

# Albuquerque Bridge Player

*Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter*

## President's Column

Beginning in 2009, Unit 374 will be allowed by the ACBL to hold more Club Championship games on Sunday. After putting together the 2009 schedule, we noticed that there are very few 'regular' Sunday games left. (Please don't confuse this with the games that take place the other six days of the week at DCBC.) The Unit board decided that we can easily fill out the rest of the calendar by simply adding a few more charity games. This will mean that every Sunday game will be some kind of special game; Unit Pairs Championships, Unit Swiss Team Championships, Charity Club Championships, North American Pairs QualifierS, Sectional Tournaments, Friendship Games, etc. The primary benefit of special games is that they pay more masterpoints. Usually they are sectionally-rated games and since none of these games requires qualifying to play in, no one will be prevented from playing.



Currently, the fees charged for playing are either \$4.00 for regular games, \$4.50 for Club Championships and \$5.00 for North American Pairs and Charity Games. The fee for special games is higher because the Unit must pay more sanction fees for championship games or make a prescribed charitable contribution for charity games. We are proposing to change the playing fee to \$5.00 for all Sunday games. Since the \$4.00 regular games will disappear, this amounts to a \$0.50 increase for the Club Championship games and no increase for Charity or North American Pairs and Teams qualifiers.

We feel this change benefits the Unit players in several ways. First, you can win more masterpoints in every game; second, the extra fee charged in most cases will go to a worthy charity; third, it has the rather trivial benefit of making it simple to remember what the game will cost and will reduce the need for carrying all those \$1 bills and quarters around in your pocket or purse.

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## ASK AL

**Q: Some skip bids are alertable and others are not. Is this just to confuse us?**

**A:** It is confusing, but not on purpose. Remember the basic rule of alerting: If a bid sounds like something other than what it means, it probably requires an alert. When in doubt, always alert.

Part of the problem is that bridge is an ever-changing game. There was a time (long before my time) when a 2 club response to a 1 no trump opening bid actually showed clubs. The alert procedures try to recognize that some bids, which not so long ago meant one thing, often mean something else today. And the bid may mean something else again next year.

The most common alert violation I see at the table is the weak jump shift (1♣- 2♠) by partner. This is an alert, commonly shows less than 6 high card points and six spades by the responder, and it is non-forcing. Many players today never learned anything else, so it seems standard. But, in fact, the strong jump shift, showing a game-forcing hand with slam interest, is still standard. Most experts today have lowered the requirements for the strong jump shift. It used to require



*President's Column, from page 1*

Traditionally, volunteers at the Unit games serve excellent snacks which have been subsidized by profits from tournament operations that the Unit conducts, but if you haven't played in a Unit game on Sunday recently, don't take my word for it. Come out and try it. This won't change if we change the playing fees, it is just another benefit of playing on Sunday afternoon.

While the Unit board considers this a positive change, we want to give members and players a chance to comment before we adopt this new/improved/simplified, but slightly higher, fee structure. You can send your comments to me at kwjdr@msn.com ; call me at 268-5922 or stop me at the DCBC. Felix Moore, our Club Manager, who organizes the Sunday game schedule is available at f.moore@netscape.com or you can call her at 344-5209.

Congratulations to Marian Schreyer who was newly elected to the Unit 374 Board. She replaces her husband, Buck. Re-elected were Jill Burtram, Felicity Moore, Wilma Morris and Jerry Shinkle. I would like to thank all of them for serving the bridge community in Albuquerque.

By the time you read this, the 2009 Navajo Trail Regional will be right around the corner - January 19-25. As in 2008, the tournament will be held at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North. Schedules can be found at DCBC or online at <http://www.abqbridge.com>. Please join us for this tournament.

-Bill Kass

*Ask Al, from page 1*

nearly a strong two opening hand equivalent; today, a good 15 with a fit may qualify for some bidders. Some also play the jump shift as intermediate—10-11 points, which also is non-forcing and an alert.

