

District Director's Report – July 2012

Philadelphia NABC

The Summer NABC was held at the Marriott in Philadelphia. Attendance was 11,913 tables, a bit below the pretournament estimate of 12,500 tables. The attendance is somewhat disappointing for a Summer NABC. The average Summer NABC table count for the past 5 years excluding Las Vegas in 2008 (19,720 tables), is 13,050 tables.

This tournament was more controversial than most of our NABCs, primarily due to the starting times. All NABC events started at 10 and 3 or in some cases 10 and 4. Regional events generally started at 10 and 2:30 though there were also events at 1 and 7:30. The most meaningful observation I can make is that almost no one is neutral on this subject; players generally either love or hate the earlier starting times.

I was asked why the Board approved these starting times for Philadelphia. Simply stated, the only NABC that previously had early starting times was Atlanta in 2005. It was agreed that if a District wanted to try earlier starting times again, they would make a request to the Board. Philadelphia did just that a couple of years ago and received approval based on their assertion that the earlier starting times would result in many more local players being able to play.

The ACBL is planning to do a survey on starting times at NABCs. If this does not take place soon, I plan to do a survey of our players with help from Bob Bertoni. In any event, I will solicit the opinions of the Delegates in November. Please feel free to continue giving me your feedback before then if you wish to do so.

Special congratulations to Donald Caplan and Zack Grossack who won the 0 – 5000 LM Pairs and also to our GNT Flight C team who made it all the way to the finals.

TOP 10 FINISHERS IN NABC EVENTS – DISTRICT 25

GNT C

Reid Barton, Arlington MA	
Vincent Fish, Chelmsford MA	
Daniel Jablonski, Stoneham MA	
Emily Shen, Cambridge MA	2

0 - 5000 LIFE MASTER PAIRS

Donald Caplin, Waltham MA	
Zachary Grossack, Newton MA	1
Doug Anderson, Quincy MA	
Stephen McDevitt, Medford MA	9

0 - 1500 LIFE MASTER PAIRS

Jason Rotenberg, Ridgefield CT	9
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OPEN PAIRS

Pamela Miller, Cambridge MA
James Rasmussen, Cambridge MA 2

Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT
John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT 3

MINI SPINGOLD I (0 – 5000)

Doug Anderson, Quincy MA
Gloria Tsoi, Somerville MA 3/4

Judy Hess, Fairfield CT 3/4

MINI SPINGOLD II (0 – 1500)

Reid Barton, Arlington MA
Vincent Koon Kam King, Arlington MA
Michael Lieberman, Cambridge MA
Lance Ribeiro, Hampstead NH 3/4

Cecilla Borrás, Waltham MA
Christine Halkiotis, Wellesley Hills MA
Paul Harris, Waltham MA
Diogo Teixeira, Wellesley MA 5/8

FAST PAIRS

Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT 9

MIXED BAM TEAMS

Richard Zeckhauser, Cambridge MA 2

Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA 3

John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT 10

Highlights of ACBL Board Meeting

Financial Results

The Finance Committee reported the following results for the first five months of 2012:

	<u>2012 Budget</u>	<u>Actual Through May</u>	<u>2012 Projected</u>	<u>Full Year Variance</u>
Net Income	\$ 86,000	\$167,700	\$ 137,100	+ \$ 51,100

[CEO Report](#)

CEO Robert Hartman reported that overall membership has grown by 1,219 members for the first six months of 2012. Current membership is 166,637. He also reported that average table count at tournaments has decreased slightly over the first six months of 2012 compared with 2011. Management is now sending out Happy Birthday e-mails to our members and these have been well received, with many of the players sending "Thank You" notes back to Management.

The CEO announced the hiring of two new employees. Bruce Knoll has been hired as the new Director of Information Technology. This position was recommended over a year ago by the BOD Technology Committee, which I chaired, so we are all pleased that this key position has been filled. Bryan Delfs has been hired as the new Education Manager and seems well-suited to do this important job. He is both young and enthusiastic.

