

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Forum

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I/N Events at Orange County Regional



By Jody Pedri
Tournament
Chairman

Well, it's the middle of summer, and that's definitely time to start thinking about the great regional tournament at the Hyatt Hotel in Irvine, starting Labor Day. As in years gone by, we will bend over backwards to make this tournament enjoyable and successful for our newer players. On opening day, Sept. 6, starting at 4:00 p.m., there will be a 299er Trifecta Party. You get a two hour lesson, followed by a pizza dinner with salads and dessert, followed by a 299er game beginning at 7:30 p.m. ... all this for the paltry sum of \$12.00 per person. You will definitely need a reservation as space is limited, so please call Jody Pedri at 714 546-4685, or e-mail her at:

jodypedri@yahoo.com

Leave Jody a message and she will get back to you to confirm. Last year the Monday night 299er game had 30 tables, a fantastic turnout. You are not re-



Irvine Hyatt Hotel

quired to have a partner, as we will match you up. For our open players, we will have the usual Monday night Charity Pairs and the kickoff Knockout event.

Starting Tuesday, we will have a Compact Knockout Teams game, which is very popular with our commuters and our 299ers vying for gold in the intermediate brackets. Games are at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., with plenty of time for a leisurely lunch (pick up a local restaurant guide at the Hospitality Desk). We will have our usual pairs events for newcomers and experienced players.

If you have fewer than five masterpoints, and are an ACBL member, you can play for free Tuesday and Thursday.

On Wednesday, we will have a very special event for all C and D players called the Primrose Pairs, a stratified game limited to players with fewer than 750 masterpoints. If you score among the overall event leaders, you get gold. This is a great chance for all 299ers to earn gold in a pairs game (usually very tough to do) without having to play anybody

over 750 masterpoints.

Thursday is another special 299er event, a 299er Swiss game. By Thursday, you should have met enough friends to form a team. It's a chance to have a good time and learn about scoring and strategy of team play in a relaxing and congenial setting.

We expect to have Scott Campbell, the "Fred Friendly" winner at the San Diego Nationals, as the director of many of the 299er games.

Sunday is again our usual Swiss Teams game (and Fast Pairs for the speed demons). Our 299ers will compete in the D bracket with a chance for gold if they finish well in B or C. The Sunday game is strati-flighted, which means your bracket is determined by the player with the highest point count on your team (the rest of the team games all week are based on the average of the entire team). Both Swiss and Fast Pairs will include lunch, with a brief stop in the action to select your food. Sunday games will conclude in time to get you home in a timely manner.

NAP Update

By John Kissinger
D22 NAP Coordinator

Club owners! You can take advantage of a great opportunity during June, July and August by making *any or all* pair events North American Pairs qualifying events. This will enable you to increase masterpoint awards to 100% of sectional rating ... which is particularly attractive at this time, since the number of charity games allowed is being reduced (by over 75%), and the point awards for charity games will also be reduced (to 70% of sectional rating) beginning at the end of June.

Units! Your opportunity comes this fall, when you can hold one NAP "non-qualifying" game (which simply means that players will enjoy bonus point awards but do not receive qualification for

the final, which comes only from the clubs). Select any unit game September through November that does not conflict with a local sectional or regional.

Players! Ask your club owners to make pairs games NAP qualifying events throughout the summer. Qualifying at these club games makes you eligible to play in the two-day District Final at the Palm Springs Regional December 18 and 19. (Note: *this is a change from the one-day event promoted in our earlier flyer*).

District final flight winners and second place finishers receive a subsidy from the ACBL to go to Louisville, Kentucky 2011 Spring Nationals, and third place finishers also qualify to play in the nationals (sans subsidy).

This is our district's premiere pairs event of 2010, so mark your calendars and ... *go for the gold* in all flights!

Lena Jelusich - New Platinum LM!

