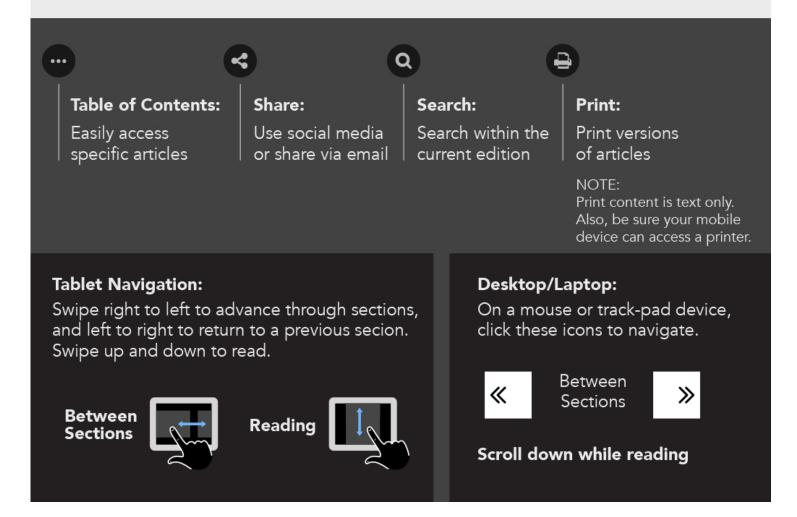


How to get the most out of your reading experience





District 17 Tournament Calendar

Regionals

Aug 12-18 ... <u>Scottsdale (Phoenix) AZ</u>

Sep 23-29 ... <u>Taos NM</u>

Nov 14-17 ... Tucson AZ NLM

Phoenix Desert Empire Regional Partnerships - Anne Marie Harrington (602) 549-0956 - aharrin708@aol.com August 12 - 18, 2019 https://unit354.com/tournaments Talking Stick Resort

Special Events

Jul 18-28 ... <u>Las Vegas Summer NABC</u>

Aug 19-25 ... WC Summer Fun STaC

Sectionals

June

7- 9 <u>Durango CO</u>

14-16 Albuquerque NM

21-23 Prescott AZ

22 <u>El Paso, TX</u> I/N

28-30 Loveland (Northern CO)

Taos Regional Sept 23 - 29

July

11-14 Ruidoso NM

12-14 Golden (Denver) CO

26-28 <u>Grand Junction (Colorado West)</u>

August

2-4 <u>Avon (Vail) CO</u>





August 12-18, Talking Stick Resort & Casino

By JoAnne Lowe, Tournament Chair

Join us at the beautiful <u>Talking Stick Resort & Casino</u> for a week of bridge and fun. The schedule should appeal to all players—three days of Bracketed Round Robin Teams, five days of Stratified Pairs, five days of Gold Rush Pairs, two Knock Outs, and six days of single session I/N pairs. Sunday is a 0 -3000 Bracketed Gold teams and a flighted A/X/Y Swiss.



Sunset Views from the Orange Sky Restaurant at the top of the hotel

<u>Talking Stick Resort & Casino</u> is a cultural and entertainment destination that has six restaurants including a buffet, fine dining, a seafood bar, a café, and several bars. The resort is minutes from Sky Harbor Airport in Scottsdale.

Our room rate includes **no resort fee, free wifi, free parking, use of the 24 hour health club, and a coffee maker and refrigerator in all rooms.**To book a room call (866) 877-9897 or register online at
https://reservations.travelclick.com/73351?groupID=2423735 using either the code #12693 or "Desert Empire Regional" when registering. You must register before July 29th to get all of these goodies.

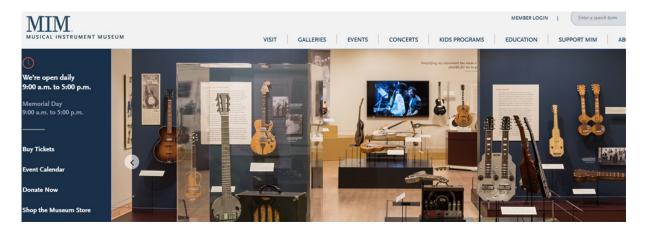


Be sure to register at the tournament to receive a convention card holder, our Kokopelli patch, and a five dollar voucher to use at the concession stand. The registration desk is the hub for many activities. Random draw gifts will be given away daily. Guess the number of cards in our barrel and win a basket filled with goodies. You have five chances. Be sure to check daily to see if you are a winner.

Tuesday through Saturday, between sessions there will be free lectures by expert speakers.

Come early or stay a few extra days to visit the many wonderful sites nearby such as the <u>Butterfly Wonderland</u>, <u>OdySea Aquarium</u>, the <u>Musical Instrument Museum</u>, and the <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u>.

Join us for a fun week of bridge in Scottsdale... <u>Click here for the tournament flyer</u>.



Click here for the Musical Instrument Museum website

District 17 News

Curtis Cheek is 2019 Lazard Sportsman



Curtis Cheek of Las Vegas, Nevada, has been named the 2019 recipient of the Sidney H. Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award. Click here for information about the Hall of Fame banquet at the Las Vegas Nationals, where Curtis will receive his award. On hearing of the award Curtis said, "This award is an honor that I will always cherish. I grew up in the South, where Sidney was an icon of kindness, gentleness, and sportsmanship, which makes this award even more special. I

have always believed that good sportsmanship is not only important to the game, but also that it is simply smart bridge." from the ACBL at https://bridgefeed.acbl.org/cheek-named-sportsmanship-award-winner/



New Mexico's winning fund raiser team in 2018: Karen Soutar, Jerry Himes, Pam Himes, Mary Erickson, Marge Brosnan, Gayle Audy, Meghan Wolfe, Susan Zimmerman.

The Longest Day

The ACBL invites members to participate in the seventh annual *The Longest Day* fundraising event supporting the <u>Alzheimers Association</u>. "Held during the week of June 21, 2019—the longest day of the year—the event symbolizes the difficult journey of those living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. Clubs, teachers, tournaments, and players are invited to form fundraising teams and hold special games (upgraded masterpoints), teach lessons, conduct raffles, and [more]." The above quotation comes from https://www.acbl.org/clubs_page/special-events/the-longest-day/ - click that link for more information about this event.

