

District Director's Report – March 2012

Memphis NABC

The Spring NABC was held at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis, Tennessee. Attendance was 9,626 tables, fairly close to pre-tournament expectations. The Convention Center has superb playing space and excellent lighting, with the playing space being very close to the host hotel and several other hotels.

Tournament Co-Chairs, Henry Francis, a former New Englander and long-term ACBL Bulletin Editor, and Don Paterson, and their committee did an outstanding job making this tournament special. I extend our appreciation to the entire Committee and a very special thanks to Prize Committee Chair Ed Davis, who was at the Registration Desk about 10 hours a day, always with a big smile, handling prizes, registration, tours and restaurants. Evening hospitality was excellent and the daily treats during the sessions were also well received. The only complaint I heard is that many thought the daily room rate of \$165 including tax was quite high for a city like Memphis.

Everyone who attended had a good time and, as you will note below, there were three winners from our District. Special kudos to Sheila Gabay, who becomes the 15th Grand Life Master in our District with her win in the Mixed Pairs.

TOP 10 FINISHERS IN NABC EVENTS – DISTRICT 25

PLATINUM PAIRS

Richard Zeckhauser, Cambridge MA 9

IMP PAIRS

Carolyn Sessler, Boca Raton FL 4

SILVER RIBBON PAIRS

Lloyd Arvedon, Natick MA
Sheila Gabay, Newton MA 2

Frank Mastrola, Swansea MA 5

MIXED PAIRS

Sheila Gabay, Newton MA
Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA 1

WOMEN'S PAIRS

Karen McCallum, Exeter NH 3

RED RIBBON PAIRS

Jason Rotenberg, Ridgefield CT	1
Lon Sunshine Framingham MA Ivanie Yeo, Brighton MA	4

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS – C

Reid Barton, Arlington MA Emily Shen, Cambridge MA	2
Vincent Fish, Chelmsford MA Daniel Jablonski, Stoneham MA	7

WOMEN'S SWISS

Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	5
Karen McCallum, Exeter NH	7

VANDERBILT

Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	9-16
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Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

CEO Report

CEO Robert Hartman reported that membership numbers have gotten off to a very good start in 2012. As of the end of February, total membership stands at 166,145, the highest figure since the mid-1990s. At the same point last year, membership was 164,499. There have been 2,329 new members year-to-date, a 13% increase over 2011.

Tournaments are also doing well. Through February, average Regional table count is up 8%; average STAC table count is up 3%; and, average Sectional table count is down 5%. Club table count (including on-line games) for January is 290,126, an increase of 6.5% over 2011.

The CEO also reported the very good trend in NAP club qualifying games:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	
NAP Tables	49,306	55,148	70,498	Two Year Change = 43%.

Financial Results

The final result for calendar year 2011 is a net gain of \$516,000, which compares very favorably with the 2011 approved budget of \$117,000. This result is despite the fact that the Seattle Fall NABC profit was almost \$180,000 worse than projected. For 2012, the BOD approved a budget which projects a gain of \$86,000.

Junior Fund Money

The Junior Task Force initially submitted a motion which would have eliminated Junior Coupons for players who have more than 500 masterpoints. Fortunately, as a result of some negative feedback, this motion was modified in Committee to eliminate the masterpoint restrictions. The motion which passed is as follows:

Junior coupons will be made available for junior members in good standing for entry into events at NABCs.

- A. Any junior under the age of 26 years who is a full time student (must provide proof of eligibility) will be entitled to coupons that can be used for any event. These coupons will have a value of \$10.00 per session.
- B. Any junior under the age of 21 years will be entitled to coupons that can be used for any event. These coupons will have a value of \$10.00 per session.
- C. Any junior under the age of 19 years will be granted free plays for each session of regionally rated events.

I wish to thank those juniors in our district and other districts who wrote to me expressing their views on this subject. I was opposed to the initial motion before seeing the letters but it is gratifying to learn how important junior coupons are to our younger players.

New Masterpoint Formula

I regret to report that once again the BOD has deferred making a decision on a proposed revised method of computing masterpoints for pair and non-KO team games. Frank Hacker from our District is one of two mathematicians who did a great job developing the proposed new formulas. The changes proposed are relatively minor and fix some known problems. Without going into too much detail, the two basic problems are:

- (i) When stratified games were introduced many years ago, a decision was made to credit the top flight with all the tables from lower flights. What has happened over the years is that tables are sometimes credited to an event starting at a different time or even from a completely different event (e.g., a pair game receives credit for tables in a Senior Swiss event).
- (ii) when an A/X game is held on a day where there is a Gold Rush game, the awards are quite a bit higher even though the field is essentially the same as on another day when there is no Gold Rush game but a smaller B/C game instead. The proposed changes would make the awards for the A/X game the about the same both days, if the size and strength of the event are about the same, clearly a more desirable result.

Neither of these results was intended many years ago when stratified games were introduced. I'll be happy to discuss this subject further with anyone who may be interested but be assured the proposed formulas, if adopted, will not cause any group of players a problem.

For complete details on Board actions, please refer to the minutes of the Board meeting on the ACBL website (ACBL.org). These will be posted within the next two weeks.

Top 25 Masterpoint Winners – Memphis NABC

<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Points Won In NABC+ Events</u>
1 Sheila Gabay, Newton MA	175.00	175.00
2 Frank Merblum, Bloomfield CT	114.41	114.41
3 Doug Doub, W Hartford CT	114.20	114.20
4 Karen McCallum, Exeter NH	113.67	94.35
5 Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA	110.64	110.64
6 Jay Borker, Greenwich CT	100.66	100.66
7 Lloyd Arvedon, Natick MA	100.58	99.18
8 Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	83.01	81.25
9 Richard Zeckhauser, Cambridge MA	81.48	81.48
10 Jason Rotenberg, Ridgefield CT	79.76	
11 Nathan Glasser, Somerville MA	64.53	
12 Alan Applebaum, Brookline MA	64.25	64.25
13 Frank Mastrola, Swansea MA	61.20	54.09
14 Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT	58.84	27.57
15 Buddhadeb Biswas, Lexington MA	57.64	7.71
16 Carolyn Sessler, Boca Raton FL	48.59	48.59
17 Peter Manzon, Waltham MA	47.84	3.53
Robert Bertoni, Haverhill MA	47.84	3.53
19 Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	47.37	44.92
20 John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT	43.19	41.79
21 Sandra DeMartino, Riverside CT	42.07	10.11
22 Bill Irvine, Quincy MA	41.52	24.80
23 Ivania Yeo, Brighton MA	36.07	8.54
Lon Sunshine, Framingham MA	36.07	8.54
25 Haven Sharaf, Danvers MA	33.55	16.83

The Summer NABC will be held in historic Philadelphia from July 12 - July 22 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and Philadelphia Marriott. As most of you know, the City of Brotherly Love has many attractions and good places to eat. Please note that the main starting times for most NABC events will be 10:00 and 3:00 and for Regional Events 10:00 and 2:30. This is the first time since Atlanta in 2005 where the main starting time will be 10:00AM instead of 1:00 PM and my guess is if these times prove popular, as they have for many Regionals around the country, there will be more NABCs with earlier starting times. I look forward to seeing many of you there. The Fall NABC will be in San Francisco.

Rich DeMartino
District 25 Director