

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

On September 11th and 12th, the unit sponsored a two-day educational event featuring Karen Walker, a nationally recognized bridge author and teacher. Felix Moore was once again responsible for organizing this affair, and Karen may have been her best find yet. I heard nothing but enthusiastic reports about the course. Karen used very common bridge situations to make her points, and engaged everyone from the very beginning of the program. More than 100 people attended, including several from Los Alamos and Santa Fe. The unit subsidizes this event so that the cost per player is about 10% of what one might expect to pay to attend similar retreats advertised by other bridge professionals. If you didn't attend this year, plan on it for next year – I am sure Felix will come up with another winning program and instructor. Thanks, Felix, for your work.

I think you might be some of the things the unit has accomplished in the past ten years:



Education – The Karen Walker Seminar was the fourth annual bridge weekend we have offered. The total unit subsidy has been about \$10,000 for all four educational events. In addition, we have sponsored other bridge classes taught at DCBC, held Teacher Accreditation Program courses taught at some of our regionals, and arranged for director training courses taught by nationally ranked directors*.

Tournaments - We raise money primarily through conducting bridge tournaments. The unit has conducted ten regional tournaments in the last ten years and netted about \$61,000. We have also held twenty Open Sectional Tournaments and ten 299r tournaments. I estimate these tournaments have brought in about \$25,000 to the unit.

Charitable Activities - Over the last ten years, the unit has used its funds to contribute, on behalf of

interested in a listing of has accomplished in the

Walker Seminar was the we have offered. The total

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BUDDHA SAYS

The case for Multi 2 Hearts.

When I started playing bridge with my mother sixty years ago, we played only one convention – the takeout double. Getting to the correct contract, strain, and level was often a matter of pure guess work. Today there are a multitude of conventions, some of which help lead to more accurate contracts. In fact, today many of the leading pairs have hundreds of pages of system notes.

One of the leading U.S. pairs, Steve Robinson and Peter Boyd from the D.C. area, have published their notes, called the “Washington Standard” and it is an excellent complete Two Over One System with all the gadgets explained. For newer players it would probably take 6 months or so to adopt all their features, but if you did so, you would have a cutting edge, fully defined bidding system that handles almost all hands.

One of the Robinson/Boyd inventions is the “Multi Two Heart” response to one of a minor opening. This is the problem. When partner opens one of a minor and you do not have a four-card or longer major, or length in the other minor with at least invitational to game values, then you will have to bid notrump or raise

President's Column, from page 1

all our members, over \$30,000 to local charities through annual donations allocated by the Board of Directors in December of each year. We also make charitable contributions through our regular Sunday Unit Game, and have held special charity fund events.

Other Tangible Expenses – A few years ago, when the DCBC membership spent about \$250,000 to upgrade and remodel the Bridge Center, the unit donated \$25,000 toward this project. We have spent more than \$15,000 to purchase furniture, chairs, computer equipment, electronic scoring devices, hand duplicating machines and other items for the DCBC. We also finance the bi-annual Membership Directory and the quarterly newsletter.

Intangible Expenses – I haven't bothered to add this all up because this list only includes the things we can put a dollar value on. The intrinsic value of the effort by unit volunteers who have donated countless hours organizing and managing our activities and making bridge in Albuquerque more enjoyable for all is much greater than the dollars contributed. I would like to thank all the unit members (and non-bridge-playing spouses and partners) who have contributed their time and money to New Mexico bridge.

I would also like to thank you – the Unit 374 members – for supporting duplicate bridge by playing and contributing your time and money. Please keep coming back for more. Our next Sectional Tournament is November 5th-7th at the DCBC and the Navajo Trail Regional is January 17th-23rd, 2011 at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North. Check the articles in this newsletter for more activities and events planned for the future.

*Note that a Director's Course is being held just prior to the 2011 Albuquerque Regional on January 16th and 17th at the DCBC. If you'd like to be a director, or are already a director and want to polish your skills, contact Felix Moore to sign up.

