

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

Looking over the column I wrote last year at this time, I thought I could recycle it by just changing a few names. Last year's column dealt mostly with the recently completed 2008 Navajo Trail Regional Tournament. It was a financially successful tournament and had gone very smoothly. The 2009 Navajo Trail Regional Tournament was almost a repeat – but it seemed even better because we were uncertain what effect the economic situation would have on our attendance. Well, not to worry, the attendance was virtually the same as 2008 and the financial outcome was also virtually the same – both excellent.

The real icing on the cake was how well your Unit 374 volunteers performed. In no particular order, I want to try to thank them (again). Felicity Moore edited the Daily Bulletin and almost made no mistakes. She has threatened to stop when she achieves perfection – so let's hope the occasional insignificant error creeps in. Nightly, she posted all the daily results to our internet site (www.abqbridge.com) – again without error. She also coordinated prizes for IN players who turned out in strong support of the tournament.



Susy Law found new and innovative ways to make people feel welcome with her management of the tournament hospitality. Name tags and candy were big hits. The treats during the afternoon and evening sessions got raves from the players. Susy (and I) also learned a few things – don't serve items that use a coupon – you can never guess right about how many you need.

Keesha Ashanti ably handled the partnership desk. If you remember last year's column, Keesha was lured into this job by Jill Burtram, who had enjoyed as much as she could stand. Thanks, Keesha for agreeing to do this, I hope you will do it again next year. Keesha kept smiling 🤞

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ASKAL

Q: What does "coup" mean in bridge?

A: A coup is a maneuver or action which brings about a successful, unexpected result. It has been applied to several stratagems by either declarer or a defender.

Perhaps the Bath Coup is the simplest and easiest to understand, and it also occurs frequently. The opening lead is the king of a side suit, usually promising the queen. Declarer holds AJx and plays low, letting the king win. The hope is that the leader will continue with the suit, so that declarer scores two tricks in the suit, rather than only one. Opening leader must rely on partner to give a good signal in the suit to discourage a continuation. Of course, if dummy or declarer holds the 10 in the suit, then the duck is pointless.

A Trump Coup also occurs fairly often, but can be complicated to set up. It happens when it would appear the defense has a sure trump trick, but the coup takes it away. A simple example: declarer's last three cards are the 10,8 of trump and a losing side card. His right hand opponent holds the 97 of trump and another card. The defender is certain to get one trump. 🤞

President's Column, from page 1

throughout (almost) the whole tournament and Jill's temperament was a lot better, too.

Jill Burtram, recently retired from the partnership desk, was the caddy chair. She seemed to really find her calling in this job. As proof, she has reported that Gary Zeiger, the Director in Charge, said there were no complaints from the players or directors about caddies and that this was the first time he could recall this happening. This is very high praise from a curmudgeon like Gary.

I am beginning to develop a pattern here. Dig a hole, dig out of the hole, etc.... This violates the first rule of holes, according to the late Molly Ivins, "When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging." But here goes ... Gary Zeiger, who I just called a curmudgeon, is an extremely competent tournament director who quietly solves tournament problems as they arise. He plays a large behind the scenes role in our tournament success. Thanks, Gary to you and your directing staff.

The real behind the scenes volunteers are the members of the moving and setup, teardown and removing crew. This job went without a major incident although it was nip and tuck for a moment when, from my vantage point, the moving truck appeared to almost tip over. The driver shall remain anonymous. Thanks, (in alphabetical order to protect the driver) Jay Armstrong, Mike Gray, Jim McHollan, Jerry Shinkle, Ted Stein, and Bob Zipp.

The Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North showed its appreciation for our business by hosting an ice cream social near the end of the tournament. I think we have found our home there – they like us and we like them.

Let me know if you agree with our choice of hotels, schedule, events, hospitality, etc. and also how we can improve our tournaments in any other respect. Thanks for attending and helping display our best features – the friendly members of Albuquerque Unit 374. See you at the 2010 Navajo Trail Regional.

-Bill Kass

Ask Al, from page 1

But suppose the lead is in dummy, which has xxx a side suit where declarer is void. Declarer is sure to score both trumps.