By Bob Rosenblum

Lena Jelusich of San Diego reached rarified heights in bridge sometime this spring when she won her 10,000th masterpoint, moving her into the ranks of Platinum



Lena Jelusich

Life Master. In an interview outlining her bridge experiences, she told of how she came to the San Diego area from Washington state, and ... looking around for a hobby while raising a family ... she

(See Lena on page 16)



District Direction

By Ken Monzingo
National Board Representative

Seasonal STACs sprinkled with Silver

GW STAC Success Story

Great Western and Western Conference. Similar sounds, but not the same. *The Western Conference* is the combination of three ACBL Districts - D17, D21, D22 (us) - with purposes of aiding, abetting and promoting tournament bridge out here in the wild, wild west. *Great Western* is a lead-in name given to the Western Conference-sponsored Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STACs), instead of calling them Western Conference, because the tournaments include invited associate districts as well as ours - Districts 14, D15, D18, D19, D20 & D23 - all western districts of the *league*, but not conference members. Total ACBL membership in these eight participating districts is about 50,000; needless to say, this generates very large turnouts for the thrice annual silver shower bonanzas.

The annual Spring Fling Great Western STAC is held in April. The Summer Fun STAC is played in August. And the Holiday STAC is always enjoyed in mid December.

Three seasonal weeks of fun bridge in your local clubs.

Success

The past two years of the Spring Fling GW STAC have been huge in participation throughout the west ... 7971 bridge tables in play in 2009 and a Spring STAC record 8140 tables just reported last month. There have been national tournaments in the ACBL that did not draw that kind of attendance.

Following the low mark of the 2003 Summer Swiss Teams STAC, which had only 1204 tables of Swiss Teams, the Summer Fun *open* STACs (mainly pairs games) have built up to a huge 7175 tables, just last year. Much more popular since we made the change.

The late-year Great Western Holiday STACs - easily the largest sectionals ever recorded in bridge history - have *averaged* more than 8000 each tables annually for the past seven years with December, 2008, hitting a monstrous 8774 tables.

All together the three STACs total about 24,000 tables a year! Almost the size of the largest national NABC in history.

Survival

It's no mystery why this *Contract Bridge Forum* is the only remaining monthly bridge newspaper in the country. Without income from the GW STACs we also would be toast, even though we enjoy the cooperative publishing efforts of the three Western Conference districts. I know this to be true because that tragedy nearly happened two decades ago. We simply could not make the overhead and postage expenses to continue, and were on the sad verge of disbanding. We were at ground zero and no place to go.

Mike Jones (deceased now, but the D21 District Director and WC board member at the time) listened to logic to try our own tournament, and he petitioned the league to let us attempt the first December STAC. Mike was persuasive; our first offering was a success, and the rest is welcomed history for our survival. The STACs now support at least 25% of the costs of *Forum* publishing and mailing. Our regional sanctions, *Forum* ads, and editorial charges cover the balance.

One Woman

All three Great Western STACs are directed by Betty Bratcher from her home in Vista, California. What a monstrous chore! The financial accounting is handled by Western Conference board member Teri Atkinson and Western Conference treasurer, Tom Shulman of Las Vegas. Our STACs are promoted to clubs and special games through our ads in this newspaper and colorful flyers we place at regional tournaments. Participation by clubs and units is by registration on either the ACBL or Western Conference web sites.

But our greatest advertisement is very, very happy club owners and players. Each GW STAC serves a critical dual purpose of raising finances to maintain our newspaper, and in promoting western bridge - a great twosome.

Itabashi Feeding Grounds

It is common to see players win 15-20 silver points in one club game, if they top the charts across all participants on any given GW STAC game. But Mark Itabashi, one of the premier players in our district, takes it to another level - he *thrives* on the offerings available. Mark is consistently in the top five finishers in points won during each of these week-long tournaments, and has been for some time. Witness his 45 silver points won last month in the Spring STAC to take top honors again. (He played twelve STAC sessions!)

Two things are very clear. This newspaper would not have survived without the Great Western STACs, and Mark Itabashi would not have nearly as many silver points. As if he needed them.

"Once the game is over, the king and the pawn go back in the same box." - Italian Proverb

D22 Forum Deadlines

The D22 Forum deadline for articles and ads is the 5th of the preceding month.

All ads must be prepaid, payable to D22 ACBL

c/o Fran Foresta
38385 Rock Creek Circle
Temecula CA 92592

Please e-mail all ads (after prepayment) & all copy to:

Joel Hoersch
joel@contractbridgeforum.com
858 277-5490

Change of Address

Send change of address to:
addresschange@acbl.org
or mail to:
ACBL/Address Change
P.O. Box 289
Horn Lake MS 38637