

Albuquerque Bridge Player

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

Unit President's Column

More on our board of director's activities

The production of our Membership Directory is a huge effort. It involves certifying every member's name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, both by reviewing ACBL records and the draft that we place on the director's desk for individual members to check for accuracy. Then pictures must be obtained and matched with that information, and the book formatted for printing. After many hard hours of work, Craig Tyner, membership co-chair, has accomplished this task and by the time this newsletter comes out, it should be available for members to pick up. Craig also oversees the production of the picture gallery on the South Wall of the DCBC, displaying the photos of our membership and their masterpoint standings. Additionally, his duties entail, with co-chair Steve Lockwood, keeping an eye on monthly membership matters – what the ACBL calls the "In-And-Out Report" that details who new members are, which members have moved away, transfers into and out of the unit, promotions, and so forth.

Another very important job on the board of directors is that of Information Technology, or "IT". Jerry Keeran chairs this operation, ensuring that our computer information is properly handled. He oversees the transmission of unit information, such as club, sectional and regional news, to clubs and units in New Mexico and contiguous states, monitors the operation of our website, and assists all members of the board with any computer-related tasks. This requires someone very deft with computer technology, and Jerry certainly qualifies!

Jim Dennis is our equipment and logistics chairman. During the year, you'll see him laboring away in the storeroom, cleaning and replacing cards in the boards and bid boxes we use at our tournaments. He is

responsible for seeing that we have all the equipment and supplies we need for our unit games, sectionals and regionals – besides the boards and bid boxes, there are supplies that must be inventoried and replenished three or four times a year (cards, pencils, convention cards, pick-up slips, etc.), and once a year, Jim oversees the movement of all our equipment and supplies to and from the Marriott Hotel for the regional. This year, he also handled the transfer of some of our equipment and supplies to Taos for their regional.

The November Sectional

We had an increase of 12 tables over last year's Fall Sectional, with slightly less income due to an increase in director fees and expenses and an increase in our facility rental costs. The board discussed the rather awkward placement of tables during the tournament (too close together), and plans to remedy that problem next Spring.

Charitable Donations

The board voted to donate \$5,800.00 this year to be divided between the following charities: Barrett Foundation, Albuquerque Center of Hope and Recovery, Survivors of Suicide, Silver Horizons, PB&J Family Services, St. Martin's Hospitality Center, Paws and Stripes, and Rape Crisis Center of Central New Mexico. We also send a contribution to Roadrunner Food Bank each year with the proceeds from the two local charity games we hold on Sundays.

Election Results

Pat Kelley, Susan Sackinger and Francie Straw were elected to the board of directors. Since the election, Louise Belanger has had to resign from the board for personal reasons; the first alternate nominee, Ben Franz, has agreed to fill her directorship (thank heaven – Ben is one of the best treasurers we've ever had).

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continued/Unit Presidents Column

I wish to thank Louise, Karel Toohey and Bob Anderson for their service. Especially, Karel who has organised our hospitality at Sunday games, holiday parties and sectionals for many years. When you get the chance, please thank all of these people for volunteering their time to keep our unit running smoothly.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the January Regional.

-Susy Law

DCBC President's Report**DCBC Bylaws Update**

In September, we held a meeting and presented proposed changes in the bylaws to the general membership. The membership decided at that meeting to defer consideration of the revised bylaws until the ethics portions could be further reviewed and revised, and until more members could review the total package. Your Board of Directors did those things, revised the proposed bylaws, and presented the changes to the annual membership meeting in December. By the time you read this, the result of that vote will be known.

Lighting the Club Update

As everyone now knows, the lighting contractor completed his work and we have new, more efficient lighting in the club. Preliminary data indicate that the new lighting is already paying for itself. October's electric bill was substantially down from October of the previous year.

