

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

What is "The Unit"?

There is a lot of confusion among new bridge players about the relationship between the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and the bridge clubs where they actually play bridge.

At the local level, the ACBL is represented through the 'Unit'. Unit 374 in Albuquerque is the organization that our local bridge players automatically become members in when they join the ACBL. The Unit's job is to promote bridge among its members, who play bridge in various clubs in the area. It enforces Conduct and Ethics among players (Nancy Kruger is the C&E representative on the Unit Board); conducts sectional and regional tournaments; contributes to charity (Mary Symons is the Charity Coordinator), subsidizes educational activities, publishes a newsletter, and every two years, provides a listing of the membership of the unit to all the members. It can also operate its own bridge club.



The Unit Club game is held every Sunday and we rent space from the Duke City Bridge Club to do that. Rick Weigle is the Club Manager for the Unit 374 Bridge Club and he is responsible for scheduling regular Unit Club games, Club Championships, Charity Games and all other events that are held Sunday afternoons. I would like to thank Rick for the great job he has done as well as Wilma Morris who is responsible for the hospitality at these games.

An example of one the Unit's educational and bridge promoting activities is the recent successful Larry Cohen Weekend. It was the first event of this type that we have held but judging from the positive responses, there is a great demand for more of these and we hope to make this an annual event. Larry Cohen is an excellent bridge teacher but this could not have happened without the

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ASKAL

Q: How can you tell the difference between a penalty double and a takeout double? Simple! If your partner slams the double card on the table, it is penalty. If he gently slides the card on the table, it is takeout. Is this a rule violation?

A: Long, long ago, at my very first bridge tournament, a man in the far corner of the ballroom stood on his chair and shouted "double." Even then, this was not proper. Of course, a few minutes later, someone at the same table stood on his chair and shouted, "I made it!" I'm reminded of Father Mulcahy: "Jocularly, jocularly."

Slamming the double card on the table has taken the place of a very loud voice. The rule is that all calls (bids, double, pass, etc) should be made with an even tempo, in a normal manner. Any undue emphasis may convey unauthorized information to partner, just as an overlong hesitation gives information. The ethical player tries to avoid giving partner any unauthorized information.

Q: I understand that if my partner fails to alert my bid, I am still obligated to alert his bid when it is alertable. I think I'm waking up my partner, and I want to be ethical. Is this fair?



planning and attention to detail by Felix Moore, another Unit board member who we deeply appreciate.

The Unit also conducts Sectional Tournaments. For many years they have been held in the DCBC. This arrangement is beneficial to the players because we can provide excellent hospitality and keep our entry fees low while making money to support other bridge activities. Rick Weigle and Felix Moore have been alternating as the tournament chairperson for the last couple of years.

Regional Tournaments, held every year in January, are also run by the Unit. This is unusual in the ACBL but is done that way in ACBL District 17 - the Rocky Mountain area. District 17 is allocated about six tournaments a year by the ACBL which they in turn franchise to the Units in those cities. Unit 374 can then conduct the tournament and hopefully make a profit thanks to the generous labor of our volunteers. All Unit Board members work in these tournaments. Susy Law has been in charge of hospitality and caddies, Jerry Shinkle runs the checkbook, Jill Burtram mans the partnership desk, Buck Schreyer handles set up and supplies, Felix Moore edits the daily bulletin and I am the tournament chair.

We will have a special Sunday Unit Friendship Game on October 28. This will be an Individual movement so you don't need to bring a partner. Partnerships will change after every round. We especially want to welcome new players. Another special event will be a Board-A-Match Team game on December 30 to prepare for the BAM team game at our upcoming regional in January. Hope to see you at both these events.

Bill Kass

Ask Al, cont'd from page 1

A: It may not seem so, but if you fail to alert you are compounding the problem. Now there have been two failures. The ACBL takes the position that you must assume partner has simply forgotten to alert, not that he has forgotten the bid. After all, partners do forget to alert. Partner's first failure to alert, nevertheless, is an infraction, and the director should be called, at the end of the auction if the offending side declares, and after the play if on defense.


