

District Director's Report – August 2011

Toronto NABC

The Summer NABC was held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel and Sheraton Center in Toronto, Canada. Attendance was 13,914 tables, a bit above pre-tournament expectations but quite a bit below the table count at the last three NABCs held in Toronto. There were 16,080 tables in Toronto in 2001, 16,680 tables in 1992 and 21,075 tables in 1985. There were mixed reactions from the players about this NABC. On the plus side, Toronto is a beautiful, metropolitan city with many attractions and numerous very good restaurants. Most players enjoyed the city very much.

On the negative side, the Sheraton Center where the Regional events were held is about 5 blocks from the Royal York and even though there were shuttle buses, there were numerous complaints. One of the primary requirements for NABC sites is that the playing space be located in one building (or at two sites adjacent to one another as is the case in Boston). I believe many board members will be reluctant to vote for another site where the playing areas are as far apart as they were in Toronto. Another big problem is that the room where the Championship Flight and Flight A GNT events were played on the first day did not have sufficient space between the tables and was much too warm for the players competing in this important NABC event. I apologize to those players who had to endure these unsatisfactory conditions.

TOP 10 FINISHERS IN NABC EVENTS – DISTRICT 25

GNT C

Joy Dawson, Jamaica Plain MA
Christine Halkiotis, Wellesley Hills MA
Barry Herring, Wellesley MA
Diogo Teixeira, Wellesley MA 3/4

LIFE MASTER PAIRS

Jay Borker, Greenwich CT 3

LM - 1500 PAIRS

Richard Franklin, New Canaan CT 5

SENIOR SWISS TEAMS

Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA
Luke Gillespie, Wayland MA
Robert McCaw, Sudbury MA
James Streisand, Sudbury MA 6

Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT
Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT
Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA
John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT 8

OPEN PAIRS

Zachary Grossack, Newton MA
Adam Parrish, Arlington MA 4

MINI SPINGOLD I (0 – 5000)

Alex Dezieck, Wilbraham MA 5/8

Natalie Bassil, Boston MA
Joseph DeGaetano, Atkinson NH 9/16

FAST PAIRS

Lewis Gamerman, Westwood MA
Robert McCaw, Sudbury MA 2

MIXED BAM TEAMS

Stephen Gladyszak, Chelsea MA
Pamela Miller, Cambridge MA
James Rasmussen, Cambridge MA 5

WOMEN'S KO TEAMS

Phyllis Fireman 3/4

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

CEO Report

CEO Jay Baum reported that we currently have 166,245 members, slightly below the June 2010 level. Expectations are that membership will be at the 2010 level by the end of the year. Jay also reported that tournament tables for 2011 will be approximately equal to the 2010 count, a satisfactory result.

The 7th edition of the Official Encyclopedia of Bridge is on schedule and will be available before the end of the year. The new encyclopedia will include biographies of the players on a separate CD included with the hard cover book. Watch for additional information in upcoming ACBL Bridge Bulletins.

2018 World Bridge Series Championship

The BOD approved having the 2018 World Championships here in North America, subject to approval by both the USBF and World Bridge Federation.

Financial Results

The Finance Committee reported the following results for the first six months of 2011:

	<u>2011 Budget</u>	<u>2011 Act/Projected</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Through June 30	\$ (108,600)	\$ 336,900	\$ 445,500
2011 Calendar Year	\$ 116,900	\$ 566,200	\$ 449,300

The main reasons for the favorable variances are that several positions were not filled as quickly as anticipated, in addition to higher than actual budget estimates for Utilities, Insurance, Advertising and Professional Fees. The ACBL continues to be in excellent financial condition.

New CEO

I am pleased to report that the CEO Search Committee has recommended and the BOD has unanimously approved the hiring of a new CEO effective November 2, to replace Jay Baum, who is retiring. With considerable assistance from two outside consultants, Bob Blanchard and Steve Beatty, the committee has done an outstanding job over the past six months identifying several highly qualified candidates and recommending the person they believe to be most qualified. The name of the new CEO will be announced as soon as a contract is signed. Based on my impressions of him at the board meeting, I have every expectation the new CEO will do an outstanding job.

ACBL Score Replacement

I am also happy to report that an outside consultant, Nicolas Hammond, has been hired as Project Manager for developing the new ACBL Score program. I have been working closely with the project team and, based on my initial impression of Nicolas, I believe this highly important project will be completed in 2012. The general consensus is that the proposed new system will be much easier for both Tournament Directors and Club Managers to use. The new system will also make it possible for the ACBL to improve considerably the reporting of results. The existing ACBL Score was built in 1982.

Player Misconduct at Clubs

A motion was made that player misconduct at any ACBL club should be subject to subsequent action by Units, Districts or the ACBL to enforce any violations of ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. Presently, only incidents of alleged cheating at clubs can be acted upon by Units, Districts or the ACBL. I voted in favor of the motion but it failed in a close vote.

Starting Time for 2013 Atlanta Summer NABC

Based on a recommendation from the local district, the BOD approved starting times for NABC events at the 2013 Summer NABC in Atlanta of 10:00 am and 3:30 pm. Regional events will be held at 10:00, 1:00 and 7:30.

As usual, the complete minutes of the BOD meeting will be published on the ACBL website within the next two weeks. Please let me know if you have questions or other feedback on actions taken by the BOD.

Top 25 Masterpoint Winners – Toronto NABC

<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Points Won In NABC+ Events</u>
1 Robert McCaw, Sudbury MA	209.20	158.55
2 Lewis Gamerman, Westwood MA	130.92	85.32
3 Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA	114.57	48.96
4 Zach Grossack, Newton MA	109.55	57.78
5 John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT	107.18	68.29
6 Jay Borker, Greenwich CT	106.88	106.88
7 Adam Parrish, Arlington MA	103.96	72.84
8 Stephen Gladyszak, Chelsea MA	99.14	89.73
9 Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT	97.71	63.25
10 Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA	93.36	81.96
11 Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT	77.69	77.69
12 Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT	73.41	48.96
13 Adam Grossack, Newton MA	67.30	2.81
14 Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	65.88	30.91
15 Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	63.99	51.06
16 James Streisand, Sudbury MA	52.91	37.40
Luke Gillespie, Wayland MA	52.91	37.40
18 Richard Wieland, Redding CT	52.84	16.97
19 Lloyd Arvedon, Natick MA	51.92	8.31
20 Pamela Miller, Cambridge MA	48.24	48.24
James Rasmussen, Cambridge MA	48.24	48.24
22 Harold Feldheim, Hamden CT	47.86	16.97
23 Ellie Hanlon, Barre VT	45.70	21.86
Mary Savko, Barre VT	45.70	21.86
25 Vincent Messina, Wolfeboro NH	45.54	1.02

The Fall NABC will be held from November 24 through December 4 at the Sheraton Seattle in Seattle, Washington. Please note that there is a new two-day qualifying NABC event, a Senior Mixed Pairs, with National rating, to be held on Wednesday and Thursday of the second week. Full details on the schedule and host hotels will be included in the August ACBL Bridge Bulletin. I hope to see many of you in Seattle.

Rich DeMartino
District Director