The CEO also reported that work on the new ACBL Score+ project is on-time and within budget.

[NABC and NABC+ Matchpoint Events](#)

A motion was passed that permits the Director-In-Charge to combine as many sections as logical and practical for scoring (in the finals of these events all scoring is done across the field).

Further, and more importantly, qualification for subsequent stages shall be based on the overall standing in the entire field, regardless of section and/or direction. What this means is that in determining who qualifies, those with the highest percentages will advance. This change eliminates the long-standing problem of a pair with a higher percentage in one combined section not qualifying while a pair in another combined section may qualify with a lower percentage.

[Strength of Field - Masterpoints](#)

I am disappointed to report that in a close and contentious vote the changes proposed to eliminate some of the existing masterpoint inconsistencies in our pair and Swiss team games was defeated 13-11-1. Frank Hacker from Vermont was one of three mathematicians who helped produce formulas which would have introduced a strength-of-field component into our pair and Swiss games rather than basing the award solely on the size of other games being held that day, as we do presently.

The proposed formulas would not have resulted in any significant changes either in overall masterpoints awarded or for any particular group. Presently, the main problem is that Stratiflighted Pair and Swiss Team games can have significantly different awards depending on whether there is a gold rush or large Senior game on a particular day. As an example, at our recent Sturbridge Regional, there were two Swiss Team games, one with a gold rush and the other on a day where there was not a gold rush game. The Tuesday game with 18 tables plus a gold rush event awarded 26 masterpoints while the Thursday game with 44 tables awarded only 19 masterpoints. Under the proposed formula, this problem would be eliminated.

[Strategic Plan](#)

The BOD spent a full day working on a 5 Year Strategic Plan. Our mission, vision and the five strategic focus areas are documented in the official minutes. If any of you has input on the either the process or the focus areas, I would appreciate your input.

As usual, the complete minutes of the BOD meeting will be published on the ACBL website within the next two weeks. Please let me know if you have questions or other feedback on actions taken by the BOD.

Top 25 Masterpoint Winners – Philadelphia NABC

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Points Won In NABC+ Events</u>
1	John Stiefel, Wethersfield CT	126.06	126.06
2	Richard Zeckhauser, Cambridge MA	122.30	121.77
3	Allan Graves, Barnet VT	119.71	50.00
4	Zachary Grossack, Newton MA	114.59	13.28
5	James Rasmussen, Cambridge MA	106.90	99.46
	Pamela Miller, Cambridge MA	106.90	99.46
7	Rich DeMartino, Riverside CT	104.57	104.57
8	Phyllis Fireman, Chestnut Hill MA	87.65	66.00
9	Lewis Gamerman, Westwood MA	83.47	52.36
10	Donald Caplin, Waltham MA	75.64	
11	Doug Anderson, Quincy MA	74.59	72.30
13	Alan Applebaum, Brookline MA	72.33	41.16
14	Adam Grossack, Newton MA	72.17	21.53
15	Lloyd Arvedon, Natick MA	68.43	62.15
16	Robert McCaw, Sudbury MA	64.81	3.24
17	Gloria Tsoi, Somerville MA	64.55	4.77
18	Victor King, Hartford CT	62.75	62.75
19	Douglas Doub, W Hartford CT	62.72	29.90
20	Reid Barton, Arlington MA	56.20	
21	Walter Lee, Sudbury MA	55.48	22.99
22	Alex Dezieck, Wilbraham MA	55.42	3.65
23	Sheila Gabay, Newton MA	54.62	53.05
24	Judith Hess, Fairfield CT	54.51	
25	Geoffrey Brod, Avon CT	52.08	52.08

The Fall NABC will be held from November 22 through December 2 in San Francisco at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. Please note that the starting times for this NABC are the traditional times. I hope many of you will be able to attend because San Francisco is considered one of our premier NABC sites.

Rich DeMartino
District Director