

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Forum



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Great Attendance, Great Bridge in San Diego NABC

By Jared Johnson
ScoreCard Editor

Part One, the Numbers: Mild weather, exceptional bridge and top-notch hospitality combined to make a great NABC in San Diego in late November and early December. Congratulations to tournament chairman Ken Monzingo, tournament co-chair Bonnie Bagley (Colorado Springs), and all the San Diego and Colorado volunteers for a tremendously successful NABC.

Contract Bridge Forum publisher Monzingo and District 17 board member Bagley also co-chaired the splendid Summer NABC in Las Vegas last year.

Attendance in San Diego exceeded projections at 12,927 tables, great numbers for a fall NABC, especially so during a still shaky economy.

(Please look for Bonnie Bagley's article elsewhere this issue.)

Part Two, the City: San Diego is a lovely city, with an open, spacious feel to it and many local attractions. Hopefully, a few players got over to Balboa Park, one of the country's finest city parks, featuring countless museums and one of the best zoos in the world.

The twin towers of the playing site, the Manchester Grand Hyatt, dominate the San Diego skyline. This had to be at least tied for the most luxurious NABC site ever.

Part Three, the Bridge: Given the proximity to District 17, one might have hoped that D17 players would have made off with a few more of the top positions in national championships, nevertheless there were some superb showings.

We continue *ScoreCard* policy of recognizing those hitting first

through third in nationally-rated events.

Carolyn Lynch of Scottsdale and Mike Passell of Las Vegas picked up two national titles. They teamed up with Garey Hayden of Tucson, Melih Ozdil of New York City and Mark Lair of Canyon, Texas, to win the Senior Knockouts, with Fred Hamilton of Las Vegas on the second place team.

At the end of the tournament, Lynch and Passell plus teammates Andrew Gromov and Aleksander Dubinin, both of Moscow, Adam Zmudzinski of Katowice, Poland and Cezary Balicki of Smolec, Poland captured the Ethel Keohane North American Swiss Teams title, with Garey Hayden on the third place squad in the same event.

To those winners and all the other D17 players, go get 'em in Reno!

District 17 GNT Update

By Jerry Ranney
D17 GNT Coordinator

Happy New Year to all. January 1 marks the mid-point for club level Grand National Teams qualifying

games in District 17. Club managers wishing to have their GNT qualifier events in February, March, and/or April published in this column need to get their information to me by the end of December at jtranne2@msn.com. Numerous qualifier games have been held and I do not have space to list all who have qualified, so I have picked a few outstanding results to summarize.

At the Denver Metro Bridge Stu-

dio, the team of Garth Yettick, David Caprera, and Don and Anita Heitler scored 86.6% of the victory points.

The team of En Hay, Fred Herring, Bill Allegar and Brandon Sheumaker finished second with a "paltry" 78.3% game.

At the Sedona Bridge Center, the team of William Moberly, Robert Nord, Donald MacIlreith and Gary Millan qualified first with a 83.5% game.

Albuquerque Navajo Trail Regional



Albuquerque, Plaza Mayor in Downtown

Your 2010 tournament bridge season can begin at the Navajo Trail Regional in Albuquerque January 18-24 at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North at

5151 San Francisco Road NE.

Check the ads in recent issues of *ScoreCard* for details on the schedule of events and hotel information and make plans now to join us.

Tucson Cactus Flower 299er Regional

By Barry Abrahams

One of the few regionals limited to Non-Life Masters will be held in Tucson from February 25 to 28, 2010. The tournament is being held at the new Desert Diamond Hotel Conference Center and Casino which offers beautiful accommo-

dations, a variety of dining choices, and all without any taxes.

Unit 356 offers players free coffee and tea, morning pastries, plenty of candy, pre-dealt hands and hand records and a free buffet lunch at the Swiss Teams event on Sunday.

Come join us at this new venue and get your red points.



¿Qué Pasa?

By Jerry Fleming

National Board Representative

Happy New Year! What's Happening?

Another successful Great Western STAC is in the books! Participation continues strong, and good STAC attendance covers much of the cost of producing and distributing the Forum. The first District 17 regional for 2010 is slated for the Marriott Pyramid North in Albuquerque January 18-24. The Tucson NLM Regional will follow February 25-28 at the Desert Diamond Hotel & Casino.

San Diego NABC Spectacular!

