



BOARD MEETING REPORT

Spring 2013
St. Louis

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The St. Louis Committee put on a great NABC. But they were of course helped by working in my native state near the greatest baseball team in the world. ☺ Seriously, the local chair and committee were virtually all veterans of at least two and in some cases 4 or 5 previous NABCs in the Gateway to the West. The weather was chillier than expected but the playing sites were great and who needs to go outside at a bridge tournament anyway? I was pleased when I finally got to the tables after my meetings to encounter many, many folks who, when they found out where I was from, thanked me for the great NABC in Louisville (I credited the committee, of course) and asked when we were going back. Folks really seem to like our “mid-America” tournaments like St. Louis and Louisville as a nice reasonably accessible and priced alternative to the big cities—I do too. How about you?



District 11 Shines!

The NABC opened with the Baldwin Flight A North American Pairs. All three of our pairs, Ron Mitchell (Jeffersonville, IN) and Dennis Hesthaven (Louisville), Ralph Letizia and Ellen Kozlove (Louisville) and John Stubbe (Dublin, OH) and Derrick Stover (Columbus) played the first day and qualified for the finals—an honor in itself. Ralph and Ellen finished 7th and John and Derrick 12th. A week later, it was the turn of the B and C flights. Henjin Ji and John Clark (Terre Haute) and D and P Byrckett (Oxford, OH) all qualified for the second day of the Golder NAOP Flight B, with Henjin and John finishing 7th and the Byrketts 11th. John and Frank Bowen (Charlestown, IN) and Dennis Schultz (Harrison, OH) and Lawrence Newman (Cincinnati) all qualified for the second day in the President's Cup NAOP Flight C—with John and John Altman (Mariemont, OH) missing a Q by a hair. Dennis and Lawrence finished 6th and John and Frank 17th. Congratulations to all on these terrific results!

But Ellen and Ralph weren't quite through. After their 7th place finish on Wednesday and Thursday, they, together with teammates Barbara Kasle and Drew Cannell, began play the next day in the debut of the 10K Swiss Teams event. They finished the first day in the lead and never looked back, winning the new event by 15 victory points. Wow!!!



Walter Johnson 1953-2013



Alas, not all of the District 11 news was good. Our friend Walter Johnson of Columbus died the week of the NABC. He was 59 years old. Johnson learned about bridge by playing a box game called "Bridge for Juniors" with his father, Ernest. In college, he became involved with tournament bridge at the Wittenberg University Bridge Club. Retired from a management position with the state of Ohio, Johnson played and taught bridge full time. An Emerald Life Master, Johnson won the Blue Ribbon Pairs in 1985 playing with Eric Rodwell, and the Grand National Teams Championship Flight in 1990 and 2010. Other high finishes include runner-up in the Reisinger, third place in the Vanderbilt and numerous top-10 finishes in NABC pair events. He has also played bridge internationally, with his best finish reaching the round of 32 in the 1994 Rosenblum Teams. He is survived by his wife, Terri, and their three sons: Bryn, Hunter and Tyler. A more complete obituary will appear in the May issue of the Bridge Bulletin. Walter was a fixture in the District for many years. We will miss him.

CHANGES IN ALERTS AND CONVENTION CHARTS

Effective January 1st, 2014:

A weak jump-shift by advancer is not alertable. "Advancer" is defined as the partner of an overcaller.

All 2D responses to a 2C opening are non-alertable.

The ACBL Convention Chart is amended as follows:

1. Item #5 of the Disallowed section of the ACBL Superchart is amended to read, "Opening one bids which by partnership agreement could show fewer than 8 HCP in first and second seat (Not applicable to a psych)."
2. The ACBL Mid-Chart is amended to add an additional numbered paragraph, Opening weak 2D or 2H opening bid showing at least 5-4 in the majors, if the five-card suit is known. (2)
3. The ACBL Mid-Chart is amended to add an additional numbered paragraph, Opening weak 2D or 2H opening bid showing at least 5-4 in the majors, if the five-card suit is unknown. (6)
4. The ACBL Mid-Chart is amended to add an additional numbered paragraph, Opening weak 2H bid showing 5-5 (or more) in hearts and any other suit. (2)
5. The ACBL Mid-Chart is amended to add an additional numbered paragraph, Opening weak 2S bid showing 5-5 (or more) in spades and a minor. (2)

NON-MEMBER ENTRY FEES

All participants of NABC+ and NABC events must be ACBL Members whose membership dues or service fees are current. Management had proposed that this requirement be extended to Regional and Sectional Tournaments, as well as



regionally-rated events at NABCs, but the Board felt that the local nature of these events means that in many areas such a restriction would severely impact attendance. The additional entry fees for non-members were, however, raised to \$4 for Regionals and \$3 for sectionals. These additional fees currently go to the sponsor. I argued strongly for a change to remit these fees to the ACBL. The justification for charging non-members more is that they get the benefit of the infrastructure paid by dues without paying them. These costs, however, are borne by the ACBL, not the local sponsor. The vote was 12-12 with one abstention, motion failing.

EIGHT IS ENOUGH

We clarified that an "Eight is Enough" game is classed as an "open" game with no upper limit on masterpoints.

REGIONALS AT SEA

We added authorization for a fourth annual cruise so that the ACBL could take advantage of opportunities for repositioning cruises.



EDUCATION: CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME!

Did you know that clubs can run "local" charity games and designate the ACBL Educational Foundation as the recipient? These games are often held in clubs in memoriam for a lost friend, as an anniversary party for a beloved couple or for any other special occasion you can think of. What better way to celebrate or remember than to support the Foundation that fosters the teaching of bridge to new players of all ages. The Ed Foundation is joining with the fantastic Patty Tucker to bring her Learn Bridge in a Day workshops to sponsoring organizations throughout the ACBL through EF grants. Both Sandra Marlin and I serve as trustees on the EF Board and urge you to support this great cause. If you need details on running local charity games, please contact the Clubs department at the ACBL and they'll be happy to help.

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 CINCINNATI!

BETH



AGE LIMIT FOR SENIOR EVENTS

Effective January 1st, 2014 the minimum age for participation in ACBL "senior" events will change to 60. The change is "grandfathered" so that anyone eligible to play in these events prior to that date will continue to be qualified, e.g., those now 55 or older. I think this change is long overdue.

PLAYING DIRECTORS IN STACS

The controversial change the Board made last year to bar playing directors of STaCs from collecting overall awards has been modified to provide that, **at sponsor option** the requirement may be waived. This allows the Units sponsoring the STaCs to make the decision. Although most of the Board still felt that directors who make boards should not be collecting silver points playing those same boards, in many areas the games are so small that there would not BE games unless the director plays. As far as I'm concerned, as

STaCs provide neither for scoring across the field nor that all participants even play the same boards it's hardly a pressing issue. **Please note: Units which wish to waive the requirement that playing directors are not eligible for overall awards must so note on the sanction application submitted to the ACBL.**

Whether or not the District wishes to recommend a consistent policy for all Units sponsoring STaCs is an issue I'll raise to the District Board at its meeting in Cincinnati.

FINANCE/AUDIT

I continue to spend most of my "director" time chairing the Finance Committee and serving on the Audit Committee. I am happy to assure you that we are in excellent shape. The new strategic plan is moving forward on schedule and represents some major capital expenditures but I am confident that we are on the right path. Robert Hartman continues to lead the ACBL with strength and vision. During his first full year of service last year he visited many of the districts

but didn't get to ours. That omission is being remedied in June---Mr. Hartman will be coming to the Cincinnati Regional for the weekend and I urge you to come and meet him!

