



I/N the News

Bridge tips for the Intermediate/Newcomer

By Janet Andrews, I/N Unit Rep and Ronald Gagne

Alert, Pro-Am Swiss Teams coming

Alert! Our unit is sponsoring a second Pro-Am Swiss Team Game this year on August 30, 2009 at 1 PM at Adobe. The first Pro-Am game was January 4, 2009 at Las Candelas. In January we had a record breaking 14 tables and 10.48 black master points were awarded. Fun was had by all because almost every team got at least a fractional taste of success.

Here is what ACBL has to say about Pro-Am Pairs: "One member of each pair is a top-flight player—the pro, so to speak—and the other is a new or relatively new player—the amateur." (At our unit the pros are life masters or better and the ams are non-life masters.) "The purpose is to enable the new player to meet and get to know some of the better players in the area. The new player also gets the benefit of good advice and tips from his or her "pro." The game itself is run along the lines of an Open Pairs."

You must sign up ahead of the game because everyone must have a pro partner and a team of four. Fortunately there are several ways to get in this game so there is no excuse for sitting on the sidelines. For example if you have a mentor ask them to play with you. That may work to your advantage because you have played together before and will have a better chance of communicating well. However if you don't have a mentor you can ask a pro to play with you. Maybe you have been exchanging friendly greetings with someone at a club and thinking they might be fun to play with and easy to take advice from. Give it a try; go ahead and ask them. If that doesn't work or you are shy, sign up on the bottom part of the registration sheet at the desk of each club or email me at:

inrep@southernarizonabridge.com and we will find you a partner and team.

Newcomer Swiss Team Nuggets

If you have not played Swiss Teams here is how it works. You and your pro partner along with another pro and NLM pair make up a team. At the beginning of the game you meet with your team and select a captain to represent your team. Lets say you are North/South and your team mates are East/West and you, North, are the captain. You go to the director's desk and determine your table assignments. Then you, North/South, go to your table where you will meet an opposing East/West team pair, and your team mates, East/West, go to their table and meet the opposing North/South pair. You then shuffle, deal, and play half of the boards. You then switch boards with the other table so that each table

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Special tip

by Don O'Bryan, Education Rep

The best indicator of how well you and your partner are doing over the course of a session is your total of plus and minus scores. The more pluses the better – a preponderance of minuses is the pits. Try to develop the habit of keeping track of these results over a few sessions and see if it doesn't hold true.

Director please

by Ann Hinge

If your opponent tells you to hold your cards closer to the chest, thank them; they didn't have to do it. It is perfectly legal to take advantage of opponents carelessness. And to the honorable players who warn their opponents, do it twice, then enjoy taking finesnes that always work. ☺

plays the all the boards. At your table the boards are played with your team as North/South and at the other table your team is East/West. After both tables have finished playing and scoring the boards, you meet with your team and compare the scores of each board and convert the difference to International Match Points (IMPs). (See Not Quite Life Master Tips for scoring.) The captain verifies the result with the opposing team, and gives the result to the director. The team with the greatest number of IMPs is the winner of that match.

Then the director assigns your next opposing team. The way it works is the winner of the match is assigned to play against the winner of a different match, and the losing team is assigned to play against another losing team. So if you are a winner of the first match, in the second match your opponents will also be winners and have the confidence of a win behind them. And if you lost the match so will your next opposing team, so you will still have a very good chance of winning this match. I think you get the idea now, winning teams keep on playing against winning teams, and losing teams play against another losing team until the end of the game. This makes for a fair and fun competition.

Not Quite Life Master Swiss Tips

The main difference in duplicate match point games and Swiss is that in match point games your score is compared to the scores of all the other teams holding the same cards while in Swiss your score is only compared to one opponent's score at a time. In match points you get 1 point for each opponent whose score you exceed and 1/2 point for each opponent whose score you tie. It does not matter how much you exceed an opponent's score, but **how many** opponents you exceed or tie. However in Swiss IMP games what matters is **how much** you beat the opponent.

So in order to have a strategy for winning in Swiss you need to understand scoring and the IMP scale. As in pair games you keep a private score, but after the match you combine your score with your partner's score then convert the result to IMPs. For example you as N/S get 430 points for a non-vulnerable 3 NT game plus an extra trick while your E/W partners get -400 for keeping their opponents from an extra trick. When combined your scores are +430 and -400 for +30 points. When you look up the result in the IMP Scale you see: Difference between 20 - 40 pts. = 1 IMP. So your team gets 1 IMP and the opposing team gets 0. In another example you as N/S get -620 because your opponents made a vulnerable major game while your E/W partners get +170 because they did not bid game. This time when you combine your scores the result is -450. Now when you look up the result in the IMP Scale you see: Difference between 430 - 490 pts. = 10 IMP. So your opponents get 10 IMPs and you get 0.

Without any further discussion you can see the way to win is to get a positive result from your teams combined scores and the larger the positive result, the better for your team. There are books written on the subject (see the Education for Intermediates tip for one good one.) However here are a few simple suggestions to start with: avoid careless mistakes often caused by losing your concentration, avoid taking chances that could lead to a major adverse swing, but bid and make solid games and slams especially when you are vulnerable.

Good luck and we'll see you at the game!!

Education for beginners

by Don O'Bryan, Education Rep

It is much better to keep your conventions to a minimum. I know of some pairs who change conventions whenever a poor result is obtained. Stick with the basic ones for quite a while before you even consider adding new ones.

