



BOARD MEETING REPORT

Spring 2015
New Orleans

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The New Orleans Committee put on a great NABC. Although it was rainy for the Board Meetings, the sun came out as the important folks, the players, began to arrive. Those of us who have suffered through this snowy icy winter, it was just nice to get a break. Hard to top the French Quarter for food and atmosphere and a great time was had by all. Results were texted/mailed to players by ACBL Live more quickly than ever before. The opening Gala featured NOLA signature dishes, including King Cake, and musical entertainment by local band Cuisine.

The NABC is Coming Back to District 11!!!

The Board voted unanimously to hold the Spring (March 19-29) 2020 NABC in Columbus! Thanks to all in Unit 122, especially Jim Bachelder, who worked so hard to bring this about. The Columbus Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel will be the playing sites and the Hyatt and Hilton the host hotels. As those of you who worked on the Louisville NABC in 2011 know, putting on this tournament is a LOT of work for all of us in the District to do it right, but as Louisville proved, we sure know how to do it. Most of the burden will fall on Unit 122 but we should all stand ready to help. I am so proud that the NABC is coming to our District only 9 years after the last visit....

ACBLScore Report

The highly anticipated report of the Management Technology Committee formed in Providence was delivered in a public forum, including a Q and A, on March 12th. The session was videoed and is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9fat48MDR8>. I urge all of you who are technically inclined or have been following this controversy on Bridgewinners to watch it. It lasted for nearly two hours and does a far better job than I possibly could of covering the technical aspects of this complex issue. But here are some basic takeaways:

- The termination of the ACBLScore+ project was the correct decision.
- ACBLScore, though a fantastic piece of software, has, after 30 years, reached the end of its useful life and will be phased out, probably over the next 18 months or so.
- Capital technology expenditures from this point forward should and will be made on "modular" applications that can be used now and then transferred to to any underlying system we develop or choose. This is like loading apps to to your Smartphone and then buying a new phone...you can plug your apps into whatever new platform you choose.
- Every effort is being made to salvage everything we can from the ACBLScore+ project (we own it, after all,) as part of the "mobility" apps plan.
- The Committee was very enthused about going forward. They promise to keep everyone updated as they work to find the right platform while continuing to add great new features to Score.

I was deeply impressed with the 3 "outside members" --Greg Humphreys, Uday Ivatury and Ralph Lipe who, among them, have worked extensively with Google, Microsoft and BBO—and their balanced analysis. I hope you will be as well.



CELEBRATING JEFF



On the first Saturday of the tournament, we gathered with Jeff Johnston's family, friends and colleagues to remember his life and its impact on us. Those of you who worked closely with Jeff on the Louisville NABC know there was no kinder, calmer more efficient event organizer in the world. He had already put a great deal of effort into the selection of Columbus and he will be sorely missed, both then and at every NABC to come. His absence was deeply felt here in NOLA and it was an honor to meet his family let them know how much he meant to us.

SIDE GAME AWARDS

Events that do not qualify for championship rating by exceeding the number permitted or by being the same as another event that session (side games) are subject to the "M" factor appropriate to the event, with **the "M" factor limited to 80%. [Raised from 65%]** Side games at NABCs are the same as side games at Regionals.

Please note that awards for side game series are unaffected.

ADVANCES ON STRATEGIC PROJECTS

The Board received reports on three projects that grew out of our Strategic Plan and I hope you'll be as wowed as I was. First, we heard from **Dan Plato**, the newly appointed Manager of Recruiting and Development on the **TDU (Tournament Director University) PILOT PROGRAM**. In far more detail than I can go into here, Dan described the selection of five newer TDs in September 2014 with the goal of getting all 5 "DIC ready" by April of this year. They have received training and mentoring; they have been tasked with answering the 1800 questions a year that come into ACBL on rulings---they work on their answers and submit them to Dan for review; they have been charged with entering every single tournament into TourneyTrax in order to understand those regulations and laws of tournament events; they have been sent all over the country for their training and the feedback from both mentors and mentees has been incredibly positive. The five are indeed now ready to roll! In addition, a 200+ handbook for TDs has been compiled as a

single point of reference. Continued work on the handbook and a rollout of the program with tools to implement and track progress are underway.

