

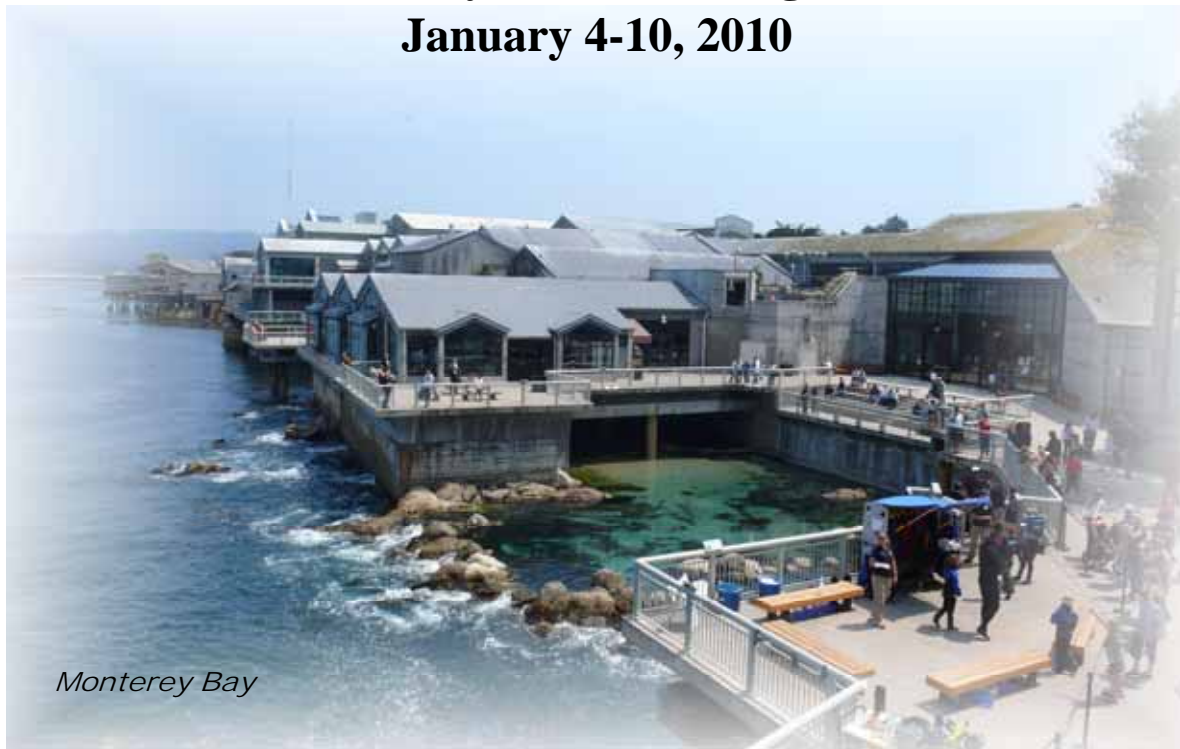
WESTERN CONFERENCE

CONTRACT BRIDGE Forum



Volume 84 Issue 12—December 2009

Monterey Clambake Regional January 4-10, 2010



Monterey Bay

Grand National Teams 2010



By Jackie Ortiz
D21 GNT
Coordinator

All participants in the GNT must be a ACBL member in good standing and must follow ACBL residency requirements. Players will be allowed to participate in as many flights as they desire provided that they are eligible to play based on their masterpoint holding as of September 2009 cycle.

Flight Open: Unlimited
Flight A: 0-5,000
Flight B: 0-2,000
Flight C: Non-Life Master with fewer than 500 MPs.

Entry Fees will be \$40.00 per team per session. D21 shall give each flight \$2,000 to represent the district at the Nationals in New Orleans, Louisiana, July, 2010. Pre-registration is required. Flight A & Flight C deadline is Feb. 1, 2010. Flight Open deadline is March 15, 2010. Flight B deadline is April 15, 2010.

Please check the D21 web pages for Conditions of Contest. To register, or for info, contact me at jackieo@sonic.net

Flight A

Feb. 20, 2010 12:00 & TBA - 2 sessions, Burlingame Bridge Club
Feb. 21, 2010 12:00 & TBA - 2 sessions, Burlingame Bridge Club

Feb. 27, 2010 12:30 & TBA - semi-finals, San Mateo Sectional
Feb. 28, 2010 10:00 & TBA - finals, San Mateo Sectional

Flight C

Feb. 20, 2010 12:00 & TBA - 2 sessions, Burlingame Bridge Club
Feb. 21, 2010 12:00 & TBA - semi & finals, Burlingame BC

Flight Open

April 10, 2010 1:00 & TBA - 2 sessions, San Jose Sectional
April 11, 2010 10:30 & TBA - 2 sessions, San Jose Sectional

May 22, 2010 12:00 & TBA semi-final, Burlingame BC
May 23, 2010 12:00 & TBA finals, Burlingame Bridge Club

Flight B

May 22, 2010 12:00 & TBA 2 sessions, Burlingame Bridge Club
May 23, 2010 12:00 & TBA semi & finals, Burlingame Bridge Club.

