

The Western Conference CONTRACT BRIDGE FORUM



Happy
Mother's Day!

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San Diego Fall NABC 2017

Clubs: NABC Fund-Raising Game Week is June 29-July 5



Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, Calif.

NABC Fund Raising Week

Clubs: ACBL has allowed us a full week, June 29 - July 5, of San Diego Fall NABC fund raising games. Extra points, and all funds raised will be used strictly for our 2017 NABC player hospitality and entertainment. No new game sanc-

tions required, you can schedule as many fund raising events as you have sanctioned games. The league will send you instructions.

Please get onboard and help us promoting your games. Together, we promise to make this the greatest National ever in SoCal.

Lamya Agelidis is the San Diego liaison, and will be involved in all aspects of the tournament.

Manchester Grand Hyatt

There is absolutely nothing like a Fall NABC at the magnificent Manchester Gand Hyatt in beautiful downtown San Diego. Remember 2009 (generally voted as one of the best national tournaments ever)? It is truly the greatest bridge hotel anywhere.

In 2017 we'll have the same, but improved, venue, same management, and even greater hospitality and excitement planned.

Hospitality & Entertainment

Here's what to expect in 2017: Thanksgiving day we

kick-off the national tournament with a fabulous Hawaiian style Luau in tune with our Polynesian theme: scrumptious food and dazzling entertainment. And we will help subsidize it! Last time it was a complete sellout.

Throughout the 10-day national we'll again have great food functions for late night tastes, along with amazing shows.



Peter Rank's Broadway-caliber production of "There is Nothing like a Game," with a cast of professional actors, singers and musicians, will be presented for at least five performance during the NABC. Obviously it will be a smash hit, and will later be included in the league's Hall of Fame Museum in Horn Lake.

Grand National Teams

By John Kissinger
D22 GNT Coordinator

The D22 GNTeams Open Flight and Flight B played off on April 12 at Dana Harbor. Winning teams earned the right to represent our district at the National Finals during the Summer NABC in Chicago. The top teams in each flight who compete in Chicago receive a \$2000 subsidy from D22, and the league will now waive card fees for the first two days in Flight A, B, & C.

Open Flight

1. Linda Tipton, V. Jay Tipton, Debbie Gailfus, Alan Gailfus



GNT OPEN FLIGHT 2ND PLACE
Phil Clayton - Aaron Jones
Wafik Abdou - Peter Rank

2. Peter Rank, Wafik Abdou, Aaron Jones, Phil Clayton
3. Phil Hiestand, Xiao-Yan Gong, Bo Lin, Wei Pei, Shoichi Yoshihiro

The top two teams (Rank-Tipton) played off in a 64-board match on Sunday. These teams each have previous winning players: Abdou and Clayton won in 2013 (Abdou second in 2014), and Rank was second in 2013 and 2014, while Tipton/Gailfus previously won, and were second in 2011.

Flight B

1. Ian Wilson, Joseph Mack III, Steve Hirsch, Gregory Thorpe
2. Renee Alpert, Joan Kaye, Nitin More, Ninad More



GNT OPEN FLIGHT 1ST PLACE
Linda Tipton - Alan Gailfus
Debbie Gailfus - V. Jay Tipton



GNT FLIGHT B 1st PLACE
Gregory Thorpe - Joseph Mack III
Steve Hirsch - Ian Wilson



GNT FLIGHT B 2ND PLACE
Joan Kaye - Renee Alpert
Nitin More - Nitin More

District Direction

By Ken Monzingo

National Board Representative



"Never believe that a few caring people cannot change the world. For indeed, that's all who ever have." -Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

Rules can change. Rules mature. We don't allow 4-year-olds to play with matches, but by age 12 they can light the dinner candles. Can such change - maturing - exist in our bridge world rules? For us on the dark edge of the age spectrum, do we seek comfort in the status quo that we have enjoyed, or can we still grow? I really don't know. Two unpopular board motions to effect change I've sponsored or co-sponsored were:

1. Redefine, or eliminate, excessive international spending on less than one half of 1% of ACBL members - the international players - to the tune of \$400,000+ a year in donations and league money.

