

Albuquerque Bridge Player

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

Unit President's Letter

CONGRATULATIONS OF ALL OF OUR 2024 WINNERS FOR MOST MASTERPOINTS WON DURING THE YEAR. AWARDS LUNCHEON AT THE CLUB TO HONOR THE UNIT 374 ACE of CLUBS Winners and MINI MCKENNEY Winners. Put it on your calendar. April 13, 2025, Noon. Pizza AND Cake. AND STAY AND PLAY AT THE 1:00 GAME IF YOU ARE ABLE.

ACE of CLUBS Winners for 2024

Created in 1984, The Ace of Clubs Races recognize the ACBL members who earn the most masterpoints (MPs) during club sanctioned events (excluding NAP/GNT qualifiers and STaCs) during a calendar year. Only black points are counted.

Now there are two separate Ace of Clubs Races: One for face-to-face club races and one for virtual club races.

There are 15 race categories ranging from 0-5 MPs to 10,000+. Players are placed in a category based on his/her MP totals at the beginning of a given year.

In 2011, The Ace of Clubs award was named after Helen Shanbrom, the most successful club player in ACBL history.

0-5 MPS – Ramsey Mourad
 5-20 MPS - Norman Morrow
 20-50 MPS - Michael Feldman
 50-100 MPS - Austin Olivier
 100-200 MPS - Mr. Jack Harvey

200-300 MPS - Don Austin
 300-500 - Mrs. Marjorie J Elson
 500-1000 MPS - Dr. Barry D. Nagel
 1000-1500 MPS - Mr. Howard J. Friedman
 1500-2500 MPS - Mr. Matthew Waterman
 2500-3500 MPS - Dr. Ranjit Bose
 3500-5000 MPS - Mary Udell
 5000-7500 MPS- Mr. Michael J. Gray
 7500-10,000 MPS - Mrs. Jo Crumley
 Over 10,000 MPS - Dr. William J. Kass

The Mini – McKenney Winners for 2024

The Mini – McKenney Masterpoint Races recognize the ACBL members who earn the most masterpoints (MPs) in sanctioned tournaments and clubs (excluding NAP/GNT qualifiers and STaCs) within a calendar year.

There are 15 race categories ranging from 0-5 masterpoints to 10,000+. A player is placed in a category based on his/her MP totals at the beginning of a given year.

This race is named after William E. McKenney. His originality, drive and organizational ability did much to establish the ACBL. McKenney was the ACBL's first executive secretary and remained at the helm until 1947.

0-5 MPS – Ramsey Mourad
 5-20 MPS - John R. Kalgren
 5-20 MPS - Carolyn E. Kalgren
 20-50 MPS - Michael Feldman
 50-100 MPS - Austin Olivier
 100-200 MPS - Kenneth A. Ferrill
 200-300 MPS - Linda Weaver
 300-500 - Philip A. Sackinger
 500-1000 MPS - Dr. Barry D. Nagel

1000-1500 MPS - Mr. Howard J. Friedman
1500-2500 MPS - David Barbour
2500-3500 MPS - Dr. Ranjit Bose
3500-5000 MPS - Mary Udell
5000-7500 MPS- Mr. Michael J. Gray
7500-10,000 MPS - Mrs. Jo Crumley
Over 10,000 MPS – Mr. Joe Harris

A NUMBER OF OUR UNIT MEMBERS ALSO WON ONLINE AWARDS

The Online AWARDS are as follows:

5-20 MPS - Thomas Stuart
20-50 MPS - Mike Krehbiel
50-100 MPS - Jeanette Brenholdt
100-200 MPS - Kenneth A. Ferrill
200-300 MPS - Bruce N. Nesbit
300-500 - Karen S. Nesbit
500-1000 MPS - Betty Nason
1000-1500 MPS - Ms. Julianne U. Hancock
1500-2500 MPS - Ms. Linda E. Stuart
2500-3500 MPS - Ms. Judith L. Tripp
3500-5000 MPS - Carol A. Crawford
5000-7500 MPS- Ms. Carolyn H. King
7500-10,000 MPS - Mr. Jerry N. Shinkle
Over 10,000 MPS - Mr. Rodger S. Arnold

