

# Albuquerque Bridge Player

*Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter*

## President's Column

In this issue of the newsletter, I want to talk about intermediate and new players in duplicate bridge. The ACBL calls these players I/N's (intermediates/novices), and they generally have fewer than 300 masterpoints. Wilma Morris, the unit's membership chairman, has brought it to the board's attention that in our unit, there are 222 players who have fewer than 100 masterpoints and 124 that have between 100 and 300 masterpoints. Our 99ers (who have less than 100 masterpoints) represent more than one-third of our unit membership of 603, while the non-life masters (299ers) represent more than half of the membership (346 out of 603). The continued participation of our I/N members is very important to the health and welfare of our unit.

The unit and the ACBL are especially interested in keeping our I/N members interested in bridge, which is one reason we hold events such as the recent "Bridge on the Rio Grande" weekend with Bernie Chazen. This was the second annual event of this kind. Last year, as you may remember, we hosted a seminar by Larry Cohen. We look for bridge teachers who are entertaining and have a reputation for being able to communicate their bridge wisdom, especially to I/N players. This year's seminar was another success. It sold out early and was very well received by the unit membership. Several non-unit players also attended from Los Alamos, Santa Fe and Farmington. We welcome your feedback on this event. Please let us know how Bernie did as a teacher and who you would like to have as an instructor for the next event. Felicity Moore did another excellent job organizing this event and deserves our gratitude for this and all the other work she performs on the unit board.

Besides encouraging I/N players with inspirational bridge instruction, the unit board wants to show its appreciation to all members who



## ASK AL

**Q: The Unusual No Trump convention comes up seldom, so is it really worthwhile?**

**A:** That question must be asked of every convention you put on your convention card. The corollary question is: is the bid the conventional bid replaces worthwhile? In this case, the answer is yes.

The Unusual No Trump is an overcall (the opponents have opened the bidding) which cannot be a natural no trump call. It is such a useful bid that it does not even require an alert. ACBL does require that, by an unpassed hand, the overcall is at the two level or higher. The bid shows two suits, normally the two minor suits, and both suits should be at least five cards in length. Some partnerships accept a strong four-card suit. It is always better to be able to enlist partner's help in selecting one of two suits, rather than unilaterally naming only one suit.

Some examples:

1♠-P-2♠-2NT

The last bidder is not likely to want to play 2NT in the face of two bidding opponents.

1♥-2NT

The jump shows the conventional Unusual NT bid.



## In This Issue

<i>President's Column.</i>	1
<i>Ask Al</i>	1
<i>DCBC News</i>	3
<i>Unit Elections</i>	4
<i>Fall Sectional</i>	5
<i>Newer Players' Page</i>	6
<i>Odds &amp; Ends</i>	7
<i>Membership Changes</i>	8

*President's Column, from page 1*

support us at club games and tournaments. The unit has done well financially the last two years conducting our Navajo Trail Regional Tournament; subsidizing instructional events is one way to give back to the members. The next regional tournament will be at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, January 19-25, 2009 and our next sectional tournament will be at the Duke City Bridge Club (DCBC) on November 7-9, 2008.

As you may have noticed when you enter the DCBC, there is a display of Unit 374 member's pictures as well as displays by life master category. This is a project that we started about seven years ago with the availability of digital photography and is constantly being updated as we add new members and as players advance in rank. If you don't find your picture in this display, ask Keesha Ashanti, Wilma Morris, Felix Moore, Bob Zipp or me to get your picture taken. We will do our best to make you recognizable to the other members.

We also want to encourage new players to be active in our bridge world by participating on the unit board. The election cycle for board members starts with the membership meeting on October 5, 2008. Nominations can be made from the floor. Ballots will be mailed to the membership in early November and counted and announced near the Thanksgiving holiday. New terms start on the first of each year. We are always looking for representatives from the I/N ranks to run for election to the unit board. We want I/N players to participate in all aspects of bridge. This is your unit and club. Make the most of it.

*Bill Kass*

*Ask Al, from page 1*

2♥-4NT

2NT would be a natural no trump call, 3NT is normally meant to play, so 4NT is unusual.

P-1♥-P-1♠, 1NT

Unusual because you passed originally, and thus cannot hold a strong no-trump hand).

The Unusual No Trump can also be used to show, by partnership agreement, the two unbid suits, or the two lowest unbid suits. Thus, 1C-P-1H-2NT would show diamonds and spades. However, some partnerships agree that the bid still shows both minors, because the one club opener is frequently a three-card suit. Note that you might double to show this hand (spades and diamonds), with a double showing a stronger hand.

