

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

This should be an easy column to write because a lot of other people have done all the work. Here are some of the bridge events that members of the Unit 374 Board are planning and Unit 374 is sponsoring.

A series of lessons for new to intermediate players is being organized by Jill Burtram, Debbie Reichman and Keesha Ashanti. Jill and Debbie have written a 'lesson plan' for the first few lessons which will have started when you see this column. The first lessons on Forcing Bids will continue through July. About forty players have signed up for this series which will be held on Sundays at 11:30AM before the unit game. The excellent unit hospitality, organized by Marian Schreyer, should be a good reason to have a snack and stay to play in the unit game.

Felicity Moore has booked Morris to give a two day August 29-30. This will be weekend event the unit will has varied the format a one will focus on I/N more advanced lesson on



Eddie Wold and Robert seminar on the weekend of the third annual seminar have sponsored. Felix little each year and this players on Saturday, with a Sunday for the more experienced players as well as I/N participants. More details will be forthcoming as the date draws closer.

Just when we thought the unit hospitality couldn't get any better, Rick Weigle and Susan Zimmerman have organized a 'Champagne Brunch' for July 26 at 11:30AM. Sue is a first class professional chef and Rick a first class amateur chef. The total cost for the brunch and bridge at the unit game will be \$10, all of which will go to the Assistance League charity. The unit is donating the food while Rick and Sue are donating a lot of time. More details on the function appear in this newsletter.

The Assistance League is a charity in which several unit members are active and provides school clothes to homeless children.



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ASKAL

Q: It seems like I get a different ruling every time I pull the wrong card from the bidding box. When can I change my call?

A: Several factors may be involved, which is why it may seem you get different rulings. But the basic rule questions whether your fingers misbid, or your mind was off kilter. Did you make a mechanical error by pulling the wrong card from the bidding box, or did you change your mind about the bid, having realized an error? You can probably correct the first, but not the second action.

ACBL says: "A call may be changed without penalty (under the provisions of other bridge laws) only if a player has inadvertently taken out the wrong bidding card, and the player corrects, or attempts to correct without pause for thought, and the player's partner has not made a call."

The onus is on the player to convince the director that the error was mechanical. Some facts may lean one way or the other. If the new bid is from a different part of the bidding box, the call will seldom be deemed mechanical. For example, changing a pass card to substitute one spade is unlikely to be a mechanical error.



President's Column, from page 1

Marian Schreyer, our charity chair, has been diligent in finding appropriate charities for the unit to support. The designated recipient for unit charity games proceeds for 2009 will also be the Assistance League. Every fall the unit makes additional contributions of approximately \$3000 to selected charities. If you have a charity you want us to consider, talk to Marian.

There are a few other regular events which we tend to take for granted. Felicity Moore just chaired another successful Roadrunner Sectional Tournament. She deserves our thanks. Attendance was good and we attracted a few more players than usual from Colorado and Texas. Thanks, also, of course, to you New Mexico players who we depend on to really support these tournaments.

This unit newsletter would not be possible without the hard work of organizing/editing it by Susy Law and the computerization and set-up performed by Bill Isham. Rick Weigle deserves thanks for handling the printing and mailing.

I think it is a tribute to the loyalty of the many Unit 374 members who have agreed to serve on the Unit Board throughout the years and continue to work as volunteers in the bridge community after their terms on the board end. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and help in making bridge in Albuquerque successful.

-Bill Kass

UNIT 374 GIVES BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

In keeping with a long tradition of bridge clubs everywhere, our Unit 374 of the American Contract Bridge League annually donates surplus funds to selected local charities. During the fall board meetings, several groups are presented as possible recipients. Members of the board then vote on which charities are to receive funds and in what amount. Past groups that have received donations include: Toys for Tots, Roadrunner Food Bank, The Storehouse, Joy Junction, Barrett Foundation, St. Martin's Day Shelter, Cuidando Los Ninos, Peanut Butter and Jelly, and Christina Kent Early Childhood Center. A new recipient was The Albuquerque Public Schools Title I Homeless Project administered by Helen Fox. This project will serve more than 4500 homeless students during the 2009-2010 school year, and has an excellent track record in providing the support necessary for these students to stay in school, graduate, and even continue on through the university level. Another worthy group that is being considered is the Assistance League of Albuquerque, not only because they help clothe needy students, but also because many of our members volunteer with the Assistance League.

