

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Forum



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Albuquerque Navajo Trail Regional



Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North

Per tradition, the first District 17 regional of the upcoming year, 2010, is the Navajo Trail Regional in Albuquerque January 18-24 at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North at 5151 San Francisco Road NE. You will find the first ad on this popular tournament elsewhere in this issue of *ScoreCard*. Please check it out for all the important information on playing site, reservations and schedule of events, and start making your plans now to attend.

Phoenix Bridge Players Give Generously

By Jamie Rubenstein
Phoenix, Arizona

**\$4,062 + 400 Pounds
for Food Bank**

In a charity milestone coming at a time when Arizona is reeling from the recession, Phoenix bridge players have opened their wallets to contribute a record \$4,062 plus more than 400 pounds of non-perishables to the St. Mary's Food Bank. The fundraising campaign, headed up by Chris and Judy McNaughton of Scottsdale, picked up steam in

late August, culminating Oct. 2-4 at the annual Horn O' Plenty Sectional in Scottsdale.

"This contribution is more than we ever dreamed of receiving from the bridge community, surpassing the \$500 given last year," declared Pat Fehlhaber, association development officer of the St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, noting that it will provide over 28,000 meals.

The McNaughtons, who personally made a \$1,000 matching pledge, presented the check to Fehlhaber. In addition, the club owners provided space for canned good donations and made ongoing appeals to the players.

"I think Valley bridge players have demonstrated through their generosity that they understand the personal financial crises many of the unemployed residents of our city are enduring," said unit president Janet Newman. "The McNaughtons deserve our undying gratitude for stepping up to

the plate in this fashion."

Retiring board member Page Tomkinson, head of the unit's charity committee, recruited the McNaughtons because of their civic work.

Chris McNaughton, a retired executive vice president and general counsel of Kellogg's in Battle Creek, Mich., has a lifetime of food experience. "The poor, the homeless and the jobless numbers in Phoenix are huge," McNaughton told tournament players, assuring them their contributions are directed to St. Mary's, "which has a wonderful mission."

East side Phoenix clubs made up the bulk of the cash contributions with DotyBridge collecting \$1,540, AZ BridgeWorks adding \$790 and Black Mountain Bridge Club players donating \$200. The remaining funds consisted of \$332 collected at the tournament and \$1,250 in matching grants from the McNaughtons and another anonymous donor.

2009-2010 GNT Teams

By Jerry Ranney
D17 GNT Coordinator

Greetings from the new D17 GNT coordinator. The qualifying period for the 2009-2010 Grand National Teams competition held in District 17 clubs and/or units is September 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010. District 17 GNT finals will be held from June 10-13, 2010 at the Las Vegas Regional. The GNT finals will be held at the New Orleans Summer NABC. The finals will start on July 21.

The GNT competition is divided into four flights: Championship Flight (unlimited masterpoints), Flight A (players with less than 5000 MP), Flight B (players with less than 2000 MP), and Flight C (Non-Life Masters with less than 500 MP). For eligibility in Flights A, B, and C, stated limitations must be met as of the September masterpoint cycle produced on August 6, 2009.

NAP Finals Ruidoso, New Mexico

By Dale Sweetwood
D17 NAP Coordinator

There is good news and bad news in the North American Pairs program. Attendance at the district finals October 9 and 10 at the Ruidoso As-

Although districts are not required to subsidize GNT competitions, District 17 provides a nominal mileage reimbursement, except to local teams, to teams that compete in the district finals. District 17 also provides a \$1600 per team subsidy to any D17 GNT flight-winning team that participates in the national finals.

Clubs or units wishing to have the dates of their GNT qualifying games published in *ScoreCard* should provide that information to Jerry Ranney at jtranney2@msn.com

Also, results of all qualifying games need to be reported to Jerry Ranney, since the district GNT coordinator must prepare eligibility listings for both the district and national GNT finals competitions.