-Bill Kass

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bob Zipp is leading a team of instructors (Keesha Ashanti, Norm Cliff, Jan Evans, Jim Hull, Susy Law, Pat Plummer and Susan Zimmerman) in teaching a beginners bridge course using Eddie Kantar's *Bridge for Dummies* text. Classes will be held from 9:30 - 11:30 am on Saturdays in the North Room of the Duke City Bridge Club (DCBC). Cost is \$20, which includes a copy of the text. Lectures include play of the hands. Participants need have little or no experience with social or duplicate bridge. However, the goal of this introductory class is to provide the skills needed to become duplicate players. For more information, contact Bob Zipp at 332-8502. ♣

Buddha Says, from page 1

partner's minor. Let's say you have a notrump hand. Your high card point count could be 6-8, 8-10, 10-12, 12-15, 15-17 or 17-19. Unfortunately, there aren't enough notrump responses available to show all these ranges. If you have the hand where you want to raise partner's minor, then you might have a preemptive raise (3-6 HCP), a simple raise (6-10 HCP), a limit raise (10-12), or a game-going hand with 12+ HCP. Again, there aren't enough bids available to describe all these hands.

The Multi Two Heart convention solves this problem. When partner opens one of a minor, you bid 2 hearts. This bid is a relay to 2 spades (opener must bid 2 spades.) If you now bid 2 NT, this shows an invitation to game-notrump hand, probably 10-12 HCP. If you bid three of partner's minor, this shows a hand that's better than a preempt but less than a limit raise, with at least 5 clubs if partner opened 1 club, and at least 4 diamonds if partner started with 1 diamond. In the modern bridge world, this is called a "mixed raise." If responder makes any other call, she is showing a strong jump-shift in hearts with a really good suit and interest in slam. So the two heart response shows either an invitational notrump hand, a mixed raise of partner's minor, or a slam try in hearts.

Let's look at the notrump responses. Over a 1 diamond opening, 1NT shows ♠

Opportunities, from page 2

Francie Straw is teaching an intermediate bridge course in the main room at the DCBC on Saturdays from 9:30 - 11:30 am. Caroline Sydnor's *Bridge Made Easy--Book Three--How to Win More Tricks* is the text. Lectures are followed by playing hands, which provides the opportunity to practice the skills taught in the lessons. Cost is \$20, which includes a copy of the text.

Both lesson series run for 8 weeks. The beginners will have supervised play after the last formal class.

Intermediate students are encouraged to participate in the 1:00 pm novice games on Saturday, as well as any other games, novice or open.

-Pat Plummer

STANDARD CARDING

Duplicate bridge rules require players, when asked, to reveal their partnership's leading and discarding understandings. The most popular discarding conventions are (1) standard; (2) upside-down; (3) odd/even; and (4) Lavinthal. Currently, confusion exists about what "standard" discarding means. Some players have the understanding that the first card they discard when they have run out of a suit that is being played shows preference for that suit to be led at partner's first opportunity, regardless of the size of the card. And, when asked what their carding understanding is, announce that it is "standard." This is incorrect. "Standard" carding is based on the principal that you play a high card if you want a suit led or continued, and a low card if you do not like the suit. Therefore, if you are not indicating suit preference by the size of the card you discard, you must not tell the opponents that you are using "standard" carding. You must inform them of your special carding convention, and it should be displayed on your convention card.

Buddha Says, from page 2

6-10 HCP. 2 hearts/relay to 2 spades and then 2NT shows 10-12 HCP, invitational to game. 2NT shows a game going 12-15 HCP hand. I find this bid really valuable since opener can repeat his minor or bid the other minor and try for slam at the three level. A 3NT response shows 15-17 HCP. And with a really good hand (17-19 HCP), responder bids 2NT (forcing) and then bids 4NT. Over 1 club, a 1 diamond response and then 1NT shows 6-8 HCP and an immediate 1NT shows 8-10 HCP.

