

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

Well, here I am in Helsinki with incredible pressure from my editors to get a column in on deadline. So I decided to investigate the bridge scene here. As usual, I waited until the last minute (today) to find the location of the local bridge clubs.

The largest club, it turns out, is located at Hiomotie 10 - about 6 miles from where we are staying. The good news in Finland, which has a language like no other European language except perhaps Hungarian, is that all the street signs are posted in two languages. The bad news is that the other language is Swedish.

Over the course of the week, Anne and I have honed our navigation skills on the public transport. Helsinki has a very good public transportation system - trams, buses, boats, and even a metro. We have ridden the trams and buses for the most part. So I looked up Hiomotie 10 on my smart phone and the internet and discovered it is a straight shot on bus route #14 - only 24 stops away from our apartment.

It took about 35 minutes to get there on Sunday morning, and it was a gorgeous day in Helsinki. I had called ahead to find out about the game. Sunday is the only day of the week that they don't have a game, but fortunately the club was open because a chess club shares the same space and was holding a tournament. So out we went.

When we arrived we were met by Hannu Ojanen, about age 50, who was monitoring the chess tournament but is also a competent

bridge player. Hannu lives about a mile from the club so he says he frequently walks over to play or kibbitz. He had placed third in a Finnish competition earlier this summer. He showed me his name in the Finnish equivalent of the Bridge Bulletin and gave me a couple of issues to bring back. I'll bring them to Duke City, but it will be easier to do your own hand analysis than to understand the descriptions furnished--in Finnish, of course.

Hannu graciously showed us around the club which has about 20 tables set up. It is a very nice facility with a small kitchen and (pay) cafeteria. Hannu told

us that for the weekday games, which are held at 6 pm, they typically have 10 tables in play. They use a duplicating machine and BridgeMates for scoring.

It turns out the owner of the club, Kauko Koistinen, is also a top level Finnish player and has represented Finland in international competition I had talked to him earlier to get the game information and he had assured me the club would be open when I got there but he would be gone. He also owns the cafe that sells food to bridge players, and, today, to chess players.

You are all invited to play in Finland. The Finns are extremely hospitable to Americans and they almost all speak English.

This is the fourth bridge contact I have made in foreign places where I did not actually play. The second contact occurred outside Paris

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several years ago at the French National Bridge Federation which had a tournament on. It was their national headquarters, complete with full service bar. The third contact was last year in Edinburgh where I just wanted to see what their facility was like. It was quite similar to the Helsinki club in function and size. It also had a cafe that sold food to players.

The first contact occurred a dozen years ago when Joe Harris and I went to Russia and met a bridge player in St. Petersburg with the intent of playing in their duplicate game. I had contacted him before we left and we brought some old bridge books with us. It turned out the game that night had been cancelled because they did not have a permanent space to hold a game so he came to our hotel and we just talked about bridge.

I am making a promise to myself that one of these days I will actually play.

-Bill Kass

Buddha Says

Richard Katz

Occasionally over the years I've wondered about Richard Katz. It was the early 70's. I used to play on Tuesday and Friday nights and run the Sunday Unit game. My sister Louise was the jack of all trades for the bridge club (like Felix Moore is today.) The Viet Nam war was raging and Louise got a call from Richard Katz to see if she could get him partners for the weekend games. He was a California physician and a conscientious objector to the war. The government had assigned him to a clinic on the Navajo reservation in Ganado Arizona about 250 miles from Albuquerque. Every weekend for about four months he would drive to the bridge club and play Friday nights, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Almost every time he played, he won, usually with a big game. It didn't really matter how good his partner was; he came out on top. I played three or four times with him and the tops just always seemed to roll in. The problem was, he was quite abusive to those he played with and after a while Louise couldn't line up anyone to play with him. After the Tuesday night games almost everyone would mosey over to the Town House bar and go over the hands. In those days there were no hand records, but everyone could

remember all the spots and had a story to tell. When all the hands had been beaten to death, invariably we would talk about Richard Katz. He was by far the best player we had ever seen. It was like Tiger Woods suddenly showing up at Los Altos golf course every weekend. We were trying to figure out what made him so good, and why we felt so bad going home after scoring a 67% with him. A couple of months later he showed up with a gorgeous lady and they played a couple of weeks (he was a dashing handsome fellow himself.) She was an absolute beginner who knew nothing about the game, and her novice errors caused him to be very caustic. Those were days of 100% tolerance, but he was so nasty that the club asked them not to return. A little while later they showed up at the Santa Fe sectional, and while they didn't win an event, they did place in the high overalls.