Upcoming Elections: D17 Board and ACBL Representative

Our representative to the ACBL Board of Directors is stepping down. Thank you so much Bonnie Bagley for your many years of service. Read Bonnie's column in this issue of *ScoreCard* to learn more. See the D17 news article in the April issue of *ScoreCard* for details of how to run for the District 17 board. Elections will take place in June and July, with Unit Board members doing the voting.

The Colorado Non Life Master Regional has moved to the Denver area

For several years Northern Colorado has done a great job with this tournament; now it's Denver's turn. See the article and ad in this issue of *ScoreCard* for more information.



Fleisher, Martel, Hampson, Greco, Moss, Grue

District Players Triumph at the USBF Team Trials

Congratulations to D17 players Brad Moss (Denver) and Geoff Hampson, (Las Vegas) who are on the Marty Fleischer Team that will compete in the WBF Bermuda Bowl as USA2 in Wuhan, China September 14-28 - also on the team are Chip Martel, Eric Greco and Joe Grue, whose proud parents, Tom & Sue Grue are D17 players from Las Vegas.

Congrats also go to Sylvia Shi (Las Vegas) on the USA1 team and Linda Lewis (Las Vegas) on the USA 2 team to compete for the Venice Cup, also in Wuhan, China September 14-18.

Good Luck to ALL!



Venice Cup USA 1: Lynn Baker, Karen McCallum, Kerri Sanborn, Beth Palmer, Sam Dinkin, **Sylvia Shi**, Irina Levitina



Sally Wheeler, Disa Eythorsdottir, Janice Molson, Linda Lewis, Lynn Deas, Cindy Bernstein,

Both Venice Cup team photos are by Stan Subeck.



Partnerships,

Sharon White

DURANGO Sectional June 7 - 9

goo.gl/maps/RTzFW5HBb1z

Great scenery and fine restaurants

Friday: 1:30 & 6:30 single session 299er, Strat Pairs Saturday 9 & 2 single session 299er, choice of one or two session Stratified Pairs

Sunday 9 until 5 Stratifed Swiss KO starts Friday evening (3 sessions)

durangosharonwhite@gmail.com

FLYER: web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2019/06/1906079.pdf



Bon's Mots

By Bonnie Bagley, National Board Representative



The Memphis NABC ended with a table count of 9644, several hundred over the original 9000 estimate. There were very few complaints—the venue was excellent, the temperature for the most part was well controlled, and the morning, noon, and night hospitality was superb. Free coffee in the morning is always a huge winner. Kudos to Tournament

Chair Bob Williams, Jr., and his friendly, helpful volunteers.

The upcoming 2019 NABCs are in our part of the country: The July 18-28 Summer NABC in Las Vegas is one not to miss. Chair Liz Hamilton, and her cadre of volunteers have been diligently working to provide you the best NABC experience ever. Not to be outdone, however, the chair of the November 28 - December 8 San Francisco NABC, Jim Leuker, is an experienced NABC chair, having produced the very successful 2012 Fall San Francisco NABC. There will be treats and experiences galore at both tournaments. Be sure to attend.



Michael Kamil



Curtis Cheek



John Kranyak

Kudos to D17's top three masterpoint winners at the Memphis NABC:

252.78 (seventh overall): **Michael Kamil**, Oro Valley Arizona, a member of the winning Vanderbilt Knockout team.

201.13 (eighteenth overcall): **Curtis Cheek**, Las Vegas Nevada, winner of the Platinum Pairs with Zia.

190.29 (twentieth overcall: **John Kranyak**, Las Vegas Nevada, high finishes in several events

2019 is the third year of my third term serving as your District Director (D17's representative on the ACBL Board of Directors). The time has come for fresh ideas, new energy. and different points of view. Therefore, I am not running for reelection; I am delighted to announce that two very capable D17 members are running for the position: John Grossmann, current D17 President, and Cindy Shoemaker, current Tucson Unit 356 President and BUZZ editor. I could spend this whole column praising their abilities and accomplishments, but they will do that themselves. D17 Unit Board Officers are the electors; election materials will be sent before August 15, and votes must be received no later then September 15.

Board of Directors Meeting

The first 2019 Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was held in Memphis. A number of candidates were elected by the BOD, and the rest were appointed by ACBL President Russ Jones and approved by the BOD.

Elected were:

Claire Jones of Regina, Saskatchewan, and D18 (Western Canada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah), was reelected ACBL Treasurer for a one year term beginning May 1, 2019.

Georgia Heth and Al Levy were elected to the North American Bridge Federation beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2021.

Al Levy was elected to the World Bridge Federation Executive Council beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2021.

Appointed and approved (D17 members bolded) were:

2019 NABC Seeding Chairman: David Berkowitz.

Competitions & Conventions Committee: Jeff Goldsmith and Sabine Auken for one year terms; Jeff Meckstroth for a three year term.

Disciplinary Committee: Chris Benson, Jan Martel, Chris Moll, and William Schreiber for three year terms.

Ethical Oversight Committee: Kevin Bathurst, Jon Brissman, Hendrik Sharples, Eddie Wold, and Bruce Ferguson for three year terms.

Hall of Fame Committee: Ross Grabel, John Carruthers, and David Grainger for three year terms.

Laws Commission: **Robb Gordon** (D17), Eric Rodwell, and Jeff Goldsmith for five year terms.

The BOD also considered a number of motions:

A motion passed that forbids players convicted of premeditated collusive cheating from ever being readmitted to the ACBL.

A motion passed that forbids the ACBL Board of Directors or management to consider readmission of a player after expulsion for causes other than collusive cheating for a period of 10 years after the conviction.



Robb Gordon

A motion passed allowing the voluntary relinquishment of titles by teams that won events with players who were later convicted of collusive cheating.

Brad Moss (D17) and Steve Weinstein made a presentation in support of two motions: that names of convicted cheaters be removed from all ACBL records, and that the pairs and teams which finished second be declared winners of these events or, in the alternative, that the titles be left blank. These two motions were deferred to Las Vegas.

A motion passed (13-12) to continue holding a Goodwill Reception at each NABC, but as a cost cutting measure there will now be a cash bar.



Brad Moss

The first reading of a motion providing that masterpoint awards for unrestricted four session regional events other than knockouts be computed by a formula increased by 60%, but not to exceed 50 masterpoints passed. The second reading will be at the Las Vegas meeting.