If any member has suggestions or questions, contact me at marianschreyer@comcast.net, or 299-3102. *-Marian Schreyer*

Ask Al, from page 1


The cards are from different parts of the bidding box. But one heart to one spade is a much more allowable change.

The hand you hold may be another factor. The director may consider that changing to a borderline bid is not acceptable, but a clear-cut holding is. Our minds do fly out the window on occasion. I have seen players put out a pass card when holding a perfectly normal 2 club opening hand.

How quickly you attempt to make a correction, or announce to the table that you have bid in error, is a major factor. The sooner, the better. If your left hand opponent has taken no action, a change in the call is more likely to be permitted. If a change of call is permitted after LHO has bid, the director will also have to determine whether there has been any unauthorized information passed to either side, and whether damage has occurred.

Bottom line factor: if your partner has made a call, it is unlikely you will be able to change your call. It is best to keep silent, and bid your hand as normally as still possible. That comes under the heading of normal bridge luck, good or bad.

Q: After a two-level opening bid, what responses are generally alertable?

A: The simple answer is that artificial bids are alertable, and natural bids are not. There are exceptions. 

BRIDGE CLASS

Bridge is a challenging and fun game that everyone can enjoy. Duke City Bridge Club is excited to be offering three classes this fall. For the absolute beginner with no experience with party or duplicate bridge, a class will be taught by Pat Plummer on Sundays starting September 9 at 1:30 in the north room using Audrey Grant's *Bridge Basics I*. For the beginner player with some bridge experience, Pat Plummer will teach a class in the north room on Saturdays starting September 8 at 9:30 using Audrey Grant's *Competitive Bidding*. For the more experienced player, Francie Straw will teach a class starting September 8 at 9:30 in the main room using Caroline Synor's *Bridge Made Easy—Book Two*. Books will be available for purchase at the first class. Players enjoy the friendly and supportive nature of these classes so encourage your family and friends to join us for this learning opportunity.

-Francie Straw

"SHAMPAGNE" BRUNCH AT DUKE CITY BRIDGE CLUB

Some of our very talented chefs at DCBC (Rick Weigle, Susan Zimmerman, and others) have volunteered to host a fund-raising "Shampagne" Brunch on July 26, 2009, 11:30AM at the Duke City Bridge Club. The cost will be \$10 per person for brunch and includes playing fee for the Sunday afternoon game. Our own unit 374 of ACBL will pay for the cost of putting on the brunch and the game that afternoon so that the cost of the tickets will be a tax deductible donation. The beneficiary of all proceeds from this event will be The Assistance League of Albuquerque, a local charity that provides uniforms for needy Albuquerque school children. The Assistance League clothing program has grown from helping 93 students to over 3,000 students per year, and it estimates that another 10,000 students could benefit.

Come join us on July 26 at 11:30AM for good company, special food and non-alcoholic sparkling beverages and help Unit 374 in supporting this special charity. (Note: if you would like to bring your own real champagne, please feel free to do so. We cannot provide alcoholic beverages for obvious reasons.)

-Marian Schreyer

Ask AI, from page 2

The ACBL position is that strong two club opening bids and most two diamond responses are so common that no alert is required. Two clubs shows a strong hand, two diamonds is a hand "waiting" for clarification. If you play step or control responses to two clubs, the response is entirely artificial, showing high card points, or ace-king controls, and must be alerted. But a suit response showing that suit, regardless as to quality agreements, is not an alert. A second artificial response bid, such as "cheapest minor" to show a second negative hand, is an alert. It is not necessary to alert bids which convey information, but are natural. For example: 2 clubs, 2 diamonds; 2 hearts, 3 or 4 hearts. The heart raise is natural, but 3 or 4 would have different meanings.

