



BOARD MEETING REPORT

Summer 2013
Atlanta

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The Atlanta Committee put on a great NABC. The big controversy, as in Philadelphia last Spring, was the playing times. As some of you may know, although the ACBL runs the NABC, playing times have traditionally been “local option”. In cities like Philly and Atlanta, where most local players live outside the city, 10 and 3 times are obviously most appealing. But if you’ve traveled to the NABC and are staying at a hotel those times are awful. For folks who have other meetings as well (BOG, Ed Found, etc) scheduling is a nightmare. (My meeting schedule one day ran from 8am to 11pm—don’t get me wrong, it’s my job, but I was a teensy bit wiped.) The profitability of an NABC makes or breaks on the regional events—particularly I/N --so local attendance is VERY important. Nevertheless the ACBL continues to struggle with this issue. As always, I welcome your input: when you travel to NABCs what’s YOUR preferred schedule?

GNTs

District 11 retains some major bragging rights for our GNT teams. ALL FOUR of our teams, Championship*, Flight A**, Flight B and Flight C*** made it to the second day (Round of 16) -a MAJOR accomplishment; the Championship team made it to the Round of 8 and the fabulous Flight B team--Joseph Keim, William Gottschall, Lori Harner, Donna Moore, Doug Millsap and Larry Jones made it all the way, winning the title handily in a final match against District 21. Way to go!!!!



Winners of the Sheinwold Flight B from District 11 :(front) Lori Harner and Donna Moore; (back) William Gottschall, captain Joseph Keim, Larry Jones and Douglas Millsap.

*Bill Higgins, Pam and Matt Granovetter, Yauheni Siutsau

**Ellen Kozlove, Ralph Letizia, Harry Gordon, Sue Bullard

***Algene Kuchinka Linda Fadely, Joan Reeves, Donald Snyder

SAD NEWS



My good friend Donald Mamula, this year's ACBL Board President has unfortunately had to resign his office effective at the end of the Atlanta NABC for personal reasons. The good news is that Don will be able to continue on the Board and to serve District 19 with the complete dedication to them and to the ACBL that has made him one of our most valued members. Bill Cook of our neighboring District 10 has been elected to fill the office of Board President for the remainder of the year. Bill, who is an absolutely lovely gentleman, will be retiring from the Board at the end of the year and I know that he will do a fine job and appreciate his stepping up here.



MASTERPOINT POLICY

If there's one topic that is guaranteed to get a lively "discussion" going among ACBL members, it's Masterpoint Policy. On one side we have the folks who believe masterpoint inflation is out of control—that we have "Life Masters" now whose skill level does not approach that of those who achieved the rank in an earlier era (thus our decision a couple of years ago to raise Life Master from 300 points to 500 points) because they're making a fortune in points in lower level KO's and now Gold Rush Pairs. On the other side, we have those who argue that masterpoints are the League's primary marketing tool—that new players LOVE to win points and reach achievements and that KO's and Gold Rush Pairs are bringing tons of players to our tournaments—so why fix what ain't broke? It won't surprise you to know that I agree with BOTH sides (as does most of the Board) and struggle constantly to find a middle ground where we are not essentially giving away points at a tournament drive-through and yet make our tournaments attractive to our newer players. Motions were before the Board this time to

adjust the "M" factor and the "X" factor in the masterpoint calculation. These are very complex formulas designed to adjust awards to reflect the competition level of the player and event. The "M" factor formula adjustment would GENERALLY" reduce awards in non-open events and limited strata in open events by around 25%. When you apply this to reduce a Gold Rush award from 18 points to 13 points, most agree that's a good thing. The formula, however, also applies to club games. Although some of my colleagues believe club players would not notice a 25% reduction as the awards are small to begin with, I beg to differ. I, and many others, would be willing to apply the new formula to tournaments, but not to clubs. As similar debate ensued over the "X" factor which governs the A/X calculation. In the end, we decided that a more global masterpoint study was needed—one that took into account all the unintended consequences of "band-aid" fixes to some areas and not to the entire policy. Both motions were deferred to next Spring.