Many of the coups described in the Encyclopedia of Bridge have colorful names. The Alcatraz Coup involves a completely unethical play. Declarer has AJ10 in the dummy and Kx in hand, and wants to be sure of three tricks. Declarer calls for the jack from dummy, LHO plays low, and declarer discards another suit. If LHO now wins the queen, declarer "discovers" his revoke, and corrects by playing the king. LHO can take the queen back, but there is now a proven finesse. If LHO instead plays a small card under the jack, declarer again corrects by playing the small card, but the queen has been found. Don't try this maneuver, and call the director if an opponent does. The director should adjust the result. The perpetrator should be sentenced to Alcatraz.

Coup en passant (from chess): dummy has two small hearts, RHO has a high spade trump and the ace of diamonds, declarer has only one small trump and a diamond. When the small heart is led from dummy, declarer's one small trump is sure to score a trick.

A Deschappelles Coup is the lead by a defender of an unsupported high honor, in order to establish a winner in partner's hand. Defending no trump, for example, partner may have a long established suit but no sure entry. Defender may lead the king of a suit, and hope partner has the queen for an entry.

Similarly, the Merrimac Coup is the deliberate sacrifice by a defender of a high honor in order to knock out declarer's entry to a long suit in dummy. The Merrimac was an American coal ship (not the Merrimack of Civil War fame) sunk in the Santiago, Cuba, harbor in 1898 in an attempt to bottle up the Spanish fleet.

The Morton's Fork Coup is a play by declarer which gives defender a choice of two plays, equally bad. In a side diamond suit, declarer has Kx and dummy Qxx, with entries to dummy in trump. Dummy also has the ace of clubs where declarer is void. Declarer leads a low diamond from hand, and LHO with the ace can win the trick or duck. 🙄

PERPETUAL AWARD AND ABOVE AND BEYOND
THE CALL OF DUTY AWARDS

Sometime in March, nominating forms for the Perpetual Award and the Beyond the Call of Duty awards will be available at the Duke City Bridge Club. Last year, very few people filled out forms. However, many people asked why certain people had not been selected. Obviously we cannot select people if they are not nominated. Your entry doesn't have to be wordy or beautifully composed. Just write the name of the person you'd like to nominate and briefly explain why you think they deserve the award. Remember the following guidelines:

The Perpetual Service Award is given to a person who has donated at least 20 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. It is not unusual to nominate someone who is deceased – many people who have passed away in the last few years are responsible in large part for the success of our bridge community. They should be remembered and honored.

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.

Last year, some people nominated people who had already received the awards. Please check the awards board at the Duke City Bridge Club before submitting your nomination. Also, be sure you select the proper form for submittal – there are separate forms for each award, and each will be a different color.

-Susy Law

Ask Al, from page 2

If LHO wins the ace, declarer gets a pitch on both the queen of diamonds and the ace of clubs. But if LHO ducks, the queen wins, and declarer's losing diamond is discarded on the outside ace. The term comes from Cardinal Morton, Chancellor under King Henry VII, who reasoned that if a man was spending lavishly, he could afford to be taxed heavily. Or, if he was not spending, that meant he was saving his coin, and could again be taxed heavily.

(The Encyclopedia of Bridge is filled with such interesting little tidbits.)

The Robert Coup is the unnecessary use of a trump to save a plain card for later use. In the example, RHO leads a heart. Declarer has A32 of trump (spades) and a small diamond. LHO has a heart and the KQ10 of spades. Dummy has Jx of spades, the high heart, and a small club. If declarer discards the diamond, his only other winner is the ace of trump. However, if the heart is ruffed in hand, and the diamond led next, LHO will be able to score only one high spade. Try it.

In the Scissors Coup, declarer plays in hearts missing the ace. A diamond is led, and RHO wins and shifts to an obvious singleton club. RHO presumably has the ace of trump, and plans to put partner on lead with a diamond to get a club ruff. Declarer, however, with Kx of spades in dummy and Axx in hand, plays the king and ace and leads the third. But instead of ruffing, declarer pitches dummy's second and last diamond, cutting the defender's communication for the ruff. It's a loser on loser play with a special purpose.

You might check out the Idiot's Coup, Vienna Coup, or Serpent's Coup. If you don't have the Encyclopedia of Bridge, try Google.