Now for the raises of partner's minor suit opening. Two of the minor is the "inverted raise" showing at least a limit raise 10-12 HCP. With a game going hand responder will bid again if opener signs off in 2NT or 3 of his minor. With a preemptive raise (3-6 HCP), responder jumps to 3 of the minor. And with the in-between hand (trumps and 6-10 HCP), responder goes through the Multi Two Heart convention to show a mixed raise.

Almost all of the Flight A pairs who play Two Over One who I play against in tournaments play some version of the Multi Two Heart Response (because it really solves a difficult bidding problem.) However, the convention was invented after the last time ACBL upgraded their convention charts. So the treatment is not on the general chart, and can only be played in Flight A events, unless the tournament director or committee allows an exception.

Before you adopt a new convention, it should solve a bidding problem that comes up a lot, be reasonably easy to remember, and be better than other meanings for the bid. The multi two heart response meets these criteria. Remember, however, whenever you use new and unfamiliar conventions that are not normally used at your club, you must provide a written defense for all of your opponents to read prior to the start of any auction. The recommended defense for the Multi Two Heart convention is to double to show length and strength in hearts.

If you would like to comment on my articles, ask questions, or have ideas you would like me to write about, e-mail me at cindyjoeharris@yahoo.com. or try to catch me on Mondays at the DCBC when I direct.

-Joe Harris

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE DCBC

New Business

Mary Erickson has been elected to the Board of Trustees to succeed Anna Gulovsen, who has moved away.

Club Improvements

1. An area for motorcycle parking has been designated on the west side of the entrance.
2. The sign showing the parking lot is full has been replaced after it was stolen the week of 9/14/10.
3. The digital recorder for the parking lot surveillance cameras has been replaced with a new one.
4. Cracks in the ceiling of both restrooms have been repaired.
5. A bad electrical outlet and florescent light ballast in the ladies' restroom were repaired.
6. The Pyracantha hedge along the east side of the parking lot was trimmed.

Kudos to:

1. Lise Sullivan, Chairperson of Hospitality, for the many hours she spends each week preparing the refreshments for the enjoyment of the members during the afternoon bridge games. Don't forget to thank her when you see her.
2. Norman Cliff, Vice President, for picking up trash outside the club.
3. John Cannon for providing ant control this past summer.
4. Ted Giovanis and Russ Edwards for spray painting stripes on the parking lot, adjacent to the south entrance, to discourage vehicles from being parked there.
5. Jim Hull for his assistance in repairing and setting up the parking lot surveillance equipment.

Member Cooperation

1. Our handicapped parking is designated from 8:00 A.M. to 12:45 P.M. If you park there during this period, you must hang a "Handicapped" placard from the rear view mirror so it can be readily seen. If you fail to do this you will be asked to move your vehicle. Beginning at 12:45 P.M. anyone may park there. Please, we need everyone's help to make this work. We are blessed with lots of close-in parking (try playing bridge in a big city). If you need a good place to park, come early.
2. We need to remind everyone that if you are the the last one to leave the building, please turn off all of the lights.
3. Some of our members continue to incorrectly readjust the six thermostats that control the room temperature in the club. If it is done correctly, (there are easy to follow instructions posted beside each thermostat), the preset program is not cancelled. If it is done incorrectly, the heating or cooling will continue to run when the building is empty, which wastes our precious energy and costs the DCBC extra money. If you see someone adjusting a thermostat, ask them if they are doing it correctly. If you would like to learn how to make the adjustment correctly, please contact Bob Zipp or Russ Edwards.
4. If you pick up the mail on the floor inside the North entrance door, please put all of it in Jan Evans mailbox.

-Russ Edwards

Who's At The Top?

District 17 in Prospective:

The Las Vegas Unit leads the District 17 top masterpoint holder list: the Number 1 player has 64,852 MPs while Number 25 has 8,057 MPs. Twenty-nine of the top 100 players in District 17 are from Las Vegas.

The top player in Arizona has 37,759 MPs; Number 25 has 8,681 MPs.

