



The Santa Fe Bridge Newsletter



Volume 5: Number 2

November 2020

NEW Friday GAME: 9:30 am; Open Pairs

See Special Article: Ethical Issues in Partnership Communication (Page 8)

Online Schedule

Monday

9:00 a.m. "Santa Fe Carolyn's 0-20 Game"
12:15 p.m. "Santa Fe Aces 499er Pairs"
12:30 p.m. "Santa Fe Aces Open Pairs"

Tuesday

12:30 p.m. "James' Santa Fe 299er Pairs"

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. "Santa Fe Aces Open Pairs"

Thursday

12:30 p.m. "Santa Fe Thursday Open Pairs"

Friday

9:00 a.m. "Santa Fe Aces 199er Pairs"
9:30 a.m. "Santa Fe Aces Open Pairs"
12:30 p.m. "James' Santa Fe 299er Pairs"

Saturday

12:30 p.m. "Santa Fe Carolyn's 499 Game"

Sunday

10:00 a.m. "499er Champagne Brunch"
2:00 p.m. "James' 99er Game"

Big Games in October

2 Oct; Pat DeBoom/ Gigi Spurgeon – 71.18%
14 Oct; Bob Hilgendorf/ Rick Rosenthal – 72.50%
16 Oct; Wolfgang Schmidt-Nowara/ Greg Flanagan
- 73.00%
17 Oct; Matilda Rubin/ Don Locrasto – 72.22%
22 Oct; Matilda Rubin/ Don Locrasto - 71.43%



WELCOME

New members to Unit 383 in October:

- Samara Vertel

Masterpoint Achievements

New Club Masters

Barbara Strange
Kay Ofman

New NABC Masters

Bob Hilgendorf
Sanya Schick
James Werbel

New Bronze Life Masters

Helen Newton

New Silver Life Masters

Jurgen (Opi) Stielow

Contributors: Carolyn Anderson, Kathy Adelsheim, Charlie Wilkins, Su Gibbs, Dennis Dawson, Cheryl Fossum Graham, Art McAffie, Don Hinsman



Santa Fe Bridge Center News (Leonard Helman Bridge Center)

From the Board of Directors of the Santa Fe Bridge Center:

Ken Hirshon has advised the Board that Jerry Ruther and he have been suspended for six months by the ACBL for the unauthorized sharing of information during online play. Upon hearing of the suspensions, members have expressed sadness, outrage, and anger to the Board. We do not condone such behavior under any circumstances, and we fully support the ACBL sanction.

Many players have asked if the Board intends further action.

The Bridge Center has no control over online games, nor does the Unit. Each game is controlled solely by its owner/director. The Board may only make recommendations to those owners/directors.

Accordingly, the Board recommends to the owners/directors that:

- they do not permit Mr. Ruther and Mr. Hirshon to play in their games before January 1, 2022
- if they do allow them to play in their games after December 31, 2021, they never let them play as partners

We encourage members to share their opinions with the games' owners/directors because they are the ones who will decide what happens after six months. Here are their emails:

Carolyn Anderson	jackcarolyn@earthlink.net
James Ewert	ewert.james@gmail.com
Jim Joy	dr.jjoy@yahoo.com
Art McHaffie	ermchaffie@msn.com

If you see something suspicious, report it. We will be posting a document on the Bridge Center's website explaining how to make such a report.

Thanks to everyone for playing in the Santa Fe online games. We look forward to playing safely and ethically face-to-face again.



Unit 383 News

From ACBL Unit 383 Board of Directors

The Board would like to thank the Board of the Santa Fe Bridge Center for addressing the recent ACBL suspensions (see the article elsewhere in this newsletter) and would like to express the Unit Board's full support of the Bridge Center's actions.

The Board of Directors of Unit 383 is seeking to fill vacant positions on the Board. Currently there are two vacant positions, to replace Charlie Wilkins (who has moved from Santa Fe) and Ken Hirshon (who has resigned for personal reasons). Two additional positions are occupied by members whose terms expire December 31, 2020, so it is possible that one or two additional positions may be available for nomination. The Unit is a division of the ACBL, and the Unit's members are all ACBL members who have provided a Santa Fe area home address to the ACBL. The Unit's primary responsibilities are to support bridge education and -- when we return to face to face bridge -- Santa Fe Sectional tournaments, the annual Awards Game, the annual Open House, and the annual Holiday Party. Anyone who is interested in serving on the Unit Board, or who would like to suggest that the Unit's Nominating Committee consider a particular candidate, should contact any member of the Unit Board: Maggie Auld, Pat Brantley, Tom Carr, Sandy Lemon and Sanya Schick.

