

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

In looking at past columns for this quarter of the year, I spend most of the column thanking the unit volunteers who contributed to our most recent successful regional. This year is no different. We had a sneaky big regional; made a healthy profit; escaped any moving/setup incidents; had no fires at the hotel and almost everyone went away with a good feeling. This year's tournament hosted about 1950 tables compared with 1900 in 2012 and 2025 in 2011.

Once again, Susy Law organized the hospitality desk and hospitality suite. Jerry Shinkle handled the big bucks. Jill Burtram was in charge of caddies and Rick Weigle did a great job with the partnership desk. (I got a glowing letter from a Nebraska player in praise of Rick's partnership skills.) Cheryl Mitchell handled the speaker logistics and Felicity Moore photographed winners; edited them into the Daily Bulletin; solicited interesting articles; incorporated the daily play results and produced another series of great bulletins.

Regional Tournaments in District 17 are the result of a cooperative agreement between the District 17 board and each unit in the district. We sign an agreement to hold the tournament according to negotiated conditions and then we share in the profits. Over recent years, the district has taken more responsibility for helping us out with Intermediate/New Player games, publishing the game results on the internet, duplicating boards for pairs games (we'll get them to use clean cards next year), assuring that we have a regular book store, and hosting the Unit Board for dinner during the tournament. Karin Kelsey is our delegate to the District 17 board and has been instrumental in relaying our concerns to the district and maintaining good relations with them. That sounds easy but it has not always been the case. Thanks, Karin.

Next year, because of the NABCs in the District, our normal tournament date in January has been given to Las Vegas (also in our district) and our tournament will be held February 24-March 2, 2014. I have taken this opportunity as tournament chairperson to change the playing schedule. In short, we will add another day of Gold Rush Pairs, another Knockout Teams event and move the two-session Swiss Teams to Friday and Saturday mornings. This will make people on both ends of the masterpoint scale happier.

Our reputation for tournaments in Albuquerque has spread as far as Taos. At their request, we will be helping them out by making our supplies available to their regional tournament this September.

We have just reached the deadline for changes to the 2013-2014 Unit 374 directory and it promises to be the best one yet. This directory consists of more than just Unit 374 members. We gladly add anyone who plays at one of the clubs in the Albuquerque area even if they are not ACBL members – although we don't object if they want to join. Cheryl Mitchell, Felix Moore and I have been updating pictures, addresses and phone numbers.



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President's Column, from page 1

Cheryl called more than 100 suspicious numbers on file with the ACBL to see if they actually worked and if the person who answered the phone ever played bridge. I have more than 100 email messages with edits and changes. So look for the directory at DCBC soon.

-Bill Kass

PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Thanks to Susy Law for maintaining the club's files. Because of her career experience, she has set up our files so that things are easy to locate. She has provided a "To be filed" bin on top of the filing cabinet, which is located in the S. E. corner of the North room. If you have something that needs to be filed, please put it in this bin.
2. Thanks to Bob Kingsley for thinking of an inexpensive way of increasing the temperature in the restrooms, and arranging for the installation of electric heaters. The temperature is now maintained at 72 degrees with the help of thermostats. The exhaust fans, which tend to remove warm air from the restrooms, operate when the lights are on. It is very important that the lights are turned off when the building is not occupied.
3. Our custodians, who do an excellent job of cleaning the club, do not speak any English. We are trying to identify club members who speak Spanish well enough to help us communicate with them at the conclusion of the games each day, when they arrive to clean the club. If you qualify, please let me know. We don't have the need to talk with them very often.

