

## Las Vegas Summer 2019 Report

**What can I say about Las Vegas?** The Cosmopolitan 5 Star Hotel was outstanding, The rooms were large and modern, and there were plenty of restaurants in the hotel and many less expensive options just outside in the Miracle Mile or Planet Hollywood. One evening in the hotel a soup option was discovered at \$688 a serving! Passing on that temptation was not hard for most. The shows were close and great some popular options were Love (Beatles by Cirque de Soleil), Gwen Stefani, David Copperfield, Chris Angel Mindfreak, and the musical "Absinthe". Lady Gaga was on summer vacation from her residency show saving my wife and I at least \$1700, the days of inexpensive shows and inexpensive buffets are long gone in Las Vegas. Another surprise to many players was the evening wear to the Cosmopolitan nightclubs, what the young ladies wore (or to be more accurate, didn't wear) to go out easily set them apart from the bridge players in the same halls of the hotel. They were all having FUN and that's what Las Vegas is all about, lots of fun , little judgement. Unfortunately, I applied the "little judgement" at the bridge tables also.

**Bridge Play:** Attendance was great we served 13,622 tables, quite a few over estimated. The rooms were on 2 floors and a myriad of hallways that took a day or two to get used to the lay of the land. The tournament started with the GNT and District 25 fielded 5 teams in the 4 events. Next summer the GNT is in Montreal, QC be sure to get your passports ready!

This was the first NABC with the new entry fees set at \$20 for regional and single session events. NABC+ events were set at \$30 per session and additional for screen events.

**Local News: Adam and Zach Grossack** have become Grand Life Masters, Adam beat him by a month but Zach is the youngest Grand Life Master ever, Congratulations!

**New England players in Las Vegas** did well with 180 players earning Masterpoints!

### The top 25 were:

Local, National, MP, Player, Hometown

- 1 54 152.00 Warren Spector, Chilmark MA
- 2 101 124.27 Lew Gamerman, Randolph MA
- 3 112 119.01 Adam Grossack, Newton MA
- 4 113 115.67 Allan Graves, Saint Johnsbury VT
- 5 144 105.01 Shome Mukherjee, Braintree MA
- 6 148 104.46 Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA
- 7 151 104.22 Franklin Merblum, Bloomfield CT
- 8 187 94.62 Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA
- 9 216 90.29 Stephen Gladyszak, Chelsea MA
- 10 233 87.32 Victor King, Hartford CT
- 11 266 81.46 Dean Panagopoulos, Lynn MA
- 12 302 76.09 Zachary Grossack, Newton MA
- 13 325 73.77 Douglas Doub, West Hartford CT
- 14 327 73.55 John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT
- 15 330 73.43 Laurence Lebowitz, Boston MA

16 340 71.94 Harrison Luba, Lynnfield MA  
17 344 71.52 Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT  
18 345 71.52 Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT  
19 356 70.97 Ingi Agnarsson, S Burlington VT  
20 405 66.08 Sheila Gabay, Newton MA  
21 448 62.17 Nathan Glasser, Somerville MA  
22 484 59.83 Paul Hattis, Newton MA  
23 522 56.41 Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury MA  
24 585 51.56 Walter Lee, Sudbury MA  
25 687 45.43 Kimberly Gilman, Carlisle MA

[Complete D25 MP List](#)

## **NABC Honor Roll**

### **NABC+ 1st-10**

*FLT OPEN GNT Morehead 3rd /4th*

Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA; Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA; Dean Panagopoulos, Lynn MA; Stephen Gladyszak, Chelsea MA; Adam Grossack, Newton MA; Franklin Merblum, Bloomfield CT

*Truscott Senior Swiss 6th* Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT; Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA; John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT; Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT

*Freeman Mixed BAM 10th* Sheila Gabay, Newton MA; Victor King, Hartford CT

### **NABC 1st-5**

*FLT A GNT 5th/8th* Michael Smith - Susan Smith, Newington CT; Allan Wolf, North Haven CT; Russell Friedman, Wilton CT; Brett Adler - Jeffrey Goldman, Norwalk CT

*RED RIBBON Pairs 2nd* Paul Hattis, Newton MA

*0-2500 Mini Spingold 3rd* Richard Franklin, New Canaan CT

*0-10K Mixed 2nd* Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury MA

*0-6000 Mini Spingold 2<sup>nd</sup>* Ingi Agnarsson S Burlington, VT

*0-6000 Mini Spingold 5th* Arthur Crystal - Debbie Benner, Fairfield CT;

## **YOUTH /COLLEGE**

*Collegiate Pairs 1st* Senmiao Sun, Brookline MA; Chang Liu, Cambridge MA

*National Youth Swiss 2nd* Harrison Luba, Lynnfield MA

*College Pairs Champ 2nd* Oosman Bashir, Cambridge MA

[See List of All D25 Game Winners in Las Vegas](#)

## **Board Meeting Highlights:**

**The board voted to vacate the titles of part NABC+ winners that have been convicted of cheating.**

The original 2 motions were to either vacate the titles and move up just the pair winners, and the other once was to vacate titles and move up all second place to be NABC+ Champions. The committees and full board toiled with this at length and came to a compromise that we could pass as neither motion was gaining any traction as is.

Many felt as I did that its hard to say the second place team is deserving of the title, the cheaters skewed the previous results for example, if I play 2 flat board against a convicted pair and we get 50% and end second and you play 2 swing boards against them that they are able to capitalize on and get near 0 MP in those two boards, then you may well have been second and deserve the win, same in teams the pairings would all be different also. It just becomes a mess when trying to restore equity fairly. We all have great empathy for the second place teams and pairs also and when it seemed we were unable to reach agreement and no titles would be taken at all we altered to what we could all agree on and passed the motion as amended! I feel this was the full board at its best.

