

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

The big news for me and many members of the Unit board is that the 2007 Albuquerque Regional is officially a success. I worried that the bad weather early in January would jeopardize attendance, but the skies cleared and we had one of our largest and most profitable regionals in several years. The table count was 1869 tables compared to our 'normal' table count of about 1750 and last year's count of 1523. The Unit profited by almost \$11,000.

We were well supported by local Albuquerque area and New Mexico players. There was a total of 937 people who played one or more sessions at the tournament. Of these, 482 players were from New Mexico, including 300 from Albuquerque. In addition, our support from Colorado was back to normal with 191 players. Texas furnished 76, Arizona - 70, California - 28, Nevada - 10. Twenty-nine other states and provinces sent the remainder of the players.



Our unusual profit was due to several factors. The most important was the increase in attendance. District 17 also cooperated by reducing their sanction fees for this tournament. Gary Zeiger, our head director, was careful not to overstaff. Gary is very good in selecting excellent directing staff for our regionals and ensures that there are sufficient directors to be responsive to players' calls. Our decision to schedule Seniors' Games with regular games made the directing schedule less complicated and saved on the number of directors needed.

We also changed our hospitality so that the hotel provided all of the cookies, brownies, ice cream that was served throughout almost every session. In addition, they ran an excellent snack bar which was especially appreciated at lunch time.



ASK AL

Q: I told my husband I had a 55 per cent game, and he wanted to know what that meant. I didn't have an answer.

A: The question takes me back to bridge b.c. days—before computers. Before computer scoring, players did not pay a lot of attention to what their percentage was, unless they were mathematically inclined. First, each board had to be individually matchpointed, which took several minutes, even when volunteers helped the director. Then, we watched, fascinated, as matchpoints for each board were hand-written on a blackboard, and then all the scores meticulously totaled. Off by a point or two would delay final results until the error was found. Sometimes, results would not be final for up to an hour after the game ended.

We knew, for example, that if average for the game was 156, and our score was 200, we had a great game. A score of 138 when average is 108 was just as good. Averages of 156 and 108 are the most common.

First, you have to explain about matchpointing. You get one point for each pair sitting your direction that you beat, and half a point for each pair you tie. If you are playing in a 13-table



In This Issue

<i>President' Column & Ask Al</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Club News</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Unusual Movements</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>John Griffin</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Awards Season</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Newer Players Page</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Odds & Ends</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Unit Membership</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Upcoming Schedule</i>	<i>9</i>

President's Col., cont'd from page 1

This will be our last tournament at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town. We have had our ups and downs at that location but out-of-town visitors enjoy the location immensely and I will be sorry to leave for that reason. Next year the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North will be the tournament site. We welcome your comments about our Regionals because we rely heavily on local players for support and we want to keep you as happy as we can. Contact any board member with your comments on senior games, hospitality, schedule, directors, etc.

We rely on many volunteers to make our annual regional successful and profitable. Every year our volunteers get better at their jobs - this lets us do more with less money, so we want to make sure our volunteers are recognized and appreciated. We want to thank those who worked at the tournament with a Volunteer Appreciation Day at the June Albuquerque Sectional. 2007 Regional volunteers will receive free plays for the Sectional Swiss Team on Sunday June 17. If you volunteered and do not receive a letter recognizing you by the end of April, please contact a Unit board member. We want to make sure we don't miss anyone.

On a sad note, John Griffin recently passed away. John was a friend and a teammate. We will all miss him.

Bill Kass

Ask Al, cont'd from page 1

game, for example, you would play 26 boards compared against 12 other pairs sitting your direction. Therefore, the top score available on a board is 12. Each NS score had to be "complemented" to get the EW score—that is, if NS had an 8, EW would get a score of 4 matchpoints. In California, where I started playing bridge, club games did not bother to complement the EW scores—they simply got the same score as NS (called California scoring). That meant that EW players wanted the lowest score, rather than high. Who would want to say they won with a 35 per cent game?

An average score on a board is six. Multiply six times 26 boards and you get 156, the average for that game. Twelve times 26 would be 312—the maximum possible score, a top on every hand.

At tournaments, rather than blackboards, large recap sheets were used to score the results by hand, and then those were eventually posted on the wall.

When computers began to be used for scoring, percentages were easily calculated and available to the players. Fifty-five per cent of 312 means you scored 171.6 for the game.

Tell your husband that any game above 50 per cent is a good game. Sixty per cent is really good, and 70 per cent is great. It's a tough game.

Q: What are some good internet websites for bridge?

A: There are many wonderful sites, starting of course, with the Albuquerque unit's abq.bridge.com, where you can get the day's results as well as news of upcoming events. Nationally, there is acbl.org, which has everything you want about your own membership—access to your masterpoint total, for example—as well as tournament calendars, news, learning tools, and links to other district and unit websites.