Two or three years later Dr. Katz started playing with Larry Cohen (not the Cohen of "The Law" and the column in the Bulletin.) They had an unbelievable record in the big national events - winning everything. In January 1977 at a dinner break in the final match in the team trials to select the USA representatives for the world championships, Katz and Cohen were accused of cheating. The powers that be said they were exchanging information with coughs, sniffs and snorts. Katz and Cohen immediately resigned from the ACBL and went home in disgrace. Their team had to forfeit the match since they were now only three. Five years later they sued the ACBL for \$40+ million dollars, saying they were not guilty and were ambushed and coerced into quitting. A six week trial was about to start that would decide if, in fact, they had cheated. The ACBL thought they had the goods on K-C, but they and their insurers didn't have 40 million dollars and they weren't positive they would win, so the suit was settled. Katz and Cohen were reinstated in full standing, given \$75,000 for their legal expenses, but could not play together as partners or on teams for two years, and then only with the ACBL's permission. The question of whether they had cheated was left up in the air, never to be officially approached again. A book was written on the scandal, that looked at several strange but successful bids the pair had made and decided that often they were systematic. The pair played their own "breakthrough" system. Cohen lived for many years in Las Vegas, making his living as a bridge and poker pro. Katz married, moved to

Pennsylvania, practiced medicine and played in many national events, sometimes making the high overalls playing with Bobby Levin and Kerri Shuman and other top players. I don't think he ever won another big event, but he has garnered over 14000 master points. Everyone comments that he has been a perfect gentleman at the table, tough but a pleasure to play against. Had the Katz-Cohen partnership lasted I've no doubt they would have rivaled Mechstroth-Rodwell and won many dozens of national and world titles.

At the world bridge championships last year in Bali, the standing European champions from Germany beat the USA2 team of Roger Bates, Eddie Wold, Carolyn Lynch, Garey Hayden, Mike Passell and Marc Jacobus in the finals of the d'Orsi senior teams. The Americans cried foul and accused the German pair Elinescu and Wladow of signaling their distribution by coughing. Wladow said he had asthma and so, of course, he coughed a lot. After looking at TV tapes of the players, and spread sheets coordinating coughs with hand patterns (ain't technology wonderful), the World Bridge Organization decided the Germans had cheated and banned them for ten years. The Germans lost their final appeal in July. It isn't clear yet if they will lose their gold metals, but the Americans think they are now the world champions.

I wonder. If you are already better than everyone else, why would you need that extra edge?

-Joe Harris

DCBC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your DCBC board continues to work hard on your behalf.

We have established an annual budget for all committees. In the past, committees did not have separate budgets and that led to our inability to keep close track of income and expenses on a ongoing basis. This should help us to maintain better fiscal oversight in the future. Please see the article on the by-laws in this issue.

We have decided to continue the cell phone tower lease as is; Jim Munroe was originally responsible for arranging this great source of income for us. Several

companies have approached the club and offered to buy out our lease. The by-out would give us considerable immediate cash, but would deprive us of approximately \$100,000 in income over the next 20 years. The board decided to take the long view and has rejected all suitors.

A new contract with Casa de Amigos has been approved. Casa has been an important part of duplicate bridge in the Albuquerque area and we are happy to be able to support that worthy cause.

The board always welcomes members' concerns and comments. In the past three months we have dealt with many, including: requests for a group order of name tags (on hold until someone is willing to take on this task), having a defibrillator at the club (discussion dropped because of a low rate of effectiveness of defibrillators in an elderly population and concerns regarding training), a request for sugar free candy (rejected because we cannot accommodate all special requests), a vending machine for snacks (rejected because of the effect of grease on both playing and bidding cards as well as the noise of a machine), reinstatement of the unit history board (the DCBC board hopes this will eventually be placed on the unit website), partnership requests (sign-up sheets are to be posted in both the North and South rooms), firearms in the clubhouse (a motion to disallow guns at DCBC failed), and smoking at the main entrance (those with problems with second-hand smoke are encouraged to use the SE door, which will be open at noon for afternoon games).

For those of you who like to follow what the DCBC board is doing, the minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the South room under DCBC.

-Bob Kingsley, President

-Katherine Tyner, Vice President

BY-LAWS REVISIONS

You may recall last year's membership meeting when I asked the membership to ratify changes in the by-laws. Most of the changes recommended by the board of directors last year were ratified by the membership, but the sections regarding the role of the treasurer and other elements regarding financial matters were tabled. That action resulted in the fact that for the past year the board of directors has been operating with a rather disjointed set of by-laws.

This year the board of directors has worked very hard to complete the revision of the by-laws that was begun last year. Tabling the financial aspects of the by-laws revisions last year was a really good thing to do, as it forced us to do some hard thinking on what financial controls we really need in the by-laws. The financial squeeze we had this summer further accentuated how important these controls are, and how inadequate they had been in the previous by-laws.

