

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

Eddie Walker passed away in November. Eddie was a fixture on the Albuquerque bridge scene for 50 years. He and Jerry Shinkle were 'experienced' bridge players when I moved to Albuquerque in 1969 and started to play regular duplicate bridge. Eventually, I formed a partnership with another 'experienced' player – Joe Harris.

The picture shown on this page is from the District 17 *Forum* after we won the Swiss Teams played on the last day of the 1976 Denver Regional. In that era, the Sunday Swiss Teams (or Monday in the case of the Denver Memorial Day Regional) was the premier regional event. There was only one knockout team event played on Tuesday-Saturday mornings and it was difficult for un-retired people to play. That year in Denver there were 208 teams in the Monday Open Swiss Teams! This was also before the era of stratifying, strati-fighting and bracketing, and weekend events drew the largest crowds.

We had a six person team and two of our members, Hal St. John and Laurie Hyder, played the first four matches and went back to Albuquerque. When we called them after the event as they were just arriving home, they were pleasantly shocked to learn we had won with a perfect 8-0 record. (Victory Point scoring in the Swiss Team event was still uncommon.) Eddie was the hero of the last match when he induced declarer to ruff high and lose a trump trick to Eddie's 109xx – beating an ice cold game.

Eddie was as proud of that accomplishment as he was almost as proud of his crewcut. If you look at the picture you will see that two of us

have a lot shorter hair and one of us actually has more hair (you figure out who). Not Eddie--his hair never changed. These are two fond memories that I have of Eddie.



SWISS TEAMS winners were Jerry Shinkle, Bill Kass, Joe Harris and Harley Walker. Laurie Hyder and Hal St. John not available for photo.

Printing this picture will also serve as an apology to Joe Harris whose pictures were very badly reproduced in the last newsletter. Sorry, Joe, I hope this picture turns out better.

This is the season for charity contributions from the unit and clubs within the unit. As of this writing, I do not have the contributions from the clubs but I can talk a bit about the unit. We reduced our contributions somewhat from last year's \$9000+ to about \$7500 spread among six charities. The primary reason for this is that we want to maintain a reserve of about \$25,000. This reserve is intended to protect us from a low Albuquerque Regional attendance and financial disaster. Three years ago we had a reserve of nearly \$50,000 in our bank account and have intentionally tailored our budget to spend this

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Buddha Says

down to what we consider a reasonable reserve would be. We don't want to be seen as hoarding our money by constantly increasing our savings nor do we want to be irresponsible about planning for potential financial situations.

At our most recent board meeting, we had a brief discussion of major expenditures (charity contributions, seminar weekend, Unit Directory, Unit Sunday Game subsidy) over the last year. We will be actively revisiting this subject at our monthly meetings and welcome any member suggestions for where we should spend our profits that come primarily from regional and sectional tournaments that the unit organizes and sponsors.

The Sunday Unit game is one area that we subsidize. If we increased the size of this game by 4 tables per week we would break even. It also would make it a better bridge competition. What would induce you to come and play on Sunday? Suggestions include – serving a light lunch before the game and charging a small extra fee for lunch; having a bridge lesson on a regular basis before the game; encouraging players who have played in the past to come back; ... Please let me know what you think.

One last thing – our Navajo Trail Regional is scheduled for February 24- March 2, 2014. That is not too far away but it is different than our normal date. I inadvertently left partnership information off the flyer. Jill Burtram has agreed to take partnership inquiries before the tournament. Her number is 505.842.1817. Hope to see you there.