Our District 17 website can be found at contractbridgeforum.com. If you don't get your newspaper, you can read it there. And bridgeworld.com is the site of what many consider the best bridge magazine.

If you want to play bridge online, I think the best are okbridge.com or bridgebase.com. Another I haven't tried personally is swangames.com. All offer ACBL-sanctioned games, including masterpoint games, for a fee. Bridgebase remains free to play in non tournament games, and also carries numerous live national and world events on vugraph, where you can kibitz the top players in the world. Going to any of these sites will give you a great idea of what an enormous activity bridge is around the world.



DCBC NEWS

Our Board of Directors for 2007 are: Mary Erickson, President, Linda Hays, Vice-President, Lise Sullivan, Secretary, Jay Armstrong, Jim Drennan, Russ Edwards, Sally Lohfeld, Pat Plummer, and Dick Volk. Appointed board members are Al Beebe, Club Manager, and Jackie Bradley, Treasurer. We welcome your suggestions, comments and even complaints.

The bank next door has again agreed that we can park at this time in the two rows south of their building and next to our building. We hope this will help, since we lost our parking across the street.

As was announced at our annual meeting, a black leather coat with fur collar was left at our club last spring, and if it is not claimed after reading this newsletter, it will be disposed of in some fashion.

Bill Koehler has started a new kind of game on Friday nights to try to build up that game, and it sounds as if it would be a lot of fun, so please give it a try.

Thanks again to all who donate to our club, whether it is money, food or supplies, etc.

Mary Erickson

DISTRICT 17 NEWS

Each year after the Albuquerque Regional the District 17 Representative is responsible for cleaning and checking all of the district's bidding boxes. When this is completed they are mailed to the next regional.

I want to thank Jill Burtram, Susy Law, Nancy Kruger, Judy Randel, Linda Hayes, Sue and Ken Shoquist, and Buck and Marian Schreyer for their time and labor in making that chore easier for me.

I also want to thank the Unit and District members for making our tournament a great success this year.

Karin Griffin, District 17 Representative

CASA NEWS

Casa de Amigos Duplicate Bridge Club extends a big thank you to all the bridge players who play at our Wednesday afternoon game. In 2005, we contributed a record \$ 8,000.00 to Casa Angelica; in 2006 we set a new record of \$ 8,088.00. In addition, we were able to contribute \$ 644.00 to ACBL Charities in 2006. The Wednesday afternoon game starts at 1:00 PM at the Duke City Bridge Club located at 8616 Northeastern NE in Albuquerque. Everyone is welcome.

Tony Pazera

Ask Al, cont'd from page 2

Among the sites offering good learning tools, you might check out Albuquerque's kittycooper.com. She has numerous teaching tools, as well as links to other sites. Among other great sites are rpbridge.net (well-known teacher and player Richard Pavlicek), bridgehands.com, and bridgeclues.com (Mike Lawrence). Some of these sites offer hand dealer programs. With these you can enter parameters letting you practice certain conventional bids. For example, if you wanted to practice no trump bidding, you could tell the computer to show hands with 15-17 points in a balanced hand.

If you want information about something in bridge, you might try homepage.malcolm/bridgeguys.com, or regular search engines, such as Google. Google any convention and you will probably get hundreds, if not thousands, of hits.

Q: How do directors choose the hands for our hand record games?

A. We tell the program (Jim Bushnell's *Really Good Deal*) to print out the number of random hands we need for the game. That's all. We don't see the hands before you do. We don't make a selection. The computer simply provides the correct number of mathematically random hands.

Al Beebe, abeebe10@comcast.net

UNUSUAL MOVEMENTS

by Dr. Strange Movements

In order to accommodate players who may be caught in traffic or have to walk a long way to reach the club or are just plain late, I have created guide cards and in some case just give instructions, for some rather unusual movements. While some find them confusing they are actually quite simple.

The advantages of these movements are:

1. They can be changed without disturbing the movement by simply adding another table and board set.
2. They eliminate the need for a relay and a bye stand.

Directing is fairly simple. Dealing with changing the game after it has started is a matter of planning.

Seeding events: The why and the how

1. Why: Because the ACBL requires that when you have a special event you must seed that event.
2. How: this depends upon the event, e.g. the North American Pairs stipulates that A is open to players holding any number of points, you may not have more than 2000 points to play in B, and no more than 500 points to play in C. Most events are seeded based upon the pairs that show up to play. This seeding is arbitrary. Since the ACBL requires a minimum of 5 pairs in the lowest strata directors start from the bottom and look for a reasonable break point. Then they look at the top and again try to find a reasonable break point. Due to the needs of some players who must sit North-South this can be a bit tricky.