Revisions to the by-laws have been completed, approved by the board of directors, and approved by the board of Trustees. They will only go into effect if the general membership approves the revisions at the Annual Membership Meeting in December.

In this article I will point out the most important changes the board is proposing, and explain our thinking on the matter. Copies of the complete revised by-laws are available at the director's desks in the North and South rooms.

Article IV, Section 1 and 2 - Minor changes here were made for clarity.

Article IV, Section 6b - Officers of the Club are defined. Officers are, under certain circumstances, allowed to sign checks. Under the old by-laws, officers were never defined. This rectifies that oversight.

Article IV Section 6b-4 - The office of the treasurer is defined. The treasurer must be a member of the club and serves at the pleasure of the board of directors. The duties of the treasurer are defined, and the treasurer is responsible for the appointment of an assistant treasurer with the advice and consent of the board of directors. Defining the duties of the treasurer is an important part of the revisions the

board is recommending. Please read this section carefully.

Article IV, Section 8c - The definition and responsibilities of the Hospitality Committee are completely re-written for clarity. There are no significant changes.

Article IV, Section 8g - The treasurer is made chairperson of the finance committee. Previously the committee had an independent chairperson. The board felt that the treasurer is a more appropriate person for this responsibility

Article IV, Section 8j - The Club Management Committee is created. This was done to conform with ACBL requirements regarding the Club Manager. This has no effect on current practice.

Article IV, Section 9 - The president is explicitly given the power to create temporary committees on an ad hoc basis. I did this several times during the past two years, and the practice has been very beneficial to the management of the club. The board feels that it is important to codify this power in the by-laws.

Article IV, Section 9b - A Financial Review Committee is created. This is a temporary committee, consisting of the president and the Club Manager. They may ask others to join the committee if they wish. The committee will meet in January and conduct a review of the financial status of the club, including the tax reports, ledgers, and other documents relating to club finances. This committee, at its own discretion, may order an outside audit of the club's finances. This is another very important part of the revisions the board is recommending. Please read it carefully.

This is a temporary committee. We placed the outgoing president and the Club Manager on this committee because they are the two most knowledgeable people regarding club finances outside of those on the finance committee. Therefore, their review can be independent of the finance committee and the treasurer. This committee is created in January, since our fiscal year ends in December. Since the presidency of the club changes in February, the outgoing president will have club responsibilities after his/her term of office ends, providing some continuity of financial oversight. This committee

dissolves when it makes its final report to the board of directors. Its report will be published for the membership.

There was a great deal of discussion by board members regarding audits of the club's finances. This is a large club with a large annual budget (-\$180,000), and some members of the board felt that an annual audit by an outside agency is necessary. The board was advised by financial professionals that an outside audit should not be necessary if a formal bookkeeping system were instituted (see below), unless fraud or gross incompetence was suspected. In addition, an outside audit would incur a significant annual expense. A majority of the board agreed that the financial review committee could do an informal annual audit, and order an outside audit if it felt that were necessary.

Article VI, Section 5f - This is a new section requiring the publication of the minutes of the board meeting and the treasurer's report.

Article VIII, Section 2a - This paragraph requires that the treasurer maintain the club's ledgers with a dual-entry, audit tracking software system.

This is another critical by-laws revision proposed by the board. Part of the reason the club had a financial squeeze this summer was because the bookkeeping system in place made it very difficult for the board to know if our income and expenses were tracking during the year in a timely fashion. Dual-entry bookkeeping systems have been used for over a thousand years. The system continues to be used because it makes it nearly impossible not to know when a ledger is not in balance. It also makes tracking income and expenditures much easier than other systems. By requiring the use of a dual-entry bookkeeping system, it should make it much easier for future boards of directors to monitor the fiscal state of the club and to avoid the kind of fiscal squeeze we experienced this past summer.

Article VIII, Section 4b - This section requires each committee chairperson to have a committee budget and to limit expenditures to that budget. If expenditures are to exceed the budgeted amount, board approval is necessary.

This is another critical section of the by-laws revisions recommended by the board of directors.

Currently, chairpersons do not have explicit budgets, so there is no way to know, on an annual basis, if expenditures are in line with the over-all club budget. This section addresses that problem and makes each committee chairperson responsible for their small section of the overall club budget. Please read this section carefully.

Please take the time to review the entire set of by-laws revisions that are being proposed by the board of directors. Please be sure to come to the Annual Membership Meeting in December prepared to vote on these revisions.

It is my strong recommendation that you vote in favor of these by-laws revisions. I personally believe that they are extremely important for the future well-being of the Club.

