



American Contract Bridge League

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DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Spring 2016

Reno: The Biggest Little BRIDGE City in the World

The Spring NABC was held at 3 attached hotel/casinos downtown, with many inexpensive eating and entertainment options available without going outdoors. Play was in the 3 hotels and 1 convention center which was a 5 minute walk away. This was confusing at times and it was hard to escape the smoke aroma in some of the sites. The tournament was well run, with excellent hospitality. Attendance was down, no doubt due to expected weather conditions and the difficult air travel for many. A plus was the reasonable hotel rates and the availability of good inexpensive food. Table count was 11,642 tables, less than budgeted 12,000.

The meetings were highlighted by the consideration of change, from reaction to the multiple cheating scandals (creation of an anti-cheating commission) to the passing of a motion to have all appeals at NABCs heard by a committee of TDs, to reductions of Board expenses, to the forming a Committee to look at reducing the size of the Board of Directors. An anonymous letter was received about the performance of our CEO. I am suspicious of such a letter, but will follow the progress about determining the accuracy of these allegations, and will inform the District as soon as anything comes out.

At the end of this report, I am listing major results by District 1 players at the NABC. I have also included a bridge article by George Retek. George is a fine player from Montreal, who was my predecessor on the ACBL Board (he was both President and Treasurer) and also was on the WBF Board (he was Treasurer) and was honored by District 1 as District Director Emeritus. George has written a number of articles for this report, and they are always enlightening and entertaining. Thank you, George. I am looking for other contributors. All I ask is that it be approximately one page long and that it be done in Word. Next one would be needed for my report after the Washington NABC which is in July.

Highlights of the Reno Board of Directors Meetings

- **Ethics and Cheating** was the big issue. Equipment was bought to monitor 10 tables which would be live screened and also made available on YouTube. A blue ribbon Bridge Integrity Task Force was formed and had its 1st meeting.
- **Claire Jones** of Regina, SK was elected ACBL Treasurer for a one year term.
- **Peter Rank** will be retiring this summer as League (legal) Counsel. A search is on for an In-House Counsel.
- **Membership** as of February stands at 168,403, an increase of 717 from Jan 15 to Jan 16.
- **Regional table count** ended 2015 down was down 2.55 % with 1 fewer tournament than 2014. Average table count was down 1.86%.
- **Sectional attendance** was down 3.16% (7 fewer tournaments) and average table count was down 2.46%.
- **STACs table count** was down 0.01% and average table count was down 14.46% (13 more STACs).
- **Total tournament tables** decreased 2.05% with tournament count down 7 tournaments.
- **Table count:** The 2015 table count was 3,146,410 tables of which 1,014,501 (32.24%) are from on-line games. This does not include games held from Sept-Dec on OKbridge.

- **Finance:** For 2015 the decrease in net assets from Operations was \$303,620, \$103,687 worse than forecast loss of \$199,933 and \$55,605 better than the \$359,225 operational loss from last year. There was a loss of \$62,541 due to a decrease in the market value of investments. Capital expenditures totalled \$75K a large decrease from the \$920.6K spent in 2014. Net operating cash increased by \$555K in 2015 compared with a \$340K decrease in 2014.
- **World Wide Bridge Contest:** The games are scheduled for Friday evening, June 3rd and Saturday afternoon, June 4th.
- **Longest Day:** Clubs in Canada will have the opportunity to play in special games directly benefiting The Alzheimer Society of Canada. This event will be known as "Trump Alzheimer's", and our District's Kathie Macnab Halliday is working with ACBL Marketing and the Society to ensure that the experiences in Canada and the US are the same as possible.
- **Pianola:** Marketing Solutions was completed in February and is being used to fulfill Tournament Emails services. The e-mail marketing feature has been customized for Units and Districts use. Once complete each unit/district will have access to a database of members it is appropriate for them to contact.

Actions and Motions approved at the Reno Board of Directors Meetings:

- At NABCs only, ACBL Tournament Directors will rule on all appeals filed at NABCs (other than Conduct & Ethics and Disciplinary matters).
- The Patron Members Review Task force, of which I am a member, met.
- A motion to create the Soloway (7 day) KO in the Fall NABC was deferred.
- NABC organizers will be given a choice of a Volunteer Dinner where only the local District Director, the President and the chairs of the BoD and BoG and their guests would attend, or \$5000 for a party for volunteers.
- Clubs which have a sanctioned limited game or a sanctioned invitational game may not designate such a game as Open for a STAC.
- Grass root funds will be distributed within 90 days of the end of Grass Roots Month.
- Board Oversight Committee members may not serve more than 3 consecutive years and must be off for 2 years before returning. Also grounds for investigation will now include actively engaging in a campaign for Unit, District, or ACBL elected positions in Districts other than their own.
- The position of President Emeritus was removed.
- The Presidents of the WBF Zone 2 NBOs (USBF and CBF) shall be members of the International Committee and may propose motions to the BoD concerning international bridge and other issues that might impact their NBOs. Participation is limited to committee activities, and expenses for them are not paid or reimbursed.
- The votes by unit in District wide elections will be kept confidential. Only the total number of votes and the total % of weighted votes will be released.
- Newcomer games (0-20) may, at the discretion of club management, allow players to ask for advice, refer to notes, and ask for help on any hand.
- An anti-Cheating Committee was formed.
- 2016 Budget: Revenue over Expenses of \$79 K was ratified. Capital budget of 477,000 was ratified.
- Team events at NABCs: if all players on a team get full overall MPs, they pay entries on a per player basis. If overall MPs are based on amount of players' participation then they pay based on a 4 person team.
- President's expenses were lowered to \$45,000 but it can be increased up to \$5,000 due to circumstances.
- Either the ACBL President or CEO may go to events out of Zone 2. CEO has priority.
- Per Diem per Board Director may be reduced by Treasurer up to 25% based on concierge privileges.
- Cooperative advertising program will refund 50% (instead of present 75%) for eligible advertising up to a maximum of \$500.

District News

- **Trump Alzheimer's:** This will be the Canadian version of "The Longest Day", with all proceeds going to The Alzheimer's Society of Canada. This is scheduled for June 20th. Please encourage your club to participate in this very worthwhile (and fun) event.
- **Cukoff-Latraverse-Wiser (CLW) Award:** Named after outstanding deceased National Tournament Directors from District 1, this award recognizes excellent life time service to directors and promoters of ethics in bridge. The District Board will select a recipient for 2016 at the District meeting in August.
- **George Retek Award:** Presented to an individual who has given a great deal of excellent volunteer service to our District and Units, this award will be decided at the District meeting in August. Please forward nominations for both awards to George Retek gbridgeretek@gmail.com by March 31st.
- **Regional Tournaments:** Please come to our District's tournaments. The CBF Regional will be in Montreal in April. Our Split Regional will be in Kingston and Summerside in May 2016. There will be the Can-At in Halifax in June/July, and Montreal will host the Can-Am in August. The National Capital Regional will be in Ottawa in Oct.
- **Upcoming NABCs:** Washington DC (July 2016), Orlando (Nov/Dec 2016), Kansas City (Mar 17) Toronto (Summer 2017), Montreal (Summer 2020).
- **NAP National Finals:** We express our thanks to the pairs that represented District 1. Although they did not place in the overalls, some made it to the 2nd day, and they were great representatives of our District. Good luck next time!
- **Grand National Teams:** Please look at your unit website or www.district1acbl.org for details of the District finals for all 4 flights. All will take place by the end of May 2016, and the National Finals will be held at the Summer NABC in Washington, DC.
- **Exchange rate:** A committee is looking into ways of lowering the effects of the exchange rates on Canadian districts, units and clubs. We hope to have a motion for the Washington Board meetings.

Golden (and Platinum) Performances in Reno

The following is a listing of excellent achievements by District 1 players. I am listing the top 25 placings in NABC events (2+ days) and 1st or 2nd in Regional (2 session +) events. As I am doing this manually, I apologize in advance if I missed someone. If you e-mail me, I will correct this in my next report.

1. Marc - Andre Fourcaudot and Ronald Carrière: 17th, NABC Swiss, 10th, 10 K Swiss
2. P. Drew Cannell: 22nd NABC Swiss, 1st Ed. Foundation KO1, 1st Sat Compact KO1, 1st Wed Compact KO1
3. Marc Lachapelle and Pascale Gaudreault: 17th NABC Swiss
4. Jurek Czyzowicz: 18th NABC Swiss
5. Charles Martineau and Josette Lévesque: 25th Rockwell Mixed Pairs
6. Winston Samuel: 1st Sat-Sun KO1, 2nd Fri Compact KO7
7. Nicolas L'Écuyer: 2nd Sun Daylight Swiss
8. Marius Moldovan: 17th NABC Fast Pairs
9. Joseph Seemann: 1st Sat Compact KO6
10. Glenn Dexter and Margie Knickle: 1st Compact KO8, 1st Sun Gold Rush Swiss, 2nd Tues-Wed KO7
11. Chantal Dubé and Josette Lévesque: Fri-Sun Side Game series 1st in B
12. Xiaolun Yi and Peter Coates: 2nd Fri Daylight Pairs X
13. George Mitchell: 1st Thurs Daylight Gold Rush Pairs
14. Suzanne Viau and Thérèse Huot: 2nd Sat Compact KO, 2nd Thurs-Fri KO5, 2nd Fri-Sat AM Compact KO
15. Paul Andre Paquin, Suzanne Arseneault, Pierrette Desmarais, Michel Trudel: 2nd Thurs-Fri Compact KO

Please see George Retek's article on the next page.

