

VBEA CALENDAR

September & October 2009

Gold Available in Them Thar Local Games September & October offer the unique opportunity to reap some GOLD points without having to attend a regional or national tournament. There are three formats in which they will be available, and there are SEVEN opportunities scheduled:

1. **ACBL Instant Matchpoint Game** – Wednesday night, 9/09, 6:15 – Winners each direction will receive 1 (one) Gold point for their efforts with all other awarded points half red and black. This game is a tailor-made opportunity for our non-life masters, and we would like to do something very special. If we get 14 or more tables, we can split the game into two sections, which means four pairs will each earn a gold point. The Wednesday night game has a good base of about seven tables, and there have been games of 9 and 11.5 tables in the last couple of months. So, if the 299er community will come out for this game, it is highly likely that at least one of the pairs will enjoy the rewards of a great night and win a gold point. We need about 14 pairs to come out to make this happen, so encourage your friends and neighbors to come. No partner, no problem. Remember that Wednesday night is a guaranteed partner night.

The hands have been analyzed in advance, and possible results have matchpoint awards already determined, and they are listed on the traveling score sheets. So, you will know your matchpoint result immediately upon completion of each board. Booklets with analysis by expert Larry Cohen will be provided. Playing fee is \$2.75 extra.

Remember, too, that you have the option of eating dinner for only \$4 extra, available at 5:30. That night, we will have a choice of hamburgers or grilled chicken, salad, and other complementary victuals. Important – if you plan to eat, please contact Pat by e-mail or phone, 423-6472.

2. **North American Pairs Unit Final** – Two sessions on Saturday 10/24, 10 AM & TBA – You have been qualifying all summer long to play in this, so be sure not to miss this final. C is for those not yet life masters up to 500 points; B is all players up to 2000; and A is all players up to 5000. Check the list at the club to confirm your qualification. Awards are based as follows:

a. Flight A	100% sectional rating	20% Gold to overall	Remainder Red
b. Flight B	84% sectional rating	10% Gold to overall	Remainder Red
c. Flight C	60% sectional rating	5% Gold to overall	Remainder Red

Those who qualify at this event from either Flight B or Flight C can look forward to competing in the District 10, which usually takes place in Mississippi in January. There, even more gold points will be up for grabs, plus the chance to earn one of the three (or four) spots in each flight who will represent District 10 in the final at the spring national in Reno. NOTE – Even though the Flight A District final will have been completed in Tunica on 9/27, they are still eligible to participate in our unit final. Including Flight A opens up the availability of both more points and more gold points to the B & C players.

3. **Club Appreciation Swiss** – In October, we will hold FIVE of these special events, three of which will be in the 8 is ENUF format. These games have no extra fees, and 5% of the points you earn will be gold.

a. 10/14	Wed afternoon	499er	Noon	
b. 10/18	Sunday afternoon	8 is ENUF	1:15 PM	C to NLM, B to 1500
c. 10/19	Monday night	299er	7:00 PM	
d. 10/23	Friday night	8 is ENUF	7:30 PM	C to 500, B to 2000
e. 10/31	Saturday night	8 is ENUF	7:00 PM	C to NLM, B to 1500

Sunday Schedule - We have a nice mix of pair and team games in September and October. All begin at 1:15, and some of the pair games have lunch provided beginning at 12:30.

The member survey indicated some interest in a mentor program. To that end, all of the Sunday pair games these two months will be stratified to foster mentoring partnerships. How? They will be stratified by expertise. Stratification by Expertise is a format that lends itself quite well to mixed-experience (or ProAm) partnerships while accommodating all comers. The way it works is that a break point is selected. We will use 500 masterpoints.

Flight A – Both partners are above 500

Flight B – One partner is above 500 and the other below

Flight C – Both partners are below 500

If you have been thinking of mentoring someone, these games are just the ticket. Come on out and give it a try.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Game</i>	<i>Lunch?</i>	<i>Director</i>
September 6	NO GAME – Labor Day Wkend		
September 13	Pairs – ProAm Strat by Expertise International Fund – \$1 extra	Pancakes	Pat Williams
September 20	Unit Swiss – 8 is ENUF C to NLM, B to 1500		Pat Williams
September 27	Pairs – ProAm Strat by Expertise Club Championship	Beef Hot Dogs	TBA
October 4	Pairs – ProAm Strat by Expertise Club Appreciation		TBA
October 11	Nashville Sectional		
October 18	Teams – Club Apprec - 8 is ENUF - C to NLM, B to 1500		Pat Williams
October 25	Pairs – ProAm Strat by Expertise Education Foundation – \$1 extra	Soups & Salads	Pat Williams

Unit Championships - There are two scheduled on the same weekend in September.

- 9/19 – Pairs – We plan to make this a pot-luck social as well. Bring your favorite picnic food to share with your friends before the game. We will plan to eat at 6 with game time at 7.
- 9/20 – Teams – 8 is ENUF – A >1500, B > NLM, C = NLM

October is Club Appreciation Month – October is Club Appreciation Month. Each sanctioned game is allowed to hold one pair game and one team game. The great thing about these games is that they carry full championship rating without having to pay extra fees. This is ACBL's annual gift to you, so don't miss these opportunities. A pair game is scheduled for all of our sanctioned games, and as noted previously, there are five club appreciation team games scheduled that provide 5% gold awards.

InterClub Championship – There are club championships, but they are scored across the entire field of participating clubs in ACBL. Section winners will be determined in the local game as is normal. The two heats are Wednesday evening, September 30 and Tuesday evening, October 13 (limited to 49ers only). These games carry \$1 extra fee.

Fundraising Games – Fundraising games in September are limited to those in support of ACBL in international competition. In October, some Charity and Education Foundation games are scheduled. All of these games carry \$1 extra fee.

Wednesday night game – Don't forget that this game has a couple of unique things going for it.

- It starts at 6:15 and finishes by 9:30. So it is great for people who work or have other early-morning activities.
- For only \$4 extra, you can come and have dinner. There is always salad and other items. This is the main menu line-up:

09/02	Burgers	10/07	Burgers
09/09	Stir Fry	10/14	Stir Fry
09/16	Pasta	10/21	Pasta
09/23	Deli Sandwiches	10/28	Deli Sandwiches
09/30	Chicken Creation		

Guaranteed partner games – Directors are always happy to assist you in finding a partner if you contact them ahead of time. But we also have several games for which you can decide to come at the last minute and still be assured of being able to play.

Monday night 299er	Tuesday night 49er	Wednesday afternoon 499er
Wednesday night open	Saturday afternoon	Sunday afternoon (pair games only)

This club exists for its members and the promotion of bridge. We would like your input. Let us know if you –

- Have questions or concerns about how things are run.
- Have suggestions for the menu of games offered – types, start times, etc.
- Particularly like or dislike something.
- Have a suggestion for a topic to cover
- Have content to contribute

Contact me, editor & ombudsman: Pat Williams stopgaap@yahoo.com (note there are two a's) 423-6472