



# I/N the News

*Bridge tips for the Intermediate/Newcomer*

By Janet Andrews, I/N Unit Committee Editor

## 2010 Tournaments/Special Events

The Holiday Festivities are almost over, so hopefully you are beginning to think about all the exciting 2010 winter special events that are about to begin such as: (1) Jan 7-10, Sectional Tournament, (2) Jan 24, Pro-Am Swiss Teams at Adobe, and (3) Feb 25-28, Non Life Master (NLM) Regional Tournament.

**Tournaments:** Both tournaments will be at the new venue, the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel. Since everyone knows the location of the Holiday Inn, I'll give directions from there. Go south on Palo Verde about 2 miles, turn right on Valencia and go about 3 miles, then turn left on S Nogales Hwy and go about 1 mile to 7350 S Nogales Hwy. So that is all there is to it; easy! The facility where we will have our games is a first class hotel/convention center, nonsmoking, and on the west side of the casino where there is lots of parking. The three resident eateries are located in the casino: The Steakhouse (excellent food), The Buffet (menu changes each day), and The Food Court (burgers or oriental fare). I'm getting excited already!

The Feb NLM Regional is four full days, awards red points, and is jam packed with games for all levels. If you have not tried Knock Outs (KO) there will be a Swiss and KO Team lesson at 9 AM on Friday followed by a KO game at 10 AM and 3 PM, and a Swiss game at 3 PM. In addition this Regional will be a special treat because Jerry Flemming, 2009 ACBL President is attending. In his and our honor we are having a reception/party Thur after the 3:00 PM game, so please save that time slot for free snacks, soft drinks, bar for purchasing beer and wine, and lots of good company and fun.

And Don O'Bryan, Education Rep, is giving free lessons again at both tournaments. Due to popular request Don is coordinating three lessons for us at the NLM tournament. The topics are: Review and Tips on Game Rules, Irregularities and Director Calls, and Tips on Defense. These lessons will be held Thur, Fri, and Sat after the AM session, so show Don how much you appreciate him.

**Pro-Am Swiss Teams (Sun, Jan 24):** If you need a review on how the Pro-Am Swiss Game works see the July-Sept, 2009 issue of *I/N the News* (on Adobe, Las Candelas, and the Unit's web sites.) There is a maximum of 30 tables at Adobe, so you need register ahead for the game. Registration forms will be at the clubs and on the Unit's web sites. If you need a partner see Marge Curvin at a game, call her at (520 319-1081, or email her at: [marg12@comcast.net](mailto:marg12@comcast.net) .

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## Director please

by Ann Hinge

Convention Card? I don't need no stinking convention card! My partner and I know what we are playing, and if the opponents have the audacity to want to know, they can ask.

Well No. Partner might forget and make the wrong bid. You of course give the right explanation, but the opponents are ticked missing their 4 Heart contract, because you told them your partner's weak 2 Diamond opener was Flannery. They may be nasty enough to suggest, it was your explanation that was wrong. And guess what, without a convention card to prove you play Flannery, the director will rule Wrong Explanation and score the board as if the opponent bid and made 4 Hearts, however the results would stand if you could prove it was a wrong bid.

And, oh, the law also says you have to have a convention card.

## What's the Point: Part 2? *by Ron Gagne*

In the previous issue we discussed calculating matchpoints, i.e., board scores, session scores, and percent scores. What players really care about though are masterpoints (MPs)! So we will discuss them in this issue.

MPs are awarded to about 40% of players in each session. In a sanctioned club game the size of MP awards is based on the type of game, and number of pairs in each group. Let's consider the simplest case: an Open session, so there are no masterpoint limitations, and assume further no stratification. Typically the MPs awarded to the first place contestants would be 1/10 the number of pairs competing. Suppose that there are 10 N/S pairs. Then the N/S winners would earn 1.0 MPs. Likewise with the E/W winners. The second place pairs would earn 70% of the first place award, i.e., 0.70 MPs. The third place finishers earn 70% of the second place award, i.e., 0.49 MPs. The fourth place finishers earn 70% of the third place award, i.e., 0.35 MPs. The fifth place finishers (usually my pair) earn 0.0 MPs as they are not in the top 40%!