Tournament Trail

San Diego Fall NABC
Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, Calif.
November 26-December 6, 2009

Sacramento Winter Sectional
Community Center, Citrus Heights, Calif.
December 4-6, 2009

Great Western Holiday STAC XVIII
Local Clubs, D14,15,17,18,19, 20, 21, 22, 23
December 7-13, 2009

Monterey Clambake Regional
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Monterey, Calif.
January 4-10, 2010

San Francisco Winter Sectional
Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco, Calif.
January 16-17, 2010

Livermore Valley Sectional
Hart Middle School, Pleasanton, Calif.
January 23-24, 2010

San Francisco Presidents Day Regional
Airport Marriott Hotel, Burlingame, Calif.
February 9-15, 2010

FORUM DEADLINES

Deadlines for *Forum* copy and ads is the 5th of the month!

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Masterpoints

By Bill Corliss
District 21 Vice President

The awarding of masterpoints has changed greatly since I've been playing duplicate bridge, and my guess is that it will continue to change in the coming years. I remember when a player didn't need gold points if they had already obtained red points. Of course silver points weren't created. How many players have platinum points? I was surprised at the number of people with whom I have talked who have never heard of platinum points. I wonder what precious metal is lurking around the corner for our next set of points.

Gone are the days when you collected club points that were recorded on slips and sent off to the ACBL to be recorded. Would you believe that some players actually didn't send off their points so that they could play in a lower strat? In fact, some players would manipulate the points they sent in from year to year.

The number of points awarded has also drastically changed. In the "old days" it was much harder to obtain points; there were not as many team games and at one time there was no such thing as different flights. In fact, if there were flighted events, there were only three flights. Players won fewer masterpoints in the past when compared to how many masterpoints are awarded today.

However, what really has changed is online bridge masterpoints which, of course, were non-existent until a few years ago. Herein lies a real controversy. How should online points be awarded?

Are they fair?

Presently online points can account for one third of a player's total points. This is currently being addressed by our national board of directors. Some players want online points to count more, especially people who have difficulties with travel or are on a limited budget and can't afford to attend the various tournaments.

Others feel that online points are a joke where cheating is rampant with some players actually having computers in the same room as they bid and players using open notes to help them. However, as a member of the District 21 Executive Board, I have been assured that cheating is being addressed and is not nearly as prevalent as some believe.

I am not going to give a pro and con for online bridge and the rewarding of masterpoints, because that would take much more than one column. Also, the national board is addressing the issue and I'm sure there will be many changes in the future. The point is that the masterpoints that are being rewarded today are much different than the masterpoints that were rewarded in the past.

Exactly what do masterpoints mean? Perhaps it is easier to become a Life Master today and it is easier to compile masterpoints. Maybe the new Life Master of today might not have the general ability of the Life Master of yesterday. Does that dilute the masterpoints of today? I don't think so.

I believe the player of today is generally stronger than the player of yesterday. (No, I have never seen a better match point player than Barry Crane.) The reason is information that is available to all of us - the new books along with the old ones and the stronger teaching programs that are available today. Technology is also much better today. Did the Dallas Aces, when they began, have anywhere near the information available that today's top pros and players have at their disposal? I think not.

So, my belief is for us to enjoy the game for what it is and not put so much emphasis on comparing masterpoints. We are playing under the rules of the ACBL and those rules will constantly be changing in the years to come. It's like an undefeated college football team. They can't change what their schedule is; they can only beat the teams that they are scheduled to face. Does that mean that a team with a more difficult schedule is better because they faced stronger teams, even though they had a loss or two? Not an easy question to answer.

Update Your Personal Data



By Stu Goodgold
D21 President

Even if you don't live in Kansas City, is everything up to date? Districts and units make use of the ACBL membership database to find players and produce unit membership directories. If your entry with the ACBL is incomplete or out of date, no one will find you. Don't become a hermit, up-

date your details now.

It is easy to do online. Go to www.acbl.org

1. Click on "My ACBL" in the upper left, enter your player number and password (or register for one)

2. Then select "Change my address" (phone number, too) or "Change my e-mail" on the left side. It really helps us when you provide your e-mail.

3. No Internet access for you? Phone 1 800 264-2743 and leave the ACBL a message.