

Albuquerque Bridge Player

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

Unit President's Column

Continuing on from the last newsletter with an overview of the activities of the Unit Board of Directors:

The secretary of the Unit Board is responsible for taking minutes during the monthly meetings – that is, recording all the information reported by the board members that may be needed for reference purposes in the near (and often) future, and that may be of interest to the membership. As board members cycle out and are replaced by new people, the old minutes help remind us what we charged for any event or item, why a certain decision was made, responsibility matrices, etc. After the minutes have been reviewed and edited, the secretary posts a copy on the unit bulletin board.

The secretary is also in charge of our annual election process – s(he) forms a nominating committee, produces a final slate of nominees, and oversees the production and mailing of ballots. Once the election is over, s(he) is responsible for notifying the ACBL of the names, ACBL numbers and positions of each board member so the ACBL can correctly notify each chair or officer of information needed to fulfill their duties; e.g., membership reports, club management notices, conduct and ethics matters, tournament data.

This year, Louise Belanger (pronounced Bel-on-jay) took over as secretary of the unit, and besides doing a fine job, she also produces those enchanting and informative articles in the quarterly newsletter on the many interesting bridge players in our club. Do pat her on the back if you get the opportunity.

The June Sectional

This year, the sectional brought in a profit of \$4,411.18, as compared to \$667.48 in 2016. This was due to the increase in table fees and the elimination of a third out-of-town director. This will enable the unit to contribute

more generously to charities and also to conduct workshops and other projects.

The 499er Sectional

We broke even on this sectional held in August, with the number of tables down by two. There was a very encouraging influx of novices. Jerry Keeran gave an excellent noon-hour presentation. As usual, Karel Toohey did a terrific job of providing the 499ers with delicious refreshments and luncheons. I am so fortunate to have such a wonderful board of directors this year.

Steve Lockwood chaired both these events and should be congratulated on their success – as I reported in my last column, the planning and coordination of sectionals is extremely time consuming and requires a great deal of logistical savvy and fortitude. Thanks, Steve!

-Susy Law

North American Pairs

The unit qualification period for this “grass-roots” event concluded at the end of August. All Unit 374 qualifiers are invited to participate in the District 17 finals which will be held during the Taos Regional in October.

Finals will be held for A, B and C stratifications. Should a pair place first, second, third or fourth in Taos, they will be invited to represent the district at the national finals to be held at the Spring NABC in Philadelphia next year.

Cash grants will be awarded to assist in your participation in Philadelphia.

A list of our qualifiers is posted on our website and also at DCBC. For more information check at the D17 website (www.d17.acbl.org) or ask Susy Law or Bob Zipp.

DCBC President's Report

Hail and Farewell

The DCBC Board bids farewell to Susan Zimmerman who is leaving the board to pursue work interests. Replacing her will be Pat Zick, who was already volunteering as the TLC chair. Welcome, Pat.

Lighting the Club (update)

The board voted in favor of accepting the Omega Contractor's bid for LED lighting conversion. A conservative estimate of the electricity saved predicts a five-year payback for the installation.

Parking Lot Safety

There was a recent incident where a player was speeding in the parking lot. This kind of behavior is not only unsafe, it's rude. At every game, we have cars and pedestrians (some very slow) mixing. Speeding has no place in this scenario. So this is a plea for everyone to be attentive while in the parking lot and keep your speed way down.

Speeding up Play

Speaking of speed, if you want to speed, do it at the table. The board has been considering ways to speed up play to remove congestion during the games. To that end, we have tried two initiatives listed here for your information.

- Pass boards immediately after playing them. This permits the next table to start the next round before you are finished with the current round and could result in faster overall play.
- Lead first, record later. After the auction, the next step for which everyone waits is the opening lead. But the tendency is to pause while everyone writes down the contract in their individual hand records. This initiative asks that you reverse that order and lead first, then record the contract as declarer is planning the play.

This subject is by no means closed, so if you have any suggestions for speeding up play, please express them to any board member.

