



American Contract Bridge League

6575 Windchase Blvd. ♠ Horn Lake MS 38637-1523 ♠ www.acbl.org

Leo Weniger

Director – District # 1
504-1333 South Park Street
Halifax NS B3J 2K9 Canada

902-425-3392

leowen@hotmail.ca

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Winter 2017

Bridge in Paradise (with apologies to Honolulu)

The Fall NABC was held in San Diego, a city that has one of the best year-round climates in the world. This proved to be true with temperatures in the mid 20s (early in the week) and no rain. The Hyatt is a beautiful 1st class hotel with great playing conditions (lots of playing space all in one building and great lighting). The area had lots of nearby restaurants and other attractions, and public transportation (inc the Free Ride) was excellent. The tournament was well run, with excellent hospitality (with lots of food). Attendance was higher than estimated. Table count was 11,745 tables, 2% higher than the 11,500 budgeted. The Board meetings ran from Monday to Friday, (with some days running as late as 6 pm). We continued to work on improving our efficiency and looking for Board priorities and improvements for the future, reviewing our CEO's 10 Big Ideas and prioritizing them. We continue to be impressed with the knowledge and enthusiasm of our new CEO Bahar Gidwani, who has already begun to work on how to improve ACBL in the future.

At the end of this report, I am listing the top Master point winners of District 1 players at the NABC.

After the report I am including a bridge article which I wrote. I am still looking for 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 Philadelphia NABC which will be in March.

Highlights of the San Diego Board of Directors Meetings

Jay Whipple was elected ACBL President for 2018 and I wish him well. I'm hoping that he or Board Chair (and Past President) Bob Heller will visit one of our Regionals in 2018. More on that in my next report

- **Membership** is down 567 from the December 2016 total. There were 9452 new members in the 1st 10 months of 2017. Revenue was up 3% from the fees increase. 30% of renewals were at the new 3-year rate.
- **San Diego:** table count was 2% higher than the 11.500 forecasted.
- **Total tournament tables** increased by 2%.
- **Club Table count:** Table count for the year to date is down 4%. On-Line table count is up 5%.
- **Information Technology:** Certification system for scoring programs was launched. It should have an engine done in 1Q that will allow accepting game files from clubs from a wide range of scoring programs other than ACBL score.

Testing new tournament software has started.

New Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system has been installed and all member and club information has been moved into it. Over the next six months, processing from the AS400 will be moved into this new system. They hope to shut down the AS400 this year.

New General Ledger system has been installed. This system should allow faster handling of transactions and more sophisticated budget analysis and forecasting.

All Canadian transactions can now be made in Canadian dollars. Clubs and tournaments can pay fees in \$C. TDs are paid in \$C (so tournament committees can budget all in \$C).

- **Finance:** Through October, expenses were \$400K below budget and Revenue was up \$95K. Membership Revenue was up due to increase in fees, but down vs budget. ACBL expenses will be able to be paid in \$ Can. at the rate of 1.24.
- **The Longest Day:** This will be held in June.

Actions and Motions approved at the San Diego Board of Directors Meetings:

- Jay Whipple is ACBL President for 2018.
- Georgia Heth and Howard Weinstein were re-elected as WBF Reps.
- Robot Individual Tournaments before each NABC were approved.
- Drop-ins from the Spingold QFs to 2nd day of the Roth Swiss are now allowed, with no Carry-over. They play each other 1st round, and get total MPs earned (but only 5/7 of Roth since they play 1 day less).
- Electronic device policy for NABCs will apply all Regionals but not sectionals.
- Soloway KO and its CoCs approved. There will be 2-day Swiss with top 32 going into KO (mostly based on position in the Swiss). Starts 1st Friday and ends 2nd Thursday of Fall NABC.
- New convention charts deferred to Philadelphia.
- Swisses that have a Gold Rush (GR) Pairs on same day will get credit for the GR tables.
- Pre-2010 Life Master MP requirement will be allowed for lapsed members (free if they rejoin before July 2018, \$50 fee if after)
- New 1-month temporary membership \$8, for new members. To play in sectionals new players will have to have a temporary membership.
- Mini-Blue Ribbons now 0-6000.
- All NABC Mixed teams may have only 2 men or 2 women, but at all times there must be mixed pairs at the table
- Paperless Board meetings are being pushed, so the Journal and Motions will eventually only be sent electronically.
- Board meetings will be shorter (this one was a full 5 days) and will be 3-3.5 days and will finish before the 1st NABC+ Event starts.

1st reading of Bylaw change to remove Board Oversight Committee, without a replacement mechanism was approved.

1st reading of bylaw amendment to replace Treasurer by Chair of Finance Committee on Executive Committee (with no vote) was approved.

Term limits passed: 4 terms starting January 2019 (with grandfathering)

District Director or BoG Chair may no longer be NABC Tournament chair.