-Russ Edwards

DUKE CITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

We have had a whirlwind of activity on the board since the last newsletter. Six new board members were elected with three board members from last year continuing to serve. Here is your board for the year:

Jerry Himes, President
 Bob Kingsley, Vice President and Housekeeping Chair
 Jan Evans, Treasurer
 Lynn Hinrichs, Secretary
 Barbara Duncan, TLC Chair
 Ellen Brabson, Education Chair
 Patsy Waltemath, Office and Game Supply Chair
 Charleen Bishop, Hospitality Co-Chair
 Katherine Tyner, Hospitality Co-Chair

Before the board had a chance to organize itself, we had received a number of desperate pleas from members to do something about the cold restrooms. Indeed, during the cold weather we had in January, the restrooms were cold enough to have served as walk-in refrigerators! Working mostly through e-mail, the board discussed the situation and agreed to a solution. Five 1500 watt electric heaters were installed, three for the ladies and two for the gentlemen. After some experimentation with the thermostats, we now have restrooms that are maintained at a comfortable 72 degrees.



DCBC News, from page 2

Debbie Walters, the widow of Richard Armstrong, presented the club with a very generous check. Richard was a long time member of the club and all who knew him remember him as a spirited competitor with a jovial smile and a hearty laugh. We miss him and appreciate very much the gift that has been made in his name.

The most pressing unfinished business left over from the previous board has to do with the replacement of our well-worn and stained carpet, and redecoration of the facility. This is a difficult issue and the previous board was unable to make a decision as to how to proceed. The new board will revisit this issue during the next months and try to come to a consensus as to what ought to be done, how to finance it, and when to get the work accomplished.

As always, managing a club of this size, which has a very high activity level and a large budget, is challenging. The new board is enthusiastic and plans to live up to the high standards of management that have been set by previous boards. Please let up know how we are doing.

-Jerry Himes & Bob Kingsley

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Whenever I hear the Country Music star Tim McGraw's lyrics, "I ain't as good as I'm gonna get but I'm better than I used to be," I think of how those words so aptly describe my bridge game. After three years of playing bridge, I do know that I am better than I was, but I surely have a "fur piece" to go to play as well as I wish. Perhaps one lifetime is not long enough! The main goal of the DCBC Education Committee is to provide classes for those who aspire to learn more about bridge - whether absolute beginner, intermediate, or veteran player - who want more technique and expertise in his quiver.

As you read in the last newsletter, four classes are being offered at the Duke City Bridge Club this Spring, 2013. Eugene Smith is teaching the "Absolute Beginners" class and using the ACBL Bridge Series, *Bidding in the 21st Century*. The instructor for the "Advanced Beginner" classes is Jan Evans. Her textbook selection is *Defense in the 21st Century*. Bob Zipp is teaching an "Intermediate Class" that will focus on the textbook, *Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century*. His class is a follow-up to the "2 over 1" course that he taught in the fall. Cliff Hill presents a class on "How to be a Tougher Opponent." We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our teachers. Thanks, too, to all of the members of the Education Committee, past and present, and to Kathleen Church, the former chairperson, all of whom worked very hard to organize, teach, and administer these classes.

If you are interested in joining the Education Committee, please let me know. A few of the issues we will explore this year are curriculum development, teacher training, and mentorship. In addition, if you have any suggestions for future classes, kindly contact me.

The lyrics I quoted at the beginning of this article are from the Tim McGraw song, "Better Than I Used to Be." In the same song he sings, "There's a diamond under all this dust." The main goal of the Education Committee is to offer bridge classes for those of us who want to learn this game from the experts. Perhaps with lots of work and study we can also transform our bridge playing skills from dust to diamonds.

*-Ellen Brabson
Chair, Education Committee*



ALBUQUERQUE SPRING SECTIONAL

June 14 - 16, 2013
Duke City Bridge Center
8616 Northeastern NE, Albuquerque NM
505-871-2877

Friday, June 14

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bracketed KO | Round 1 | 9.00am |
| Open Stratified Pairs | Single sessions | 9.00am / 1.00pm |
| 199er Stratified Pairs | Single sessions | 9.00am / 1.00pm |
| Bracketed KO | Round 2 | 1.00 pm |
| Stratified Swiss Teams | Single session | 7.00pm |
| Bracketed KO | Final round | 7.00pm |