A motion dealing with residency for the purpose of elections passed.

A motion passed concerning Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Month (October) and Club Appreciation Games. Club managers are now authorized to run two pairs games, two team games, or one of each. (Previously, the games had to be one pairs and one team game.)

In addition to the motions, presentations were made by the Strategic Committee, the Audit Committee, and the Governance Committee.

Please do not hesitate to email me at bonnie@bonniebagleyd17.com or call me at 719 593-0205. I look forward to seeing you at the Las Vegas NABC July 18-28.



Crowds gather for the daily march of the ducks in lobby at the Memphis NABC

Photo courtesy of Jonathan Steinberg

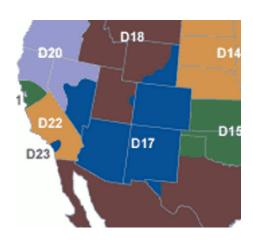
John's Journal

By John Grossmann, District 17 President



We Are ...

We are the third largest of the 25 districts in ACBL, with over 9000 members and a whole lot of territory. Our 21 units include all of Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado plus the cities of Las Vegas, El Paso, Cheyenne, and Laramie. Our biggest unit is Phoenix, which even without snowbirds has 1800 members. Denver and Tucson also have over 1300 and 1100 members respectively. About two thirds of our membership are not Life Masters!



District 17 Goals

ACBL defines most of the functions of a District. Regional Tournaments are run by districts, and D17 typically holds five or six regional tournaments a year. Some districts completely run their own regionals, but in D17 we have a cooperative agreement with host units that allows them to make many decisions. The local unit has the lead responsibility for negotiating a venue agreement, creating a schedule of events, marshaling volunteers, and deciding on hospitality.

District 17 is responsible for two grass roots events, the North American Pairs and the Grand National Teams. We run the district finals and send off our best players,

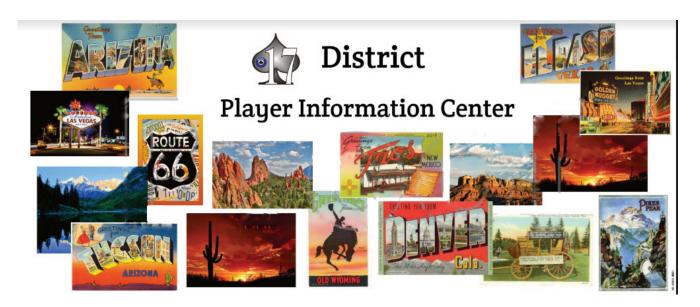
with a check to detray travel expenses. D17 also coordinates with the Western Conference for our mega STAC weeks. Another significant function is working to minimize tournament schedule conflicts for sectionals and regionals. Our district also nominates Goodwill Ambassadors, issues grants to smaller units, and supports charity awards.

Communications

It's a two way street! `For District 17, communications take many forms. **ScoreCard** is our multi-platform bi-monthly digital "magazine" (you're reading me on it right now) that includes many bridge education articles, information about tournaments, and D17 administrative material. Kitty Cooper is our designer and editor with husband Steve (coopers@D17acbl.org).

BridgeBuzz, an email newsletter, is distributed to players in months when **ScoreCard** is not published. Cindy Shoemaker (cndyshoemaker@yahoo.com) is our competent **Buzz** editor.

Our website <u>D17acbl.org</u> is the digital archive for D17, with news, results, tourney schedules, conditions of contest, headshots of the D17 board, curated articles, and pages of administrative info. Rod Southworth (<u>Southworth15@yahoo.com</u>) is our webmaster.



We have been trying something new in the past year, experimenting with a D17 Information Desk at each regional tournament. We answer questions, listen to

players and hand out candy. Of course, we take phone calls and respond to

emails. You can find phone numbers and email addresses for the entire D17 Board on the district website under the ADMIN menu, submenu D17 Board of Directors, and in the "masthead" last page of **ScoreCard**.

Thank You

Bridge in the southwest is akin to a million dollar enterprise that runs five or six weeks a year in different cities, with an army of volunteers. What could go wrong? Typically very little because of the hard work of our volunteers, committee chairpersons, unit leaders, and D17 Board. Thank you to everyone who is contributing to this effort.



John Grossmann at the Information Desk at the Denver Regional



Friday - Bracketed Teams & Stratified Pairs
Saturday - 2 session stratiflighted Pairs
Open & 199er Stratified Pairs
Sunday - Stratiflighted Swiss Teams



More info at: ababridge.com/unit374/2019-06-Sectional.pdf

The Summer Nationals are in Las Vegas!

July 18-28

Liz Hamilton, 2019 LVNABC Tournament Chair

The 2019 Summer NABC is filled with bridge events for all levels of ability and all ages. We have a great team of volunteers who can help you make the most of your time in Las Vegas, a city that never sleeps. Take a few minutes to visit our website – NABC.ACBL.org - and see the amazing experiences that are waiting for you, both at the bridge table and during breaks from bridge.



In the photograph to the left you can see our Partnership Chair, Rolf Houtkooper, enjoying an experience at the 2014 NABC in Las Vegas. He had so much fun that he is back working his magic at the partnership desk. Many great bridge friendships have started at this desk over the years.

If you are a newer player, we have a special partnership desk and help desk just for you. Toby McEvoy is the Intermediate/Newcomer Chair. He

has a great team to help you navigate the Las Vegas NABC. There are so many opportunities to play and to attend free lessons from bridge experts. It is a unique opportunity for newer players.



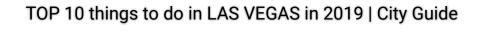
Big Bridge! Bright Lights! Playing bridge at an NABC is an amazing experience, but it is also nice to see a few of the attractions that make Las Vegas a popular destination city for people from all over the world. These include gourmet restaurants, shows, the High Roller observation wheel, tantalizing casinos, museums, golf



courses, and the incredible Mojave Desert. Red Rock Canyon and the Grand Canyon–one small, one large, and both unique and impressive–are within an easy drive of the city. You will find lots of information on our website and at the Information Desk at the tournament. There is so much to do!

Our amazing team of volunteers are really looking forward to meeting you and to sharing their local knowledge. Come join us at the Cosmopolitan!

Let's Roll!