To illustrate: Jack opens 2 no trump, and his partner Jill bids 3 clubs. They are playing Puppet Stayman, but Jack does not alert Jill's bid. He responds three diamonds. In regular Stayman, this denies a four-card major, but in Puppet, it shows at least one four-card major. Jill must still alert, running the risk of waking Jack.

But it's complicated. The alert procedure, remember, is for the benefit of the opponents, not Jack and Jill. This means that Jill must be "deaf" to the fact that Jack failed to alert her bid. She should bid according to the dictates of her hand and their system, and respond to three diamonds normally.

What happens next will vary. The ethical thing for Jill to do is to make sure the opponents are aware of their right to call the director, and perhaps the director will make an adjustment to the score.

In any situation involving a failure to alert (and other situations such as a hesitation), the director must answer "yes" to four questions: 1, was there an infraction, possibly giving unauthorized information (yes, the failure to alert); 2, were the opponents damaged; 3, were there logical alternatives to the call or calls chosen by the offending side; 4, could the extraneous information demonstrably suggest the call chosen over a logical alternative call (one less likely to be successful).

If the answer is no to any of those questions, then no adjustment should be made. The damage question may be the most important, but difficult to determine.

In the above example, Jack and Jill might wind up in four spades, for example, playing a 4-3 fit, but making four for a top board when the normal contract is 3NT. That would seem to indicate damage. Or they might play in four spades going down one, when everyone else plays 3NT successfully. Obviously, there has been no damage to the opponents. If they are in the normal 3NT, along with everyone else, then there again has been no damage, regardless of how they 

DCBC NEWS

Bridge lessons just started again and we had a big turn-out. The "First Tuesday" lectures are to resume on October 2nd. Watch for posters and sign-up sheets. There will be a different speaker each month.

It has been decided to serve refreshments only from the kitchen – they will no longer be served on tables located elsewhere in the room. We can't please everyone, but we do try to have a variety of food and something for all. Thanks again to everyone who donates food and cakes each month. A very special thanks to Crystal Cobb who has brought us those delicious cucumbers for so many years.

We are installing new surveillance equipment, as cameras have been stolen from the roof twice. The ladder leading to the roof is being taken down, so it won't be quite as easy to get up there and pilfer our equipment. A button has been installed on the directors desks to be used in case of a hostage situation.

A big thanks to Unit 374 for putting on the Larry Cohen seminar. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

The carpet was just cleaned again, so please let's all try to keep it as clean as possible. This club belongs to us all, so we're all responsible for upkeep and maintenance.

There have been many good words expressed about the Duplimate machine. However, there have also been many complaints about the machine being used every day, instead of only half of the time.

The Toys for Tots party will be December 14 and the DCBC annual meeting and party will be December 4th.

Mary Erickson

Ask Al, cont'd from page 2

reached that contract. Often, the non-offending side certainly feels damaged, but is only unlucky.

An example from a recent club game: West opened one club, and partner jumped to two spades. West alerted that as weak. South now bid three diamonds. At East's next turn to bid, he bid four spades. East had forgotten their agreement and had meant to show a strong hand. North-South naturally felt injured. Had south passed, West would have played two spades on a hand where many made six. But East had given the correct information about their system, which is all NS is entitled to know. It would be silly for East not to correct his bid when he had the chance. There was no logical alternative.

Your ethical obligations are met by first alerting all alertable calls, and by informing the opponents of the failure to alert and their right to call the director.

Q: I continue to be upset by opponents who ask clearly unnecessary questions, such as when I open two spades, and my LHO asks if that is weak. Of course it is, or partner would alert. Aren't such questions unethical?

A. I. Questions with such obvious answers may well provide unauthorized information to partner, and thus be unethical and illegal (Law 16). Long established partnerships, especially, may be attuned to what kind of hand partner has when this question is asked. While I would give the benefit of the doubt to your LHO, it is clearly annoying at the least.

An example where unauthorized information is even more likely: Partner opens two diamonds, which you alert as Flannery showing four spades and five hearts, 11-15 points. RHO asks, "Does he have diamonds?" Almost certainly, unless this is an inexperienced player (always give the benefit of doubt), RHO would have no interest in asking unless he holds diamonds and is suggesting a lead.