-Bill Kass

In early December my friend Eddie Walker died a couple of weeks before his 91st birthday. Many decades ago I won my first regional event playing on a team with Eddie. Over the years we developed a very good and satisfying partnership, but mostly Eddie was my opponent. He was capable of some of the most outlandish and sometimes successful bids and plays that would leave my partner, his partner and me scratching our heads. Eddie was often my mentor, and his practical advice was always right on spot. Among much else, he taught me that it is often winning tactics to raise an overcall with a doubleton, and if you wanted to be sure to swallow a pill first completely fill your mouth with water. One often says that a person has a good sense of humor - Eddie had the best sense of humor of anyone I've known. He was also the most generous, most patriotic and Christian person I've met. He was always cheerful, cordial and yet matter of fact - a pleasure to be around. Bridge in Albuquerque will go on, but it will be decreased without Eddie. These days my main job is to walk every day for an hour or two. Also I play bridge 3 or 4 days a week at the club and attend several tournaments each year. I always wanted to travel and I took early retirement so I could see the world. Cindy has become an avid birdwatcher and now I plan trips to take us to some of the best birding spots on the globe. If you are interested you can Google the following birds and the lodge. This fall we traveled to Namibia. Eventually we made our way to the remote northwest part of the country and the Kunene River Lodge. The lodge is about 100 kilometers from Opuwo, the last outpost (and gas) in this part of the country. The lodge is owned by Pete and Hillary Morgan. Hillary does all the admin tasks, and Pete all the mechanical stuff as well as the bird and fish guiding. The Morgans were born in Botswana, moved to England so their daughter could go to school (Pete worked as a commercial pilot and saved his money.) After graduation they came to Namibia and bought the lodge. Most tourists come for the fishing as the Kunene has crocs, hippos and tiger fish, so it's quite an adventure to land or avoid any of these. Big time birders and British tours come here to see the Cinderella Waxbill, a really rare and special bird. In 2009 they had tremendous rains and

floods. It took Pete a full month to build an alternative road so they could get in and out from the lodge. Since then it has barely rained and they are in the worst drought of the past 100 years. Cindy and I usually bird on our own. She doesn't like being with a group where the guide says that bird that just flew over was a "who knows what" and you can add it to your life list. She likes to find and identify them on her own. But occasionally we have hired a guide. In the far west outback part of New South Wales Australia, we drove all night with the best birder in Australia through fields with a spotlight looking for the Plains Wanderer. We were successful and there was no other way to see the bird. At Kunene Lodge Pete had two trips, one for the Waxbill and one much more physically difficult, to try to find the Angola Cave-Chat. The Waxbill trips had been flops the past two months, and Pete was famous in the ornithological world for finding the Cave-Chat in Namibia about a year ago. The bird was very rare and had only been seen in remote parts of Angola. So we signed up for the Cave-Chat. At 3:30 AM we met up with Pete and Dave and Steve, two big time birders from Cape Town, and squeezed into a Toyota Land Cruiser along with the lodge dogs - Jack Russels, Me and Me2. The dogs don't help find the birds, but every time Pete has led a trip if the dogs weren't along they had no luck. It was 70 kms. to the Zebra Mountains where we hoped to see the bird. The first 60 kms. took about 30 minutes flying along the gravel road toward Opuwo, and then an hour and a half bouncing across the bush savanna on a 4-wheel track gouged out by the Germans before WWI. The mountains are giant piles of black boulders, big black rocks and black scree. In the crevices there are some bushes and other foliage that look like Zebra stripes. These unique mountains rise almost straight up from a level plain to about 300 meters. They cover a square area of about 1600 sq. kms. and Pete is pretty sure no one has actually traversed them (those rocks get really hot during the day.) Geologists have several thoughts about how they were formed but no one really knows. We needed to be at the base before dawn so that Pete could hear the bird's call. At day break the birds are found at the bottom of the mountains and then they make their way up toward the top. After about 2 hours they hide under some rocks and then in the morning they are back at the base. Pete heard the call but couldn't spot the birds.

He did point out an African Scops Owl. A bird that is common but blends in with the tree bark so well that 3 feet away you almost can't make him out. Since we had no luck at the base we started to scramble up the mountain. At about 30 meters the bird and his mate popped out, and everyone got really good looks. Pete thinks that there might be a thousand pairs in the Zebras, 90% plus of the world's population. So the Angola Cave-Chat is really a Namibian bird that lives in rocks and is closer to a thrush than a chat. He would call it a Namibian Black -Rock Thrush, and we were the 93rd and 94th people to see the bird in the Zebras. On the way back Pete stopped at a native village. The lodge and village have been designated conservators of a huge track of land here by the government. These perhaps 25 or 30 people live a very isolated sparse life, with no modern conveniences, in little tepee like thatch huts, digging in the dry riverbed for water and farming their goatherd. Pete brings them sacks of flour and sugar whenever he leads a trip here. While we were stopped, in a nearby tree were two dozen Cinderella Waxbills. For twenty minutes or so they posed for pictures. Nearby a flock of cryptic Namaqua Sandgrouse made their way down a streambed. On the way back we spotted a herd of rare black-faced Impalas that had survived the 1980's war between some 80000 Russian backed Cuban troops and the South African army backed by the big oil companies all for control of natural resources in Angola. The war ended when the Soviet Union came apart and the Cubans went home. Angola and Namibia became independent countries in 1991. Back at the lodge we saw the truly rare endemic Rufous Tailed Palm Thrush who lives only in the oil palms near the lodge, and a pair of Goliath Herons, the world's largest egret, nesting just across the river. That evening Pete took us on a boat trip on the river and pointed out a very uncommon White Backed Night Heron hiding in the reeds - we could only make out the head and his unique eyes. Wow what a day. We had really good looks at four of the rarest birds on the planet. It was like meeting up with Mike Passel's team of all-stars in the last round of a Swiss team and blitzing them to win the event. Or maybe better...

