



American Contract Bridge League

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DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Summer 2016

Washington: A Capital Tournament

The Summer NABC was held at a beautiful hotel, with many good eating places nearby. Play was all in one building, which was great since it was hot outside most of the time. Finding playing locations in the hotel was difficult, at times, but people eventually got used to it, with the help of the Ask Me Girls. The tournament was well run, with excellent hospitality, including the sold out free Capital Steps (political, musical humour) show. Attendance was down, perhaps due to hotel costs, airfare and the exchange rate. Table count was over 12,812 tables, less than expected and the 14,115 in 2009 (-9.2% in 7 years).

The meetings were highlighted by the consideration of the ACBL Strategic Plan, a serious look at Board of Directors restructuring to include a smaller number on the Board of Directors, further reaction to the multiple cheating scandals (including the ACBL's expulsion of 2 of the pairs involved). \$2,000,000 over 4 years will be received from BBO, in exchange for exclusive rights (OkBridge and Swan are grandfathered) to ACBL Masterpoint games.

At the end of this report, I am listing major results by District 1 players at the NABC. I have also included a bridge article which I have written.

I am looking for other bridge article contributors. All I ask is that it be approximately one page long and that it be done in Word. Next one would be needed for my report after the Orlando NABC which is in Nov/Dec.

Highlights of the Washington Board of Directors Meetings

- **Ethics and Cheating** Bridge Integrity Task Force has been meeting. Two Pairs have been expelled by the ACBL.
- **Peter Rank** has retired as League (Legal) Counsel. **Linda Dunn** has been appointed In-House Counsel.
- **Membership** after 6 months is 168,742, up from 168,403 in February (0.2%).
- **Regional table count** is down 9.2 % because of 5 fewer tournament to date compared to last year. Average table count was down 1.9%.
- **Sectional attendance** was down 1.9% (4 fewer tournaments to date) and average table count was down 1%.
- **STACs table count** was up 4% and average table count was down 1% (2 more STACs to date).
- **Total tournament tables** decreased 3.5% with 7 fewer tournaments held.
- **Table count:** Table count to May was 1,357,569 tables of which 437,296 are from on-line games (32.21%). Face-to-face club table count is up 1.23% compared to May 2015.
- **Finance:** Through May 31st, the change in net assets from Operations is a gain of \$162,342, \$217,015 more than budgeted loss of \$54,672 and \$154,454 better than last year's \$7,888 gain for the same period. Total revenue through May was \$110,156 lower than budget due primarily to fewer tournaments (there should be more in the second half) and smaller average tournament size. The revenue shortfall has been more than

offset by the \$327,171 lower than expected operating and general & admin expenses. Also in 2016 ACBL will realize \$250,000 for the final 6 months from the agreement with BBO.

- **World Wide Bridge Contest:** 217 clubs registered, and even though files and materials were provided electronically, this did not affect the number of participating clubs (there were 203 last year for + 6.9%).
- **Longest Day:** 190 clubs in Canada and US participated. As of June 29th \$301,708 has been donated online and Trump Alzheimer's in Canada has raised \$7,510 online. Total funds are expected to reach \$500,000+.
- **Pianola:** All units and districts have been invited to use Marketing Solutions. To date 98 user accounts have been created and 123 e-mail campaigns initiated.

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

- A notrump opening or overcall is natural, if by agreement it contains no void, at most 1 singleton which must be A, K or Q and no more than 2 doubletons. If the hand contains a singleton it may have no doubleton.
- The Board denied a motion to consider ways of providing financial alleviation to Canadian Organization to minimize the impact of exchange rates.
- Motion to keep votes by Unit in District-wide elections confidential, was defeated (I voted for this).
- The Capital budget was increased by \$172,500 to \$521,815.
- It was confirmed that non-member entry fees will be collected and remitted to ACBL in \$Can.
- The Recorder system is being improved.
- Two Year terms for ACBL Presidents was defeated.
- The Summer 2021 NABC will be held in Providence, RI.
- The membership fee for Juniors (under 26) will be \$5, but they will not receive a hard copy of The Bulletin.
- The 0-1500 and 0-5000 NABC Pairs and Mini-Spangolds will now be 0-2500 and 0-6000 respectively.

