

GNTs and NAPs

More acronyms to remember! GNT means Grand National Teams and NAP means North American Pairs. These are the two premiere “grass root” events within the ACBL and if you haven’t played in one or both of them by now, I suggest you do so in the near future.

The last full weekend in April, I attended the District finals of the GNTs in Fort, Dodge, Iowa. The fact that our team didn’t do well doesn’t keep me from encouraging others to take advantage of these special events in the future.

But, first, a hand from the 1st KO (and my only as I got KOed!!):

North		The Bidding			
	♠ QT74	West	North	East	South
	♥ 9		pass	1♠	pass
	♦ T642		pass	3♥	pass
	♣ 8763		pass	4♦	pass
West	East	4NT	pass	5♠	X
♠ 9	♠ J8632	6♥	(all pass)		
♥ KJT873	♥ AQ2		Opening Lead: S7		
♦ K97	♦ AQ8				
♣ AQT	♣ 52				
South					
♠ AK5					
♥ 654					
♦ J53					
♣ KJ94					

If the auction seems a bit aggressive it may help to know that we were behind at the time..... we were behind the entire match. I held the East hand and by the time 5♠ got doubled, I’m sure that my partner was regretting his actions to date. However, he was sort of rewarded by the fact that I had very little in the spade suit. The spade 7 went to the King and South tried to cash the Ace with North playing the four which indicated either two or four spades. (The opponents were playing 3/5 leads). Since setting up the spade suit for two tricks in order to pitch clubs is impossible, the slam depends upon the club finesse which in this case succeeded!

Since this is only a 50% slam (there's a 50-50 chance as to who holds the King of clubs), it's not particularly great to bid it. But as I said we were behind. Alas, it was bid at the other table too for no IMP gain.

Marilyn Hemenway 2004