In all events directors try to balance the fields. Please take this into consideration when signing in. We try to accommodate all requests but when pairs in the same strata all want to sit in the same direction sometimes we have to ask them to sit in a direction they are not happy with. Please try to understand that we are trying to make the event as fair as we can. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

REMEMBERING JOHN GRIFFIN

by Joe Harris

With the death of John Griffin, the Albuquerque bridge community has lost one of its finest citizens and players. Away from the table John was a raconteur; bright, intelligent, personable, interested and concerned. At the bridge table he was a fierce, confident, competent, and always ethical competitor. He will be missed. He was a hell of a player.

I first met John over fifty years ago, when he was a little kid, and I tagged along with my folks to parties and open houses his parents held. He has been a loyal and dear friend since. We first played as partners in 1963 down at Carlisle, and over the years we played together sparingly, but I always enjoyed our games and we were very successful. But John and I played together mostly in team games. We probably played together on teams over 200 times. He was as good a teammate as you could find. Solid. Usually he brought back really good and often surprising results that led to numerous victories. But when his partnership didn't do so well, he always took the blame. And when my partner and I were disappointing, he would shrug it off and tell us we'll get them next time. These team games were more than bridge as we traveled together scores of times. On these trips John was a great companion, doing the tourist things together, finding the right restaurant for the best meal, working on our bridge games and systems in the car, always trying to get better. Cindy and I were saddened and shocked by John's death, but not completely surprised as his health had been marginal these past few years, even though he had worked hard (with a lot of goading from Karin) to stay well. This year John and Karin were planning to devote more time on bridge and we had put more tournaments on our calendar. We were looking forward to that, and now it won't be.

AWARDS SEASON

by Susy Law

It's time to start thinking about adding to our Wall of Fame at the DCBC. Every year, we'll add one person's name to the Perpetual Trophy and we'll award plaques to two people for service Above & Beyond the Call of Duty. Please read the guidelines below for participating in this program. By the time this newsletter comes out, the forms for submitting candidates will be available on the table at the north end of the main playing area.

INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE ANNUAL PERPETUAL SERVICE AND ABOVE & BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY AWARDS

The Perpetual Service Award is given to a person who has donated at least 15 years of his/her time to the administration and benefit of duplicate bridge in Albuquerque, NM. It has nothing to do with playing skill or monetary donations. Instead, it recognizes the expenditure of time, hard work and continual oversight of the well-being of our players and the game over a significant number of years.

The Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award is given to a person who has demonstrated the ability to be eligible for the perpetual service award sometime in the future - someone who hasn't the longevity of some of our volunteers, but who deserves recognition for their short-term contribution to the unit's goal of providing superior educational services, distinctive charitable activities, and a pleasant atmosphere in which to enjoy the game of duplicate bridge.

HOW TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE FOR AN AWARD

Three awards will be given each year - one for Perpetual Service, and two for Above & Beyond the Call of Duty. Nominations for awards will be accepted between January 1 and March 31st of each year. When nominating a person, please provide an accurate written description of the activities your candidate has participated in to merit acknowledgement. Merely submitting a persons name will NOT result in consideration of that person for an award.

QUIPS & QUOTES

When Oswald Jacoby was in his eighties, he bid every time it was his turn. His partners asked why. He said: "At my age the bidding may not get back around to me again."

-Eddie Kantar

Since the average person's small supply of politeness must last a lifetime, he can't afford to waste much of it on bridge partners.

One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts.

-Alfred Sheinwold

"Where's the hand you held during the auction?"

Jan Janitschke, upon seeing the dummy

Newer Players Page

THINK BEFORE OVERRUFFING

One of the most reliable principles in defensive play is this:

Don't overuff an honor with an honor when there is a possibility that refusing to overuff will bring in an extra trick in the trump suit.

The principle is well known and most players would do the right thing on this first example.

<u>North</u>			
♠	9876		
♥	K96		
♦	AKQ2		
♣	K4		
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>	
♠	K104	♠	5
♥	83	♥	AQJ1052
♦	864	♦	973
♣	107532	♣	J98
<u>South</u>			
♠	AQJ32		
♥	74		
♦	J105		
♣	AQ6		

South plays in four spades after East has overcalled in hearts.

West leads the eight of hearts and East wins with the ten. East follows with the ace of hearts and another. Aware that an overuff is threatened, South ruffs with the queen of spades.

It would be very wrong now for West to overuff with the king. All he has to do is calmly discard a minor suit card, because now his K10x sitting over South's AJxx, will be worth two tricks for sure and the contract will be defeated.

On many occasions it will not be so clear, or so certain, that refusing to overuff will gain a trick. A defender has to take his partner's holding on trust.

63
J742 K8
AQ1095

At an early stage of play South ruffs with the ten and West has the chance to overuff with jack. He gains a second trump trick by declining to do so.

This is another common position:

652
Q84 K9
AJ1073

When South ruffs with the jack, West may think it good business to overuff with the queen. But the play costs a trick.

