

WAGAR WOMEN'S KO

Karen McCallum, Exeter NH 2

MINI SPINGOLD I

Seth Cohen, Stamford CT 3/4

Doug Anderson, Quincy MA 9/16

Debbie Benner, Fairfield CT
Arthur Crystal, Fairfield CT 9/16

OPEN SWISS

Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA 1

SPINGOLD

Allan Graves, Saint Johnsbury VT 1

Doug Doub, West Hartford CT 9/16

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

CEO Report

CEO Robert Hartman reported that overall membership has increased only slightly for the first six months of the year. Average Regional table count is down 9% (1,422 vs. 1,571) and average Sectional table count is down 7% (165 vs. 178). STACs are a bright spot with total and average table count up 2%.

Though not as bad as District 25's decline in Regional table count, these figures should be a concern for all.

Financial Results

The Finance Committee reported the following results based on actuals through May 31:

| | <u>Through May 31</u> | | <u>2014 Calendar Year</u> | | |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Current Forecast</u> | <u>Full Year Variance</u> |
| Net Income | \$ - 180,100 | \$ -168, 100 | \$ + 5,800 | \$ -186,300 | \$ -192,100 |

The main reasons presented for the negative variance are: worse than expected Regionals at Sea income (\$73,000 lower); higher than anticipated insurance payments on two claims (\$46,000); and additional expenditures for Technology (TourneyTrax support, Learn to Play Bridge site hosting and Results Reporting infrastructure development).

North American Swiss – Fall Schedule

In Dallas, the ACBL Board passed a motion to reduce the Fall Swiss from 3 days to two starting on Saturday instead of Friday, to be effective in 2015. As a result of a request from the Board of Governors to reconsider the motion as well as input from the C&C Committee based on a poll of the players who played in that event last year, the Board voted to restore the Fall Swiss to 3 days starting on Friday. I am delighted we corrected this problem. The C&C Committee is considering other changes to the Fall schedule; if these changes have merit, they will be presented in the near future.

ACBL Score

I reported in my last report that our CEO advised us that work on ACBL Score+ had fallen about nine months behind schedule and that a complete review would be done as quickly as possible. Robert advised us that as a result of the review Management decided to halt work on the proposed new ACBL Score+ project and instead make enhancements to the existing ACBL Score. I can only report this is a major disappointment to me and several other board members. The CEO promised that more details and specific project goals would be presented to the Board no later than the Fall NABC.

Masterpoint Changes

Some significant changes are being proposed in Masterpoints. These will not be final until a second reading in November. I will attempt to describe the highlights as briefly as I can but suggest that those interested in more detail read the complete board minutes. I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have before Providence.

NABC Events: Masterpoint awards for several NABC events are being changed, including: the NAP A award will increase from 65 to 100 masterpoints; the GNT NABC level awards are all being raised; and, the match awards for the Spingold and Vanderbilt are being increased from 6 masterpoints to 10 masterpoints (8 for the Senior KO and Wagar).

Pair games: Awards for all Regional, Sectional, STAC and other non-NABC pair games are being increased by 25%. Historically, all awards have been based on number of tables, not number of participants. Many believe winning a 30 table Swiss is equivalent to winning a 30 table pair game but others correctly observe there are double the participants in a pair game. After much analysis and discussion, we decided that increasing the award for pair games by 25% is a reasonable compromise.

X Strata Awards: Presently, there is a serious problem in the way X awards are computed. What causes this problem is that under present rules the X award must be 105% of the first place award for the top strata in the game below. Consequently, a very small stratum will receive a higher award than perhaps a far larger game below. Those in the X category have a chance at winning the A overall awards which is a big benefit but now the award will be computed based on a factor times the full A award and is no longer guaranteed to be higher than the top award for the lower flight.

Increased Strata: One of the major objectives of the current Masterpoint Committee was to address the perception that the popularity of gold rush games has disenfranchised those with just above 750 masterpoints. These players often must compete and play against players with far more masterpoints.

The Masterpoint Committee is proposing two new types of games to solve this problem, one on a permanent basis (3-3) and the other on a trial basis (2-2-2). First, a stratum is being added to the top flight, so all games will be allowed to add a separate stratum for 750 – 1500 (or possibly higher). We are also planning to allow a District to hold a game with 3 separate flights (e.g. Gold Rush; 750 –

2500; and 2500+), each with 2 strata. This will initially be on a trial basis and requires advance approval. I plan to provide more details in a separate release but I am hopeful those players currently most affected will welcome and be enthusiastic about these proposals.

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 – Las Vegas NABC

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Total Points</u> | <u>Points Won In NABC+ Events</u> |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| 1 Allan Graves, St Johnsbury VT | 315.35 | 250.00 |
| 2 Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT | 254.04 | 254.04 |
| 3 Franklin Merblum, Bloomfield CT | 216.59 | 216.59 |
| 4 Zachary Grossack, Newton MA | 172.50 | 150.48 |
| 5 Adam Grossack, Newton MA | 155.54 | 138.67 |
| 6 Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA | 152.07 | 150.00 |
| 7 Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA | 80.80 | 64.54 |
| 8 Karen McCallum, Exeter NH | 74.24 | 69.17 |
| 9 John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT | 73.19 | 47.86 |
| 10 Seth Cohen, Stamford CT | 71.21 | 5.46 |
| 11 Victor King, Hartford CT | 70.33 | 47.66 |
| 12 Richard Zeckhauser, Cambridge MA | 65.79 | 54.26 |
| 13 Walter Lee, Sudbury MA | 64.96 | 64.96 |
| 14 Sheila Gabay, Newton MA | 63.04 | 61.48 |
| 15 Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT | 55.86 | 23.63 |
| 16 Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA | 55.08 | 53.01 |
| 17 Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury MA | 54.81 | 11.99 |
| 18 Daniel Albert Rozenberg, Cambridge MA | 53.74 | |
| 19 Kamla Chawla, Longmeadow MA | 52.14 | 2.00 |
| 20 Alexander Frieden, Brookline MA | 51.09 | |
| 21 Alex Dezieck, Wilbraham MA | 49.31 | 12.66 |
| 22 Carole Weinstein, Waltham MA | 46.73 | 1.20 |
| 23 Shome Mukherjee, Randolph MA | 46.01 | 11.82 |
| 24 Brett Adler, Norwalk CT | 45.71 | 27.57 |
| 25 Alan Applebaum, Brookline MA | 44.00 | 44.00 |

As you undoubtedly know by now, the next NABC is our very own 2014 Fall NABC in Providence, RI from November 27 through December 7. The 2014 National Committee, chaired by Helen Pawlowski and Joe Brouillard, is doing a fantastic job planning to make this event a great NABC for all who attend. If you haven't done so already, please consider offering to volunteer in some capacity for a few hours. Many of you may not be aware that there will be numerous events each day for players at all levels including newcomers and 299ers so please plan to come and join the fun for at least a few days. See our website provnabc.org for details of the events and also feel free to contact any member of the NABC Committee or District 25 Board if you have any questions. Plan to be there. You'll have a great time!

Rich DeMartino
District Director