

Albuquerque Bridge Player

A quarterly publication produced and distributed by Unit 374 of the American Contract Bridge League

Unit President's Column

The mysterious workings of the ACBL through its districts and units is a puzzle to most bridge players, so I thought it might be interesting to you to know a little bit about what your unit board does. You undoubtedly know that we run a regional and three sectional tournaments per year. And although that may sound rather ho-hum, it's really quite an endeavor. Here's a run-down on what is involved in ACBL tournament administration.

Once a year, the unit board appoints a tournament chairman. This year, and in the future, there will be a chair and a co-chair, the co-chair to train with the chair and then take over the chair's duties the following year. The first thing the chair does is find a venue for the regional. At present, there are only three or four suitable places in Albuquerque to host our regionals, because we need so much space for our bridge tables. Several years ago, we looked at all the alternatives and selected the Marriott. Their facilities, service and helpfulness have been exemplary ever since, so we continue to contract for their space. Contracting with a hotel for a week of activity is intricate and takes quite a bit of time and business acumen. After agreeing on the date for the regional, negotiations ensue for the room rates: sleeping rooms, playing rooms, and support rooms (room for speakers, supplies, board duplicating and directors). We must guarantee that a certain number of sleeping rooms will be occupied, and we must promise to spend several thousands of dollars on hotel catering services to pay for the playing and service rooms. Once these negotiations have taken place, the contract with the hotel is forwarded to the District 17 Board of Directors for review and finalization. All this takes place two years in advance of every regional.

A year in advance, the tournament chair works with the ACBL and District 17 to provide directors for the event, a

contractor to duplicate all the boards that will be needed, and a bookseller. S(he) also coordinates with the unit board and District 17 on establishing a schedule of events and masterpoint ranges for each event. Once that is done, a flier must be prepared and approved by the district, and months in advance, sent to advertising outlets and a multitude of clubs throughout the region. Meanwhile, the unit board appoints a hospitality chair, a partnership chair, an equipment and supplies chair, and a speaker chair. The hospitality chair arranges for the preparation of badges, purchase of gifts, patches and candy for the attendees. The partnership chair handles both advance and on-site pair-ups for attendees. The speaker chair arranges for visiting bridge celebrities to give short seminars during the tournament. The equipment and supplies chair ensures that enough playing cards, boards, convention cards, pencils, entry forms and other paper products are in sufficient abundance for a week's activity. S(he) maintains an inventory of tables, tools, and equipment needed for playing room set-up, and is responsible for renting a truck to transport our tables, equipment and supplies to and from the hotel and engaging a staff of people to load and unload the truck.

While all this planning and work is going on, the tournament chair, with the help of the board members, is performing substantially the same duties to arrange for our three sectionals. Fortunately, the venue for our sectionals is the DCBC, so the onus of contract negotiation is lessened (we contract with the DCBC for the cost of using the building). Our major concern during the sectionals is food catering, but considerable attention is also needed in providing advertising, logistics, banking, security, parking availability, and building maintenance.

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President, *continued*

In the future, if you're asked to serve on the Unit Board of Directors, this is a short synopsis of what you'll be asked to either oversee or participate in. Of course, the board does many other things, e.g., it sanctions and runs a championship bridge game every Sunday of the year; monitors membership matters and produces the bi-annual membership directory; produces the quarterly newsletter; assists the DCBC in various educational endeavors; sponsors a two-day subsidized bridge seminar; and supports the local bridge website activity.

It's interesting and rewarding work. Try it!

-Susy Law

DCBC President's Report

Player Courtesy

Everyone who plays at the Duke City Bridge Club contributes to the overall atmosphere of our club. We want that to be open, cordial, helpful and, above all, not abusive. Two recent trends have interfered with that atmosphere and should be highlighted. First, there was an incident recently where one of our members was rude to other players at the table, prompting them to call the director. Players at other tables, seeing this incident, became upset as well. Regardless of the people involved or the circumstances, this illustrates how people's behavior at the table contributes to the overall atmosphere. If you are abusive, everyone suffers.

Player Manners

The second trend is trash. It is being left behind during and after the games. We don't want the club to look like a rock concert just occurred after each game. This is a request to pick up after yourself – not much to ask. So summarizing, here are some guidelines for you to consider the next (and every) time you play. Your demeanor contributes to the collective atmosphere in the club; one bad comment can drive people away.

Beyond the rules of bridge that we must observe, each player in a game should also strive to make the game enjoyable for others, or at least not make it unpleasant. If you think you have been abused by loud talk, unruly behavior, or any other rudeness, CALL THE DIRECTOR. When the director makes a ruling, ABIDE BY THE DIRECTOR'S RULING. Directors can be wrong, but they are in charge. It is best to follow their direction. If you think the situation requires it, fill out a Zero Tolerance complaint and/or a Player Memo.