Education for intermediates

by Don O'Bryan, Education Rep

The Unit has available 10 books "Team Tactics in Bridge" by Steve Bruno. It is a well written volume by the co-author (with Max Hardy) of the very popular 2/1 Game Force: An Introduction. It retails for \$11.95, but is available, by special purchase, for only \$5.00. Contact Don O'Bryan at 825-5893 or djaob@Q.com.

Rank note

See the Kibitzer for monthly Junior, Club, Sectional, Regional, & NABC Master Rank Advancements.

Contact us

If you want to receive this newsletter we need your email address. And if you have ideas for the newsletter or other ways we can help you, please contact us at

inrep@southernarizonabridge.com

Ongoing I/N Sanctioned Games

Adobe Bridge Club, \$5, (520) 795-2441, www.adobebridgeclub.org

- Thursdays at 12:30 PM
- Saturdays at 9:00 AM
- Mondays at 5:00 PM, at The Lodge at Ventana Canyon, \$5 plus dinner at the Lodge, reservations required, (520) 270-4305 or kathy071314@cox.net

Las Candelas Bridge Club, \$6, (520) 696-9101, www.lascandelasbridgeclub.com

- Tuesdays at 12:30 PM, starting in the fall
- Wednesdays at 12:30 PM
- Mondays at 9 AM, Student Game in the Casita with Bob Hinkle, for new players

NEW

Bridge Lessons/Classes

Adobe Bridge Club, (520) 795-2441, www.adobebridgeclub.org

Practice Duplicate Class

Tuesdays from 9:00 - 11:00 AM - \$5/class

Supervised Bid and Play

Fridays from 9:00 - 11:00 AM no reservation or partner needed, \$3/person

Instructor: Dev De Luca - Location: Adobe Bridge Club, call 327-5866 for details

ACBL Beginning Bridge Class, starting July 8, 2009

Wednesdays from 9:30 - 11:30 AM, \$10/class

Supervised Bid and Play

Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:30 AM, \$10/class

Instructor: Bob Hinkle - Location: The Lodge at Ventana Canyon reservation required

rhoukom@comcast.net for details

Beginning Bridge - A Start on a Life-long Pastime, starting September 9, 2009

Wednesdays from 9:00 - 11:00 AM, \$69 for a series of 7 classes, book optional

Instructor: Wagner "Van" Van Vlack - Location: Adobe Bridge Club, call 795-2441 for details

NEW

Las Candelas Bridge Club, (520) 696-9101, www.lascandelasbridgeclub.com

Beginning Classes (Usually 6 week classes based on Audrey Grant's books)

Tuesdays from 9:30 - 11:30 AM, \$75 includes text

NEW

Intermediate Classes (Usually 6 week classes based on Audrey Grant's books)

Wednesdays from 9:30 - 11:30 AM, \$75 includes text

Instructor: Barbara Rosenthal, Location: The Casita, call (520) 331-9444 call for details

NEW

Different topic each week followed by supervised play

Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:30 AM, \$5/lesson

Instructor: Bob Simrak, Location: The Casita

Desert View Clubhouse, Saddlebrook

Beginning and Continuing Lessons

Mondays & Wednesdays from 9:00-11:00 AM

Supervised Play and Lessons

Friday from 10:30 - 12:30 PM

Instructor: Barbara Feeley, call (520) 825-6837, www.barbsbridge.com

Tournaments & Special Events, July-Oct

July 9-12, Sectional Tournament, Denver

July 10-12, Sectional Tournament, Ruidoso

July 12, Unit Game, Adobe

July 23-Aug 2, NABC Tournament, Washington, DC

August 7-9, Sectional Tournament, Grand Junction

August 9, Unit Game, Las Candelas

August 17-23, Regional Tournament, Phoenix

August 24-30, Swiss STaC Games, Local Clubs

August 30, Pro-Am Swiss Teams, Adobe

September 3-6, Sectional Tournament, Colorado Springs

September 4-7, Sectional Tournament, El Paso

September 9, ACBL Instant MP, Local Clubs

September 13, Unit Game, Adobe

September 21-27, Sectional Tournament, Las Vegas

September 25-27, Sectional Tournament, Los Alamos

October 15-18, Sectional Tournament, Tucson

October 30-November 1, NLM (0-500 MP) Sectional Tournament, Tucson

Tournament Explanations

Three **North American Bridge Championships (NABC)** are held each year and award platinum, gold, and red points.

Regional Tournaments are held by the 25 ACBL districts and award gold and red points.

Sectional Tournaments are held by the 300+ ACBL units and award silver points. (red if 199 game)

Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaC) are held by the clubs and award silver points.

Special Event Explanations

Unit Games are held by the unit, award extra black points, and competition is unit wide.

Charity Games, regular game except award extra points and a minimum amount goes to a charity.

International Fund Games, supports a US team to compete internationally.

ACBL Instant Matchpoint Games, identical hands are played across the continent simultaneously and a booklet with hands and commentary is given to each player at the conclusion of the game.

World Wide Pairs Games, identical hands are played across the world simultaneously and a booklet with hands and commentary is given to each player at the conclusion of the game.

Board A Match is a team event where each board is scored as a win, tie, or a loss, so every board is equally important.

Pro-Am Swiss Teams are games where each team's pair consists of a top flight player (pro) and a newer player (amateur).