



BOARD MEETING REPORT

Fall 2014
Providence

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The Providence Committee put on a great NABC. As many of you know, this NABC was the “Boston” slot on its six-year rotation. Providence pitched us a great deal and turned out to be a great choice. They even held their famous Waterfire event the first Saturday night just for us. I took the chance to spend Thanksgiving with family on the East Coast, so had to miss the show...but got in several great Italian meals and had some delicious seafood before I left. I was sorry I didn’t get to Newport, but those that did go told me the “cottages” were breathtaking. The city took a lot of pride in hosting the ACBL and I’ve heard from many of you that you really enjoyed it.

Technology

This was definitely the hot topic at this Board meeting. As I reported earlier this year, work on ACBLScore+ was terminated and we are taking a \$1.9M write-off on expenditures to date. But this meeting was about moving forward and I can report some heartening news. First, if you haven't already discovered it, you MUST head to the ACBL website and check out ACBL Live. It's Fast Results on steroids. You can search any name or any event and get instant results. You could also sign up at this tournament to get texts with your results, as well as instant emails. You should all have received an email from the ACBL explaining the new privacy policy. The policy clarifies the procedures already in place, but most importantly for each of you is that your current email will now be used to get you your results, as well as ACBL blasts UNLESS YOU OPT OUT of having your email used. I hope you find this step forward as exciting as I do...I've had lots of fun playing with ACBL Live and know you will too. And many more changes to ACBLScore ("Classic") are on the way and the 2015 capital budget approved \$600K to implement these changes. Obviously, as we step up to the exciting possibilities of a technologically advanced ACBL, we need to think about long-term funding...and believe me, we are. We get what we pay for and what gets funded gets done. I assure you that the ACBL is in sound financial shape (discussed in more detail below) and I aim to keep it that way. In response to the many, many questions posed by members following the termination of ACBLScore+ a new Technology Committee has been formed to address these global issues. The Committee will be chaired by CEO Robert Hartman and will be composed of three staff members, three Board Members (Merlin Vilhauer, Jay Whipple and Russ Jones) and three outside experts. The Committee has already started work and will review and recommend both specific actions and the general direction of the ACBL's technology efforts. I haven't felt so confident in our technology direction since I've begun serving on the Board. I hope to report many more developments in the coming months.



ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Suzi Subeck of District 13 (Chicago) was elected ACBL President for 2015. I know she'll do a fabulous job...especially hosting us all in Chicago next summer!



Georgia Heth and Howard Weinstein were elected as WBF representatives for three-year terms; Mike Carmen of District 8 was appointed as the Nadine Wood Volunteer of the Year; James Fisher was appointed the Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Member of the Year and Eddie Kantar was appointed the ACBL Honorary Member of the Year.



FINANCE

The 2015 operating budget showing a projected excess of revenues over expense of \$56,939 and the 2015 capital budget of \$700,000 were received. The budgets are not finally approved until the Spring Meeting.

All tournament sanction fees will be increased by approximately 2% and TD session fees will be increased approximately 5% beginning April 1, 2015.

Also, club short game (12-17 boards) table fees will be increased from \$.46 to \$.52 per table beginning April 1, 2015.

2014 saw some major hits to the bottom line...in addition to the ACBLScore+ write-off, we determined the final cost of the pension plan termination is \$1.7M....still a financially sound decision that protects us and saves money in future years, and other compensation issues for a total change in net assets of (\$4.1M). We continue to maintain substantial investments and cash flow remains sound.

OTHER ACTIONS

--The Code of Disciplinary Regulations was amended to specifically include unauthorized use of private information

--The Conflict of Interest Policy was amended to include non-financial interests as grounds for conflicts

--First time new members may provide club rating point receipts and/or references to points won at tournaments. Upon verification, the points won, to a maximum of twenty (20), at clubs and/or tournaments will be credited to the member's record upon joining ACBL

--After struggling for the last couple of years to have the USBF and CBF submit proposed budgets ahead of time to support funding of Junior Teams in world events, the prior practice of awarding a lump sum to be supported by expense reports after the fact was reinstated.

