OBOLOS

Designed by Rey Alicea

The dead it is said were buried with an obolos, placed in their mouths, so that once a dead person's shade reached the underworld of Hades, it would be able to pay Charon (the ferryman) for passage across the river Acheron. Legend has it that those without enough wealth, or whose friends refused to follow proper burial rites, were forced to wander the banks of the Acheron for all eternity...

- 2 player, blind bidding, trick taking card game.
- 13 cards numbered in point value from 2 to 14 known as the *Ferryman* cards.
- Gold and silver shaped coin tokens (called obolos) numbered on one side (2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,10,10,10,10)

Objective

Like golf, lowest score wins.

Play

Shuffle the 13 Ferryman cards then cut the deck, turn half of the deck 180 degrees then shuffle again.

Fan the 13 Ferryman cards out in a straight line between the players face up, making sure all the cards are visible.

One player plays the Gold coins the other the Silver coins.

Now players bid on each of the 13 cards one at a time, starting with the card on the dealers left.

Both players hold all their coins in one hand and then they select one of their coins that they are going to bid by hiding it in their other hand.

Next both players present their hand that has the bid, closed fist, thumb pointing downward. They then turn their hands over simultaneously opening their fist and revealing their bid. The player with the highest number on their coin wins the bid and the winning player takes the opponents coin and the Ferryman card (Also the winning player does not return his own coin to his hand, it is discarded).

In the event that players present the same bid, look to see if Charon faces towards you, if so you win the bid, if Charon faces towards your opponent she wins the bid.

Play continues like this until all the Ferryman cards have been taken, then the game is scored.

Scoring

Both players add all the points on their Ferryman cards and then subtract the total points of their captured opponent's coins.

Lowest score here wins the game!