Best wishes for a safe and healthy November.

Unit 383 is the American Contract Bridge League's organization for all ACBL members in the Santa Fe area. Our normal face to face Board meetings have been suspended during the COVID pandemic. If you have input for the Unit, please let any of the Board members know. The Board members are Maggie Auld, Pat Brantley, Tom Carr, Sandy Lemon and Sanya Schick. Unit 383 is part of ACBL's District 17, which covers Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and parts of four other states. District 17 publishes two email newsletters: the Scorecard is published in even-numbered months, and the Bridge Buzz is published in odd-numbered months. These newsletters provide information on upcoming tournaments. In order to receive these, make sure you have given the ACBL your correct email address, and make sure that you have added emailservices@acbl.org to your list of permitted email contacts

I/N* Tip of the Month from Kathy Adelsheim

November 2020

This month I'm taking a break from actual playing tips to further explain what is happening at our club regarding cheating.

How does our love of this game of bridge fit into our lives? Is it just a game? I think for most of us it's more. It's the people. It's the fact that it's a partnership game and we have to have good relationships with our partners and our opponents who tomorrow may be our partners. It's trusting that we all value and respect the game and each other.

The latest letter from our President asks each of us to write emails to the 4 club directors stating our position on whether Ken Hirshon and Jerry Ruther should be welcomed back into the club games after their ACBL suspensions for cheating end in six months. And if so when that should be— at some future date or not at all. This means that each director should receive many emails in the next week.

So why isn't the Board making the decision? The answer is that our club has a unique set up where the Board leases the game slots to the Directors making them Independent Contractors each running their own bridge club which is why we have all the names you see Carolyn's Games, Santa Fe Aces, James' Games, and Jim Joy's Games.

The Board has made a recommendation, but each director will decide for his or her games. This from the Board:

Accordingly, the Board recommends to the owners/directors that: they do not permit Mr. Ruther and Mr. Hirshon to play in their games before January 1, 2022; if they do allow them to play in their games after December 31, 2021, they never let them play as partners.

So, it should not be up to the members -you and me- but it is. If you think the game owners'/directors should extend the suspension locally after six months, you might say (pick one):

"I favor suspending Ken Hirshon and Jerry Ruther for a longer time."

"I favor barring Ken Hirshon and Jerry Ruther for life."

"I will never play in a game that allows cheaters to play. I will vote with my feet and find another game to play in that does not allow cheaters."

Even if you have never played in a Thursday open game, you should send Jim Joy an email just as you are sending one to Carolyn and James. Even if you don't know these two players, you need to share your opinion with all four directors. This is the only way we will be able to put our club back together and be comfortable playing together after this incident.

Carolyn Anderson
James Ewert
Jim Joy
Art McHaffie

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*Intermediate/Newcomers (I/N) players is generally defined by ACBL as players with less than 500 masterpoints and includes a spectrum of playing skills from novice to intermediate/advanced.

NEWS from ART McHaffie

I launched a new limited-point 499er game on Monday afternoons starting at 12:15 pm. We started with three tables. I expect the size of the game to grow over time. Look for Santa Fe Aces 499er Game when you log in to BridgeBase.com on Monday afternoon.

I will launch a Friday morning open game on **November 6**. The start time at **9:30 am** will be a little later than my last attempt. Look for Santa Fe Aces Open Game when you log in to BridgeBase.com on Friday morning.

If an open game starts within 30 minutes of the start of a limited point game, ACBL will count the sum of the tables in the two games in determining the masterpoint awards for the open game. The Friday morning 199er game starts at 9:00 am so that means we cannot start any later to get the higher MP awards.

When we tried this back in September, we did not get enough tables for BBO to start the game. I am hoping that we can get at least three tables required by BBO and that interest in the game will grow in the following weeks.

If Friday suits your schedule and you want to play a Santa Fe open game, this game is for you. Please contact your partner and join us next Friday morning.

NOTE From Su Gibbs:

Supervised Play continues in cyberspace! If you would like to join us for the Thursday, 9:30 mini-lesson and virtual get-together (and are not already on the SP email list), please email su.susangibbs@gmail.com for the Zoom link. We hope to see you online.

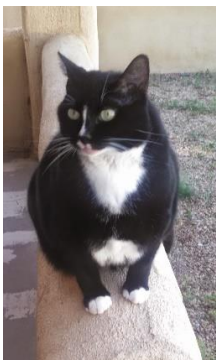
PET Partners

“Oops! The cat just ran across my keyboard.”