-R. Kingsley

Duke City Bridge Club (DCBC) Classes
Duke City Bridge Club, 8616 Northeastern Blvd. NE (505-271-2877) www.abqbridge.com
Fall, 2014

Absolute Beginners

Course: Bidding in the 21st Century

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

Location: Duke City Bridge Club

9-weeks starting on Saturday, September 20, 2014 (No classes on 10/4 & 11/01)

Class Fee: \$40.00 for book and class

\$25.00 for class only \$15.00 for book only

Advanced Beginners

Course: Play of the Hand

Course Description: Topics will include making a plan, methods of developing tricks, how to eliminate losers, and managing the trump suit.

Teacher: Susan Zimmerman

Text: ACBL Book Series: Play of the Hand

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

Location: Duke City Bridge Club

9-weeks starting on Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Class Fee: \$40.00 for book and class

\$25.00 for class only \$15.00 for book only

Intermediate Class

Course: Defense for Intermediate Players

Course Description: This course is a follow-up to the third (Heart) course in our Advanced Beginner lessons, and covers the topic of defense in much greater detail. Concepts covered include leads, signaling, and defensive handplay. Since defending contracts is half of the game of bridge, you will improve your game by applying these advanced defensive techniques.

Teacher: Bob Zipp

Text: Edwin Kantar, Modern Bridge Defense

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

Location: Duke City Bridge Club

8-weeks starting on Saturday, September 20, 2014 (No classes on 10/4 & 11/01)

Class Fee: \$50.00 for book and class

\$25.00 for class only \$25.00 for book only

Advanced Class

Course: Matchpoint Technique

Course Description: Develop tools to take care of matchpoint problems.

Teacher: Cliff Hill

Text: Class Handouts

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

Location: Duke City Bridge Club

8-weeks starting on Tuesday, September 23, 2014

Class Fee: \$40.00

PROPERTY REPORT:

Parking at the Duke City Bridge Club

There are approximately 65 designated parking spaces in the DCBC's lot. There is a "Fire Lane" (clearly marked) between the parking spaces immediately to the East of the Club and the remainder of the spaces. This 20-foot-wide lane is reserved for emergency vehicles. If you park your vehicle in this lane, you will be asked over the P. A. system to immediately move your vehicle.

After the club parking lot is full, there are several other areas where you can park your vehicle. The closest is the Western Commerce Bank lot, immediately to the West of the club. The bank has been more than generous in allowing us to park on the perimeter of their lot to the East and South of the Bank. We are not allowed to park in those spaces that are closest to the bank (on the inside), which are reserved for their customers. If you park in one of these spaces, you will be asked to move your vehicle immediately. We need everybody's cooperation on this. The Walgreen Pharmacy, to the South of the Club, allows us to park behind their store to the North. Parking is not permitted in those spaces that interfere with the flow of traffic through their "Drive-Up Window," where their customers pick up prescriptions. The Walmart super store to the North, allows us to park anywhere in their lot. The strip mall stores and Furr's Buffet across the street to the North, forbid us from parking in their lots. Violators will be towed at the owners expense.

There are a limited number of handicapped spaces in the club's lot. If you use one of these you must display your handicapped plaque, showing that you are authorized to park there. If your walking ability is limited and you must have one of these spaces, be sure to get to the club early, before they are all occupied. Car pooling is always encouraged. The busiest days are Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Thanks to:

Rick Weigle for trimming the Pyracantha along the fence on the Eastside of the Club.

Scott Baker for his help on a landscaping project, and replacing bad ballasts and florescent light bulbs in the light fixtures.

Cheryl Mitchell and her team for removing the Russian Sage, and installing new plantings and more crushed stone in the bed near the front entrance.

*-Russ Edwards
Property Manager*

DUKE CITY BRIDGE CLUB AND UNIT-374 WANT YOU TO BE A MENTOR!

Anyone and everyone can and should be a mentor (even novices), to help ease completely inexperienced players into the game. Here is your opportunity to give back to the game of bridge, help promote growth of our bridge community, and potentially improve your own game through the exercise of teaching.

Unit 374 and the Duke City Bridge Club intend to start a mentorship program to increase the level of play and enjoyment of our fabulous game of bridge. We don't want to interfere with any already existing mentor-student relationships. We simply want to provide a mechanism to facilitate mentor and student connections. As our first step, we wish to establish a cadre of mentors (we expect it will be much easier to find students than mentors). So no matter what your level of bridge, if you have an interest in mentoring a less experienced player, please email the following information to Jerry Wellman at jerryandleonie@aol.com.

Name:

Preferred method of contact:

Level of Play, e.g. Years Playing, Points:

Conventions you play; would like to teach:

Level of player that you would like to mentor:

Do You Want to Be a Mentor?

