

# CONTRACT BRIDGE

## Forum



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### Last Call for Orange County Regional



By Jody Pedri &amp; Hans Giroux

We invite everyone to compete in the Orange County Regional occurring Sept. 7-13 at the Irvine Hyatt Regency at 17900 Jamboree Rd., Irvine (949 975-1234). We have some wonderful speakers planned. The Intermediate/Novice players will compete in their own room, and there will be a special speaker for them at 9:15 a.m.,

and another at 2:15 p.m. daily. Also, I/N's, don't forget our special opening day ceremonies. Starting at 4:00 p.m., we have a 2-hour lesson, followed by a simple dinner and ending with an I/N game at 7:30 p.m. If you participate in all three events, you get a chance to win a free play good for later in the week at the game of your choice. The total cost for the three events is \$11.00. Please call Jody at 714 546-4685 for a reservation, so we will know how much food to make.

Our hospitality room will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 6:15-7:15 p.m. We have added some special Compact Knockouts Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday for those of you available for only one day. Of course there are single session Swiss games at 3:00 p.m. for those unfortunate enough to get knocked out in the first round.

On Wednesday evening we have the Gayle Andrews Board-A-Match Teams game. If you have never tried this event, this would be a good time to do so. All evening games will have free coffee and snacks, so come and join us.

By Warren Cederborg  
D22 NAP/GNT Coordinator

September is a hot month in District 22 for both the North American Pairs (NAP) and the Grand National Teams (GNT). While the chance

### NAP/GNT Updates

to qualify at the club level for the NAP has passed, units may hold a qualifying event with the top half of the field moving on to the district final held on Saturday during the Palm Springs Regional. Pairs who survive the district final will be invited to contest the NAP finals held at the North American Bridge Championships next spring 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.

September is also the kickoff month for D22 players to qualify 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. Clubs and units have until the spring of 2010 to stage Swiss team qualifiers. Hopefuls who qualify at either a club or unit site in D22 move directly to the district semifinal knockout round, which will be held at multiple sites. 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). Players may play up in an attempt to qualify at a higher level and still be eligible to play back down to their own level; but a player may only represent the district in one bracket.

Both the NAP and the GNT are good chances for players to get their red points, as the masterpoint awards in the club and unit stages are half red, half black, with the payoff figured on a Sectional rating.

Any questions may be directed to me at [wcederborg@aol.com](mailto:wcederborg@aol.com)

### Board of Governors Report

By Linda Trent

D22 Board of Governors Rep

The Board of Governors (BOG) of the ACBL is a group composed of 125 elected members. Each district elects for a three year term a First Alternate Director, Second Alternate Director, and three at large members. I am a third term at-large representative from District 22, and have attended 22 of the last 24 BOG meetings.

Meetings of the BOG are held three times a year at each Nationals, and are open to any member of the ACBL. However, only official representatives to the BOG may vote. The 25 ACBL Board of Directors also attend the meeting. They do not have a vote, but do listen to the concerns of the BOG members and may clarify items that are discussed. The BOG has the right ... and the duty ... to make recommendations to the Board of Directors. This procedure allows ACBL members through their BOG representatives to propose changes in the operations or policies of the ACBL. Then, the Board of Directors can accept, modify, or reject proposals, but they must report on

the action taken.

The BOG hears Financial, League Counsel and CEO reports. The chairman of the BOG also attends the Board of Directors meeting, and then selects items that he believes should be presented to the BOG.

It is through the BOG that individual ACBL members can have a voice in the governing process. As a member of this organization, I invite any of you with new ideas or questions to pass them along to me, so that you can be represented in this part of the governing process.

For the last six years I have been an oversight member of the BOG's Competitions and Conventions Committee. These are the people who greatly influence our Alert procedures, which are only changed every three years. Our committee has started work on the next go-around, and so I especially invite your ideas and suggestions in that area. Since the next meeting will be in San Diego in November, it's not too soon for all of us to think and plan about changes we would like to see implemented in the way we play this wonderful game!