Welcome to Las Vegas Video Tour

TOURNAMENTS

Tournament Results

Regional Results

A snowstorm in Denver on May 21st!?! Undeterred, players of all levels had a great time playing bridge indoors at the Rocky Mountain Regional held in Denver which included the Grand National Team championships. Daily bulletins were posted online at http://denverbridge.com/index.php?page=regional-bulletins

<u>Click here for the results</u> and click the collage image below for a slideshow of the winners.

237 players enjoyed Phoenix's weather and hospitality while winning masterpoints.

Click here for the results of the Scottsdale (Phoenix) Non Life Master

tournament and see the photos at the bottom of this page.





Sectional Results

Click on the tournament name to get to the results page at the ACBL

April 11-14 Tucson AZ 11-14 Colorado Springs CO 26-28 Scottdale AZ 26-28 Glenwood Springs CO 26-28 Las Cruces NM 27-28 Denver CO 299er

Phoenix Devert Empire Regional

Partnerships - Anne Marie Harrington (602) 549-0956 - aharrin708@aol.com

https://unit354.com/tournaments

August 12 - 18, 2019 Talking Stick Resort

May

3-5 Longmont (Boulder) CO

3- 5 <u>Santa Fe NM</u>

6-12 WC Summer Fun STaC

21-24 <u>Scottsdale (Mesa) AZ</u>



Winners of the Saturday A.M. NLM pairs:

Judy Rubin Marvin Waxman





Winners at the Scottsdale (Phoenix) Non Life Master Tournament



District 17 Member Achievements

Grand Life Master Curtis Cheek of Las Vegas has been awarded the 2019 Sidney H. Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award. See the <u>District 17 News article</u> in this issue for more about this.

NEW LIFE MASTERS



ARIZONA

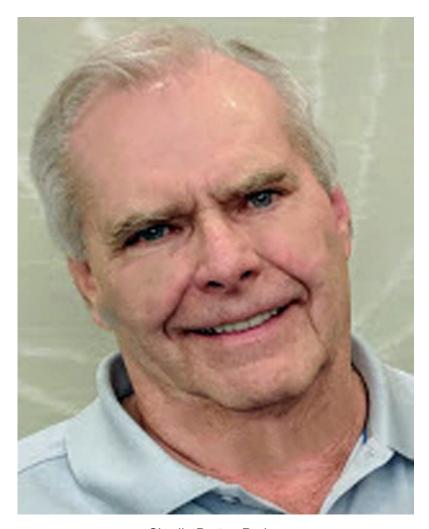


Grace Anderson, Scottsdale



Merri Banks, Surprise

COLORADO



Charlie Drotar, Parker



Jacqueline Hurlbutt, Avon



Ann Scheffel, Castle Rock

NEVADA



Terry Adamik, Boulder City

If you become a Life Master please send your photo to the editors – coopers@d17acbl.org - as well as any thoughts you wish to share about your experience.

Strike Gold, the Colorado Non-Life Master Regional

July 12-14 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden. Colorado

By Wayne Eckerling, Regional and Intermediate/Novice Chairman Unit 361

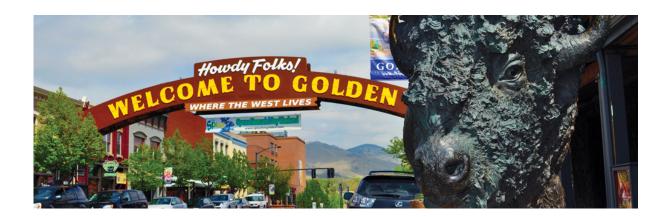
Don't miss Strike Gold! This event was hosted last year by Unit 363 (Northern Colorado). This year it's Denver's turn (Unit 361). The tournament offers a great opportunity to earn gold and red masterpoints—33% gold and 67% red—for overall winners and section tops in two session events. To participate in the tournament, a player must have fewer than 750 masterpoints and cannot be a Life Master.

There will be two session pairs events on both Friday and Saturday at 10:00 and 2:30. Pairs wishing to play only a single session will be accommodated. On Sunday, a Bracketed Gold Rush Swiss Teams game will start at 10:00. Teams are expected to play in both the morning and afternoon sessions. Lunch is included with the entry fee. The Strike Gold NLM Regional is run concurrently with the



Denver Summer Sectional, so if you have friends with too many masterpoints to be eligible for the Regional, they can play at the same time and location.

To improve your bridge, listen to our great speakers between sessions at 2:00 on Friday and Saturday and before the Swiss Teams begins, at 9:30. Learn more about hand evaluation and hear two perspectives on team play.



Hospitality includes a full continental breakfast every morning; coffee, tea, and soda throughout the day; and afternoon snacks. The first 30 registrants on Friday will receive a free play good for another session at this tournament or in another event sponsored by Unit 361. Prizes include beautiful art glass trophies for the top winners each day, and gift cards for the individual or pair that traveled the farthest to get to the tournament.

If you are looking to combine bridge with other activities, July is a great time to visit the Denver area. Summer days are typically hot and dry with highs around 90 degrees. Lows are in the low 60s. The Jefferson County Fairgrounds are located just west of Denver, close to the mountains. There are many hotels and restaurants a short drive from the tournament site. A number of Jefferson County open space parks are also nearby that offer some unique hiking opportunities.



The world famous Coors Brewery is located in Golden and offers tours from 10 to 4 Monday through Saturday in the summer. According to their

website, "the brewery stands on the same grounds where Adolph Coors first set up shop in 1873." You have to indicate that you are over 21 by entering your approximate birth date in order to view their web site at https://www.coors.com/brewery

For players wishing to combine the tournament with other activities, consider an excursion to the <u>Denver Art Museum</u>, the <u>Denver Museum of Nature and Science</u> to view the Leonardo da Vinci exhibit, or the <u>Denver Botanic Gardens</u>. If you are a sports fan, the <u>Colorado Rockies</u> are in town and will be playing Cincinnati (the San Francisco Giants come into town on Monday). If you are more interested in the performing arts, Colorado has numerous world class summer festivals including <u>Bravo! Vail</u> and the <u>Aspen Music Festival</u> or catch a performance at historic <u>Red Rocks Amphitheater</u>.

<u>Click here</u> for a map of the area and click here for the <u>tournament flyer</u>.



Credits: Photos used in this article are courtesy of the <u>Visit Denver</u> web site.