DCBC Bylaws Update

By the time you read this, the club membership will have been able to view a new version of the bylaws. The new version updates term limits for officers on the board and provides more clarity for club policies. Membership confirmation of these bylaws will take place soon.

The Longest Day

The final amount raised by the DCBC for "The Longest Day," Alzheimer's Association Fund Raiser, amounted to \$20,505. Again, many thanks to everyone who participated in every way.

-John Berry

Learn Bridge in a Day

August 26th, 2017 marked the fourth "Learn Bridge in a Day" event within the last year. I promoted the event, e-mailed and telephoned participants, and followed up with a summary of the proceedings. Pam and Jerry Himes volunteered to teach the seminar and did a great job. Jan Evans, Steve Lockwood, Ben Franz, Jerry Wellman, and Marian Schreyer excelled as table helpers. Mary Erickson provided delicious snacks as always.

Eighteen participants enjoyed a fun day of sampling bridge. Quite a few of the participants said they were interested in taking the upcoming beginning class. If you are an accredited teacher and might be interested in teaching a one-on-one class, please contact me as some people are interested in private instruction for beginners.

-Karen Soutar

Member Profile – Jane Butel

It is fair to say that we could divide people into two general categories: when meeting them, there are those who sap our energy and those who energize us. Jane Butel is most definitely in the latter category. She is a dynamo. Credited with starting the Tex-Mex food mania, Jane published her first cookbook on New Mexican and American food in the 1960s. She will soon have 31 cookbooks to her name, eight of which are bestsellers.

Born in Wamego, Kansas, Jane attended Kansas State University (K-State) where she majored in Home Economics and Journalism. Both her mother and grandmother were graduate home economists from K-State. During her early years, her father was in the Navy and Jane claims that she was almost “brought up in a suitcase”.

As a young woman, her dream and ambition had been to become an actress and she had two scholarships to do so, from Pasadena Playhouse and Emerson in Boston, Massachusetts. Being only 16 when she graduated from high school, her mother encouraged her to take advantage of a full tuition- paid scholarship and attend K-State.

As was the trend in the ‘50s, Jane married a year before graduating; she had wanted to take advantage of a great offer to be a junior editor for Vogue magazine, specializing in fashion, but never got the opportunity. Her husband, Don, received an offer to work for Sandia Corporation, so they moved to Albuquerque. Shortly after, she answered a newspaper advertisement to become a home economist for Public Service Co. (now PNM) where she became head of the department within a year and won seven national programming awards. One of her landmark achievements was that she wrote “Cocinas de New Mexico” and started award-winning cooking classes on radio and TV throughout the service territory.

When the first major blackout occurred in 1969, she was hired as the only woman to become part of the 25-person “brain trust” to regain consumer confidence for the world’s largest power company, Con Edison. She developed the Office of Consumer Affairs and the world’s first consumer energy conservation program.

She came to the attention of General Electric (GE), where she was appointed as the Director of Consumer Marketing on a world-wide basis. Being the only woman in management at both Con Edison and GE, she used her authority to assist in promoting many female employees to management positions in an all-male corporate world. Next, she was appointed to create the Office of Corporate Consumer Affairs and Marketing for American Express and was the first woman corporate vice-president.

Jane then decided to apply her management and marketing skills to establish her own spice business, Pecos Valley Spice Co.; it became the first gourmet Southwestern ingredient company in department stores and gourmet groceries. After four years, she saw the opportunity to begin writing cookbooks and began her week-long cooking school classes in Santa Fe, NM.

She created two hotel-based cooking schools, one in Albuquerque and one in Scottsdale, AZ. Her cooking schools have been awarded the “Best in the US” title for non-vocational cooking schools by “Bon Appetit” magazine and Gayot.com.

She was the first to write about Southwestern cooking nationally and internationally and has had a major role in establishing the nation’s taste for this type of cuisine. Well-known for her clear recipe instructions as well as her popular hands-on cooking classes, Jane still conducts day and weekend classes.