Have any of you ever played in such a session? Probably not. Games like that would be very rare as only the best players would participate. ACBL knows this and that is why two important variants are common: restricted games and stratified games. Open games have no restrictions as to number of MPs that contestants hold. There are two types of games in which participation is restricted based on masterpoints held: the Newcomer game in which contestants must have earned less than 20 MPs, and Restricted games in which other masterpoint limits are imposed. The most common are what we call Non-Life-Master (NLM) games where contestants must have less than the number of MPs required to become Life Master—300 MPs prior to Dec 31, 2009 now 500 MPs.

As an example let's suppose that a club has three sessions playing simultaneously each having 10 tables: an Open game, a Newcomer game, and a NLM game. Do you think that the first place winners in each game will earn the same masterpoints? Will they each earn 1.0 MPs? The Newcomers are hoping for some parable here where at the end of the session they are all treated equally. Forget it! ACBL specifies the scale for awards depending on the restrictions applied. Recall that the Open game has a payout of 0.10 MPs per pair of contestants, e.g., 1.0 MPs for the winner of a 10 contestant game. Here is a table of the payout rates for various MP restrictions:

| MP Restriction       | None | >200 | <200 | <100 | <20  | <10  | <5   |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| MP Payout/Contestant | 0.10 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.03 |

Now let's see how the MP awards compared for the three games above. Recall there were 10 contestants in each game and assume no ties.

| Ranking | Game           | Open | NLM  | Newcomer |
|---------|----------------|------|------|----------|
|         | MP Restriction | None | <500 | <20      |
|         | First          | 1.00 | 0.80 | 0.50     |
|         | Second         | 0.70 | 0.56 | 0.35     |
|         | Third          | 0.49 | 0.40 | 0.25     |
|         | Fourth         | 0.35 | 0.28 | 0.18     |
|         | Others         | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00     |

In the next issue we will discuss stratification of games. Most games are stratified so it is important to gain an understanding of these. Happy New Year!

## Education Tip

by Don O'Bryan, Education Rep

On average, at bridge you will be declarer 25% of the time, 25% as dummy, and 50% of the time on defense. You should spend more effort at the beginning of partnerships on defense and later work on bidding. OVER 75% OF THE CONVENTION CARD is devoted to bidding, and defense is a poor second. A fine, somewhat advanced, book on defense is by Kit Woolsey titled, "Partnership Defense in Bridge."

## Audrey Grant

Audrey Grant, the author of many excellent textbooks on bridge, internationally known speaker and educator will be in Tucson for a Festival on January 30, Saturday, from 10 to 1. She'll speak on "The Impact of the Opening Lead." Her talks are always outstanding and of great benefit to intermediate players and more experienced players alike. Audrey's presentation will be at the DesertView clubhouse in SaddleBrooke. Her fee is \$65. We expect to be sold out, so please get your check to Barb Feeley well before the event. For directions or further details, contact [barb@barbsbridge.com](mailto:barb@barbsbridge.com).

## I/N Committee

Laura Woods, I/N Rep, Janet Andrews, Judy Chaffee, Marge Curvin, John Schocke, & Connie Travers. 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](mailto:inrep@southernarizonabridge.com)

# Ongoing I/N Sanctioned Games

**Adobe Bridge Club**, \$5, (520) 795-2441, [www.adobebridgeclub.org](http://www.adobebridgeclub.org)

- Tuesdays & Thursdays (NLM) and Fridays (under 20 MPs) 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](mailto:kathy071314@cox.net)

**Las Candelas Bridge Club**, \$6, (520) 696-9101, [www.lascandelasbridgeclub.com](http://www.lascandelasbridgeclub.com)

- Mondays (NLM) and Wednesdays (299er) at 12:30 PM **MON NEW**
- Fridays (NLM) at 10:00 AM **NEW**

## Bridge Lessons/Classes

**Adobe Bridge Club**, (520) 795-2441, [www.adobebridgeclub.org](http://www.adobebridgeclub.org)

**Course #1: Beginning Bridge (Part 1)**, Mondays starting Jan 11 from 9:00-11:00 AM, 8 weeks

**Course #2: Beginning Bridge (Part 2)**, Wednesdays starting Jan 13 from 9:00-11:00 AM, 8 weeks

**Course #3: Beginning Bridge (Part 3)**, Tuesdays starting Jan 12 from 9:00-11:00 AM, 8 weeks, \$49/plus \$11/textbook, ACBL "Bidding in the 21st Century", Wagner "Van" Van Vlack, Instructor