Leave the table like you found it, or cleaner. Remove your drink cups, place chairs under the table and put the bidding boxes in the middle of the table after the last round. If you drop something on the floor, please pick it up.

Lighting the Club

The board has appointed a committee to investigate replacing the lighting in the club with a view toward saving on utility bills. To that end, the committee has contacted several contractors for bids. One of them suggested that members of the board view the result of their work in another building and evaluate it. The contractor is presently searching for a suitable building to showcase to the board.

Longest Day

By the time you read this, the DCBC will have participated in the Longest Day event and contributed the resulting donations for Alzheimer's. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

Club Health

Your bridge club is doing well this year with the number of tables played up by over 17 percent so far, relative to last year.

-John Berry



Member Profile – Samuel Smith

“Ladies and gentlemen, introducing the world-renowned tap dancer, the one and only Sammy Smith.”

Back in the 1950's, those words were uttered in the United States, in Canada and in Europe, where Sam performed his solo tap dancing act as part of a number of vaudeville shows.

It all started in Washington, D.C. When Sam was 8, his mother enrolled him in ballet and tap dance classes. Sam claims that even then he was quite good at lifting girls in ballet. At age 14, he was granted a tap dance scholarship in New York City. Sam's dream was to perform with the American Ballet Theater, but no African American dancer was a member of the troupe at that time. He refocused his efforts on tap dancing and hired Henry LeTang, a Tony Award Winner, to choreograph his act. He danced his heart away in carnivals, vaudeville shows, and nightclubs. (He only got booed once in his entire career.) Later, Sam was invited to join the Carnival de Cuba and traveled to Europe.

When he returned, he paired up with a partner and the duo Oliver and Smith tapped in perfect synchronization at the Palace Theater on Broadway; they repeated their ten-minute performance five times daily. This was one of the proudest moments of his career. Wearing a tuxedo when dancing to a live orchestra, Sam also modeled formal wear on ships taking tourists up and down the Hudson River.

Sam was happiest when dancing, even when it involved the “torture route” during the summer in the South. Sam recounts that in Memphis, Tennessee, after African American audiences came to the show, the theater was fumigated before white audiences could attend.

In the late 50's, nightclub acts became less popular, thus enticing Sam to leave show business and work at a publishing company. From there he joined Volt Technical Corporation writing manuals and drafting proposals for contracts pertaining to the effort to land a man on the moon. In 1966, Sam joined IBM in New York, first as salesman, then as marketing manager and as district sales instructor. It was time to promote and sell IBM Executive and Selectric typewriters to replace manual ones. He filled several managerial positions with IBM, including being part of a workforce looking for new business opportunities in the

United States and in Europe; this position entitled Sam and his wife to spend one year in France, and travel throughout Europe. Being one of the first African American managers at IBM, Sam admits that he had to perform twice as well as his fellow managers (it was easy).

In 1955, Sam met and later married Connie, who became his wife of 37 years. She passed away in 1993 shortly after they moved to Albuquerque. He met his current partner of 17 years, Hannah Best, a retired lawyer, soon after, and they have traveled the world together. They both enjoy music, but especially jazz concerts.

In Albuquerque, Sam started a coaching and consulting practice to help individuals and organizations improve their performance and business results. He worked extensively with managers from Sandia Labs and led workshops on team-building, leadership, and management development, as well as on diversity in the workplace. He coached individuals from quite a few Fortune 500 Companies and was also faculty member of the American Management Association, conducting management and leadership development seminars.

For six years, Sam taught tap dancing at Harwood Art Center until 2010, when he underwent major back surgery for a rare spinal condition called Cauda Equina Syndrome; this left him paralyzed. He spent more than three months in rehabilitation learning to walk again. To this day, he meets with a personal trainer and physiotherapist three times a week.

In 2013, when he was 77, Sam decided to learn to play bridge and plays regularly at the club. He also resumed his piano lessons and practices when he has time. In total, he has traveled to over 81 countries, including a 3½ month world cruise in 2007. He even demonstrated his tap dancing talents onboard during a talent show for passengers.

There are a lot of parallels between bridge and tap dancing. First you learn the basics, and then conventions are the fancier footwork. Communicating well with your bridge partner is like establishing a good rapport with your audience. A grand slam is like a standing ovation. In Sam's case, it could not happen to a nicer man!

-Louise Belanger

The Longest Day 2017

Alzheimer's Association Fund Raiser

Thanks to everyone who made The Longest Day so amazing.

