



American Contract Bridge League

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DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Fall 2014

Proud in Providence

The Fall NABC was held at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. This was an excellent playing site attached to both the Omni Hotel and Providence Center, a large shopping complex with 6 restaurants and a large food court and a cineplex. Even though there were many good restaurants in walking distance, you could spend the whole tournament without going outdoor the tournament. The tournament was well run, with excellent hospitality. Attendance was just over 9500 tables, which was lower than hoped for.

The opening party on Friday night again did not disappoint with lots of nice food and an excellent band.

At the end of this report, I have included a bridge article by George Retek, who needs no introduction, and in addition to being my predecessor is a good friend. This is his second article that I am including in my reports. Thank you, George.

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 the New Orleans NABC which is in March.

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 Providence Board of Directors Meeting

- **Membership** is the virtually the same as the beginning of the year, and stands at 167,808.
- **Regional attendance** slightly up, but average table count was down 3%.
- **Sectional attendance** was down 4% and average table count was down 6%.
- **STACs** table count was down 3% and average table count was down 4%.
- **Finance:** To date, the decrease in net assets from Operations is \$59,000, \$243K than the \$184K budgeted. The forecast for the 12 months ending Dec 31,2014 estimates a decrease in net assets of \$195K. There was an ACBLscore+ write-off of \$1.9M, Pension termination cost of \$1.2M, pension balance sheet adjustment of \$600K among other significant items that were not anticipated.
- **IT:** A number of member-friendly updates have been implemented on acbl.org including The Partnership Desk which is in final testing.
- **Table count:** Through Sept., overall table count is up 0.5%. Face to face table count is down 3.1%. On-line table count is 6.6% up from last year.
- **ACBLscore:** Since July, the project team had been working to preserve, protect, enhance and extend ACBLscore software. Improvements have been made that directly address some of the items that TDs, members and players have been asking about for some time. The refreshed version was tested at 2 regionals and in Providence and the plan is to roll out this increased functionality early in 2015.
- **Longest Day:** Total funds raised were \$598,647, nearly \$20,000 more than last year. Of this \$14,000 was donated by clubs in Canada. Planning for 2015 is underway for the dates of Sunday, June 21st (Father's Day) and Mon, June 22nd.



Strategic Planning:

- **On line partnership desk** is being designed for use for all tournaments and clubs. It can easily be accessed through MyACBL and there will be a soft launch early in 2015.
- **Tournament Director Framework:** A new TD training program called Tournament Director University (TDU) was launched at the end of the year. The pilot program was an excellent learning experience for students, teachers and ACBL. Workforce planning is a key component in 2015.
- **ACBL Resource Centre:** was launched in early Nov. This is an easy to use tool to order or download anything needed by Clubs, Teachers, Units and Districts to help them grow the game.
- **September Flood:** Costs as of Oct 30th were \$580K, of which \$530K was covered by insurance (\$50K deductible expense). We are grateful to ACBL staff, many of whom worked unbelievable hours, for getting us through this with as little disruption as possible.
- **Privacy Policy:** As a result of changes to North American privacy laws and to better serve members, ACBL has updated the privacy policy. Members will be able to limit the sharing of some but not all of their information. An e-mail blast was sent out recently to explain.

Actions and Motions approved at Providence Board of Directors Meetings:

