



American Contract Bridge League

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DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Fall 2015

Denver's Rocky Mountain High-Lights

The Fall NABC was held at the Denver Downtown Sheraton just off the 16th Street Pedestrian Mall, with its free bus service, shopping etc. All play was in 2 buildings attached by a pedway, and playing conditions were excellent. There were many good restaurants, bars, in walking distance or easily reachable by the free bus service. The tournament was well run, with excellent hospitality. Attendance was down, no doubt due to expected weather conditions (a snow storm in the mid-West the day before play started didn't help, although there was little snow in Denver) and distance to travel for many, with 9058 tables, 10% less than expected.

The opening party on Friday night again was a highlight with lots of nice food and an excellent band.

This has been a difficult year for the ACBL, the multiple cheating scandals and with struggling with ACBL Score and aging hardware, which have created additional expenses.

At the end of this report, I have included a bridge article by Nader Hanna. Nader is a fine player from Toronto, who has been President of The Canadian Bridge Federation for a number of years, and was NPC of the Canadian Senior Team this summer in Chennai. I encourage you to read his more complete article in Bridge Canada available at www.cbf.ca and to join the CBF. Thank you, Nader.

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 Reno 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 Denver Board of Directors Meeting

- **Elections:** Ken Monzingo was elected ACBL President for a 1 year term, Georgia Heth was elected interim Treasurer until March 2016, Paul Janicki and Al Levy were elected as WBF representatives for a 3 year term. Sandy DeMartino was elected National Goodwill Chair for 3 years. Patty Tucker was elected Honorary Member of the Year (I chaired the selection committee). Debbie Rosenberg was elected Volunteer of the year. We now have 4 Canadians on the ACBL BoD with the election of Marv Norden (who used to live in NS) as Director of District 19 (which includes BC). I was elected for a 3 year term starting Jan 1/16. Thank you for your support.
- **Ethics and Cheating:** was the big issue. Equipment was bought to monitor 10 tables which would be live screened and also made available on YouTube. A blue ribbon Bridge Integrity Task Force was formed and had its 1st meeting.
- **Membership** through the end of October stands at 168,418, an increase of 692 since the beginning of the year.
- **Regional table count through Oct.** was down 5 %, but average table count was down 1% (there were 4 fewer regionals).
- **Sectional attendance** was down 3% (3 fewer tournaments) and average table count was down 3%.
- **STACs table count** was down 2% and average table count was down 18% (10 more STACs).

- **Finance:** the decrease in net assets through Oct. is \$103,000, \$174K worse than budgeted increase of \$71K. The forecast for the year end Dec. 31, 2015 estimates a decrease in net assets of \$178K, \$187K lower than the 9K budgeted increase. Main drivers of the variance include recruiting costs and negative foreign exchange.
- **Table count:** through September table count for club games is flat (up 0.9%) compared to last year. Face to face is down 0.7% while online shows an increase. To Sept., there were 2,408,528 tables of which 784,378 are from on-line games (32.57%).
- **World Wide Bridge Contest:** will no longer print and mail hand records and booklets so table fees will be lowered by \$4.00 per table. All information will be sent electronically to registered clubs. Clubs may print these for their players. The games are scheduled for Fri. evening, June 3rd and Sat. afternoon, June 4th.
- **Longest Day:** Clubs in Canada will have the opportunity to play in special games directly benefiting The Alzheimer Society of Canada. This event will be known as "Trump Alzheimer's", and our District's Kathie MacNab Halliday is working with ACBL Marketing and the Society to ensure that the experiences in Canada and the US are the same as possible.
- **Tournament Directors:** Tournament Director University (TDU) continues to operate. Two core programs are in use and 12 students are being prepared to be DiC's at small sectionals, and there is another core program to train Regional DiC's.
- **Pianola:** has nearly completed ACBL customization and rollout begins in early 2016. The e-mail marketing feature is what has been customized for Units and Districts.

