



Upcoming Tournaments

Denver Winter Sectional January 7-10, 2010

The Colorado bridge tournament season kicks off with Denver's Winter Sectional January 7-10 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall at 15200 W. Sixth Ave. in Golden. Expect the usual schedule with the now standard earlier starting times on Saturday. Please see the ad this *ScoreCard* issue for the details.

Lake Havasu City London Bridge Sectional January 15-18, 2010

Some of the most pleasant mid-winter weather and bridge in the district will be available at the London Bridge Sectional, January 15-18 at the Nautical Inn and Conference Center at 1000 McCulloch Road. It's four full days, Friday to Monday with the details provided in the ad elsewhere this *ScoreCard* issue.

Yuma Winter Sectional January 28-31, 2010

Yuma's winter bridge tournament is January 28-31 at the Quality Inn at 711 E. 32nd Street. It's a mild spot

in our district in mid-winter, and has some nice scenery in the area including the "Star Wars" sand dunes on the border with California. Come and play.

El Paso Haberstroth Memorial Valentine Sectional February 12-15, 2010

The El Paso bridge unit recently decided to get out of the regional business, at least for a while, but they still put on a fine sectional. The next dates are February 12-15 at the Westside Community Center at 7400 High Ridge. Four full days of bridge will greet you, all with 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. starting times, except the last day which commences at 9:30 p.m. See the ad this *ScoreCard* issue.

Correction Tucson Sectional April 15-18, 2010

The playing site for Tucson's April 15-18 sectional is the Holiday Inn Palo Verde, not the Desert Diamond Hotel, as listed in the Western Conference Sectional Tournaments section on page two of the last issue of *ScoreCard*.

Rocky --Continued from page 1

count against our annual quota. In those days the ACBL's attitude was strongly opposed to more regionals. In fact Gatlinburg was only every other year. So the deal had to have a few strings.

The ex-quota Las Vegas Regional would only be every other year, the sanction could not used anywhere except Las Vegas, Nevada, and they would pay the ACBL a sanction fee that was 50% higher than anybody else.

Our foot was in the door, and in a few years the surcharge was removed and in 1995 it became an annual event. More than 85% of Las Vegas regional attendance is from out of town, so a lot of District 17 people benefit by attending this tournament.

And we can't forget the money. The Las Vegas Regional currently provides more than 30% of the district's annual revenue and is a major contributor to the Western Conference as well. Making Las Vegas an annual event came just in time to save the district, which had a negative net worth in the early 1990s and the Western Conference whose treasury had disappeared into minus numbers somewhere around 1998.

I can still remember board members being given a check for expense money, but told not to try to cash it until further notice. (I was Western Conference President at the time, so I'm trying to erase the details from my memory banks.)

We did manage to pull it out of the abyss, however.

Just when it sounds like we've solved all our problems along comes the ACBL with a few NABCs to fit into our schedule. Having an NABC in our district is a great benefit for our players, but the district board has to deal with the scheduling problems in order to minimize damage to our regular tournaments. The record shows that any regional anywhere close to an NABC gets killed in terms of attendance and money. Atlanta held a regional a few months after they hosted an NABC and saw attendance drop by more than 1300 tables, and Las Vegas has experienced 700 table drops in NABC years. An NABC in Las Vegas in July, 2014 means no regional in Las Vegas in their usual slot in June, and an NABC in Phoenix in November means no Phoenix Regional the month before. The current challenge is how we juggle our schedule in a way that accommodates, or at least minimizes the inconvenience of everybody.

I didn't get to the numerous problems associated with coordinating sectional schedules and that will just have to wait for another time. I'll just remind everyone that Marianne Spanier is in charge and she's a lot more flexible than the district board. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, hopefully at the San Diego NABC, and if not, I'll be looking for you in Albuquerque in January at the end of the Navajo Trail.

Friday the 13th - Continued from page 1

(Continued from page 1)

one side is a bad score for the other side.

Both sides can't have bad luck on the same hand.

If you get doubled on a vicious trump break, lose control of the hand and go for 1400, your opponents will be smiling and perhaps silently chuckling (it's not nice to outwardly gloat) as they jot down that plus 1400 on their score sheet.

And 13 is an important number in the game of bridge. There are thirteen cards in a suit, thirteen tricks in a hand, and generally it's supposed to take at least 13 points to open the bidding with a non-preemptive bid. (Yes, I know that was 50 years ago before virtually everyone opened almost any random 12 count, and lots of 11s.)

One of the most common duplicate bridge movements is 13 rounds of two boards

each.

Have you heard of triskaidekaphobia? It means fear of the number 13. Not a good phobia for bridge players.

If you listen to the grumbling at any bridge tournament, it seems there is always enough bad luck to go around, Friday the 13th or not. Complaining about bad luck can almost be an art form.

Charles Goren, the biggest name in the

history of the game, put it bluntly:

"Have you noticed how many bridge players have a tendency to emphasize their hard luck? It is a distinct form of hypochondria. An ordinary hypochondriac is one who appears to enjoy bad health. A bridge hypochondriac is one who enjoys bad luck. They appear to take great pride and to derive immense pleasure from the claim that they are bad card holders."

Denver Unit 361 Winter Sectional Bridge Tournament January 7-10, 2010

Jefferson County Fairgrounds · Exhibit Hall · 15200 West 6th Avenue Golden, CO

Thursday, January 7, 2010

7:00pm Stratified Swiss Teams

Friday, January 8, 2010

9:00am Friday Knockouts - (Round 1)
1:00pm Friday Knockouts - (Round 2)
Stratified Pairs (single session)
Stratified 0-299er Pairs (single session)
7:00pm Friday Knockouts - Finals
Stratified Pairs (single session)
Stratified 0-299er Pairs (single session)

Saturday, January 9, 2010

NEW TIMES

10:30am Stratified Open Pairs (1st of two sessions)
Stratified Pairs (single session)
Stratified 0-299er Pairs (single session)
3:00pm Stratified Open Pairs (2nd of two sessions)
Stratified Pairs (single session)
Stratified 0-299er Pairs (single session)

Sunday, January 10, 2010

10:00am* Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams
& TBA (A, Ax play together; B, C & D play together)
299er Teams (if enough teams)

ACBL MEMBERS WITH 0-5 MASTERPOINTS PLAY FREE

Pairs: \$9.00; Unpaid and non-members \$10

Sunday Teams: \$72.00 per team,

*Complimentary afternoon lunch courtesy of Unit 361

Director in Charge: William Michael

Tournament Chairman: Don Boyarsky 303.369.7394

Partnerships: Chuck Anderson 303.733.2040

Stratifications: Pairs: A=2000+; B= 750-2000; C=0-750

Teams: A=5000+; Ax=0-5000; B=1250-2000; C=750-1250; D=0-750

No alcoholic beverages allowed on the Fairgrounds property

www.denverbridge.com



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MS OOSTERDAM

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