Special thanks to: Susan Zimmerman, Pam and Jerry Himes, Gayle Audy, Meghan Wolfe, Dave Baglee, and Felix Moore for joining the team. Susan got all the food donations from Albertson's, Trader Joe's, Great Harvest Breads, Village Pizza in Corrales, Dion's Pizza, and Papa Murphy's. Thanks, too, to Mary Erickson, Gloria Hopler, Rick Weigle, Jane Butel, Barbara Kaspar, Sue Berry and John Berry for helping with food. (I'm sure there were others who helped during the day too, and I'm sorry I was so busy that now I'm not doing you justice.)

Pam and Jerry did an awesome job on the silent auction. Thanks to all the people who donated to and purchased from this auction. Part of the fun was seeing what wonderful talents our members have and what people chose to buy. Donations from travels, art, jewelry, and books written by club members, allowed us to see other aspects of bridge players' lives. The toilet paper was a very practical item and had one of the most heated bidding wars. The beautiful, vintage Squash Blossom necklace brought in the highest price.

Special thanks go also to the three M's: Mary Erickson, Marge Brosnan and Max Pozega, who together brought in more than \$4000, to Louise Belanger, who brought in more than \$1200, and to two anonymous donors who contributed \$1000 each. Jan Evans was the perfect director for the day, sharing with us information on how devastating Alzheimer's can be and how important our fund raising was and is. I would especially like to thank the newer players who joined us after having taken one or two classes this past year. They were so supportive financially and hung in there on the 21st, playing in open games, not once, but three or four times that day.

So many people contributed, many of whom I don't even know, through cash donations, through time, and through play. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I shed tears of joy because of your kindness and generosity.

Before and during the day, as well as current, continuing efforts, we have raised about \$17,000. If you still want to donate, it is not too late. Many of us still want to make the \$20,000 goal. Talk with Karen, Susan, or the Himes if you have any questions.

-Karen Soutar

North American Pairs

Qualification has started for the 2018 North American Pairs. This grass-roots event, familiarly called the "NAP", is contested throughout ACBL for players in three categories, Open, 0-2500, and NLM<500. Players who qualify in our clubs may advance to the district final, which will be held during the Taos Regional in October. If you qualify and decide to play in Taos, Unit 374 will reimburse your entry fees to the district final.

Winners (top four places) in Taos will be invited to participate in the national finals that will be held during the Spring NABC in Philadelphia in March. District 17 offers some generous subsidies to defray your cost of travel to the NABC.

Full conditions of contest are available on our district website: www.d17acbl.org.

For further information, please contact your District 17 representative, Felix Moore, f.moore@netscape.com or 505-717-1483.

For Newer Players

Getting to Game

Newer players have so much to learn that it is frequently hard to grasp the importance of "getting to game". A game contract is:

3NT

4 hearts of spades (major suits)

5 clubs or diamonds (minor suits)

When you bid any of the above, you can add 300 or 500 points to your score. This is how you win!

Generally speaking you need 25-26 points between your hand and your partner's hand to bid game in 3NT or a major suit (when you need to take 9 or 10 tricks), and 28-29 points to bid game in a minor (when you need to take 11 tricks).

So, when your partner opens the bidding (promising at least 12 points) and you have 13 or more points in your hand, you should make every attempt possible to bid game.

♠AKx

♥Qxx

♦KQx

♣Xxxx

If partner opens the bidding with one club or one diamond, you must bid 3NT – don't wait around, just do it. Don't worry about not having any honors in the club suit – partner must have something in that suit to open the bidding.

With the same hand, if partner opens the bidding with one heart or one spade, you will bid 2 clubs (your longest suit) and then, no matter what partner rebids, jump to four of partner's major (hearts or spades). It's generally frowned upon to respond two clubs or two diamonds over one of a major because you may be expected to have five cards in the suit, but you must bid on the 2 level to let partner know you have 10 or

more points. This is a **forcing bid** – partner cannot pass.

As you gain more experience, you'll learn conventions that make describing your hand easier. But until then, try to get to game in any way possible when you know your partnership has 25 or more points. Good luck!

-Susy Law

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

The unit would like to thank Mary Erickson and Jane Butel for overseeing the provision of luncheons and refreshments during the Spring Sectional. Aided by Karel Toohey and Susan Zimmerman, the hospitality they provided was truly exceptional. The planning and work involved in supplying substantial and delicious lunches to more than two hundred people for three days in a row is difficult and time-consuming. Please take the time to tell them how much their contribution was appreciated.