PRESCOTT SUMMER SECTIONAL JUNE 21, 22 & 23, 2019

Unit: 355 District 17

Partnership Chair: Steve Western Email - acenter 7@adultcenter.org
Phone - 928-713-3194

Sessions at 10 am & 3 pm

www.adultcenter.org 1280 East Rosser Street



On the following pages we have articles from our regular columnists. Please feel free to send us - <u>coopers@d17acbl.org</u> - bridge questions, humorous anecdotes, or an article of your own for this section.

Advice for the New Player

By Chris Hasney, Hereford, Arizona

Use the Count

When Ira Corn put together the Aces bridge team (also called the Dallas Aces) it wasn't just a plan to reassert American dominance in world bridge competition.



Corn, Wolff, Goldman, Eisenberg, Lawrence and Jacoby in 1969 from the ACBL bulletin – see https://acblstory.wordpress.com/2012/07/09/acbl-bridge-beat-77-the-aces/

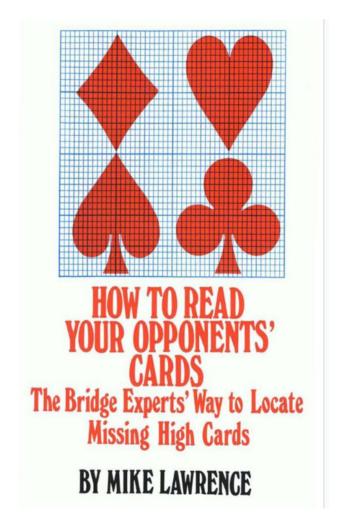
As a successful businessman, Corn also had profit in mind. One of his ideas was syndicating bridge columns. Another was promoting book writing and sales. Despite his early demise, he succeeded. On Ira's orders Mike Lawrence produced his first bridge book, *How to Read Your Opponents' Cards*, which remains a definitive work on the topic some 50+ years later.

I have the original Prentice-Hall 1973 version, which can be a difficult read. There is a 2006 Devyn Press version, which hopefully is cleaned up a bit, and can be found on Amazon or on Mike's website at

https://michaelslawrence.com/product/how-to-read-your-opponents-cards/

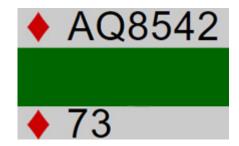
We've been talking about remembering things. Last month we touched on drawing inferences from bidding and opening leads. Mike's book gives you an eye opening map to doing that and USING the information once dummy hits the table. While it's mostly taught as a declarer thought process, it applies every bit as much to defense.

Some folks love the mathematics of bridge, and might count things just for the joy of counting. We normal humans need a reason to go to all that trouble. Have you heard of the "Rabbi's Rule?" The "rule" provides that when the king is stiff you should play the ace! Good players tend to know when it's right to play the ace, and not by intuition or



peeking; either they COUNTED or they know that it's the only play to make (or set) the contract.

Lawrence demonstrates the difference between playing blind, which many of us do even if we've heard the auction and paid attention to the implications of it and the opening lead, and playing almost double dummy, which is how experts seem to play and defend on every deal. Truth be told, they actually are! Lawrence shows you how.



I'm no Mike Lawrence, and never will be, but I can give you a bumblepuppy version: **Suppose you in your hand with two small in a suit in which dummy has AQ.** In a vacuum your normal play is to lead small from your hand to dummy, covering LHO's

king if it shows up; otherwise hook for it by playing the queen, a 50-50 proposition

beloved by most novices. Very often it's a virtual certainty, almost 100%, because

the bidding, play, and your count make it odds-on that LHO has the king. (Note:generally, the better the opposition the more reliable the auction, opening lead, and card play.)

Now suppose that your careful counting causes you to "know" that LHO cannot hold that king, and that it therefore must be in RHO's hand. Assuming you can't do something fancy such as a throw-in play, it's time to see if the Rabbi is home. Pop up with the ace and look nonplussed when the king drops from the hand of an irritated RHO. (In a private game this would be a good time to remind RHO to breast his cards; this is known as a gamesmanship "needle.")

Read the first page of Chapter Two a few times and let it sink in. Once you start applying it you'll be amazed at how well you play. That leads me to the next thought. If you are one of those math folks I talked about, you won't understand the need for what follows; if you are a social sciences or fine arts major you might just thank me. Like many bridge books and articles, Mike's is full of bridge hands. Most of you like them, hunt for them, and devour them. The rest of us look for something with pictures and words, not diagrams. After some 35 years of torture, I've figured out a compromise:

If your brain works anything like mine, don't try to understand the problems or work the quizzes; just pick up the book and read it, cover to cover, without actively processing. Once you've done that, you'll have the big picture, the "gist" of the thing. Now you'll know if you want to bother actually eating it at the moment, or just bury it to dig up and gnaw on later.



Chris Hasney is an accredited bridge teacher from Hereford, Arizona. He supports the college bridge and rubber bridge revival movement. He is the author of *Simplicity Bridge* published as an e-book through *Library.com*

Stalke Gold in Denver at the NLM Regional

GAMES at 10:00 and 2:00

JUNE 12-14

At the Jefferson Fairgrounds in Golden

goo.gl/maps/9YJ3KLHZoUn

First 30 registrants

on Friday get a FREE PLAY good for use later

Sunday Swiss Teams
Two Session Pairs on both
Friday and Saturday

Partnerships: Vard Nelson Partners@DenverBridge.org

- Trophies and giveaways
- Informative Discussions
- Bagels and snacks each morning,
- coffee, tea, and soda throughout

Open sectional will be played at the same venue and times

Flyer: web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2019/07/1907075.pdf

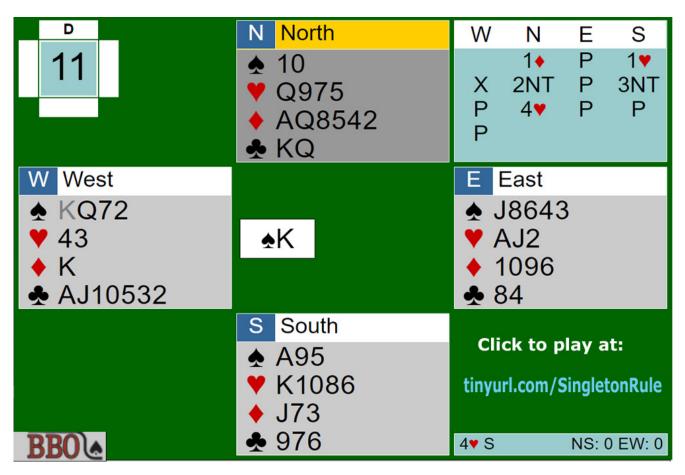


Bridge in the Real World

By Dennis Dawson, Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Singleton Test

Amazing Grace sat North. She acquired that nickname because her bidding is just so amazing. Grace is a very well-dressed matron who rarely makes a contract, but always looks good while not doing it. The Godfather sat South. He was the local guru and then some, having won a national championship. He occasionally plays for pay, on the theory that at least occasionally it's nice to be paid for his advice.