Suggested Characteristics of a Mentor:

- Desire to help someone develop his/her bridge competencies;
- Ability to discuss issues in a supportive, non-judgmental manner;
- Willingness to play with student about once a month;
- Willingness to discuss conventions, questions, etc. before the game;
- Willingness to discuss hand records after the game;

BRIDGE!

BRIDGE!

BRIDGE!

CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT?

JOIN UNIT 374 ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS
FOR LIVELY & COMPETITIVE GAMES

PLAY BEGINS at 1:30

Newer players are very welcome! Every week an expert player moderates a post-game discussion on the hands that have been played. A sure-fire way to improve your game!

Extra points awarded on Sundays!!!

FOR GREAT EATS, GOOD COMPANY AND
PLENTY OF PARKING!

- If a match is not working out, willingness to tell student that you are not able to continue the relationship;
- No expectation of remuneration for mentor by student, club, or unit.

(Nothing above is intended to override any agreement between a mentor and a student)

Even if you are not sure, please reply. You can always change your mind. Mentors will have final say as to whom they mentor.

-Gerald Wellman

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Fall 2014 Course Offerings

Defense? Or defence? No matter how you spell it, few would argue that developing good defensive skills is a critical aspect of the game of bridge. This fall, 2014, Bob Zipp will teach the class “Defense for Intermediate Players.” He is using the award-winning text, Modern Bridge Defense by Eddie Kantar. Bob states in his course description, “Since defending contracts is half of the game of bridge, you will improve your game by applying these advanced defensive techniques.” Please check the flier insert in this newsletter for details about Bob’s class and other exciting and stimulating courses.

Also this fall, Athena Kelly is teaching the course for absolute beginners, “Bidding in the 21st Century.” Susan Zimmerman is the instructor for the advanced beginner class, “Play of the Hand.” For advanced students who want to develop tools to take care of matchpoint problems, enroll in Cliff Hill’s class on “Matchpoint Technique.”

Supervised Play

The DCBC “Supervised Play with Felix Moore” continues to be a resounding success. This free program was offered on Saturdays from mid-May through August. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Felix and her assistants: Jan Evans, Athena Kelly, Pam and Jerry Himes, and Rick Weigle. All of the supervised play instructors volunteer their time and share their love of bridge as they help the attendees learn how to play the game. “Supervised Play with Felix Moore” will resume after the fall classes are over. Special kudos also go to DCBC Board member,

Susan Zimmerman, who started a supervised play session on Wednesday nights.

For further information about the DCBC Fall 2014 Classes, please check the DCBC Website or the bulletin boards at the Club. You may also refer to the flier included with the Unit Newsletter, or pick up your own copy of the schedule at the flier kiosk at the DCBC.

Defense? Or defence? That is the question! Whatever your choice, please get off of “D-fence” and join us at one of our bridge classes this fall!

-Ellen Brabson, Chair, Education Committee

An Interesting Hand

	♠75 ♥AT52 ♦743 ♣9752	
♠AQ8642 ♥K4 ♦862 ♣A6	North West East South	♠KT93 ♥87 ♦AQT9 ♣843
	♠J ♥QJ963 ♦KJ5 ♣KQJT	

The bidding:

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1♥
1♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	P	P	P

North led the Ace of Hearts, South playing the Queen. North switched to the 3 of Diamonds, West playing the 9 from the board, South winning with the Jack. South played the King of clubs, captured by West’s Ace. West then cleared the trump suit, cashed the King of Hearts and continued with four more

rounds of trump, leaving the Club 6 and the 8,6 of diamonds in his hand, the Club 8 and the AQ of Diamonds on the board. South came down to the Club 10 and the K5 of Diamonds. West exited with his low club to South's 10, who had to return a Diamond into the AQ for the last two tricks, making four. To defeat the contract, South had to throw all of his clubs and keep a heart with his Kx of Diamonds. South didn't know who had the nine of Clubs. If West held the nine, he could not defeat the contract. The contract can be defeated in several ways. With the actual defense, the Ace of Hearts followed by a diamond switch by South would have been successful. See if you can spot other ways to defeat the contract.

-Mike Vermilion

SOME FUN RULES

Coon's Rule

Developed by Charley Coon, former internationalist from Gloucester, MA. Says Charley: "When both opponents show out, all the outstanding trumps have been drawn."

Resnick's Rule

Promulgated when the author, holding 12 trumps, decided to let his RHO take his "natural" trump trick with the king. His rule: "When there's only one of a suit outstanding, play for the drop."

Goldwater Rule

Authored by tournament director Harry Goldwater, which applies when a defender leads out of turn. "An opening lead out of turn should generally be accepted because any player who doesn't know whose lead it is probably doesn't know what to lead either."

-Greg Mackey
from an unknown publication

RULES OF THE GAME

To Be or Not To be: Good Hosts/Guests

This article will address Zero Tolerance and "a pleasant atmosphere." I think our behavior (as a club) is very good. However, I have observed the following behaviors at our club that I think we could improve upon to promote a pleasant atmosphere.

