

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Forum



Volume 85 Issue 2 - February 2010

Pacific Southwest Regional

March 29-April 4



Town & Country Convention Center

By Alice Leicht
Tournament Co-Chairman

The highlight of spring starts in San Diego on March 29; it will be focused on the Town & Country Resort and Convention Center, and will shine for seven full days. The attraction is our 65th Annual Pacific Southwest Regional bridge tournament. Those who attended last year will remember the beautiful spacious and bright

playing area. For those who will attend for the first time, the comfort and convenience will entice you to play on! The schedule is full of many team game opportunities, along with double session pairs games and a side games series.

A new feature will give you the opportunity to play in flighted games stratified by pair average or team average. Whoopie! Your favorite A player can join your C team without dire consequences. Surely you can't turn this opportunity down.

Yet another feature is the time schedule. Daytime games start at 10:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Evening games are at 7:30. The Sunday Swiss Teams starts at 10:00 a.m. and includes a complimentary

lunch. Delicious treats are slated every day.

Expert and professional daily speakers will inspire you to higher levels.

Finding a place for dining between sessions is a snap. The hotel itself has dining that ranges from good fast food to fine outstanding restaurants. There is also an extensive Food Court across a footbridge to Fashion Valley ... not to mention the numerous other restaurants in the immediate Hotel Circle area.

Hotel rooms at the Town & Country are bright with views of gardens or pool. The friendly T & C hotel staff is anxious to please. For a week to remember, be at the Town and Country March 29 to April 4.

GNT Conditions of Contest

By John Kissinger
D22 GNTeams Coordinator

Qualifying games for the 2010 District 22 Grand National Team event finals will be held at both units and clubs, and will begin from now through April 8. Qualifying occurs at either club or a unit level; it is not necessary to qualify at both. Players may qualify multiple times in multiple flights, and in the final do not have to play on a team with which they qualified; however, all players in the finals must be qualified. Players may play in their own flight or in a higher flight, and may play in more than one final.

Flight divisions (based on points recorded as of the September 1, 2009 masterpoint cycle):

Open = Above 5000 MPs
Flight A = Below 5000 MPs
Flight B = Below 2000 MPs
Flight C = Non-Life Masters under 500 MPs.

Finals will be played at Dana Harbor Bridge Center, Dana Point danaharborbridgecenter.org on the following dates:

Flights A & C, April 10-11
Flights B & Open, April 17-18.
Times will be announced later.

Entry fees will be \$48 per team per session, and teams should be prepared to play both days of their two-day final. Each player's principal residence must have been within District 22 since September 1, 2009. Flyers are expected to be at units and clubs by the end of January.

Full Conditions of Contest will be posted on the ACBL website acblistrict22.com

Pre-Registration is Required
Reservations must be made no later than Friday noon of the day before the team's flight final. Teams arriving at the final without a reservation may play only at the convenience of the District GNT Coordinator. Reserve at john.kissinger@cox.net

NAP Finals Results

The following pairs were winners in the D22 North American Pairs playoffs at the Palm Springs Regional December 19, a feat which earned them the right to compete at the national level in the Spring North American Bridge Championships to be held in Reno, Nevada, March 10-11, 2010.

Flight A Winners
1st, Rick Roeder, San Diego - Iftikhar Baqai, Irvine; 2nd, Mark Itabashi, Murrieta - Subba Ravipudi, Downey; 3rd Greg

Michaels, San Diego - Jon Wright, La Mesa.

Flight B Winners
1st Milton Spinner, Del Mar - Frederick Parker, San Diego; 2nd Tom McCrackin, Carpinteria - Kalon Kelley, Santa Barbara; 3rd Susan and John Johnson, Newport Beach.

Flight C Winners
1st Evan Ziegler - Linda Gu, San Diego; 2nd Virginia Wofford, San Diego - Jackie Ives, La Jolla; 3rd Paul Collier, Palm Springs - Roger Douglas, Palm Desert.



The King's Korner

By Rex Latus
District 22 President

Greetings and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year from your District Board. Year 2009 is now history ... and a year that many of us would like to pretend didn't happen. So how did District 22 fare in these tumultuous times?

The good news: We did well on table count as compared to previous years. In 2007 table count was 7975. In 2008 it dropped to 7761 and in 2009 it was 7733. That is only a 3% drop despite tough economic times. Interestingly, 2009 attendance at Riverside and Orange County was up 16% and 11% respectively from 2008. Yet we had 28 fewer tables for the year. Our flagship tournament in Palm Spring was down 370 tables (-11%), evidently due to the Nationals in San Diego. The two tournaments were separated by only one week. Turns out even bridge players can only stand so much fun!

The Bad News: we did poorly on meeting our room commitments at the host hotels. The last six tournaments have been disappointing and the downward trend is disturbing. The Palm Springs shortfall was startling. Again this may partially be explained by the impact of the San Diego Nationals.

So what did your board do for you in 2009 to promote bridge? A new regional was held at Ventura in June. The motivation was to provide the opportunity to our more northern members to have a tournament a little closer to home. It was a tremendous hit! As a result the board is pleased to announce another Ventura Regional the last week in October, 2010.

The board spent considerable time and effort last year to promote the Grand National Teams. The participation in this prestigious and once very popular event has dramatically declined in recent years. In an effort to revive interest and increase attendance the format was changed to include multiple sites for the semi-finals. Again this was done so our northern members could play closer to home.

While attendance was marginally better, player feedback was mostly negative. We won't do that again, but will continue to look at ways to promote this event.

The board combined the Senior Pairs and Open Pairs into a single event at all regionals. The thinking was that one bigger event would be better than two small events, with an additional benefit of increasing the masterpoint awards.

The regional standard for pairs games has been 24 boards. Most bridge players seem to prefer more, not less, for their entry fee, so the board changed it to 26 boards. There are some timing implications associated with this change. It was done for you. Let me know what you think about it.

Electronic scoring has been available for a while and is now being used for our pairs games. Currently the district rents these devices to gain experience with them and evaluate usability and reliability. How do you like it?

The board frequently makes decisions based on what it thinks is in the best interest of its players. So why not tell us what you like or what is needed to enhance your tournament experience? Send your ideas and comments to the following e-mail address Talk2theking@aol.com (Please, no comments on the e-mail address. AOL has already done that. I really wanted 'talk2rex' but was already in use.) Everything printable will be submitted to the board for their consideration. There are over 6600 ACBL members in District 22, so please don't feel unappreciated if you don't get a personal reply.

The election results for area representatives to your district board are now known. Last month it was reported that Warren Cederborg and Irv Kostal were the winners in Area I and Area II respectively. The winner of a three-way race in Area IV is John Kissinger.

At Palm Springs the board elected its 2010 officers as follows: president, Rex Latus; vice president, Teri Atkinson; treasurer, Fran Foresta; secretary, Irv Kostal.

Remember, the post-holiday blues are dangerous to your mental health. There are preventable measures you can take. Play bridge! See you in Riverside.

District 22 Board



Irv Kostal, Jon Wright, Rex Latus, John Kissinger, Fran Foresta, Ken Monzingo, Fran Schwartz, Teri Atkinson, Warren Cederborg

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 (after prepayment) & copy to:

Joel Hoersch
joel@contractbridgeforum.com
858 277-5490

Change of Address

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