Her website www.janebutelcooking.com offers the opportunity to receive a free eBook of Jane’s ten favorite recipes as well as her e-newsletter full of recipes and specials.

In spite of her busy schedule, Jane finds time to play bridge at the club with Lou Christen, her fiancé of over five years. She first started playing bridge in college. Jane has one daughter and one ten-year-old granddaughter who both live in Corrales.

Jane’s personal recipe for success is her willingness to take risks, mixed with her creative energy, to which she adds her eagerness to solve problems and stirs in her accurate people sense. She never launched an official acting career but continues her five-star performance on the culinary stage.

-Louise Belanger

Player Memo

The ACBL has a mechanism called a **Player Memo** that you can use for **conduct** issues at ACBL sponsored games (tournaments and unit games) and for **ethics** issues at any game. You can report these situations on-line by going to www.acbl.org/conduct-and-ethics/player-memo . The ACBL National Recorder will receive and store these reports and can use them to establish a “pattern of behavior” that may be cause for sanctions on players. You can make your player’s memo anonymous or not, and you can ask the recorder to inform the person you are reporting or not.

You may also discuss any conduct or ethics issue at any game with our Unit Recorder (currently this is Bob Zipp). The Recorder can advise you about any action you might take. These actions might include writing a Player Memo addressed to him (or to ACBL), or filing a Conduct and Ethics complaint with the Unit President or the Duke City Bridge Club President.

The following was copied from the ACBL web site:

“This form (player memo) will be confidential unless you specify otherwise. This means the subject(s) of the memo will not be contacted about the information provided. You may fill out as much or little information on this form as you like, but the more complete the provided information is, including the explanation, the more helpful it is to us.

You may also send this Player’s Memo anonymously, either by indicating where asked or by not submitting your name as filer. If you choose anonymity, you will still need to provide an email address, but this will not be associated with the player memo after submission. The email address is required in order to eliminate potential spam. This will also ensure that you receive a confirmation of your submitted report.

The purpose of a Player’s Memo is to alert the recorder’s office of a potential problem and to establish a record of the issue. Please be aware that a Player Memo is not a complaint.”

I think this mechanism is a great alternative for us and I believe players will be more sensitive to others because of it. It should improve our enjoyment of the game and encourage us to “play nicely.” It should also reduce the number of formal complaints filed with the bridge club presidents and reduce the meetings required to address complaints.

-Larry Bertholf

Newsletter Delivery

If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail, would you like to help us save on paper, printing, postage? We can send it via email, just drop an email to Craig Tyner (tyner@q.com) and he will put you on the email distribution list.

For Newer Players

Finding Partners at DCBC

In recent months, we have had a strong influx of new players to the club. Many have taken classes such as Learn Bridge in a Day and Bidding in the 21st Century and they are starting to play on a regular basis. To help these players find partners, we have established a list of people who are interested in finding partners, with contact information. Copies are on the notice board in the North Room, or with the directors. If you would like your name added to this list, please contact me via email at dcbcmembership@gmail.com , or leave a note for me at the club.

Our Facebook private group (DCBC Bridge Players) also continues to be a resource for finding partners. There are over 115 members who are part of this group, and you can join by sending a Facebook friend request to Jim Munroe jimmun@gmail.com .

Finally, if you have any suggestions concerning membership, please feel free to email me, or talk to me at the club. 828-2493, davebaglee@comcast.net .

-Dave Baglee

For Newer Players

Swiss Teams

Swiss Teams events are lots of fun and newer players should learn how to compete in this event. At first it seems somewhat difficult because the scoring is different from pairs competition. But actually, it is quite simple once you get the hang of it.

A team consists of four players, or two pairs. Two members of your team, playing as a partnership, sit North-South at one table. The two other members of your team, also playing as a partnership, sit East-West at a different table. Two pairs from an opposing team fill the empty spots at the two tables.