The Unusual No Trump is normally a weak hand—less than 10 points— and you do not plan to bid again. Most partnerships today agree that it might also be a very strong, two-suited hand, and you plan to bid game over partner's response in one of your suits.

Double takes care of the mid-range hands, or you might try to bid two suits during the auction, starting with an overcall of the higher ranking suit. But be aware that the auction may get too high to show the second suit.

When used in conjunction with Michaels Cue Bids, most two-suited overcall hands can be shown. Michaels is normally an immediate cuebid of opener's suit. When the opening bid has been a minor, the cuebid shows the two major suits (1C-2C showing both majors). When the opening bid is a major, the bid shows the other major and one of the minor suits (1H-2H shows spades and an unknown minor. Partner of the Michaels bidder bids 2NT to ask which minor.) Immediate cuebids do not require an alert. Many partnerships, however, extend the Michaels overcall to a later bid, not in direct seat: 1D-P-1NT-2D. Michaels can also be used at higher levels, as when the opening bid is a two or three-level preempt. Like the Unusual No trump, Michaels is normally a hand with less than 10 

## DCBC NEWS

The Duke City Bridge Club would like to thank Joe Harris for accepting the position of Club Manager. Our deep appreciation also goes to Al Beebe, our retiring club manager. We're glad his health has returned and he's back at the bridge table.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the free beginning and intermediate bridge lessons will have commenced as of September 20, 2008.

The DCBC annual membership meeting will be held December 2nd at 12:00 noon. We will be serving luncheon half an hour prior to the meeting, at 11:30 am. Because we are still having a lot of controversy regarding one section instead of two on the Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday games, the board has decided to have the membership vote on the issue at this meeting. If two sections are held, the A section would be open and the B section would be considered "invitational" (ACBL regulations). Invitational games only award 80% of the points given in an open event. If you feel strongly about this matter, please be there to vote.

Special thanks to Mark Steele and Al Dennis for contributing one-half of the cost for the name tags that were offered for sale to the unit members. This is a wonderful idea that should lead to increased social interaction during our games.

The "Toys for Tots" luncheon, our annual opportunity to give to the children in the area during Christmas, will be held on December 19th. Bring your appetite and a toy to put under the tree.

There are many utensils that have been left in the kitchen from time to time by members. Please look through these items in our storeroom located at the front of the club. Any items not claimed by October 15th will be donated to a charity.

If you are looking for partnerships, please note that Bob Zipp has a column in this newsletter explaining how to find a partner on the internet.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

*Mary Erickson*

*Ask Al, from page 2*

points, but should be better at the higher levels. Some play Leaping Michaels over weak two bids: over two spades, a jump to 4 of a minor shows hearts and the bid minor; over two hearts, a jump to 4 of a minor would also show the other major; over two diamonds, 4 diamonds shows both majors.

There are other methods to show two suits. Some play Sandwich No Trump, which is a one no trump bid between two bidding opponents, showing a weak hand with the other two suits. Thus, 1D-P-1H-1NT, by agreement, would show a weak hand with 5-5 in spades and clubs. Sandwich bidders would double with a stronger two-suited hand. Note that this is not an unusual no trump bid, and must be alerted, because it is more likely you might want to bid one no trump naturally. In Standard American, a double shows support for all unbid suits, and a new suit bid by the doubler shows a strong hand (17 high card points or better). Especially over preemptive opening bids, this can cause a problem when the next hand is worth an opening bid, but holds only two suits. This problem can sometimes be solved by playing equal level correction doubles. Over three spades, you double, and partner bids four clubs. If you now bid diamonds, you are showing a hand with hearts and diamonds, not extra values.

A great value of the Unusual No Trump and Michaels is that it causes a problem for the opening side. To defend against these two conventions, some players use the "Unusual over Unusual" tool. There are variations of this defense, but the Encyclopedia of Bridge describes the convention as a cue bid of the lower (implied) minor (over an opening bid in a major suit) as a limit raise for opener's major, and a cue bid of the higher (implied) suit shows the other major. 1S-2NT-3C would show a limit raise in spades. 1S-2NT-3D would show five hearts and be forcing for one round. A double is penalty oriented, showing values in at least one of the overcaller's suits. A somewhat similar system can be used over Michaels.

*-Al Beebe*

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### UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

It's time again to elect members to sit on the Unit's board of directors. A slate of at least seven nominees will be presented for your approval at the October 5th Membership Meeting, which will be held at 1:00 at the Duke City Bridge Club (DCBC) prior to the Friendship Game. At that time, you may make additional nominations from the floor. After the meeting, a ballot will be mailed to you. If you do not receive a ballot in the mail, or misplace your ballot, there will be blank ballots available at the DCBC for your use. Please remember, for your vote to be counted, you must:

1. Print your name and ACBL number on a blank envelope (provided by the unit, and found next to the ballot box at the DCBC).
2. Insert your ballot in the envelope and seal it.
3. Deposit it in the ballot box at the DCBC.