-Joe Harris

ETIQUETTE, ETHICS, AND ZERO TOLERANCE

I have reviewed various materials prepared by our members and articles in The Bridge Bulletin concerning the ACBL's Zero Tolerance policy, which has been adopted by the DCBC, Casa and the Unit for their games. It appears that Zero Tolerance is often confused with matters more appropriately described as breaches of etiquette or unethical conduct. This article is a non-exhaustive discussion of all three areas.

Etiquette. Some of the most common breaches of etiquette: snapping cards, gloating over results, excessively slow play, and complimenting partner for his or her play when the opponents have clearly misplayed (if you can't tell the difference, don't say anything).

Ethics. The laws of duplicate prohibit unauthorized information to partner: "Partners shall not communicate by any 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—LAWS of Duplicate, Ch. VII (Proprieties), @ ¶ B (i). A player may not take advantage of unauthorized information. Id. @ ¶ C.

Some of the most common violations seen in our club include:

- Inquiring about an opponent's holding in an artificial bid.
- Asking about the meaning of a bid when you have no intention of bidding.
- Using the "stop" card inconsistently (in other words, use it always or never - not to alert partner).

All of the above bullets may convey information to your partner and your partner may not take advantage of this information.

Another area of ethical concern is deception. It is perfectly acceptable to deceive an opponent by the card you play; it is a violation of the Laws to deceive by your manner of play, e.g., hesitating before playing a singleton.

When "an innocent player has drawn a false inference from a remark, manner, tempo or the like,

of an opponent who has no demonstrable bridge reason for the action, and who could have known at the time of the action that the action could work to his benefit, the Director shall award an adjusted score ..." Id. @ ¶ F.

Call the Director for any such irregularity.

Zero Tolerance. This ACBL policy is aimed at unacceptable behavior that interferes with a player's enjoyment of the game. ACBL's website lists four examples:

Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats or violence.

Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.

Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.

Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.

A Zero Tolerance call should be reserved for egregious, not merely annoying, behavior.

-Jill Burtram

RULES OF THE GAME

To Call the Director or Not To Call

Call the Director. On the top of our Score Cards it says "IRREGULARITY? QUESTION? PROMPTLY SUMMON THE DIRECTOR." Yet, it seems to me that many of us are reluctant to do so. I have the impression that many of us feel that our game is too "genteel" for anyone to be so "impolite" as to call the director. Or, that by calling the director we are being intimidating or disrespectful. Also, when the director is called some of us are insulted and/or embarrassed by it. We need to dispossess ourselves of such feelings. The game we love and respect (duplicate bridge) is governed by laws that we must embrace and use. (Not only because our ACBL sanction requires it, but because these laws make our game enjoyable and free of conduct and ethics issues that we cannot tolerate.) So, call the director whenever there is a question or irregularity at your table. It is your privilege, your right, and your responsibility to keep our game great.

While the above encourages prompt director calls, I also want to encourage POLITE director calls. All of us have been alarmed when someone (figuratively) stands up and screams DI—RECTOR. Such director calls can be intimidating, embarrassing, and enraging. It would be much more pleasant for everyone if the person calling the director were first to say to those at the table that s/he thinks there was an irregularity that needs to be brought to the attention of the Director. And, then in a moderate voice call the Director by saying "Director, please."

Interesting Ruling. There was a ruling made at the club where someone made a claim without stating that a trump was outstanding. The Director ruled that a "normal" line of play would make the declarer's claim valid. This ruling is in accord with ACBL Law 70C:

LAW 70 CONTESTED CLAIM OR CONCESSION

A. General Objective—In ruling on a contested claim or concession, the director adjudicates the result of the board as equitably as possible to both sides, but any doubtful point as to a claim shall be resolved against the claimer. The director proceeds as follows.