“BRB – got to let the dog out.”

How many of you have a companion pet that helps keep you safe and sane during these unusual times? Send us a photo and a short paragraph about your pet partner to share in our monthly Bridge Newsletter. Send to either

cfoosumgraham@gmail.com or jackcarolyn@earthlink.net





HELP WANTED

Looking for someone with marketing know-how to advise the Education Committee. We advertise for new students several times a year. Past advertising has been primarily print media. We know we need to utilize Social Media, radio, and electronic media. Yes, it's volunteer but we envision you providing advice and we will do the work. Please consider helping the club out in this important way. Just a few hours of your time.

Contact: Kathy Adelsheim kadelsheim@gmail.com/ 505-474-6921 text



PRACTICE HANDS FOR MODERN BRIDGE II

This class is for those who have completed Modern Bridge II or have basic knowledge of bridge and want to reinforce their knowledge and practice their skills by playing bridge hands. During each session, prepared hands will be bid with supervisory evaluation, opening leads made, a review of Declarer's plan, followed by play with after-play evaluation. Hand description with notes will be distributed after each session. Practice Hands for Modern Bridge II will take place Online using Zoom and Bridge Base Online. Participants will be invited to the Zoom Meeting.

Topics include:

- Opening, responses, and rebids for No Trump (including Stayman and Jacoby Transfers)
- Pre-emptive bidding (weak 2- and 3- opening bids) and responses
- Strong opening bids and responses
- Play of the hand as Declarer
- Defensive play (leads and signals)
- Each session will include directed play for 6 practice hands

Weekly – Mondays: 6 sessions starting Nov 9, 2020 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

The recommended textbooks are: Audrey Grant's: Bridge Basic 1: An Introduction; Bridge Basic 2: Competitive Bidding; and Bridge Basic 3: Popular Conventions (usually available through Amazon.com or BaronBarclay.com).

Fee: \$129

For more information contact: Don Hinsman (dhinsman@comcast.net)

Bridge 1 **Virtual Practice & Play** class starting soon!

Modern Bridge 1: Practice Hands

Tuesday Evenings, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Six weeks (12/8/20-1/12/21)

This class is for anyone who has completed *Modern Bridge 1: Introduction to Bridge* or has basic knowledge of bridge and wants to reinforce their knowledge and practice their skills by playing bridge hands.

Each session will include a short review on Zoom of a topic covered in Modern Bridge 1 (opening & responsive bids of 1 No Trump, 1 of a major suit, and 1 of a minor suit). We will also focus on basic concepts of declarer and defensive play.

In each class, we will play at least 6 practice hands on BBO, discussing and evaluating bidding, opening leads, declarer's plan, and defensive play. The recommended textbook is *Bridge Basics 1: An Introduction* by Audrey Grant (available at www.baronbarclay.com or on Amazon). After completing this class, students should feel confident playing basic bridge and be prepared for Modern Bridge 2 (starting January 19, 2021).

To Register:

- Email su.susangibbs@gmail.com
- Send check to P.O. Box 5122, Santa Fe, NM 87502 or Venmo @Susan-Gibbs-22.
 - \$129 per person for all six classes if paid by December 1, 2020
 - \$149 per person if paid after December 1, 2020
 - or \$25 per class

Minimum # of students: 4

Ethical Issues in Partnership Communication

Overview

Recently two experienced Santa Fe players accepted suspensions from the ACBL and BBO for illegally exchanging information. What they did – discussing hands on the phone while the hands were still in play – was 100% wrong. This article will discuss related issues and questions, especially for online bridge on BBO.

In General

During the auction, the only information your partner is entitled to – from you – is the calls that you select from your bidding box. Partner can ask questions to one or both opponents, but you and partner must not say anything to each other during the auction. Notice that, in BBO, when you describe your own bids (for example “15 to 17” or “four-plus hearts”), the opponents see that information, but your partner does not see it.

During the play, the only information your partner is entitled to – from you – is the card you play to each trick. Partner can ask questions to one or both opponents, but you and partner must not say anything to each other during the play.

There are limited situations in which it's OK to use the BBO Chat function to converse with one or both opponents during the auction and during the play; those situations will be discussed in this article.

