

SENIOR SWISS TEAMS

Mike Albert and I recently attended the NABC Summer Nationals in Albuquerque, NM, and had the good fortune to win our second National event. (Last summer we won the IMP Pairs in Miami). This time it was a brand new event--the National Senior Swiss Teams. So not only did we win a national event we won the first ever of this event.

On Tuesday, July 29, we entered the 2-session qualifying event as part of a six-person team (most people call them 6-man teams, but not me). Our teammates were John and Helen Gustafson and Harry Ross from Des Moines and Jerry Gaer from Scottsdale, AR. Mike and I played 6 rounds a day sitting out the first two each day. Harry and Jerry also played six rounds per day sitting out the 3rd and 4th rounds each day. The Gustafsons played in the afternoons and took the evenings off. But, of course, they were there for the finish to see how the rest of us had done.

At the end of the first day, we had qualified second with a carryover of 13.94 VP, but the leaders, the Wooldridge team, had a carryover of 20 VP. (Scoring was on the 20 VP scale both days)

Flushed with our success the first day and our abbreviated schedule, three of us (Mike, Harry and I) plus Brad Carmichael played in the KO event the following morning and couldn't make it through the first round. Did we ever give Brad a bad time...unjustly I might add?

For the final two sessions on the second day things went very smoothly and we led most of the day. Going into the final round we were in the lead with 104.9 VP. The second place team of Steve Lawrence of Athens, TX, Bob Luebke of Walnut Creek, CA, Ed Groner of Duncan, OK, and Richard Holmes of Wichita, KS had a score of 101.5. In the last round our team won by 10 IMPS for 14 VP's while the Lawrence team won by a score that produced 17 VP's. So it turned out very close, with our team winning by .46 VP.

Most of you know Mike and me and many of you know Harry and the Gustafsons from Des Moines. However, Jerry is probably at stranger to you having lived in Arizona for sometime. But he too has his roots in this area. That plus the fact that he is an excellent player made us all pleased to have him on the team.

The win was very satisfying because the field included many of the better senior players...and don't let anyone tell you differently, we seniors play plenty fine bridge.

The following hand is one that gained us 7 IMPS. Our teammates, the Gustafsons played in 3NT making 4 while our opponents played in 1NT making 3:

	North	
	♠ A98	
	♥ AJ6	
	♦ AJ1072	
	♣ 73	
West		East
♠ KQ2		♠ J1074
♥ KQ73		♥ 9854
♦ 653		♦ Q8
♣ J86		♣ K102
	South	
	♠ 653	
	♥ 102	
	♦ K94	
	♣ AQ954	

Marilyn Hemenway 1999