



BOARD MEETING REPORT

Summer 2014
Las Vegas

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The Las Vegas Committee, headed by ACBL Board Member Bonnie Bagley, ably assisted by sidekick Ken Monzingo put on a great NABC. Table count was lower than expected but still hit 16,616. Everyone's pretty excited we'll be moving to the new Cosmopolitan on the Strip for the next Vegas NABC in 2019...should be lot's more accessible to everything...AND you won't have to walk through the casino to get to the playing area. I didn't get to play much bridge. My (non-bridge-playing) sister joined me on this trip, lazing by the pool while I sat in meetings and what little down time I had was spent eating and touring. We had a great day at Hoover Dam, followed by dinner at Giada de Laurentis' new restaurant---eat your hearts out Food Network fans...and saw the Cirque du Soleil Beatles show one evening. Sorta made up for the 110-degree heat (119 at the Dam).



North Carolina finished second in the Collegiate Team Championship: Robert Thorstad, Ben Kompa, Zimeng Xie and Xiyuan Ge.



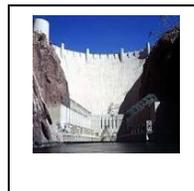
District 11 Congratulations!

Ben Kompa of our Columbus unit attends college at the University of North Carolina and helped them to a second place finish in this year's Collegiate Championships (losing to UC Berkley). The CC is co-sponsored by the ACBL and the ACBL Educational Foundation. The conditions of contest are changing to allow colleges to compete online in the earlier rounds in a new format. We hope we can encourage greater participation. If your alma mater does not currently participate and you have contacts there, please let Brian Delfs at ACBL know. Brian.Delfs@acbl.org

Alas, it was not District 11's best year in the GNT's...only one of our teams, Flight A, made it to the second day. This intrepid team, however, put in some nail-biting performances, coming back from a 40 imp deficit at the end of the third quarter to win the semi-finals 148-146. They met and lost to District 21 in the finals.



Second in the GNT Flight A was the District 11 squad of Ryan Schultz, John Hinton, Bob Lyon and Craig Satersmoen



NABC SCHEDULE

As you may remember, the Board approved a trial schedule for 2015 NABCs in Dallas. There's been a lot of feedback and more tinkering and some changes were made at this meeting. The hottest topic was the reaction to the proposed schedule's reduction of the Fall 3-day Swiss on the last weekend to 2 days. I opposed this change in the first place in a separate vote, but the change was approved 15-10. Severely negative feedback from many types of players caused the Board to reconsider and restore the 3-day event---25-0. I and the other 9 didn't gloat....much.© An NABC+ Mixed Swiss Teams event was added to the Fall schedule on the second Saturday and Sunday.

The following 0-10K events were added:

1. **IMP Pairs, to be held Monday and Tuesday of the Fall NABC;**
2. **Fast Pairs, to be held on the second Thursday and Friday of the Fall NABC; and,**
3. **Swiss Teams, previously approved for the second Saturday and Sunday of the Fall NABC were moved to the first Saturday and Sunday of the Fall NABC.**



SAD NEWS

TERRY MICHAEL SLOAN (MIKE)

As many of you know, we lost Mike Sloan, one of our District's most consistent players (and book-seller) to a heart attack during the week of the NABC at the much too early age of 65. His friend and partner Ken Hayes shares the following memories:

Mike taught high school English in Crawford County, Indiana but retired many years ago to become a successful bridge professional. Mike had character and plenty of it. He was honest to a fault, both in life and at the bridge table.

Mike had determination. I recall a particular situation in St. Louis probably 20 years ago. Mike had bid 6 Diamonds and was down 1 on a particular hand. He kept insisting he could have made the contract, however, he couldn't seem make it work. Well 3 days later, in the middle of another round, he announced that he had finally worked out the key play so that he the contract would have been made.

Mike stayed loyal to people through thick and thin. He was a loyal bridge partner to me, even

after he turned professional and his game improved greatly beyond mine. He was a loyal friend and companion to Betty Mattison, even after Betty suffered a brain aneurism and required a great deal of care. And of course he was loyal to his parents, both of whom are in nursing homes with dementia.

Mike was a sports hero. He was in the Earlham College Hall of Fame for being on their championship baseball team. He also played basketball and was a successful girls high school basketball coach.

Mike was patient. He played bridge with hundreds of different people, and only a handful of those people were as good as he was. He was always a respectful and understanding partner, even when he had reason to be upset.