BBO also allows you to send Chat messages to the Table (that is, to all of the other three players) but that feature is designed for personal issues such as “I have to answer the door” or “sorry, the cat jumped on my keyboard” or “be right back” (‘brb’). The other time that Chat to the Table is commonly used is after all boards have been played, for “well played partner” (‘wpp’) or “well done opponents” (‘wdo’) or “good luck on the remaining boards” or “how are you doing” or “is it still snowing where you are”.

As a general rule, don't Chat to the table about the hand that's being played.

It is not OK to have any other form of communication (other than BBO Chat) with partner – not phone, not email, not text. If you and your partner are in the same location, you need to be in separate rooms, and there should be at least one closed door separating your room from partner's room.

Similarly, during a game, do not have any form of communication with any other bridge player, other than BBO Chat. No ‘lifeline’ calls to your favorite expert.

If another player sends a BBO Chat to you, and you think the Chat was inappropriate, you should call the director, explain your concern to the director, and let the director make a ruling. Don't say anything to the other player; let the director sort it out.

Santa Fe Bridge Club Conduct Rules

The Santa Fe Bridge Club has adopted conduct rules based on what the ACBL calls its 'Zero Tolerance' guidelines. See the Ethics and Conduct document on the bridge club's website, and the Zero Tolerance poster on the ACBL website. The following rules are particularly relevant to this discussion.

1. Let the cards from your bidding box do most of the talking.
2. Play all the boards in a round before discussing any hand.
3. Praise your partner and compliment the opponents on good play.
4. A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.
5. A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.
6. Examples of behavior that will not be tolerated:
 - a. Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, intimidation, profanity, threats or violence.
 - b. Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
 - c. Constant and gratuitous lessons and analyses at the table.
 - d. Loud and disruptive arguing with a director's ruling.

When the Dummy Goes Down

Just as in face to face bridge, it's permissible for declarer to say 'thank you partner' ('typ' for online bridge slang) when the dummy appears. Similarly, it's OK for dummy to say 'good luck partner' ('glp') after the dummy appears.

What about other comments, when dummy appears? It's good advice not to say anything else, when dummy appears, such as "I wasn't sure whether to bid game" or "Maybe I should have doubled" or "I wasn't sure what your two diamond bid meant"; if you do make such a comment and an opponent objects, they are entitled to call the director, and the director is authorized to impose a penalty if the director decides your comment violated a law or violated a conduct rule.

What Are Examples of Acceptable Chats to Opponents, During the Auction and Play?

The general principle is that you are entitled to know everything that the opponents know, about their bidding and carding agreements. These sorts of questions should either be asked to (1) one opponent or (2) both opponents; never include your partner in these Chats:

"In your partnership, do you open balanced 11-point hands?"

"You played the three of clubs; what was the meaning of that signal?"

"You said East's bid was the majors; does that promise 5-5 or better?"

"In your partnership, if you have four diamonds and four clubs, do you open one club or one diamond?"

"If South had rebid two spades instead of two notrump, what would that have meant?"

"Could North's three heart rebid be either four or five cards?"

"How good a suit does East's three club opening bid promise?"

What About Humor?

In face to face bridge, when the atmosphere is casual and/or all the players are good friends, often humorous comments are made, and generally they are received as humorous and friendly, for example: (when dummy has no face cards) “Nice hand” (when dummy has unusually good trumps) “Only seven trumps, partner?” (when dummy has over-bid) “Where were the cards you held during the auction?” In online games, we would expect the director to allow similar sorts of comments, but remember that online bridge is sort of like email: no one can see your eyes or your facial expression, and accordingly the risk that one of the other players will take offense is higher. *In online bridge, it’s a good idea not to make these sorts of comments, and if someone does take offense, it’s on you and not on them.*

What If I’m Acting as a Mentor?

Remember the ground rule about not criticizing any player; if your advice is really a criticism, you aren’t allowed to give that advice during the game, period.

In face to face bridge, if there is time in the round after all boards have been played, and if partner and both opponents agree, it is acceptable to discuss interesting aspects of the hands, so long as you do it quietly so other tables can’t hear. In online bridge, however, it’s a better idea to wait until after the game is over to have those discussions, in part because usually you won’t know whether the opponents will be OK with that sort of discussion.

If there’s something you feel you absolutely have to get off your chest right now, one useful approach is to use the BBO Chat feature and to send a Chat to your partner (using the ‘Private’ feature) such as “On the second hand, there is an important bidding point that I’d like to discuss after the game” or “On the first hand, when dummy played the King of hearts, I’d like to discuss how you can decide which card to play; we can do that after the game.”