B. ...

C. There is an outstanding trump—When a trump remains in one of the opponents' hands, the director shall award a trick or tricks to the opponents if:

1. Claimer made no statement about that trump, and
2. It is at all likely that claimer at the time of his claim was unaware that a trump remained in an opponent's hand, and
3. A trick could be lost to that trump by any normal* play.

However, there is a footnote that states (*For the purposes of Laws 70 and 71, "normal" includes play that would be careless or inferior for the class of player involved.) Because this footnote is open to a wide interpretation, this ruling might be one for which an appeal would be reasonable.

Appeal. In general, I think the directors at our club are very well trained and make very good rulings. However, if both you and your partner disagree with a ruling you may ask the director to form an appeals committee to review a ruling. Usually the director will not involve a committee if the laws are clear. However, the above incomplete claim may be a case for appeal because both the footnote and the general objective require interpretation. Note: Law 92(B) states: "The right to request or appeal a Director's ruling expires 30 minutes after the official score has been made available for inspection."

-Larry Bertholf

Newer Players Page

One of the major factors that makes duplicate bridge so interesting is that one competes with other players to obtain the best score on each hand. Many other pairs in the room play the same pre-dealt hand, and each pair gets a score for that board. In other words, on each board, you are competing against all of the other pairs in the room who have played that same board. This eliminates the variability (and luck) of the deals that exist in party (rubber) bridge.

Scoring Each Board

Let's review how each board is scored. First we calculate the trick score.

Trick Score:

No-Trump- 40 points for the first trick, 30 points for each additional trick

Hearts or Spades- 30 points per trick

Diamonds or Clubs- 20 points per trick

Then we add the Bonus Score points.

Bonus Score: Nonvulnerable Vulnerable

Partscores	50	50
Games	300	500
Small Slams	500	750
Grand Slam	1000	1500

(Adjustments are made in the trick score and bonus score if the contract is doubled or redoubled.)

Penalty Scores are given if the contract is not achieved.

Penalty	Nonvulnerable	Vulnerable
Undoubled -	50/100/150	100/200/300
Doubled	100/300/500...	200/500/800....

If your side declares, your board score is either the combination of the board+bonus score if you make your contract, or the penalty score if you do not. If you are defending, your score is the opposite of the declarers' score. A more thorough description (including double/redouble adjustments) can be found in the appendix of the instruction book "Bidding in the 21st Century".

Matchpoint Scoring

At the conclusion of the game, the board score is converted to a matchpoint score. Your board score is compared to the board scores of the other pairs who played in your direction. One matchpoint is added to your score for every pair you beat, and 1/2 matchpoint for each pair you tie. Let's look at a simple example.

For this board, North/South can make 4 Hearts Vulnerable. In this game, the board was played 4

Rd . #	N/S Pair #	N/S Scr.	N/S MPs	E/W Pair #	E/W Scr.	E/W MPs
1	1	-100	0	1	+100	3
2	2	+620	1.5	4	-620	1.5
3	3	+650	3	3	-650	0
4	4	+620	1.5	2	-620	1.5

times. At the end of the day the scores are as follows:

For the North/South direction, Pair 1 beat no-one, so their matchpoint score is 0. Pair 2 beat Pair 1 and tied with Pair 4, so their matchpoint score is 1+. 5=1.5. Pair 3 got the best score and beat the other 3 pairs for a matchpoint score of 1+1+1=3. Pair 4 also beat Pair 1 and tied with Pair 2 for a matchpoint score of 1.5. The matchpoint score of 3 is called "Top on the Board". "Top on the Board" is always the number of times the board is played minus 1 (since you can't beat yourself!).

If 20 boards were played in this game, the total number of possible matchpoints is 20x3=60. Your percentage would be calculated by dividing your total matchpoints by the total possible and multiplying by 100.

I am often asked if players are penalized if a board is not played. Unless the director has notified you, you are not penalized for not playing a board. Your total matchpoint score is adjusted by the computer to equalize the playing field. In the above example, if you were unable to play one board (either for slow-

play or for a sit-out), your total matchpoint score would be multiplied by a factor of $20/19=1.05$. This puts your score on the same basis as everyone else.

Masterpoints

Based upon the final matchpoint score, masterpoints are awarded. A complex formula is used to calculate the masterpoint awards. Details of this formula can be found on the ACBL website. If your total matchpoint score is the highest, you win the most masterpoints. Other pairs with high scores are awarded masterpoints as well. However, the ACBL has determined a method for awarding masterpoints for less skilled players. This process is called stratification.

