



## Zero Tolerance – A Practical Solution

Following is a description of the use of the STOP card in promoting zero-tolerance behavior at our club, The North Okanagan Duplicate Bridge Club. I feel very strongly about this procedure because I believe it responds to the needs of simplicity, practicality and potential membership enhancement. I believe that the procedure, if endorsed and adopted by the ACBL, could have a profound effect on table behavior throughout the bridge-playing community.

J. M. (Jim) Brown, Manager, Club #168898

I owe many thanks to a writer (whom I couldn't identify, although I looked through ten years of back-issue *Bulletins*), who wrote a letter to the editor outlining how the STOP card was used to draw attention to discomfort-causing behavior at the table. The following expansion of the idea has worked very well at our bridge club and I submit it for your consideration.

The only criterion: Are you being made to feel uncomfortable by the comments or behavior of someone at the bridge table, whether it is an opponent or even your own partner? If the answer is yes, say *nothing* ... merely pick up the STOP card and place it in the center of the table. The person who is causing the discomfort (the offender) will immediately stop the behavior and apologize. Play will then continue normally. If the offender does not do this, call the director.

The above procedure is based on the entirely logical presumption that the offensive behavior is accidental and unintentional. Indeed, to believe otherwise leads to the inescapable conclusion that the behavior is in some way deliberate and/or intentional. Again, inescapably, anyone who would deliberately or intentionally cause discomfort to another player is *not welcome* at our bridge club. Presumably, he/she would not (or should not) be welcome at any bridge club.

Further procedures:

If the offender does not recognize or agree with the director that an apology is in order, the offender will, without further discussion or warning, immediately be asked

to leave the game for a predetermined suspension (suggestion - one week). Any offensive behavior towards the director, or any scene-causing disturbance, will simply increase the length of the suspension—for example, continue doubling the term as each offence occurs. This may sound harsh, but we are dealing with someone who has demonstrably caused discomfort to another person. The extended (conceivably permanent) absence of the offender will very likely result in an increase in the membership and "health" of the club. Certainly, an increase in the comfort level and enjoyment of the members will be effected.

Some difficulties that could arise:

--The offender may be a long-time member who is a friend of the director. (Many of us have heard or read of this situation, where favoritism has appeared to influence a director's decisions in dealing with unacceptable behavior). The solution is to use a higher authority, such as the club manager, to mete out the penalty. The manager is in a unique position to increase the club's comfort level as well as its membership level. The 2009 *ACBL Club Manager's Handbook*, page six, states, "The club manager is free to operate the club as he or she sees fit ..." No one, regardless of his years of experience or expertise, has the right to cause discomfort to another player. How many letters to the editor of the *Bulletin* have we all read from people who have chosen not to return to a club because of such a negative experience? Clearly, the manager has a duty to perform here, and the club will benefit from it.

--A given player may not feel that his complaint is justified or may feel intimidated about "speaking up." The answer is that there is no requirement to say anything. If a player is uncomfortable, he/she needs merely to place the STOP card on the table. That's all. A given player's behavior may not make me uncomfortable but may make you uncomfortable. Only you can decide whether you are comfortable or not. The chances are very likely (probably in the order of 99.99%) that the

(See Tolerance on page 12)

## Northern Colorado Summer Sectional

September 11-13, 2009

NOTE: New Time Friday Afternoon!

Friday, September 11, 2009

9:00am Knock Out or Round Robin - 1st Round  
Stratified Pairs Championship Single Session  
Stratified Pairs 199er Single Session\*

1:30pm Knock Out or Round Robin - 2nd Round  
Stratified Pairs Championship Single Session  
Stratified Pairs 199er Single Session\*

7:00pm Knock Out or Round Robin - 3rd Round  
Strati-Flighted Pairs

Saturday, September 12, 2009

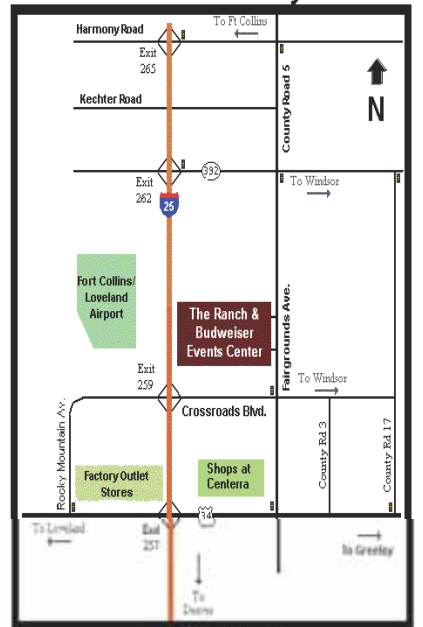
10:00am Championship Stratified Pairs (First of Two Sessions)  
Stratified Pairs Single Session  
Stratified Pairs 199er Single Session

3:00pm Championship Stratified Pairs (Second of Two Sessions)  
Stratified Pairs Single Session  
Stratified Pairs 199er Single Session