- Suzi Subeck (Chicago area) was elected as ACBL President for a 1 year term starting Jan 1, 2015.
- Georgia Heth and Howard Weinstein were elected as ACBL Representatives to the WBF for a 3 year terms starting Jan. 1, 2015.
- On all printed lifetime Master point lists issued after Dec, 31, 2014 online Master points will be included next to the total.
- First time new members may provide club rating point receipts and/or references for points won at tournaments. Upon verification, the points won, to a maximum of 20 will be credited to the member's record upon joining ACBL (previously only points won in the last 12 months could be added)
- -Junior Fund money: The USBF shall receive \$50K per year and the CBF \$25K per year to support international junior and youth bridge participation. USBF and CBF must provide for the Fall Board meeting a report on Junior/Youth activities from that year.
- Tournament sanction fees will increase by 2% and TD session fees app. 5% starting in April, 2015. Club short games (12-17 boards) table fees will increase from \$.46 to \$.52.
- After a 2nd vote in Providence a number of changes to Master Point structure were approved. The effects will be to increase some overall NABC+ event awards, Regional Pairs will pay more overall and to more places. 3 Session KOs will pay more, classification of some special games will change, some going up and some down (eg STACs will pay less and Sectionals will pay more).
- 7 day regionals may be held, if no event is scheduled before 1 pm on the 1st day. All sessions on the 1st day must benefit one of the funds that have months or the Charity or Educational Foundations. Also 1 session games benefiting Charity, Education, Junior or Grassroots (or Canadian equivalents) may be held any day of regionals. The minimum monetary contribution for these games is \$7 per table per session.
- A committee made up of 3 outside experts, 3 board members (who are computer experts) and 3 staff, chaired by CEO Robert Hartman, will review progress to date and evaluate available options re: ACBLscore. This will include determining whether enhancing ACBLscore is the best option. This will include evaluating what to do and what happened with the product already received from Hammond Software (ACBLscore+).
- There will be a Youth NABC at the Summer 2016 NABC in Washington, DC.
- The Spring 2019 NABC will be in Memphis.

District News

- **District Meeting:** District 1 Annual Meeting was held in Montreal on Saturday, August 16th. Minutes are on the District website www.district1acbl.org. District Executive members and the Unit Presidents are having quarterly conference call, one was held in November and the next one being in February.
- **Tournaments:** Please come to our District's tournaments. In 2015, Montreal will host the Canadian Bridge Championships in May and the Can-Am in August. There will be a Regional in Quebec City in May, the CanAt in Fredericton in June/July and the National Capital Regional in Ottawa in Oct. Kingston will also be the site of the CBF Regional in July/August.
- **Upcoming NABCs:** New Orleans (March), Chicago (August) and Denver (Nov/Dec).

- **Congratulations:** to Jurek Czyzowicz who won the bronze medal in the World Senior Teams in Sanya, China.
- **Good luck:** to our players who will be representing District 1 in the NAP national final in New Orleans.
- **Grand National Teams:** Please watch for changes in how our District chooses our GNT representative. Conditions of contest will be posted on our website when available.

Golden (and Platinum) Performances in Providence

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. Boris Baran: 4th LM Pairs, 9th Reisinger B-A-M, 11th Open B-A-M
2. David Sabourin: 7th /8th Open B-A-M, 25th Blue Ribbon Pairs, 8th 10K Swiss
3. Nicolas L'Ecuyer: 3rd NA Swiss
4. Marc-André Fourcaudot: 11th NA Swiss
5. Pascale Gaudreault and Marius Moldovan: 15th 10K Swiss
6. Trisha Malazdrewicz and Susan Hubley: 10th Womens LM Pairs, 2nd Bracket 4 Swiss
7. Sylvia Caley: 13th Womens LM Pairs
8. Francine Cimon and Pierre Daigneault: 11th Open B-A-M
9. Fred Hoffer and Don Piafsky: 17th Super Senior Pairs
10. Malcom Ewashkiw and Robert Hollow: 18th Super Senior Pairs
11. Ru Hong Terajewicz and Alan MacLellan: 18th 10K Swiss
12. Ken Eisner: 13th 5K Blue Ribbon
13. Gary Bernstein+ Steve Caplan: 23rd 5K Blue Ribbon
14. Brian Collins and Joan Fitzgerald: 1st Sat Compact KO 4, 1st Bracket B1 Swiss, 2nd Wed/Thurs KO3, 1st Fri/Sat KO2
15. Steven Tynes+ Ethan MacAuley: 17th 10K Swiss, 1st Fri/Sat KO2, 2nd Bracket 4 Swiss, 2nd AM KO2
16. Linda Doucet and Dyane Maurice: 1st Fri/Sat KO3, 2nd Sun/Mon KO3
17. Louise Lacasse, Louise Pellerin-Lacasse, Normand Boulay, Christine Bourbeau: 2nd Bracket B7 Swiss
18. Pierre Choquette, Robert Tremblay, Alain Dufour, Gerard Turcotte : 2nd Mon/Tues KO2
19. Cheryl MacIntosh, Sharon Perkins, Patti McCabe, Maureen Murphy: 2nd M/Th KO3, 2nd Th/F KO3, 1st Comp KO 4
20. Maureen Murphy: 1st AM KO 3
21. James Praught, Melinda Maclean, Anne and Leo Mahoney: 2nd Wed Compact KO1
22. Chantal Dubé, Johanne Sevigny, J.P. Longpre, Alain Bonnin: 1st Sat/Sun KO 4, 2nd Bracket B6 Swiss
23. Alain Bonnin and J.P Longpre: 1st Open Pairs Flight C
24. Eva and Alan Katznelson: 1st Bracket B1 Swiss
25. Michel and Carole Coveney, Sylvain Mayer, Janyne Provencher 1st Thurs Compact KO3
26. Serge Lavallee, Nicole Drainville, Diane and Claude Depatie: 1st W/T Compact KO4, 2nd Th/S AM KO 2
27. Joseph Silver: 2nd RIBA AX Swiss
28. Anne Posch and Jon Shute: 1st Fri/Sat KO 2
29. Anne Mitchell, Margaret House, Lorne and Shirley Cock: 2nd Morning Compact KO 1
30. David Hart and Bill Springer :1st Fri First Open Pairs
31. Sandra Macpherson: 2nd Tues/ Wed KO3

