

Blakely report—Continued from page 1

The Board voted unanimously to allow all points earned at clubs, with the exception of STACs, to be counted towards Ace of Clubs races.

A motion to expand the geographic prohibition on clubs holding upgraded club games during regionals and sectionals from 25 miles to 50 miles was proposed by the director from District 7 (Georgia) since many players were staying at their local clubs and getting more points, rather than traveling to sectionals. This motion was generally opposed by metropolitan areas where directors thought that 50 miles was too limiting, while rural district directors either favored the motion or were indifferent since 50 miles didn't create any significant impact upon their tournaments. I thought this was a tough call since we need to ensure that sectionals and regionals are popular but, since we have a compact district, I felt 25 miles was sufficient for District 21's purposes. However, there was some sentiment that, since 25 miles was not enough, all limits should be eliminated. Since I am in favor of cutting back on triple point games in general, want to ensure the viability of our Sectional tournaments, and didn't want to have the limit eliminated, I voted in favor of the motion to expand the 25 mile restriction to 50 miles. It failed 8-17. I hope the Board does not eliminate the current restriction in the future.

A motion to have various requirements for black and other colored points, and to set graduated limits for online points to count toward ranks below life master, passed 25-0. This motion was made retroactive to January 1 but will only affect players who were not members prior to January 1, 2010, or who allow their memberships to lapse.

Another hot topic was a motion to raise the age of senior events from 55 to 60 or 65 since 92% of our players are over 55 years of age. There was a consensus that, if we were starting from scratch today, all directors would set the Senior age at 60 or 65, instead of 55. However, most felt that, since the age has been 55 for many years; Senior events would be hurt by raising the age; existing Senior Regionals might fail if the age was changed, because many teams would have one or more players between 55 and 60 who would disqualify the entire team; and since our tournaments are very successful now, we should not argue with success. The motion failed 9-16.

The Board considered a motion to start a new event, the "Super Senior Pairs," eligible only to players over 70 years of age, to be held the last weekend of the Fall NABCs starting in Orlando this year. The motion passed 23-2. The event will pay Platinum Points, but winning this event will not qualify a player for Grand Life Master status.

On Thursday morning, Jeff Johnston, the head of Tournament Services, discussed proposed locations for future NABC tournaments in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Although dates have not been finalized, it looks like we will be going back to Chicago, Washington, Orlando, and Reno during those years (although Reno is still up in the air). There are four fine quality and inexpensive hotels in competition for the Orlando Fall 2016 tournament. Dates and locations have not been finalized. And the Board voted 25-0 to return to the same popular site in San Diego in the Fall of 2017.

On Thursday the Board held a second day of discussions regarding the BOG's request to require a minimum of 26 boards for Regional pair games and 52 boards for two session Swiss Teams at the NABCs in light of modifications that had been prepared overnight. In spite of the clarification which excluded 9:00 a.m. side games and I/N games, the motion failed by 3 votes, 10-15. I was again in the minority, voting in favor of the motion, since I believe we are shortchanging the players by allowing local committees to hold 24 board events. This is a matter for national policy and we should not allow local committees to deprive our players.

The Board received a report on Internet bridge. All told, 10,539 players played online for ACBL masterpoints in 2009. There were 584,682 tables of online bridge, which brought in \$221,342 in sanction fees to ACBL.

A motion was raised in the finance committee, of which I am not a member, to turn over all money collected in charity games to the Charity Foundation. This requires a bit of background. About a month before each board meeting, each board member receives a packet for the upcoming NABC. This packet, called the Journal, is anywhere from 50 to a few hundred pages long describing all the motions on the agenda. A number of directors were opposed to this motion because it would have eliminated financial support for local charities. I was clearly opposed to the motion as written. In committee, however, the motion was changed to an entirely different motion; one which would allow clubs to run charity games to benefit local charities, but would require club owners to make available for public inspection an accounting of all funds raised in such games no later than February 28 of the following calendar year. If the club owner failed to do so, the revised motion proposed that the club would be barred from running any special charity games until it complied. This completely different motion was first presented to me on Thursday, the last day of the Board meeting, about five minutes before discussion of the issue. It was a completely different motion (unlike the motion as initially proposed) and I thought I would be in favor.

