



AMERICAN CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE

2990 Airways Blvd. Memphis Tenn. 38116-3847



Richard G. Anderson
District 18 Director
2719 Jolly Place
Regina, Sk. S4V 0X8
Canada
H: (306) 761-1311
F: (306) 789-4919
Email: rgand@sasktel.net

(901) 332-5586
FAX: (901) 398-7754

August 9, 2006

Chicago Summer Board Meetings

Chicago proved to be a popular destination for many bridge players. The total table count reached 13,373, which was a shade over the projected number. All events were held in the huge (2000+ rooms) twin towers Hyatt Regency. The playing conditions in the Ballrooms (NABC+ and IN events) were very good. Most Regional events were held downstairs (ie - the dungeon) where the facilities were adequate, but just barely.

A. Financial Matters

It appears that the financial checks and balances that have been put in place this year will prevent a recurrence of the 2005 negative budget surprises. 2006 appears to be on target and the ACBL remains in a sound financial position.

The ACBL has financial guidelines pertaining to net assets, unrestricted (\$2.5 million); current assets (3.0 times liabilities); and cash reserves (3-4 months expenses). As of 12/31/2005, the ACBL had 2.9 million in unrestricted net assets; 4.2 times liabilities; and 4.1 months expenses in cash reserves.

A Directors and Officers' Insurance Policy has been purchased by the ACBL to cover all ACBL Units and Districts, as well as the ACBL. Committee members (and volunteers) are also covered. The ACBL Insurance Committee has been working for years trying to come up with a workable solution to a very complex issue. I believe this policy, paid for by the ACBL, should meet the needs of most our Units and Districts.

Nonetheless, the new D&O insurance policy is an unbudgeted \$140,000 item (although some of it may be deferred to 2007). Salary raises and health care premiums will put pressure on management and the ACBL Finance Committee as they prepare the 2007 budget that will be presented to the full ACBL Board in Hawaii this fall. It appears that there will be some price increases in 2007. I'll have more to report on this after the meetings in Hawaii.

B. Other Board Actions

1. Congratulations to Sharon Fairchild, who was elected as 2007 ACBL President.
2. All time master point lists will now include the names of the deceased. Improved programming techniques have made this possible.

3. A motion to have TD (Tournament Director) Panels replace player appeals committees for all NABC+ events was narrowly defeated (12-13). I believe it is only a matter of time before this becomes a reality.
4. The Board of Governors asked for a reconsideration of a motion to reduce WBF (World Bridge Federation) dues. This was defeated 4 - 21. I feel the ACBL should be a member of the WBF and should therefore support them, without trying to micro-manage their organization. That said, the ACBL representatives to the WBF Executive Committee provided an extensive report from the June meetings held in Verona, Italy. More discussion will follow at this fall's ACBL Board meetings.
5. A motion to change the eligibility age for ACBL Senior events from 55 to 60 was defeated 8 - 17.
6. There was a lively discussion on the motion to eliminate Women's events. While the motion was defeated 6-19 (I voted in favour), I expect that the Masterpoint Review Committee will propose a drastic reduction in masterpoint awards for the ever-smaller NABC+ Women's events.
7. Effective 2007, the NABC Senior KO will start on Friday instead of Sunday. This will eliminate the problem of the final conflicting with the start of the three day Reisinger/North American Swiss.
8. In a major change from previous practice regarding discipline at ACBL sanctioned games at clubs, units will no longer have jurisdiction (with one exception) over conduct and ethics violations at the club level. The exception will be alleged cheating or other serious breaches of ethics. The club will handle all conduct matters in house.
9. Negotiations continue with Baron Barclay in regards to a possible purchase of the ACBL Book Store.

I think this is all for now. I look forward to seeing you in Kalispell this fall and at District 18's 2007 Regionals. All the best in bridge.

Dick

Dick Anderson

District 18 rep on ACBL Board of Directors