The following are examples from the ACBL Alert Chart of jump bids (opponents' calls are omitted or included in parentheses):

**Skip Bids That Are Not Alertable**

Jumps to 2NT or any four-level or higher no trump bid that is unusual. This covers the Unusual No Trump convention. (1S-2NT). It is used so commonly that it is standard.

Three-level natural NT responses including jump responses. 1C-3NT. Or 2H-3NT.

All jump raises showing either a limit or forcing raise. 1S-3S; or also the competitive 1S-(2H)-3S showing a weak hand with spades.

Natural forcing jump shifts and all natural jump shifts in competition. 1C-2S forcing, or 1C-(1H)-2S forcing. 1C-(X)-2S weak.

Natural 2NT response that is invitational or better (this would include the 1C-2NT sequence, most often now played as 10-12).

Weak jump overcalls (two or three level). (1D-2H).

All natural jump raises of an overcall. (1D)-1S-(P)-3S.

*Note that the key word in most of these examples is "natural."*

**Alertable Skip Bids**

Overcall jumps to 3NT that are unusual. (1S-3NT). Most play that an overcall of 3NT is to play.

Natural overcall jumps to 2NT, except in balancing seat. (1S-2NT) showing a strong balanced hand. (As opposed to the Unusual No Trump.)

Weak jump raises by responder after a pass by RHO. This bid would include the weak Bergen raise of an opening major, 1H-3H. Also the weak Inverted Minor raise, 1D-3D.



DCBC NEWS

After many years of arduous labor, Mary Erickson has decided to resign as President of the Duke City Bridge Club (DCBC). It is impossible to list all the large and small tasks Mary has devoted her time to during her term of office. She has arranged for (and paid for, out of her own pocket), the pesticide services for the club for several years. She has looked after the inventory of our custodial supplies, our kitchen and rest room equipment, and the acquisition and replacement of our tables, chairs, desks and other playing facility furniture. We mustn't forget that Mary coordinated the renovation of our club four years ago, working closely with the Unit board of directors, to ensure that our kitchen, restrooms and our heating and cooling systems were brought up to date and that we'd have additional playing space to accommodate our sectional tournaments. Please join me in thanking Mary for these and the many other unseen but vitally important tasks she has performed for the bridge community during her presidency.

We are also grateful to Sally Lohfeld, who is leaving the board in December. Sally has been a mainstay in assisting with hospitality, and is largely responsible for the abundant and delicious treats we all enjoy so much.

Back in the late eighties, when we moved from the old bridge club on Zuni to our Northeastern location, several anonymous donors extended loans to the DCBC to cover the down payment on the new building. One of these donors, Shirley Marko, passed away recently, and in her will she forgave her loan of several thousand dollars to the club. Although it's too late to thank her personally for her generosity, let's keep in mind how important she was to the success of the DCBC and our continuing enjoyment of duplicate bridge in Albuquerque.

As the country inaugurates a new regime of belt-tightening during this recessionary period, the DCBC board of directors is considering the reduction of the amount of food we make available during our games. The board feels we can save a significant amount of money by just providing cookies and candy along with the coffee and tea service. Please contact any of the board members if you have any suggestions relevant to this change of policy, or if you'd like to volunteer to bring treats to the club periodically.

*Jay Armstrong, Acting President*

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THANK YOU

Just a few words to say many many thanks for all the support you have given me over the past few years. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your president of the DCBC Board of Directors and hospitality person, and was very saddened to make the decision to resign from the board. I do hope you will give the new president the same support that you have given me. A very HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all.

*-Mary Erickson*

*Ask Al, cont'd from page 2*

Natural opening bids of 2D, 2H, or 2S if intermediate strength or better. (As opposed to weak two bids.)

Natural weak or intermediate 2C opening bids. Precision players open two clubs to show an opening hand with a long club suit and less than 16 points.

Of course, there are many conventional and artificial jump bids which are alertable. Flannery two diamonds, for example, or Bergen 3 club and 3 diamond responses to major openings. Artificial is the key word.