To complicate matters, one director made a motion to amend this new motion to keep the reporting requirement of the first sentence, but to eliminate the second sentence which contained the enforcement provision. Jay Baum, the CEO, requested that the motion be defeated so that the Board and Management could think more about the ramifications of its implementation on clubs, players, and the League. I moved to defer the motion to the Summer NABC meeting so that we could consider the new motion and could analyze the enforcement issue. The motion to defer the vote was defeated. The motion to delete the enforcement provision passed by voice vote. Despite the CEO's request to defeat the motion, the motion passed 22-1-2, with two abstentions, by myself, and District 12 (Michigan). I abstained since the motion was completely different from the one we had been presented in the Journal, and since I believed that the matter should be deferred for further analysis in light of the complete revision of the motion in committee. Also, there was no enforcement procedure in the revised motion if a club did not report, or failed to turn over the earmarked money to charity.

Finally, the revised 2010 budget was approved by a vote of 24-1.

While in Reno, I also received some stats regarding 2009 regionals. D21 was second overall in average table count for regional, with an average of 2503 tables. Only D7 (Georgia, Carolinas, Eastern Tennessee) had a better score card, with a 3692 average. Putting aside the Gatlinberg mega-tournament, which was more than twice the size of any other regional in the country at 9712 tables, D7's average was 2489. And D21 was the only District to have all of its regionals in the Top 20 in the country.

During the tournament following the Board meetings, I had an opportunity to spend a number of hours with three representatives of the Danish Bridge4People company that is bringing the Bridge Spinner to market. The Spinner is a revolutionary wireless on-table dealing machine and scoring device that could eliminate the need to have traveling boards. With it, the same hands could be played simultaneously nationwide, or players could play a session of bridge at home and compare their scores with an event played last week or 20 years ago. It promises to be a fabulous addition to bridge culture if sales take off. The video presentation was very impressive, but I have not seen the units operating under actual tournament conditions.

To view the video which should have audio added to it within the next two weeks, log on to www.bridge4people.com. The CEO of the company anticipates that the first generation of the product will be on the market in October of this year.

The next ACBL Board meeting will be in New Orleans this July.

District 21 Unitscope

(Continued from page 15)

received a prize for showing up; thanks Ron Magin & Peter Grande.

Every great party takes planning and this fete would not have been possible without the support of my great pals and dear friends. Our president, and mi amiga, Rose Knutson provided a beautiful birthday cake for the crowd plus she vacuumed!

Lee Pyron pitched in as part of the set-up team along with Norma Peterson, who not only saved the day by getting a last minute substitute, but also decorated all nine tables and provided birthday accents all over the club to add to the festive air, and lastly, my glamorous friend, Margie Erardi, who donned rubber gloves and armed with just a spray bottle cleaned the tables and chairs, plus the powder room. The club sparkled thanks to this wonderful group of women. I will always be indebted and no doubt somewhere be reminded that payback is hell.

Many thanks to each player attending my party, because of you the day turned out to be fantastic! Again, thank you.

So surely you can tell, the Stockton Bridge Center is a place to come and play. We have two games each week on Monday & Friday at 11:30 a.m. Ricky Elin directs on Monday, 209 472-7919 and call Ron for Friday's game at 209 888-4116.

Our unit game is the third Sunday of each month so drop in at 4:00 p.m. for a potluck supper followed by bridge at 5:00. We are located at 6235 Harrisburg Place; it is the store front without a sign.

Turlock/Merced

By George Loscalzo

Did anyone notice that my face was red? For those of you who showed up at Turlock for the 7:00 p.m. game on Thursday night; mea culpa; I

owe you an Italian dinner at Angelini's; we've only been going to Turlock on Tuesdays and Saturdays, say, for about 35 years.