District News

- **Trump Alzheimer's Contre:** This was the Canadian version of "The Longest Day", with all proceeds going to The Canadian Alzheimer's Societies. Results aren't in yet, but between the events in Canada and the US, it's anticipated that \$500,000+ was raised.
- **Cukoff-Latraverse-Wiser (CLW) Award:** Named after outstanding deceased National Tournament Directors from District 1, this award recognizes excellent life time service to directors and promoters of ethics in bridge. The District Board will announce a recipient for 2016 at the District meeting in August.
- **George Retek Award:** Presented to an individual who has given a great deal of excellent volunteer service to our District and Units, this award winner will be announced at the District meeting in August.
- **Regional Tournaments:** Please come to our District's tournaments. Montreal will host the Can-Am in August. The National Capital Regional will be in Ottawa in Oct, The May Regional returns to Quebec City, and for the first time in many years, the CanAt will be in Moncton.
- **Upcoming NABCs:** Orlando (Nov/Dec 2016), Kansas City (Mar 17) Toronto (July 2017), San Diego (Nov/Dec 2017), Montreal (Summer 2020).
- **GNT National Finals:** We express our thanks to the teams that represented District 1. Our Open team made it to the semi-finals, and our Flight A team qualified for the KO round. All the teams were great representatives of our District. Good luck next time!
- **NAP Split District Finals:** Please look at your unit website or www.district1acbl.org for details of the District finals which are to be held in Oct/Nov. The National Finals will be held at the Spring NABC in Kansas City.
- **District Charity Game:** Please participate in the John MacAdam Charity in Nov. The date will be announced at the District Annual Meeting, and information will be on the District and Unit websites.
- **District Meetings:** The District 1 Annual Meeting will be held at the CanAm on Saturday. 3 conference calls were also held during the year.

Golden (and Platinum) Performances in Washington

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. Kamel Fergani and Frédéric Pollack: 1st Wernher Open Pairs
2. Jeff Smith, John Zaluski, Kamel Fergani and Frédéric Pollack: 3rd/4th GNT Open Flight
3. P. Drew Cannell: 1st Ed. Foundation KO1, 1st Thurs Flight A Swiss
4. Nicolas L'Écuyer: 5th /8th Spingold Teams, 2nd Sat Daylight Swiss A
5. Maxime Nault and Paulin Nault: 1st AM Compact KO 1, 2nd Fri-Sat AM Compact KO1
6. Peter Clark and Leo Weniger: 1st Mon Daylight Swiss Flight A
7. Robert Lyrette: 2nd Sat Daylight KO1
8. Scott Rappard: 2nd Thurs Daylight Bracketed KO2, 2nd Fri Daylight Swiss 3
9. Marie Duval and Geneviève Leidelinger: 2nd Flight X 1st Sun Swiss
10. Michael Ross and Sandra Macpherson: 1st Tues Daylight RR Teams 3
11. Suzanne Viau and Thérèse Huot: 2nd Fri-Sat AM Compact KO1,
12. Denis Piton, Roger David, Christian Fortin, Jean Mutchmore: 2nd Thurs Daylight KO Bracket 5

Please see my article on the next page.

See you in Orlando, FL

Leo

Deception

By Leo Weniger

We all hear of deceptive defensive plays on defence. Some work and some don't. Here are 3 examples from hands that I played at the Washington NABC. 2 were opening leads and 1 was a false card by one of the opponents.

The first was an opening lead. LHO, in a 4♥ contract, held ♠AQJ10 after dummy had opened 1♠. LHO lead the ♠Q, thinking that declarer, with 2 small would duck twice, and the ♠A would fall for a pitch. Unfortunately, declarer had a singleton, and went up with the ♠K, making 6 off 2 Aces.

In the second hand dummy held:

♠ Qx ♥ AQxx ♦ AQJxx ♣ Kx

The action unfolded:

West	North	East	South
			P
P	1 ♦		1 ♠
P	2 ♥	P	2 ♠
P	3 ♠	P	4 ♠
----- All Pass -----			

We are taught not to underlead an A as Opening lead in Suit contracts. Here, a low Club was lead. Declarer, thinking that East had the ♣A, played low, to protect the ♥ and ♦ tenaces, and having ♥xx, ♦xx and ♣9xx, would pull trump and take a ♦ finesse and even if it lost would pitch the losing ♥ on a ♦ winner. Unfortunately East played the ♣Q, a ♣ back to the A and a ♥ shift, and when the ♦ and ♥ finesses lost it was down 1. At the other table the ♣A was lead, making 5, when there was no ♥ shift. This was in a Flight A Swiss, but a well reasoned lead, in that the strength was in dummy.

On the 3rd hand, in a 4♠ contract dummy had:

♠ J97 ♥ ? ♦ xx ♣ ?

Declarer had ♠ AKxxxx ♥ ? ♦ Qxx ♣ ?

And the rest of the hand was immaterial, other than that there was another cashing A. West who had opened a weak 2♦, lead A and K of ♦, with East showing a doubleton. West lead a 3rd♦ and declarer trumped with the ♠J, and there was no overruff. Declarer played a ♠ to the A and East played a small ♠ and West dropped the Q, so declarer thought that East had ♠ 10 8 left. Declare started playing winners (after giving up the loser to the A) and was surprised when West ruffed with the ♠8. In retrospect declarer admitted that it could not cost anything to cash the ♠K (and drop the 10 and 8), but West gave him a chance to go wrong. Our hero in this hand was the same one as from the 1st hand.

Die by the sword, live by the sword!