

OPEN PAIRS

Richard Budd, Portland ME	
Zachary Grossack, Newton MA	2
Frank Merblum, Bloomfield CT	6
Lewis Gamerman, Westwood MA	
Adam Grossack, Newton MA	10

NABC 0 – 10000 KO

Andy Avery, Jamaica VT	5/8
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VANDERBILT

Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	5/8
Allan Graves, Saint Johnsbury VT	9/16

NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS – C

Akhil Ketkar, Boston MA	
Neil Kreuzer, Brighton MA	3

WOMEN'S SWISS

Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	3
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OPEN SWISS

Allan Graves, Saint Johnsbury VT	5
Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	8
Adam Parrish, Sandwich MA	10

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

CEO Report

CEO Robert Hartman reported that membership at the end of February is 167,763, about 880 more than in February 2013.

Through February, Regional table count has decreased by 8% but average Regional table count is up 13% (there were 4 fewer Regionals on the schedule during the first two months of 2014). Total Sectional table count is down 9% while average Sectional table count is down 6%. STAC Table count has declined by 5%. Total 2013 table count for clubs is 3,128,529, of which 942,040 tables are from online games.

The CEO announced that there will be a preview of the newly designed ACBL website over the next few weeks. I encourage you to forward comments on the new website so I can pass them along to Management. I expressed concern in the meeting that the Board was not asked for input on the new design prior to the planned release.

Financial Results

Final results for the 2013 calendar year are as follows:

2013 Budget: \$ 32,300 2013 Actual: \$ 200,700 Variance: + \$168,400

2014 Budget: + \$5,800

Management has suggested that we consider a change in the way we charge for tournaments. Presently, there is a sanction fee based on tables plus separate charges for Tournament Directors (including lodging, per diem and travel). We will consider whether it is preferable to have one combined charge based on table count. The Finance Committee supported the proposal to move forward on such a plan. I will seek District and Unit input as soon more details become available. My initial reaction is there are both pros and cons to the proposal.

Responsibilities of Tournament Sponsors and DICs

I chaired a committee which produced a document titled: "Roles and Responsibilities of Tournament Sponsors and DICs." This document, approved by the Board, defines the official rules for determining which responsibilities rest with the Sponsoring Organization, which are at the option of Director In Charge and which are shared. Basically, the District or Unit has the final decision on matters such as # of boards to be played in pair games (24-27); # of boards to be played in Swiss team games (48-56); whether or not to use masterpoint averaging; and whether to use handicapping in KOs. Details are included in the final minutes. This committee was formed primarily because some TDs in other parts of the country were under the mistaken impression that the final decision maker on these issues is the DIC.

Proposed Changes to NABC Schedule

Based on committee recommendations, the Board voted to implement several changes to the NABC Schedule, including: (i) Move the Fast Pairs, currently played in the Summer, to the Spring NABC opposite the Swiss on the last weekend; (ii) Extend the four-session Swiss on the last weekend of the Summer NABC to six sessions; and (iii) Move both the Mixed BAM, currently played on Thursday/Friday in the Summer and the Werner Open Pairs, currently played on Tuesday/Wednesday in the Summer to Wednesday/Thursday (the two events will be run concurrently as is currently the case with the Mixed BAM and Fast Pairs). Finally, change the six-session Swiss on the last weekend of the Fall NABC to four sessions.

I support all the changes except for shortening the six-session Swiss to four sessions, which I strongly oppose. My reasons are simple: most of the 194 teams who played in last year's North American Swiss will have no NABC event to play in on Friday except the Reisinger, an extremely tough event which most will not enter. Additionally, many of those who regularly play in the Reisinger have indicated they strongly prefer coming down to 10 – 15 teams on the final day; even if only 20 additional teams enter the Reisinger, that is no longer possible without severe cuts.

ACBL Score+

The CEO reported that work on ACBL Score+ has fallen about nine months behind schedule. Since ACBL Score+ is so critical to our future, this report is of great concern to many board members. Few reasons were given for the delays but we are assured Management will make take whatever actions are necessary to complete the project satisfactorily.

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 – Dallas NABC

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Platinum</u>
1	Bernard Yomtov, Cambridge MA	181.74	156.25
2	Frank Merblum, Bloomfield CT	121.78	121.78
3	Paul Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	119.60	118.46
4	Zachary Grossack, Newton MA	113.74	99.62
5	Allan Graves, Saint Johnsbury VT	112.93	101.12
6	Richard Budd, Portland ME	100.55	96.14
7	Adam Parrish, Sandwich MA	83.54	79.79
8	Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	82.44	76.32
9	Alan Applebaum, Brookline MA	80.94	80.94
10	Lewis Gamerman, Westwood MA	79.93	73.25
11	Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT	68.21	66.33
12	Lloyd Arvedon, Woburn MA	52.23	45.98
13	John Hrones Jr, Needham MA	50.47	
	Robert Lurie, Wayland MA	50.47	
15	Adam Grossack, Newton MA	48.65	35.45
16	Cenk Tuncok, Amesbury MA	45.40	11.30
17	Mark Aquino, Jamaica Plain MA	44.42	18.74
18	Bill Irvine, Quincy MA	43.92	24.55
19	Haven Sharaf, Danvers MA	43.92	24.55
20	Andy Avery, Jamaica VT	38.13	3.20
21	Barton Buffington, North Kingstown RI	37.04	
22	Pat McDevitt, Brookline MA	36.36	36.36
23	Stephen Gladyszak, Chelsea MA	35.16	18.47
24	Ann Borgschulte, Lexington MA	34.07	17.38
25	Stewart Rubenstein, Newton MA	32.55	

The Summer NABC will be held at the Las Vegas Hotel in Las Vegas from July 17 - July 27.

As most already know, District 25 will host the 2014 Fall NABC in Providence, RI from November 27 through December 7. Our 2014 National Committee is doing a terrific job planning to make this event a great NABC. How can you help? First, many volunteers are needed to make this an NABC we can all be proud of so I encourage those of you who have not yet volunteered to do so by advising the 2014 NABC Committee. Every little bit helps. The success of an NABC depends in large part on how many local players attend. There are events for players at all levels so I encourage you to come and enjoy the fun for at least a few days. For further details, please see our great 2014 Providence NABC Website (accessible from the top of the District 25 Website). Once again: Be a volunteer if you are able and plan to come and play!

Rich DeMartino
District Director