Remember, after ANY jump bid by your right-hand opponent, you are required to hesitate, whether or not the optional stop card has been used.

*-Al Beebe*

## REGIONAL HOSPITALITY

Now that many of us have name badges to wear at our club games, let's use them to convey our friendliness to out-of-town guests at the Albuquerque Regional in January. Remember to take them with you to the tournament, and pin them on before you sit down to play. The hospitality staff will transfer the badges our members keep at the DCBC to the Marriott, and have them available for pick up and return at the Hospitality Desk. (The Hospitality Desk will be open every playing day and night except Sunday, one hour before game time.) For people who don't have the custom-printed name-tags, stick-on paper badges will be provided.

*Sharing your name with strangers is just another way to smile!*

*-Susy Law*

## EDUCATIONAL KUDOS

As everyone knows, the health and future of our bridge community relies on the constant infusion of new players. To ensure that this happens, we need a robust, dedicated teaching staff. Every year or two, the unit sponsors a Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP). We urge everyone interested in this program to take advantage of the classes that will be offered this year during the Regional in January. Details about the TAP are posted at the DCBC, or you can contact any unit board member for more information.

But most important, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our existing teachers, who have done a spectacular job of recruiting, instructing, and encouraging our past and present students. This last year, **Francie Straw** and **Keesha Ashanti** organized and taught classes for 80 intermediate and 40 beginning players. They also instituted a new teaching tool, supervised play, on Saturday mornings. It attracted over nine tables of participants. Please take the time to pat these two unsung heroines on the back for the tremendous amount of time and energy they have expended on our educational program. Thanks also to Pat Plummer and Judy Drennan for their assistance to Keesha and Francie.

*-Susy Law*

## BRIDGE CLASSES

Bridge classes for the beginner and intermediate player will start on Saturday, February 7 at 9:30 at Duke City Bridge Club. Pat Plummer will teach the beginning class using Audrey Grant's *Bridge Basics 1*. No trump, major and minor opening bids and responses will be taught and students will get to play hands emphasizing the stills taught. Books will be available for purchase at \$12.00. The series assumes participants have little or no experience playing party or duplicate bridge.

Francie Straw will teach the intermediate class using Silverman's *Intermediate Bridge* to help players improve their bidding skills. Competitive bidding, jump shifts, cuebids, takeout doubles, forcing and nonforcing bids, opening leads and signals will be taught. Textbooks costing \$6.00 will be available for purchase.

Players enjoy the friendly and supportive nature of these classes. Please encourage your family and friends to take advantage of this invaluable opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the wonderful and competitive game of bridge in a social setting.

## Newer Players Page

### DON'T BE A GRINCH AT THE BRIDGE TABLE

During this time of giving, goodwill and New Year's resolutions, I thought I would take this opportunity to remind everyone that the Duke City Bridge Club (DCBC) has a Zero Tolerance Policy. Copies of the policy can be found just inside the entry way.

The DCBC is committed to improving acceptable player behavior in their games and tournaments. The purpose of the Zero Tolerance Policy is to create a playing environment that promotes fun, congeniality, and an ability to focus our intelligence on this difficult game.

#### Examples of commendable behavior are:

1. Being courteous and greeting others in a friendly manner.
2. Praising bidding and play of the opponents and your partner.
3. Treating irregularities as minor inconveniences. A statement like "I think we should let the director help with this" can ease the moment. Then call the director. Quietly.
4. Waiting until after the game to discuss the hand and various lines of play.
5. Having your convention card available for the opponents to view.

#### Examples of behavior that is not acceptable are:

1. Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, or profanity.
2. Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
3. Gloating: "We went down one but they could make four spades easily!" (Remember, don't verbalize the results indicated on the Bridgемate.)
4. Uninvited lessons at the table.

If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called immediately. It is not appropriate to confront an opponent.

Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct that interferes with the enjoyment of the game is prohibited by the laws of the game. The director has the authority to assess disciplinary penalties.