Stratification is a procedure developed by the ACBL to overcome a significant problem during a bridge game. In a typical game, players of all skill levels are competing head-to-head. If masterpoints were only awarded based on the final scores, the most-experienced players usually would win all the masterpoints. Stratification allows masterpoints to be awarded to players of all skill levels; essentially these are games within games. Within the computer, the director divides the room into thirds, based on masterpoints. Pairs with the most masterpoints are assigned to the A Strat; players with less masterpoints are assigned to the B Strat, and the players with even fewer masterpoints are assigned to the C Strat. The dividing lines for N/S and E/W have to be the same within a section.

Have you ever wondered why the director thinks so much before assigning you to a table number and position, or perhaps why the director asks you to sit in a certain direction? This is because the director is trying to do the stratification process in his/her head to achieve two goals. The first goal is to seed the room fairly: N/S vs. E/W. If all the C players but one sit E/W, then there is no C Strat competition in the N/S direction, and no masterpoints can be awarded in the N/S C Strat. The second goal is to seat each pair at a table with another pair within their Strat, and to distribute the A, B, and C tables throughout the room as evenly as possible to avoid an everlasting sequence of A pairs as the game progresses. At the end of the game, the event is ranked three times. First, everyone is eligible for the A rankings. Then, Strat B is ranked based only on the B and C pairs

(“A” players cannot compete in this ranking). Then, Strat C is ranked (A and B players cannot compete in this ranking). In this way, the C Strat players can have their own competition within a game, and win masterpoints by defeating other C Strat players. It should be noted that C players can score in the A or B Strat. But the A and B players cannot compete in the C Strat. Due to the way masterpoints are awarded (based on number of competitors), the masterpoint payouts decrease from A to C. Placing in Strat A yields the most points; placing in Strat C results in the fewest. If you are a C pair and place in A, B and C, the computer figures out which placement gives you the most number of masterpoints and that is your final award. Your awards for the different strats are not cumulative. The masterpoint payout is reported on the right side of the final results printout; for example, (SA) means that you placed in A in your section and direction, and (OB) means that you placed overall in B.

-Bob Zipp

Duke City Bridge Classes Spring, 2014

Absolute Beginners

Course: Absolute Beginners

Course Description:

This class will cover the basic concepts of bridge, including hand evaluation, bidding (no-trump, major and minor suit openings and responses), trick-taking and scoring.

Teacher: Athena Kelly

Text: ACBL Book Series: Bidding in the 21st Century

Dates and Times: Saturday Mornings, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Duke City Bridge Club

9-weeks starting on Saturday, March 8, 2014

Class Fee: \$25.00 for book and class

\$15.00 for class only \$15.00 for book only

Advanced Beginners

Course: Defense

Course Description:

Topics will include opening leads, second and third-hand plays, defensive signals, developing defensive tricks, interfering with declarer, and making a plan.

Teacher: Pat Plummer

Text: ACBL Book Series: Defense in the 21st Century

Dates and Times: Wednesday Evenings, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Duke City Bridge Club

8-weeks starting on Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Class Fee: \$25.00 for book and class

\$15.00 for class only \$15.00 for book only

Intermediate Class

Course: Competitive Bidding: Part 2

Course Description:

This class will focus on the contested auction – when one side has opened the bidding and the other side interferes. Topics will include interfering by overcalling or doubling, and how to adjust your bidding when the opponents interfere.

\$15.00 for class only \$15.00 for book only

Advanced Class

Course: How to be a Tougher Opponent

Course Description:

Learn how to count the opponent's hands and disguise yours! Discover how to acquire information from your opponents and use it to your advantage!

Teacher: Cliff Hill

Text: Class Handouts

Dates and Times: Tuesday Mornings, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Duke City Bridge Club

8-weeks starting on Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Class Fee: \$25.00

SUPERVISED PLAY WITH FELIX MOORE

Have you ever had a bridge hand that was so challenging that you said to yourself, “Gee, if only I had an expert player by my side to advise me on what to do with this bid?”! This scenario is a reality for those players who attend Supervised Play with Felix Moore. What follows is a question/answer summary from an interview that I had with Felix as she explains this most exciting and stimulating program.

Ellen: What is Supervised Play?

