

April 2010

Report of ACBL Board of Directors Meetings

Reno NABC, March 2010

This is the fourth NABC that has been held in Reno with each of the previous three setting a new attendance record for a Spring National. The most recent in 2004 almost hit 15,000 tables. Alas, this one fell far short of that number, but at least managed to have respectable numbers and reach 8th place. While the tournament was at the same location as in previous years, the hotel clearly has seen better days. Sometimes you aren't acutely aware of the bad air until you go to another place (which we did for the volunteer dinner) and all of a sudden everyone can breathe better.

The Platinum Pairs, our new 3-session NABC+ event, was held for the first time and I would say it was a big success. Postcards were sent out by Management to all eligible players for the event and I know it contributed to the attendance. For the first two days the IMP Pairs ran concurrently and that event had the biggest attendance ever.

As for the meetings, it seemed constant. I was having to squeeze in meetings at 8:00 a.m. before the regular 9:00 a.m. meeting, every lunch time, and before and after dinner. I had at least 3 or 4 meetings in my room because my room had better lighting. Most of this time was spent with the Regional Allocation Committee. There was a committee appointed after the summer meetings last year, but it never actually met. Since the reason for the committee did not go away, this year's president appointed a new committee which started meeting via phone conference in February. We are looking at the whole picture. I am not the chairman, just a member, but my hope is that we will be able to have any motions or changes to the current regulations in the journal to be voted on in the Fall, especially since that will be my last hurrah.

I was appointed to chair the Special Games at Clubs Committee along with a request from our President, Rich DeMartino, that we meet by phone conference prior to the Spring meeting and prepare a motion for the Reno journal. This seemed like a pretty tall order since this has been the subject of such controversy in the past three years. The first thing necessary is to have a good committee that can look at the whole picture, not just what "they" want. I got it. Then we discussed everything, compromised and came to a unanimous agreement. When I presented the motion to the Board, I stated that every one on the committee, including me, would personally like to change something and I am sure all of the Board would also like to do so. However, this is the compromise the committee could all agree upon and I hope the full Board will also. They did, 23 to 2. The motion which goes into effect July 1 is:

The month of February is reserved for Junior Fund Games, the month of April is reserved for charity games and the month of September is reserved for

International Fund games and in those months any and all ACBL sanctioned club sessions may be special games for the named funds. In the remaining nine months of the year one game per month per sanctioned session may be a special game for either the Junior Fund, International Fund, Educational Foundation or charity.

The masterpoint rating for all of these special games will be 70% of Sectional Rating maintaining the current cap of 6.00 masterpoints.

Management’s recommendation to return to the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, CA for the 2017 Fall NABC on November 23 – December 3, 2017 was approved unanimously faster than the speed of light.

We had a motion from the Board of Governors that either 26 or 27 boards be played in regional events at NABCs in any session of a pair game and at least 52 boards be played in any two-session team game. Fortunately, this failed. It is my opinion that nothing of this type be mandated. There are always circumstances that arise in different places or in different events that might need numbers to be changed.

Now all sanctioned games held at clubs, with the sole exception of STaCs, will be counted in Ace of Clubs masterpoint races at Unit, District and ACBL wide levels. This is retroactive to January 1, 2010.

The requirements for ranks up to Life Master were modified as indicated in the table below. These requirements apply to members who join or re-join January 1, 2010 or later and are retroactive to January 1. They do not apply to those who were members before January 1, 2010 and maintain their membership continuously.

Rank	Min Pts	Min GP	Min RGP	Min S	Min B	Min B	Max B	Max T	Max T	
						now	proposed	now	proposed	now
Junior Master	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	1.66	5
Club Master	20	0	0	0	0	5	20	20	6.66	15
Sectional Master	50	0	0	5	0	10	45	45	16.66	25
Regional Master	100	0	5	15	0	15	60	60	33.33	40
NABC Master	200	5	15	25	0	20	155	155	66.66	70
Advanced NABC Master	300	25	25	50	50	50	200	200	100	100
Life Master	500	50	50	75	75	75	325	325	166.66	165

We had a motion to raise the senior age. One of these days, I am going back and count how many such motions we have over the years. This one went the way of all the previous ones

– down to defeat. We did, however, establish a Super Seniors Pairs (age 70+) as an NABC+ event. It will:

- ! be held at the Fall 2010 NABC and continue at each Fall NABC until further notice
- ! be held the last two days of the Fall NABC
- ! have start times of 10 a.m. & 3 p.m.
- ! consist of 2 qualifying and 2 final sessions
- ! award platinum points according to the national formula for masterpoints
- ! not count towards senior masterpoint races
- ! not qualify for Grand Life Master eligibility

A Unit may use two of its three extended team game sanctions to run a 2-stage event, with a Round Robin phase of at least 4 matches to qualify teams to a KO bracket. This was a motion I put on the agenda because someone at Headquarters decided that what we have been doing here for 50 years was illegal. I made it official – no one argued – it was on the consent calendar.

The formula for masterpoints for special games at clubs will have the appropriate “M” factor applied when there are masterpoint limitations, in exactly the same manner as the “M” factor is applied to all games conducted at tournaments. What this motion says is that in the I/N games, they will no longer get more points in the club for the same tables as they would get in a Sectional tournament. This was a glitch that should not have happened in the first place, but we had to “officially” fix it.

There were two motions for which I was the lone naysayer. One was the budget, which is normal. There is always something I object to. This time it was the 8% increase in director session fees to all the tournaments -- regionals and sectionals. Please note this has nothing to do with what the directors are personally paid. It only has to do with the fees that are sent in to ACBL along with sanction fees and other expenses.

The other motion has to do with local charity games run by clubs. Some are concerned that this money is not actually given to any charity but is used for other purposes. So they passed the following unenforceable motion which may upset the honest people and have no effect on the dishonest ones.

Any club that, in any calendar year, runs one or more allowed special local charity games that are sanctioned for extra masterpoints must make available for public inspection an accounting of all funds raised in such games no later than February 28th of the following calendar year.