Similarly, if you and your partner like to discuss interesting aspects of the hands after the round is over and before the next round starts, by all means use the BBO Chat feature and Chat only to each other, because in all likelihood the opponents don’t want to be distracted. Even then, it’s a good idea to limit your Chat to praise for something good that partner did or to point out a mistake that you think you made.

Is it OK to Have a Phone or Email or Text discussion With Partner, After the Round is Over and Before the Next Round Starts?

In face to face bridge, you and your partner could go away from the table and have a brief discussion. In online bridge, however, having this sort of discussion is simply a bad idea. In particular, the new round might start while you’re still discussing, and unless you and your partner immediately stopped the conversation, there would be a potential for actual cheating. The best advice is not to expose your partner or yourself to that sort of risk.

Can I Look at My Own Convention Card?

No. Just as in face to face bridge, you are not allowed to look at your own convention card, and you’re not allowed to consult your system notes.

What About Tempo and Hesitations?

There are a few key principles:

1. You are *required* by the laws to completely ignore the tempo of your partner's bids and plays. For example, LHO opens three clubs, fifteen seconds pass, and then partner passes. The laws require you to bid as if partner passed after a normal and short time such as five to ten seconds. Another example: LHO opens three clubs, and partner's pass follows almost immediately; the laws require you to bid as if partner passed after a normal and short time such as five to ten seconds.
2. If your partner bids or plays out of tempo, that creates 'unauthorized information', and the laws prohibit you from taking any doubtful action that could have been suggested by the unauthorized information. Continuing the previous example, partner's slow pass over three clubs transmits the unauthorized information that partner had a problem and suggests that partner's cards were close to being strong enough to double or overcall. This unauthorized information tends to suggest that this might be a good time for you to stretch to take some action other than pass, but the laws prohibit you from stretching in this way. On the other hand, if you have an obvious double or overcall (that is, most players holding your cards would bid or double after partner passed in tempo), you are allowed to make that double or overcall, but the opponents are entitled to call the director, and the director is allowed to award an adjusted score if the director decides that your call was not obvious.
3. You are *allowed* by the laws to pay attention to the tempo of your opponents' bids and plays, but this is *at your own risk*. For example, your partner opens three clubs, and fifteen seconds later RHO passes. You are *allowed* to conclude that RHO has nearly enough to bid or double, and you are *allowed* to take action based on that conclusion, but if that action doesn't work out for you, it's your problem and not anyone else's.
4. The laws prohibit any player from bidding or playing out of tempo so as to deceive the opponents. For example, dummy leads the queen of trumps from QJ43 and you do not have the King or Ace; in this situation, the laws require you to play the appropriate card in tempo. If you hesitate and play a card (in the hope that declarer will think you have the King or Ace) the opponents have a right to call the director, and the director will almost certainly penalize you.

How Do I Call the Director, on BBO?

Use the 'menu' button (outlined in red below); if you click on this, one of the selections is 'Call Director'.



If I Think the Opponents May Be Illegally Sharing Information, What Should I Do?

For example, an opponent might make a really unusual opening lead (for example, not making a normal lead such as Ace from Ace-King and instead leading from a broken suit) that works spectacularly well; in that situation, you might suspect that the opponent had possession of prohibited information about this deal.

You should immediately jot down the board number, what happened, and what your concern is. However, generally, the best time to make a formal report is after the game is over (these things take time, you want to make a careful report, and you don't want to be distracted). In your formal report, be sure to include the BBO title of the game (“#99999 Santa Fe Open Pairs”), the date, and the time the game started. Here are different ways you can make a report:

- You can use the Player Memo feature in BBO (a screen shot appears below, showing where this feature is located) to make a report from your computer.
- You can make this report directly to the ACBL. Use this link: <https://www.acbl.org/conduct-and-ethics/player-memo/>
- You can use BBO Chat to the director of the game.
- You can telephone the director, after the game is over.
- You can contact any member of the Santa Fe Bridge Club Board or any member of the Unit Board.

The BBO Player Memo button (red outline below) appears on the ACBL Virtual Clubs page (on BBO Home, click Competitive, then click ACBL Virtual Clubs).

Pending Running Complete

No tourneys found

Substitutes **Player Memo**

How Do the ACBL and BBO Decide That There is a Problem with a Player?

Mostly, from Player Memos. Additionally, BBO uses software to identify patterns of unusual favorable results.

If You Have Additional Questions

Carolyn Anderson, Dennis Dawson and Charlie Wilkins collaborated on this article. Please reach out to any of us with additional questions.