



American Contract Bridge League

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DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Fall 2016

Orlando: Magic Kings and Queens

The Fall NABC was held at a beautiful hotel in excellent surroundings. Play was all in one building with excellent playing conditions. Finding reasonably priced places to eat was difficult as was parking. The tournament was well run, with excellent hospitality. Attendance was down, probably due to a decrease in local's attendance (see above reasons) and the exchange rate for Canadians. Table count was 10,592 tables, less than the 13,000 budgeted.

The meetings were highlighted by the consideration of the ACBL Strategic Plan, a serious look at how the Board of Directors operates, with shorter meetings, more work done between meetings, and a move from being motions driven to being more strategic focused. Focus this year will be on clubs, volunteers and membership recruitment and retention.

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 Kansas City NABC which is in March.

Highlights of the Orlando Board of Directors Meetings

- **Bob Heller** was elected ACBL President for 2017 replacing **Ken Monzingo** who is now Chairman of the Board.
- At the Board of Governors meeting **Richard Popper** was elected Chairman of the BoG.
- **Merlin Vilhauer** was elected ACBL representative to the WBF.
- **Jean La Traverse and Kathie Macnab** were certified as elected 1st and 2nd Alternate Directors for District 1.
- **Eddie Wold** was appointed ACBL Honorary Member for 2017.
- **Membership** is 168,352, 91 down from the beginning of the year.
- **Regional table count** is down 1.8% compared to last Oct on 3 additional Regionals. Average table count per tournament was down 4.5%.
- **Sectional attendance** was flat on 1 more tournament, and average table count was also flat.
- **STACs table count** was down 3.9% on 4 fewer tournaments. Average table count was up 2.62%
- **Total tournament tables** decreased 3.5% with 7 fewer tournaments held.

- **Club Table count:** Table count for the 1st 9 months was 2,416,990 tables of which 782,334 are from on-line games. Face-to-face club table count is relatively flat compared to last year.
- **Information Technology:** 3 new servers were installed at Horn Lake and software development continued.
- **Finance:** Year to date through Oct. shown an increase in net assets from Operations is a gain of \$774K. The forecast to the end of 2016 estimates an increase in net assets of \$701K, \$600K higher than the 101K budget increase. The main driver of this positive variance includes \$250K in unbudgeted BBO income, which offsets lower than expected tournament revenue, and total expenses which are expected to be \$485 K lower than budget.
- **The Longest Day:** This was held a day earlier on June 20th due to leap year. 252 clubs in Canada and US participated. There was a Canada-specific event held called Trump Alzheimer's Contre. Players were surveyed and most indicated that they enjoy The Longest Day and ACBL's participation gives them pride in the organization
- **Pianola:** All units and districts have been invited to use Marketing Solutions. To date 141 user accounts have been created. The product is being used to fulfill Tournament E-mails Services. Marketing plans to continue use and maximization of the service to units and districts through a series of e-mail coaching communications.

Actions and Motions approved at the Orlando Board of Directors Meetings

- The club fee increase for STACs which was raised this year by \$1, was rescinded, effective Apr. 1. 2017.
- The experiment with holding online events at regional tournaments is continued for 2 years. Participation of players outside the host district must be approved by the player's district. District 1 players will participate on a limited basis in the Sandestin (FL) Regional on Jan 23rd.
- Board of Directors Meetings will be shorter and end on the day before the Board of Governors Meeting, saving expenses.
- ACBL's providing funds for BoD spousal pre-tournament activities is discontinued.
- New Educational Foundation Bylaws were approved. This removes District Directors from being Foundation Members ex-officio. I voted against this.
- Drop ins are not allowed from team events to premier pairs events.
- Hand records used in concurrent National Rated events shall be used only in those events for all sessions.
- Electronic Devices penalties guidelines for all events at NABCs were approved.
- Wagar Women's KO Team event is removed from the Summer NABC schedule and the Wagar Women's Pairs event has been added to the Summer NABC schedule, both effective June 2017.
- Machlin Women's Swiss has been removed from the Spring NABC schedule effective June 2017.
- Giving \$200 to NAP District Final players finishing 3rd and attending the National final and \$100 to those finishing 4th was defeated. I voted for this.
- A motion to allow 2nd place teams in flights B and C of the GNT District final with more than 8 teams to go to National Final at their own expense was defeated. I voted against.
- Live streaming and taping for the ACBL website of BoD and BoG meetings was defeated. It would be too costly.
- The Operating budget for 2017 was received with revenues over expenses \$234,283. The proposed budget includes a sizeable increase for a 1 year membership but a very small increase for a 3 year membership. I can live with that except that according to our bylaws, there are no refunds for membership dues. Since we are pushing people to a 3 year membership I think there should be pro-rated refund in the event of the death of a member who has a 3 year membership, and I am going to work towards that.

