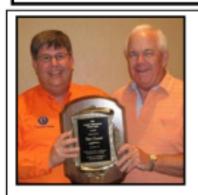
American Contract Bridge League District 16 SCORECARD

Bridge News Bulletin for The Texas Regional Conference

Bert Onstott Wins Jacoby Award



San Antonio, Texas

Congratulations to Bert Onstott the winner of the 2009 Oswald and Jim Jacoby Award. Bert's passion for bridge is proven by his never ending work for both unit 174 and the district. He has done more for bridge in his unit in six years than most of us do in a lifetime. Below, we have listed only a few of the many things Bert has volunteered for, supported, and helped with:

In support of Unit 174, Bert served six years on our board, including two terms as President. While on the board, he chaired 12 sectionals and two regionals. When he wasn't chairing the tournaments, he was there early to set up tables and stayed late after the tournament to tear down the tables and crate supplies. That is approximately 30 tournaments, plus additional help with NAP and GNT.

Bert set up online group email for intra-board communication as well as online file storage for board record keeping. This will enable future boards to archive past records.

Bert created a spreadsheet template for tournament planning and profit and loss accounting.

Bert developed a web based, database driven online partnership desk for unit members. This has proved to be very helpful for players in our unit to find partners any day of the week, or for people visiting our unit from out of town.

Bert served as unit photographer.

Bert was coordinator for bridge in schools, and taught bridge to junior high and high school students.

Bert was instrumental in initiating a program that attracts social bridge players to duplicate. Two such events have been held, and both were very successful. The first one had 21 tables, and the second one had 16 tables. New players signed up with the ACBL, and all participants had a good time.

In support of District 16, Bert has served as the district webmaster. In the first two months of the job, he revamped and updated the district web site. He created a program to automate the process of removing the names of those who choose not to receive a paper Scorecard.

Thanks for everything Bert.

Even for multi-world champion Bob Hamman of Dallas winning a world championship is not easy. This year's March to Gold was no exception. It all started at the United States Team Trials in June this year when the Nickell Team (Nick Nickell, Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman, Zia Mahmood, Eric Rodwell, Jeff Meckstroth and coach Eric Kokish) was upset in an early round of the trials. However, this year's trials qualified two teams and the Nickell Team came back from the "Loser's Bracket" to become the second representative (USA II) in the 2009 Bermuda Bowl held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. (Unfortunately, fellow teammate Dick Freeman passed away shortly after the team trials ended. Freeman was replaced by Ralph Katz of Chicago.)

In the coming weeks, the phone rang and Nickell asked if I would like to be the team's Non-Playing Captain. I accepted immediately and began my adventure to winning my first GOLD medal! Hamman, however, had eleven world championships under his belt including nine Bermuda Bowls wins prior to this year's championship. His first championship came in 1970 after joining the famed Dallas Aces in 1966. Every since his first victory at the world level, Hamman dedicated his life to promoting the game of bridge with efforts ranging from raising funds for U.S. world championships to helping local clubs build membership.

USA II began the 2009 Championships on an ominous note when all of the team member's planes were diverted because of weather, but once on the ground the group focused on winning the gold. The first of the two-week championship consisted of 21 rounds against each of the other teams in the event. In the end, the top eight teams advanced from the round robin to the knockout round. USA II finished fourth after the round robin and drew the Netherlands in the round of 8. This was a tough draw since the Netherlands team was seen as one of the top three teams in the event along with USA II and Italy. After 96 boards and a grueling match, USA II was victorious over the Netherlands and next faced China in the Semi-Finals. Finding themselves trailing by over 100 imps with 16 boards to play. China withdrew giving USA II a much needed break before starting the finals.

Once again, USA II was facing off

with Italy for 128 boards in the finals of the World Championships. USA II got off to a large lead in the first of eight segments only to see Italy come back to virtually tie the match after the second segment. The USA and Italian fans could tell this was going to be a battle to the bitter end. The boards passed by and with two segments to go (32 boards), it looked like USA II had the match under control but nothing is a sure thing against the perennial powerhouse Italian team. Italy mounted a strong comeback but with four boards to play in the match, Hamman and Zia bid to a 6D contract making while their Italian counterparts bid only to 5D. This 11 imps sealed the event and USA II became the 2009 Bermuda Bowl winners!

The Bermuda Bowl trophy is on display at the Bridge Academy of North Dallas. Please stop by when you are in the Dallas area to see the most prestigious trophy in bridge which traces the history of the Bermuda Bowl winners dating back to 1950. You may also visit www.bridgeacademyofnorthdallas.com to read USA II's daily blog of the March to Gold.

Past Oswald & Jim Jacoby Award Winners

2008 Ira Hessel, San Antonio 2007 Dewitt Hudson Fort Worth 2006 Rosemary Kelley, Austin 2005 Toni Snow, Houston 2004 Betty Starzek, Houston 2003 Al Lochli, San Antonio

2002 Scott Humphrey, Austin 2001 Tom Hughes, Fort Worth 2000 Mary Ross, Corpus Christi

1999 Arlene Weingarten, Houston 1998 Eric Snow, Houston

1997 George & Leah Olivarri, Corpus Christi 1996 Howard Wilkins, Abilene 1995 Barry Hagedorn, Houston 1994 Shirley Pagan, Corpus Christi 1993 Jacque Tucker, San Antonio

1992 Henry Baer, Dallas 1991 Mary Williams, Austin 1990 Gerrie Owen, Dallas

1989 Dan & Joan Morse, Houston 1988 Jim Downs, Houston

1987 Judy Jacoby, Dallas 1986 Cissie Horton, San Antonio

1985 Sue Barber, San Angelo 1984 Ann Carb, Fort Worth

1984 Ann Carb, Fort Wortt 1983 Joyce Cook, Houston

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