But now for the news from Sweet Bridge: Margaret Quinn earned 6.60 masterpoints and the Player of the Month award; Audrey Mackall was the top B player and Jean Astorino, the top C player; Betty Brown & Margaret Quinn turned in the high game of 67.71% on March 3.

Congratulations to all of you.

The Monday Player of the Month was Audrey Mackall; section firsts were: Mar. 1: Ed & Mike Thiner; Mar. 8: Vickie Sweet & Cox Thornton, Jr.; Toots Wade & Roland Wilson; Mar. 15: Dave Terry & Cox Thornton, Jr.; Mar. 22: Pat Kaufman & Audrey Mackall; Jim Higgins & Dennis Northern; Mar. 29: Eva Slate & Larrie Sweet; Betty Brown & Art Konecny.

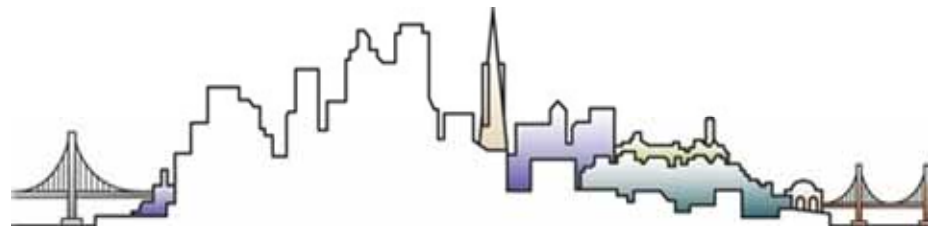
The Wednesday Players of the Month were Dave Terry & George Loscalzo. Section firsts were:

Mar. 3: Betty Brown & Margaret Quinn; Mar. 10: John and Margaret Quinn; Mar. 17: Dave Terry & George Loscalzo; Mar. 24: Larrie Sweet & Jim Higgins.

The Friday Player of the Month was Margaret Quinn. Section firsts were: Mar. 5: Kay Weston & Art Konecny; Margaret Quinn & George Loscalzo; Mar. 12: Jack & Lenore Ellery; Art Konecny & Margaret Quinn; Mar. 19: Betty Brown & Margaret Quinn; Sallo Canelo & Katie Peterson; Mar. 26: George Loscalzo & Larrie Sweet; Jean Astorino & Joan Perkins.

Sweet Bridge will be having Great Western Spring STAC games on Monday, May 3, Wednesday, May 5, and Friday, May 7. There will be no game on Mon., May 31.

I checked my spam, all weekend, but didn't spot a report from Turlock, either there or in my regular e-mail; it's late Monday night and I have to meet the deadline, so no report from Turlock this month.



SAN FRANCISCO SECTIONAL JUNE 12 and 13, 2010 Janet Pomeroy Center 207 Skyline Blvd San Francisco

SATURDAY

Pairs
10:30 am

Two-Session Stratified Pairs
0-750/2000/+

Single Session Side Pairs
0-500/1500/+

Newcomer 199er Stratified Pairs
(Strats to be determined)

3:00 pm

Second Session Stratified Pairs

Single Session Side Pairs
0-50/300/+

SUNDAY

Swiss Teams
10:30 am

Stratiflighted Swiss Teams 4 Rounds
7 boards per round A/X and B/C/D
0-3000/+ and 0-300/750/1500
Top player determines Strat

Single Session Side Pairs
0-100/500/+

3:00 pm

Swiss Teams Second Session 3 Rounds
7 Boards per round

Tournament Chair: Dean Wangsvick

Contact Person: Joanne Allen (415 441 1736) jma1017@comcast.net

Partnerships: Libby Noronha (415 566 9485) libbynoronha@comcast.net

Director-in-Charge: Dianne Barton-Paine MID-CHART Convention OK

\$10 Members \$11 Non and Unpaid Members per Session

**LIGHT LUNCH PROVIDED FREE BETWEEN SATURDAY SESSIONS
PIZZA AT \$1.00 PER SLICE (PLUS FREE GREEN SALAD) PROVIDED
BETWEEN SUNDAY SESSIONS**