It may also be wrong to overuff the hand that is short in trumps:

J
92 Q864
AK10753

South ruffs a side suit with dummy's jack. If East overuffs, that will be his last trick in the trump suit. He must decline to overuff and then, thanks to his partner's 9x, his Q8xx is worth two tricks.

.....

SCHEDULE OF DUPLICATE GAMES FOR NEWER PLAYERS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Starts</u>	<u>MstrPt Range</u>	<u>Director</u>
Mon	9 am	0-99 MPs	Marilyn Anderson
Tues	12:30p	0-199 MPs	Jerry Duncan
Wed	6.30p	0-299er MPs	Rick Wiegler
Thurs	12.30p	0-199er MP	Marilyn Anderson
Fri	9 am	0-99er MPs	Felix Moore
Sat	1 pm	0-199er MPs	Bill Koehler

Contact Duke City Bridge Club (271-2877) or any of the directors for more information or if you need to find a partner.

Odds & Ends

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Please make the following changes to your unit bridge telephone directories:

Jones, Mark
(505) 975-7576

Marko, Shirley
E-mail: marko627@msn.com

McNair, Fred
2645 East Southern Avenue
Tempe, AZ 85282-7794
(480) 756-4363

Schreyer, Buck
E-mail: bschreyer@comcast.net

FAST PAIRS' GAME

Don't have time for a three-hour game? Try Fast Pairs! A Fast Pair game is held on Friday mornings at 9:30. You are allotted 5-1/2 minutes to bid and play each board. With one break, you will finish by noon, guaranteed!

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

☞ Have a favorite bridge snack?

☞ Need to try out a new recipe?

☞ Have an urge to bake/buy a goodie and don't want to admit you "ate the whole thing"?

Call Wilma Morris at 255-6505 to donate one of the above or to volunteer your hospitality services for an April, May or June Sunday game.

P.S. All surprises welcome!!!

NEARBY TOURNAMENTS

Sectionals

April:

12 - 15 Tucson
13 - 15 Grand Junction
26 - 29 Colorado Springs
27 - 29 Las Cruces

May:

4 - 6 Santa Fe
4 - 6 Longmont (Denver)
18 - 20 Scottsdale

June:

15 - 17 Albuquerque

Regionals

April 16-22 Mesa Arizona (Seniors)
May 22-28 Denver, Colorado

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

Club Masters

Teresa M. Didrickson
Betty P. Halbleib

Sectional Masters

Barney Doyle

NABC Masters

Bob Andrews
Julie Drennan
Linda Hays

Life Masters

Keesha Ashanti
Lisa Torres

Bronze Life Masters

Schreyer, Marian
Sierer, Byron

Silver Life Masters

Doonan, Sara
McCombie, Barbara
McCombie, Michael
Simonds, Jayne
Siverson, Martha

Gold Life Masters

Crumley, Jo

Diamond Life Masters

Cooper, Steven

Emerald Life Masters

Krall, Rudy

**NEW MEMBERS /
TRANSFERS IN**

Larry and Liz Kuo
Hilda Ripley
Sandy Thompson
Jean S. Meehan

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN GRIFFIN
(SEE ARTICLE, PAGE 4)

<u>2006 MINI-MCKINNEY WINNERS</u>	
0- 5 pts.	Pat Henckel
5 - 20	Timothy Long
20 - 50	Sandy Doyle
50 - 100	Dawne Parker
100 - 200	John Dorney
200 - 300	Beverly Geurin
300 - 500	Frank Fine
500 - 1000	Deb Reichman
1000 - 2500	Kathryn Ritterbush
2500 - 5000	Steve Cooper
5000 - 7500	Rodger Arnold
7500 - 10K	Kitty Cooper
10,000 +	Judy Randel

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Sunday games at 1:30p are hosted by Unit 374. They are regular Pair Games, *except* for the following special games:

April

8th : Swiss Team Championship & Awards Day*

22nd : Pairs Championship

May

20th Pairs Championship

June

3rd Pairs Championship
15th - 17th ABQ Sectional:
Games at 9a, 1p & 7p

*The unit will distribute awards for the Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs races.

UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST

Jill Burtram 842-1817; jillburtram@nmcourt.fed.us;

Buck Schreyer 299-3102; bschreyer@comcast.net;

Nancy Kruger: 884-5367; nancykrug@aol.com

Bill Kass: 268-5922; kwjdr@msn.com

Susy Law: 296-7719; susan.law@cardinal.com

Felix Moore: 344-5209; f.moore@netscape.com

Wilma Morris: 255-6505; wmorris@unm.edu

Jerry Shinkle 299-8686; jnshinkle@aol.com

Mary Symons: 828-1943; marynell@aol.com

Rick Weigle: 344-1034; rweigle@arc-a.org



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