



American Contract Bridge League

6575 Windchase Blvd. ♠ Horn Lake MS 38637-1523 ♠ www.acbl.org

Leo Weniger

Director – District # 1
504-1333 South Park Street
Halifax NS B3J 2K9 Canada

902-425-3392
leowen@Eastlink.ca

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Summer 2015

My Kind of Town

The Summer NABC was held at the Chicago Hilton on Michigan Ave. across from two beautiful parks, near fantastic cultural centres. All play was in one building, but there were long walks to washrooms and lighting could have been better. There were many good restaurants, bars, in walking distance or easily reachable by the EL (train). The tournament was well run, with excellent hospitality. Attendance was excellent with 13,680 tables, 5% more than expected. This was the 2nd tournament in a row that exceeded expectation.

The opening party on Friday night again did not disappoint with lots of nice food and an excellent band. The Ballroom in which it was held was spectacular.

This has been a difficult year for the ACBL, still struggling with ACBL Score and aging hardware, but one positive is ACBL Live, which gives very quick results from NABCs, Regionals and soon from Sectionals. To sign up or get to it, go to www.live.acbl.org.

At the end of this report, I have included a bridge article by Gary Brown. Gary is a fine player from Nova Scotia, who moved to Australia, to make his fame and fortune playing bridge, but mostly teaching and running clubs and bridge cruises. He wrote a beginners book which won the IBPA Book of the Year award (International Bridge Press Association). In addition, before he left he was editor of the Maritime Bridge Line. We hope he'll be moving back to Nova Scotia soon. He comes back to the Can-At annually, and I enjoy playing with him/being his teammate. Thank you, Gary.

I am looking for other contributors. All I ask is that it be at most one page long and that it be done in Word. Next one would be needed for my report after the Denver NABC which is in November/December.

I am also listing major results by District 1 players at the NABC. The list is at the end of this report.

Highlights of the Chicago Board of Directors Meeting

- **Membership** through the end of July stands at 168,208, the highest level since 1997. Membership Department staff are calling people to see why they didn't rejoin.
- **Regional attendance for last year** was slightly up, but average table count was down 1% (there was 1 more regional).
- **Sectional attendance** was down 4% (11 fewer tournaments) and average table count was down 2%.
- **STACs** table count was down 6% and average table count was down 19% (6 more STACs).
- **Finance:** the decrease in net assets from Operations for YTD is \$158,866, \$156K worse than budget and \$78,500 better than the same period last year. Tournament revenues have been less than expected, and recruiting fees for IT positions were not budgeted.
- **Insurance:** Our broker has changed for Property & Casualty and Health and Welfare and there will be \$90,000 savings in annual insurance costs.
- **IT:** Mitch Hodus is our new Chief Information Officer. He is doing a complete review of ACBL's technology infrastructure and initiatives and will be the leader of the Management Technology Committee.

- **Table count:** Through June table count for club games is flat compare to last year. Face to face is down 1.5% while online shows an increase. To June, there were 1,592,256 tables of which 513,443 are from on-line games.
- **Grass Roots Fund:** In May had 32,159 tables compare to 34,561 last year in January.
- **Longest Day:** 206 clubs held games raising \$620,000 as of July. A cheque for \$750,000 was presented to the Alzheimer's Association at the Chicago NABC. There will be changes in how this event is held in Canada next year.

Strategic Planning:

- **Tournament Director:** Tournament Director University (TDU) continues to be developed. Two core programs are being developed, both including Customer service modules.
- **Field Supervisors:** 9 new ones were appointed, including Guy Fauteux for District 1. Two new Field Managers have been announced, one of whom is formerly from Montreal - Sol Weinstein. Sylvia Hardin is now head of all field operations.
- **Pianola:** This is still being worked on and will allow Units and Districts to better promote their tournaments. Full launch will be in early 2016.
- **Privacy Policy:** This has been further updated and clarified.