Saturday, June 15

| | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Strati-flighted Pairs | Two sessions | 10.00am / 2.30pm |
| <i>A/AX play together, B/C play together</i> | | |
| Open Stratified Side Pairs | Single sessions | 10.00am / 2.30pm |
| 199er Stratified Pairs | Single sessions | 10.00am / 2.30pm |

Sunday, June 16

| | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| Strati-flighted Swiss Teams | Two sessions | 10.00am & TBA |
| <i>A/AX play together, B/C/D play together</i> | | |

Separate 199er Swiss Teams if sufficient entries

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Stratified events: | A: 2000+, B: 750-2000, C: 0-750 |
| Strati-flighted events: | A: 3000+, A/X: 0-3000, B: 750-2000, C: 0-750 (Saturday Pairs) |
| 199er Pairs: | A: 100-200, B: 50-100, C: 0-50 |

All events stratified by average masterpoint holdings. Mid-chart methods allowed in Flight A events and in the top flight of the KO.

Entry Fees: \$8.00 per player/session (\$2.00 extra/session for non/unpaid members), Juniors(U19): \$4.00 per player/session
 \$80.00 per team for Sunday Swiss (includes lunch between sessions)

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Director-in-Charge: | Bill Michael | Sanction # 1306035 |
| Chairperson: | Felicity Moore | f.moore@netscape.com 505-717-1483 |
| Partnerships: | Cheryl Mitchell | cherylmit@comcast.net 505-828-4888 |

Complimentary food and beverages at all sessionsthe best in the west!
Non-smoking tournament with breaks. Information and results at www.abqbridge.com

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 the right.

 RULES OF THE GAME
To Be or Not To Be Actively Ethical (that is the question)

Quoting Article II of the current DCBC Bylaws, its purpose is to:

1. encourage the highest standard of conduct and ethics and enforce such standards during play; and
2. promote a pleasant atmosphere for the enjoyment of the game.

This article and the next will address "conduct and ethics" and a future article will address "pleasant atmosphere." Please let me know any ideas you have about our "atmosphere" and any issues you think I might address.

I believe that all of us want to be ethical and want our club to be a place where the "highest standards of conduct and ethics" are practiced. However, I also believe that many of us fail to meet these standards and most of us are unaware of how seriously ACBL regards ethics and how drastic the discipline can be for violations. The following is quoted from the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations:

Appendix B. ACBL Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines, Part A. Ethics, "Offense E8, "Hesitate with an intent to deceive; use intonations and mannerisms that may deceive opponents or help partner ...: Recommended Discipline, 1 year Probation to 180 days Suspension."

Also ACBL Law 73 states:

"Partners shall not communicate by means such as the manner in which calls or plays are made, extraneous remarks or gestures, questions asked or not asked of the opponents or alerts and explanations given or not given to them. The gravest possible offense is for a partnership to exchange information through prearranged methods of communication other than those sanctioned by these laws. A guilty partnership risks expulsion from the sponsoring organization."

I think our standards are pretty high and I seldom see instances where there are issues. However, I think we should encourage each other to raise our standards to meet the "highest standards of conduct and ethics." The main theme of this article (and the next) is that we should actively do whatever we can to assure that our ethics cannot be questioned.

The following are instances that I have seen and I would encourage you to watch for (in yourselves and others):

1. Pausing with a singleton.
2. Feigning a problem when there is none—for example, when declarer leads through you in a finessing situation, don't pause when you don't have the honor.
3. Pausing to show that there is more than one card for you to play—for example, when on defense against a suit contract and your partner cashes the Ace and King, of a suit; you should not pause to indicate that you have more than one card remaining and thus have no ability to trump the third round of the suit.

In all of these cases you should make an active endeavor to play in tempo. If you find yourself pausing when you shouldn't, you might tell everyone that you "have no problem," "you were thinking of something else," or perhaps apologize to everyone when appropriate.

