

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Forum



ScoreCard

Volume 85 Issue 2—February 2010

Mesa Roadrunner Senior Regional



Crowne Plaza San Marcos Resort

The Mesa Roadrunner Senior Regional beckons April 5-11. This popular annual tournament will be again held at the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Resort (One San Marcos Place in Chandler), an easy distance from the Phoenix Sky Har-

bor Airport. The ads in *ScoreCard* will provide all the details on the schedule of events.

The senior cut-off age is 55, but there will be parallel open sectional events for the under 55 "youngsters" and any other age Friday through Sunday.

The weather will be pleasant this time of year and, of course, the Phoenix area is full of attractions for your non-bridge hours. There should be lots of good airfare deals from most parts of the district, so make your plans now and come join us.

District 17 GNT Update

By Jerry Ranney
D17 GNT Coordinator

January 1 marked the midpoint for club level Grand National Teams qualifying games in District 17. Club managers wishing to have their GNT

qualifier events in February, March, and/or April published in this column need to get their information to me by the end of January at:

jtranney2@msn.com
Numerous qualifier games have been held and I do not have space to list all who have qualified.

Tucson Cactus Flower 299er Regional



New Desert Diamond Hotel Conference Center and Casino

Just a reminder on the Tucson Cactus Flower Non-Life Master Regional February 25-28 at the New Desert Diamond Hotel Conference Center and Ca-

sino. The tournament is for Non-Life Masters with under 500 masterpoints. See the ad in this or earlier issues of *ScoreCard* for details.



A Rocky Mountain Hi!

By John Van Ness
President District 17

The Aught Report

Let's take a look at the excellent record of tournament bridge over the past ten years, rather than just the past year as I usually do in my first column of the year. The "aughts" refer to the "00"s which we have just left behind. People in Boston would better appreciate the rhyme.

District 17 regional attendance was almost 124,000 tables in the double zero decade, up 26,000 tables from the 1990s. We hosted another 59,000 tables in the "00s" at NABCs in Phoenix, Las Vegas (twice), and Denver.

We can look ahead to NABCs in Phoenix in 2013, Las Vegas in 2014, and (probably) Denver in 2015. And Las Vegas is being mentioned as a site for a World Championship in 2018. Players will also be happy to know that the Phoenix Regional is moving out of the summer in 2011, and the Las Vegas Regional has signed a contract at Bally's starting no later than 2014. Bally's is in the center of the action, surrounded by Paris, Bellagio, etc., and it should be fun.

ACBL membership in District 17 topped the 9,000 mark for the first time since 1992, up a couple of hundred from 1999 levels, after seasonal adjustment. The adjustment is necessary because our district's ACBL membership always increases by five or six hundred members every winter due to "snowbirds" - people escaping the northern winters.

Looking back 25 years, District 17's ACBL membership has increased almost 15%. We are now the third largest of the ACBL's 25 districts in membership, second largest in regional attendance, and have the fifth largest district treasury. And the third lowest entry fees. We are one of only three districts where all our members receive a free monthly bridge newspaper in the mail every month.

The district has benefitted from all this prosperity, with our treasury growing from about \$45,000 at the end of the 90s decade to about \$140,000 currently. Those units hosting our regionals have shared in the success. It takes a lot of work to produce a successful reason, and they certainly deserve it.

Entry fees in District 17 are among the lowest in the country, so all our players share in the prosperity. Ninety per cent of ACBL regionals charge \$12 or more, and the regional entry fee at NABCs is \$16. Keeping the district's regional entry fees at \$11 for as long as possible by drawing down the district treasury would be one excellent benefit of our healthy treasury.

District 17 regional players also enjoy bargain rates at first-class hotels, often less than \$100 a night. Paid parking is non-existent. Tournaments usually guarantee a number of hotel rooms in exchange for reduced rates for playing space. If the rooms aren't rented, you buy them, and the penalties can quickly run into \$20,000-\$30,000 dollars. The economy has forced hotels to reduce their room rates, sometimes substantially, and anyone contractually locked into 2008 prices has reason to get nervous. A major regional in a neighboring district has seen their room-nights drop by more than half in just three years due to cheaper alternative hotels in the neighborhood.

(See Rocky on page 16)

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.

District 17 GNT Update

By Jerry Ranney
D17 GNT Coordinator

January 1 marked the midpoint for club level Grand National Teams qualifying games in District 17. Club managers wishing to have their GNT qualifier events in February, March, and/or April published in this column need to get their information to me by the end of January at

jtranney2@msn.com

Numerous qualifier games have been held and I do not have space to list all who have qualified.

February 3 *ScoreCard* Deadline!

Please note that the deadline for the March issue of *ScoreCard* is two days earlier than normal. Normal deadline is the fifth of the month for the following month's issue. The deadline for the March issue of *ScoreCard* will be February 3.

All ad copy goes to the publisher (see e-mail address page two, right hand column) and all other information and stories directly to the editor at jaredjohnsonco@aol.com

And, as always, the earlier the better. Thanks for your help.