On a related topic, I had presented a motion for discussion at the request of some of our GNT



participants calling for a reduction in the number of starting teams required to award second place. Right now, in our and many other districts, we field fewer than the required 5 teams in the Championship bracket. This means the second-place team plays for two days in the premier team event in the District and gets no points. The Masterpoint Committee decided that this was indeed a problem but that the entire masterpoint award scale for the GNTs deserved review and reworking. I withdrew the motion with the proviso that the Horn Lake team will work with me to devise a new masterpoint award chart for the GNTs and present it to the Board in the Fall in Phoenix.



MORE DISTRICT BRAGGING RIGHTS

The World Wide Bridge Contest was held on June 7th and 8th and the winners of the Saturday game were our very own Ray and Kathy Linck of Lexington. The Lincks posted a staggering 72.74% game to beat the entire world. Congratulations Ray and Kathy! Don't miss the complete story in the August Bridge Bulletin. And speaking of the Bulletin, Horn Lake has been working hard on a redesign and August is its debut. Let me know what you think of the new look and features.

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 DAYTON!

BETH

Other News

MEMBERSHIP

As of the end of June, ACBL Membership stands at 167,232. This year, we have netted 824 additional Members. Regional table count is down; Sectionals are up and STaCs are up. More detailed statistics are available if you contact me.

MARKETING POSITION

The ACBL has hired a new Director of Marketing Communications, Alex Turner. This was Alex's first NABC and she jumped right into the fray. She has an excellent background and we are lucky to have her.

THE LONGEST DAY

Speaking of marketing, clubs across the nation raised over half a million dollars for the Alzheimer's Association on June 21st. One club in NYC raised over \$77K and Dallas wasn't far behind. The ACBL has prepared a "sparkle reel" highlighting some of the wonderful local news coverage we got for this event—including our own Evansville! You may download a short version of the reel at <https://www.webcargo.net/delivery/view/id/4861208/dp/0slpTqTxsfpqS8wQQ7>

TERM LIMITS

The Board considered the issue of term limits for its District Directors. Although best practice in traditional nonprofits (ballets, museums, etc) where the Board is self-selected by a nominating Committee of the Board and elected by the Board itself, a practice that discourages "new blood" is to have term limits, for membership organizations such as ours, where the Board is elected by the people they represent, best practice deems democratic elections sufficient to assure the health of the organization. I agree. I opposed the motion for the same reason I oppose term limits in the US Congress—the people elect and the people speak. One thing I have learned in my time on this Board is how much the Districts differ. They have different ways of operating and different needs. I have seen several incumbents defeated for reelection by their Districts and many Directors self-limit. While it is true that a couple of Districts until recently had Directors that had served over thirty years, that is first, their issue, and

second, on a 25-person Board, having a couple of Directors with "institutional memory" is not a bad thing. We also heard from some small Districts who believe that their pool of volunteers is so small that they want to be the ones to decide and for how long.

RED RIBBONS/NAP/GNT

Due to masterpoint inflation (see above) we decided to increase the upper limits for the Red Ribbon pairs to 2500 from 2000 points; for Flight B of the NAP to 2500 from 2000; and for the GNT Flight B to 2500 from 2000 and the GNT Flight A to 6000 from 5000.

NEW 0-10,000 EVENTS

Due to the success of the 0-10K Swiss that debuted in St. Louis, we are proceeding with adding a 0-10K Pairs event in the Summer; a 0-10K Swiss in the Fall; a 0-10K KO in the Spring; and a 0-10K Mixed Swiss in the Summer. I (and 10 others) voted against the last one on the grounds that 2 0-10Ks in the Summer was an overload..but of course, as always, I hope for big attendance at all the new events. Please let me know your reactions to the new events as you play in them at coming NABCs.