So what do you call an honest, determined, loyal and patient sports hero? I called him Mike and I called him my friend.

MASTERPOINT CHANGES

The Masterpoint Committee, chaired by CEO Robert Hartman brought to the Board at this meeting proposals to revise various aspects of the Masterpoint formulas based on months of work and hours and hours of discussion and debate. Miraculously, Robert was

able to unite the Committee behind the changes and they, in turn, elicited a unanimous vote from the Board...a rarity indeed. I will note that the ONLY aspect of suggested Masterpoint changes the Committee did NOT complete was my request that they review the GNT formulas...they ASSURE me they want to keep me happy and PROMISE me that we will have a proposal in Providence for the next GNT cycle. ANYWAY, for those of you who get headaches when people start discussing "the M factor", I will tell you that the general thrust of the changes is to increase awards for pair games and decrease them for team games as well as to eliminate the gross discrepancies produced by including subordinate tables. For those who want the details, I asked my friend Russ Jones, Director of District 10 and a true masterpoint maven to prepare a brief summary (4 pages!) of the changes, attached hereto as [masterpoint summary.docx](#) Masterpoint changes require two readings, so these will not become final until a second vote in Providence. The changes will be effective 1/1/15.



GNT/NAP CHANGES

The Board authorized the use of screens during the NABC stages of the GNT for Flight B, if space is available, at the same point as they are used in the Championship and A Flights. In a related action, we approved an entry fee surcharge for NABC+ events during the "screen" stages. The cost of screens and concomitant TD time far exceeds the entry fee and we believe the increased costs should be allocated to those who benefit--and who can well afford them. **Flights B and C in the NAPs will now include the 4th-place pairs in each District.** This will allow greater participation, but also present another qualifying group for Grassroots Funding. Speaking of which, Grassroots Fund Month has been moved to May so that we can recapture the participation of our snowbirds. Be sure and encourage your clubs to participate so we can fund our pairs and teams.

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 DAYTON! BETH

Other News

MEMBERSHIP

Overall ACBL Membership for the first six months of the year is up slightly to 167,895. Tournament table count is trending lower in 2014. While Regional table count is up 1% for the first 6 months of the year, average RTC is down 9%. Total Sectional table count is down 6% with average STC down 7%. STaCs are a bright spot with total and average table count up 2%.

THE LONGEST DAY

140 teams participated (including Lexington, who sent me their results--I'd love to see those from any other participants in our District) by holding special games and raising funds on June 21st. Money is still coming in, but it looks like we'll hit \$500,000. Way to go! Let's see if we can get even wider participation next year. It's a great cause and we get great news coverage! Watch the video on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHWYURk26KA>

FINANCE

With actual through 5/31 although we are showing an actual loss of \$168K, \$12K better than the forecast of -\$180K, we have reforecast the year to predict an operational loss of \$165K, \$171K greater than the budgeted gain of \$5K.

The primary reasons for the big swings are worse than expected Regionals at Sea Income, payment of insurance claim deductibles (impossible to predict) and additional expenditures for Technology--much of it spent to improve and expand the efficacy of TourneyTrax. Projected investment returns, however, reduce the projected loss by nearly half.

ACBLscore+ UPDATE

The ACBL has made the decision to discontinue the ACBLscore+ project. A working group consisting of Board members, internal staff and outside experts determined efforts to develop a completely new system ACBLScore+ fell short of what was required to work for the League's members. The ACBL Board of Directors agreed with this decision at its July meeting in Las Vegas.

The ACBL is now moving forward with plans to enhance the features and benefits of its existing scoring software, ACBLScore, and extend the life and functionality of the software for a long time to come. We are doing this because:

--Our tournament directors, our club owners and operators and our members and players have confidence in the existing system, in its reliability, in its accuracy. --It is a system they know and have confidence in. We want to build on our success.

--Folks know how to use it; they know it works on their computers; they are comfortable with what they know and we want to add on to it. --We want our club and tournament directors to be able to run games on their existing computers without expensive upgrades or complicated new lessons.

The ACBL is already enhancing the scoring software to give it more features and to integrate it more easily into complimentary systems. For examples, we have integrated data population with TourneyTrax, and we are building integration to create real time result display features on the web.

The total capitalized costs of the ACBLscore+ project is in excess of one and a half million dollars and we are determining what portion of the project product can be repurposed into the enhanced ACBLscore.