Virtual Ace of Clubs

0-5 MPS - David Pliskin
5-20 MPS - Tim Cayer
20-50 MPS - Mike Krehbiel
50-100 MPS - Gary A. Van Valin
100-200 MPS - Kenneth A. Ferrill
200-300 MPS - Linda Weaver
300-500 – MPS - Rebecca C. Ortega
500-1000 MPS - Mr. Tony Messec
1000-1500 MPS - Mrs. Dede Brownstein
1500-2500 MPS - Mrs. Cindy B. McBride
2500-3500 MPS – Ms. Athena Kelly
3500-5000 MPS - Ms. Candace R. Scott
5000-7500 MPS- Mr. Tom M. McCrackin
7500-10,000 MPS - Dr. Larry D. Bertholf
Over 10,000 MPS - Mr. Jim Munday

Looks like this is going to be a good year. The Regional Tournament was well attended and it appears that we had close to the same number of participants as last year. I received a lot of positive feedback on the friendliness and helpfulness of our Unit volunteers who worked at the tournament. Thanks to all who volunteered to help at the tournament. The tournament committee headed by Ben Franz was exceptional this year. Next month we should have the feedback and exact number of participants for planning purposes next year. The new board members (including myself) are enthusiastic and fitting in quickly to help with the Unit work and the upcoming Sectional Tournaments.

SEE YOU AT THE CLUB!!

Judy Reed, Unit 374 President

Duke City Bridge Club

The Santa Fe Sectional is coming up April 25, 26, 27. Fliers are at the club by the glass wall and also on the website. Please help support our neighboring club by attending as much as possible.

The Jim Munday mentoring game raffle drawing is Tuesday, April 15 with the play date Monday, April 21. The May game will be May 26, with the drawing May 20. Please buy your raffle tickets before the drawing dates.

Jan and Dave

Sandia West Bridge Studio

The Monday and Friday games are at the Placitas Library starting at 10AM, 453 NM-165 in Placitas. The Placitas Library is 4.5 miles east of I-25. NM-165 is what Highway 550 turns into as it crosses I-25 heading east. We've been averaging four tables on both days. And we always have homemade cookies, which I've been told are pretty good.

Beginning on May 5th the Monday games will be moving back to the Broadmoor Senior Center, 3241 Broadmoor Blvd NE, Rio Rancho. It is just north of Paseo del Volcan. (If you know where UNM Sandoval Hospital is, the Broadmoor Senior Center is adjacent.) Starting on May 6th we will have beginning bridge lessons, that will continue on May 7th, 13th and 14th from 9-11AM. Classes are free. Attendees of the class will receive a free play coupon good for the Monday game for any Monday in May (starting on the 19th), or any Monday in June.

The games run by Sandia West are a bit more casual since they are smaller, and we welcome new (and newish) players. They are still run with Common Game hands, and pay sanctioned ACBL masterpoints. We also run club championships, STaC games, NAP qualifiers, and charity fund games when available for the extra points awarded. All games are still only five dollars. If you have questions or need a partner, contact Jerry Keeran at 505-615-4867 or at jjkeeran@gmail.com.

Newer Player's Column

By Susy Law

Jacoby Transfers

When partner opens 1NT and you sit with a poor hand (less than 10 points) and a five or six card major, you *transfer* by bidding the suit

beneath your major, and partner is then expected to bid your suit, which you pass.

You hold:

Xx
KQxxx
Jxx
Qxx

Your partner bids 1NT, and you respond 2 diamonds. After partner makes the *transfer* to hearts, you pass.

Holding

QJxxxx
Jx
Qxx
Xx

You would bid 2 hearts, and partner would bid 2 spades, which you would pass.

Basically, this allows the no-trump bidder to play the hand, which is more advantageous because the strong hand does not go down as dummy and the offense cannot see what high cards and distribution the no-trump bidder has.

This is a very popular convention. If you do not use it, you should be aware of what it means when you are defending

Longest Day Fundraiser:

The ACBL sponsored Alzheimer's "Longest Day" fundraiser will occur this year on Thursday, June 19. Bridge games will be scheduled at 9:30 am (Open), 12:15 pm (0-299er), 12:30 pm (Open), and 5:00 pm (Open). Donations will be received both online (through the Alzheimer's website) and at the club. The donation online link should be up by next week.

