



AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

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August 13, 2007

Nashville Summer Board Meetings

For those of us who enjoy Country and Western Music, Nashville has it all. Many bridge players took a little time off to get to the Grand Olde Opry. Another attraction for many others was the Country Music Hall of Fame. Still others enjoyed a taste of Bluegrass music.

Thanks go to Tournament Chairman, David Birnbaum, and a host of volunteers who made everyone's visit to the NABC an enjoyable one!! The final table count was 12,879, a little above estimate and not far behind Chicago's 13,372 a year ago.

The ACBL Board of Directors spent considerable time going over the Masterpoint review committee recommendations. This report was approved 24 -1. Changes in master point awards, require two readings, with the second coming in San Francisco in the fall.

I. Master Point Changes:

A. Effective January 1, 2008

NABC EVENTS:

1. Anyone who makes the final day of a six session pairs event will qualify for overall awards.
2. Match awards for the Spingold and Vanderbilt will increase from 5 to 6 master points.

PAIRS/TEAM EVENTS (except Kos):

1. The formula used to determine overall awards below 4th place for two session pair/team games will now be the formula currently used for events of 3 or more sessions. The awards for 1 - 4 will be the same, but the overall awards below 4th place will increase. The increase in awards is 25%.
2. For club games the maximum overall award will increase to 2.5 from 1.5 at 0.10 per table. Overall awards are allowed for all games of 16 or more tables, with section awards still limited to 1.5 points.
3. The Swiss match awards increase from 0.01 to 0.015/ board at club games and 0.02/board in club championships.

B. Effective January 1, 2009

1. The Super Club Championship, District Wide Charity game and 49er pairs are eliminated. (Very few districts and units held these)
2. The number of Unit Championship games increases from 16 to 24 with a fee of \$1.25US per table.
3. Match awards for Swiss Teams will increase by 20%. For Flight A/X and Strati-Flighted games 0.36 to 0.44 for Regionals and 0.26 to 0.32 for Sectionals.

4. For KO Events overall awards will be based solely on the strength of the bracket. This "strength of field" concept is significant. The overall award for a KO bracket that averages 5,000 master points per team will be the same regardless of the total number of brackets in the field. The award will be the same in Toronto, Gatlinburg, Atlanta or Calgary. The maximum number of points a team may have is capped at 40,000. The maximum award is capped at 65 points for a bracket where the average master point holding per team of four players is 35,000. The minimum overall award will be 6 points.

II. BRIDGE/CONDITIONS OF CONTEST:

1. Quebec City was awarded a special Regional to help celebrate the cities' 400th anniversary. The dates are April 10 - 13, 2008.
2. To qualify for an overall award in a KO event, a team must win the 1st two matches. This means 5th - 8th playoffs will be eliminated. However, in an 8 team, 3 session KO, a play-off to determine a clear 3rd place will be allowed.
3. Special NOTE:
All teams in the GNT National Final will take part in a one day Swiss event to qualify to a seeded KO bracket. The Swiss Team component will be 8, 7 board matches scored on the 20 VP scale. This will make the event 5 days long, starting on Wednesday and ending on Sunday.

III. Other Items

1. A YOUTH North American Bridge Championship will be held in Atlanta during the summer of 2008.
2. A North American Contract Bridge Hall of Fame Foundation will be established. The ACBL is authorized to give the Foundation a loan of \$50,000. The loan is to be repaid by December 31, 2010.
3. Management has been assigned the daunting task of coming up with a way to control the use of electronic devices in or near the playing area at NABCs. Cell phones, etc are thought by some to create a new way to convey unauthorized information to partners or others. A solution will be very difficult to achieve, since these devices have become very much a part of our modern society.
4. Once again we think the Memphis headquarters building has been sold. Final word should be available in September. I will keep you posted on this subject.

I will close now and look forward to seeing you all in Regina September 24 - 30, 2007. I'm sorry I couldn't make Butte or Red Deer, due to personal reasons. (Jan had surgery on her jaw and our eldest daughter is getting married in Halifax on August 25).

All the best in bridge.

Dick

Dick Anderson
District 18 rep on ACBL Board of Directors