Felix: Supervised play is designed for newer players to practice the skills that they have learned in class. I started Supervised Play a few years ago because I was concerned that we (DCBC) were teaching the basics to a lot of students but then “dropping” them. Very few new players can move straight into duplicate, not because they do not know the basics but because there is a certain intimidation factor! Players who learn as individuals or even couples often have a problem in continuing to play after they finish beginning lessons. That said, we also welcome more experienced players to Supervised Play; it gives them a chance to play and discuss their hands with their regular partners. Attendees may also bring problem hands that they have encountered during the week for suggestions regarding their bidding, play of the hand, etc. Social bridge players who want to make the transition to duplicate bridge are encouraged to attend.

Ellen: When and where is Supervised Play offered?

Felix: Supervised Play sessions are held on selected Saturday mornings at the Duke City Bridge Club when bridge classes do not occur. Please confirm these dates before you come to the club by calling the DCBC at (505) 271-2877. They start at 9.30 AM. Each session is officially two hours long, but most participants stay until noon! There is no fee to attend Supervised Play. Yes, it is free!

Ellen: Does one have to have a partner for Supervised Play?

Felix: Most definitely not! We “pair up” singles and, if necessary, play with them.

Ellen: Describe a typical Supervised Play session.

Felix: We usually play about 16 – 20 boards, but each table is self-paced. Players are grouped into sets of fours according to their skill level. They remain with their tablemates for the entire session. The boards from a previous duplicate session are used and passed from table to table. Each attendee plays the same boards but at different times. We use traveling score slips so that players can see what happened at other tables. Learning how to score in one’s head is highly encouraged! If players are “stuck” for a bid, they call for a teacher to explain their alternatives and what their thought processes should be. We do not expect them to call on each hand as we encourage them to make their own decision, just as if the teacher were not there. The whole plan is to get these newer players comfortable at the table and to use the tools that they have been taught. Hand records are distributed. In addition, players are strongly encouraged to keep a personal scorecard.

Ellen: Did you start Supervised Play at the DCBC?

Felix: I am sure that they had it in the far past but certainly I started it in this century! I have had great help from Jan Evans and Keesha Ashanti. Volunteer help is always welcome!

Ellen: In summary, what are the goals of Supervised Play?

Felix: The goals are to 1) enable newer players to feel comfortable bidding, playing, using the bidding boxes and scoring, 2) transition players to duplicate bridge, 3) give players of all levels an opportunity to practice their game, and 4) have fun!

The words of past and current attendees of Supervised Play state the program’s success the best: It is excellent! We extend our deepest appreciation and thanks to Felix Moore and her assistants who voluntarily give their time and expertise to make Supervised Play a dynamic part of the DCBC Education Program.

-Ellen Brabson, Chair, Education Committee

DUKE CITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

This year has been a busy year at the Duke City Bridge Club.

We have a fresh look in the club with the new carpet, paint and wall treatment. We have Cheri Berry to thank for her work in designing the interior for us. This was not a simple task and she spent untold hours in making sure we stayed on track to get the right combination of colors, design and decor. Thanks also to the Board of Directors for their tremendous effort in supporting the project. And a big thank you to the members for approving the carpet purchase. The carpet is commercial grade and will last us a long time.

Ellen Brabson has been outstanding in her service to the club as Chair of the Education Committee. This committee is one of the keys for insuring the continuing growth of the club as well as the growth of the players. Her committee has volunteered a significant amount of their time for the benefit of the club.

Bob Kingsley, Vice President, was extra busy this year when he sat in for me when I had to be out of the state for four months. That came at a time when a major part of the new carpet decisions had to be made. In addition, Bob engineered the purchase and installation of three computers for the club. These replaced three old and worn computers which had limped along for quite a while. Bob also was the Chair of the Housekeeping Committee, responsible for maintaining cleaning supplies, paper goods etc. Bob spent many hours updating the club by-laws, which will take up more of his time as we finish that effort.

Lynn Hinrichs, the Secretary of the Board of Directors, has the very daunting task of capturing all of the actions during the Board meetings. She has accurately recorded the proceedings and sent out the minutes of the meetings in a timely manner to the board members.

Jan Evans is completing her second term on the Board of Directors and has served in the capacity of Treasurer. She has been responsible for maintaining the financial records of the club and reporting them to the Board of Directors. This is a challenging responsibility and Jan has done a great job.

Barbara Duncan has been the Chair of the TLC Committee this year. She keeps track of club members and their families who have had illnesses, hospitalization and deaths. On behalf of the club she sends out appropriate cards to members and families. I have been the recipient of her cards and was very comforted to have received them.

