

Upcoming Tournaments

Durango 4 Corners Sectional June 4-6, 2010

Durango 4 Corners Sectional, June 4-6, is again at the La Plata Senior Center on Main Avenue and has 1:30 & 7:00 playing times on Friday and 10:00 & 3:00 on Saturday. Both days have 199er events. A KO team begins Friday at 7:00 and continues Saturday. Sunday Swiss Teams entries are \$99/team and include lunch. Complementary coffee, snacks and finger foods are at all sessions and door prizes are featured.

Prescott Summer Sectional June 25-27, 2010

Prescott invites you to the cool mountains for their annual Summer Sectional June 25-27 at the Adult Center of Prescott on Rosser Street. The schedule is traditional with single session Stratified Pairs at 10:00 & 3:00 on both Friday and Saturday. In addition there is a KO at 3:00 p.m. Friday, 10:00 & 3:00 on Saturday. There are also 199er games. Sunday is Swiss Teams at 10:00 and is stratified by team average.

Albuquerque Roadrunner Sectional June 18-20, 2010

Albuquerque is a good place to get ready for your bridge playing summer. The dates are June 18-20 at the Duke City Bridge Center at 8616 Northeastern Blvd. NE. and all the championships up for grabs are listed in the ad elsewhere this issue. Good weather, good bridge in Albuquerque.

Ruidoso Christmas in July Sectional July 9-11, 2010

The Ruidoso Convention Center is playing site for the Christmas in July Sectional July 9-11, featuring Bracketed Knockouts both Friday and Saturday, plus the expected pairs games (Open and 299er) and the final day's Swiss Teams. See the ad below for details.

Timeless Technique - Book Review

By Jared Johnson

Modern bidding continues to evolve. Most auctions today are very different from 50 years ago. But some pay techniques are timeless. Thus we have the 50th anniversary republishing of Clyde Love's classic *Bridge Squeezes, Winning Endgame Strategy* (Master Point Press, Toronto). Modern bridge authors Linda Lee and Julian Pottage have revised the book to bring some aspects of it up-to-date. Particularly, some of the auctions have been retooled, usually to get you to the same eventual contract, but by a more

modern road.

The basis of the squeeze play is to play winners that force the defenders to make discards that surrender tricks. Sometimes you have to deliberately surrender a trick (that you will eventually lose anyway - it's called rectifying the count) early in the play to tighten the vice.

Successful squeeze plays are a combination of getting a count and timing.

Nearly 400 pages chronicle every type of squeeze, simple, double, triple, compound, trump squeezes, entry squeezes, and more. The possibilities are legion and are often overlooked by most players.

¿Que Pasa?—Continued from page 1

play in sectional tournaments. If we tie this into special club game participation, I think the results would be very helpful, not only to bridge governing bodies, but also to tournament organizers.

Special Club Games and STACs

Motion to prevent clubs from running special games within 50 miles of a sectional or regional tournament was defeated. It's easy to see the arguments on both sides. There are lots of tournaments, especially in metropolitan areas. In order for clubs to survive - and to prosper - it is unrealistic to expect them to run only rating point games every time there is a tournament.

But what about STACs? STACs are run in clubs, and are popular with players. Recently some of our clubs have run special games during our STAC weeks rather than participate in the STAC. Their argument is that players are more likely to win lots of points in special games than in STACs. Ouch!

The new rules should help bring these clubs back to our STACs, and this is very important. Our STACs contribute significantly to the overall financial health of the Western Conference, and help keep sanction fees low. And, by the way, they're fun!

ACBL Move

We originally expected to move to our new ACBL headquarters building in early March. However, there have been problems laying the underground fiber optic cable and the fire marshal has pointed out some necessary modifications to the work done in the new building.

Hopefully the headquarters will be in its new home by the time you read this.