See you in Washington, DC

Leo

"LITTLE CANADA" IN SOUTH FLORIDA

By George Retek

Near Jean Talon Boulevard in Montreal, there is a neighbourhood known affectionately as "Little Italy", where friends meet from the "old country". Nowadays when Canadians visit South Florida there is every reason to believe that they have arrived to "Little Canada" when they visit a bridge club. More and more Canadians avail themselves of the life-extending Florida sunshine and the friendly atmosphere of the bridge clubs. One of the most popular clubs is the Fort Lauderdale (community owned) club where entry fees are very reasonable and one finds many co-patriots. The club (ftlbc.com) runs an extensive teaching program, provides limited meal service, and is visited by players from novices to National and World Champions. Club games usually award 6-10 master points to winners, and that obviously contributes to the popularity of the establishment. Even among the directing staff one finds the familiar face of ex-Montrealer, Lee Atkinson.

One of the best players, and often a winner at the club, is François Boucher of Montreal, who is an excellent card player and bridge theoretician, but is sometimes not fortunate in picking his partner. One of his ex-partners (who remains nameless, to protect the guilty) as East, picked up the following hand in a recent game:

♠ A K 7 5 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ 10 ♣ A 10 9 6 3

The action unfolded:

West	North	East	South
			P
P	1♥	2♣	P
P	X	2♠	P
P	X	P	3♦
3♠	----- All Pass -----		

The ♦7 was led to North's K, who continued with the A. After trumping this trick, declarer played the ♠A (South following with the J).

After the 3rd trick these cards remained in Dummy:

♠ 9 5 4 ♥ 8 4 2 ♦ Q ♣ Q J 8

Although the 4-5-3-1 distribution for North was now a strong possibility, Declarer (who desperately tried to reach dummy) played a small club to the Queen, taken by the King --- resulting in a Zero score. This proved to be the entire hand:

Dlr: South	♠ Q 10 8 6	
	♥ A Q J 9 5	
	♦ A K 6	
	♣ K	
♠ 9 5 4 2		♠ A K 7 3
♥ 8 4 2		♥ K 7 3
♦ Q J 9		♦ 10
♣ Q J 8		♣ A 10 9 6 3
	♠ J	
	♥ 10 6	
	♦ 8 7 5 4 3 2	
	♣ 7 5 4 2	

Doubtless, Declarer was aware of the Rabbi's Rule that states, that it is right to play the Ace, when the singleton King is behind the Ace. However he was not familiar with another important doctrine that emphatically declares: it is right to play the Ace, even when the singleton King is in front of the Ace.

In the very same session, shortly thereafter, (everybody vulnerable) our East player picked up the following promising hand:

♠ K 3 ♥ A K 7 6 5 3 ♦ A J 8 7 3 ♣ Void

The bidding proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1♣	1♥	P	2♥
2♠	4♦	X!	4♥
----- All Pass -----			

The lead was a small ♠ to the K, and ruffed. The ♥A revealed the 2:1 trump split.

Dummy held:

♠ Q J 5 ♥ J 10 8 4 ♦ Q 4 ♣ Q 9 6 5

Declarer mesmerized by the Double over 4♦, and knowing that 6♥ is unbeatable if the ♦K is onside, now played the ♥K followed by the absolutely unnecessary low ♦ to the Q and singleton K. He was the only player making only eleven tricks to the amusement of his opponents. Here is the entire hand:

Dir: North	♠ 10 8 6 4 2 ♥ Q ♦ K ♣ A K 10 8 4 2	
♠ Q J 5		♠ K 3
♥ J 10 8 4		♥ A K 7 6 5 3
♦ Q 4		♦ A J 8 7 3
♣ Q 9 6 5		♣ ---
	♠ A 9 7	
	♥ 9 2	
	♦ 10 9 6 5 2	
	♣ J 7 3	

This obscure doctrine has triumphed again.