Opening lead: A K

After Grace opened 1♦ and the Godfather responded 1♥, West doubled for takeout. Grace intended 2NT as Jacoby 2NT, showing a forcing heart raise! Jacoby 2NT only applies after an opening bid of one of a major, not after partner responds one of a major to your opening bid, but Grace forgot she had opened the bidding! Anyway, 4♥ is a good spot, however you get there, especially with the Godfather at the wheel. The play's the thing, as Shakespeare said.

The first thing the Godfather did was to make a plan. Since he was in a suit contract he counted losers from his hand's point of view. There are two spade losers (yes they can be ruffed but not if all the trumps are drawn), at least one heart loser, possibly a diamond loser, and certainly a club loser. The Godfather planned to discard spade losers on dummy's diamonds once they were established, so there was no need to ruff spades in dummy.

The hearts can be played in several ways. The Godfather could start them from either hand, and he could finesse for the ♥J in either direction. Here the takeout double strongly suggests that West will be shorter in hearts than East, and that West will hold most of the missing points. This inference caused the Godfather to start with a low heart from his hand at trick two (just in case West had the singleton ace). The low heart went to the ♥Q and, somewhat surprisingly, West won the ♥A. West returned the ♣8. East won the ♣A and returned a club to dummy's ♣K. The Godfather now led a low heart from dummy to the ♥10, finessing for the ♥J since West rated to have the length in hearts. This won and East followed suit with a low heart. So far so good. He then drew the last trump.

Now was time to tackle the diamonds. It is not correct to lead the *J as you do not have the *10. Lead an honor only if it will help you if the next hand covers. This is sometimes called the **Singleton Test**. Just imagine that the honor you are finessing for is singleton. What happens if you lead an honor? Here you would lose a trick to the *10. If West has *Kx, you won't lose any tricks whether you lead the *J or a low diamond, and similarly if West has *Kxx you will always lose a trick. The key case is when the *K is singleton.

The Godfather led a low diamond and the king popped up, so he had the rest of the tricks. Making five for a cold top, thanks to good technique.



Dennis Dawson is a National Champion, a Bronze Medalist in the Senior World Championship, and an ACBL Grand Life Master. He has won more than 250 regionals. He has taught people throughout the country to play better and enjoy the game more. He currently resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico.





Sessions: 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM

Ruidoso High School 125 Warrior Drive

https://goo.gl/maps/RKsLKzwz3Kw

Tournament Flyer: tinyurl.com/ClJtournament

Partnerships: Louise Estep louiseestep42@gmail.com



EDUCATIONAL

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

By Curt Soloff, Denver, Colorado

2 Openings, Part IV

The importance of controls in slam probes—aces and kings (and, for suit contracts, shortness)—cannot be overstated. Your side could possess 33 high card points and yet not be able to make a slam when the defense quickly cashes an ace and king against you. Because sniffing out these controls is



so vital, some players prefer a control driven initial approach for responding to 2. openings.

How do control responses work? When your partner opens 2♣, your first obligation is to show how many controls you have. To tabulate your total controls, assign a value of two to each ace and a value of one to each king. You then choose your response from a schedule that communicates different control holdings ranging from zero to four to your partner. Since opener is known to have a strong hand, responses showing more than three controls are rare. While variations in control schedules may vary, the method I prefer is shown below:

- 2♦ Zero or one control. At most one king, and possibly no high cards at all.
- 2♥ Two controls. You hold exactly one ace or two kings.
- 2♠ Three controls, specifically one ace and one king in different suits.
- 2NT Three controls, specifically three kings.
- 3♣ Three controls, specifically an ace and king in the same suit.
- 3 Four or more controls.

What is the logic behind this structure? Well, at the lower end of the schedule, responses of 2♦ and 2♥ usually lead to your side stopping in game, with slam not often being in the picture.



Occasionally two controls can be enough for slam. Look at the hand to the left. You open 2♣ and partner responds 2♥, showing two controls. Since you are looking at three kings in your own hand, partner cannot hold two kings (unless you are playing with a rather funny deck); hence, partner guarantees either the ♥A or ♣A on this deal, but

cannot hold both. You deduce that a grand slam is out of the picture, but 6♠ looks awfully promising. Whichever ace partner holds, your small slam is probably at worst a 50/50 proposition, and you also know that you have a guaranteed entry to the dummy if, say, you need to lead a club toward your ♠K for the twelfth trick. As my friend and ACBL *Bulletin* columnist Karen Walker likes to say, good bridge players envision the play of the hand while the auction is still taking place!

And why does this schedule devote three different bids to the various combinations of three controls? The answer is that opener can often determine some of partner's exact cards from the response. But isn't it bad to use 2NT to show three kings—don't we usually want the strong hand to be declarer? Actually, not in this case—having the opening lead come into a hand known to hold three kings is fairly attractive.

Like any other system of 2♣ responses, the control approach has a noteworthy drawback: it delays our ability to get suits into the auction, which can create awkward sequences. It is possible, for example, that opener would not get to introduce her major suit below the three level in some auctions, while a 2♦ waiting response guarantees that opener can preserve bidding space with an initial natural bid of 2♥ or 2♠. As with each of the systems that we have discussed over the past several months, you always give something up in exchange for what you gain. Only you and your partner can draw on your experience to determine what method is best for you.



Curt Soloff is a sapphire life master with 15 years of bridge directing and teaching experience. He has served as the manager and director of the Castle Rock Bridge Club since its inception in 2009.