Actions and Motions approved at Chicago Board of Directors Meetings:

- Motion to no longer pay WBF dues and to have Zone reps appointed by USBF and CBF was deferred.
- Motion on term limits for ACBL BoD members was defeated.
- ACBL is looking at auto renewal of memberships.
- There is a move to create two new Master Point ranks.
- Fall NABCs were approved in Austin (TX) 2021 and San Francisco in 2025.
- Higher entry fees for events using screens were not rescinded.
- Surcharge for non-members playing in STACs was defeated.
- A budget of \$ 100 K was approved for computer hardware (equipment).
- The Definition of "ACBL Officials" under Code of Discipline regulations will now include District, Unit, and Tournament Committees.
- The Distinguished Employee Award has been named after Jeff Johnston.
- Each District is allowed 3 limited regionals which may be Junior, Youth or non-LM with an upper limit of no more than 750MPs.
- Vote to move of Board of Governors Meeting to Saturday was deferred.
- Going to the National NAP Final, a deceased partner may be replaced.
- Collegiate championships qualifiers will be random draw and no playbacks.
- Electronic devices may be brought into playing space, but must be out of sight and turned off. Penalties were outlined.
- Breaking of ties in 3-way KO's was defined.
- Instant Tournaments approved for online club games.
- KO Awards for 5/6 person KO reduction was defeated.
- MP awards for Bracketed Swiss and 4 session Regional events were changed (needs 2nd reading)
- Canadian Senior Team Championship award increased to 80 MPs from 60.
- For Team Trials and Canadian Championships to get maximum award 16 teams are required, with a reduction of 6.25% down to 8 tables.

District News

Cukoff-Latraverse-Wiser Award: This was presented for the 1st time recently to Stan Tench. Named after outstanding deceased National Tournament Directors from Montreal, this award recognizes excellent life time service to directors and promoters of ethics in bridge. Congratulations Stan!

George Retek Award: This will be awarded posthumously to Bryan Rapson, the 3rd recipient. The 1st two were Heather Peckett and Jean Castonguay. It is presented to an individual who has given a great deal of excellent volunteer service to our District and Units. This will be presented at a tournament in Halifax. Bryan really deserved this award for his decades of volunteer work for the betterment of bridge in the Maritimes.

Doug Heron Award: for largest % increase in Unit membership was won by Unit 230.

Can-At in Fredericton: This year's was the last one to be held there. Many thanks go to Sam Ghosh and his wonderful committee for their many years of hard work and excellent hospitality. Good luck to the organizers of Can-At 2017 which will be held in Moncton, NB.

District Meeting: District 1 Annual Meeting took place in Montreal on Saturday, August 22nd. Minutes of the meeting will eventually be on the District website www.district1acbl.org. District Executive members and the Unit Presidents will have a conference call every 3 to 4 months between the annual meetings depending on necessity.

John MacAdam District Wide Charity Game: will be held on the afternoon of Wed., Nov 4th.

Tournaments: Please come to our District's tournaments. The National Capital Regional will be in Ottawa in Oct., Kingston and Summerside will be the site of a Split Regional in May 2016. There will be the Can-At in Halifax in June/July, and Montreal will host the Can-Am in August.

Upcoming NABCs: Denver (Nov/Dec), Reno (Mar, 2016), Washington DC (July 2016), Toronto (Summer 2017), Montreal (Summer 2020)

NAP Split District Finals: will be held in Oct/Nov. Please look at Unit and District websites for details.

Grand National Teams: District finals for Flights A and C will be played in the Montreal area, and Flights Open and B will be played in Halifax. All will take place by the end of May 2016.

Golden (and Platinum) Performances in Chicago

The following is a listing of excellent achievements by District 1 players. I am listing the top 25 placings in NABC events (2+ days) and 1st or 2nd in Regional (2 session +) events. As I am doing this manually, I apologize in advance if I missed someone. If you e-mail me, I will correct this in my next report.