Actions and Motions approved at the Denver Board of Directors Meetings:

- Elections involving unit board members will be done completely by e-mail and the length of the voting period has been shortened.
- A Board Composition Advisory Committee will be formed, to review the size of the BoD, where they come from and method of selection.
- The NABC 0-1500 LM Pairs will now be open to non-LMs and renamed the 0-1500 Pairs.
- New Split Regionals will not be allowed. Those already existing (e.g in District 1) may continue as currently scheduled (every 2nd year in our District). Each half of the Split may have a different schedule, but MPs will be awarded as if each is a separate event.
- Clubs which have a sanctioned master point limited or invitational game may not declare such a game as open when there is a STAC. They may participate in the STAC but will be grouped with like clubs.
- Some fees are going up as of Apr/16: Regional and Sectional fees (2%), STAC fees (3%), Open Sectional Surcharge (9%), TD Session fees (9%). The \$1.25 club game fee is rescinded and club per table fee is up 11%. STACs and unit and special games at clubs are now subject to per table fee.
- For Regionals and Sectionals, the non-member fees collected will be remitted to ACBL. I voted against this.
- Master points for Bracketed Swiss were adjusted to be higher.
- 1st place for the CSTC was increased from 60 to 80. Canadian Championship Events will give 100% awards for 16+ teams, for less than 16 each team below 16 will have a 6.25% reduction coming down to 50% for 8 or fewer teams. KO match award for CNTC will be 8 MPs and for CWTC and CSTC it will be 6 MPs.
- Points earned in Canadian Championships events will count for ACBL MP events in the year in which the event started.
- % of gold at NLM Regionals goes from 10% to 25%.
- At team events held at NABCs, entry fees for events of 2 or more sessions will be charged on a per player rather than on a per team basis.
- If a pair/team is convicted of cheating, the partner and teammates shall forfeit all master points, titles and status ranks earned while playing with said participant(s) during the 4 years preceding the admission or finding of guilt.
- There will be two new Master Point ranks: Ruby LM - over 1500 MPs with no less than 300 combined silver(S), red(R), gold(G) or platinum(P) points and Sapphire LM- over 3500 MPs with no fewer than 350 G or P points and no fewer than a combined 700 S,R,G or P points.
- A Fall NABC was approved in Washington (DC) 2022.
- Georgia Heth and Russ Jones were elected to the Charity Foundation and Russ Jones, Rod Bias and Betty Starzec were elected as Trustees of the Educational Foundation.

District News

- **District Charity Grants:** which comes from the ACBL Charitable Foundation were granted Maison de la Famille Beauce-Etchemins La Grande Ourse, St-Georges QC; Service Alimentaire La Recette, Chicoutimi, QC; and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Moncton, Moncton, NB.
- **Appointments to ACBL Charity and Goodwill Committees:** the following have been honoured for their contributions to bridge in our District:
Charity Committee: Pearl Cooper, Cote St-Luc, QC and Peggy Fixman, Montreal, QC.
Goodwill Committee: Bilgin Batman, Bridgewater, NS; Jean-Francois Boucher, Chicoutimi, QC; Georges Pelletier, Saint-Georges, QC.
- **Trump Alzheimer's:** this will be the Canadian version of "The Longest Day", with all proceeds going to The Alzheimer's Society of Canada. This is scheduled for June 20th. Please encourage your club to participate in this very worthwhile (and fun) event.
- **Cukoff-Latraverse-Wiser (CLW) Award:** named after outstanding deceased National Tournament Directors from Montreal, this award recognizes excellent life time service to directors and promoters of ethics in bridge. The District Board will select a recipient for 2016 at the District meeting in August.
- **George Retek Award:** is presented to an individual who has given a great deal of excellent volunteer service to our District and Units. This award will be decided at the District meeting in August. Please forward nominations for both awards to George Retek gbridgeretek@gmail.com by March 31st.
- **Regional Tournaments:** please come to our District's tournaments. The CBF Regional will be in Montreal in April. Our Split Regional will be in Kingston and Summerside in May 2016. There will be the Can-At in Halifax in June/July, and Montreal will host the Can-Am in August. The National Capital Regional will be in Ottawa in Oct.
- **Upcoming NABCs:** Reno (March, 2016), Washington DC (July 2016), Orlando (Nov/Dec 2016), Toronto (Summer 2017), Montreal (Summer 2020).
- **NAP Split District Finals:** were held in Oct/Nov. Please look at Unit and District websites for results. Best wishes to our representatives in the National Finals in Reno.
- **Grand National Teams:** Please look for details of the District finals for all 4 flights. All will take place by the end of May 2016, and the National Finals will be held at the Summer NABC in Washington, DC.