Please see George Retek's article on the next page.

Best wishes for the Holidays and for a great year in 2015.

Leo

Cheerful Charlie at the Las Vegas Championships

Or... Does it pay to be forgetful?

By George Retek

Young Cheerful Charlie quit smoking, limited his beer intake to four pints a day and decided to date only Dutch girls (Dutch treat) to enable him to save a sufficient to attend the North American Bridge Championships in Las Vegas.

He had entered a couple of one day North American Championships events, followed by several one session K.O. Regional events. His most dubious defensive move was, when holding AJ7xx/xxx/xx/xxx, he “encouraged” partner playing the “7” under partners Queen of Spade lead, thereby denying the Jack. Partner held KQ109x/Kxx/xx/xxx. Partner dutifully switched allowing 3 no trump to make. By the time the final day arrived Cheerful Charlie was forced to seek three teammates at the Partnership desk for the Regional Swiss Teams. His imaginatively declared highly inflated master point total went undetected, as the ACBL still does not provide a computer to the Partnership desk, where declared master point holdings could be verified.

His new teammates dutifully carried him from one victory to another, when at favorable vulnerability he picked up the following hand: Kxxxx/J10/x/8xxxx and heard his right hand opponent bid 1♦. Cheerful Charlie had the “perfect” 2♦ Modified Michael conventional bid promising ♠ and ♣ (either weak, or strong hand). This was alerted by partner, who had explained their partnership agreement (as marked on their convention card) that they play Michaels cue bids. In this case, 2♦ promised ♥ and ♠. Oophs! – Cheerful Charlie had forgotten that with his new partner he had agreed to play the original Michaels convention instead of his customary Modified Michaels.

After his opponents were informed that his bid promised both major suits, his left hand opponent bid 3NT. That was passed out all around. The opponents grew quite agitated when the entire hand proved to be:

♠ A Q x x ♥ K Q x x ♦ A x x ♣ K x	♠ x x x ♥ x x ♦ x x x ♣ Q J x x x	♠ J ♥ A 9 8 7 x ♦ K Q J 10 9 x ♣ A				
<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">E</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">W</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">S</td> </tr> </table>			N	E	W	S
N	E					
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♠ K x x x x ♥ J 10 ♦ x ♣ 8 x x x x						

Grand slam was available in ♦, ♥ and NT. Indeed his teammates had no problem bidding their slam, making Cheerful Charlie the hero of the march.

There was no redress available to the opponents, as the partnership agreement was clearly explained to them.

Holding the East-West cards, how would the Reader cope with this situation? Certainly holding stopper(s) plus having six great ♦ was a grossly unimaginative Pass by East. Cheerful Charlie lived another day.