-Al Beebe

DCBC NEWS

The New Year ushered in several changes at the Duke City Bridge Club (DCBC). Some highlights and updates include:

1. The appointment of a new Game Coordinator;
2. The election of new board members and officers;
3. A new online daily partnership bulletin board;
4. The appointment of a new Board of Trustees member;
5. The hiring of a new cleaning crew; and
6. Planning for the upcoming 40th anniversary of the DCBC.

The DCBC Board and club members extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to Joe Harris for serving as our Club Manager for the past six months. Because Joe will be traveling for the next three or four months, he decided it would be best to turn the manager's responsibilities over to someone else. We are extremely fortunate to have Felix Moore as our new Game Coordinator at Duke City. She assumed this position in mid-February, so there would be a smooth transition prior to Joe's departure. As you know, Felix brings extensive experience and creative leadership to her new position.

Congratulations to Nora Johnson and Diane Todd, who were elected as new board members. Re-elected were Jay Armstrong, Jim Drennan, Russ Edwards, Pat Plummer, & Lise Sullivan. John Groves was appointed to fill a vacancy last year. The new board officers are Elaine Stone, President; Jay Armstrong, Vice President. Diane Todd, Secretary, Jackie Bradley, Treasurer, and Lori Schultz, Assistant Treasurer, will continue in their appointed positions. The chairs of the standing committees are posted on the bulletin boards.

Jeff Brown has been appointed to fill a vacancy in the Board of Trustees. (The Board of Trustees is a panel of 5 members, including the president of the DCBC, who oversee major financial expenditures proposed by the Board of Directors. The trustees currently serving on this board are: Al Beebe, Jeff Brown, Alma O'Brien, and Eddie Walker.)

Several months ago, the DCBC Membership Committee launched a new on-line site; "Partners for Daily Pairs Games". There are fliers posted on the bulletin boards for more details on how to locate it on our Duke City web site. Jim Munroe will answer any questions.

The free courses to learn bridge that started in February are very popular. Pat Plummer has over 40 students in the beginners' course and is assisted by Al Dennis. Francie Straw has sixteen tables in the intermediate course and is assisted by Norma Johnston and Jan Evans.

We hired a new cleaning crew in January and are pleased with their service. Another change is that our new co-chairs of the Hospitality Committee, Lise Sullivan and Nora Johnson, will be providing less snacks during our games. The Board wants to reduce the amount of dollars spent on food. We welcome any treats you may want to donate at any time.

A final update is that DCBC will celebrate its 40th anniversary on November 30, 2010. A celebration will be planned next year. How many hands of bridge do you think have been played by our marvelous and diverse community of duplicate players during the past four decades?

-Elaine Stone

Newer Players Page

THE BASICS OF DEFENSE

In duplicate bridge, it's a sure bet that you'll be playing defense 50% of the time. The quality of your defense may mean the difference between a top score and a zero. For example, if you let the opponents take 10 tricks, and at all the other tables they take 9 tricks, you will get a zero score. Just giving up one trick can make a big difference!

A common view when one first begins playing bridge is: "I'll take my tricks, and my partner will take his/her tricks." With such thinking, you lead your aces and kings and hope for the best. One quickly realizes this strategy yields the fewest tricks for your side.

There are two key concepts to good defense:

1. Find the opponent's weakness, and exploit it.
2. Determine what is in your partner's hand, and use it to your advantage.

Perhaps you've played against some of the better players at the club, and been amazed at how much damage they seem to do. How do they do it?

First and foremost, they analyze the auction. All bidding sequences give information about the distribution of points and suits. Before the first card is even led, you should stop for a minute and think about the information that has been announced. There is almost always some tidbit of information that can help guide your defense. Do your thinking while the declarer is analyzing the dummy. Your hesitation in playing a card may help declarer locate a missing honor.

Let's consider the following auction:

1NT-P-2♣-P

2♦-P -2NT-P

3NT-P-P-P

As a defender, you have the following information:

1. Opener has 15-17 HCP (high card points).
2. Responder bids Stayman convention, so he has at least 8 HCP and a 4 card major.