All weak two opening bids are natural and are not alertable. The 2NT response, if it asks for further information (as is standard practice), is not an alert. Some play that 2NT is to play and not forcing, and that would be an alert. Most play that a new suit by responder is forcing, so if played as non-forcing, an alert is needed.

If your system calls for opener to bid a "feature" after the 2NT response, no alert is required. This is a natural bid. It shows something in the suit bid. (A singleton is not considered to be a feature, and must be alerted.)



DCBC NEWS

During the past few months there have been several changes and developments at Duke City Bridge Club (DCBC). Some highlights and updates include:

New Treasurer

After four years of serving as Treasurer for DCBC, Jackie Bradley decided to resign this position. The DCBC Board and members extend tremendous thanks and appreciation to Jackie for her dedicated service regarding our financial operations. Jan Evans has accepted the appointments of Treasurer/board member. She is immersed in the latest version of Quick Books and Excel spread sheets. We are fortunate to have her talents and experience. Lori Schultz has been serving as our Assistant Treasurer for over six years and does the majority of our banking. She took off a few weeks in April for shoulder surgery, and we thank Mary Erickson for taking over Lori's duties during the recovery period.

New Chairs of two Standing Committees

Jerry Shinkle and Larry Bertholf have been appointed to serve as chairs for two standing committees. Jerry is the chair of the Finance Committee and Larry is the chair the Conduct and Ethics Committee.

Revised Bylaws

Diane Todd, who is the Board Secretary, also is serving as chair of the Bylaws Revisions Committee. The other Committee members are Richard Armstrong, Alma O'Brien, and Barbara Schneider. They have been working over the past several months and presented a draft of the revised bylaws to the board on June 10th. The board approved the revised document with minor changes. A special membership meeting will be scheduled to be held this summer to vote on the proposed revisions. The bylaws and the meeting agenda will be posted in the next several weeks. Copies of the proposed revised bylaws will be made available. Barbara Schneider retyped and formatted the bylaws and has footnoted each change. This notation will make it easy for members to review the proposed changes.

DCBC Library

For the past two years Doyce King and Marge Brosnan have served as Co-Directors for our library. Our thanks to them for their volunteer service(see their article in the newsletter).

Russ Edwards

If you have seen a tall, handsome, dapper gentleman performing multiple repair tasks at the club, it is Russ Edwards. He might be on his ladder checking the roof or changing a security light, installing a new doorframe, cleaning air vents, or painting. For the past several years, Russ as served on the DCBC Board and as chair of the Maintenance and Building Management Committee. He can repair or install almost everything and saves the club multiple dollars with all his volunteer labor. Hats off to Russ!

DCBC National Standing

A final update is from Felix Moore, our Game Coordinator. Appearing in the Spring issue of the ACBL Newsletter for Club Managers was a list of the top fifty clubs in the nation reporting the most tables during 2008. The DCBC was listed as twenty-seventh. Felix posted a copy by the Director's desk if you want to see the names of the other clubs that appear on the list.

Ask Al, from page 3

If you play Ogust responses to 2NT, each bid is artificial, and has to be alerted. Any similar system requiring artificial responses would also require alerts.

Other two-level conventional opening bids, such as Flannery (alertable as artificial), essentially require alerts when the bids are artificial, no alerts when they are natural.

-Al Beebe

A Weekend with Eddie Wold & Bob Morris

On 29 and 30 August, Unit 374 will present the third of their annual lecture series. We will welcome Eddie Wold and Bob Morris to Albuquerque to give lectures to players of all abilities.

On Saturday 29 August, there will be an all day seminar for new life masters and intermediate players. Saturday topics will be:

"Hand Evaluation - the most valuable bridge lesson you can get."

"Opening INT - the most important bid in bridge."

"Competitive Bidding - how to get into the auction after the opponents open the bidding."