Board of Directors Election

At the December annual meeting, the Board of Directors presented a new slate of candidates for the 2018 Board of Directors to the membership. Nominations from the floor were requested and added as appropriate. Voting per the bylaws is now in progress and results will be announced in January.

Christmas Events

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the club's Christmas events. On December 7th, we all enjoyed a potluck lunch celebrating our annual Toys-for-Tots drive, with the Marine Corps there to receive the toys. On December 10th, the unit held their annual Holiday Dinner. The club held its annual membership meeting and catered lunch on December 14th. And of course, we all played bridge at those events.

Happy New Year to All!

-John Berry

DCBC Library

Do you need something to read? Check out the library in the northwest corner of the club. You are welcome to take a book and return it after you have read it. You are also encouraged to donate your used books to the library.

Earlier this year, the estate of Kat Tiano donated a large quantity of her books to the library. Norma Mearns generously provided an additional bookcase to accommodate them and Russ Edwards and Scott Baker assembled it. Thank you to all.

Doyce King maintains the library and we thank her for the many hours she spends organizing the shelves. If you have any surplus bookends, she would welcome them. There are several obsolete bridge books in the library which you are welcome to take before they are disposed of in January. Please see Doyce for more information.

STOP, WAIT!

After any skip bid, always pause for about 10 seconds to give the impression that you are considering an alternative action. While there are situations where it might seem silly to wait 10 seconds, WAIT. For example, you are dealer and the auction goes Pass(by you)-1NT-Pass-3NT-your bid. While everyone knows that you are going to pass, I recommend that you still wait about 10 seconds. If you always wait the same length of time after any skip bid, your partner (who is the opening leader in this situation) cannot have any unauthorized information because of the tempo of your bid.

The December 2017 issue of the Bridge Bulletin has three articles about the Stop Card and bidding in tempo. I have taken excerpts from them to emphasize how important it is for us not to give unauthorized information.

On page 6, Paul Linxwiler writes in his editorial:

Slow down, you bid too fast. After an opponent's skip bid, the object of the required pause, of course, is to conceal from partner how good or bad your hand is. And no, with a bad hand you may not pay mere lip service to the suggested 10-second pause by counting out the seconds with your hand folded. That's just as bad as an instant pass. You need to study your hand as if you're not sure what action you want to take, even if it's completely obvious. The Stop Card is dead - long live the mandatory pause.

On page 33, Matt Smith writes in his Ruling the Game article:

Proper procedure following a skip bid. The ACBL Board of Directors has voted to discontinue the use of Stop Cards at sanctioned tournaments effective Jan. 1. The Stop Card should not be used. No verbal or visual skip-bid warning is required. Following the skip bid, left hand opponent is obligated to wait approximately 10 seconds (while giving the appearance of studying his hand and not in excess time to determine a choice of bids) before making a call. It is each player's responsibility to maintain appropriate tempo at all times.

With this change, the onus is on players to develop the good habit of pausing after their right-hand opponent has made a skip bid. The pause should be about 10 seconds, but strict observance of this duration is less important than making sure that there is a clear break in the tempo of the auction. While pausing, the player should give the appearance of studying his hand even if that player has a clear-cut pass. The player should not exhibit lack of interest, for example, by keeping his hand folded or verbally counting off the seconds of the required pause. The bottom line: Slow down after jumps to avoid telling partner something about your hand.

On page 59, there is an insert:

Stop card tossed from bidding boxes. Players are reminded of the obligation to pause in the direct seat after a skip bid so as to avoid making unauthorized information available to their partners. Players should strive to maintain an even tempo during the auction.