Charleen Bishop and Katherine Tyner have been co-chairs of the Hospitality Committee. They organize the food served at the games. This involves getting volunteers to handle the food service, purchasing food, coffee and related supplies, and filling in when not enough volunteers step up. There are a group of members who regularly volunteer, and we are certainly grateful for that. (NOTE: We always have more room for volunteers). Charleen and Katherine are also in charge of coordinating efforts for Duke City Bridge Club special events.

Patsy Waltemath is the Chair of the Game Materials Purchasing Committee. She must keep track of when to order new supplies such as convention cards, score cards, pencils, playing cards, bidding boxes, etc. She also makes sure that these supplies are placed in strategic places in the club for the players.

We also have members who attend the board meetings to give us updated reports from their areas of responsibilities. Russ Edwards is responsible for the Building Management and Maintenance and makes sure that our property is maintained. Felix Moore as Game Coordinator and Club Manager takes time to keep us updated on the table counts and general condition of the games.

Two ex-officio members of the Board of Directors are Jerry Shinkle, Chair of the Finance Committee and Larry Bertholf, Chair of the Conduct and Ethics Committee.

Next year will find us continuing our efforts to improve things at the club. Two areas that we will be looking at are:

Emails to all members to make timely announcements for special events or achievements of members.

Upgraded web site, to include information pertaining to the club, such as by-laws, policies, conduct and ethics submission forms and announcements.

Thanks to all the members, we have one of the best bridge clubs in the country.

-Jerry Himes

ALBUQUERQUE NEEDS BRIDGE TEACHERS!

Unit 374 and the Duke City Bridge Club will be offering the ACBL Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) at the Duke City Bridge Club on Saturday, February 22 and Sunday, February 23. This program will consist of lectures on Saturday and Sunday morning, followed by an optional certification test on Sunday afternoon.

This course focuses on teaching techniques and the methodology used in the "21st Century" series of books used by the ACBL and Duke City Bridge Club for the beginner series lessons. The content will focus on "Bidding In the 21st Century" (The Club Series).

For more than 25 years, the ACBL's Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) has provided an exceptional foundation for players wanting to become bridge teachers. With the most recent update a few years ago, players not only will be shown methods on how to teach the game in a fun, exciting and relevant manner, but will also be exposed to various teaching materials. In addition to the ACBL Bridge Series, sample lessons will be demonstrated from material by Eddie Kantar, Audrey Grant, Pat Harrington and Barbara Seagram. Marketing your new skills will also be discussed - from doing cruises, to the ACBL Cooperative Advertising Program, to working in schools.

Upon completion of this program, teachers will be recognized as accredited by the ACBL and receive these benefits:

The Bridge Teacher newsletter from the ACBL Education Department.

Marketing Matters, a teacher e-newsletter from the ACBL Marketing Department,

A listing on the ACBL's online Find a Teacher directory.

A \$100 gift certificate for Baron Barclay for every 25 new members recruited during a calendar year.

A \$500 bonus check for every 100 new members recruited (no time restrictions).

An invitation to the ACBL's Teacher/Club Manager Thank You Reception at each NABC.

The fee for the course is \$25 for members of Unit 374, and \$75 for members of other ACBL units. This is a significant saving over the \$100-\$130 fee that is normally charged. The lessons will begin at 9:30am on Saturday, February 22. Pre-registration is required, as we will have to order class manuals. Contact Bob Zipp, zipp_bridge@yahoo.com for a registration form. Registration deadline is February 7.

Players of all skill levels are welcome to attend. Whether you'd like to teach a bridge class, or would just like to teach your friends, this is the class for you!

-Bob Zipp

Odds & Ends

CHANGES IN HOSPITALITY

First of all, a little background for those members who might not know. The Duke City Bridge Club (DCBC) is responsible for hospitality for afternoon games on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Casa de Amigos and Unit 374 lease our facility for their games on Wednesday and Sunday- these are not DCBC games and we do not provide hospitality for them.

The DCBC board voted December 17 to make three changes to our hospitality in response to member concerns and suggestions. First of all, we will be aiming to serve SNACKS, not a meal. Secondly, the reimbursement offered to the person providing hospitality has been eliminated. Finally, a free play for future use will be given to hospitality volunteers- limited to one volunteer per day- as an incentive to encourage more involvement from members.

We hope these changes will work out well for our club. If you have questions or concerns, you can contact any board member.

