

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Forum



Volume 84 Issue 11—November 2009

Fabulous Palm Springs Regional



December 14-20

Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa in Rancho Mirage

By Roberta Grubb
Tournament Chair

Why "Fabulous?"

Free coffee and tea every night. Pastries, cookies fruit served every day.

- Welcome gifts for everyone.
- An excellent array of great prizes given to all winners.
- Photos taken of all winners and new Life Masters with complimentary frame.
- Barometer Pairs on Tuesday night for the adventurous.
- Daily opportunities for many Gold Points in KO's!

- 299er Swiss on Tuesday - Friday afternoons.
- 0-299er Intermediate /Novice games scheduled daily.
- Bridge lessons given each day by our own Mick Riccio.
- Scheduled bridge talks by nationally renowned bridge professionals.
- Annual "Passing of the Gavel" ceremony Saturday
- Hospitality suite open Monday-Saturday 6:15-7:15.
- Free hotel parking, luxurious ambience and outstanding

playing conditions. *So Don't Wait!* Make your reservations now to attend this premier event. The Westin has given us a fabulous bridge rate of \$117 a night with the \$25 resort fee waived. Call the Westin direct at 760 328-5955 or 800 335-3545, and be sure to ask for the ACBL rate. Reservations close Nov. 20.

Our team has been working hard to make this a fabulous experience. Go to www.palmspringsregional.com and join us this Holiday Season.

NAP/GNT Updates

By Warren Cederborg
NAP/GNT Coordinator

The Westin Mission Hills Resort and Spa in Rancho Mirage will once again be the site of the District 22 North American Pairs finals on Saturday, December 19. Qualifiers from all over the district will be heading for the upscale digs for the right to represent the district at the Spring 2010 NABC championships in Reno.

Formerly called the Grand National Pairs, the North American Pairs is contested in three flights: Flight A (open to all players), Flight B (players with less than 2000 masterpoints), and Flight C (Non-LMs with less than 500 points). Players may play up in flight, but may only represent the district in one division.

Flight-mixed partnerships must play in the flight of highest masterpoint holder.

Those who have not qualified for the NAP finals need not despair, as clubs throughout the district should be running their Swiss Teams preliminaries for the 2010 Grand National Teams (GNT). Players residing in the geographical boundaries of District 22 will need to qualify at the club or unit level if they wish to advance to the district rounds of GNT play. Hopefuls who qualify move directly to the district semifinal Knockout round.

The event is contested in four flights: Open (unlimited masterpoints); Flight A (under 5000); Flight B (under 2000 masterpoints) and Flight C (Non-Life Masters under 500 points).

The GNT is a good chance for players to get their red points, as the masterpoint awards in the club and unit stage are half red, half black, with the payoff figured on a sectional rating.

Any questions may be directed to me at wcederborg@aol.com

"My Fair (Little Old) Lady"

Broadway-style show at the San Diego NABC

If you enjoy a Broadway-quality show, be prepared to laugh yourself silly during one (or more!) of the five performances of Peter Rank's marvelous "My Fair (Little Old) Lady" at the North American Bridge Championships at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego.

This musical parody features a cast of 16, consisting almost totally of bridge players or family members. The masterpoint total onstage is about 35,000. Add in the points of the writer-producer-director, and the average would comfortably entitle everyone to the rank of Gold Life Master!

The story of the musical is simple: Henry Huddle, ACBL's leading masterpoint holder (at 201,055!) is appalled at the quality of card-play at Miss Ruling's brand-new bridge club, and decides to use his expertise to correct that tragedy. He confronts Eliza Bidlitt (who is everyone's choice as the worst player in San Diego), and tears her away from her tipsy mother, Alfa, vowing to turn Eliza into an expert, and even a national champion.



Huddle's struggles to accomplish this, combined with Eliza's struggles to keep pace with this monumental task, come to a head with their adventures in the Blue Ribbon Pairs at the Nationals.

Add in three male chauvinist players, three concerned maids solicitous of Eliza's well-being, and several very vocal chorus singers, and you will be guaranteed an hour of the best bridge entertainment you could find.

And let's not forget Mrs. Muzzy, who - although she doesn't like the word "old" - is the symbol of this show for bridge lovers!