-Larry Bertholf

Property Manager's Report

In October, the DCBC accepted an offer from PNM, as part of their "Quick Saver Program", to convert all of our lighting to LED. In return, the PNM company rebated \$3,900, lowering the total cost to about \$13,600. The club will save about \$2,500 per year on the cost of electricity used to power the lighting. The payback will take 5-6 years. All of our light fixtures are now LED, including the "Exit" signs and outside lighting used to illuminate the parking lot. A new light fixture that illuminates the area outside of the North door replaced a fixture that hasn't worked for many years. As an example, each of the large light fixtures in the ceiling of the card playing area formally used (3) 33 watt florescent tubes, for a total of 99 watts. The new fixtures include a LED "Strip" that uses 40 watts. The light produced is brighter, and the electricity required is 60% less. Not only will the club save money, but we are joining the effort to reduce the consumption of electricity in the area.

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continued/ **Property Manager’s Report**

The club's landscaping is supervised by Cheryl Mitchell, who is a "Master Gardener". She is always looking for volunteers who would like to help under her supervision. Many of the plants need periodic pruning and weeds removed as needed. If you would like to help please contact Cheryl.

-Russ Edwards

Player Profile – Subhas Shah

The next time you see Subhas, think water conservancy! Here is why: as Chief Engineer and CEO, Subhas worked at the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) for over 37 years. He oversaw the operation and management of the district in four counties (Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia and Socorro) and became known as the Shah of the Valley in Middle Rio Grande. (In Hindi, shah means king or businessman.)

Born in 1947 in India, the second of four boys, Subhas obtained his B.Sc. in Engineering in India. Wanting to further his education, Subhas decided to emigrate to the United States, and in 1971 attended the University of New Mexico, where he obtained his Master of Science degree in Structural Engineering. Subhas chose UNM because they were the first to reply and accept him. Maintaining the strict dietary laws of the Hindu religion proved to be a real challenge at the beginning.

He returned to India in 1975, where his parents had arranged his marriage to Chandrika. The Shahs have two sons, Kayur and Vipur, who are both married. Kayur, the younger, has two sons, the joy of Subhas life. Subhas' playfulness serves him well when he spends time with his grandsons, who are aged six and one. In 1980, Subhas became an American citizen, a usually lengthy process, but expedited in his case thanks to his contacts with the late Senator Peter Domenici.

It was definitely a challenge for a young engineer with no political know-how to survive through a notoriously political agency that controls 80% of the water and land resources of New Mexico. Subhas prides himself in having maintained a position with the MRGCD for over

37 years when most engineers and general managers lasted only one; an important achievement of his was succeeding in accumulating a significant budget surplus dedicated to emergency needs. Subhas achieved a good working relationship with his 250 employees and worked hard to remain approachable.

During his tenure, the district did not lose an inch of land nor a drop of water. Over the years, some have tried to get MRGCD water and land, and sadly, in some cases, have tried to carve up the MRGCD. He also played a key role in the preservation of the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow and Southwest Willow Fly Catcher, both of which are endangered species.

Subhas started to play some bridge in the 1980s but really dedicated himself to the game only after he retired in 2016. Determined to become the shah of bridge, he joined the DCBC and has shown mastery particularly in the play of the hand (It has something to do with numbers). He also enjoys travel and returns to India every three or four years to visit family and friends.

Subhas plays with a number of different partners at the club and does well. Long live the Shah!

-Louise Belanger

Katherine and Linda are off to Philly!

Congratulations to Katherine Stewart and Linda Hundertmark who placed second in the North American Pairs Final for District 17 during the Taos Regional. This earned them a trip to Philadelphia to participate in the national finals during the Spring NABC. We wish them all the best and good luck in this prestigious event.

Newer Players Page

The “Ins and Outs” of a Regional Tournament

The Navajo Trail Regional, held here at the Marriott Pyramid Hotel in Albuquerque every January, will run from Monday evening, the 15th, through Sunday, the 21st. Fliers describing the events are available at the bridge club and on-line. Please note that during the tournament, the Duke City Bridge Club will be closed. It’s important to line up your partnerships early, so don’t delay. Partnership help is available during the tournament at the Partnership Desk in the lobby outside the playing room.