"Avoidance Plays."

As well as a lecture on each topic, there will be example hands to bid and play.

On Sunday 30 August, the morning will be spent on lectures and interactive discussion for more experienced intermediate and advanced players. The topics will include "Opening Leads", "Vanishing Tricks" and "Matchpoints or IMPs - a different approach".

On Sunday afternoon, Eddie and Bob will play with as many players as possible during our regular pairs game. All players are welcome.

Eddie hails from Houston. He is a two-time World Champion and has won countless National Championships. He is third on the all-time masterpoint list with 54,000 masterpoints. Bob is a Grand Life Master and a well known bridge teacher in the Houston area.

Pick up a flyer at DCBC and register for this exciting weekend, space is limited.

-Felix Moore

Newer Players Page

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO A GOOD PARTNERSHIP

When I was first introduced to the wonderful world of bridge, I was excited and opened my arms enthusiastically to the various conventions thrown my way by a variety of players. In those days I had many partners and gladly would have played bridge seven days a week. Now after several years of playing bridge I would like to go back to a simple convention card with only the basics: Stayman, Transfers, Weak Twos, Strong 2 Club, Takeout Doubles, Negative Doubles, Gerber and Blackwood.

In my experience and in my observation of other players, it is not the lack of a convention that causes problems. It is the failure to communicate. Bidding is a language. If one partner is speaking French and the other Chinese, they are going to have problems. When partners become frustrated with each other it is usually because they have failed to communicate.

The partnerships that I most respect and admire are those who understand their partner's bid and respond accordingly. Having a lot of fancy conventions may be intellectually stimulating but if your partner is not in sync, you may end up stuck in a mire of misbids culminating in a low score and each partner blaming the other for the results.

My advice to newer players: Forget the fancy stuff. Learn the basics well and work on fine-tuning your communication skills with your partner. Before making a bid, ask yourself a few questions. How high should we go? Where should we play the contract? How can I learn more about partner's hand? What would my bid say to partner? What will my rebid be?

Your partner opens 1S and you have the following hand:

S - 5
H - K J 7 2
D - A J 8 6 5
C - K 8 7

What do you know? You know that the partnership has enough points for a game level contract. But at this point you do not know where to play it. You need more information from partner. If partner has four hearts, game in hearts would be a good possibility. If partner has a balanced hand but less than four hearts, notrump could be a good contract. How do you find out more about partner's hand? You force partner to bid again and further describe her hand. At this stage what would be a forcing bid? A new suit by responder who has not previously passed is forcing. Opener must bid again. Therefore, if your partner opens 1S and you have the hand shown above, bid 2D. If partner now bids 2H, you can go straight to game by bidding 4H. What do you do if partner rebids spades or bids 3C or 3D? You know the partnership belongs in a game level contract. The question is: How to get there and where to play it?

To help with issues such as these, the Unit is presenting a series of lectures for intermediate and novice players to improve their communication skills with their partner. The first series will be on forcing and non-forcing bids. The lectures will be held from 11:30 to 12:30 pm (prior to the Sunday afternoon unit game). Following the lecture, we hope you stay for the 1:30 game to practice what you learned. There are sign-up sheets posted in the club with more information. The lectures are FREE!

-Keesha Ashanti

Odds & Ends

80% GAME!

On April 20, in the morning 99r game, Joel Barkoff and Jerry Harper had an 80% game. It was a three table Howell with 25 boards played. Good job, Joel and Jerry!

-Marilyn Anderson

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!!!

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please make these corrections in your membership/telephone directory:

Gloria Hopley
9900 Spain NE
Apartment F1031
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Loerraine & Macauley Taylor
(505) 286-2775

**NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS
QUALIFICATION**

During June, July and August there will be several club level qualifying games for the North American Pairs. The games have three stratifications: Open; 2000 points and below; and NLM. Qualifiers in all three strats will be eligible to play in the District 17 qualifying round during the Ruidoso Regional in October. If you qualify in either DCBC or Unit games, Unit 374 will pay your entry fee in Ruidoso.