CONSTRUCTIVE BIDDING

By Robert Todd, Tallahassee, Florida

Doubles in Notrump Auctions

When the opponents have bid a suit and we double, we are usually asking partner to bid (with a few exceptions—e.g., after a preempt by partner a double is for penalty). There are many types of doubles that ask partner to bid:

- **Takeout Doubles**—When our RHO has opened the bidding and we double, it shows that we have the other three suits (at least three card support in each) and asks partner to pick the best one for their hand.
- Negative Doubles

 When partner has opened the bidding, our RHO has overcalled a suit, and we double, it is generally takeout, asking partner to look for a better fit (often in an unbid major.)
- Responsive Doubles, Support Doubles, Reopening Doubles, etc. These
 doubles are looking for a fit.



When the opponents have bid notrump, the meaning of our double becomes

more ambiguous -sometimes it is penalty, sometimes it is card showing,

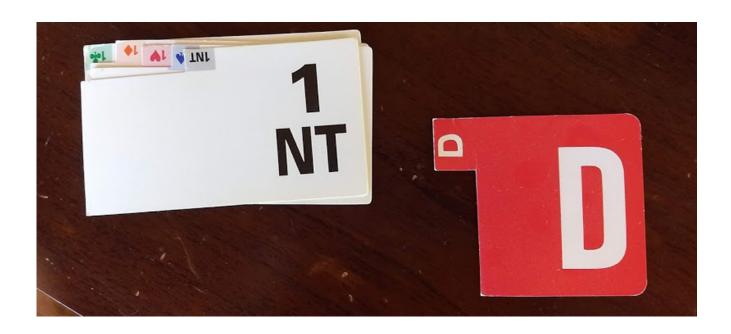
sometimes it is takeout. Both the level at which the double occurs and the position we are in will be valuable in helping us discern the meaning of our double.

Double After The Opponents Bid Notrump

Let's look at the meaning of double when the opponents bid notrump. We will break these doubles down into two different cases, when we have previously bid and when we have not yet entered the auction.

Doubles of 1NT When Our Side Has Previously Bid

- Partner opens and they overcall one notrump: 1Z-(1NT)-Dbl: Our Double is a penalty double showing 10+ points and the desire to defend.
- Partner overcalls and responder bids one notrump: (1X)-1Y-(1NT)-Dbl: Our Double is a penalty oriented double, usually denying support for partner's suit and showing 10+ points. This double is cooperative because partner's overcall is quite wide ranging in strength. If partner has a good overcall, they will sit for the double; if their overcall is weak they will pull it and look for another place to play.
- You open, partner responds and they bid 1NT: 1X-(P)-1Y-(1NT)-Dbl: Our Double is a penalty double (not a support double). It shows a very strong opening bid, usually a balanced 18-19. If this 1NT overcall is a conventional two suited bid (called a "Sandwich Notrump"), then this double returns to being a support double, searching for a fit.



Our Side Has Not Yet Bid

- Doubling their Notrump opener (1NT)-Dbl is a conventional double in most defensive bidding systems these days—DONT, Meckwell, Woolsey, etc.
 Some still use it as a penalty double, but this has become less and less common.
- **Doubling their Notrump response** (1Z)-P-(1NT)-Dbl is a takeout double showing shortness in the opening bidder's suit. This is true whether the 1NT bid is natural (as in response to a minor suit opening) or a forcing bid (as in a 1NT response to a major suit opening).

After We Have Bid Notrump

- · You open 1NT and they bid:
 - 1NT-(2♣)-Dbl: This double is Stayman, "stole my bid"; the bidding continues as if the opponents had passed.
 - 1NT-(2◆/♥/♠)-Dbl: This double is "card-showing." It generally shows values and no clear direction about what to do next. It asks partner for input as to whether we should play offense or defense.
- You open, partner responds 1NT, and they bid two of a new suit: 1Y-

(P)-1NT-(2Z)-Dbl. Here double is a takeout double, showing shortness in the opponent's suit. The most common shape 5-4-3-1. If RHO bids our secondary suit, then we trap pass and wait to see if partner can reopen with a takeout double.

Conclusion

As you can see, low level doubles in notrump auctions are more complicated than doubles of suits. If you think through the situations, you can understand how to effectively use double in these competitive auctions.



Robert is a professional bridge player and teacher whose hometown is Tallahassee, Florida. But you'll find him all over the country and the world playing and teaching bridge. Robert began playing bridge at a very young age in his parents' party bridge games, and came to duplicate while working on his graduate degree in Mathematics. He spent a year in Helsinki,

Finland, where he met and played with many fine European players. When he returned to the States, Robert decided to become a bridge professional himself and has never looked back!

Robert has finished in the top 20 on the Barry Crane list (with over 1500 masterpoints) many times, has posted several top-10 finishes in National-level Pairs events, and won the 0-10,000 Knockout Teams at the Dallas NABC in 2014. This article was previously published as one of Robert's free email lessons in his series published at advinbridge.com

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link to the full flyer **2019 Peach flyer**

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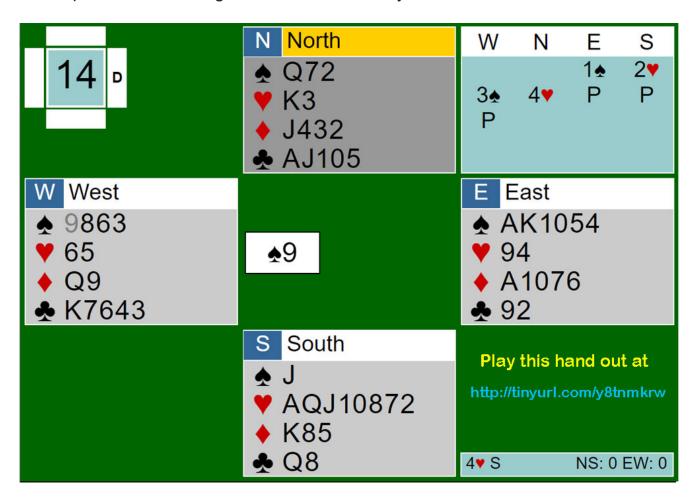
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IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

By Larry Matheny, Fort Collins, Colorado

Finding The Missing High Cards

The fate of many contracts depends on finding the missing high cards. While assumptions can be dangerous, sometimes they are essential.



Bidding: West's three spade bid was preemptive and North, hoping his doubleton heart honor was enough, raised partner to game.