When you enter the hotel conference area, directors will be seated at a table in the lobby to sell pairs entries, and other directors will be in the ballroom, or playing area, to sell team entries. If you wish to play in 199er events, you’ll buy a ticket from the directors selling pairs entries. Tell the director how many points you have, and (s)he will ensure that you enter the proper event.

You will be given an entry slip in exchange for your entry fee. The entry slip will have a letter on it denoting the section you are in, as well as your table number and seating direction. As you enter the ballroom, you will see poles with the section letters on them; head toward the pole with your letter and you should be able to find your table.

Most players are interested in winning gold points, and the most popular events to enter for these points are the Gold Rush Pairs, Knock-Out Teams and Bracketed Teams. In the Gold Rush Pairs, no player may have more than 750 masterpoints. To win gold points, you must attain a top flight section top or overall position. In the team events, you must have four players, and the field is bracketed according to the total number of masterpoints all four players have, so you will be playing against other players of approximately the same skill level. In the Knock-Outs, you’ll play 24 boards against another team and whoever wins the match advances on to the next session. Therefore, if you enter a 4-session knock-out

event, you must be prepared to play all four sessions, which generally span two days. In Bracketed Teams you play shorter matches against at least 6 other teams in your bracket.

If you have any questions or concerns about what to expect please check with Susy Law, Rick Weigle or Felix Moore.

There will be a snack bar to sell you coffee, tea, soft drinks, fruit, chips and sandwiches. The unit provides either cake, cookies, brownies or fruit free of charge half-way through each session. Parking is free, and you may wish to have breakfast, lunch or dinner in the hotel’s restaurant. Every evening at 6:15 pm, there will be a short seminar (30 minutes) on different bridge subjects presented by top bridge players from across the country.

Regionals are exciting and provide a valuable learning experience. As a member of Unit 374, you’ll be hosting people from all over the country – we’ll be counting on you to make them at home and impress them with your bridge expertise. See you there!

-Susy Law

Grand National Teams

Qualification for this prestigious grass-roots event is in full swing. Club qualification games will qualify you to participate in the District 17 finals that will be held in Denver in May. Club level qualification games are held at least twice a month on Saturdays and Sundays.

To participate in Denver you do not need to enter with your original team. You may form a team with any players who have qualified at the club level. If you travel to Denver for the play-offs you will receive a subsidy for your travel expenses. This subsidy depends on various conditions including how many teams enter and how far the teams have to travel. Until we know how many teams are actually participating in Denver we cannot estimate the subsidy but it does come as a nice bonus after the event! Please check with me if you need any more information.

-Felix Moore

Player Profile – Mary Symons

Call it fashion flair, pizzazz, chic, Mary has that *je ne sais quoi* that gives her a unique style and makes her look her very best. She comes by it honestly, having worked in the field of fashion in California for many years. However, her story does not begin on the West Coast.

She was born Mary Kennedy in a very small town called Atlanta in East Texas; it was on the seventh day of the seventh month of 1927. Her father owned a cotton gin (hence, her love of fabric?). The youngest of three, she graduated from high school at 16, went one year to college, took one year of nursing and married at 19.

She met Sam Johnson in January, 1946, and they were married in June. Stationed with the Army in Temple, TX, Sam told Mary “You’re going to marry me” and she said “Yes, Sir!”. The following year, after Sam had attended Army Intelligence School, they moved to Bad Homburg, Germany. Their elder son, David, was born overseas.

In 1950, Sam left the Army and completed his PhD in Plant Physiology at Texas A&M where he was on staff for a while; then he moved the family to California where he worked for Boeing and North American. He died in 1969 of a heart attack while David was attending Yale and Dan and Jennifer were both in high school. It was time for Mary to go to work.

She found employment at I.Magnin, a California-based high fashion and specialty goods luxury department store. She worked there for 28 years, as the resident expert personal shopper. Mary’s role was to select clothing that would make her clients look their best in professional settings or for varied occasions. When I.Magnin was bought out by Macy’s in 1997, Mary started her own business, taking clients to the showrooms of various designers or visiting their homes and rearranging their closets.