- The Capital budget of \$355,750 was submitted.
- At least 75% of the ACBL's Investment Portfolio must be in fixed income securities with no more than 10% in equities. Asset allocation is determined by the ACBL Finance Committee and reviewed at every Summer NABC Meetings.
- Daylong on-line robot games were approved. They may be up to 18 hours to play and must be a minimum of 18 boards. Fees and MP awards were approved.

District News

World Senior Pairs: Congratulations to **Joseph Silver** for (appropriately) winning the silver medal in the World Senior Pairs in Wroclaw, Poland with John Carruthers.

World Open Teams: Congratulations to **Kamel Fergani, Nick L'Écuyer, Zygmunt Marcinski** and **Frederic Pollack**, along with ex-Montrealer Nick, and Judith Gartaganis for coming 5/8 in this prestigious event, defeating Italy in the round of 16.

Grand National Teams 2016 Championship Flight: Congratulations to **Jeffrey Smith, John Zaluski, Kamel Fergani** and **Frederic Pollack** for coming 3/4.

District President: Congratulations to **Jean La Traverse** on his election to this demanding post. I'm sure he will do an excellent job. Thank you to **Doug Hamilton** for all his hard work as President.

Unit Presidents: We have 3 new presidents: **Christine Bourbeau** (Montreal Unit 151), **France Roy-Dion** (Quebec Unit 151) and **Lydia Prange** (Maritime Unit 194). Good luck in your new position.

Alternate District Directors: Congratulations to **Jean La Traverse** and **Kathie Macnab** on their election to 1st and 2nd Alternate Directors respectively. Thanks to **Nick L'Écuyer** for his service in this position.

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 is pleased to announce that this year's winner is **Karl Hicks**.

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. Last year's winner was the late **Bryan Rapson** and this year's winner is **Mike Hartop**.

National Charity Committee and National Goodwill Committee: Each year District Directors select members to these prestigious committees, in honour of their service to bridge and to the qualities that demonstrate while playing. I am pleased to announce that I have appointed **Richard Kenny, Louise Mascolo** and **Michel Montplaisir** to the Goodwill Committee and **Thomas Deri** and **Carol Hamilton** to the Charity Committee. All are most deserving of this honour.

District Charity Grants: This year all District Directors have been allowed to donate total of \$1000 US, to worthy registered charities in their District. I have decided to make 4 donations to small charities where small donations will make a difference. This year I have arranged for donations of \$250 to be given to: Feed Nova Scotia which provides food to many food banks in NS, St. Dunstan's Basilica Refugee Committee, which is supporting Syrian families in Charlottetown, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Ottawa, and Spencer House, a centre for seniors in Halifax which provides activities and inexpensive meals for seniors.

Regional Tournaments: Please come to our District's tournaments. The May Regional will be in Quebec City, CBF Regional is in Kingston May/June and for the first time in many years, the CanAt will be in Moncton in June/July. Montreal will host the Can-Am in August and the National Capital Regional will be in Ottawa in October.

Upcoming NABCs: Kansas City (March 2017) Toronto (July 2017), San Diego (Nov/Dec 2017), Montreal (Summer 2020).

GNT National Finals: The National Finals will be held at the Toronto NABC, an excellent chance to participate at a low cost. The District finals will be held in Montréal (Laval) on April 2nd for Flights Open and B, and in Halifax on May 13 for Flights A and C. Club or Unit qualifying are not required to play in the District finals.

NAP Finals: The National Finals will be held at the Spring NABC in Kansas City. Good luck to all our representatives. I'm sure you will make us proud.

· **District Charity Game:** This was held in November. A special thank you to Rob and Annie Williams who did an excellent job coordinating this under especially trying personal circumstances.

· **District Meetings:** The District 1 Annual Meeting will be held at the Can-Am on Saturday of the Can-Am Regional in Laval, QC. There are also 3-4 District Board conference calls were also held during the year.

Golden and Platinum Performances in Orlando

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. (CKO = Compact KO).