Sunday, September 13, 2009

10:00am Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams including 199er Flight  
(Hot Lunch Included)

Strati-Flighted Pairs		Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams	
A/X	3000+; 0-3000	A/X	3000+; 0-3000
B/C/D	750-1500; 200-750; 0-200	B/C	750-1500; 0-750
E/F/G	100-200; 50-100; 0-50	D/E/F	100-200; 50-100; 0-50
Championship Stratified Pairs		199er Stratified Pairs	
A/B/C	2000+; 750-2000; 0-750	D/E/F	100-200; 50-100; 0-50



Tournament Location  
Larimer County Fairgrounds and Events Complex  
5200 Arena Circle  
Loveland, CO 80538  
First National Bank Exhibition Building  
West Hall

Entry Fees Pairs: \$9.00 per person, Sunday Teams: \$100 per team (lunch included)  
\$1.00 additional per session for unpaid ACBL members and non-ACBL members  
\*ACBL members 0-5 masterpoints play free in single session 199er games on Friday only

Director In-Charge: Bill Michael  
Tournament Co-Chairs: Andrea French (970) 225-0243 [ALNFRENCH@aol.com](mailto:ALNFRENCH@aol.com)  
Bill Dorin (970) 282-1842 [bill@softwirell.com](mailto:bill@softwirell.com)  
Partnerships: Stella O'Neill 970(482-1253 or 222-4431) [OSMoneill@aol.com](mailto:OSMoneill@aol.com)  
Sue Simmons (970) 353-1035 [ringyding1@aol.com](mailto:ringyding1@aol.com)  
Miscellaneous: Homemade snacks, coffee, tea provided, no concession stand  
No cell phone usage allowed in the playing area  
RV hookups: Available at the site, electric service only, contact The Ranch (970) 619-4000



Unit 363

<http://www.NorthernColoradoBridge.com>

Sanction S0909105

## PRESCOTT Fall Sectional

September 11-13, 2009

Adult Center of Prescott

Rowle P. Simmons Community Center

1280 E. Rosser St., Prescott, AZ 86301 • 928 778-3000

Unit 355

### Friday, September 11

Stratified Open Pairs single session .....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified 199ers Pairs single session ..... 1:00 p.m.  
Bracketed Knockout Teams .....7:00 p.m.  
*Bracket 1 may be handicapped*

### Saturday, September 12

Stratified Open Pairs single session .... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Stratified 199ers Pairs single session ... 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Bracketed Knockout Teams .....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

### Sunday, September 13

Swiss Teams .....10:00 a.m. & TBA  
*Stratified by team average*

Stratified Events: A 1500+ B 500-1500 C 0-500  
Stratified 199er Pairs: 0-50/50-100/100/200 (Minimum of 3 tables)

Entry Fee:  
\$9.00  
for members  
per session

\$10.00  
non & unpaid  
members  
per session



- ♣ Complimentary coffee & refreshments
- ♥ Zero Tolerance observed! ♦ Smoking breaks
- ♠ Use of cell phones prohibited during sessions
- ♦ No host lunch counter available throughout

Tournament Chairperson: Don Dimmel 928 717-4976 [D\\_Dimmel@hotmail.com](mailto:D_Dimmel@hotmail.com)

Partnership Chairperson: Fran Edmond 928 445-7716 [franedmond@webtv.net](mailto:franedmond@webtv.net)

Director-in-Charge: Ken Horweled • Sanction # S0909103

Prescott Resort 1-800 967-4637, Rates: Guest Rooms - Deluxe: \$99.00 plus tax, Suites - Deluxe: \$119.00 plus tax. Rate change after August 11, 2009.

\*Additional persons (over two) add \$10.00 per person, per room, per night.

\*Must identify yourselves as Prescott Adult Center Bridge Tournament.



## 299'er Bridge Tournament

Grand Junction, CO

October 2-3-4, 2009

Sponsored by ACBL Unit 364

### Friday, Oct. 2

1:00 pm & 7:00 pm

\*Stratified pairs  
(0-50; 50-150; 150-300)

### Saturday, Oct. 3

10:00 am & 3:00 pm

\*Stratified pairs  
(0-50; 50-150; 150-300)

Single session pair games

### Sunday Oct. 4

9:30 am

\*Swiss Teams  
\*Lunch on your own during a 1 hour break at one of many close restaurants.

\*Approximate finish time :  
6:00 pm

Entry Fees – \$10.00 per player for all stratified sessions for ACBL members – \$1.00 additional per session (including swiss teams) for non & unpaid ACBL members  
\$80.00 Sunday Swiss Teams

Director in Charge – Rob Johnson

Tournament Chair Jean Paradis 970-260-5557  
Partnerships Vicki Lamb 970-241-7840

Ramada Inn of Grand Junction

752 Horizon Drive

(Just North of I-70 Exit)

970-243-5150

Rooms – \$89.00, Single or Double

Ask for Bridge Tournament rates