The NABC just concluded in San Diego November 26-December 6 was a terrific tournament. Attendance was significantly higher than expectations, just under 13,000 tables. The site, the Manchester Grand Hyatt, was perfect for an NABC. It had large ballrooms easily capable of handling all of our needs, was well carpeted and lit, and unlike at many tournaments, elevators were fast. Add to this a very efficient and friendly staff, and it all adds up to a great site.

Hopefully we will come back in a reasonably short time. And, by the way, many district 17 players did quite well!

ACBL National Board Meeting

We had a full agenda for our board meeting in San Diego. This was the last meeting for Bruce Reeve (District 7), Harriette Buckman (District 13) and Richard Anderson (District 18). They will be replaced by Bob Heller from Atlanta, Suzi Subeck from Chicago, and Claire Jones from Regina Saskatchewan.

The board voted to return the election of ACBL president to the fall meeting. My motion to allow, at local option, up to five strats in a stratified event was defeated. A motion to allow all online points won to count for advances in rank level, instead of the 1/3 allowed at present, was also defeated, by a close 13-12 vote.

A motion to raise the masterpoint limit for Flight B in the North American Pairs from 2000 to 2500 was also defeated. Among the arguments raised in opposition, creating a perpetual group of Flight B players and the growing spread between the Flight B and Flight C limits were swaying arguments. Another motion to create a 0-5000 masterpoint Flight A, similar to the GNT, also failed. Thus the flights for the 2010-2011 NAP will remain where they are now.

The minimum number of boards required for a newcomer game has been reduced from 10 to 6. A newcomer game is defined as a game with a maximum upper limit of 20 masterpoints. A current member's eligibility for participation in an ACBL sanctioned event will be determined by his/her masterpoint total as of the masterpoint cycle run on the 6th of each month.

Financial Decisions

Short game (less than 18 boards) per table fees are increased from 40¢ to 46¢ per table, effective April 1, 2010. Membership dues are increased from \$35 to \$37, Life Master service fees from \$32 to \$34, household membership dues from \$64 to \$68, junior membership dues from \$14 to \$15, all effective April 1, 2010, and new member membership dues from \$26 to \$28, effective January 1, 2011. These are the first dues increases in five years.

Tournament director session fees will be raised by 8%, effective April 1, 2010. Part of this increase, the first in four years, will cover director overtime. The rest is due to salary increases.

Special Games at Clubs

Two motions affecting special games at clubs were considered by the board, and both were deferred to the Spring meeting in Reno. The first would simply have reduced the awards for special club games like charity and junior fund games to 90% of sectional rating. The other would severely restrict the number of special games a club could hold outside the "special" months. I've mentioned this issue several times in past columns. A number of clubs (a small percentage, in my opinion) complain about these games because they usually cost an extra \$1/player/session. In our supply and demand world, these clubs feel pressured when other clubs in their area hold lots of these games. Another issue raised is that players in areas where these games are regularly held earn more masterpoints than others, and have an edge in ACBL-wide races. Personally, I believe clubs wouldn't hold these games if they weren't popular with their clientele.

I also feel that arguments about disparity in masterpoints don't carry much weight when you consider the natural disparities that exist between large clubs in urban areas that offer 2-3 games every day and tiny ones in the hinterlands that might have 1-2 small games per week.

Because of these games we have a healthy Charity Foundation that has provided needed funds for several charities of our choice. The junior fund is standalone, and doesn't, for the first time in memory, need to tap the ACBL treasury for funding. The international fund and the Education Foundation are also beneficiaries. This issue will finally come to a head at our next meeting in Reno.

ACBL Charity Foundation

The ACBL Charity Foundation voted to increase by \$10,000 to a total of \$30,000 the amount districts are allowed to donate to charities

(See ¿Qué Pasa? on page 12)

Deadlines

ScoreCard no longer accepts hard copy ads. All ads must be e-mailed directly to the publisher Ken Monzingo (see e-mail address right hand column on page two), with a copy to Jared Johnson, the *ScoreCard* editor.

Stories and all other articles of any sort still get e-mailed directly to the *ScoreCard* editor at: jaredjohnsonco@aol.com

Just regular e-mail, no attachments please.

Deadlines are the fifth of each month for the following month's issue. Deadlines are firm, exceptions for only the most pressing and unusual of circumstances.

Stories past deadline still go to the editor, not the publisher, for inclusion in the following issue.

So now it's all e-mail. Ads to the publisher (with a copy to the editor, okay for attachment on ad copy), stories and all else to the editor. Thanks for your help.