*-Keesha Ashanti*

### MAKE SURE THEY USE THEIR TRUMP WINNER TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!

<u>North</u>			
♠ 765			
♥ 8643			
♦ K107	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>N</u> <u>E</u>
♣ Q52	2♣	P	2♦ P
	2♠	P	3♠ P
	4♣	P	4♦ P
	6♠	P	P P
<u>South</u>			
♠ AKQ42			
♥ A			
♦ AQ3	BOTH VUL		
♣ AK63	DEALER: SOUTH		

West leads the queen of hearts to your ace. Both opponents follow when you cash the ace of spades, but West discards the four of hearts on the second round.

The hand looked simple to begin with, but the 4-1 trump break has complicated matters. There is no way of avoiding a trump loser, so you must take care not to lose a club trick as well. You will have no worries on a 3-3 club break but can you cope if the clubs are 4-2 or worse?

*Solution Next Page*

SOLUTION: MAKE SURE THEY USE THEIR TRUMP WINNER TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!

<u>North</u>			
♠	765		
♥	8643		
♦	K107		
♣	Q52		
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>	
♠	9	♠	J1083
♥	QJ1052	♥	K97
♦	J6	♦	98542
♣	J9874	♣	10
<u>South</u>			
♠	AKQ42		
♥	A		
♦	AQ3		
♣	AK63		

The contract is cold as long as East has at least one club. You have to time your play so as to give East no chance of ruffing one of your club winners. You have no objection to his ruffing a loser, for the rest of the tricks will be yours.

Play a small club to the queen at trick four and return the suit. If East is able and willing to ruff, he will be ruffing your loser. If East follows suit or discards, win with the king and return to dummy with the king of diamonds and continue with the third club. If unable to follow, East will be faced with the same dilemma, ruffing your loser or allowing your ace to score. If he chooses the latter course, you can ruff the fourth club in dummy and he is welcome to over-ruff with his trump winner. You can now win any return and draw his last trump.

Of course if East has four or more clubs, you will be able to enjoy your club ruff in peace.

*-Felix Moore*

HOW BRIDGE IS ORGANIZED IN ALBUQUERQUE

The ACBL (American Contract Bridge League) is the national organization that oversees and supports competitive bridge in the USA, Canada and Mexico. The ACBL is divided into Districts which in turn are divided into Units. Here in Albuquerque all ACBL members are members of Unit 374 in District 17.

Within Unit 374 there are several bridge clubs that organize and promote club games that award black points. These clubs are Duke City Bridge Club, Casa des

Amigos, Sandia West, Unit 374 and Four Hills Country Club. The DCBC premises at Northeastern are rented by Casa de Amigos on Wednesday afternoons and by the Unit on Sunday afternoons.

In addition to hosting club games and Unit Championships on Sunday afternoons, Unit 374 organizes three Sectional Tournaments every year which award silver points and with District 17, hosts our annual Regional Tournament in January,

where you may win red and gold points.

Unit 374 uses any profit from their tournaments, as well as a part of your ACBL dues, to organize and promote many educational opportunities such as teaching weekends (Larry Cohen, Bernie Chazen), director training courses and bridge teacher accreditation. Additionally, this newsletter and the invaluable Membership Directory are produced and distributed by Unit 374.

*-Felix Moore*

# Odds & Ends

## CADDIES NEEDED

If you are interested in caddying at our Regional Tournament in January, please call Jill Burtram at 842-1817.

Thanks.

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## 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 Marion Schreyer at 299-3102 to donate snacks or to volunteer hospitality services for any Sunday game.

P.S. All surprises welcome!!!

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## MIXED PAIRS- COMING IN MARCH!

On Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Unit will be holding a Mixed Pairs Championship. This will be a fun event, so get your partnerships organized and mark the date! If we get enough entries (6 pairs) there will be a separate section for 199ers.