You also have the option of voting by mail. Send your completed ballot (prepared as described above) to:

Susy Law  
13101 Summer Place NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112

The nominating committee for this year's election consists of Faye Elmer, Susy Law and Merlene Krall. If you have any suggestions for nominees, or would like to volunteer to be a nominee, please contact one of the committee members.

Please note: This edition of the newsletter may be arriving late, due to the fact Bill Isham, our newsletter creator, must have some surgery performed this month. We have elected to hold the newsletter until his recovery permits him to put the finishing touches on this edition, so you may receive your newsletter after October 5th. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.

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### USING THE BRIDGEMATE

With the advent of Bridgemate, the automatic scoring device we're all using to record the results of each hand, new subtleties of behavior have evolved. Some players, after the results of the deal are verified, continue on to see what percentage score they have received, and announce the result to the entire table. Unfortunately - and frequently - loudly enough for players at other tables to hear.

This is annoying to some players, who wish to wait until the end of the game to find out how they have scored against the entire field. And, of course, it is discourteous when it leads players to inform their opponents that they have gotten a bad board. It is a form of gloating, and borders on poor sportsmanship. In turn, it often results in banter about the hand that may be overheard at other tables. ACBL rules strictly forbid verbal discussion of the results of a hand until after all the boards are played.

Unless or until this feature of the Bridgemate is disengaged, players are requested to ask which people at the table desire to know the percentage results after a hand. Then the Bridgemate device should be passed to those who wish to see the score. The result should never be verbalized.



# Roadrunner Fall Sectional

**November 7-9, 2008**  
**DUKE CITY BRIDGE CENTER**  
**8616 Northeastern Blvd NE**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87112**  
**505-271-2877**

<b>Friday</b>		<b>November 7, 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>November 8, 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>November 9, 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: Bob Craig Sanction # S0811067

**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.

## Newer Players Page

### Insufficient Bids

An insufficient bid is a call made during the bidding auction that is less in suit rank or quantity than what is required. For instance, your left hand opponent opens one club. Your partner bids one spade. Your right hand opponent bids one heart. Hearts rank below spades, so the one heart bid is insufficient. The director must be called at this point in your auction. He or she will give you the choice of accepting the insufficient bid or rejecting it. If you accept the insufficient bid, the auction will continue with no penalty to either side. If you reject the bid, the opponent can make it sufficient (in this case, bid two hearts) and again the auction will continue with no penalty imposed. However, if the opponent makes any other call than two hearts, his or her partner will have to pass for the balance of the bidding auction. When should you accept or reject an insufficient bid?

Assume you hold the following hand:

- ♠: 96
- ♥: AT9
- ♦: J752
- ♣: A864

Your hand is worth nine points. Partner's overcall bid could be as weak as seven points. If you accept the one heart bid, you can bid one no-trump to let your partner know you have six to ten points, a stopper in hearts and clubs and less than three spades. If you do not accept the one heart bid and your right hand opponent makes it sufficient by bidding two hearts, what will you do? Your hand is not strong enough to bid no-trump at the two level. You cannot support partner with only two spades. You would have to pass. So with this auction and the quality of your hand, it would be to your advantage to accept the insufficient bid.

Let's try another bidding sequence. Left hand opponent opens one club. Your partner bids two hearts. Right hand opponent bids one spade. One is less than two, so the one spade bid is insufficient. Again, immediately call the director. Your hand:

- ♠: AT96
- ♥: 9
- ♦: A7532
- ♣: 542

Partner's preemptive call of two hearts indicates a weak hand with six hearts. You cannot raise partner's hearts. You cannot bid no-trump because that would promise a stopper in clubs and at least two hearts. Accepting the one spade bid does not help you. Reject the insufficient bid. If you are lucky, the opponents will get too high and you will set them. If you encounter the same auction as above, but now hold:

- ♠: T964
- ♥: 97
- ♦: J752
- ♣: 863

Although your hand is too weak to bid, why make life easy for the opponents? Reject the bid. Remember, the opponents have made a serious mistake. You have every right to take advantage of their error. But think carefully before you proceed. *And always remember to call the director when there has been an insufficient bid.*

-Keesha Ashanti

# Odds & Ends

## SANDIA BRIDGE

Sandia will hold 4 team games in October:

- Tuesday the 7th
- Monday the 13th
- Thursday the 23rd
- Friday the 31st

These are sectionally rated with 5% gold points.

All regular games at Sandia are 100% sectionally rated.