#### 192-18: Club Incentive

Moved that: Section D of the Masterpoint Book dealing with Club Awards under the heading

SPECIAL AWARDS IN CLUB EVENTS be modified as follows:

Club Appreciation Team Games – Awards 25% Gold masterpoints for overall positions and match

awards, up to a maximum of 1 masterpoint; remaining awards are black.

Upgraded Club Championships - Awards 25% Gold for overall positions, not session awards or

match awards, up to a maximum of 1 masterpoint; remaining awards are black.

Effective January 1, 2020 or as soon as can be implemented by management

Carried unanimously

192-25A NABC events designated as “Super Senior” be changed from a minimum of 70 years of age to 75

years of age.

Effective January 1, 2020

Carried unanimously

**192-25B** Was important to District 25. The motion to slowly change the age to 65 from 60 (Which I have to agree is correct) was being modified to change it all at once to 65 as it was for the super seniors. If this passed it would have dire consequences for our senior regional which is already our weakest regional on the schedule. I was able to bring up this issue (we have signed contracts and would lose money) and convince them back to a slow change that basically allows anyone that has been playing to continue as the age will go to 62 in 2020 and increase 1 year every year until it is at 65.

Full Motion: The definition of a “Senior” for the purposes of participation in all ACBL events ‘Senior’ be changed from a minimum of 60 years of age to 65 years of age. The requirements earning a “Silver Ribbon” qualification will follow the new Senior Age changes. The following is transition for the senior age change:

Beginning January 1, 2020 Senior Age will be 62

Beginning January 1, 2021 Senior Age will be 63

Beginning January 1, 2022 Senior Age will be 64

Beginning January 1, 2023 Senior Age will be 65

Effective January 1, 2020

192-37 Temporary Memberships have been changed to "Guest Memberships" and are Free. This motion passed without my vote and while it is a good idea, the complete process is not well defined and was presented as a "work in motion". I am not in favor of not defined changes when things that are important like the recruiter bonuses (who gets the money?) was left out and left undefined, this has the potential to upset some of our best recruiters and I feel we have the responsibility to advance a complete plan before voting it in.

Codification Chapter I – Membership, A. Membership Section, 2 – Definitions and Rights of ACBL

Membership be amended to add guest member definition:

2.2 Classes of Membership

2.2.8 Guest member:

2.2.8.1 May join ACBL at no cost;

2.2.8.2 Former members may renew as a guest member, granted that they never achieved the ACBL masterpoint rank of Junior Master;

2.2.8.3 Membership renewal is required every 12 months;

2.2.8.4 The guest membership benefits shall be defined by management policy.

Benefits may be adjusted according to recruitment and upgrading rates;

2.2.8.5 The following benefits shall not be available to guest members:

- a. A subscription to the printed version of the Bridge Bulletin
- b. Promotion to the rank of Junior Master or higher
- c. Credit of masterpoints other than black or unpigmented

## **Governance**

After months of planning and trying to come up with a solution to stream line the board to 9, governance came to the meeting and said they have a new great idea that will require a by law change to allow an executive committee to function at any time (rather than just during the period that the board does not meet) so in reality they would replace the 25 voters with 9 of the directors chosen to the EC. There was no plan on how they would be selected, there was no number of directors that would be on the EC, just the proposal said "Lets change the By Laws to accommodate any change that we want to make."

While I have not been convinced that 9 are more likely to make better decisions than 25, I am certain that 9 can make decisions faster than 25. What I feel the ACBL needs is better thought out decisions and better planning and I have a hard time seeing that come to fruition with this plan. Most quick decisions have impact that we did not expect, and a By Law change to the way the governing body works deserves more than "This is what we thought of literally last night" quotes as this is exactly what we were told.

I voted against this change and the motion failed by 1 vote. While the Status Quo is far from perfect it is well thought out and a representative form of governance that I respect. A no holds barred wholesale change without guidelines is less than the ACBL deserves in my opinion. Quick decisions that result in fires being put out later is one of the reasons people are considering the current structure ineffective.

Again my vote just can not go to half planned motions:

Article VII Committees – Section 7.2 Executive Committee of the ACBL Bylaws are hereby deleted in their entirety and replaced with the following:

7.2 Executive Committee

7.2.1 An Executive Committee of the Board is established, which shall be a committee of the Board. The function of the Executive Committee is to act on behalf of the Board of Directors as meetings provided by Board resolution to the extent allowable permitted by law.

7.2.2 The Executive Committee shall be composed of: The number of and method of selecting members of the Executive Committee shall be determined by the full Board.

7.2.2.1 The President of the ACBL, who shall chair the Committee. 14

7.2.2.2 The Chair of the Board of Directors.

7.2.2.3 Three at-large members of the Board, whose appointment shall be made by a majority of the entire board.

Motion Failed (two-thirds vote required): Aye: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22

[See Complete Meeting Notes](#) Download Attached

**Next Up for NABC is the ever popular San Francisco, CA** starting November 28-December 8 2019.

Hope to see you there!

Visit [www.district25director.org](http://www.district25director.org)

See you at the tables

Bob Bertoni

District 25 Director

**Questions, comments or concerns? Email me: [bob.bertoni@acbl.org](mailto:bob.bertoni@acbl.org)**