- Regionals at Sea get 80% MPs.
- Reconsideration of how WBF dues are paid defeated

District News

- **Charity Grants:** I have arranged for the following grants, each for \$250 US, from the ACBL Charity Foundation for worthy charities in our District. Thanks to the Unit Presidents or their delegates for their recommendation and help. The charities are Les Petits Frères (Montreal); Heartwood House (Ottawa); Association des parents d'adolescents (Chicoutimi); and Viols-Secours CALACS (Quebec City).
- **Charity Committee:** I am pleased to announce the appointment of Sam Ghosh, Fredericton and Rene Pelletier, Quebec City to the National Charity Committee.
- **Goodwill Committee:** I am pleased to announce the appointment of Gerard Cote, Jonquiere; Brian DeLong, Harmony, NS and Cheryl MacIntosh to the National Goodwill Committee

- **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. Nominations from the Units are encouraged. Deadline for nominations is April 1st and they should include reasons for nomination and be sent to Chair, Jean La Traverse or to me at the above e-mail address. The District Board will announce this year's winner at the District Board 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. Please see the last 3 sentences of the above paragraph for nomination details.
- **Sandra MacPherson, Peter Clark and Ronald Carriere** start their 3-year term on the Board of Governors on January 1, 2018.
- **Regional Tournaments:** Please come to our District's tournaments - **Saguenay** (Chicoutimi) in May, **Kingston** in late June (**please note change**), **CanAt** in Halifax in July, and **Can-Am** in **Montreal** in August and **Ottawa** in October.
- **Upcoming NABCs:** **Philadelphia** (March 2018), **Atlanta** (July 2018), **Honolulu** (Nov/Dec 2018), **Montreal** (Summer 2020).
- **The Canadian Bridge Championships** will be held in downtown Montreal May/June 2018. There will also be regionally rated events. Thank you to the Montreal Unit for "stepping up to the plate".
- **NAP District Finals:** were held in Oct/Nov. Please look at your unit's publication for results. Good luck to our representatives at the National Finals which will be held at the Spring NABC in Philadelphia.
- **GNT District Finals:** We hope that you will play in the GNT qualifying games. The District Finals will be held in Montreal (Flights A and C) and in Halifax (Open Flight and C), in April/May. The National Finals will be held at the Atlanta NABC. See the Conditions of contest on the District website (we draw your attention to the section on eligible teams). <http://district1acbl.org/races-tournaments/gnt/>.
- **District Meetings:** The District 1 Annual Meeting will be held at the Can-Am on Saturday of the Can-Am Regional in Laval, QC. A District Board conference call was held in December and the next one will be in February

Excellent Performances in San Diego

The following is a listing of excellent achievements by District 1 players. I am trying something different and listing those players from District 1 who won more than 25 master point winners. Please let me know if you like this information better than the previous way (listing some actual achievements).

Nicholas L'Écuyer, Montreal	104.96 points
P. Drew Cannell, DDO	69.46
David Sabourin, Ottawa	49.23
Robert Guérard, Brossard	41.99
André Houde, Montreal	41.49
Pamela Nisbet, Ottawa	40.75
Jacques Leblanc, Maria	40.02
Ranald Davidson, Montreal	37.73
André Chartrand, Montreal	34.79
Charles Martineau, St-Lambert	34.79
Peter Rans, Halifax	33.87
Danielle Tremblay, Montreal	29.69

Please see my bridge article on the next page.

See you in Philadelphia,

Leo

Bridge on the 31st Floor

By Leo Weniger

Sometimes interesting hands can come along in the most unusual places and times. This one arrived in the ACBL President's Suite after a gruelling 9-hour day of Board of Directors meetings. I was playing in a short team match with a District Director (DD) from New York against DDs representing the West. My teammates, also from the East, were world class players including a player who represented the US in the Venice Cup.

After an auction in which East made a weak jump overcall of 3C, you arrive at the contract of 6♠ by South. How do you play this hand after the lead of the ♣J? You don't have a lot of time to think about it at the table.

Contract: 6♠ South

Lead: ♣J

	♠ K 10	
	♥ A K Q x x x	
	♦ A K x x	
	♣ x	
♠ Q 9 x		♠ x x
♥ J 10 x x		♥ x
♦ 10 9 x		♦ Q J x
♣ J 10 x		♣ K Q x x x x x
	♠ A J 8 7 x x	
	♥ x x	
	♦ x x x	
	♣ A x	

There are a few options after you win the ♣A:

- Trump a Club, cash the ♠K (everyone shows in), try to cash 3 Hearts (pitching the losing diamond), get back to hand and pull trumps, perhaps losing to the ♠Q.
- Take an immediate finesse of the ♠10.
- Cash ♠K, ♠A (and if the ♠Q falls, the ♠J), and if not try to cash 3 Hearts discarding the Club. Then get back to hand by ruffing a Heart (setting up a Heart for a Diamond discard).

Considerations:

- 1) East is likely to have shortness (he has 6 or 7 Clubs).
- 2) You have little chance if trumps are not split 3-2.
- 3) Hearts may be 4-1.

Analysis of the options:

- a) East may have Heart shortness, and could trump the 2nd Heart, and you would lose to West's ♠Qxx.
- b) If this loses, back would come a Club, and declarer could not get off dummy, if East has 2 trumps.
- c) It would work as long as the person with 3 trumps has 2 Hearts

This hand was given to a number of excellent players and only 1 picked c).

Clubs were not bid or led at the other table, so 6♠ made easily.

I tried a) and went down when East ruffed the 2nd Heart and West had Qxx of trumps.

My partner would have tried b) and made 7. Spade finesse, cash ♠K, cash 3 Hearts pitching Club, trump a Heart (setting up 5th Heart for a Diamond discard). Pull the last trump and get to dummy with a Diamond, to discard the losing Diamond.

c) appears to be the best choice. The Club lead has created the illusion of the need to trump a Club.