### District Director Report

By Ken Monzingo

National Board Representative

### National Board Meetings: Washington, D.C.

In a light agenda I presented one of the few motions to be decided upon by the twenty-five members of ACBL's National Board of Directors, during the Summer North American Bridge Championships in our nation's capital. My motion asked for an additional regional tournament be awarded to our district for two reasons:

1. The northern areas of District 22 (north of Los Angeles) are without a tournament of their own and must pass through Los Angeles County (District 23) in a torturous freeway trip to get to one of our southern regionals.

2. Palm Springs Regional has risen to great heights and is now one of the top five tournament venues in the country. As such I suggested we make Palm Springs (actually Coachella Valley) a "permanent" regional site such as Gatlinburg and Las Vegas, and, in so doing, would free one of our allotted four tournament sanctions to be used for that northern regional.

My motion was rewritten in committee to an acceptable compromise: that we be awarded a one-time sanction for 2010 and a new committee be formed to explore, not only the feasibility of permanent status for Palm Springs, but to look deeper into the entire regional tournament allocation in the country. My cup was half full and half empty, but my hopes for the future are filling up fast as the board overwhelmingly voted in our favor.

I believe this new committee will help not only us, but all ACBL to reassess their current regional allocation procedures. Happily, I am vice chair of this committee so will be able to keep you informed as we go. Bruce Reeve of Raleigh, North Carolina is chair.

### Short Strokes

- Rich DeMartino, District 25, Riverside, Connecticut, was elected ACBL President for 2010.
- We are reassessing the "Alert" bidding procedures. Oh my, do we need this.
- We voted to allow stratification by average MPs (sponsor option) in stratiflighted events.
- We are buried in e-mail discussion - pro & con - of the so-called "special games" in clubs.

### On the Bright side

- We're told our investments with Stanford Financial Group are safe and secure. Good.
- The move to the new headquarters building is going well. I am so excited about this.
- ACBL Membership is up! Yes, despite the economy, we are actually gaining members.
- Nationals and Regionals table counts are holding firm - Washington was over 14,000.

### Call the Law

While in Washington, D.C. for the nationals some league sheriffs did their solemn duty. An internationally famous team, playing in Europe, reported a fictitious score for a match that was not played which allowed both teams to advance to the next phase of the Norwegian Team Trials; a tactic sometimes used in the past to better position yourself for future pairings. The Europeans frowned heavily on this. In a closed door committee hearing in Washington, ACBL members of the teams were also suspended. Nice try.

### Other Disciplines Enforced

- A cell phone violation penalty was assessed to a team containing national champions. Although they were the top seed in their 4-way bracket, the twelve IMPs in penalties for having a cell in the playing area was just enough to eliminate them in the first round from the prestigious Spingold Teams competition.
- Slow play warnings were ignored by some national champions. Matt Granovetter and Ron Rubin were found responsible for a very late finish in the second quarter of their Spingold match. They were put on 30-day probation - the first major penalty I can remember ever enforced for this violation. The national board was unanimous in their praise of the stand the tournament directors took on this.

Detailed Washington committee decisions are at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org)

### Lifetime Committees

My best annual perk is to be able to award lifetime membership in the ACBL Goodwill Committee to persons who exemplify the honor, and define good will. This year I've chosen two people I admire very much; and you will also when you meet them. They'll both receive formal welcome into the Goodwill Society during the Fall NABC in San Diego this November.

**Rex Latus**, Escondido. Rex is the vice president (and secretary!) of District 22. What I admire most about him is that when a job is suggested he accepts it without question, and he does not stop until it's done. And done right. A very, very valuable man to our district.

**Laura Loring**, San Diego. Laura is one of those giving volunteers we cannot do without. Always pitching in, always wanting to be included, never asking much of anything in return. A tremendous asset to the San Diego Unit and to District 22. A true goodwill person.

### 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](mailto:joel@contractbridgeforum.com) 619 220-0290 or 858 277-5490

### Change of Address

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