- Being habitually late to finish a round.

- Arrival of a player after the specified starting time of a round.
- Not passing boards when a new round is called (even when the play has not completed at your table).
- Boasting or gloating.

ACBL Laws address these behaviors as do our current DCBC Bylaws: "Article II. Purposes. ... d. to encourage the highest standard of conduct and ethics and enforce such standards during play; and e. to promote a pleasant atmosphere for the enjoyment of the game." The ACBL Zero Tolerance Policy, states:

"We are attempting to eradicate unacceptable behavior in order to make the game of bridge more enjoyable for all. Below are some examples of commendable behavior, which, while not required, will significantly contribute to the improved atmosphere:

1. Being a good 'host' or 'guest' at the table.
2. Greeting others in a friendly manner.
3. Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents.

The following are some examples of behavior which will not be tolerated:

1. Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats, or violence.
2. Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
3. Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.

Annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited by ACBL and the director has the authority to assess disciplinary penalties. Please call the director *immediately* if you see players being bad 'guests or hosts'.

Note that other than prohibiting "annoying behavior, embarrassing remarks, or any other conduct ..."; the ACBL does not specifically address boasting or gloating. Webster defines boasting as: "to talk about deeds in a manner showing too much pride and

satisfaction" and gloating as: "to glow, gaze, or think with exultation, avarice or malicious pleasure." When you have done well or the opponents have done poorly, they are already disappointed and sensitive. Rather than saying anything or doing anything that expresses your satisfaction, PLEASE try to be quiet and suppress your urge to show happiness at their expense. Many times I have heard players "congratulate" their partners for a hand well played when the result was caused by errors by the opponents. When the opponents are already disappointed by their errors, such "congratulations" are only adding salt to their wounds. Even if the result is not caused by opponent's errors, refrain from congratulating yourself and your partner until you've left the table. Remember, "do unto others as you wish they would do unto you."

Please let me know any ideas you have about improvements needed in our "atmosphere" and any issues you think I might address.

-Larry Bertholf

PICTURING PARTNER'S HAND

Dealer: North Vul: None	<p>♠AJ82 ♥K ♦Q975 ♣T876</p>	
<p>♣KT9 ♥Q97642 ♦J8 ♣Q2</p>	<p>North</p> <p>West East</p> <p>South</p>	<p>♠Q7643 ♥A85 ♦A ♣J954</p>
	<p>♠5 ♥JT3 ♦KT6432 ♣AK3</p>	

W	N	E	S
	P	1S	2D
2S	P	P	3D
P	3NT	P	???

In a team game sitting second seat, East opened a light 1♠. He has a "rule of 20" hand (the total of his HCPs and the length of his two longest suits) along with two quick tricks. Conservative bidders may pass.

After South's 2♦ overcall, West raised partner's spades. That was passed around to South who rebid his diamonds. Then North piped in with 3NT. What was that? It was time for his partner to do some serious thinking.

South sees that his partner was a passed hand so he must be on 10-11 HCPs. He must have really good spade controls to propose playing in no trump. He'll have a diamond fit, perhaps honor third or fourth, looking for South's diamonds to be a source of tricks. And he must have some values in the unbid suits. Should South pass or retreat to 4♦?

With better diamonds – two of the top three – passing looks like a worthwhile try. In a team game with IMP scoring, stretching to iffy games pays off in the long run. But with the poor quality of this diamond suit, retreating to 4♦ is prudent. The minor suit part score plays well and North/South gets a positive score.

In our case South passed. East led a small spade to the King and Ace and declarer knocked out the diamond Ace. East played another spade hoping his partner had the Jack, but the contract was secure.

An improbable lead of the heart Ace would beat 3NT by two tricks (one diamond and five hearts). A more likely defense would have East, when back on lead with the diamond Ace, cash the Ace of hearts and then play another heart to partner's Queen. Then West puts the spade 10 on the table. The defense collects five tricks (two spades, two hearts and a diamond) before declarer can run his diamonds.

A little luck never hurts, and the pushy game paid off. Only nine of 192 reporting Common Game pairs bid and made game. Just over half bid and made a diamond part score.