In addition, because of the positive response to the trial policy of free coffee/tea with your own cup, that is now a permanent policy. Thanks to all who have given it a try.

-Katherine Tyner, Co-chair of Hospitality

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
SPECIAL GAMES**

Board-a-Match (BAM) Teams will be held on Sunday, February 16th. Just before the Regional, take this opportunity to practice for the BAM. Board-a-Match events are team games that run like pairs. A team of four players will play 2 or 3 boards against most if not all of the other teams. Scoring is

very simple, you get one point for a win, half for a tie and zero for a loss. Ask a director or call Felix Moore if you would like more information about this event.

There will be a Unit Mixed Pairs Championship on Sunday, March 9th. Make sure you make a date with a player of the opposite sex for this popular event. The game will be stratified and like almost all Sunday games will award 85% Sectional rated points.

-Felix Moore

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DCBC MEMBERS

Now that we have a new carpet, we need to make every effort to keep it looking new. Past habits, particularly those that occasioned frequent spillage on the carpet, should be curbed; habits such as putting plates of food and/or beverages on the floor while we play a hand. This inevitably results in disaster – so finish eating your food near the kitchen or over the table and then dispose of the plate or cup in a trash receptacle immediately. Additionally, please be careful when you spill. The other day, someone spilled about half a cup of coffee on the tile floor outside of the kitchen and left it there! This is not only unacceptable behavior, but a safety hazard. Someone could have slipped on the liquid and been seriously hurt. Please don't expect others to clean up after you. The club belongs to all the members, so all members are expected to take care of it – not just the cleaning staff or the board of directors. If you spill, you are expected to get up and clean up the spill immediately.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Jack J Burch
 Frederick P Clark
 Lori M Clark
 Lois A Goldfarb
 Ron Heggem
 Jenny T Robbins
 Sylvia T Webb

NEW CLUB MASTERS

David N Shirley

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Charles F Eberle
 John M Keck
 Craig Kippels
 Alfred W Stites
 Joanne Vye
 Pamela H Williams
 John Witkowsky

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Scott E Baker
 Jack L Curtis
 Carolyn Dawley
 Gerald W Wellman

NEW NABC MASTERS

Sally Storrs
 Steven E Sorenson

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Carol C Barkoff
 Lynda C Burch
 Ruth A Davis
 Ethel W Giovanis
 Theodore J Giovanis
 Susan Hettema
 Gloria Hopler
 Maris Mason
 Mary J Scrivner
 Kat Tiano
 Patsy A Waltemath

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Carol C Barkoff
 Gloria Hopler
 Gary J Scrivner
 Mary J Scrivner
 Karel Toohey

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Josephine J Atkins
 Jan Evans
 Cynthia W Mottle
 Janis Macley
 Kat Tiano

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS

Susan M Law
 Dorothy L O'Brien

NEW MEMBERS

Yvonne Fettes
 Lois A Goldfarb
 Harriet Smetters

TRANSFERS INTO UNIT

Diana Abrams
 Teresa M Didrickson
 Marcia Petta
 Dot M Plummer

IN MEMORIAM

BETTY A. KOEHLER

EDDIE WALKER



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

Return Service Requested

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

Sunday games start at 1.30pm.
 All games are stratified and award enhanced masterpoints.
 GNT games award 50% red points.

January

5th: Pairs Championship

2th: Pairs Championship
 19th: Pairs Championship
 26th: GNT Qualifier (Teams)

February

2nd: Pairs Championship
 9th: Junior Fund Pairs
 16th: Board-a-Match Teams
 23rd: GNT Qualifier (Teams)

March

2nd: No Game: Regional
 9th: Mixed-Pairs
 16th: Charity Pairs
 23rd: GNT Qualifier (Teams)
 30th: Pairs Championship

UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST

Jill Burtram: 842-1817; jillbnm@comcast.net	Felix Moore: 717-1483; f.moore@netscape.com	
Frank Fine: 345-5155; finefrank@gmail.com	Jerry Shinkle: 299-8486; jnshinkle@aol.com	
Pam Himes: 554-3935; pam.himes@yahoo.com	Karel Toohey: 294-4129; kareltoo@aol.com	
Bill Kass: 268-5922; kwjdr@msn.com	Mal Wilhelmi: 823-4407; malwilhelmi@yahoo.com	
Susy Law: 296-7719; susanlaw009@comcast.net	Robert Zipp: 884-6308; zipp_bridge@yahoo.com	