 3th: Unit Pairs Championship
- 10th: WC STAC Swiss Teams
- 17th: Open Pairs
- 24th: Unit Swiss Championship
- 31st: NAP Pairs Qualifier

September

Please check the Unit Bulletin Board for September Events

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



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