-Frank Fine

Newer Players Page

Defense at Bridge

One of the reasons one plays duplicate bridge is because it reduces the “luck factor.” If you’ve ever played rubber bridge, you’ll have experienced the maddening dilemma of being dealt hands with only five or six points for hours on end while your opponents rack up slam after slam. In duplicate, the playing field is leveled – you’re competing against people holding the same cards you hold. So it is important that you react to your holding of a poor hand in the same way as you react to holding good cards. You must defend better than others who hold the same cards. As a defender, your goal is to set the opponents’ contract. Failing that, you must make every effort to take as many tricks as possible. If your rivals sitting your way take more tricks than you do, you’re going to get a zero on the board. Here are some of the most common mistakes players new to duplicate make in defense:

The cashing of aces indiscriminately. Holding AQ over a king on your right in dummy, your first priority is to prevent declarer from making that king good. Do not lay down your ace just to win a trick. Wait for your partner or the declarer to lead the suit so you can take declarer’s king with your ace and cash your queen for two tricks. Always try to take an honor with your ace. If you cash it early, you’re setting up the honors in the declarer’s hand.

The failure to signal your partner about what suit you want him or her to lead, or the failure to take note of your partner’s signals of suit preference. Normally, a very low card played by you or your partner at the first introduction of a suit indicates no interest or values in that suit. A card higher than a six is encouraging. Discuss your suit preference signals with your partner before you start play. Then make a habit of watching for these signals on every trick.

Poor opening leads. Finding the best opening lead is one of the most difficult aspects of bridge. Here are some guidelines.

Always try to lead the first suit your partner has bid. This is a not a hard and fast rule, but unless you hold AKQJ in another suit and you’re defending 3NT, it’s

usually safe to lead your partner’s bid suit. If you hold an honor in that suit, lead the smallest card you have. If you don’t hold an honor, lead your highest card in the suit. Holding Q632, lead the deuce. Holding 10,9,3, lead the 10. Again, be sure you have discussed your leading practices with your partner.

Make every effort not to finesse your partner. It is best not to lead an unbid suit in which you hold two or three small cards. It only makes sense – if you hold nothing in a suit, it means the declarer, dummy and your partner hold all the honors. By leading the suit, you locate the honors in your partner’s hand for declarer.

Against suit contracts, it is usually best not to underlead an ace unless your partner has bid the suit. Too often, declarer will be sitting with the king.

If your partner has not bid, lead from a suit you think has chances of yielding tricks for your side. Lead a low card from QJxx, Kxxx, AJxx.

You may find it helpful to find a lead by the process of elimination: “I don’t want to lead spades, because the opponents have bid that suit; I don’t want to lead a heart because I only have three small in the suit; I don’t want to lead a diamond because I hold the ace. Therefore, I’ll lead a club”.

Indiscriminate discarding. Unless you have a better course of action, always return your partner’s initially-led suit when and if you win your first trick. Make every effort to hold at least one card in that suit to return if you have the opportunity. That means you shouldn’t throw away twos and threes just because they can’t win a trick. Think ahead before you discard. Remember that your discards should help your partner, should tell him/her about your hand, what suit to lead or not to lead. If you hold a king in the heart suit and you’re sitting under dummy’s ace, signal a high card in the suit. But if the QJx of the suit is in dummy instead of the ace, discourage the lead with a low card. Discards should tell partner what to lead, NOT what honors you have in your hand.

Thinking only when it’s your turn to play a card. Many experienced players make this mistake. While

they wait for declarer to look over the dummy, they are daydreaming about something totally unrelated to bridge. As defender, you should be looking at the dummy just as intently as declarer, and making a decision about what suit you want to attack, whether or not to cover an honor with an honor, and what to discard or lead.

Probably the most important element in bridge is concentration. If you can conquer the urge to let your mind stray from your immediate goal of setting the declarer, you'll find your defense will improve immeasurably.

-Susy Law

ON DEFENSE: SECOND HAND LOW, THIRD HAND HIGH

When a suit is led by the player on your right, you are said to be in "second seat". When you are in this position, a common piece of wisdom is to "play second hand low", which means play your lowest card in that suit. This maxim works because holding on to your high cards is frequently a good strategy. Note that it applies only to the defense, as declarer (who can see both hands) should play the hand to best advantage. Second hand low forces the declarer to guess how high to play from his (the third) hand.

However, under certain circumstances, second hand should not play so low. If you hold a sequence of honors, such as KQJ4 in the suit, and a 2 is led from dummy (on your right), playing low would not be a good idea. Declarer might win the trick with a 10! In the situation where your partner almost certainly does not have an honor, you should use your honor to force out the ace. Which honor should you use? Play the lowest one necessary, in this case the J. With touching honors, and defending, always play the lowest in the sequence.

If you are able to take the setting trick by playing second hand high, do so. Defeating the contract is of prime importance.

"Second hand low" generally applies only when a low card is led. If an honor is led, the maxim "Cover an honor with an honor" applies. Covering an honor with an honor may help your side if it promotes a card from either defender's hand. If it is obvious that

"covering an honor with an honor" will not help your defense, then don't cover.