District Director Report

By Ken Monzingo
National Board Representative

Cast the Vote that Counts

Teri Atkinson is our District 22 President, and as of last month's D22 unit board members election, she also posted a solid victory over two other very strong candidates to be named our ACBL First Alternate - a position of readiness to fill in for me in case of an unforeseen vacancy.

In this election, ballots were cast by individual unit board members throughout our district. However, the ACBL has some arbitrary rules in place in this particular electoral process which I - and others - feel can create chaos and inequity - especially in larger units. I say "larger" because these votes are "weighted" by the total number of members in each particular unit. Example: each vote from a Palm Springs or San Diego board member (the district's two most populated unit members) counts more than votes from other units. I have a hard time understanding if that is really a good idea.

But an even worse scenario is that a vote from a unit board member may not even be counted ... and often isn't! By ACBL rules, unless the unit submits a quorum vote - i.e., more than 50% of the voting members submit their ballots - all votes from that unit are null and void, just whispers in the wind, and are not counted. No go.

Towards this end, we have 25 units in our district, yet only nineteen of them determined this past election. Of the 212 possible voters, only 136 submitted their ballots, and six units were voided out completely. Here's the havoc that created:

- Bishop Unit 517 has eight board members, none voted.
- La Jolla Unit 526 has nine board members, but only four voted. All votes eliminated.
- Lompoc Unit 528 has seven board members, but only three voted. All are eliminated.
- Riverside has ten board members, five voted. All are eliminated.
- Santa Ana Unit 541 has eight board members, four voted. All are eliminated.
- Santa Barbara Unit 542 has ten board members, three voted. All are eliminated.

Whether you like this procedure or not, this is what we have, and the above info emphasizes the great importance of getting more than half your unit board members to vote. That is a responsibility that should be taken seriously by all boards; how else can we have a more "true" election?

Our district secretary, Rex Latus, strongly questioned this procedure to ACBL. An excerpt from Rex's thoughtful and critical views to the league on voting quorums:

"... elections for representatives of the people should not have quorums. For example, take an election for President of the United States. In California only 49% of the voters turn out. Now what ... California didn't vote and its electoral votes are not counted? Doesn't sound fair to me.

Not voting is not a vote. You cannot punish those [who] care enough to vote by negating their vote."

As National Board Representative, I experienced this procedure more than a year ago when I was up for election. It confused me then, and I've been somewhat vocal about the procedure on the national level. However, after reading the strong stance Rex has taken regarding these procedures, I plan to join the fray with new enthusiasm to correct what I also think is a wrong.

Palm Springs & NABC Time

It's no secret that I am chairing the Fall NABC in San Diego Thanksgiving Day through December 6. I really hope you all take advantage of this tournament to taste the thrill of a national championship event, complete with all the stars you've read about and heard about. Bonnie Bagley and I have done all we can to put on a fun show for everyone. You will absolutely love Peter Rank's Broadway-type musical play "My Fair 'Little Old' Lady" during the first five days of the event. And Linda Trent and Jody Pedri will be treating all the newcomers (I/Ns) in their own program of excitement with speakers, gifts, parties, prizes and more.

On the back burner is Palm Springs. But move it forward please. This regional in mid December has become our Holiday Classic, building up to be one the top five tournaments in the country. It's a wonderful way to end your bridge 2009 and leaves plenty of time for the family gatherings at Christmas Season. Please reserve your room right now at the fabulous Mission Hills Resort.

Au revoir

I lost my friend Ed Layton last month after a courageous battle with the Big C. Most will remember Ed for his infectious smile and kind nature, but I will just remember the great thrill he had giving others joy - in his bridge classes and in tournament hospitality. His loyal students will always cherish him for his charm and wit.

"There are no blind leads, just deaf defenders!"

-Ed Layton



Ed Layton

Forum Deadlines

The D22 Forum deadline for articles and ads is the 5th of the preceding month. Ads must be prepaid, payable to D22 ACBL, c/o Fran Foresta, 38385 Rock Creek Circle, Temecula CA 92592

Please e-mail all ads & copy to: Joel Hoersch
joel@contractbridgeforum.com
619 220-0290
or 858 277-5490

Change of Address

Send change of address to: addresschange@acbl.org or mail to: ACBL/Address Change P.O. Box 161192 Memphis TN 38136