Colorado players range from Number 1 at 17,149 MPs to Number 25 at 6,324 MPs.

New Mexico's top player has 14,762 MPs and Number 25 has 4,086 MPs. Seventeen of these top 25 players are from our own Albuquerque unit.

The El Paso unit is home to all the top Texas District 17 players. Number 1 has 8,344 MPs and Number 25 has 1,530 MPs.

There are two units in Wyoming. The top player has 2,567 MPs while number 25 has 452 MPs.

Unit 374:

Merlene Krall is closing in on becoming an Emerald Life Master and Ted Stein should make Diamond Life Master by Thanksgiving.

WHO'S AT THE TOP: RUDY KRALL

Rudy was in the Navy, and attended college at Notre Dame, Mid-Valley College and the University of New Mexico. After the service he returned to Albuquerque to attend UNM on a football scholarship where he was a leading player for four years. (Ask Rudy to show you the display of photographs and articles from his playing days at UNM that Mark Lair put together.)

In 1949 he received a \$250 signing bonus and a half game salary playing with the Philadelphia Eagles in the Chicago Tribune All star game, but didn't make the team. He then returned to Albuquerque and a career as an estimator for a general contractor. Like so many of us, Rudy says he enjoys living in Albuquerque.

Rudy has played duplicate bridge for 60 years and now has 8,900+ master points. When asked about any brushes with famous people over his bridge playing career Rudy had a couple of anecdotes. The first occurred after a bridge tournament in Denver. A fellow New Mexican and bridge player asked Rudy and his partner Dr. Jack Griffin for a ride to his home in Taos. This bridge player was Ernest Blumenschein, a well known painter of our southwestern landscapes and people and also was one of the founders of the Taos Society of Artists in 1915. In return for the ride, they were treated to a lunch made by Mrs. Blumenschein, also an artist (Helen Greene Blumenschein).

The second situation took place when Rudy was on defense against a declarer who is a well known bridge author and pro from California. The heart Kxx was on the board, and Rudy was on lead, holding heart AQJ. Rudy led the heart Q, declarer let it hold. Rudy led the heart J, declarer let it hold. Rudy then led the heart A, pinning the K on the board. Declarer didn't say anything as he directed an obscene gesture at Rudy.

-Marian Schreyer

Newer Players Page

I WISH SOMEONE HAD TOLD ME, PART 3

More About Stratification (Strats)

In the last column, we discussed how games are stratified to allow less experienced players to earn masterpoints. You've probably noticed strange things about how the strats end up.

As players sign-up for the game, the director tries to seat players in such a way that the strats are balanced. In an ideal situation, the strats are chosen such that 1/3 of the players are in Strat A, 1/3 are in Strat B, and 1/3 of the players are in Strat C. However, players frequently want or need to play in a certain direction. Many players have physical disabilities that make it necessary to position them North-South so that they don't have to move as much. Other players wish to have certain seats or to sit in a certain direction. In general, the director attempts to keep everyone happy. So after the game begins and the lines are drawn, it is improbable that the strats will divide exactly into 1/3-1/3-1/3; the director just tries to make the fairest divisions that allow for rewarding masterpoints to the most people.

You may have also noticed that your strat varies from game to game. Remember, your strat is based on your experience relative to the other players in the room. If you have 150 masterpoints, you will be in Strat A if you play in the 0-199 game and Strat C if you play in the Open game.

How Do I Get My Colored Points?

The ACBL has established a system that rewards players based not only upon the number of masterpoints, but the color as well. For the first couple of levels (Junior Master and Club Master) the color of the points does not matter. For the next level, some silver points are required. "How do I earn a silver point?" is a frequently asked question.

Games at the bridge club normally award black points (There are some exceptions to this rule). Games at sectional tournaments award silver points, and games at regional tournaments award red and gold points.

Our tournaments in Albuquerque are run by Unit 374, the same organization that publishes this newsletter.