--The maximum length of a Regional was extended from 6 ½ days to seven days under the following circumstances: A full seven-day Regional may not schedule any events before 1:00 p.m. on the first day of the tournament. All single-session events, except Side Series Pairs on the first day of a full seven-day Regional must be run for the benefit of the ACBL Charity Foundation, the ACBL Educational Foundation, the ACBL Junior Fund, the International Fund, the Grass Roots Fund or the

Canadian equivalent of these. A Regional may run two-session gold point events on the first day of the tournament. In addition, a Regional may schedule the first two sessions of a KO event on the first day of the tournament. The first session of all two-session, gold point events on the first day of a full seven-day Regional must be run for the benefit of the ACBL Charity Foundation, the ACBL Educational Foundation, the ACBL Junior Fund, the International Fund, the Grass Roots Fund or the Canadian equivalent of these. The second session of all two-session, gold point events on the first day of a full seven-day Regional must be run for the benefit of one of the above-listed funds or a local charity. In addition, a one-session event that is run for the ACBL Charity Foundation, the ACBL Educational Foundation, the ACBL Junior Fund, the International Fund, the Grass Roots Fund, or the Canadian equivalent of these may be held during any day of a Regional. The minimum monetary contributions for the above-listed fund, foundation or charity games is \$7.00 per table, per session.



FLOOD

On top of all the other headaches this year, I trust most of you are aware that our headquarters in Horn Lake suffered a devastating flood. The hard work put in by staff in meeting this emergency was extraordinary. The damage came to \$580K; all but the \$50K deductible was covered by insurance. Management is looking at both insurance issues and taking steps to reconfigure the physical plant for greater protection. The experts say this was a "once in a century" event. Although we certainly hope that's true, we're considering our options.

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! HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL AND SEE YOU IN INDY!

BETH

--The rules governing Limited Sectionals were clarified to define a sectional with a masterpoint limit of 0-500. They must be at least one day and no more than five days in duration. A Unit may not schedule more than three Limited Sectionals in any calendar year. With Management approval, a Sponsoring Organization may run a Limited Sectional with a maximum of 500 Masterpoints using directors who are not ACBL employees.

--A motion to allow the second-place B and C GNT Teams to compete in the NABC Finals was defeated.

-- On all existing lifetime Masterpoint lists issued after December 31, 2014, online Masterpoints will be included next to the total. I urge you to check out the new function on the ACBL website masterpoint section that allows you to sort all achievements by type, name and/or location...more technology fun!

MASTERPOINTS

The changes to the masterpoint formulas discussed in my Las Vegas report this summer received the required second reading in Providence and were all passed. All of your Tournament Chairs received a description of the new rules, effective 1/1/15 a couple of months ago.

But the big news from my point of view is that FINALLY the Masterpoint Committee came through as promised and dealt with the issue I raised about second-place awards in the GNTs at the District level. The Committee accepted my argument that the GNTs are *sui generis* and, as such should not be subject to the normal restrictions on KO awards. The following statement will be added to the existing rules for GNT District Finals, effective 1/1/15. For all events which are played over at least three sessions, a minimum masterpoint award of 1/3 of the first place award will be given to any team that advances through 2 sessions to the second day of an

event where there was a 50% or greater reduction in teams from the first day (e.g., from 4 to 2).

MEMBERSHIP

Total membership stands at 167,808 through the end of October, three fewer members than at the start of year.

Regional table count is 70 tables higher through the first ten months of the year (156,270 vs. 156,200) with four additional regionals run this year compared to last year. Average Regional table count is down 3%. Total Sectional table count is down 4% (130,221 vs. 135,767) with average Sectional table count down 6%. Total STaC table count is down 3% (90,360 vs. 92,705) while average STaC table count is down 4%.