*-Bill Koebler*

## 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!!!

## TAP IN ALBUQUERQUE

### TEACHER ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

In January, Unit 374 will be hosting a Teacher Accreditation Program immediately prior to the Albuquerque Regional, at the Marriott Hotel.

Learn how to be an accredited bridge teacher or upgrade your teaching skills. We encourage all unit members to take advantage of this opportunity. Although there is a charge for this training, there are special rates for Unit 374 members.

Contact Felix Moore for more information or to sign up.....  
f.moore@netscape.com or  
344-5209.

*-Felix Moore*

## FINDING PARTNERS ON THE INTERNET

To access the internet partnership desk, go to

[www.abqbridge.com](http://www.abqbridge.com).

Click on the link for the Partnership Desk. This will take you to a page with four options:

1. List Yourself: Click this to add your entry to the partnership desk.
2. Lookup Others: Click here to find partners
3. Delete Yourself: To delete your entry
4. Convention Card: This feature lets your potential partners see your favorite conventions.

The Partnership Desk is currently set up for a single event only, currently the Roadrunner Fall Sectional. We are trying to determine how to expand the site for daily club games.

*-Bob Zipp*

# Changes in Unit 374 Membership

## RANK PROMOTIONS

### Junior Masters

John Caffrey  
Ulrich Hetmaniuk  
Jackie McGehee  
Gary Scrivner  
Mary Scrivner

### Club Masters

Athena Kelly  
June Willging

### Sectional Masters

Arjune Bose  
Ranjit Bose  
Norma Mearns  
Christine Reid  
Karel Toohey  
Carroll Sue Wagner

### Regional Masters

Josephine Atkins  
Carol Barkoff  
Glynn Franchini  
Carol Hanson  
Patricia Hess  
Bob Irwin  
Katherine Irwin  
Martha Yoke

### Life Masters

Jackie Bradley  
David Kelsey  
Sally Van Valin

### Bronze Life Masters

Geraldine Borin  
Jonathan Hart  
Barbara Stewart  
Elaine Stone  
Bernice Sundberg

### Silver Life Masters

Sue DuBroff  
Richard Weigle

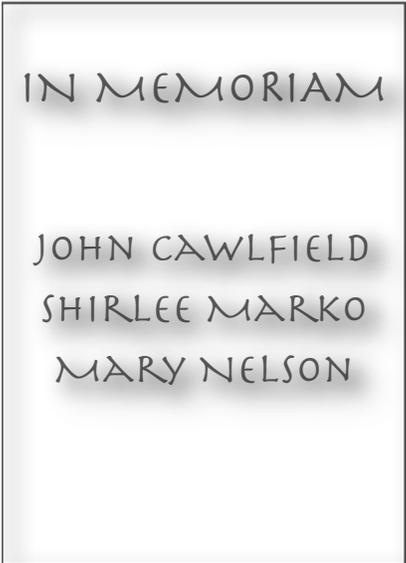
### Gold Life Masters

Jay Armstrong

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### NEW MEMBERS

John Finnigan  
Margaret Finnigan  
Jean Hodgins  
Alexis Powers  
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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE**

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

**October**

- 5<sup>th</sup>: Membership Meeting; Friendship Game (Individual)
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Unit Pairs Championship
- 19<sup>th</sup>: GNT\* Qualifier
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Open Pairs

**November**

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Unit Pairs Championship
- 7-9<sup>th</sup>: ABQ Fall Sectional
- 16<sup>th</sup>: Open Pairs
- 23<sup>th</sup>: Unit Swiss Championship
- 30<sup>th</sup>: GNT\* Qualifier

**December**

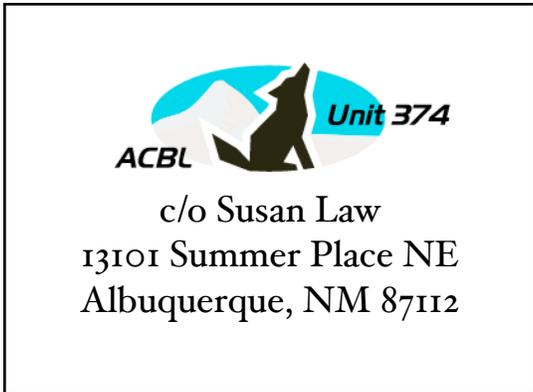
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Party; Unit Pairs Championship
- 14<sup>th</sup>: STAC Pairs
- 21<sup>st</sup>: Unit Charity Game for Roadrunner Foodbank
- 28<sup>th</sup>: GNT\* Qualifier

\*GNT = Grand National Teams

**UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST**

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 Keesha Ashanti; 440-2314



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