

SWISS, ANYONE ??

The Swiss Team format is simply the best and fairest test of duplicate bridge skill there is. Period. “Why,” you ask? It is because each board is played only twice – once by one pair on your team sitting N-S, and once by the other pair sitting E-W. There is absolutely no room for “luck” to creep in, nor can your results be influenced by how well or poorly some other team is playing at another table. They’re playing altogether different boards!

There are a couple of Swiss variations to keep in mind. “Open Swiss” is just that. There are no limits to a team’s masterpoints, and you might find yourself playing against completely novice players – or – you might find yourself competing against national champions. But even then, in subsequent matches you will be paired against teams that have a won-loss record similar to your own, so the competition will “even out” so to speak.

Another common variation (*and perhaps more suited to newer teams*) is “Bracketed Swiss.” The eight (or so) teams with the lowest total of masterpoints play matches just within their own group. The next eight form the next higher bracket, and so forth. For large events, such as Regionals or Nationals, you will usually find yourself playing roughly against your own level of players in *bracketed* events.

Swiss Team events are lucrative in terms of masterpoints. You will receive a small fraction (say, something like 0.1 to 0.3) for every match that you win. And the top teams at the end of the event receive a much larger reward. At the most recent Nationals held in Reno, NV the winners of the top bracket received about 40 Gold Points, and even the winners of the lowest bracket received over 8 Gold/Red Points. In smaller Sectional events (a **HINT** for our October 22-23 Sectional) winners of the Swiss event could receive 3-4 Silver Points depending upon the number of entries.

GET YOURSELF A TEAM OF 4 AND TRY IT!

There will be Bracketed Swiss events every day at the Providence Nationals from July 14 to July 22 except on Sunday July 17.

And, once again, the Central Mass Bridge Association will be hosting a Sectional Tournament **HERE IN CENTRAL MASS** at the Holden Senior Center on October 22-23. The Sunday event will be a Swiss Team format, and the entire sectional will be **LIMITED TO NON-LIFE MASTERS WITH LESS THAN 500 MASTERPOINTS**. (*You might even know the Director*).

Want to know more about Swiss Teams, especially the strategy? Check out the Wachusett website. Then the **LESSONS** tab, then either **SWISS TEAMS 101** or **SWISS TEAM STRATEGY**.