



Upcoming Sectionals

Christmas in July Sectional Ruidoso, New Mexico July 8-10, 2011

Three sessions a day on both Friday and Saturday with two Knockouts, all in a beautiful setting in the mountains with pine trees all around, walking trails, and many restaurants. See the ad in the June issue of *ScoreCard* for details.

Prescott Summer Sectional Prescott, Arizona July 8-10, 2011

Prescott in the summer features two sessions a day at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. with one Knockout starting Friday afternoon. Visit this historic town with pines in a red rock setting. See the ad in the June issue of *ScoreCard* for details.

Denver Summer Sectional Golden, Colorado July 7-10, 2011

The Jefferson County Fairgrounds are the venue, as always. Tasty snacks all weekend; a good lunch is included in the Sunday entry fee for the playthrough Swiss Teams. Details for Denver tournaments can be found at denverbridge.com and in the ad in the June issue of *ScoreCard*.

Northern Colorado Summer Sectional Loveland, Colorado July 15-17, 2011

Note the earlier date this summer for this sectional which has been held in August in past years. At the Larimer County Fairgrounds with plenty of parking and RV hookups. More informa-

tion at northerncoloradobridge.com and in the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.

Atomic City Sectional Los Alamos, New Mexico July 29-31, 2011

Lovely hospitality including a free dinner on Friday night is the hallmark of this sectional at 7000 feet in the town created for the atomic bomb effort during World War II. The labs here are still famous and the Bradbury Science Museum has their story. See the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.

Peach Sectional Grand Junction, Colorado August 5-7, 2011

Spectacular scenery and great hospitality will greet you in Grand Junction, Colorado. Pairs games start at ten on Saturday. Note the new venue. There are no Knockout Teams. See the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard* for more information.

Albuquerque 299er Sectional Albuquerque, New Mexico August 6-7, 2011

The famous New Mexico Duke City Bridge Club in Albuquerque does a wonderful job of hosting this limited masterpoint sectional tournament with plentiful food, trophies for winners, and a guest speaker on Saturday.

Laughlin Sectional Laughlin, Nevada August 12-14, 2011

Note the new time of year and the new location at the Riverside Hotel and Casino. This always enjoy-

able tournament features two KOs plus one session evening Swiss Teams along with the usual pairs games. See the website bridgeinnorthernarizona.com/ or the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.

Pueblo State Fair Sectional Pueblo, Colorado September 2-4, 2011

This tournament is known for its plentiful food snacks. There are no Knockout events. The State Fair is on August 26- September 5, so you can combine that visit with bridge. More on the

state fair at coloradostatefair.com and see the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard* for information.

El Paso Labor Day Sectional El Paso, Texas September 2-5, 2011

Located at the Decker Bridge Center in El Paso, there are four days of fun-filled bridge including the Swiss Teams on Labor Day Monday and a Compact Knockout Teams on Saturday. See the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard* for information on the tournament.

The Champion Power Rating System

By Sally Ann Rhea, Boulder, Colorado
& Chris Champion, Colorado Springs, Colorado

A Tale of Two Tournament Players

A man I know has played bridge for 60 years. He was once very good, contending well sometimes against the very best. His high finishes and many years resulted in well-deserved Gold Life Master status, which seems like a good thing, and is, except that now he's a bit more forgetful than he once was, makes odd mistakes at times, and is outgunned in the A bracket he must play in for Swiss and some other teams events. He still likes to play and comes out for pair games, where averaging lets him play with a partner at a competitive level, but he's given up on team games.

Another guy I know is young, has a young family, and doesn't get to play much so isn't even a Life Master though he regularly wins against people several flights up. He and his partner always play in A/X in Stratiflighted Pairs games, but for teams he and his partner can't always find A pairs willing to play with them or other pairs at their level willing to play up, and they aren't allowed to play up in the Knockouts in any case.

Playing at their masterpoint level is frustrating for everyone involved, so they don't do it very often.

It's a Far, Far Better Thing (Maybe)



Chris & Wendy Champion

Many in the ACBL have proposed that a rating scale more reflective of what one has done lately could solve this problem in both directions. Creating such a scale is fraught with problems, and not all players would want to see such a rating scale implemented anyway (some people who could play down wouldn't want to acknowledge a diminished skill set, others who could play up wouldn't want to have to go against the big guns), but an alternative is on the horizon.

