



WESTERN CONFERENCE CONTRACT BRIDGE *Forum*



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Another Week of Gold at the Town & Country



By Bill Grant
PSR Regional Co-Chair

Our Pacific Southwest Regional (March 25-31) promises to be another week of gold at the wonderful Town and County Resort and Convention Center in San Diego. Monday marks the start of Intermediate/Newcomer Bridge Camp, with a reception hosted by the vibrant teacher/pro Maritha Pottenger at 10:30 in the morning, followed by a free lesson at 11:30.

The Bridge Camp then continues all week with a free Bridge Clinic twice a day, free mentoring by 30 Bronze Life Masters and above who are donating a coaching session of bridge during the week, an "Ask the Expert" table avail-

able before and after each session (with snacks!), and free lessons by local teachers and professional bridge players before the morning and afternoon sessions.

Be sure to check out our ad in this issue of the *Forum*, and also take a look at our website at pacificsouthwestregional.com to get a full picture of the myriad bridge events that will be available for all players during the week: daily pairs games, Compact Knockouts, Swiss Teams, and side games, (truly something for everyone), with sessions at 10:30 a.m., 3:15 & 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Monday sessions are 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.; Sunday sessions are 10:00 a.m. & TBA, allowing for early departures.

Of special interest are the Gold Rush Pairs on Thursday, Friday

and Saturday, awarding gold in the 300 to 750 range, and the Bracketed Swiss Teams in the 0-2000 flight on Sunday, allowing three teams in each bracket to win gold points, almost tripling the number of gold point winners!

Along with daily hospitality, our "Dinner's On Us" special makes it easier for the schedule of evening players by giving each player a free meal at the snack bar in the playing area. (Our playing area, by the way, has what we believe is the best lighting of any bridge tournament in the country!)

This year Jim Andrews and his wife Shay will chair the partnership desk, continuing the great work of Letha Couch and Billie Greene, and it's not too early to start lining your partners up, by either emailing Jim at jimand1@cox.net, or trying out the online Partnership Desk at www.pacificsouthwestregional.com

The Town and Country Resort and Convention Center is a wonderful venue, close to everything and still peaceful. We're proud of the rate we've arranged for our players: \$109 a day, or \$99 if you stay six consecutive days. You can reserve your room online at pacificsouthwestregional.com or by calling 619 291-7131.

D22 Grand National Teams

By John Kissinger
D22 GNT Coordinator

Alert! It's time to start preparing for the 2013 Grand National Teams event. This is a grass-roots flighted tournament in which players compete in four separate flights ... from Open down to Non-Life Master ... to win the right to represent District 22 in a subsidized trip to the Summer NABC in Atlanta, Georgia, with the chance to come home with a national title!

District 22 finals will be held at Dana Harbor - the Open Flight and the B Flight on April 13-14,

with Flights A and C competing on May 18-19. However, in order to qualify to play in the D22 finals, all players on each of the teams *must* be district members and *must* have qualified by having participated in at least one qualifying game at the club level.

Club qualification will end April 12, 2013, so it would be wise to start badgering your club owners and directors to set up these eligibility chances ASAP.

For more information, check the Dana Harbor information website at: danaharborbridgecenter.org/ or the flyer at the D22 website: acbldistrict22.com/d22/

Palm Springs: It's a (Big) Wrap

By Ken Monzingo

As we close the books on the 2012 Palm Springs Regional it's time for D22 and tournament chairman and co-chairman Mick Riccio and Nancy Erickson to take a bow. In 2011 this District 22 flagship tournament set a personal attendance record, and was number two in the entire country as far as table count, behind only the mega-regional in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Number two nationally, even besting the famed Las Vegas Regional by a table count of 3929-3860. Year 2012 was supposed to be a down year for Palm Springs since we followed the huge San Francisco NABC which closed only a week earlier. Instead, Palm Springs set still another attendance record with 3960 tables, thirty-one more than 2011. Las Vegas also rebounded in 2012 and posted 4066 to reclaim the number two spot, but Palm Springs holds third in the nation, along with its new personal record. Year 2013 should be another photo finish between these two giants. Hilton Head with 3901 was the only other one close.

So what is the draw in Palm

Springs? Everything. Legendary great weather, beautiful venue, great timing, wonderful local bridge community, terrific tournament management, lots of hospitality, and District 22.

New Innovations

For the past two years the Palm Springs Regional has remained the only regional in the country that offers bidding screens for use in the finals of Bracket I and Bracket II Knockouts so the finalists can play in an atmosphere just like the national championships and world championships are contested.