3. Opener bids 2D = denying a 4 card major.

4. Responder bids 2NT, so he does not have a 5 card major or he would bid it.

5. Opener bids 3NT, so he has at least 16 points, and probably 17.

How can you use this information? You know that opener has no 4 card major and responder has at least one 4 card major, so it might be to your advantage to attack a major suit. The most cards declarer has in a major are 7. Try to set up your long suit before declarer has a chance to establish his/her long suit. After dummy comes down, add up the points in the dummy, add that to 17, and count the points in your hand. Whatever is left over is the number of points your partner has.

The second key concept is to use your partner's hand to give your side an advantage. If your partner has a suit that is strong enough to bid, it is generally a good idea to lead it as soon as you can. If your partner has not bid, use the auction to deduce what is in his/her hand. If the opponents avoid mentioning a suit during the bidding, it is likely that your side has some advantage in that suit.

As the play of the hand progresses, your partner can also send you information with the cards he/she plays to each trick. Perhaps you have been asked what "system of discards" you use. The reason for this question is that most partnerships use discards to tell their partner about the strength and number of cards they have in each suit. Most partnerships use "standard discards," in which a high card suggests continuation of offense in that suit, and vice versa. In following to tricks, a high card followed by a low card shows an even number of cards in the suit, and vice versa.

Entire books are devoted to the details of a good defense. As you progress by playing and studying, keep these two essential concepts in mind. They are guaranteed to provide success!

-Bob Zipp

WINNERS OF UNIT 374 MINI-MCKENNEY AND ACE OF CLUBS AWARDS

2008 Mini-McKenney Award s

- Rookie Race – Gary Scrivner – 35.22 MPs
- Junior Master – Harold Gladstone – 94.96 MPs
- Club Master – Dr. Ranjit Bose – 72.41 MPs
- Sectional Master – Carol Barkoff – 67.57 MPs
- Regional Master– Leo Pigaty – 182.19 MPs
- NABC Master – Timothy Long – 148.34 MPs
- Life Master – Jonathan Hart – 229.42 MPs
- Bronze Life Master – Frank Fine – 212.32 MPs
- Silver Life Master – Jay Armstrong – 407.45 MPs
- Gold Life Master – *
- Diamond Life Master – Clem Jackson – 896.58 MPs
- Emerald Life Master – Rudy Krall – 335.91 MPs
- 10,000+ MPs Category – Joe Harris – 565.68 MPs

2008 Ace of Clubs Award s

- Rookie Race – Susan Hettema – 31.11 MPs
- Junior Master – Harold Gladstone – 88.91 MPs
- Club Master – Dr. Ranjit Bose – 45.55 MPs
- Sectional Master – Margaret Johnson – 46.12 MPs
- Regional Master – Patricia Henckel – 107.46 MPs
- NABC Master – Wayne Godsey – 94.85 MPs
- Life Master – Pat Plummer – 109.98 MPs
- Bronze Life Master – Dawn Parker – 125.96 MPs
- Silver Life Master – Jay Armstrong – 188.67 MPs
- Gold Life Master – *
- Diamond Life Master – Jackie Evans – 210.38 MPs
- Emerald Life Master – Rudy Krall – 224.75 MPs
- 10,000+ MPs Category – Joe Harris – 112.24 MPs

*Withheld at the request of winner

All winners will be honored at the Sunday, April 19 Awards Day Unit Championship Game at 1:30 at Duke City Bridge Club. Come and play and help us celebrate their achievement.

HOSPITALITY CALL FOR JUNE SECTIONAL
June 12-14, 2009

Once again it is time to plan for “(almost) world famous” snacks and finger foods for the June sectional. We strive to have a full table of goodies and beverages during all sessions. A signup sheet to contribute munchies and/or serving/clean-up assistance will be posted in May for each session. Cash contributions are always welcome!!!

NEW SANCTIONED GAME IN PLACITAS

Now you can earn masterpoints at a new game that is held weekly in Placitas. Join us every Monday at 1pm at the Placitas Senior Center. Pre-duplicated boards and hand records. For further information contact Emily Maner at 771-0075 or 944-6205 (cell).