You are in third seat if partner leads. Here, the maxim is "third hand high". In this case, play the highest card necessary. If you are holding Q104 of the suit and the J is on the board (to your right), you should play the 10; save your Q to conquer the J. Presumably, your partner has a good reason for leading the suit, and is using your high card to promote the cards in his hand. If you have touching honors or a sequence in the suit, play the lowest possible; perhaps partner can figure out that you have a higher honor.

Sometimes, you must play third hand high even if it is not necessary. Let's say your partner leads a K and your holding is A4. Partner is presumably leading from the top of a sequence. In this case, you must play your A and return with the 4. If you do not do so, the suit will become blocked; playing the 4 first and then the A, you have no card to return to your partner's hand. In this case, "wasting" the A establishes your partner's suit. Unblockings is particularly important in notrump contracts.

-Bob Zipp

Odds & Ends

HOSPITALITY MATTERS

Thank you all for your understanding regarding the cutbacks the DCBC board made in hospitality. This move is helping balance the board's budget.

Limiting food also has advantages to our physical plant- it prolongs the life of the carpet and chairs, and playing and bidding cards. That's another boon to our budget.

We really appreciate the food and candy that members have been bringing in to share. While we are pleased to accept those donations, we will not be accepting monetary donations. Thank you, however, for the generous offers.

Thanks also to everyone who brings their beverage container to the club, saving themselves 50 cents as well as keeping styrofoam out of the landfill.

A reminder that the kitchen cupboard is only for the directors' cups. Regrettably, we do not have room to store everyone's mugs. Also, some members have been using the directors' cups - it should be obvious that this is in bad form.

Abandoned and forgotten cups can be rescued October 1-14. If you find yours on the table in the south room during that time and you still want it, please take it home with you. Any unclaimed mugs will be donated to Goodwill.

-Katherine Tyner and Charleen Bishop

GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS QUALIFICATION HAS STARTED

Between now and the end of April we will be having lots of team games; all of these will be qualifying events for the District 17 finals of the Grand National Teams.

All the games will be stratified as Open, 0-2500 and 0-500NLM. Local qualified teams will be eligible to participate in the District 17 finals to be held in Denver during their Regional Tournament next May. Start making your plans to attend this event. District

winners will qualify to play in the National Finals, to be held in Chicago during the NABC and receive a substantial subsidy to help defray travel expenses. Qualifying events will be held once a month on Sunday at a Unit game and Duke City will be hosting qualifiers on one Tuesday evening and one Saturday afternoon per month. For more information about this prestigious event, please contact Felix Moore or check the District 17 website at www.d17acbl.org

-Felix Moore

LIBRARY

Thanks, everyone, for using your friendly DCBC library. The donations have been excellent. Books older than 15 years and non-fiction are poor movers. Please note that the books are arranged by the authors' last names. Keep up the good patronage.

-Doyce King

PARTNERSHIP ASSISTANCE

Partner not able to make it? Have an open date on your bridge calendar? Duke City Bridge Club would like to help make it easier to find a game. Effective immediately, partnership forms will be located in both the north and south rooms on a bulletin board close to the director's desk. You can sign up giving details of what days/times you are looking for a partner and view the names of other players that are looking for a game as well. This is a self-serve partnership desk to help you get your bridge fix. Also, directors are often aware of players looking for a game when it is a last minute decision.

-Rick Weigle

Membership Matters

RANK PROMOTIONS

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Sloan Carr
George Chip Hair, Jr.
Carol Adams
Christina Hamilton

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Leona Dennis
Pat Magee
Lois Goldfarb
Gayle Audy
Connie Hale

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Roberta Hine
Jean Hodgkin

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Georgia Smith

NEW NABC MASTERS

Ann Cole
Janet French

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTERS

Pat Zick

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Jim Fisk

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Marianne Helgesen
Antje Muir
Ruth Davis

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Susan Zimmerman

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS

John Erickson

NEW PLATINUM LIFE MASTERS

Rudy Krall

TRANSFERS INTO UNIT

Fred Fels
Wally Yeskie
Winston Crabb
Jane Gibson
GJ Gustafson

IN MEMORIAM

MARTHA STONE

BARBARA KERL



UPCOMING UNIT GAMES
SCHEDULE

Sunday games start at 1.30pm. All games are stratified and award enhanced masterpoints.

October

- 5: Pairs Championship
- 12: Club Appreciation Pairs
- 19: Individual & Annual Mtg
- 26: Club Appreciation Teams

November

- 2: ABQ Sectional
- 9: Charity Pairs
- 16: Pairs Championship
- 23: Pairs Championship
- 30: GNT Qualifier (Teams)

September

- 7: Pairs Championship
- 14: STaC (Silver pts)
- 21: Pairs Championship
- 28: GNT Qualifier (Teams)

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