2. Institute term limits for those, like me, who sit on the board making such decisions. With turnovers in governance comes new ideas and younger thinking. The downside is losing the valuable experience of decades of ACBL policy making.

These two positions, both solidly rejected, do not make me the bad guy and them the good guys ... or vice versa. But understanding who we are, and who really supports the league, suggests a closer look at each. I've seen some softening of the old guard, and maybe I'll see change before my sun sets in the beautiful Pacific.

Who Plays Bridge - and Where.

I see our bridge in the now - in this century - as threefold: club players, tournament attendees, and the experts and professionals who compete in our NABC+ events and in world competition.

1. **Club Players: The Heart & Soul of ACBL.** Herein lies the masses, the devoted ones who keep our clubs alive, ergo, keep our league alive. Former league CEO Jay Baum once told me he could run a very successful ACBL with just the clubs - without the tournaments. I believe he could, although I love our tournaments.

2. **Sectionals, Regionals, NABCs.** We open the doors to 1200+ tournaments a year: 100+ regionals, 1100+ sectionals, 3 NABCs. About 14,500 players attend our three nationals each year, with the Summer NABC being most popular. Those 14.5K (approx: 4000 Spring, 6250 Summer, 4200 Fall) represent less than 8.5% of ACBL (5% with heavy overlap), yet the lion's share of what we deal with in governance is regarding tournaments.

3. **The Experts & Pros.** Everybody loves a hero. And it's nice to be one - in somebody's eyes. But here we're dealing with that less than one-half of 1% of us. We probably need some heroes, some real experts who win national championships, and who travel about the globe playing on our nickel. We had some once in the Charles Goren-Oswald Jacoby era - remember the entertaining black & white 1960s TV show, Championship Bridge? But heroes are now in short supply, and their nationality is changing.

As the World Turns

We no longer expect to see the crowning of our ACBL experts/pros as national champions. The Chinese, Poles, Russians, Egyptians and others are quite often winning our major NABC events, or are included as economical additions to our professional teams. I find no hero worship here. We own a few who are fun to watch, but no Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan or Serena to admire.

So What's the Beef?

Just as tournament attendees consist of a very small percentage of the league, the experts/pros and their clients who enjoy the fruits of the World Bridge Federation's (WBF) international competition represent even less. Yet we donate \$225,000 annually in International Fund (IF) games, and in tack-on charges to NABC+ events, along with optional add-on dollars to ACBL memberships to fund their team selections and global trips. I don't support it because of the minute population base it serves, and the nonexistent return on our money. But it's your choice if you choose to donate.

What I resent is that in addition to our IF donations, ACBL, with board approval, sends, \$150,000 from our general account annually to WBF for "membership" dues. Hmm, what membership? I believe that if we choose to do so, it should come from the IF donations: from the International Fund. I once filed a motion to do this, but was soundly defeated. We've matured some - I'll try again.

ACBL is under attack for cancelling a contract that went sour - the one for a new ACBLScore+, a one time loss we have moved on from. Lynch squads smelled blood in the Mississippi for that one, yet our international spending waste goes unquestioned.

Where is the anger there?

Rules - even Laws - can Mature.

Hopefully we (our league rules and board procedures) understand more as we mature. I'm optimistic new eyes may take a harder look at our global spending with no return, and seasoned ones can clean their lenses for a moment to do the math. I believe my stance on these two issues has labeled me a troublemaker.

Not a bad moniker to wear.

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."
-Mohandas Gandhi (1869-1948)

Peace, my friends.

District 22 Forum Copy/Ad Deadlines

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

New Email
Email all unit reports
and sectional ads to:
kenm@kenmonzingo.com

All ads must be prepaid,
payable to D22 ACBL
c/o David Lodge, Treasurer
219 Loch Lomond Road
Rancho Mirage CA 92270

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