This year the popular desert tournament offered two great new events: a Super Swiss Teams and a Bracketed Swiss Teams. The Super Swiss Teams was played over two days - Saturday and Sunday - with the first day a qualifying two sessions, and the last day the championship. For those teams who did not qualify for the final, the regular Sunday Swiss Teams was available. That final Swiss Teams was another big hit as, for the first time, we "bracketed" the 0-2000 teams.

Sunday consisted of 55 teams in the Flight A Swiss, and 55 teams (See *Palm Springs* on page 16)



The Prez Sez

By Andy Loh
President, District 22

I am honored and privileged to be elected 2013 president of District 22, and will work to enhance both our district and ACBL. Special thanks go to Warren Cederborg, who did an outstanding job as president.

Strategic Planning

Sharon Anderson, last year's president of ACBL, attended several of the D22 board meetings in 2012. Sharon has done excellent work on a number of Strategic Planning initiatives as a legacy for the ACBL which she shared with us: Recruiting new members, Retaining existing members, Improving new technology, Providing excellent tournament directors, and expanding grass roots events.

Bridge Results

D22 is implementing the "Bridge Results" software for all our regionals so that results and hand records of each game will be online daily, in addition to the summaries provided by the Daily Bulletin. D22 will also focus on Intermediate/Newcomer and Non-Life Master players. The D22 Board will meet at the Pacific Southwest Regional and discuss what the district can do to further support these strategic ACBL initiatives.

Palm Springs Regional

The recent Palm Springs Regional was the best attended in its history, and broke the record from last year for the total number of tables (3963-3929)! Many thanks to our tournament chairman and co-chairman, Mick Riccio and Nancy Erickson, and their many volunteers who made this record event possible. They have already identified improvements for next year based on customer (player) feedback and want to make this the Best Regional in the Country. (Look out, Gatlinburg!)

D22 Goodwill Inductees



D22 Goodwill Committee inductees, 2012
Joan Maden - Tony Hoffman - Gary Yant - Hetty Kallman
ACBL 2012 President Sharon Anderson - Wirt Gilliam

Congratulations to our 2013 D22 Goodwill Committee inductees (Joan Maden, Coronado; Tony Hoffman, Rancho Mirage; Gary Yant, Cambria; Hetty Kallman, Agoura; and Wirt Gilliam, San Diego). All were recognized and introduced by their area representatives during an ice cream fling reception in Palm Springs during the huge regional.

Riverside Regional

Due to remodeling of the Riverside Convention Center, there will be no regional at Riverside in 2013. In 2014, the Riverside Regional will be moved to June 9-14, 2014. The Riverside Regional will resume its January schedule beginning in 2015.

Visit our D22 website at acbldistrict22.com/D22/ which has a wealth of information updated by Jon Wright, our webmaster.

NABC Winners

Special congratulations go to Steve and Kitty Cooper, who won the Senior Mixed Pairs at the San Francisco NABC. This is their second NABC title together. The Coopers' recent relocation to the San Diego area has enhanced the quality of bridge in the community.

Andy Loh

By Ken Monzingo

Andrew Loh, Solana Beach, is the newly-elected 2013 president of District 22. Andy's career was in the pharmaceutical industry, and he started a Biotech Company before retiring and immersing himself in bridge. Andy was president of Unit 539 in San Diego, where he lives with his wife, Patricia. His Prez Sez column will run in this space every other month during the year.

Guest Editorial for I/N & NLM

By Kathy Moyer

In the last couple of years a regional event known as the Gold Rush Pairs has become the hottest game in town for Intermediate/Newcomer (I/N) players looking for more than just gold dust. The Gold Rush Pairs is a two-session event with overall winners getting gold points. Section top awards are also gold points. The Gold Rush Pairs at the December Palm Springs Regional provided a great opportunity for players with up to 750 MPs to get their first taste of gold, or achieve those precious gold points needed for their Life Master rank. [See Ken's article for GR description]

The four days of 0-750 Gold Rush in Palm Springs averaged 52 tables per day, providing approximately 1.7 gold points to all pairs winning in their section for any one session. Gold is the name of the game. So, now is the time to start making plans for the three days of Gold Rush Pairs (March 28, 29, & 30, 2013) at the annual Pacific Southwest Regional in San Diego.

D22 Forum Deadlines

The D22 Forum deadline for articles and ads is the 5th of the preceding month.

All ads must be prepaid, payable to D22 ACBL c/o Patrick Page, treasurer P.O. Box 1212 Morongo Valley CA 92256 Please e-mail all ads (after prepayment) & all copy to: Joel Hoersch joel@contractbridgeforum.com 858 336-1508

Change of Address Send change of address to: addresschange@acbl.org or snail mail to: ACBL/Address Change P.O. Box 289 Horn Lake MS 38637