Sylvia Hardin, who has been redeployed from Director of Human Resources to Senior Director of Field Operations, has overall responsibility for TDU and has been working with our current staff of TDs and Field Supervisors on Customer Service Training (a HUGE demand from constituents) and core skills. 3 of our 8 supervisors are retiring; we need not only to replace them but are restructuring to have 12 FS positions and 4 new positions of Field Supervisors over them...veteran TDs Sol Weinstein and Nancy Boyd have already been promoted to 2 of these new slots; and, as a compliment to Dan's for recruitment and training will be a new position for a Manager for Quality and Continuous Improvement. After the expected initial skepticism, TDs have reacted with enthusiasm for their new training and opportunities and Sylvia and Dan are confident that our drive to improve our TD services and plan for the staffing needs of the future.

Brian Delfs, our Education Program Manager reported that our online



LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE

application is the **number one hit on Google** for "learn bridge" and "learn bridge online". Even those of you who don't consider yourselves "techies" can see what a fantastic achievement that is! <http://learn.acbl.org/>

As you read in the March Bulletin, the **ACBL ONLINE PARTNERSHIP DESK** is now live. **Chris van Leeuwen** is the staff member in charge and reported that going into NOLA we have already had over 10,000 hits and 1675 profiles have been created. Chris was delighted to now have answers for the many members who call her because, for any number of reasons, they can't find partners at local clubs or while traveling. When one man called her from Memphis wanting to know how to find a partner, her only solution was to ask "what are you doing Sunday night?" ☺





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FINANCE

The Operating Budget approved for 2015 projects an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$9461. The Capital Budget was significantly reduced from the \$600K number tentatively approved in November to \$270,170. Much of the reduction is a reflection of the change in approach recommended by the Board Technology Committee and affirmed by the outside Tech Comm discussed above to budget only for "mobile apps" achievable in the short-term and transferable to a long-term platform. Short-term in this case is around 6 months so there may well be additional capital expenditures approved later in the year.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ME AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS OR HEYHOWAREYAS YOU WISH AND I'LL DO MY BEST TO RESPOND PROMPTLY! SEE YOU IN CINCINNATI—OR EVANSVILLE!

BETH

KO AWARDS

At non-NABC Events, players on KO teams with more than 4 players who are otherwise eligible for overall awards will be subject to the following participation reduction: For every segment (half a match) of a match that is won and where a participant sits out, the overall awards for that individual will be reduced by 5%. For example, if a player's team wins a 4-session KO and that participant played only half of each match, that player's masterpoint award will be reduced by 20%.

MARKETING

The ACBL is in the process of contracting with a new service to allow clubs, units and districts greater direct control over the email blasts that go out to members. Watch for your Marketing Newsletter for details.

CONVENTION CHART CHANGES

The General Convention Chart was amended to allow: TRANSFER RESPONSES (responses after overcalls) **where the call shows length or values in the suit of the transfer;** and, A DEFENSE to a natural notrump bid or overcall of **a direct overcall of 2 diamonds to show a one-suited hand in hearts of spades.**

GNT GRASS ROOTS

On the third try in four years, a motion to make entries for the GNTs at NABCs free finally passed. As you know, I have consistently opposed this motion based on lack of funding (as opposed to the NAPs which collect funds all summer long in the qualifiers) and opposed it this time as well on the basis that we created the Grass Roots fund to allow Districts to allocate funds how they wished to these events. The vote has always been close and was this time as well. Free entries apply only to the first 2 days and ONLY to Flights A, B and C...NOT the Championship Flight. But that's not the end of the story. Immediately following the passing of the above motion, we were presented with a motion to "tax" the Grass Roots fund 20% at the ACBL level and use that 20 percent to redistribute the funds raised based on a complex formula that, in essence, rewards those Districts that raise the most per member and account for size. But an amendment was proposed to this motion to require that, before any such that before the adjustment is made, the amount required to fund the free entries (around \$16K)

be debited from the Grass Roots Fund. One would think that this amendment would lose by the same margin that the first motion won, but it passed, quickly followed by the passing of the entire second motion. So now, the funding of free entries for A, B and C is coming directly out of the Grass Roots Fund and whatever is left can be used by the Districts as they choose. Stay tuned.

DISCIPLINE

The publication rules were clarified to provide that, in findings of guilt, all disciplines will be published on the website for the length of time of the discipline levied. Expulsions shall also be reported in the ACBL Bulletin. This applies to any decisions of a Unit, District or ACBL level disciplinary committee, and of the Ethical Oversight Committee. It shall also apply to decisions made at clubs regarding ethical violations when the ACBL is made aware of the decision, but does not apply to decisions made by a club disciplinary procedure regarding non-ethical violations.