If you see any violations like these, I think they should be POLITELY addressed. I especially encourage you to actively police yourself, to be very open to self-improvement when a situation is drawn to your attention, and to be eager to help your partner improve. If you want to comment at the table but feel uncomfortable doing so, please feel free to tell me and I will let the alleged perpetrator know that his/her action was noted.

-Larry Bertholf

Newer Players Page

DO I HAVE TO RESPOND TO MY PARTNER'S BID? – STANDARD AMERICAN STYLE

The bridge auction is a conversation between you and your partner, albeit in a very strange and limited foreign language. The opener is the conversation starter. His bid describes the shape and power of his hand. With one exception, opener's bid does not require a descriptive bid in response. With less than 6 points, responder may pass, since opener should have less than 20 points, and making a game contract is unlikely. With 6 points or more, responder should find a bid which describes the hand. A forcing bid is one which requires you to respond with a descriptive bid (not a pass). The only opening bid which is 100% forcing is 2-clubs; opener may have enough points to make a game contract by himself! You should bid 2-diamonds as a waiting bid (or whatever conventional response your partnership uses).

Before responder makes his bid, he should consider the consequences of the bid; any new suit by responder (when responder has not previously passed) requires opener to bid again – this is a forcing bid. The reason for this is that if responder is in third or fourth seat, he has not had a chance to limit his hand (a pass in first or second seat limits the hand – saying “I cannot open”). Therefore, if responder has already passed, his bids have a different meaning – in this situation most bids which would have been forcing are now constructive (I have more points than you might think) and descriptive.

When bidding a new suit, responder needs to consider what he is forcing his partner to do. A good example of this is the 2-over-1 bid. A two-over-one bid is when partner opens at the one level and you bid at the two level. Playing “Standard American”, a two level bid over partner's one level bid shows extra points (10+). The reason for this has to do with forcing bids; you are forcing partner to bid at a higher level! If you have already passed, the two-over-one bid is more restricted – you cannot have an opening hand, but you must have at least a limit-raise hand (10-12).

The general rule for bidding is: a new suit bid by partner (who has not previously passed) is a forcing bid.

In almost all situations, bids of notrump by responder are descriptive, but not forcing. When opener bids a suit at the one level, all responses in notrump are descriptive, but not forcing. Let's say partner opens 1-club. If you respond 1-notrump, you have described your hand (I do not have a 4-card major and I have 6-10 points). If you respond 2-notrump, you have described your hand (I do not have a 4-card major and I have 10-12 points). If you want to insist that partner continue to bid, you should not use a notrump bid – notrump bids are not forcing, and partner can pass.

Rebids of previously bid suits are also not forcing. For example, if partner bids 1-diamond, you respond 1-heart and partner bids 2-hearts, you may pass; partner has a minimum hand with fit for your hearts. This is a descriptive bid – your response will depend on the strength of your hand. With a minimum response, you should pass. With invitational values, you should bid 3-hearts (limit raise). With an opening hand you should bid 4-hearts.

If the pesky opponents interfere in your auction by overcalling, the nature of most bids changes. New suit bids which would normally be forcing may no longer be forcing. For example, partner opens 1-spade and your opponent bids 2-clubs. If you bid 2-diamonds, a new suit, it is constructive, but no longer forcing. Partner may pass with a diamond fit and a minimum hand.

As you can see, the bidding language has built-in stopping and keep-going (forcing) mechanisms. As you study bridge, you will learn how to use these mechanisms to arrive at contracts which now seem impossible. Intermediate players are now studying bids such as 2-Over-1 Game Forcing. There are two things to keep in mind while bidding. Don't pass your partner's forcing bids; they are made for a reason. Second, if you don't understand whether your partner's bid is forcing, take another bid. Partner will be less mad if you bid too high than if you bid too little!