Three sectionals are held each year. Two of the sectionals are open sectionals, and one is limited to players with 0-299 masterpoints. Note, however, that at the open sectional, there are special games for players with 0-199 masterpoints.

All of these tournaments award silver points. If you wish to travel, there are also sectional tournaments in other major cities in New Mexico, including Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Taos, Ruidoso, and Las Cruces. Our next sectional is Nov 5 - 7, and I encourage you to attend.

Red and gold points are awarded at regional and national tournaments. Regional tournaments are normally held in larger cities, since many people travel to attend these tournaments. Unit 374 sponsors one regional tournament in Albuquerque in January of each year.

The system of awarding red and gold points at regional tournaments is more difficult to understand. Red points are awarded in all events, but gold points are awarded only in certain events. In general, if the event has more than one session, and is open to players of all experience levels (including the pros), then placing near the top of the event will award gold points. In our regional, these games include Knockouts, 2-session Open Pairs, Side Game Series, and 2-session Swiss Teams. Note that to win gold in the Side Game Series, you must place first at least once and play at least twice in the same series (morning, afternoon, or evening).

A Few Notes About Tournaments

Walking into an unfamiliar place and playing in tournaments can be an intimidating thing. A tournament director will be selling entries for each event. At most tournaments this happens at one location, but at larger tournaments, entries may be sold at different locations within the facility. The most important thing is to buy your entry for the proper event. Nothing is more intimidating than finding out you have entered the wrong event (perhaps you recognize a few pros). Be sure to tell the director which event you want to enter. Another helpful hint is to ask someone you recognize which

line you should be in. A unit board member will always be glad to help as well.

The organizers of the tournaments want things to go smoothly for all participants. If you have problems at one of our tournaments, please contact a unit board member as soon as possible.

-Bob Zipp

HALLOWEEN HARVEST CHARITY BRUNCH

Sunday 10/31/10

Unit 374 will be hosting a charity brunch for the Assistance League, which will be catered by Nancy Kruger and Susan Zimmerman. The unit will subsidize the food cost and pay the entry fees for all those people who play in the 1:30 bridge game on Sunday, October 31st.

It will be held at 11:30 am at the Duke City Bridge Club (DCBC), and tickets are on sale for \$12.00. See Nancy or Susan for tickets, and if you can't locate them, ask any unit board member.

There will also be a bake sale during and after the brunch to add to the charitable donation, so bring plenty of money. The menu for the brunch will be posted at the DCBC on October 1.

LOST AND FOUND

A ladies ring was found in the restroom after the Karen Walker Seminar, September 11th & 12th. Although our directors have announced this fact for an entire week, no-one yet has claimed it. Please see Joe or Cindy Harris if you think it is your missing jewelry.

Odds & Ends

A MUST-READ BOOK

Unit 374 has a published author in its midst. Jan Evans has written a book entitled *Dying the RIGHT Way, A System of Caregiving and Planning for Families*. It presents a caregiving system for seniors, families and caregivers. Topics include how to caregive, the search for a residential facility or hospice, life support, the dying experience, funeral planning, document preparation, and settling of the estate.

To honor her parents, Jan published the book under her maiden name. Jan's goal was to educate seniors and their families about caregiving, life choices, and to help seniors receive better care. The book will be available in bookstores in January 2011, or you can obtain a copy from Jan at any time. More information is available at JLLong@dyingtherightway.com or www.dyingtherightway.com.

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS

The qualification period for the North American Pairs (NAP) has now ended. A list of the qualifiers from Unit 374 can be found on the home page at abqbridge.com and on the Unit noticeboard at DCBC. The next stage is the District 17 Finals, which will take place during the Albuquerque Regional in January.

There are three divisions: A - Open, B - 0-2000 and C- 0-500 (NLM)

If you decide to play in the District Finals, then Unit 374 will pay for your entry. For further information, please contact Felix Moore at 344-5209 or f.moore@netscape.com.