Play: West led the nine of spades to East's king. East shifted quickly to a low diamond to put declarer on a guess. Declarer stopped to consider the hand. With one spade and two diamonds to lose, he needed to find the king of clubs in the West hand. If that was the case, that meant East needed the ace of diamonds for his opening bid. Therefore, declarer rose with the king of diamonds, drew trumps, and followed with the queen of clubs. This won, and another finesse allowed him to discard a diamond. He ended with eleven tricks, losing only one spade and one diamond.

Note that if declarer guesses wrong in diamonds, West will win the queen, return another to his partner's ace, and then ruff the third round to defeat the contract.



Born and raised in Illinois, Larry worked at a major insurance company for 33 years, retiring as a director in the systems department. In 2003, he moved to Loveland, Colorado, the home state of his wife, Linda, and soon got involved in the local Bridge scene. Larry served as Unit president for ten years. He has written a weekly column for his unit webpage since 2004 and is a

frequent lecturer at the monthly unit games.

August 2-4, 2019

HOMESTAKE PEAK SCHOOL 750 Eagle Rd Avon, CO 81620 goo.gl/maps/cmnQnXKnuTK7hoY5A

Partnership Chair - Paula O'Leary partnership.unit364@gmail.com

Three sessions Friday starting at 9:30 Two sessions Saturday 9:30 and 2:30 Bracketed Teams Sunday at 9:30, lunch included

Continental Breakfast on Friday and Saturday

FLYER: web2.acbl.org/Tournaments/Ads/2019/08/1908087.pdf



Upcoming Sectionals

ARIZONA

Prescott Summer Sectional

Prescott, Arizona
June 21-23

Game times are 10:00 & 3:00, with a three session Bracketed KO Teams starting Friday at 3:00, single session Open and 199er Pairs at 10:00 & 3:00 on both Friday and Saturday, and Stratified Swiss and 199er Teams on Sunday. Visit this historic town with pines in a red rock setting. See the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard* or click the title above for more information.



COLORADO

<u>Durango 4 Corners Sectional</u>

Durango, Colorado June 7-9

Snacks galore at this tournament at the Durango LaPlata Senior Center in one of Colorado's most scenic areas. Come early and ride the railroad through the canyons of the San Juan National Forest. The three session KO starts on Friday evening at 6:30, with single section Stratified and 299er Pairs events at 1:30 & 6:30. Saturday's single session Stratified and 299er Pairs events start at 9:00 & 2:00. The Sunday Stratified Swiss Teams starts at 9:00. See the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard* or click the title above for more information.



Northern Colorado Silver Sectional

June 28-30 Loveland, Colorado

This popular sectional is just off Interstate 25 at exit 259, about an hour north of Denver. It includes single session Stratified and 299er Pairs games on both Friday and Saturday at 10:00 & 3:00; on Saturday you may choose to play both sessions as a two session game. The strati-flighted Swiss teams (where A/AX play separately from B/C) on Sunday also starts at 10:00, and lunch is provided. Click the title above, see the ad in this issue or go to the <u>unit website</u> for more information.

<small italic Credit for photo used in the ad in this issue is Rocky Mountain National Park, Jim Westfall 2003 >

Denver Summer Sectional

July 12-14

Golden

This sectional is in conjunction with the Colorado Non Life Master Regional held at the same location. Friday offers three different sessions—single session Stratified Pairs at 10:00 & 2:30, a two session Bracketed Swiss Teams at those same times, and a Swiss Pairs at 7:00. Saturday offers a double session Stratified Pairs as well as two single session pairs games, also at 10:00 & 2:30. There are tasty snacks all weekend, and a good lunch is included in the Sunday entry fee for the playthrough Bracketed Teams. Click the title above or go to denverbridge.com for more information.

Peach Sectional

July 26-28

Grand Junction

Fine hospitality will greet you at the Courtyard by Marriot at 767 Horizon Drive in Grand Junction. Friday's schedule features single session 0-50, 299er, and Open Pairs games at 1:00 & 7:00. Saturday uses the same strats for two session pairs games (with those wishing to play only one session accommodated) at 10:00 & 3:00. The Sunday Stratified Swiss Teams starts at 9:30 (there will be a 299er Swiss if there are enough teams). Click the title above for more information or see the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard*.



Vail Summer Sectional

August 2-4

Avon

Come to the Rockies! This sectional, again held at the Homestake Peak School, offers single session Stratified 299er Pairs games all day Friday and Saturday. There is a one session Stratified Open Pairs Friday at 9:30, and a two session Stratified Open Pairs starting at 2:00 with the second session at 7:00 pm. Saturday has a two session Stratified Open Pairs at 9:30 & 2:30. Free continental breakfasts are provided on both days, and lunch is available. The Sunday Bracketed Swiss Teams starts at 9:30, and lunch is included. See the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard* or click the title above for more information.

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque Spring Sectional

June 14-16

Albuquerque

Held at the Duke City Bridge Club, with plentiful and delicious homemade snacks. Game times are 10:00 & 2:00 on Friday and Saturday; Friday's events include a two session Bracketed Round Robin Teams. The Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams (where A/AX play separately from B/C) starts at 10:00 on Sunday. Click the title above for the flyer or see the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard* for more information.

Christmas in July Sectional

July 12-14

Ruidoso

Enjoy bridge in the mountains. Held at the Ruidoso High School, the four single session Stratified Open & 299er Pairs events start at 10:00 & 3:00 on Friday and

Saturday. The three session KO starts Friday afternoon. Sunday has Stratified &

299er Swiss Teams, also starting at 10:00. See the ad in this issue of *ScoreCard* or click the title above for more information.





DISTRICT 17 ASSOCIATION AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

D17 ScoreCard volume II issue 3



D17 ScoreCard is a bi-monthly publication announced to over 9,000 bridge players in our district by email blast, website postings, Social Media, and Apps.

Deadlines

D17 ScoreCard's deadline for articles and ads is the tenth of the preceding month; However, earlier submissions are always preferred. 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.

Email all ads and copy to: Steve & Kitty Cooper, Editors - coopers@D17acbl.org

Advertising

Guidelines for creating ads for this publication are available at: d17acbl.org/uploads/newsletter/AdGuidelinesOnlineD17.pdf

Ads for District 17 tournaments are free but will include a small set-up fee if we do the graphics. For commercial ad pricing please contact John Grossmann below.

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