Rather than a silent auction this year, we are having an "upgraded" door prize raffle. We are asking members to help with this by donating "higher priced" door prizes (no white elephant donations please) to the raffle. We would like to receive about 50 door prizes. Raffle ticket prices will be assigned commensurate with the door prize. Higher end value (\$50+) items will be drawn at the end of the day. Donations of snacks/treats are welcome and appreciated. The local Alzheimer's office also provides food and other items for that day. Watch for further information in the DCBC Newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Maureen Milich (malawson@usa.net, 440-403-5687) or Jan Evans (jevansdcdbc@gmail.com, 505-323-9686). Thank you for your participation and donations in advance.

The Lebensohl Convention, an Introduction

By Frank Fine

The **Lebensohl Convention** has become a standard tool for many advancing players. Its most common use is when your opponent has made an overcall over partner's 1NT opening bid, and you need to let partner know how good (or bad) your hand is.

Like the Stayman and Blackwood conventions, it replaces a seldom used natural call with a conventional (non-natural) meaning.

- Stayman: A 2♣ bid over partner's 1NT opening is *conventional*, asking if partner has a 4-card major.
- Blackwood: A 4NT bid after finding a major suit fit is *conventional*, asking partner how many aces (or key cards) she has.
- Lebensohl: When your partner opens 1NT, and the opponent overcalls 2♦, 2♥, or 2♠, your 2NT bid asks partner to

bid 3♣, a relay. (The 2NT bid and the 3♣ relay must be alerted.)

Suppose the auction goes 1NT by partner, 2♥ by opponent, to you. You could have

HAND A:

♠ 6 5
♥ 8 4 3
♦ Q J 10 8 6 5 4
♣ 7

and want to bid and sign off in 3♦. Or you could have

HAND B:

♠ A Q
♥ 9 7
♦ A Q J 10 9 6
♣ Q 9 8

With this hand, you want to show your diamonds, be in game, and be able to explore for a possible slam.

Playing Lebensohl, you can have it both ways. To introduce a new suit with 0-7 HCP, first bid 2NT. After partner dutifully relays to 3♣, pass if your suit is clubs, or bid your suit. With a stronger 8+ HCP hand, bid your suit directly.

Looking at the two hands above, here are different auctions:

HAND A:

Partner	Opponent	You	Opponent
1NT	2♥	2NT	Pass
3C	Pass	3♦	

Partner will know to pass.

HAND B:

Partner	Opponent	You
1NT	2♥	3♦

This is game forcing so partner will know to bid on.

Lebensohl is a very powerful tool. In future articles, we'll look how we can find 4-4 fits, show or deny a stopper in the opponents suit, and other uses for this powerful tool.

Help Wanted!

Would anyone be interested in helping me out with my gardening? I primarily need someone with strong fingers who can help me connect sprinkler heads when they wear out. Occasionally I would appreciate help with removing debris from the gardens. Not a lot of time required, just an intermittent few minutes.

Susy Law

Lebensohl Class at DCBC

Twenty Duke City Bridge Club members showed up on two successive Saturdays in February to let Franklin Fine help them master the convention. Fine, a Gold Life Master with more than 4,000 masterpoints, was a patient instructor, patiently clarifying the basic ideas and handling questions on the more arcane points that come up at the table.



Thank you Frank!

Moving UP

New Junior Master

Rodney Wilson

New Club Master

Nancy Laird



New Sectional Masters

Carolyn Kalgren
John Kalgren
Jesse Martin
Joel Matek
Michael Messheimer
Helen Korschgen

New Regional Masters

Linda Lambert
Barbara McCrady
Maureen Milich

New NABC Masters

Tina Yesson

New Life Masters

Sally Storrs

New Bronze Life Masters

Sally Storrs
Sandy Thompson

New Silver Life Master

Joshua Mullins

New Gold Life Master

Jan Evans

Unit 374 Board of Directors

Scott Baker	291-9659	nusbaum10709@comcast.net
Jane Elson	822-0891	mjelson@comcast.net
Ben Franz	286-8572	benfranz99@gmail.com
Virginia Kilkuski	265-0999	vkilkuskie@comcast.net
Ellen Lyons	301-1669	jblejl@gmail.com
Judith Reed	321-6866	judithreednm@gmail.com
Marc Stone	832-4681	marcstone@prodigy.net
Diana Zavitz	604-0618	dizavitz1024@gmail.com
Robert Zipp	506-2671	zipp_bridge@yahoo.co