Always sociable, Mary mixed with friends in Palos Verdes Peninsula, an affluent suburb of Los Angeles. Again, this was a good environment to pick up fashion tips and clients. To this day, she still has some lovely designer pieces from David Hays and Travilla.

About seven years after Sam passed away, Mary met Merlyn Symons, a retired Navy pilot. They were married for 13 years and Mary claims that her divorce was the hardest thing she has ever done. In the course of her life with Merlyn, Mary learned to fly and soloed aboard a Cessna in 1978. She never did obtain her pilot’s license but at least knew that she could take over controls should they run into an emergency or crisis.

As all three of her children lived in New Mexico, Mary followed suit and moved here in January 2003. Having left behind all her business and personal contacts, she joined the Duke City Bridge Club. She had first started playing bridge while in high school and always loved the game. The club turned out to be the place where she would meet Pete Manylyk, her husband-to-be. After being on her own for 21 years, Mary did not want nor expect to marry again but it was important to Pete. They did so on August 11, 2011. Pete passed away in September 2016 and the reception after the funeral was held at DCBC.

Mary attends St. Stephen’s Methodist Church and takes bible classes; she also becomes “Mary the Flower Lady” when she volunteers at Kaseman Hospice on Mondays where she rearranges donated flowers for patients’ rooms.

Without hesitation, Mary points at her family as her greatest source of pride; her three grown children became very close after their father’s death and this closeness has trickled down to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They love to get together, and not just for the traditional family gatherings.

Speaking of traditions, cocktail hour is one which Mary upholds! As of late, her favorite cocktail is Cutback, a mix of vodka and grapefruit juice! She loves to cook and rarely eats out. Mary often remarks how lucky and blessed she feels.

-Louise Belanger

Membership Matters

Moving Up!

New Junior Masters

Janice Arias	Sally Harrer
Shirley Best	Becki Lorimer
Linda Brindmore	Margaret Miller
Linda Carlson	Mary Strong
Catherine Carter	Beverly Whelan

New Club Masters

Linda Benson	Barry Nagel
John Brooks	Betty Nason
Jared Gearhart	Richard Preston
Charles Graff	

New Sectional Masters

Robert Anderson	Ellen Lyons
Kaye Hatch	Ken Meyers

New Regional Masters

Teresa Bottomly	Candice Lichtenfels
Catherine Currie	Steve Markham
Robert Desjardin	Claudine McAnelly
Richard Goins	Jan McPheeters
Sam Hankins	Judith Reed
Arthur Hawkins	Joanne Vye
Shirley Lambert	Patrick Zetterholm

New NABC Masters

Neven Harwick	John Witkowsky
Subhas Shah	

New Bronze Life Masters

Kathryn Erdman	Pamela Williams
Willie Haynes	

New Ruby Life Master

John Rollinson

New Gold Life Master

Ben Franz

New Emerald Life Master

Ted Stein

≈IN MEMORIAM≈

Wayne Godsey

Claudia Sanchez

Welcome!

New Members

Sandy Ballard	Jeffrey Morgan
Amber Gray-Fenner	Lisa Morgan
Joyce Hilchie	Jo Rose
Thomas Hooker	

Transfers into the Unit

Lee Ammerman	Jo Kervick
Dave Greenwood	Candace Scott



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.

January

7 Unit BAM Championship
 14 Unit Pairs Championship
 21 Albuquerque Regional
 28 GNT Qualifier (Teams)

February

4 Unit Charity Pairs for ACBL
 11 Unit Pairs Championship
 18 GNT Qualifier (Teams)
 26 New Mexico STaC Pairs

March

4 Unit Pairs Championship
 11 Unit Pairs Championship
 18 Unit Pairs Championship
 25 GNT Qualifier (Teams)

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