



BOARD MEETING REPORT

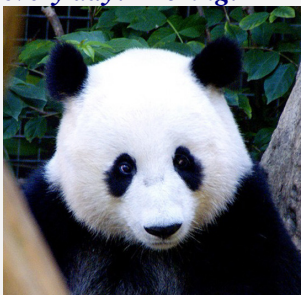
Fall 2009
San Diego

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Budget and Finance

The San Diego folks did a great job of sharing their beautiful city with us. They say they live in paradise and it sure comes close. Due to the fact that the tournament started on Thanksgiving Day this year, I headed out on the Friday before and met long days in Board and committee meetings through Tuesday. Fall is budget time, so the Finance Committee spent a good 12 hours here on it. I did take Wednesday to go to the world-renowned zoo, but after the previous few days it looked like the Board to me! (Just kidding—mostly.) After the Educational Foundation Meeting Saturday and the BOG meeting Sunday I was glad to head home—who needs 75 and sunny every day? Boring.



Management brought its proposed 2010 budget to the Finance Committee showing a projected deficit of over \$350,000 in a budget of nearly \$16 million. Although I do not believe a strictly balanced budget is necessary (some members do) I and most others agree we need to come closer than that. The solution is of course simple: you cut expenses or you raise revenue. Cutting back on our services is not an attractive prospect, but determining what those services actually cost and trying to price them more appropriately is a sensible option. ACBL Membership dues have not been raised in five years; table fees for short games (almost all internet games) have never been raised; our Tournament Directors have received raises every year for the past four years but the session fees charged for their services have stayed the same. The Finance Committee decided to address all these areas and proposed increases to the full Board that would bring the operating deficit down to around \$65,000. Although the Board never raises fees lightly, all of the increases were approved. TD session fees are still far below their actual cost, but we believed players would rather start biting the bullet now rather than face an enormous increase later on to close the ever-widening gap. The specific increases are set out below.

ACBL Headquarters Memphis Update—

We're on schedule to move the headquarters from Memphis to Horn Lake, MS in March. The entire staff of the ACBL under Jay Baum's leadership has done a great job on both securing the new building and supervising its interior configuration to meet our needs. We're updating technology (phones, etc) at the same time so we should truly have a state-of-the-art facility to serve our members. Jay will be retiring in 2012 right after the Memphis NABC scheduled to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the ACBL. He hopes everyone attending there will come tour the new building, including the Hall of Fame and Library. He can be proud of a fine legacy.



Still the Best Bargain in Town!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

--Membership dues will be increased from \$35 to \$37.

--Life Master service charges will be increased from \$32 to \$34.

--Household membership dues will be increased from \$64 to \$68.

--Junior membership dues will be increased from \$14 to \$15,

--New member membership dues will be increased from \$26 to \$28.

--All 3-year renewals go up \$6.

With the exception of the new member increase, which is effective January 1, 2011, all of the above increases are effective April 1, 2010.

SHORT GAMES

Short game (fewer than 18 boards) table fees will be increased from \$.40 to \$.46 per table, effective April 1, 2010.

Short games are played almost exclusively online. This is a significant growth area and the fee has never been increased.

TD SESSION FEES

Effective March 29, 2010 all TD session fees will be increased 8%.

Type	Old Fee	New Fee
Nat'l	\$155	\$167.40
Assoc	\$155	\$167.40
TD	\$145	\$153.80
ATD	\$115	\$124.20
Local	\$92.35	\$99.70

For an average 1300 table regional, the above increase translates into about \$780.



WEBSITE NEWS

I'M PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE ACBL WILL BE OFFERING A FREE SERVICE TO ALL CLUBS TO HAVE RESULTS POSTED ON THE ACBL WEBSITE WITHIN MINUTES AFTER THE END OF THE GAME.