AZ BridgeWorks in Scottsdale will hold their GNT qualifiers on Sunday, January 31 and Sunday, March 28, 2010. Game times are 1:00 p.m. with a light lunch prior to the game.

pengold Regional was down from that of the last two years. The good news is that attendance at the club level was up this year. Led by the Mesa Unit's 35 scheduled games with 488 and a half

(See NAP on page 12)

¿Que Pasa?

By Jerry Fleming,
D17 National Board Representative
2009 ACBL President



¿What's Happening?

Next up in our part of the country is the Fall NABC at the Manchester Grand Hyatt hotel in San Diego November 26 - December 6. This should be a great tournament. The location couldn't be better for a Fall NABC! Right on the heels of the NABC will be the Great Western Holiday STAC, held at clubs throughout the western part of the US and Canada December 7-13. It is not too late to get your club signed up. After that we can look forward to an exciting bridge year in 2010.

Director Lawsuit Settled

I am happy to announce that the lawsuit filed against the ACBL by tournament directors Peter Marcus and Susan Petrocelli has been settled. Terms have not been announced as of my deadline for this article, but may be available as you read this. The lawsuit was primarily over director overtime, and this may well have an impact on how ACBL staffs tournaments in the future. It will take time to work this all out.

Philadelphia WBF Championships

The Philadelphia WBF championships next year are transnational, which means pretty much that anyone can sign up to play in these events. In addition to the WBF venue, there will be a 14 day regional held simultaneously where ACBL masterpoints will be awarded. This tournament should prove attractive to a number of U.S. players, probably including many from District 17.

Will it affect ACBL tournaments held at the same time? Probably, at least to some extent. The pros will probably all be there, as well as regular tournament players. This will be an issue for our Tucson Great Chiefs Regional, slated for October 4-10.

ACBL Election

In the recent ACBL election, the following incumbents were returned to the ACBL board: George Retek (District 1), Sharon Fairchild (D5), Phyllis Harlan (D15), Don Mamula (D19), Rand Pinsky (D23) and Rich DeMartino (D25). New board members for 2010 will be Bob Heller (D7) replacing Bruce Reeve, Suzi Subeck (D13) replacing Harriette Buckman, and Claire Jones (D18) replacing Richard Anderson.

In the District 17 Board of Governors election, winners were Bonnie Bagley from Colorado Springs, Colo., George Hanzas from Rocky Ford, Colo., and Frank Queen from Denver.

ACBL Board Meeting

The next meeting of the ACBL board of directors will be held November 22-25 at the San Diego NABC. The deadline for submitting motions is still a couple of weeks away as I write this, but some issues are already on the table.

Should we either add a flight to the North American Pairs (NAP) to have it mirror the Grand National Teams (GNT), or should we raise the Flight B limit? On the surface the former seems preferable, but that would generate a significant additional cost, as it would create another 50 pairs or so eligible for at least some travel compensation, per current NAP rules.

Another motion would reduce somewhat the scale of masterpoint awards that clubs can offer for special games like charity games, junior fund games, etc.

This is an issue that has been around for awhile. While holding these (or not) is a club owner's business decision, arguments have been

(See ¿Qué Pasa on page 7)

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

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.

Western Conference Report

By Marion Robertson
Western Conference President



A brief note on the Western Conference: We are well and prospering. Our three Districts (17, 21 and 22) have a total household membership of over 20,000. The *Contract Bridge Forum* gets better looking with each monthly issue and keeps us well informed of local events, as well as national competitions and tournaments thanks to Managing Editor Ken Monzingo and his *Forum* staffers Leticia Magana and Sergio Mendivil and District 17 Editor Jared Johnson. Our three-times-a-year Great Western Sectional Tournaments at Clubs are amazingly successful with ever-growing numbers participating, and thanks to our director in charge Betty Bratcher and Sergio Mendivil, we can see daily STAC results on our computers within hours of game completions. Just check out some of the stats on the August STAC: 7123 tables, 15,667 players, 19,428 MPs won, 495 Canadians participated, largest session was 815 tables on Monday afternoon. Wow!

Our six-person Western Conference board will have our annual meet-

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