

# CONTRACT BRIDGE

## Forum

Volume 85 Issue 5—May 2010

## Planning for the Fall NABC

### November 22-December 2, 2012



By Jim Leuker  
Tournament Chairman

It's time to start planning for another great North American Bridge Championship in San Francisco, Thursday, November 22 to Sunday, December 2, 2012, at the Marriott Hotel on 4th Street between Market and Mission. We need volunteers to help plan this next successful San

Francisco NABC, and will use your talent and involvement in many ways!

First and foremost, we need a logo for our banner to be hung at upcoming NABCs throughout the U.S. All you artists out there (pros and novices alike) are invited to submit your ideas for logo entries for consideration to me at [jleuker100@aol.com](mailto:jleuker100@aol.com) and to NABC12 Secretary Marion Robertson at [mrobertson@msn.com](mailto:mrobertson@msn.com), telephone: 415 566-1603.

The deadline for NABC logo submissions is August 15.

Interested in chairing, or co-

chairing, or even helping on one of our Committees? We need help on Hospitality, Registration, Caddies, Restaurants, Transportation and Parking, Tours and Special Events, Corporate Sponsorships, Local Information, Partnerships, Entertainment and Food, Prizes, Internet, Intermediate and Novice Programs, Volunteers, Charity, Pre-tournament Entertainment, and Wall of Honor. Please let us know what you would like to do by e-mailing me or Marion.

With your help, we'll have another memorable national tournament in 2012!

## California Capital Regional

### May 31-June 6, 2010 Sacramento, California



The DoubleTree Inn in Sacramento will host the California Capital Regional

## FORUM DEADLINES

Deadlines for *Forum* copy and ads is the 5th of the month!

Rich Luttrell  
D21 *Forum* Editor  
6550 2nd Street,  
Rio Linda CA 95673  
Phone: 916 991-6997  
Fax: 916 992-6997  
[luttrellr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:luttrellr@sbcglobal.net)

**Change of Address**  
Send change of address to:  
[addresschange@acbl.org](mailto:addresschange@acbl.org)

Or regular mail to:  
ACBL/Address Change  
P.O. Box 289  
Horn Lake MS 38637

## Tournament Trail

Sacramento Spring Sectional  
Community Center, Orangevale, Calif.  
April 30-May 2, 2010  
Great Western Spring STAC XI  
Local clubs D21 and throughout the West  
May 3-9, 2010  
Lone Cypress Sectional  
Monterey Bridge Center, Marina, Calif.  
May 14-16, 2010  
East Bay Spring Sectional  
Holy Redeemer Center, Oakland, Calif.  
May 28-30, 2010  
San Francisco Sectional  
Janet Pomeroy Center, San Francisco, Calif.  
June 12-13, 2010  
Earthquake Sectional  
Senior Center, Gilroy, Calif.  
June 26-27, 2010



## Reversal of Misfortune

By Bruce W. Blakely  
District 21 Representative to the  
ACBL Board of Directors

*Report from the Spring 2010 Reno ACBL Board Meetings*

The Spring 2010 ACBL Board of Directors meetings got off to a great start with management reversing a policy that had reduced an important service to the players. To explain this, I need to provide a bit of background.

At the Summer 2009 Washington, D.C. board meetings, management had announced that the League was eliminating hand analyses for the ACBL-wide International Fund Games, Junior Games and Senior Games. Following Jay Baum (the League's CEO) report at that meeting, I asked the CEO why this was happening (previously discussed in my report from the Washington NABC). The CEO and staff advised the Board that by eliminating these hand analyses, the League could save approximately \$13,000 annually (on a \$15 million budget), mostly in postage costs. Management advised that sending the analyses by email would cost the League \$3,000 annually, and would therefore save the League about \$10,000. I suggested that this policy should not be implemented since the players really like the hand analyses and the new policy would deprive our players of a valuable resource. However, the majority of the Board thought that clubs could print out the analyses at the owner's expense and suggested that management send the analyses out by email only. This pushed copying costs onto clubs. I objected and suggested that hard copies should be mailed at League expense, but did not prevail. Just prior to the Reno meeting, I learned that some clubs had refused to copy analyses and players were upset that they did not receive them. Some clubs decided that they would no longer participate in these events due to the change in policy. So I raised the issue again in Reno.

I informed the CEO that players wanted the analyses and some clubs were abandoning their participation in the events. And, surprise, the League reversed itself. All players will now be receiving hard copies of the hand analyses at League expense. This represents a great gain for both players and club owners.

Following the CEO report, there was a brief discussion of the League's policy goals for 2010. The top priorities include improving our marketing; coming up with a solution to the masterpoint structure, including a rating system based on current performance; making technological improvements; receiving more accurate budget projections; and improving the League's internet site. There was also some discussion of whether the League should engage in any redistricting, an issue which is considered every five years, during the years ending in five or a zero.

Following the full board meeting, we broke into committees. At my request, I sit on the Bridge, Appeals & Charges, and Internet committees. I am also one of four members on the NABC Advisory Committee, which assists management in deciding where (cities and hotels) our NABCs will take place. This year, the Bridge Committee was unified with Special Events, Conditions of Contest, and Tournaments committees, so I attended those committee meetings as well.

The big issues this year for bridge were restricting the number of Special Games at Clubs (the so-called triple point games) and considering whether the age for Senior events should be increased from 55 years of age to 60 or 65. The principal issue for tournaments was whether regional pairs games at NABCs should consist of a minimum of 26 boards or whether this decision should be subject to local discretion. On Wednesday, the Full Board met again to vote on the motions which had been considered in committee. As usual, I will describe my votes when I did not vote with the majority.

*The following are the key votes:*

The major decision reached at the Reno meeting was placing a limit on triple point games. This was a very divisive issue, with some directors wanting to severely limit these games, some requesting minimal limitations, and some wanting no limit at all. However, the general belief of both players and most directors was that these games had gotten out of hand, with some clubs in Georgia and Long Island, New York holding "special games" with full sectional masterpoints during every session. The Committee had met by conference call for two and half hours one month before the Board meetings, and reached the compromise of allowing unlimited special games during the three designated months, February for Junior Fund games, April for Charity Games, and September for International Fund Games, and allowing one additional special game per month for the remaining nine months. This reduced the number of these special games from 52 weeks per year per sanctioned game time slot, down to 21 or 22 weeks per year.

The committee had also unanimously recommended reducing the masterpoint awards to 70% of sectional rating. The Full Board voted 23-2 in favor of the committee's recommendation with directors from District 9 (Florida) and District 15 (Oklahoma) voting against.

*(See Blakely on page 16)*