Asking a question about the bidding is generally legal and harmless, but not if it may give unauthorized information to partner.

Al Beebe, abeebero@comcast.net

NEWS FROM THE CASA DE AMIGOS DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

This year Casa de Amigos BC celebrates the fiftieth year of support for the children cared for at Casa Angelica. Thanks to your playing fees at our Wednesday afternoon game, we have contributed \$ 1,510.00 to Casa Angelica, \$ 268.00 to ACBL charities and \$ 3,316.00 to the DCBC so far this year. We are confident that we will be able to exceed last year's contribution of \$ 8,288. That was a new record for your generosity.

The Casa de Amigos financial statements are on the southeast bulletin board and are available for review on a monthly basis.

Tony Pazera

THE DUPLIMATE

The Duplimate – the automatic bridge hand generator – has turned out to be a big hit with most players. These are a few simple rules to follow to get as much mileage as we can out of the boards and cards:

1. Do not place the boards face down when finished with a hand. Keep them stacked face up at all times.
2. Do not riffle or bend the cards – they are considerably more expensive than the cards we are used to using, so handle them gently.
3. At the end of a game, do not put any of the cards back in the board face up.\

Thank you for your cooperation!

QUIPS & QUOTES

South: Alert! East: Yes? I'm requested to further misdescribe my hand.

The difference between genius and stupidity at the bridge table is that genius has its limits.

Eddie Kantar

Regardless of what sadistic impulses we may harbor, winning bridge means helping partner avoid mistakes.

Frank Stewart

<p>MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!</p> <p>October 28, 2007</p> <p>FRIENDSHIP GAME (Individual Movement)</p> <p>No partners required! Grand way to meet and find new people to play with.</p>
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Newer Players Page

SAFETY PLAY TRUMPS

West starts with the ace and another club, East following with the ten and the seven. How do you plan the play?

You have lost one trick and must lose another to the ace of diamonds. The success of the contract therefore depends on losing no more than one trick in trumps. How should you play the trumps?

Both Vul
Dealer: North

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>North</u></p> <p>♠ K10762 ♥ 75 ♦ KQ42 ♣ K8</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>South</u></p> <p>♠ AQ ♥ AQ108432 ♦ 75 ♣ J3</p>	
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West	North	East	South
	P	P	1♥
2♣	2♠	P	4♥
P	P	P	

Solution Next Column

SCHEDULE OF DUPLICATE GAMES FOR NEWER PLAYERS

Day	Starts	MstrPt Range	Director
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

SOLUTION TO SAFETY PLAY IN TRUMPS

The problem came up in a Women's European Championship match between Britain and the Netherlands, and the complete deal was as follows:

<u>North</u>		
♠ K10762		
♥ 75		
♦ KQ42		
♣ ---		
	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>
	♠ J9	♠ 8543
	♥ K	♥ J9
	♦ 1083	♦ AJ96
	♣ AQ96542	♣ 107
	<u>South</u>	
	♠ AQ	
	♥ AQ108432	
	♦ 75	
	♣ J3	

The Netherlands declarer finessed the queen of hearts and lost to the singleton king. On regaining the lead she was faced with a further guess in hearts. Inevitably, she got it wrong by trying to drop the jack, thus losing two trump tricks and her contract.

The British declarer was guilty of no such carelessness. Spotting a way of avoiding two trump losers whenever this was possible, she played a trump to the ace at trick three. When the king dropped, she played a diamond to the queen and ace. Eventually she was able to take the marked finesse against the jack of hearts and make eleven tricks.

If West had followed low to the ace of hearts, declarer would have entered dummy and played another heart, covering whatever East played and only losing one trump. Of course if West started with KJx in trumps the contract cannot be made.

Odds & Ends

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!

ABQ 299^{ER} SECTIONAL RESULTS

Stratified Pairs

- 1A Sharon Procter & Leo Pigaty
 1B Jan Evans & Tom Estenson
 1C Katherine & Craig Tyner

Swiss Teams

- 1 A/B/C JoAnn Allen, Richard Allen, Carol Hanson, Dale Hanson

TOP TWENTY!

