

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Forum

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Summer 2009 District Director Report



By Bruce W.
Blakely
District 21
Representative

The ACBL Board of Directors met for four days at the Marriott Wardmen Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. prior to the Summer 2009 NABC. In addition to our usual duties, we had three strategic planning sessions, on marketing, technology, and NABC site selection. We also received a report on the progress made at our future League headquarters in Horn Lake, Mississippi, just outside of Memphis.

The board meeting opened with the election of the ACBL President for 2010. Rich DeMartino of Riverside, Connecticut (District 25), won the election over Phyllis Harlan of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (District 15) by a vote of 13-12 (with 25 directors, it takes 13 votes to pass any vote or motion on the board). We then heard a report from the League's CEO, Jay Baum, regarding status of the league. Membership is up over 160,000 and we are anticipating

having increases in the table count for both sectional and regional tournaments in 2009 over 2008 figures.

The CEO's pre-board meeting written report had advised that management had decided that hand records and hand analyses would no longer be provided for the ACBL-wide International Fund Games, Charity Games, and Senior Games held each year, but this was not mentioned in the CEO's oral presentation. Following the oral report, I spoke up and inquired why these features were being eliminated and how much it would save the league, when our players want to have hand analyses and we should be doing more for our members, not less.

I mentioned to the board and management that it is essential for us to provide this service to our players. This led to a discussion and straw poll vote of the board which overwhelmingly voted in favor of providing hand analyses online to club directors which can be copied at minimal cost, or put on the club's website at no charge. This will cost the league \$750 per event, or a total of \$3,000 annually, instead of the \$13,000 previously spent for mailing hard copies. (By way of comparison, the ACBL annual budget is over \$15 million.) This prompted other district directors to comment, "You saved our players."

The agenda for the board meeting was very light in Washington. There were a number of technical issues and procedural votes along with 14 specific votes I feel were significant and worth reporting:

• 1. A proposal to have an I/N STAC week was defeated by a vote of 24-1.

• 2. The board passed a motion on the "consent calendar" to allow players whose membership had lapsed to have unrecorded masterpoints counted for all years for which they pay their delinquent dues prior to December 31.

In addition, there will be an amnesty for players who buy a three-year membership; all past accrued masterpoints will be counted without further charge. If you have allowed your membership to lapse, now is the best time to renew.

• 3. In a three-part motion, the board unanimously voted to have Internet bridge masterpoint races for all ACBL levels (rookie, junior master, sectional master, etc.). The board defeated a motion to have management consider a page

in the *Bridge Bulletin* for Internet bridge by a vote of 5-17, with two abstentions and one absence (I voted in favor), and passed a motion to have management consider creating an Internet web page on the ACBL website by vote of 19-4 with one abstention one absence.

• 4. A motion was raised to lower the masterpoint awards for special games at clubs (so-called "triple point games") from 100% of sectional rating to 90% of sectional rating. This matter was deferred to the San Diego NABC by a vote of 21-3 with one abstention. I look forward to our membership's input on what to do about these "special" club games.

• 5. There was a motion to allow either the Canadian Open Pairs Championship or the Canadian Senior Teams Championship to serve as an equivalent to an NABC Championship event for fulfillment of the requirements for the title of Grand Life Master. The consensus was that these events were not competitive enough to qualify a player for Grand Life Master status, and also were not open to all NABC members. The motion failed by a vote of 2-20 with three abstentions.

• 6. At the Houston NABC, the board had passed a motion rearranging events at NABC to accommodate a new super-premiere 3-day pairs event called the Platinum Pairs. Thereafter, the Board of Governors requested that the Board of Directors reconsider the motion since, as proposed, two major pairs events would run concurrently. In response, in Washington the board approved a motion to switch the schedule for IMP Pairs and the Silodor Open Pairs events by a vote of 23-2.

• 7. The suspension of Peter Wong for six months was approved by the Appeals and Charges Committee. Mr. Wong had been playing under two names, one Chinese name and one English name, in different districts and was playing in limited events under one name in one district, while under his other name, he had too many masterpoints to play in these limited events.

• 8. Currently, if the league wishes to purchase any item or employ any service in excess of \$25,000, it is required to solicit competitive bids. In light of the fact that the league is currently in the process of building out its new

(See Report on page 12)

Rose Meltzer's Team wins GNT at Washington NABC



GNT Champions: Sally Woolsey - Kit Woolsey - Jan Martel - Chip Martel - Rose Meltzer - Kyle Larsen.

The Grand National team of Rose Meltzer, Kyle Larsen, Chip & Jan Martell and Sally & Kit Woolsey won 1st overall representing District 21 in Washington, D.C. at the Summer Nationals. They also finished 2nd in the Spingold Teams event.

The Flight A team of Franklin Lowenthal, Jack Scott, Robert NG and Pat Galligan placed 7th over-

all.

The Flight B team of Grant Vance, Tanakorn Lavanakul, Alan Malloy, Michael Bodell, Shuofei Geng & Bin Liang placed 4th overall. And the Flight C team of Qiang Zhang, Serena Guo, Qing Xia, Barry Ko & Jennifer Gu placed 3rd overall.

Congratulations to all of our District 21 teams!

North American Pairs

By Jackie Ortiz
District 21 NAP Coordinator

Please note Correction of dates of D21 NAP Finals 2010
Flight A: Sat., Jan. 30 12:00 and TBA 1st & 2nd sessions; Sun., Jan. 31 12:00 and TBA semi & final session
Flight B: Sun., Jan. 31 12:00 and TBA 1st & Final session
Flight C: Sat., Jan. 30 12:00 and TBA 1st & Final session
Unit sanctioned North American Pairs as of today (more to come).
Unit 502: Redwood Bridge, Oakland, Sept. 13 at 1:00, Shirley Rodenborn 510 658-9736
Unit 505: Folsom Bridge, Folsom, Oct. 4 at 1:00, Josh Kantor 916 987-7177
Unit 530: Monterey Bridge, Ft. Ord, Marina, Sept. 12 at 1:00, Betty Jackson 831 384-7800
Units 510, 545 & 529: Tri-Units in Modesto Sept. 13 at 11 a.m.- light lunch - second session TBA
Jackie Wilson vjwilson37@sbglobal.net
Unit 507: San Jose Bridge Club Oct. 4 at noon & TBA, Ray Yuenger rayyuenger@comcast.net
Unit 501: 4133 Regalia Ct., Pleasanton Sept. 25 at 7 p.m., Ameen Paul ameen@aol.com
Unit 509: Santa Rosa, Bridge Gallery Nov. 15 at 1 p.m., Jackieo@sonic.net
Unit 503: 2693A Terminal Blvd., Mt. View Sept. 27 at 1:15 & 5:45, Eric Mayefsky 614 299-1311

Tournament Trail

All-Western Regional
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Santa Clara, California
September 1-7, 2009
Sacramento Fall Sectional
Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale, Calif.
September 11-13, 2009
Santa Rosa Fall Sectional
Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa, California
October 3-4, 2009
Carson/Tahoe Fall Sectional
Plaza Convention Center, Carson City, Nevada
October 8-11, 2009
Santa Cruz Surf's Up Sectional
Harbor High School, Santa Cruz, California
October 10-11, 2009
Sonora Fall Sectional
Toulumne Senior Center, Sonora, California
October 17-18, 2009

DEADLINES

Deadlines for *Forum* copy and ads is the 5th of the month!

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All-Western Regional

September 1-7, 2009



Santa Clara Hyatt