At Ruidoso, there will be separate games for each division and the first 3 pairs in each will receive an invitation to the National Finals at the Spring Regional in Reno, NV. The first two pairs will also receive a cash award as long as they participate in Reno.

For more information you may check the D17 website at www.district17news.com or discuss it with Felix Moore.

DCBC LENDING LIBRARY

We hope you're enjoying the Duke City Bridge Club library. Special thanks to those of you who have donated books. Books are arranged by author in alphabetical order. The books, starting with "A," begin on the west wall and continue around on the north wall. 25-cent donations for rental may be put in the coffee jar. Happy reading!

-Doyce King & Marge Brosnin

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

Junior Masters

Roy Davis
 Jim Dennis
 Richard Greenfield
 Phyllis Hendrickson
 Barbara Kerl
 David Klein
 James Linn
 Harry Season
 William Skees

Club Masters

Ashley Burkholder
 Hong Hai Dubroff
 Grazine Klein
 Sonya Packer
 Beverly Phelps
 Tex Ritterbush
 Eugene Smith
 Sally Storrs
 Mary Udell

Sectional Masters

John Berry
 Cindy McBride
 Cheryl Mitchell
 Hilda Ripley
 Ken Schrader
 Mary Scrivner
 June Willging

Regional Masters

Arjune Bose
 Ranjit Bose
 Ethel Giovanis
 Theodore Giovanis
 Pat Goettsche
 Margaret Hanrahan
 Norma Mearns
 Marilyn Woodruff

NABC Master

Richard Armstrong
 Josephine Atkins
 Nancy Burleson
 David Hetteima
 Marilyn Rost

Life Masters

James L. Munroe
 Susan Vidrine

Bronze Life Masters

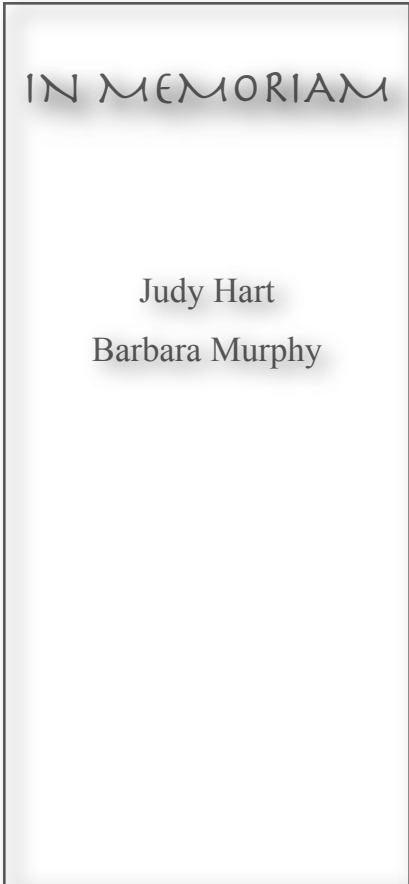
Kent Jones
 Patricia Kelley
 James Munroe

Silver Life Masters

Diana Kelleher

NEW MEMBERS

Donna Allison
 Stephen Brill
 June Brunner
 James DeFlon
 Joann DeFlon
 Mornica Furlong
 Stephen Jayden
 Robert Kingsley
 Tony Kingsley
 Carolyn Lamb
 Michael Nolan
 Carol Schwarz





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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

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

July

- 5th: Unit Pairs Championship
- 12th: Charity Pairs Championship
- 19th: NAP Qualifier
- 26th: Swiss Teams Championship

August

- 2st: Unit Pairs Championship
- 9th: ACBL Charity Pairs
- 16th: Unit Pairs Championship
- 23nd: NAP Qualifier
- 30th: Charity Pairs Champ.

September

- 6th: Unit Pairs Championship
- 13th: ACBL Int'l Fund Pairs
- 20th: Local Charity Pairs
- 27th: Charity Pairs Champ.

UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST

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