QUIPS AND QUOTES

- A player who can't defend accurately should try to become declarer (or dummy). -Alfred Sheinwold
- The real secret of the expert is to make logic seem like flair. -H. W. Kelsey
- I think we're all a little masochistic. Otherwise, why would we continue to play bridge? -Charles Goren

JIM BUSHNELL

1934 - 2009

RICK CARTER

1952 - 2009

Sadly, we lost a popular member in January this year. Ted Stein remembers him.

"Jim was one of my favorite persons, both as a friend and as a bridge partner. He was a fun guy, whether we were playing at the club or traveling to tournaments or on vacation.

There are two things that I especially remember about him that involve bridge. A few years ago he persuaded some of his partners to try a bidding system called EHAA..... this stands for "every hand an adventure". We did not play this system, but even playing a standard system, with Jim every hand was an adventure! This was especially true when he was not getting any "good" cards, then I could expect one of Jim's "adventure" bids like preempting with a 3 or 4 card suit. Some of the time it worked ... who cared if he occasionally went for 500, 800 or 1100! He enjoyed the game.

The other thing relates to the times we got bad results. We would debate for some time and he might say "you should have returned a heart" or "that was a bad lead". After many months of defending my decisions, I hit upon the perfect response for those times. I would say "Jim, you are 100% correct". I will never forget the look on his face, he was speechless, all geared up for battle but with the "wind taken out of his sails"! He just smiled, I will always remember that.

I miss Jim very much, as a bridge partner and as a friend."

-Felix Moore

While his family prepared to take him home from the hospital one last time, our friend, Rick, died. He was only 56 years old, but he made an everlasting impression on all those who knew him.

The Rick we remember is not the man we saw on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or even in this new year. The image that will remain forever etched in our brains is of a big, brawny, blunt, kindhearted guy, striding through the bridge club, swinging his oxygen tank as if it were a stick, and calling us names. He lived life with gusto. We'll miss you, guy.

-Kathy Schweickert and Jim McHollan

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

Junior Masters

Edwina Andrews
 Patricia Gallacher
 Richard Greenfield
 Jerry Harper
 Virginia Kilkuske
 Dave Klein
 Charles Reddish
 Stephen Sallot
 Harry Season
 Alice Valdez
 Marion Young

Club Masters

Ashley Burkholder
 John Caffrey
 Nina Coe
 Hong Hai Dubroff
 Ed Gosnell
 Linda McCormick
 Sonya Packer
 Charles Reddish
 Sally Storrs
 Mary Udell

Sectional Masters

Mildred Czelusniak
 Harold Gladstone
 Athena Kelly
 Joan Sladovich
 Billy Trabaudo

Regional Masters

Henry Bretton
 Ethel Giovanis
 Theodore Giovanis
 Pat Goettsche
 Margaret Hanrahan
 James Messec
 Marilyn Woodruff

NABC Master

Richard Armstrong
 Nancy Burleson
 David Hetteima
 Marilyn Rost
 Barbara Schneider

Life Masters

Timothy Long
 James Munroe
 Kay Perks
 Leo Pigaty

Bronze Life Masters

Jana George
 Kent Jones
 Patricia Kelley
 Priscilla Thompson
 Lisa Torres

Silver Life Masters

Judith Gidley
 Gay Gillia
 Diana Kelleher
 Lisa Sullivan
 Marge Troup

NEW MEMBERS

James DeFlon
 Joann DeFlon
 George Dicks
 Kenneth Hunt
 Susan Hunt
 Randall Jones
 James Linn
 Carolyn Lamb
 Donna Romm
 Shelley Schaeffer
 Carol Schwartz

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Azar
 James Bushnell
 Rick Carter
 Frank Hines
 Gloria Kriehauser
 Barbara Sims
 Elsie Wilkins

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**UPCOMING UNIT GAMES
SCHEDULE**

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

April

- 5th: Charity Pairs Championship
- 12th: Unit Pairs Championship
- 19th: Swiss Team Championship
- 26th: Unit Pairs Championship

May

- 3rd: Charity Pairs Championship
- 10th: Great Western STaC Pairs
- 17th: Unit Pairs Championship
- 24th: Swiss Teams Championship
- 31st: Local Unit Charity Pairs


June

- 7th: Swiss Teams Championship
- 12th-14th: ABQ Sectional
- 21st: NAP Qualifier
- 28th: Charity Pairs Championship

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