-Bob Zipp

2013 ELECTION RESULTS

DCBC

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GAME COORDINATOR

Felix Moore, 717-1483, f.moore@netscape.com

Odds & Ends

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

It's time to remind everyone that it is extremely important that you notify the ACBL when you change your address and/or telephone number. You can call them at 1-800-662-253-3130, or e-mail them at addresschange@acbl.org. This will ensure that you receive the free publications to which you are entitled, and assists the unit in keeping its membership roster current. Thanks!

-Susy Law

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

Qualification for the GNT District final has been continuing for several months. If your team has qualified then you may participate in the district finals at the Las Vegas Regional in June. Additionally new teams may be formed for the finals from qualified players.

If your team decides to participate then you will qualify for some financial assistance towards your travel expenses. Full details are available on the District website, www.d17acbl.org or you may contact Felix Moore for further details.

-Felix Moore

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The new 2013-2014 Membership Directory will be published in April. Any member wanting an electronic version can email either Cheryl Mitchell cherylmit@comcast.net or Bill Kass KWJDR@MSN.COM.

-Cheryl Mitchell

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 Susan Zimmerman at 366-7965 to donate snacks or to volunteer hospitality services for any Sunday game.

P.S. All surprises welcome!!!

A LITTLE KNOWN FACT

During sign-up time to play at the Duke City Bridge Club, the director has several matters to handle:

1. Accurately recording the names in the partnerships;
2. Seeding players;
3. Making arrangements for handicapped players;
4. Making change and cashing checks;
5. Collecting playing fees; and
6. Answering telephone calls for reservations.

In short, the 30 minute period prior to start of the game is somewhat chaotic. Invariably, occasional mistakes are made with entry fees. What you may not know is that any shortages that occur come out of the director's pocket. So if you discover a monetary mistake has been made in your favor, please come clean and give the money back. None of your directors is independently wealthy, and they work hard to ensure your comfort and convenience. Thank you.

-Susy Law

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Oliver W Larson
Bobbi Riemenschneider
Dr David N Shirley
Alfred W Stites
John Witkowski

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Craig Kippels
Roberta G Burleson
Claire S Hanna
Steve R Markham
Alan H Pope
Lynn D Fugelso
John M Keck

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Stephen A Brill
Edith L Izenberg

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Jim R Dennis
Janet W French

NEW NABC MASTERS

Patsy A Waltemath
John M Berry
Ellen M Brabson
Ruth A Davis
Robert A Smith

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Wayne Godsey
James K Linn
Cindy B McBride
Norma E Mearns
Cheryl E Mitchell

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Nathan K Crane
Hong Hai Dubroff
Wayne Godsey
Cheryl E Mitchell

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Diane R Todd

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS

Jill Burtram

NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTERS

Alan B Goldman
James A McHollan

NEW MEMBERS

Paul Andrews
Gayle E Audy
Scott Cline
Mark Vitale
William A Wiley
Bobbi Riemenschneider
Steve Wix
Norma J Barney

TRANSFERS INTO UNIT

Jane C Derlin
Mary Pat Laslie
Frank Spangler
Mick R Dobratz
Paul Y Harris
Jerry Keeran

IN MEMORIAM

RITA DAVIS

MINETTE PATTEN

MAJORIE HOLMS

HANK HOWARD



c/o Susan Law
 13101 Summer Place NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87112

Return Service Requested

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

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

April

- 7th: Pairs Championship
- 14th: Pairs Championship
- 21st: GNT Fundraiser Pairs
 AWARDS DAY
- 28th: GNT Qualifier (Teams)

May

- 5th: Pairs Championship
- 12th: STaC Pairs - Silver Pts.
- 19th: Pairs Championship
- 26th: Swiss Teams
 Championship

June

- 2nd: NAP Qualifier (Pairs)
- 9th: NAP Qualifier (Pairs)
- 16th: ABQ SECTIONAL
- 23rd: Swiss Teams
 Championship
- 30th: Pairs Championship

UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST

| | | |
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