

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Forum



ScoreCard

Volume 85 Issue 7—July 2010

Phoenix Desert Empire Regional



DoubleTree Resort at Scottsdale, Arizona

(Editor's Note: The dates for this year's tournament are August 9-15, not the August 9-14 as shown in the unit's article last issue.)

This year's Phoenix Regional will be held at a new location in beautiful Scottsdale. The four-diamond host

hotel, the DoubleTree Resort at 5401 North Scottsdale Road has fine playing areas, ample free parking, and an attractive room rate of \$90/night (reserve by July 12). There are many nearby restaurants of all kinds and the hotel is also close to great shopping and recreational activities.

The complete schedule appears elsewhere in this issue and includes Senior and 199er Pairs events at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., six Knockouts and daily Swiss Teams, in addition to all the other championships events.

See the full schedule of events in this issue. Please join us.

NAP 2010-2011 Update



By Dale Sweetwood
D17 NAP
Coordinator

Before I begin my update, I must correct an error in my last article. I erroneously reported the exploits of Bob Walsh and Nancy Ruiz. In fact, they finished 16th in Flight B instead of as I originally reported. Not only did I get it wrong, but I misspelled Nancy's last name.

How wrong can you be?

Now to bring you up to date on what is happening. The new NAP season started with a bang with several clubs having NAP games on day one of the qualification period. I am happy to report that my bride and I have both quali-

fied in our ongoing quest for that elusive national championship. This means that we are eligible to compete in the District 17 finals that will be held in Albuquerque on January 21-22, 2011.

Early qualification means that we can hone our skills in more qualification games throughout the summer while piling up the points.

Don't forget to check the clubs in your area so that you too can start your quest for a national championship. If none of your clubs are holding qualification games, ask them to do so. There is plenty of time and qualification games are easy to arrange.

If they need assistance in getting started ask them to contact me at d7hconsult@cox.net or call me at 480 326-7665.

I look forward to seeing you all in January.

Tucson Great Chiefs Regional October 4-10, 2010



Holiday Inn Palo Verde, Tucson



¿Qué Pasa?

By Jerry Fleming
National Board Representative

¿What's happening?

The 2010 Las Vegas regional will be history by the time you read this, and you should find the results elsewhere in this issue. District 17's Grand National Teams final was held in Las Vegas, so teams are now selected to participate in the national GNT finals in New Orleans. Next up on our regional schedule is Phoenix August 9-15. This tournament has moved to the DoubleTree Resort in Scottsdale, a four diamond hotel where bridge rates are \$90 if you reserve by July 12. Immediately following Phoenix is the Great Western Summer Fun STAC, August 16-22.

Despite the economy and uncertain times, District 17 regionals have done very well so far in 2010. Table counts were 1873 in Albuquerque, 2006 in Mesa and 2171 in Denver. In addition, attendance at the Great Western STAC held in May reached an astounding 8190 tables! Bridge is alive and well in this part of ACBLland!

ACBL President to Visit District 17

ACBL President Rich DeMartino is planning to visit District 17 at the Tucson Regional in October. He will be interested in meeting as many of you as possible, and in hearing your views on the status and direction of ACBL. If you're in Tucson, put meeting Rich on your "to do" list.

ACBL Board Meeting

The next ACBL Board meeting will be in New Orleans July 19-22. At my deadline for submitting this article, there were still a couple of weeks before the deadline for submitting motions. Here are a few items sure to be on the agenda: I have introduced a motion to require more information on the minutes of ACBL board meetings; specifically summaries of oral reports given by committee chairs, and a description of presentations given to the board. When I reviewed the Reno minutes, there were several instances where "an oral report was given" with no detail.

- The published minutes are an important part of the board's communications with the ACBL membership. For example, a Marketing committee oral report might include a list of marketing initiatives that are being pursued. You should have access to this information. You might even want to give us your suggestions and input if you really know what transpired at the meetings.
- Another motion would create a board NABC Advisory committee. In the time I've been on the board, we've pretty well just "rubber stamped" recommendations from ACBL meeting planners regarding sites and sometimes dates for NABCs. Then we complain loudly later when we find out what we've agreed to! This spring we held an emergency Executive Committee meeting to approve three NABCs. Believe it or not, the hotel terms and conditions for one of these was being negotiated *as we were in the process of making a decision!* We can do better. NABCs have a huge financial and social impact, both on the players and on the organization. We must have full information before making decisions. Winnipeg, Minneapolis in the fall, Miami In July and Birmingham would probably never have happened if the Board had access to full information and had been engaged in the final decision process. Rule changes being considered would eliminate pre-alerts for weak two and three bids that might have suits of shorter than expected length, and would require both sides be at the table before cards are removed from a board.
- I'd like to see inter-club championships award full club championship masterpoints at the local level, with the possibility of a greater award if the pair finishes in the overall of the event - like happens in a STAC. Presently all you play for are club masterpoints unless you make the overall. I believe this restriction has discouraged club managers from signing up for these events, particularly because they have to pay an extra \$4/table to participate. I introduced such a motion once before and failed, but perhaps now that the board has cut way back on club special events it's worth another try. There will be much more, and I'll report on all of it in my next *ScoreCard* column.

Technology

We are starting to make some real progress in using available technology improvements. Just the other day ACBL announced a significant improvement to their new program that allows clubs to post game results online. To quote, "This new feature allows those clubs who have duplicating machines and/or electronic scoring devices the ability to post hand records and/or contract information along with their ACBL sanctioned club game results."

Expect more technological improvements on a regular basis in the future! We'll see improvements to ACBLscore. We'll see an ACBLscore rewrite that is fast, efficient, and that incorporates the many changes that come to our game on a regular basis. Expect solutions to the problem of having to wait in line to buy entries. Look for signifi-

(See ¿Qué Pasa? on page 16)

Deadlines

ScoreCard no longer accepts hard copy ads. All ads must be e-mailed directly to the publisher Ken Monzingo:

kenn@contractbridgeforum.com, with a copy to Jared Johnson, the *ScoreCard* editor.

Stories and all other articles of any sort still get e-mailed directly to the *ScoreCard* editor at: jaredjohnsonco@aol.com

Just regular e-mail, no attachments please.

Deadlines are the fifth of each month for the following month's issue. Deadlines are firm, exceptions for only the most pressing and unusual of circumstances.

Stories past deadline still go to the editor, not the publisher, for inclusion in the following issue.

So now it's all e-mail. Ads to the publisher (with a copy to the editor, okay for attachment on ad copy), stories and all else to the editor. Thanks for your help.