

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

# CONTRACT BRIDGE *Forum*

Volume 85 Issue 6 - June 2010



## Orange County Regional



Irvine Hyatt Hotel

By Jody Pedri  
Tournament Chairman

It's not too early to start making plans to attend the always exciting Orange County Regional at the Irvine Hyatt Hotel at Jamboree and the 405 Freeway (ask for the bridge rate). The tournament starts on Labor Day, Sept. 6, and runs through Sept. 12. Here are several things to start thinking about:

The opportunity to become an accredited bridge teacher will be available the very first day of the tournament, when Education Chairman Teri Atkinson presents a Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) on Monday, Sept. 6 in three sessions starting at 9:00 a.m. at a cost of \$125.00, which includes materials. If interested contact (e-mail) Teri at [teriatk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:teriatk@sbcglobal.net) or phone 661 664-1678.

And if you need a partner, it is never too early to contact our friendly partnership person, Audrey Wicks at 949 559-5990 or at [audwix@aol.com](mailto:audwix@aol.com)

The more time Audrey has, the better your chances to find a partner to suit your abilities; plus, you may be able to

(See Orange on page 12)

## Conference of Math Teachers & ACBL

In a National Conference of Teachers of Mathematics held in San Diego April 21-24, the ACBL had an exhibitor's booth promoting the teaching of bridge in the math classrooms. There have been recent studies over a thirty-two month period

showing that playing bridge increases student test scores in almost all areas. A session explaining those results was held at the Marriott Hotel.

The booth was run by Dana Norton and Vicki Campbell of the ACBL Education and Marketing departments. The ACBL personnel were joined by volunteers Randy Fadem, Bill Grant, Ron Ignelzi and Matthew Kidd from the La Jolla Unit, and Ralph Baty, Paul Darin, and Larry Rossman



Student at the ACBL Booth

from the San Diego Unit. With the help of several students from Bill Grant's bridge classes at Chula Vista High School, the group fielded questions from interested math teachers from Washington to Puerto Rico.

In San Diego County Advanced

Placement math classes have provided great success in reaching the student population. Bridge classes at Chula Vista High School (sponsored by the Coronado Unit) are in their seventh year, and classes at La Jolla High School are now in their second year. The San Diego Unit is currently working to introduce a similar program into several of the San Diego area high schools, so watch for further advances in this project.

## North American Pairs

By John Kissinger  
D22 NAP Coordinator

Yes, we are ready to begin qualifying for the NAP, District 22's premier regionally rated pairs game of 2010. Clubs may run qualifying games in June, July and August, and remember that (while charity games are being curtailed and now pay fewer points), the NAP games pay 100% of sectional rating. Plus, clubs may have an unlimited number of NAP qualifying games in the summer. Units may hold one qualifying game September through November. Players who qualify in either a club game or in a unit game earn

the right to play in a special two-day final at the Palm Springs (Rancho Mirage) Regional December 18 and 19.

Flight winners and second place finishers receive a TBA subsidy from the ACBL towards expenses of attending the 2011 ACBL Spring Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky (in 2010 the first and second place finishers received \$700 and \$300, respectively.)

Third place finishers are also eligible to represent the district at the national finals.

Flight divisions are as follows: (A) open to all players; (B) under 2000 as of the June, 2010 cycle; (C) Non-Life Master under 500 as of the June, 2010 cycle.



## The King's Korner

By Rex Latus  
District 22 President

### GNT Results

What a difference from previous years! GNT participation in the district finals was more than three times higher. There were 55 tables at Dana Point for all four flights, compared to only 17 tables last year. Wow! It is terrific to see such renewed interest in this premier event. All the credit belongs to our GNT Coordinator John Kissinger. His efforts to promote this event were relentless, and paid off. Thank you, John! (See his report on page 12.)

This event lost \$4,500 last year. Every year a subsidy is provided for the district winners to represent us at the Nationals. This year the team subsidy formula was modified to a fixed flat rate of \$800 per team for each flight. This was designed to contain the expected financial loss. However income skyrocketed due to the unexpected increase in team participation. Here again John was tenacious in convincing the district board that a subsidy increase was warranted. As a result, each team will now receive \$1550. Winners be sure to thank John.

John and the district board thank all the teams that made this event successful. Next year's goal is 70 teams. Comply ... or John will hunt you down.

### San Diego Regional

The San Diego Regional is now history and the results are interesting. The table count was 1689, down 144 tables from last year. Not great, but not bad considering economic conditions. However, room rental at the host hotel was about 100 rooms higher than last year. Go figure! Net income was \$19,087, up 45% from 2009. So how does that happen? Well, about a third came from the one dollar increase in entry fees. The remaining two thirds is the result of the stellar effort of our tournament managers to control expenses and still put on a great tournament. A huge thank you goes to Bill Grant and Alice Leicht for jobs well done.

### Tournament Site Contracts

My previous articles talked about our tournament contracts and the impact our room and food/beverage guarantees have on our long-term financial health. I reported last month that things (that's the technical term) will get better in 2010. Well, guess what? Already "things" are better.

Thanks to our tournament contract negotiator, Ken Monzingo, we have new contracts with more favorable terms for both Palm Springs and Riverside. For example the room guarantee in Palm Springs is gone for the foreseeable future. Folks, I have to tell you that this is huge, and it didn't come easily. It took a tremendous amount of time, energy and determination to accomplish this. The district board thanks Ken for covering our back, and so should you.

Next time you see him, give him the pat on the back he deserves.

### Masterpoint History

Over the years bridge players have been witness to constant change. To be a Life Master prior to 1969, a player needed red and black points. Gold points became a requirement in 1969 and silver points were added in 1988, and today we have platinum points. Logically points won at tournaments should be worth more. After all, masterpoints are a measure of lifetime achievement, and to become Life Master it seems reasonable that players demonstrate the ability to compete at all levels - clubs, sectionals, regionals and nationals.

In recent years the ACBL made it easier to earn masterpoints including silver and red points at the club level (STAC tournaments for example). Stratiflighted games were introduced in 1987 with the idea that novice and intermediate players would be able to participate in limited masterpoint games where learning the game can be done in a more relaxed environment.

Knockouts originated in the 1930s. So, while not a new concept, their popularity today replaced the previously popular Swiss Teams of yesteryear. Today Knockouts are viewed by new players as "easy gold," and awards for success are overvalued compared to pairs awards.

These conditions have all but killed pairs games. Which bring me to club masterpoint awards. In the '60s and '80s, points were called fractionals. The best you could do was a fraction of a single full point. As recently as the early '80s, 0.60 was the most you could get at a club game unless it was a special game (few and far between). In the early days, clubs had one game a month called a "Masterpoint" game where the overall winners earned one full masterpoint!

### Masterpoint Inflation

In 2004 the ACBL passed a motion allowing any club game to be a "special" game. For the mere price of \$1.00 per person charity contribution, all club masterpoints would almost be tripled.

(See King's Korner on page 12)

## D22 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) & all copy to:

Joel Hoersch  
[joel@contractbridgeforum.com](mailto:joel@contractbridgeforum.com)  
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### Change of Address

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