Parking Lot Signs

Two new signs have been mounted on the fence on each side of the entrance to the club's parking lot. Each sign now reads "DCBC" which identifies who we are. On a bridge day when the lot becomes full and we would like to warn drivers entering, the "hook and latch" of each sign can be disengaged and the top half of the hinged sign drops down due to gravity, changing it to read "Lot is Full". A vehicle operator who has tried unsuccessfully to find a parking space and is exiting the lot could stop, get out of his or her vehicle, and change both signs, warning others about the situation. We are encouraging people to use these signs when they find the lot is full. At the end of a session, it is hoped that someone will change the signs back to read "DCBC". The club thanks you for your cooperation and for helping others.

-Russ Edwards

Albuquerque Unit 374

is pleased to sponsor
an educational weekend seminar
featuring professional bridge teacher

Andrew Garnett

Saturday and Sunday
September 9th and 10th, 2017

Two sessions each day with a light lunch provided for participants. Please pick up an information sheet and registration form at the club or check for them at abqbridge.com. The material is aimed at advanced beginners through intermediate players but more experienced players are sure to find some valuable ideas presented.

Help Us Keep in Contact

Currently the unit only has access to about 60% of the e-mail addresses of members of the unit through the ACBL portal. We would like your help in improving this percentage by telling the ACBL what your e-mail address is. Just visit the www.abcl.org web page and go to the "MyACBL Login." Enter your ACBL number and password, click on "Update My Information" and go to "Update my Contact Information." You can enter your e-mail address there (and confirm it).

If you don't have a MyACBL Login, you can create one from the web page. If you have a login and you've forgotten your password to your login, the web page can help you set up a new one.

While you're on that web page, you might check your other contact information and make sure it is current. We use the postal address information on file with ACBL for our mailings and to produce our local directory for

the unit. If the information that ACBL has is incorrect, you may stop hearing from us. Besides checking your information online, you can also call the ACBL at 800-264-2743 between 9AM and 5:45PM MST.

ACBL is pretty good about not flooding your in-box with e-mails. Here at Unit 374 and in District 17 we also strive not to send out too many unnecessary emails. Having a good e-mail database saves us on postage, which frees up funds for tournaments, speakers and hospitality. It's also a handy way for us to keep you informed of special events and tournaments.

If you haven't already done so, you can also ask to receive the Unit 374 newsletter by e-mail, this would save us even more on printing and postage. Just send me an e-mail asking to be added to that list (jjkeeran@gmail.com).

-Jerry Keeran

Membership Matters

Moving Up!

New Junior Masters

Thomas Kimball Samantha Blauwkamp

New Club Masters

Philip Sackinger Sam Hankins
 Charmaine Smith

New Sectional Masters

Julie Gregory Donna Allison
 Meghan Wolfe Richard Goins
 Jenny Robbins

New Regional Masters

David Baglee Rolande Faucon
 Fay Sly Carmen Weslowski

New NABC Masters

Jan Heggem Alan Mannheimer
 Russell Zeigler

New Silver Life Master

Lynda Burch Gerald Wellman

New Gold Life Master

Gerald Duncan

≈IN MEMORIAM≈

Roy Davis
 Clem Koogler
 Roland Kurth
 Jack Lobberegt
 Bruce Squires
 Kat Tiano

Welcome!

New Members

Violet Atencio	Esther Geller
Peter Goodspeed	Verlynn Hart
Patrick Zetterholm	Robert Jenkins
Sally Harrer	Nancy Kluck
Charles Leder	Mary McKee
Catherine Parker	James Parker
John Schroeder	Susan Schroeder
Devi Shah	Mary Strong

Transfers into the Unit

Susan Johnston	Steve Lenores
Ellen Lyons	Dean Smith
Carolyn Thompson	

Don't forget

Albuquerque NLM 0-500 Sectional

to be held at the Duke City Bridge Club

Silver Points

Saturday 5th August

9.00am Stratified Pairs
 1.15pm Speaker – Jerry Keeran
 2.00pm Stratified Pairs

Sunday 6th August

10am & TBA Stratified Swiss Teams

Pick up a flyer at the club or online at www.abqbridge.com



Unit Games Schedule

Sunday games start at 1.30pm. All games are stratified and award enhanced masterpoints. A section for 0-500NLM players runs concurrently.

July

2 NAP Pairs Qualifier
 9 NAP Pairs Qualifier
 16 Unit Charity Pairs
 23 Pairs Championship
 30 Swiss Teams Championship

August

6 Pairs Championship
 13 NAP Pairs Qualifier
 20 NAP Pairs Qualifier
 27 GW STaC Pairs (silver points)

September

3 GNT Qualifier (Teams)
 10 Unit Charity Pairs
 17 Pairs Championship
 24 GNT Qualifier (Teams)

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