Masterpoint Winners from Albuquerque 299^{ER} Sectional

- 1 4.72 Leo Pigaty, Albuquerque, NM
- 2 3.81 Diane Todd, Cedar Crest NM
- 3 3.60 Richard Allen, Albuquerque NM
- 4 3.60 JoAnn Allen, Albuquerque NM
- 5 3.03 Dale Hanson, Albuquerque NM
- 6 3.03 Carol Hanson, Albuquerque NM
- 7 2.80 Sue Berry, Albuquerque NM
- 8 2.80 John Berry, Albuquerque NM
- 9 2.78 Tom Estenson, Albuquerque NM
- 10 2.78 Jan Evans, Albuquerque NM
- 11 2.73 Sharon Proctor, Albuquerque NM
- 12 2.36 Ray Renaud, Albuquerque NM
- 13 2.07 Jeannine Rosenstock, Albuquerque NM
- 14 2.07 Anna Jo Clithero, Albuquerque NM
- 15 1.99 Timothy Long, Placitas NM
- 16 1.99 Susan Vidrine, Albuquerque NM
- 17 1.99 Jerry Alcone, Albuquerque NM
- 18 1.99 Charles O'Connor, Albuquerque NM
- 19 1.66 Katherine Tyner, Albuquerque NM
- 20 1.66 Craig Tyner, Albuquerque, NM

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

October

- 5-7th Phoenix/Scottsdale Sectional
 6-12th Colorado Springs Regional
 19-21st Taos Sectional
 26-28th Boulder Sectional
 26-28th Laughlin Sectional

November

- 2-4th Pueblo Sectional
 2-4th ABQ Fall Sectional
 2-4th Tucson 299^{ER} Sectional
 10-16th Tucson Regional

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

October 28, 2007

FRIENDSHIP GAME (Individual Movement)

No partners required!
 Grand way to meet and
 find new people to play with.

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

Junior Master

Joel Barkioff
John Berry
Bonnie Bright
Virginia Hanratty
Arjune Bose
Ranjit Bose
Sonya Packer
Hilda Ripley
Norma Dallal

Club Masters

Karel Toohey
Billy Trabauda
Norma Mearns
Christine Reid

Sectional Masters

Jerry Alcone
JoAnn Allen
Richard Allen
Dale Hanson
Lynn Hinrichs
Charles O'Connor
Frank Snyder
Josephine Atkins
Patricia Henckel
Bob Irwin
Martha Yoke

Regional Master

Richard Armstrong
Timothy Long
Susan Vidrine
Erna White
Norman Pare

NABC Masters

Julie Glinski

Life Masters

Sandy Doyle

Bronze Life Masters

Buck Schreyer
Robert Stewart

Silver Life Masters

Marge Brosnan
Ken Shoquist

NEW MEMBERS

Athena Kelly
Cheryl Mitchell
Sally Storrs
Teresa Bottomly
Mary Brosnan
Grazina Klein
Beverly Phelps
Marti Stone
Erik Johnson

TRANSFERS IN

Agnes Lervik
Helen Long
Peggy Hennessy
Spencer Newman
Lucille Nance
Richard Nance

PRACTICE FOR THE REGIONAL
at a
Board-A-Match Tournament

December 30, 2007

This is like a team game,
but it is scored differently.
Come early if you've never played
in this event before.
Special instructions will be given
15 minutes prior to the game.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

Sunday games at 1:30p are hosted by Unit 374.

October

- 7th Pairs Game
- 14th Pairs Game/Board Meeting
- 21st Unit Pairs Championship
- 28th Friendship Game
(Individual Movement)

November

- 2nd -4th Albuquerque Sectional
- 11th Pairs Game/Board Meeting
- 18th Unit Pairs Championship
- 25th Pairs Game

December

- 2nd Swiss Team Championship
- 9th GNT/Board Meeting
- 16th Holiday Party and
Unit Pairs Championship
- 23rd Western Conference STAC
- 30th Pairs Game

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