



American Contract Bridge League

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DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT January, 2014

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Fun in Fabulous Phoenix

The Fall NABC was held at the Sheraton and Hyatt Regency in downtown Phoenix. The playing conditions were excellent, there were lots of nearby restaurants and the hospitality was excellent. In addition for the 1st time in years, attendance was up over the previous Phoenix NABC.

One can't miss event at future NABCs is the opening party on Friday night. Where else but Phoenix could you hold this out doors on the 4th floor. Think of a large ballroom with no ceiling/roof. Staff went all out with decorations, a dance band playing 70s and 80s music and nice food.

For the 1st time people were able to pre-buy entries on the Bridge Winners website.

On the negative side, there were room block issues at the Hyatt, but these are being resolved. Unfortunately the way some players were treating hotel staff at the Sheraton (especially at the concessions) was so bad that an article had to be placed on the front page of the Wednesday, Dec. 4th Daily Bulletin (you can find it on the NABC Bulletin's website). Is it a coincidence that this only happened at Sheraton, where the NABC and Flight A events were being held? If we continue to behave this way, we will not be able to use hotel chains like Sheraton for our NABCs. I think Zero Tolerance on this issue should be emphasized.

I have written a bridge article (see end of this report). I am looking for other contributors. All I ask is that it be at most 1 page long and that it be done in Word. Next one would be needed for my report after Dallas NABC which is in late March.

I am also going to try to list major results by District 1 players at NABC. 73 District 1 players earned Masterpoints. The list is at the end of this report.

Highlights of the Phoenix Board of Directors Meeting

Elections: Phyllis Harlan was elected President for 2014. Merlin Vilhauer was elected to the World Bridge Federation Executive Council.

NABC site: The beautiful Cosmopolitan Hotel in Las Vegas was selected for the Summer 2019 and Fall 2024 NABCs

Membership was up 1500 in 2013, the largest single year increase since 1993. Regional attendance was down 6% with 3 fewer regional (3% lower table count)

Sectional attendance was down 2% both total and average

STACs were up 10% but with 5 more STACs.

Finance: To Oct 31, net income from operations was \$485K

Youth protection and Abuse Prevention Policy: was approved by the Board to be implemented Dec 2013 and in place for all ACBL employees in January 2014.

Electronic smoking devices: were added to the ACBL smoking policy. They are to be treated like cigarettes are.

IT: Website home page is being redesigned, as is the Learn to Play feature.



ACBL Score+ is 6-8 weeks behind schedule but still on budget. Still aiming for roll out sometime in 2014. Ken Horwedel, who will add more Director's perspective, has been added to this team

ACBL Bulletin increased from 80 to 84 pages and also better binding and paper.

Longest Day: will be held again with a goal of 250 clubs participating and raising \$750,000

Strategic Planning:

On line learn to play bridge is being tested and a rollout of it is expected early in 2014.

On line partnership desk for NABCs and Regionals is being developed.

Tournament Director Structure and training program is continuing under leadership of Sylvia Hardin, HR Director.

Survey is being done to understand why people leave ACBL and identify ways to retain members.

Centralization of Data Project is complete.

Implement better web development tools .

Motions approved:

Opening 2H or 2 S showing a weak 2 bid with a 4 card minor is moved from Mid-Chat to General Chart effective Jan1, 2014.

GNT Master Point limits. Flight C: non-LM to 500 MP; Flight B 0-2500MP; Flight A 0-6000; Championship: unlimited. Effective Jan. 1, 2015.

ACBL has Jurisdiction over Unit Sponsored Clubs (USC) over behavior at club sponsored games. USC's are defined in the Definition section of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations .

A number of other motions were defeated or deferred

District News

President: Best wishes to our new District President, Doug Hamilton and thank you to Past-President, Peter Clark for his 4 years of hard work.

Grand National Teams: The District Finals will be held in Kingston as part of the Split Regional in May. Conditions of Contest are the same as in the past, but the MP limits might have changed. Please look at the Tournament flyer or schedule for detail.

Golden (and Platinum) Performances in Phoenix:

The following is a listing of excellent achievements by District 1 player. 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) Ron Zambonini and John Valliant: 2nd Keohane North American Swiss
- 2) Vincent Demuy: 9th Reisinger BAM, 11th Mitchell BAM, 16th Blue Ribbon Pairs
- 3) Fred Hoffer: 1st Daylight Pairs; 2nd Stratified Open Pairs
- 4) Pamela Nisbet: 6th Women's BAM; 1st Side Game Series
- 5) Jayne Provencher and Sylvain Mayer: 2nd stratified Open Pairs; 1st KO II (with Andre Chartrand-Elizabeth Smith)
- 6) Adele Stewart, Mary MacKay, Anne and Leo Mahoney: 2nd Fri-Sat KO Bracket II
- 7) Tim Edwards-Davies and Leo Weniger: 2nd Mon Compact KO Bracket II

Please see my article on the next page.

Best wishes

Leo

My 5 minutes of Bridge Fame

Leo Weniger

They say that we all have 5 minutes of fame, the following is mine. It was a hand that I played in the 2013 CNTC Round Robin. Unbeknownst to me, my partner, Rod MacKenzie told my captain Mike Yuen who found the hand record and wrote it up in his blog and told Paul Thurston who wrote it up in the August Bridge Bulletin. Thanks Mike and Paul.

S J H J1082 D A8642 C AJ9	S Q8543 H AK965 D 9 C 65	S 9762 H 4 D KJ73 C Q732
	S AK10 H Q73 D Q105 C K1084	

The auction was :

W	N	E	S
P	P	P	1NT
2C	2D	P	2NT
P	3S	P	4S

1NT=14+-17-; 2C= NF Stayman ; 2D= D + a 4 card major.

Rod opened his good 14 point hand 1NT (otherwise no story). After looking for a major fit we ended up in 4S (4H could not have made). On the D3 lead, 10, A,9 and a D return, I ruffed. Because of the bidding, I knew that each defender had a 4 card major. When I lead a spade to the A the J fell (or a brilliant false card) and that East had 4 hearts. I played the SK and S10. I knew I couldn't get back to dummy to take a second heart finesse and also pull the last trump, so I played the odds that East had the J and 10 among his 4 hearts and lead a heart to the 9. NB: it would have done East no good to split his honours, as I would have pulled the trump, played a heart to the Q and finessed, making 4S. At the other table with a different auction declarer was in 4H down one after playing for hearts to be 3-2. We won 10 IMPs.

As an expert commented in reply to Mike's blog, this shows the peril of overcalling when you're probably not going to end up declaring the hand. It can give declarer a roadmap to play the hand.

To further emphasize this, at a recent club game, I made a non-vul vs vul takeout double of 1D with Axxx, J10xx, x, Axxx. The opponents ended up in 3NT after LHO redoubled and I bid 1H and declarer, Jill McCormick had no trouble finessing me out of my H J10xx. I guess I didn't learn my own lesson.