1. Nicolas L'Écuyer: 1st Wed-Thurs KO
2. P Drew Cannell: 17th 10K Pairs, 13th Mixed BAM, 25th Roth Swiss
3. Jurek Czyzowicz: 25th NABC Senior Swiss, 9th Wernher Open Pairs
4. Roy Perry: 23rd NABC Senior Swiss, 2nd Fri Daylight RR Swiss 1
5. Nicolas L'Écuyer: 1st Wed-Thurs KO 1
6. Gordon Zind: 9/16 Mini-Spangold I, 1st 2nd Sun RR Swiss 1
7. Chantal Dubé and Frédéric Pollack: 1st Fri Open pairs
8. Ethan MacAulay and Steven Tynes: 6th Red Ribbon Pairs, 1st Thurs Gold Rush Pairs
9. Ellen and David Amdursky: 2nd Fri daylight Pairs
10. Elizabeth Scott and Paul Hardy: 1st Fri Daylight Swiss B, 2nd Sat Daylight Swiss B
11. Roger David and Denis Piton: 1st Sun RR Swiss 6, 2nd Mon Daylight RR 5, 2nd Fri Daylight RR 6
12. Suzanne Brisebois and Lise Bédard: 1st Sun RR Swiss 6, 2nd Fri Daylight RR 6
13. Christian Fortin and Jean Mutchmore: 2nd Mon Daylight RR 5
14. Louise Lalancette and Christian Fortin: 2nd Fri Daylight RR 6
15. Cindy Havens and Michael Ross: 1st Fri-Sat KO 4, 2nd Sat-Mon AM KO 2
16. Sandra MacPherson: 1st Fri-Sat KO 4
17. Bruno and Ronald Carrière: 2nd Sat Open Pairs B
18. Connor Havens: 2nd Sat-Mon AM KO 2
19. Victor Lamoureux: 1st Sun RR Swiss 3
20. Colleen and Peter Holmes: 4th 0-1500 LM Pairs
21. Sondra Blank: 1st Tues Daylight Swiss X
22. Syndi and David McDougall: 2nd Tues-Thurs KO 2
23. Yves Decelles, Denise Leclerc, Robert Tremblay, Gérard Turcotte: 2nd Thurs-Fri KO 1
24. Paul-André Paquin, Suzanne Arsenault, Suzanne Viau, Thérèse Huot: 2nd Mon RR 3

Please see Gary Brown's article on the next page.

See you in Denver,

Leo

A Simple Expert Play

By Gary Brown, Wolfville

Dlr: West
Vul: Both

	♠ 8 6 2	
	♥ A K 6 3	
	♦ K J 4	
	♣ A Q J	
♠ K 5 3		♠ Q 10 9
♥ J 10 4		♥ 9 7 5 2
♦ 7 5		♦ 9 8 6 3 2
♣ 10 8 6 5 3		♣ 7
	♠ A J 7 4	
	♥ Q 8	
	♦ A Q 10	
	♣ K 9 4 2	

The Auction			
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	6NT	All Pass	
Opening lead: ♥J			

Playing in a Swiss Teams event, I found myself in 6NT. With 11 toppers (1 spade, 3 hearts, 3 diamonds and 4 clubs) the chances for a 12th trick lie with a favourable lie in the spade suit (East holding both the ♠K and ♠Q). A second possibility is a major suit squeeze. For this to work I will need East to hold 4 hearts and 4 spades or 4 hearts and either ♠Q109 or ♠K109. I won the ♥K in dummy and led the ♠8. East offering the ♠9, I played the ♠J which lost to West's ♠K. With the lie of the cards, I now made the contract as East was indeed squeezed.

The position after trick 7:

	♠ 6	
	♥ A 6	
	♦ K J 4	
	♣	
♠ 5 3		♠ Q 10
♥ 4		♥ 9 7
♦ 7 5		♦ 9 8
♣ 10		♣
	♠ A 7 4	
	♥	
	♦ A Q 10	
	♣	

Now, three rounds of diamonds (ending in dummy) put East under too much pressure. She had to let go of the ♠10 promoting my ♠7 into a winner. It is always satisfying making a slam on a squeeze. However, I figured it would be only for a push as the player sitting in my chair at the other table (Jim Kirby of Halifax) would certainly be in 6NT and also bring the slam home.

Comparing scores later, I announced "plus 1440" while my teammate announced "plus 100". The lead of the ♥J was the same. I voiced my surprise: "I won the opening lead in dummy and played the ♠8. "So did he" my teammate announced "but I covered with the ♠Q."

Nice play! The slam could no longer make.

It is amazing how right it usually is - in second seat - to play the Q from Qx (x) or K from Kx (x) in such a situation. It is a simple play - but requires an 'expert' to be holding the cards. Our teammate - one of the top players in our unit - was the expert holding the cards.