Chris Champion, of District 17's Colorado Springs Unit 360, has been working on this problem for some time. He created a Power Rating (PR) scale that uses data from pair games to calculate each player's relative ability. The PR incorporates variables such as the degree of difficulty (DOD) of the game itself based on the strength of the field, and each member of the pair's prior performance.

A dozen years or so ago he created a prototype of his current system for the Springs Unit. Back then it was printed on paper and the data came just from Unit events. About eight years ago he added Denver data and then started his Power Rating website six years ago. Colorado Springs, Albuquerque, San Francisco, Mesa, Boca Grande, and El Paso clubs send him their game files, but club data from other units was not sent to him. For a while he was cutting and pasting club game data from various unit sites, but that became too much to deal with, so now he only has club data if club directors send files. However, for about three years he's been able to acquire data from ACBL events, sectionals, regionals, and nationals, so a lot of data is available. He hopes eventually to have this function through the ACBL with complete stats on everyone.

In Chris's own words, here's the math lesson on how it works: "Everyone has an average level of play. Power Ratings looks at all of your partners and calculates their average level of play. That average is subtracted from your average game percentage and what is left is your average level of play. Double that and you have your Power Rating which is your average game percentage when you are your own partner." If you want more details, go to www.coloradospringsbridge.com/PR_FILES/PR.HTM then go to the bottom of the page and click on Explanation of Power Ratings.

Some people aren't listed in the PR because they play mainly in clubs and the club owner doesn't send files. Chris has suggested to the ACBL a way the ACBL can get these game files without club owner input. The ACBL is considering this option. He believes they will do what the membership wants.

The system requires at least 11 games with each of two rated partners for a Power Rating, although anyone who has 12 games with the same partner has a Pair Rating. Chris has worked out PRs for Knockouts. Players who receive personal summaries will be able to see their Knockout PR beginning July 1.

Contact Chris to get your free Personal Summary. When Chris gets this all worked out some day you could buy an entry, go to the Bridgemate at any table, enter your pair's or team's ACBL numbers, and get your current PR. You won't need to tell the directors what your PR is or how many masterpoints your team has. The computer would have this information and could build better KO brackets and better strats. When entries are closed in pair games, the top third of the field will be A, the middle third B, and the rest C.

Chris has been playing duplicate for more than 30 years, having won his first masterpoint in 1977. He lived and played in Long Beach, California until he moved to Colorado Springs in 1992. Working on the PR has been almost a full-time job, sometimes 40 hours a week of programming time. He used to work for MacDonald Douglas and only dreamed of such an endeavor then, but now manages real estate so has more time.

In 2004 Chris met Wendy at the Denver Winter Sectional in Golden, Colorado. They played their first game at the Boulder Sectional on May 1, and Chris finally convinced Wendy to marry him on May 1, 2008. Chris and Wendy go to the Fall Nationals each year; they will be in Seattle in November and look forward to meeting new friends. If you'd like to see where you stand with the data currently available, visit the PR website at www.coloradospringsbridge.com/PR_FILES/PR.HTM

There are explanations of the whys and hows. There are charts based on masterpoints and PRs for various units as well as a list of the top 500 in the nation. If you send Chris an e-mail at ckchampion@netzero.net he'll add you to the personal data list so you can see exactly how your results were calculated.

EL PASO , TEXAS BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

International City Unit 159
El Paso, Texas
Maura Cauldwell & Beverly Thrasher
Labor Day Tournament

September 2, 3, 4, & 5, 2011
DECKER BRIDGE CENTER
2216 East Yandell, El Paso, Texas 79903
Sanction #1109041

Friday, September 2

10:00 a.m. Stratified Swiss, One Session

3:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs (Single Session)

Sunday, September 4

10:00 a.m. Stratified Open Pairs (2 Sessions)

3:00 p.m. Single Sessions (Accommodated)

Stratification: (A) 2000+; (B) 500-2000; (C) 0-500
All stratification based on average master points

Entry Fees: \$10.00 per member per session;
\$11.00 per non members and unpaid Life Masters per session
\$84.00 per Swiss Team on Monday (includes lunch)

Average master points for all pair and team games
Players with fewer than 200 master points who win their strata/section on Friday afternoon will be awarded a free play entry on Saturday afternoon.

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