



FRIDAY
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ROGUE VALLEY REGIONAL DAILY BULLETIN

Daily Regional Coverage, District 20, ACBL, Jim Flint, Editor

Tournament Notebook



By Jim Flint, Daily Bulletin Editor

It's been a great tournament so far, and I've been meeting some of the movers and shakers of District 20 for the first time.

Marilyn Vilhauer, who is retiring as tournament manager, is a delight. She was kind and helpful, shepherding me through my initiation as Daily Bulletin editor.

She does run a tight ship, though. And I didn't mind washing her car as penance for letting a typo slip through in the first edition of the Bulletin. But you don't reach the heights of District 20 governance with an undisciplined management style.

I met her husband Merlin and his bridge partner for the day, Rich Carle, at the table during Open Pairs Wednesday. Smart guys. Personable. And both whizzes when it comes to computer programming. I'm not saying they're techno-geeks, but their pocket protectors have pocket protectors.

I've been enjoying working with Director in Charge Matt Smith as well. I like his style when called to the table: cool, calm, fair, and deliberative. But maybe he needs to speak louder. At a director call the other day, one woman apparently couldn't hear him because he had to repeat his ruling three times. Patient guy.

During a break between sessions, a few of us were discussing husband-wife partnerships and how sometimes it can work beautifully, but sometimes things can, shall we say, fall apart.

It reminded me of the time I was at an NABC in Reno and talking about the same sort of thing with a woman from California, while taking a break in the hotel lobby.

I told her about an incident in Seattle many years ago when a woman took an unnecessary finesse and went down in a cold slam trying to make an overtrick. Her husband berated her from stem to stern.

On the second of the two boards, the hand was passed out. She told her husband, coldly, that she was getting a cup of coffee, and he took a bathroom break. Sitting north, I unfolded the traveling scoring slip to write down the pass-out and noticed that other pairs were bidding 4 hearts and 6 hearts, making 6, for east/west.

I pulled the woman's hand from the board to take a look at it. She had 23 points and a seven-card heart suit. Passing was her idea of revenge for her husband's bad manners.

After listening to my story, the woman from California said she had seen worse behaviors, even after zero tolerance became policy. She said she was thinking of proposing a new rule to ACBL: "No person can partner with another person they've seen naked."

Makes sense to me.

Today's Events

10:00 and 3:00

- Weekend Compact KOs
- Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)
- Daytime Side Game Series II
- 299er Stratified Pairs (single sessions)

3:00

- Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)

Wine and Appetizers Party immediately follows the afternoon sessions in Misty's Grille in the Red Lion. Everybody is invited. Each player will get a free drink ticket (see related story on page 2)

7:30

- Evening Side Game Series
- Klamath Falls Swiss Teams (1 of 2)

Saturday's Events

10:00 and 3:00

- A/B Stratified Pairs (Open/2500) 2 sessions
- Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100) 2 sessions
- Daytime Side Game Series II
- GNT District Finals Flight A (2-session Swiss qualifying; 2 or 4 teams advance to play Sunday at 10:30 and TBA)
- GNT District Finals Flight C (2-session Swiss)

7:30

- Evening Side Game Series
- Klamath Falls Swiss Teams (2 of 2)

Was it simply a case of the Rabbi's Rule?

Dropping eight singleton kings in yesterday's play, Rich Carle said he always has believed in the Rabbi's Rule: never finesse to the singleton king. A disgruntled opponent countered that Carle appeared to be peeking early.

This item may or may not have any basis in truth.

Wine and Appetizers Party After Second Session--See Page 2