

# CONTRACT BRIDGE

## Forum

Volume 85 Issue 4 - April 2010



### Last Call for Pacific Southwest Regional March 29 - April 4, 2010



San Diego's Town &amp; Country Hotel &amp; Convention Center

It's not too late to make plans to attend the Pacific Southwest Regional tournament. This stellar spring event begins Monday, March 29, and continues through Sunday, April 4 at San Diego's Town & Country Convention Center.

The tournament management would like to call attention to an error in the earlier publicity for the starting times of Monday's kickoff charity games. They will be held at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., not the earlier starting times previously advertised.

Later in the week, the convenient daily starting times will be 10:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. On Sunday, the main event features a Strati - Flighted playthrough Swiss Teams, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending by 5:00 p.m.

Evening games throughout the week begin at 7:30 p.m., and include two double-session Stratified Swiss Teams events (Wednesday-Thursday, and another separate event Friday - Saturday). These are specially designed for those unfortunate working stiffs who cannot play during the daytime ... but there is nothing to prevent any hardy souls who have the stamina and wish to play three sessions in a day from availing themselves of this opportunity. It's always extra

gratifying to win two multi-session events in one day!

And don't forget the sparkling entertainment in store for you, with two separate performances Friday and Saturday evening at 6:45 p.m.: San Diego's bridge-playing thespians have prepared their version of *Bridge Guys and Dolls*, a half hour of musical hilarity which depicts the adventures of "Big Mama" Detroit and her son, Little Nathan (The Novice) Detroit as they try to establish a bridge club at the Town & Country. You owe it to yourselves not to miss "*The Oldest Established Poimant Floatin' Bridge Game in da Woild!*"

For room reservations, call the hotel at 619 291-7131. (If you hurry, it *might* still be possible to obtain the special bridge rate of \$109 at the host hotel.)

Further detailed information about the schedule can be found on the tournament web site at:

[PacificSouthwestRegional.com](http://PacificSouthwestRegional.com)

#### Note: Starting Times Monday 2:00 p.m.!

The session starting times on Monday of the Pacific Southwest Regional are 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.

On Tuesday thru Saturday the game times are 10:30 & 3:15 and evening session at 7:30. Sunday games begin at 10:00 a.m.

### Grand National Teams Finals

By John Kissinger  
GNT Coordinator

Go for the Gold!

Players: remember ... you *must* be a District 22 resident to play in the final.

District finals for Flight A and Flight C are scheduled for April 10 and 11 at the Dana Harbor Bridge Center.

The Flight B and Open Championship district finals will be held

April 17 and 18.

So get moving now to prepare for a great experience in bridge ... and we'll meet you on Bourbon Street in New Orleans during the ACBL Summer North American Bridge Championships!

Questions, or want more information?

Ask [john.kissinger@cox.net](mailto:john.kissinger@cox.net) ... or contact [jonawright@cox.net](mailto:jonawright@cox.net)

The full GNT Conditions of Contest can be found at [acbldistrict22.com/gntnap.html](http://acbldistrict22.com/gntnap.html)



#### The King's Korner

By Rex Latus

District 22 President

It's that time of year again when the annual balance sheets and profit and loss statements from corporate America create a disturbance in *The Force* and gyrations in our retirement accounts. While we all know the financial chaos of the last couple of years, the only thing left to do is quantify the district damage. Please refer to the district 2009 financial report from your treasurer Fran Foresta included in this month's *Forum* for all the gory details.

Last month I reported the good (table counts) and the bad (host hotel room commitment) for 2009; now comes the ugly part. The district lost money in 2009: \$15,991, to be exact.

In comparison, the District earned \$4,201 in 2008, and that was the lowest profit in more than five years.

While Riverside, Orange County and San Diego all experienced growth, it was not good enough to overcome the 300 table decrease and poor room reservations experienced at our flagship tournament in Palm Springs. This ... along with a loss at the Ventura Regional and GNP ... combined to test our ability to withstand pain. Sometimes the cards are just not favorable.

*So Okay!* Enough gloom and doom. Don't sell your stock in District 22 just yet. Things are not really that bad. Most of what happened was a one-time thing. The economy is getting better. Room commitments at all our tournament sites are in the process of being renegotiated. The board of directors has already taken actions to reduce expenses. Ventura will not be the financial disaster that it was in 2009. By the end of 2010, the memory of 2009 will be history - just a bad dream. Cheer up! Your district remains financially sound.

Already 2010 is a better year. The Riverside tournament was the best ever. Table count was up 5% from last year and 29% since 2007.

Tournament expenses decreased despite an ACBL increase in director session fees. That's amazing! Profit was \$10,666 (after an unusual one-time expense of \$2,100) compared to \$2,737 in 2009.

A giant thank you goes to your co-tournament managers, Jodi Pedri and Hans Giroux, for their fantastic effort.

Also a special acknowledgment to Unit 549 North San Diego County Inland for sharing their sectional tournament dates with the Riverside Regional. The Riverside schedule was moved back a week to avoid Super Bowl Sunday. This created an issue which only they could resolve. When I called them concerning our date conflict, their response was "how can we help"? Thank you, North San Diego County Inland.

Did changing dates matter? Swiss Teams participation on Sunday increased by 40% from the previous year. Not too shabby!

*Got GNT qualification?* Time is running out to participate in the Grand National Teams. Qualify locally and play at the district finals at Dana Harbor in April. It's flighted. The gold point awards are significant. Win and earn the privilege to represent your district at the Summer Nationals in New Orleans and receive a cash subsidy from the district. What are you waiting for? It doesn't get any better than this! Look for a GNT qualifying game near you.

Got comments or questions? [talk2theking@aol.com](mailto:talk2theking@aol.com)

See you in San Diego.

*Play often. Rent a room. Stay awhile. Have fun! It's in the cards.*

### New ACBL Requirements for making Life Master

New ACBL members who joined the League as of January 1, 2010, will be required to earn 500 points to become Life Masters. Of these points, 250 must be pigmented as follows:

- 50 must be gold or platinum
- 50 must be red, gold or platinum
- 75 must be silver
- 75 must be black

These requirements *do not apply* to people who were ACBL members on Dec. 31, 2009, and who continue to maintain membership in the League until they achieve Life Master status. These players will use the former format, and need to earn 300 points, of which 150 must be pigmented as follows:

- 25 must be gold
- 25 must be red or gold
- 50 must be silver
- 50 must be black

For members achieving Life Master under the new modified rules, the rank of Bronze Life Master is abolished. For these members, a new rank of Advanced NABC Master is created. The requirements for this rank are 300 masterpoints, of which 150 must be pigmented as follows:

- 25 must be gold or platinum
- 25 must be red, gold or platinum
- 50 must be silver
- 50 must be black

#### 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) & copy to:

Joel Hoersch

[joel@contractbridgeforum.com](mailto:joel@contractbridgeforum.com)

858 277-5490

Change of Address

Send change of address to:

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