Technology

The ACBL technology committee has been in existence for over a year. The committee has looked at several areas that would benefit from upgraded technology. Thanks to their efforts, all clubs can now post their results on the ACBL website. But that is only the beginning. The committee has been looking into ways to make our website more user friendly. Admittedly it is difficult to navigate the website now.

In addition, the committee has initiated discussions with ACBL management to rewrite ACBLscore, and has received a commitment from ACBL management to make this a high priority. Though it has been a wonderful tool for better than two decades, it is programmed in an obsolete language, and is very difficult to modify.

Too often, changes that would have benefited our game have been ruled out simply because they couldn't be supported, without tremendous effort and cost, by ACBLscore.

In addition, changes we have implemented were far more difficult than they would have been with current technology.

Other Initiatives

Our plate is full. I believe we have to develop a ranking system that is based on current ability in order to give players whose masterpoint total does not reflect their skill level a reason to keep coming to our games.

Slow play is a problem everywhere, but particularly in top flight events. Making starting times earlier does not solve this problem. It just gives slow players more time. If duplicate bridge is a timed event, why doesn't that apply to everyone?

Additionally, zero tolerance is not uniformly enforced. The results are unpleasant experiences at the bridge table that drive people away and make it very hard to recruit new players. The good news is that we have people working on all these issues! As long as I am your ACBL representative, I plan to work on these and other projects that will build our game and make it more enjoyable for everyone.

My Absences

Except for one El Paso district board meeting several years ago that conflicted with my work obligations, I had not missed an ACBL board, Western Conference board or District 17 board meeting in the 20 years I've been involved in bridge administration in District 17. That record came to a sudden halt when I experienced a detached retina on my way to the Western Conference meeting in Monterey in January. Three eye operations forced me to miss the district board meeting in Albuquerque in January and the ACBL board meeting in March. As I write this, I am cautiously anticipating a full recovery, and am looking forward to a full resumption of my bridge activities. I look forward to seeing many of you in Las Vegas!

Your input and suggestions on any of the above topics (or any other issues you wish to raise) are always appreciated, whether you agree or not. My phone number is 505 662-3036, you can e-mail me at peanutcat@aol.com, or write me at 2175 La Tierra Road, Los Alamos NM 87544-2766.

A special thanks to those of you who have contacted me to share your opinions.

Denver Rocky Mountain Regional



Just a reminder. You will want to be in Denver May 25-31 for the annual Rocky Mountain Regional at the Renaissance Hotel at 3801 Quebec Street. Check out the ads and stories in this, and in the last couple of issues, and please join us.



July 9-11, 2010

Ruidoso Convention Center

Enjoy Bridge in the Mountains of New Mexico

Friday, July 9

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| 9 AM | Sierra Blanca KO's |
| 1 PM & 7 PM | Sierra Blanca KO's Stratified Open Pairs Stratified 299's Open Pairs |

Saturday, July 10

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| 9 AM | The Down and Dirty KO's Stratified Open Pairs |
| 1 PM & 7 PM | The Down and Dirty KO's Stratified Open Pairs Stratified 299's Open Pairs |

Sunday, July 11

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|------------------|---|
| 10 AM & TBD | Strati-flighted Swiss Teams (A & AX play together) |
| Stratified: | (A) 1500+ (B) 500-1500 (C) 0-500 |
| Strati-Flighted: | (A) 3000+ (Ax) 0-3000 (D) 0-500 |
| | (B) 1000-1500 (C) 500-1000 |

Fees: Pairs and KO's: \$10 / person / session
Swiss Team: \$88 / team (Sunday Lunch Included)
(Non-ACBL player: add \$2.00 each session)

Host: Unit 388 District 17

Director in Charge: Tom Whitesides

Tournament Chairperson: Cathy McCloskey
(575) 434-3417 cathymc7@hotmail.com

Partnerships: Florence Ebel
(575) 430-1939 tigerdin@tularosa.net

Chamber of Commerce: 1 877 784-3676

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