Usually, six boards are played for each match, and there are four matches, for a total of 24 boards played. Both tables play the same boards and the players record the results of each deal on their scorecards. When six boards have been played, the match is complete and the team meets and compare their scores.

The North-South and East-West scorecards might look like this:

	N/S	E/W
Board 1	+420	-450
Board 2	+500	-620
Board 3	-690	+1440
Board 4	+140	+100
Board 5	-300	+420
Board 6	-50	-120

- On Board 1, the team loses 30 points (450-420)
- On Board 2, the team loses 120 points (620-500)
- On Board 3, the team wins 750 points (1440-690)
- On Board 4, the team wins 240 points (140+100)
- On Board 5, the team wins 120 points (420-300)
- On Board 6, the team loses 170 points (120+50)

This is where the scoring is different from pairs games, because in team games, we use International Matchpoints (IMPs) to compute the results. On the

inside of your convention card, at the bottom, you'll see a chart titled "International Matchpoints". Here it is:

Diff.in Pts	IMPs	Diff.in Pts.	IMPs
20-40	1	750-890	13
50-80	2	900-1090	14
90-120	3	1100-1290	15
130-160	4	1300-1490	16
170-210	5	1500-1740	17
220-260	6	1750-1990	18
270-310	7	2000-2240	19
320-360	8	2250-2490	20
370-420	9	2500-2990	21
430-490	10	3000-3490	22
500-590	11	3500-3990	23
600-740	12	4000 up	24

You use this to determine the IMPS you have won or lost. You look under "Diff. in Pts." to find your result and the number of IMPs you lose or win is immediately to the right under the "IMP" column.

So, on Board 1, where you lost 30 points, you see that falls between 20 and 40, so you lose 1 IMP.

On Board 2, you lost 120 points, so you lose 3 IMPs.

On Board 3, you won 750 points, so you win 13 IMPs.

So, at this point, you have won 9 net IMPs (13-4)

And so on.....

After you have determined the total number of IMPS you have won or lost, you compare your results with the opposing team and report the result to the director.

Now you start another match against a different team, and play another 6 boards. The nice thing about teams is that you may lose one match, but win two or three more, and the scores you received if you lost a match no longer count in future matches. You may find that it is easier to win masterpoints in team games than in pairs games because of this difference.

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Swiss Teams */continued from previous page*

The unit would like to see more new players competing in this event at our sectionals and regionals and will be attempting to establish a special section just for new players with less than 50 masterpoints (or maybe even less, depending on the point spread of entrants). We'll also help pairs find other pairs to make up a team, so be sure to ask for assistance in this regard from Bob Zipp, Susy Law, or Rick Weigle. See you at the November Sectional!

-Susy Law

Rules of the Game

How to Alert/Announce

There are proper ways to alert and announce the meaning of bids. It seems to me that when alerting or announcing **you should assume that one of the opponents is hearing-impaired and the other is sight-impaired**. The ACBL has made it clear in their alert procedures that **"It is the responsibility of the Alerter or Announcer to ensure that the opponents are aware that an Alert has been made"**.

<http://cdn.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/AlertProcedures.pdf>

Using bidding boxes, an alert is made by tapping an Alert Card on the table and saying "Alert". An announcement is made by tapping an Alert Card on the table and by making the appropriate spoken announcement. (Note that this should be done for all announcements even the size of an opening 1NT.)

[See www.acbl.org/play/alertprocedures.html and www.acbl.org/play/bidboxes.html.]

How to ask about an Alert

The appropriate way to ask about an alert is to wait until it is your turn to bid and then say, "Please explain the alert". It is not appropriate to ask the meaning of an alert when it is not your turn to bid and it is not appropriate to ask the meaning of a bid that is not alerted. By asking a question before your partner bids, you may affect your partner's bid. For example, by asking out of turn, your opponents might suspect an

unethical agreement that this means something special (like please don't bid partner, I want to defend, or whatever). If a conventional bid was not alerted and you were damaged, the director will protect you. Also, you probably should not ask about alerted bids during the auction unless you intend to bid—sometimes the opponents may have some confusion over their conventions and your asking questions may help them. It is usually best to wait until the auction is over to ask about any alerted or conventional bids made by the opponents.