Golden (and Platinum) Performances in Denver

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. Pamela Nisbet: 15th NA Mixed Swiss, 2nd Educational Foundation KO1, 12th Whitehead Womens Pairs, 1st Tues-Thurs AM KO
2. Nicolas L'Écuyer: 3rd NA Swiss, 9th/10 Mitchell Open BAM
3. P Drew Cannell: 19th NA Swiss, 16th/17th Mitchell BAM
4. David Sabourin: 22nd Blue Ribbon Pairs
5. Joseph Silver: 1st, 2nd Fast pairs
6. Jason Lindop: 1st Educational Foundation KO1
7. Danielle Tremblay and Pierrette Matteau: 2nd Sun-Tues am KO2, 1st Thurs Compact KO7
8. Linda Doucette and Dyane Maurice: 2nd Thurs KO 6, 1st, 2nd Fri-Sat KO2
9. Chantal Dubé and Josette Lévesque: 1st, 2nd Fri-Sat KO2, 1st Fri Open pairs
10. Sandra MacPherson and Michael Ross: 1st, 2nd Fri-Sat am Compact KO1
11. Alan MacLellann: 1st Thurs Compact KO Bracket 3
12. Laura Colihan and Scott Dunlap: 1st Tues-Wed Daylight KO Bracket 3
13. Suzanne Viau and Thérèse Huot: 2nd Sat Compact KO3
14. Lisa Hebert : 1st Tues-Wed KO4

Please see Nader Hanna's article on the next page.

See you in Reno,
Leo

From the 2015 World Seniors Championship

By Nader Hanna

On the following board from Canada's round robin match against India in the recent d'Orsi Seniors Trophy, John Rayner and Joe Silver combined to convert what appeared to be a certain 10 IMP loss to Canada to a 10 IMP gain.

Board 21; Dealer North; NS Vul.

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

In the open room John Rayner found himself in the inelegant contract of 3NT after the following auction:

West	North	East	South
Rayner		Roche	
	Pass	1♦	1♥
2♣	2♥	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the ♥7 to South's J and declarer's K. With only 8 sure tricks and a wide open spade suit, desperate times called for desperate measures. John crossed to dummy in clubs and led a spade towards his hand. When South won the ♠K and continued with a low heart, John played the 10 to secure his ninth trick. +400 for Canada.

In the closed room, East-West reached the better contract of 5♣ by West and received the ♠3 lead from Silver (North). Declarer ruffed the spade continuation, drew trumps, and eliminated the major suits ending in the West hand to reach the following position:

	♠ Q		
	♥ -		
	♦ K 10 4		
	♣ -		
♠ -	N	♠ -	
♥ -	W E	♥ -	
♦ 8 7 3	S	♦ A J 9	
♣ K		♣ J	
	♠ 9		
	♥ Q		
	♦ Q 5		
	♣ -		

Declarer now led a diamond intending to play dummy's 9 to endplay South. However, recognizing declarer's plan, Silver played his ♦K. Declarer now had no option but to allow Silver to win the trick hoping that North held both the ♦K and ♦Q and would be forced to give declarer a ruff and discard or lead away from his presumed ♦Q. When Silver continued with a diamond, declarer took the losing finesse and was one down.

+50 and a 10 IMP gain for Canada.