

The Western Conference

CONTRACT BRIDGE FORUM

ScoreCard

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Navajo Trail Regional



Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico

Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, January 19-25, 2015

Albuquerque is the ever popular site of the first District 17 regional next

year, the Navajo Trail Regional, which will be held January 19-25, 2015 at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, 5151 San Francisco Road NE, just off Interstate 25 at the north end of town. Some of the finer features of this tournament are daily hospitality and speakers. Every day, except Thursday, there is a new Knockout Teams, including a Compact KO on Saturday. Thursday has a two session Board-A-Match Teams. For those who prefer earlier game times there is a "Daylight" Pairs at 9:00 and 1:00 Tuesday through Saturday. Gold Rush Pairs are being played on four days, Wednesday through Saturday. See the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard* for all the details.

Be sure to pick up a restaurant guide and check out the local New Mexican cuisine, a version of Mexican food that includes such delights as sopapillas drizzled with honey and blue corn enchiladas.

You can also take a day trip to Santa Fe on the RailRunner train. The Sandia Mountain Range turns red, orange, purple, and

pink every day at sunset, providing a great show from the hotel rooms that face East.

January is the coldest month of the year in Albuquerque. It is usually very sunny and in the low 40s for this tournament, but it can be warmer or colder. Last year it was in the balmy 50s. Only one year in the last ten featured a snow storm, a very rare event in that part of New Mexico.

Old Town is probably the number one must-see after the tram ride to the top of the Sandias. It has plenty of handmade turquoise jewelry, some displayed on the sidewalk, and lots of little gift and art stores. A favorite of one of your editors is the Nambé outlet there. See the Wikipedia article on Nambé - en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nambé - for more about this wonderful silvery cooking and serving ware. Other attractions are the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, the Albuquerque Museum of Art & Science, and the Albuquerque Biological Park (zoo, aquarium, and botanical gardens).

The Greatest Opening Lead in the History of Bridge?

By Steve Cooper

Year 2014 may have witnessed the greatest lead in bridge history, and we don't want the year to end without acknowledging it.

Bobby Levin, of Henderson, Nevada, and Steve Weinstein, Andes, New York, are one of the world's premier pairs. Your humble editors were playing against them in a Knockout and reached

a grand without being able to use keycard and with dummy driving there over declarer's repeated attempts to stop short. Our trump suit was declarer's J1098 opposite dummy's AKxx; Weinstein calmly led low from Qxx!

Breathes there a declarer who wouldn't now try to drop Levin's presumed doubleton queen?

If you have a candidate for a lead as good as this, or even in the same ballpark, send it to us.

And the Survey Says

We want your opinion! D17 President Darwin Afdahl has received very good feedback from your emails. Now he wants your opinions in a more formal survey.

He has put together a few questions for you located on our district website at d17acbl.org/in-dex.php?page=survey

Some of you may wonder why we never published the results of the previous survey on game times. The answer is that they were not conclusive. You can still leave comments on that survey at bridgeteaching.com/polls/ but that survey itself is closed.



Darwinisms

By Darwin Afdahl
District 17 President

Desert Empire & D17 Regionals

Kay and I attended the Phoenix Desert Empire Regional, which was held in the Mesa Convention Center in October. Although there was a noticeable drop in attendance from last year's regional, Tournament Chair Sherryl Buchler and her volunteers hosted a bountiful Hospitality Suite in the adjacent host hotel after the afternoon sessions. Snacks, chips, dips, vegetables, and drinks were always on hand. On at least two occasions steamed shrimp or turkey wraps were served.

I heard many positive comments on the hospitality.

Thanks to all the members who responded to my request for suggestions on how we can improve our regionals. There were many constructive ideas. John Grossmann, District 17 Vice President, and Kitty Cooper, *ScoreCard* co-editor, have developed an online player survey for collecting feedback on regional tournaments. The survey is at the d17acbl.org website and takes about five minutes to complete. We've already heard from many of you, but the more responses we receive the more meaningful the results will be. Please take this opportunity to make your voice heard.

Farewell

Karin Kelsey (Albuquerque) and Ralph Liguori (El Paso) are leaving the D17 Board. I thank them on your behalf for their many years of service.

North American Pairs (NAP)

Congratulations to the winners of the D17 NAP. The first place winners are:

- Flight A:** Herman Louie - Ming Louie, Henderson, Nevada
- Flight B:** Audrius Mizeikis, Scottsdale, Arizona - Paul Spear, Sun City West, Arizona
- Flight C:** June Cowen, Scottsdale, Arizona - Brenda Spear, Phoenix, Arizona

Refer to the article in the November, 2014 *ScoreCard* listing the additional players who qualified for the NAP Finals at the New Orleans Spring NABC. Good Luck to all.

Fragrances

Please be aware that many people have allergies to fragrances, which can make their attendance unpleasant or impossible.

Upcoming Tournaments

Come on out and have some fun. Bridge is a game, and a great game it is. Start making your tournament plans to attend the January Albuquerque Regional - the first D17 regional in 2015.

Upcoming D17 Regionals and NABCs

- Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 19-25, 2015
- Tucson, Arizona, February 23-March 1, 2015
- New Orleans, Louisiana, NABC, March 12-22, 2015
- Mesa, Arizona, Senior, April 6-12, 2015
- Denver, Colorado, May 19-25, 2015
- Las Vegas, Nevada, June 22-28, 2015
- Taos, New Mexico, September 21-27, 2015
- Phoenix, Arizona, October 5-11, 2015
- Denver, Colorado, NABC, November 27-December 7, 2015

Best Wishes

We wish you Happy Holidays, safe travels, and a Healthy New Year. If you have any comments or suggestions, I welcome your e-mail at: darwin@afdahls.com or call me: (Home) 520 742-1801, or (Cell) 520 305-0360.

ScoreCard Deadlines

Steve & Kitty Cooper, Editors

ScoreCard's deadline for District 17 articles and ads is the fifth of the preceding month; However, earlier submissions are encouraged.

Although we welcome unsolicited articles, there is no guarantee of publication.

Articles submitted will be edited and may be cut; the author will receive a copy of the edited article before publication.

E-mail all ads and copy to: D17editors@contractbridgeforum.com

Change of Address

Send change of address to: addresschange@ACBL.org or by snail mail to:

ACBL/Address Change
P.O. Box 289
Horn Lake MS 38637

Bridge Books Make Great Holiday Gifts

By Kitty Cooper

One of everyone's all time favorite bridge books is S.J. Simon's *Why You Lose At Bridge*, so it is very exciting to see that one of our favorite British authors, Julian Pottage, has written a sequel, *Why You Still Lose At Bridge*. He features the same charming characters, but highlights some newer concepts in modern bidding that many of us get wrong. The first half of the book discusses eleven common errors that hurt your game. The second half has some wonderful hands with Mrs. Guggenheim, Futile Willy, and company. A good read for all levels.

For the advancing player, Patty Tucker has written a number of books in a series called *Winning Bridge Conventions*. All are thorough, well-written, and enjoyable. Best of all, they each have many examples that are beautifully laid out on the page.

A topic not well covered in the literature that she has done a particularly good job with is *Competitive Doubles*. This book is suitable for intermediate and better players as well. Get it for your partner for Christmas.

For your expert or aspiring expert friends, the yearly world championship book is always a good pick; but if you want the feel of being at the 2013 championships in Bali on an underdog team try *Scotland's Senior Moment*. I am still reading it as we go to press and am utterly delighted with it.