Stop Card Elimination

The following is a copy of an article reporting the minutes of the ACBL Board of Directors meeting at the Toronto NABC:

"After roughly two decades of use, the oft-controversial Stop Card found in most ACBL bidding boxes will soon be missing from ACBL tournaments. During meetings at this tournament, the ACBL Board of Directors voted 20-5 to eliminate the Stop Card for any sanctioned tournament that starts after Jan. 1, 2018. ACBL-affiliated clubs are not required to remove the Stop card from bidding boxes but are encouraged to do so.

Players, meanwhile, are reminded of the obligation to pause 10 seconds in the direct seat after a skip bid so as to avoid making unauthorized information available to their partners. Fast action – any call or bid – is also covered in this admonition. Players should strive to maintain an even tempo during the auction. (Bold emphasis added by me.)

The board's vote came in response to a recommendation from the Competition and Conventions Committee to end the use of the Stop Card. Longtime National Tournament Director Sol Weinstein said the reasoning of the C and C Committee is that more people were using the Stop Card for the benefit of their own partnerships than for that of the opponents. Another factor is that many players – particularly the less-experienced – don't understand it. I understand that DCBC will be removing the stop cards from their bidding boxes immediately after the Fall Sectional.

-Larry Bertholf

Membership Matters

Moving Up!

New Junior Masters

Linda Benson	Madeline Dwyer
Nancy Kluck	Devi Shah
Barbara Streich	Patrick Zetterholm
Michele Bell	Mary Ellen Butler
Robert Dubroff	Charlotte Thornhill
Tom Thornhill	Magdalena Monserrat
Julie Steele	Nicole Westphal

New Club Masters

Lori Church	Stan Church
Gregory Ward	Julie Cresswell
Deborah Kinsella	Diana Zavitz
Jim Harrell	Kathy Harrell
Michele Meyers	

New Sectional Masters

Sam Hankins	Mary Brosnan
Jane Elson	Leona Dennis
Chip Hair	

New Regional Masters

Howard Friedman	Josh Mullins
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New Life Masters

John Berry	Sue Berry
Steve Lockwood	

New Bronze Life Masters

Sue Berry	Pat Zick
Douglas Madison	Craig Kippels
Terry Moynihan	

New Silver Life Masters

Cheryl Mitchell	Gary Scrivner
Mary Jo Scrivner	

New Ruby Life Master

Judith MacQuigg

New Gold Life Master

Mary Udell

≈IN MEMORIAM≈

Arline Krimsky

Bob Lohfeld

Sally Lohfeld

Welcome!

New Members

Greg Bell	Michele Bell
Shirley Best	Linda Brindmore
Lyn Craver	Charles Graff
Amy Harris	Margaret Miller
Larry Mitchell	Michael Pingrey
Lynne Sturtevant	Ronald Williams
Gloria Wilson	Marianne Zagorski

Transfers into the Unit

Michael Andrews	Liz Hubert
Betty Nason	Karen Powell
Judy Rea	Philip Rea
Lorraine Taylor	John Rollinson
Jerry Beck	Jim Fish
Fran Gabel	Pat Clark
Peggy Shipley	

A very special welcome to the members joining us from Unit 382 Roswell which has been disbanded.

We are so happy that John, Jerry, Jim, Fran, Pat and Peggy are joining Unit 374

WELCOME!



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.

October

1 Pairs Championship
 8 Open Pairs
 15 Pairs Championship
 22 Club Appreciation Pairs
 29 Club Appreciation Teams

November

5 Albuquerque Sectional
 12 Unit Charity Pairs
 19 Pairs Championship
 26 GNT Qualifier (teams)

December

3 Pairs Championship
 10 GW Holiday STaC Pairs
 17 Pairs Championship
 24 Pairs Championship
 31 GNT Qualifier (teams)

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