

DC NABC District 6 Director Report

The DC NABC was a huge success, thanks to the hours and hours of Volunteer work by both Committee Chairs and daily workers; to Chief Corporate Sponsor, Rusty Krauss of KIG; to the many sponsors throughout the district of the “named games” on the schedule; to the local “pros” and buyers for the auction proceeds that contributed to the ability of the tournament to offer discounted parking to commuters; and to Co-Chair Susan Bowles for her attention to detail, her imaginative ideas, and her steadfast dedication in the weeks leading up to the tournament as well as on-site during it. The table count was a bit under the ACBL estimate of 13,000, with local player attendance no doubt hindered by the non-stop work on metro, but all of those who attended were treated to our famous D6 hospitality, including a terrific performance by Capitol Steps, nightly snacks, daily snack bar coupons for the two-session day-game players, and an outstanding Intermediate/Newcomer Program. There is not room to name all of the people who worked so hard throughout, so I will be sure that a list is posted on the D6 website as an appendix to this report.

In-depth Planning Sessions

ACBL President Ken Monzingo continued to set aside significant blocks of time for in-depth discussion of specific issues that can impact the success or failure of our Strategic Plan. Three key areas were discussed in DC:

The Strategic Plan Itself: A set of metrics and an analysis of our strategic projects will be used going forward to assess progress. These can be found at <http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/strategi c2016.pdf> and at <http://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/about/MetricsS corecard.pdf>.

Board Composition: A 9-member Board Composition Committee (3 members of the BOD, 3 of the BOG and 3 at-large, including Daniel Korbel from D6) was formed this year to address issues of Board functionality and costs. In its first report to the full BOD, a summary report addressed issues of Board size (25 members, one from each ACBL District), how members are selected (currently through election by voting Unit members of each respective district), and how the BOD and the Board of Governors (BOG) interact. Their proposals were discussed on-site in DC by small focus groups including members of the Committee, the full BOD, and other interested parties, among them Harriette Buckman (former ACBL President) and Greg Humphreys (D6 member active in ACBL technology discussions). Feedback from these groups is being taken into consideration by the Committee and another report will be forthcoming this Fall in Orlando. The Governance Committee will also be proposing some changes in Orlando to address such things as frequency of meetings and structure of all BOD Committees.

Progress against High-level Cheating

The world of bridge and beyond has been replete with many articles in national and international publications about the years-long cheating escapades of some of the highest ranked players in the world, thankfully none American. Following initial accusations by Boye Brogland (who received the 2016 Sidney Lazard Sportsmanship Award at the Hall of Fame Dinner this summer at the DC NABC), Volunteers (some from among our best-known players here in D6) spent countless

hours viewing video enabling the ACBL, as charging and prosecuting party, to bring a solid case to the Ethical Oversight Committee in DC. As a result, Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes of Italy and Lotan Fischer and Ron Schwartz of Israel were all found guilty of collusive cheating and permanently expelled from the ACBL. Both pairs lost all their masterpoints. Partners and teammates of the expelled pairs are subject to mandatory forfeiture of all masterpoints, titles and status ranks earned during the four years preceding the finding of guilt while playing with them.

Key Actions in DC

NT Openers: In a slight change from the motion as presented for approval in DC, what was passed by the BOD is the following: A notrump opening or overcall is natural if, by agreement, it contains no void, at most one singleton, which must be the A, K, or Q and no more than two doubletons. If the hand contains a singleton, it may have no doubleton.

Alignment of Masterpoint Limits for Summer NABC Events: The limits of the Bruce LM Pairs and Mini-Spangold were raised to 6000 (from 5000) and the Young LM Pairs and “Micro”-Spangold from 1500 to 2500. This was done to parallel recent changes to the increased masterpoint limits for the GNTs. To make it possible to play in both the 0-10,000 Pairs and the lower Spangolds, the starts of the 6000 MP and 2500 MP Spangolds were moved to Tuesday.

Conditions of Contest: For the 2016/17 and 2017/2018 Collegiate Bridge Bowl, on-site, face-to-face finals (in Toronto at the Summer NABC in 2017) will be held for the top eight teams. This change from the four teams of the previous two years was made based on an extensive survey of past Collegiate Bridge Bowl participants. The added expense of bringing the extra four teams to the next two Summer NABCs will be borne by an anonymous donor who is a long-time advocate of Junior bridge programs.

Tournament Assistant (TA) Accreditation for Work at Sectionals: A motion regarding the ability of TAs to work at Sectionals was passed: TAs must pass the TA accreditation exam and be approved by the Director-in-Charge of the tournament. Local Directors may no longer work at Sectionals without having passed the TA accreditation exam.

Major Revisions to the Recorder Regulations: At the recommendation of the Bridge Integrity Task Force, revisions to deal more effectively with ethical violations were made to the Recorder Regulations. The most significant of these guarantees Reporter confidentiality. Please go to the ACBL website to see the full set of parameters now governing the Recorder as a result of what the BOD passed in DC. In addition, several changes were made to Appendix G of the Conditions of Contest dealing with screens (e.g., surrender of electronic devices by both players and kibitzers to be returned after all boards in the session have been played) when a Vugraph Operator is present, in order to address issues raised by the recent cheating cases.

Miscellaneous:

--The cost of Junior Memberships was reduced from \$15 to \$5, continuing all current benefits with the exception of a mailed Bulletin.

–Motions related to allowing high school championships in the form of sectionals and regionals were defeated because it was demonstrated that there are already regulations in effect that allow these.

–A proposed motion to lengthen the term of the ACBL President from one year to two was defeated.

–The non-member entry surcharge for American Bridge Association (ABA) members was waived through calendar year 2017. (ABA President Hank Irwin spoke to the BOD prior to the passage of this new regulation and stressed the need for continuing cooperation across these two major bridge organizations.)

–A motion to approve the 2021 Summer NABC in Providence, RI was passed.

Request for Reconsideration from the Board of Governors (BOG): In Reno this past Spring, the BOD passed a motion to stop providing voting results by Unit in District-wide races to the BOD as well as the candidates. This motion was presented by Management as a result of some complaints from some small Units that this essentially violated individual voters’ right to a secret ballot. At its Reno meeting, the BOG voted to send the motion back to the BOD for reconsideration. This motion was duly reconsidered in DC, and the right of a candidate to see the results of the vote was upheld and the original practice was restored. The decision from Reno was carefully considered by all members and the resulting decision in DC was not an easy one.

As always, contact me with any questions at margot10bridge@cox.net.--*Margot*