

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Forum



ScoreCard

Happy 4th of July!

Volume 84 Issue 7 - July 2009

Phoenix Desert Empire Regional

August 17-23, 2009



Phoenix, Arizona

By Page Tomkinson

Are you really a “cool” bridge player? Well you will be if you come to the Phoenix Desert Empire Regional August 17-23 at the beautiful Sheraton Crescent Hotel on Dunlap Street, just off the fwy.

We can't say enough about all the fine amenities the hotel has to offer. Call 1 800 423-4126 by July 18 for our special room rates.

The tournament starts off Monday with an exciting Pro-Am game and reception to follow. Our schedule includes lots of Knockouts, Stratified Pairs

games and Swiss Teams events; something for everyone.

Unit 354 prides itself on having top notch hospitality and you will remember this tournament as being the “coolest” you have ever attended. Come join us!

For more info, please check our ad or go to www.unit354.com

A Special Note from D17 President John Van Ness

In the last issue of *ScoreCard* it was suggested that I might be able to explain why there are no regionals in Los Alamos, N.M., population 13,000. The answer is that there has never been a request or even a suggestion. Most of District 17's smaller units lack enough playing space for a regional and holding a regional

consistent with the district's high standards would not be financially feasible, especially for the host unit. Next October's Ruidoso Regional is one obvious exception to the rule. The district board always welcomes and carefully considers bids for new regional sites.

(See the 12/08 issue of *ScoreCard* for details.)

New NAP Season

It is that time of year again!

By Dale Sweetwood
D17 NAP coordinator

What time is that you say? It's time to start your quest for a national title. How is that you ask? Its NAP time. No, not siesta time, but North American Pairs (NAP) qualification time. Starting June 1 and continuing through August 31 clubs across the nation are holding special contests to qualify individuals for a chance to compete in the national finals to be held in Reno in March of 2010.

Check with your local clubs for their schedule.

Who is eligible? You all are, if you are members of ACBL. What are your chances of winning? Zero if you don't compete. However, you too may find, like Jon Brandon and Harvey Bress from Colorado did, that there is a pot of gold, well almost a pot of gold, at the nationals. Jon and Harvey came in second in the 2008-2009 B category at the NAP finals this year. And another Colorado pair, William Curtis and James Black came in eighth in that same competition. Congratulations to all.

Is it going to be your turn to shine this year? All you need to do is find the NAP qualifying

games at your local club and score in the top 50% in your category.

Step two requires you to play in the District 17 NAP finals to be held in Ruidoso, New Mexico (at the Aspengold Regional) on October 9 and 10. When you place in the top three in your category, you will be eligible to compete in the national finals being held in Reno next March. If you come in first or second, you will get \$700 or \$400 (per pair) respectively to help defray the cost of the trip and if you are third you will be invited to play at your own expense.

What if you don't place in the top three?

Well, you still may get a chance to go. Last year six pairs opted not to compete in the nationals so those directly in line behind them became eligible.

If fact, one fifth place finisher in the district finals ended up playing in the NAP finals.

The categories are: Flight A, zero masterpoints to infinity; Flight B, 500 to 2000 masterpoints; and Flight C, Non-LM or up to 500 masterpoints.

If you have any questions that your local NAP expert can't answer, contact me, Dale Sweetwood, d7hconsult@cox.net or by phone at 480 491-5229.



¿Qué Pasa?

By Jerry Fleming

National Board Representative
ACBL President

¿What's Happening?

The Washington NABC is almost upon us. It takes place July 23 - August 2 at the Marriott Wardman Park. Shortly thereafter will be the Phoenix Regional, followed by the Great Western Summer STAC. A reminder - this STAC is no longer limited to team events! The format is the same as the May and December STACs. Keep in mind also the Ruidoso Regional. This is a phenomenal site for a tournament. We've held three regionals there in the past few years, and all have been well received.

ACBL Headquarters Update

We will be moving the ACBL headquarters to Horn Lake, MS. Negotiations between the city of Horn Lake, DeSoto County and the ACBL were successfully concluded in late May. We will have architects designing the interior of the building over the next few weeks, with construction to commence immediately thereafter. We should be moved in no later than sometime during the first quarter of 2010. I believe this is an excellent conclusion to the quest for a new “home” that started as soon as we sold the Airways Boulevard building in Memphis. We believe that we will save about \$3 million over what we expected to spend if we bought land and constructed the headquarters from scratch - without giving up any of what we wanted.

How to Win Without Playing

The ACBL learned a couple of months ago that members of two Norwegian teams competing for spots in the World Championships in Sao Paulo, Brazil later this year turned in a match result that enabled both teams to advance in the competition. However, they didn't actually play the match! They had some scheduling conflicts that kept them from agreeing on a date when they could meet, so they just made up a match result that kept either team from being eliminated. Well, they did get caught and have been suspended until the end of August. Since three of the players were ACBL members, the ACBL Board voted to recommend that they be barred from ACBL competition while they are under suspension from their own bridge organization. This was agreed to.

District 17 Board Meeting

The District 17 board of directors met May 23 in Denver. The district continues on very sound footing. Our tournaments continue to be well attended despite the economic downturn, and our finances are in good shape. Treasurer Carolyn Newcomb reported a balance of over \$138K. The board continues to look at electronic scoring systems Bridge Mate and Bridge Pad, but feels it is still too early to commit to purchase. They are still being debugged, we are looking for more reliable future releases of the products, and many of our regionals have the option of renting units from local clubs or from Dan Williams, who pre-duplicates boards for our regional pair games. The board passed a motion to require district board review and approval of hotel contracts before they are signed, effective 1/1/10. It was agreed that the Tucson I/N regional be expanded to allow all Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints to participate. Tournament scheduling for 2012, 2013 and 2014 is not complete. Ruidoso may not wish to remain in the three year rotation, and there are NABCs scheduled for Phoenix in 2013 and Las Vegas in 2014. Schedules will have to be juggled to accommodate these. Jerry Ranney from Denver is the new GNT Coordinator, replacing Jerry Gaer.

District 17 will select five 501(c)3 charities to receive \$4000 grants in 2010 from the ACBL Charity Foundation. The selection will be done at the October district board meeting. Nominations, together with a narrative of the charity's work and a copy of their 501(c)3 form should be submitted to Karin Griffin, 7143 Elk Creek Road NE, Albuquerque NM 87113. Her e-mail is Nieve14@aol.com

(See ¿Qué Pasa? on page 9)

Charity Nominations

By Karin Griffin

Charity Chairman

The deadline date for submission of District 17 charity grant requests has been extended to September 1, 2009. If your unit has a charity to submit please mail your nomination to Karin Griffin, 7143 Elk Creek NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113, or e-mail to: Nieve14@aol.com

Along with your nomination you must include a copy of your charity's 501(c)3 designation, and you should include sufficient information about the activities and beneficiaries of your nominee so that the district board can evaluate it alongside other requests received. Five \$4,000 grants will be authorized by District 17 in 2010, the money coming from the ACBL Charity Foundation.

Place Label Here

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.