## WARNING

There have been reports of theft at the Duke City Bridge Club – purses, money and credit cards stolen. Thieves tend to intensify their activity during the Christmas season, so remember to keep a close eye on your handbags and wallets. Another tip: either leave your cash, credit cards and checkbook at home while you're playing bridge, or stick those items in the pockets of the clothing you're wearing. Or put your money and financial instruments in the trunk of your car (then hope they don't steal your car!)

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## THANK YOU

The unit board of directors and especially the Sunday afternoon bridge players would like to thank Mike Gray for his effort in supervising the provision of refreshments for the unit games in 2008. Thanks also to donors Wilma Morris, Jill Burtram, Sue Shoquist, Nancy Kruger, Marge Troup, Merlene Krall, Marian Schreyer, Elaine Stone, Susan Zimmerman, Rick Weigle and Jo Crumley.

*-Susy Law*

## TAP IN ALBUQUERQUE

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*

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## NEW FROM SANDIA WEST \$30,000 CHALLENGE TEAM LADDER

The Sandia Bridge Club is considering holding a bridge tournament called the "Challenge Team Ladder." The contest lasts for 50 weeks and you may or may not play for cash. It will probably cost \$40.00 per team per match if playing for cash, otherwise the cost will be \$20.00 per team per match. The event will be stratified. This is a tentative idea. I am looking for people who have participated in similar events. Please give me a call if you have any further information about this type of contest, or if you'd like to get involved

*-Bill Koehler*

**Changes in Unit 374 Membership**

RANK PROMOTIONS

**Junior Masters**

Peggy Hennessy  
 Nissim Kanekar  
 Kurt Lehmann  
 Mary Ann Lehmann

**Club Masters**

Susan Hetteama  
 John Knight  
 Cheryl Mitchell  
 Gary Scrivner  
 Mary Scrivner

**Sectional Masters**

Betty Halbleib  
 Paul Isaacson  
 Jean Meehan  
 Michael Meehan  
 Donald Wunsch

**Regional Masters**

Sue Berry  
 Lynn Hinrichs  
 Mary Ella Smith

**NABC Master**

Leo Pigaty

**Life Masters**

Carl Fesler  
 John Groves  
 Kent Jones  
 Doyce King  
 Teddy Rhodes  
 Susan Zimmerman

**Bronze Life Masters**

John Dorney  
 Doyce King  
 Marian McClure  
 Susan Zimmerman

**Gold Life Masters**

Sadie Bivin  
 Jim Bushnell

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 NEW MEMBERS

Mary Boardman  
 Roberta Burleson  
 Sloan Carr  
 Michael Carvlin  
 Sharon Connor  
 Patricia Gallacher  
 Christine Gelina  
 Charles Reddit  
 Stephen Sallot  
 Barbara Stanley  
 Alice Valdez  
 Pamela Vance  
 William Vance  
 Deanna Wagoner  
 Marion Young

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IN MEMORIAM

BARBARA KELSEY

BARB PASSED AWAY  
 DECEMBER 4TH. SHE WAS  
 LOVED BY ALL WHO KNEW  
 HER. HER INNATE  
 GRACIOUSNESS, HUMOR,  
 AND COURAGE WERE  
 NEVER SO EVIDENT AS IN  
 THE LAST YEAR OF HER  
 LIFE. FOR THOSE OF US  
 LUCKY ENOUGH TO CALL  
 HER FRIEND, SHE WILL BE  
 SORELY MISSED.

*-Jill Burtram*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**UPCOMING UNIT GAMES  
SCHEDULE**

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

**January**

- 4<sup>th</sup>: Unit Pairs Championship
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Charity Pairs Championship
- 18<sup>th</sup>: Swiss Team Championship
- 25<sup>th</sup>: No Game (Regional Tourn.)

**February**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: GNT Qualifier
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Pairs for ACBL Junior Fund
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Unit Pairs Championship
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Charity Championship

**March**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Mixed Pairs Championship
- 8<sup>th</sup>: ACBL Charity Pairs
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Swiss Teams Championship
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Charity Championship
- 29<sup>th</sup>: Unit Pairs Championship

**UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST**

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