

# CONTRACT BRIDGE

## Forum



Volume 85 Issue 5—May 2010

## Las Vegas Regional

June 7-13, 2010



It's been one of the most regularly popular tournaments in ACBL history - the Las Vegas Regional, coming up this year June 7-13 at the Riviera Hotel and Casino. A cornucopia of events is on tap, including plenty of those gold masterpoint producing Bracketed Knockouts.

If you have never been to Vegas you have a treat in store, both the town and the tournament. Your *ScoreCard* editor has been to Vegas dozens of times, for bridge and the desert, over the last several decades, and occasionally wonders what it would be like to induce temporary amnesia and experience it all over "for the first time." It's been amazing enough to watch the increase of mega-casinos the past three decades, but to see it for the first time all in one fell swoop?!

The Las Vegas Unit goes all out for their famous hospitality as well.

Please see the ad this issue for schedules and activities.



### ¿Qué Pasa?

By Jerry Fleming,  
National Board Representative

¿What's happening?

The Great Western Spring Fling STAC starts in a few days. Here's an opportunity to win lots of silver points if you happen to have a great game in your club! Whether that happens or not we are all winners because these STACs help keep our costs down by providing major funding for the Western Conference and the publication of the *Forum*, our monthly news magazine.

Shortly thereafter is our Denver Regional May 25-31, again at the Renaissance Hotel, where the parking is free and the hospitality is fabulous. Two weeks later is our largest regional, the Las Vegas Regional. This tournament is at the Riviera, but in 2011 they are moving their tournaments to Ballys.

### ACBL Board Meeting

The ACBL board of directors held its spring meeting in Reno in March. I wish to thank district president John Van Ness for ably representing our district in my absence, especially because he had relatively short notice.

- A motion to require a minimum of 26-27 boards in regional events at NABCs was defeated by a narrow margin. The local tournament chairs will continue to be able to decide whether fewer boards/session is appropriate for their particular NABC.

- A motion to change the name of the Side Game Series regionally rated games to Regional Pairs Series Game was defeated. These were called Continuous Pairs for awhile. Whatever, we've got to come up with a way to eliminate the negative connotation the name of these games carries. Side Game Series games are not like side games in the past; indeed, they are an integral part of all NABCs and most regional tournaments. All sanctioned games held in clubs, with the exception of STACs, will now count toward the unit, district and ACBL Ace of Clubs rankings.

- A Super Senior Pairs (age 70+) will be established as an ACBL+ event at national tournaments. This will run the last two days of each Fall NABC. A motion to gradually increase the "senior age" from 55 to 60 was defeated. Therefore, in ACBLland, you're still eligible to participate in senior events when you reach age 55.

- All clubs that run one or more sanctioned local charity games must provide, when asked, an accounting of how charity money raised in this manner is distributed, to whom and the amounts. The significance of this motion is that it replaced a motion to eliminate all local charity games. I think the requirement is totally reasonable, because up to now we have had no controls in place that would stand up to an audit. Beginning with the 2010-2011 event, qualifiers to the national North American Pairs finals from each district will receive a fixed monetary prize from a new scale.

- For players who fall under the new Life Master requirements (they joined ACBL or were reinstated after Jan. 1, 2010), new milestones to attain rankings below Life Master have been implemented. Pigmented points will be required for all ranks Sectional Master and above.

### Special Games at Clubs

Club special games that award masterpoints at sectional rating have become a hot issue with many club owners and players. Specifically, club charity games, junior fund games, international fund games and education foundation games have come under fire because they have started competing with tournaments, especially sectionals and STACs. The board has dealt with several motions over the past two to three years that would have either cut back on the number of these games clubs can hold, or which would have reduced the masterpoint awards these games offer.

In Reno, a compromise solution was reached. In February, which is junior fund month, clubs can hold as many junior fund special games as they wish. The same holds true for charity games in April and international fund games in September. In all other months, clubs may hold only one of these special games per month per sanctioned session, and the choice of beneficiary is up to them.

In addition, the masterpoint awards for all of these special games shall be at 70% of sectional rating.

Obviously this move will reduce the contributions made to each of the four groups. The primary financial impact to ACBL will be the loss of junior fund revenue, estimated at \$54,000 this year and \$108K each year starting in 2011. The other funds are pass-through.

I initially opposed this change because these games are popular with players and because of the benefits to the various funds, but it has become clear that the price is too high, so the changes were necessary.

If players can stay home and play in games that award points using the same scale as that used in tournaments, why should they travel to tournaments once they have all the pigmented points they need?

That's probably an oversimplification, but it highlights the concern.

It's probably time we do an in depth survey of why players travel to

(See ¿Qué Pasa? on page 16)

## Adele Verkamp & Mesa 351 I/N Program And the Winners Are ...



Joanne Rankin - Mary Lou Glick

Adele Verkamp of Phoenix has, for the past four years, enlisted volunteer mentors to dedicate their time to assist and play with newer players in the Mesa Unit 351. This year's Novice/Mentor Program ended with Mary Lou Glick and her

### Mesa's Lunch With The Experts

Adele's never-ending work also created the "Lunch with the Ex-

mentor, JoAnne Rankin posting the high score among the program's 18 pairs on Monday afternoon of the Mesa Roadrunner Regional. Their 56.03% game barely edged out the 55.28 game that her husband, mentor Paul Glick, scored with John Powers.

Now for the rest of the story.

Not too long ago Mary Lou met Paul on *E-Harmony.com*, and they married shortly thereafter.

Since Paul's favorite pastime is duplicate bridge, Mary Lou decided to try to learn the game.

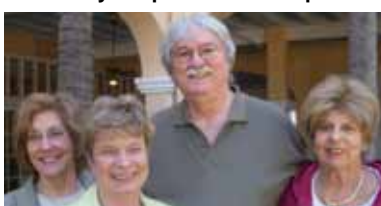
The rest is history.



Diane Hall - Bill Hall  
Kay Afdahl - Dar Afdahl



Guy Gundaker - Kathy Baumann  
Kitty Cooper - Steven Cooper



Bonnie Bagley - Nancy Baldwin  
Ken Monzingo - Caryl Martinez

perts" program. During the just finished Mesa Roadrunner Regional the popular event for the Intermediate/Novice players was back again and very successful this year. One lucky pair was drawn at the beginning of the 10:00 session in the I/N playing area to have lunch with a pair of visiting experts, courtesy of Mesa Unit 351. The winners brought their private scorecards and hand records for free lessons to ask their experts about bridge hands and to share memorable stories.

Bonnie Bagley of Colorado Springs and Ken Monzingo, San Diego were the experts in the spotlight on Wednesday joined by the first two of the three lucky winners, Nancy Baldwin, Scottsdale, and Caryl Martinez, Council Bluffs, Iowa. On Thursday Kitty & Steven Cooper, Fort Collins, Colorado, shared their experiences with Kathy Baumann and Guy Gundaker, both Scottsdale.

And on Friday it was experts Kay & Dar Afdahl of Oro Valley, Arizona hosting Diane & Bill Hall, also of Scottsdale.

## 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](mailto: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.