

District Director's Report – December 2010

Orlando NABC

The Fall NABC was held at the Marriott World Center in Orlando, a magnificent and spacious resort hotel. Attendance was a disappointing 12,648 tables, well below pre-tournament expectations and 1,994 tables below the 2004 attendance at the same site.

The site is wonderful and the playing conditions were excellent. Players commented on the great hospitality, particularly the free coffee and orange juice, for which Florida is famous. One problem observed by many players is that the walk from the guest rooms to the Regional playing space was a bit long.

Many thanks to the volunteers from District 9 who worked so hard to make this NABC a success. I believe everyone who attended had a great time. I know Sandy and I did.

TOP 10 FINISHERS IN NABC EVENTS – DISTRICT 25

LM PAIRS

Jay Borker, Greenwich CT 8

OPEN BAM TEAMS

Lloyd Arvedon, Bedford, MA 5

WOMEN'S BAM TEAMS

Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill, MA 3

BLUE RIBBON PAIRS

Jay Borker, Greenwich CT 1

0 – 5000 BLUE RIBBON PAIRS

Dean Panagopoulos, Lynn MA
Yiji Starr, Wayland MA 2

NORTH AMERICAN SWISS TEAMS

Allan Graves, Barnett VT 8

SUPER SENIOR PAIRS

Frank Mastrola, Swansea MA 9

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

CEO Report

CEO Jay Baum reported that membership for the first 10 months of 2010 has remained about the same as last year. There will be 11,000 new members for the year, which has been our average for the past several years.

Club table counts are running at about the same level as in 2010 while online tables are expected to increase about 10% to in excess of 600,000 tables. Regional and Sectional tables are about the same as in 2009 and STACs continue to grow; 2010 tables for STACs are expected to set a new record.

Financial Results

For calendar year 2010, Management and the Finance Committee are currently projecting a loss of \$67,000; this result compares quite favorably with the budgeted loss of \$374,000. Unfortunately, the poor table count in Orlando will probably result in a worse result than the current projection of a \$67,000 loss.

For 2011, our preliminary budget anticipates a net income of approximately \$140,000. The final 2011 budget will be prepared in February and approved by the BOD in March. The only fee increase will be Tournament Director fees, which will increase 4% due to salary increases and increased benefit costs for our TDs. I believe this is a very positive result.

Election of ACBL President

Congratulations to Craig Robinson from District 4, who was elected 2011 President. I have every confidence that Craig will be an outstanding President.

Slow Play Regulations

The Board passed new slow play regulations which we expect will provide our TDs with the authority necessary to reduce slow play. As everyone should be aware, slow play, especially habitual slow play, is a violation of law and is subject to penalty. One of my stated goals coming into 2010 was to decrease slow play. As I visited various sites around the country, I found that most of our players enthusiastically support this goal. The TDs who helped draft the new regulations believe the regulations provide them with the authority to enforce slow play penalties. The BOD has stressed to Management the importance of having our TDs uniformly enforce the slow play rules. How well the TDs do remains to be seen.

The full minutes of the Board Meeting will be posted on the ACBL Website within the next 10 days or so. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

ACBL Goodwill Committee & Charity Committee Appointments

It gives me great pleasure to announce the following appointments to the ACBL National Goodwill Committee and the National Charity Committee. These are lifetime appointments honoring players who have contributed substantially to bridge.

National Goodwill Committee:

Donna Fehr, CBA

Susan Miguel, RIBA

Both Donna and Susan are most deserving of this appointment because of their exemplary behavior towards other bridge players and their promotion of bridge in District 25.

National Charity Committee:

Rita Brieger, CBA

Susan Seckinger, CBA

Both Rita and Susan have contributed greatly to bridge by being heavily involved in activities which result in increased membership in the ACBL.

Top 25 Masterpoint Winners - Orlando NABC

<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Points Won In NABC+ Events</u>
1 Jay Borker, Greenwich CT	228.46	228.46
2 Allan Graves, Barnet VT	155.78	155.78
3 Richard DeMartino, Riverside CT	125.67	59.29
4 Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT	120.41	59.29
5 John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT	115.40	59.29
6 Yiji Starr, Wayland MA	97.45	39.30
7 Dean Panagopoulos, Lynn MA	94.65	38.40
8 Lloyd Arvedon, Bedford MA	71.52	62.28
9 Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA	70.22	25.00
10 Edward Spear, Bangor ME	68.20	
11 Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	67.56	61.79
12 Allen McRae, Portland ME	64.03	
13 Richard Budd, Portland ME	62.86	14.81
14 Roland Miller, Bowdoin ME	59.48	
15 Robert Berton, Haverhill MA	57.99	1.59
16 Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT	57.82	46.86
17 Barton Buffington, North Kingstown RI	54.84	
18 Pamela Miller, Cambridge MA	52.83	52.83
James Rasmussen, Cambridge MA	52.83	52.83
20 Melvin Marcus, Waltham MA	52.75	15.08
21 Buddhadeb Biswas, Lexington MA	51.51	1.59
22 Laura Lipman, Augusta ME	50.55	
23 J Peter Tripp, Williston VT	50.47	
Penny Lane, Williston VT	50.47	
25 Forrest Wardwell Jr, Bucksport ME	47.69	

Top Platinum Masterpoint Winner – 2010 NABCs

Congratulations to Jay Borker, who won the Blue Ribbon Pairs in Orlando and also won 252 platinum masterpoints in 2010, more than any other District 25 player. Rich DeMartino was second with 220 platinum points followed closely by John Stiefel with 216 platinum points. Platinum points are awarded for NABC+ events which are nationally-rated events with no upper masterpoint limit.

It is indeed an honor and privilege to have been the 2010 ACBL President. It is a challenging job and I am pleased to report that most of the board members are very pleased with the progress we have made this year. Besides being instrumental in settling the Tournament Directors' lawsuit against the ACBL, I am pleased to have shared responsibility for action taken to reduce significantly the number of "Triple Point" games. More importantly, we have made significant advances in technology this past year and are on track to complete more next year. We have implemented vastly improved reporting for club results that most players love; are close to implementing changes to the ACBL Website which will make the website far easier to navigate; and have begun work on a project to replace ACBL Score over the next 12 - 18 months. I am optimistic that we will continue to make significant advances in technology over the next few years. Thanks to all of you who have helped us achieve our goals. In my view, the honor I have received is a tribute to the District as well. I hope to continue to serve District 25 to the best of my ability.

The 2011 Spring NABC will be held from March 10 through March 20 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, home of the Kentucky Derby. The Galt House overlooks the Ohio River and is just a few short blocks from town and attractions such as the Louisville Slugger Museum and the Mohammad Ali Center. The local District Director, Beth Reid, assures me all will have a great time. I hope to see you there.

Rich DeMartino
District Director