**Course #4: Intermediate Bridge: The 2 over 1 System**, Wednesdays starting Jan 13, 9-11:00 AM 8 weeks, \$49/plus \$11/textbook "2 over 1 Game Force" by Steve Bruno/Max Hardy

**Course #5: Intermediate Bridge: Supervised Bid and Play**, Fridays starting Jan 15, 9-11:00 AM 8 weeks, \$49 (No Textbook), Dev De Luca, Instructor

**Las Candelas Bridge Club**, (520) 696-9101, [www.lascandelasbridgeclub.com](http://www.lascandelasbridgeclub.com)

**Beginning Bridge**, Mondays starting Jan 11 at 9:30 AM

**Intermediate Bridge**, Tuesdays starting Jan 12 at 9:30 AM

Bob Hinkle, Instructor, Location: The Casita (through the auspices of Pima CC)

**Intermediate Class, 2/1 Game Force**,

Wednesdays starting Jan 13 from 9:30 -11:30 AM, for 6 weeks, \$75 includes text

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

**Supervised Bid and Play**, Tuesdays from 9-11:00 AM, \$3/session, No reservation or partner required. Just show up, bid, play & learn, Barbara Rosenthal, Instructor **NEW**

**Precision Bidding**, learn what your opponents are doing when they play Precision or the Big Club starting Monday, Jan 11 from 9:00 -11:00 AM,

Eric Swanson, Instructor, \$30 for 3 lessons, Location: The Main Room

**Desert View Clubhouse (Theater Building)**, Saddlebrook

**Two Over One Bidding System**, Mondays starting Feb 1 from 9:00-11:00 AM

**Basics 2**, Tuesdays starting Jan 19 from 4:30-6:00 PM

**Preempts!**, Wednesday Feb 10 from 9:00-11:00 PM

**The Versatile Double**, Wednesdays starting Feb 17 from 9:00-11:00 AM

**Leads and Signals**, Wednesdays starting March 17 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM

**Competitive Bidding Workshop**, Friday March 19 from 10:15 AM-12:15 PM

**Modern NoTrump Bidding**, Mondays starting March 8 from 8:45-11:15 AM

**Audrey Grant Festival**, Saturday, Jan 30 from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Length of classes, price, and texts vary so call the instructor or visit the web site below for details.

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

# Tournaments & Special Events, Jan-Mar

**January 3, Unit Game (including NLM Game) at 1 PM, Adobe**

**January 7-10, Sectional Tournament, Desert Diamond Casino, Tucson**

January 15, Unit Wide Championships, Local Clubs

January 16, Progressive KO #1, Adobe

January 17, GNT Qualifier, Las Candelas

**January 24, Pro-AM Swiss Teams, Adobe**

February 6, International Fund Game, Local Clubs

**February 7, Unit Game (including NLM Game) at 1 PM, Las Candelas**

February 20, Progressive KO #2, Adobe

February 21, GNT Qualifier, Adobe

February 22, ACBL Senior Game, Local Clubs

**February 25-28, I/N (0-500 MP) Regional Tournament, Desert Diamond Casino, Tucson**

**March 7, Unit Game (including NLM Game) at 1 PM, Las Candelas**

March 17, ACBL Charity Game, Local Clubs (Eve)

March 26, Unit Wide Championships, Local Clubs

March 27, Progressive KO #3, Adobe

**April 15-18, Sectional Tournament, Holiday Inn, Tucson**

## *Tournament Explanations*

**North American Bridge Championship (NABC)** 3 held annually, award platinum, gold, & red pts.

**Regional Tournaments** held by districts, award gold & red pts. (**NLM Regionals**, award red pts.)

**Sectional Tournaments** held by the 300+ ACBL units, award silver points.

**Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaC)** held by and at the clubs, 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**, team event where each board is scored as a win, tie, or 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).

**Unit Wide Championship** is a game held simultaneously at three or more locations within the unit.

**GNT Qualifier** is a game where participants compete to be on their district's Grand National Team.

**Progressive KO** team game where losing team does not continue in next game.

**ACBL Senior Game** pair game with an age limit.