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

We have just started the qualification period for the Grand National Teams. As usual there are three divisions: A - Open, B -0-2000 and C - 0-500NLM. A player's eligibility for B or C division is taken from their masterpoint totals as of 1 September 2010. Both the Unit and Duke City BC will be holding qualifying games. You may check the noticeboards for dates and times.

Any teams that qualify may play in the District Finals to be held during the Denver Regional in May 2011. Full Conditions of Contest may be found on the District website - www.district17news.com. If you have any questions, you may contact Felix Moore.

LIBRARY

Thanks for your use of the Bridge Club library and for your donations of books.

We would very much appreciate any future donations of recently published novels.

Keep on reading!

-Doyce and Marge

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Please make the following corrections to your membership directory:

Henry L. Bretton
10500 Academy Road NE Apt. 102
Albuquerque, NM 87111
(505) 828-2998

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!!!

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

Junior Masters

Marguerite C Addis
 James D Gunn
 Edith L Izenberg
 Toni R Kingsley
 Maureen Rizzoli

Club Masters

Lois H Bankhurst
 Jack L Curtis
 Helen Hale
 Kathy A Lowry
 Kat Tiano
 Patsy A Waltemath
 Lore White

Sectional Masters

Mary E Breitenbach
 Don T Cromer
 Egda Delaney
 Michael Delaney
 Virginia L Kilkuske
 M Carol Schroer
 Robert A Smith
 Marion L Young

Regional Masters

Effie M Chavez
 Hong Hai Dubroff
 Billy Trabaudo
 Craig E Tyner
 Katherine A Tyner

NABC Masters

Glynn H Franchini
 Christine M Reid
 Mary Udell

Life Masters

Barbara E Duncan
 Peter A Schultz

Bronze Life Masters

Susan Vidrine

Silver Life Masters

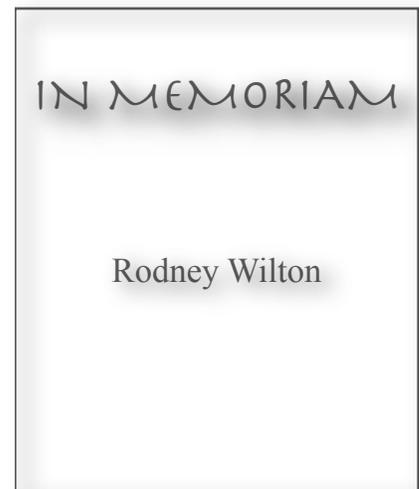
William P Carrell
 Suzanne Fickel
 Betty Koehler
 Robert Lohfeld
 Francie Straw
 James R Ward

Gold Life Masters

Derald Keetch
 Randy Thompson

NEW MEMBERS

Ellie Balco
 Diane Brewer
 Betty Chapman
 Jack L Curtis
 James D Gunn
 Tom M McCrackin
 Ruth L Miller
 Jack W Reynolds
 Pat G Zich





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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

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

October

3rd: Charity Championship
 10th: Club Appreciation Pairs
 17th: Annual Meeting -Individual
 25th: Pairs Championship

November

7th: ABQ Sectional
 14th: GNT Qual., Teams
 21st: Pairs Championship
 28rd: Charity Championship

December

5th: GNT Qual., Teams
 12th: STAC Pairs, Holiday Party
 19th: Pairs Championship
 26th: Charity Championship

UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST

Susan Hetteema: 298-2044 davidgh@netzero.net
 Jill Burtram: 842-1817; jburtram@nmcourt.fed.us;
 Marian Schreyer: 299-3102; marianschreyer@comcast.net
 Nancy Kruger: 884-5367 nancykrug@aol.com
 Bill Kass: 268-5922; kwjdr@msn.com

Susy Law: 296-7719; susanlaw009@comcast.net
 Felix Moore: 344-5209; f.moore@netscape.com
 Wilma Morris: 255-6505; wmorris@unm.edu
 Jerry Shinkle: 299-8486; jnshinkle@aol.com
 Robert Zipp: 884-6308; zipp_bridge@yahoo.com