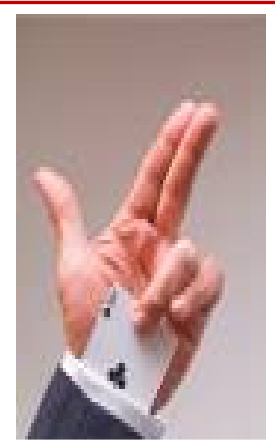
I UNDERSTAND THAT INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE RELEASED TO ALL CLUB OWNERS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. WE CERTAINLY HOPE THAT PROVIDING THIS NEW SERVICE WILL BENEFIT THE CLUBS WHO CHOOSE TO USE THE SERVICE (IT WILL BE OPTIONAL) AND WE ALSO

ANTICIPATE THAT HAVING CLUB RESULTS AVAILABLE SO QUICKLY WILL BE A BENEFIT TO OUR PLAYERS.

REVISED DISCIPLINARY SANCTION GUIDELINES

All disciplinary chairs and recorders at the unit and district level should review the extensive changes to Appendix B of the CDR, available online. One of the key changes is the addition of the following language:

There is no requirement that committees must find a specific violation of a listed offense in Part A. Committees are free to reach their own determinations of offense and are not limited to those enumerated below.





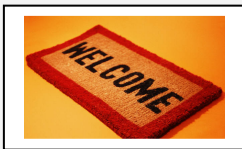
MORE CDR CHANGES!!

2 new violations and accompanying disciplines were added:

1) Attempting to influence the decision of a disciplinary body outside the hearing; and

2) **DISCUSSION OF THE CONTENT OF THE HEARING, OTHER THAN THE [DECISION] OUTSIDE THE HEARING ROOM BY A COMMITTEE MEMBER WITH ANY PARTY (WHETHER A PARTY TO THE HEARING OR NOT).**

IF YOU SERVE ON ANY DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE DO NOT DISCUSS WHAT WENT ON WITH ANYONE! A violation is subject to reprimand and/or up to 2 years probation and/or up to 180 days suspension.



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ME AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS OR HEYHOWAREYAS YOU WISH AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO RESPOND PROMPTLY!

SEE YOU IN INDY!!

BETH

Other News

FAILED MOTIONS

--To convert the **Mini-Spinalgolds** to a "Bracketed KO". I opposed—the attraction of the event is the "mirror" of the Spinalgold.

--To increase, at sponsor option, the allowable **number of strats in a stratified event** at clubs or tournaments from three to five—same for flighted events/flights I voted FOR this one—I think it should be up to sponsors to gauge the projected participation of their strats and flights.

--To **raise Flight B in the NAPs** from 2000 to 2500. I took a poll on this motion and the one below at the Louisville District Meeting—the majority opposed but it was close. I ended up voting for it because I think with masterpoint inflation it's inevitable.

--To **add a fourth "Championship" flight** (5000 and above) **to the NAPs**. The District poll on this one was far more definitive and I agreed—"no".



HANDICAPPING

No team whose average masterpoint holding is greater than 5000 per member will receive any handicap. For purposes of giving handicaps, two options are possible:

1) (DEFAULT) A team with greater than 5000 points per member average will continue to give handicaps to teams with a less than 5000 point average on the basis its actual average, or

2) (SPONSOR OPTION) For all handicap purposes, once a team achieves an average of at least 5000 points per member, its average is 5000.

BEGINNER/NEWCOMER GAMES

The minimum number of boards required for a Newcomer Game is, effective January 1st, reduced to six.

This will allow greater flexibility for directors and teachers. The current minimum of

ten boards can make for a VERY long lesson/game for beginners. We hope that the lower minimum to earn their first masterpoints will be popular. Let me know what you think and how it goes.

MINI-BLUE RIBBONS

This will now be a six-, rather than a four-, session event, mirroring its "big brother".

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Effective in Reno, the following applies to all events at an NABC other than an NABC+ event: [Changes underlined] Except for health-related equipment, or by permission of the DIC of the tournament, cell phones, audible pagers or similar equipment may not be operated or operable in any manner in the playing area during a session of play. Any such equipment must not be visible during the session. *Sponsoring organizations of other ACBL-sanctioned events are encouraged to adopt a similar policy.*