1. P. Drew Cannell: 1st Ed. Found. KO1, 1st Sun-Tues am KO1, 2nd Tues Swiss , 2nd Wed A Swiss, 14th NABC Mixed Swiss
2. Nicolas L'Écuyer: 10th Open BAM, 1st Sat-Sun KO1
3. Kamel Fergani: 24th Blue Ribbon Pairs, 1st Sat CKO
4. Frédéric Pollack: 1st Sat CKO
5. Maxime Nault and Paulin Nault: 2nd Tues-Wed KO3, 2nd Sat CKO
6. Leo Weniger: 13th 10K Swiss, 1st Thurs CKO 3
7. George Retek: 13th 10K Swiss, 10th 10K IMP Pairs
8. Xavier Combey and Marc Lachapelle: 1st Sun Open Pairs A
9. Robert Tremblay, Gérard Turcotte, Alain Dufour, Denis Lafrance: 1st Fri-Sat CKO1, 2nd Sat-Sun KO1,
1st Mon -Tues CKO1, 2nd Tues Swiss X
10. Louise Berthiaume, Jean La Traverse, Chantal Dubé, Josette Lévesque: 1st Wed-Thurs KO4, 1st Fri-Sat KO2
11. Janet Parsons: 2nd Ed. Found. KO 2, 1st Fri-Sat KO3, 2nd Wed Swiss D, 1st Thurs CKO6, 2nd Sat CKO 4
12. Mike Buist and Peter Rans: 2nd Ed. Found. KO 2, 1st Fri-Sat KO3, 1st Thurs CKO6, 2nd Sat CKO 4
13. Serge Chevalier, André Chartrand, Charles Martineau: 5/8th Baze Senior KO
14. Bob Zeller: 13th 10K Swiss
15. Hind Blick and Gary Brown: 2nd Tues Open Pairs B, 1st Thurs CKO 3
16. Carolyn MacDonald and Donald Lewis: 1st Thurs-Fri Daylight KO 1
17. Cheryl Macintosh and Patti McCabe: 1st Mon-Thurs KO3
18. Ghassan Menachi: 1st/2nd Wed Swiss X
19. David Halliday and George Mitchell: 1st Tues Gold Rush Pairs
20. Elianor Kennie: 2nd Wed-Thurs KO3
21. Judith and Eric Marshall: 1st Sun Swiss D
22. Kay and Brian Richardson: 1st Tues Daylight Pairs C

Please see my article on the next page.

See you in Kansas City, MO.

Leo

New Year's Eve Hand

By Leo Weniger

Interesting hands can come along anytime. Even at a New Year's Party, after a pot luck supper and social bridge on the last night of the year. The following hand was played in a match point game, so I was lucky to have a hand record of it.

Dealer: East

♠ K 8 4 3
♥ K 9 7
♦ K Q J
♣ Q 7 6

♠ Q J 9 6 2
♥ J T 5 4 2
♦ 8 7
♣ 9

♠ T 5
♥ Q 8 5
♦ T 4 2
♣ J T 4 3 2

♠ A 7
♥ A 3
♦ A 9 6 5 3
♣ A K 8 5

The auction was (Both Vulnerable):

West	North	East	South
		P	1♦
P	1♠	P	2NT
P	6NT	---	All Pass ---

Opening Lead: ♥J

As you can see there are 12 top tricks, but playing match points you want to make 13.

Other than a 3-3 club break, the best chance is for a double squeeze, in which both opponents have to protect a suit thus both unguarding a 3rd suit which takes the extra trick. In this hand, East has to guard clubs and West has to guard Spades, so eventually the ♥9 will be the 13th trick.

You carefully win with the ♥A, cash the ♠A and ♠K, and then run 5 Diamonds discarding a Spade and a Club from dummy. On the 4th and 5th Diamond East has to discard a Club and a Heart. West can discard down 1 Spade and 3 Hearts and a Club (or 2 Spades and 2 Hearts and 1 Club).

The ending is:

♠ 8
♥ K 9
♦ --
♣ Q 7

♠ Q J
♥ 10 5
♦ --
♣ 9

♠ --
♥ Q
♦ --
♣ J T 8 5

♠ --
♥ 3
♦ --
♣ A K 8 5

Now 3 Clubs are cashed, and West must discard major cards. South cashes the ♣Q, ♣K and ♠A, and on the ♠A discards the ♠8. West can discard the ♠J on the 2nd Club, but must either discard the ♠Q (before North plays) or a Heart. Either way either the ♠8 or the ♥9 becomes the 13th trick.

But the story of this hand is not over. Let's say you are in 7♦, how would you make it?

You could play it as above, but another way would be as a dummy reversal. On a Heart lead, you would start by ruffing your 3rd heart low. You would get to dummy with a trump and then play ♠A and ♠K and ruff a Spade with the 9♦, then get to dummy with a trump. You would then ruff dummy's last Spade with the ♦A, and get to dummy with the ♣Q and pull the last trump, pitching declarer's losing Club and then claim. To make this all you need are expected breaks in trumps and Hearts and Spades (or North to be short in Spades).

Not a bad deal for one of the last hand of 2016!