



Winter Edition • February, 2012

A NEWSLETTER FOR

CLUB MANAGERS

Dear Club Manager,

The Spring NABC is just around the corner and we hope you will join us at several events designed especially for you. The Club & Teachers Reception is Friday, March 16 at 4:30 p.m. That same evening, the ACBL's 75th Anniversary Celebration



will take place. There will be exciting entertainment, live music and a champagne toast, so you won't want to miss it! On Saturday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m., there is



an interactive question and answer session between club managers, teachers, and several members of staff. We will be on hand to answer your questions and hear your thoughts about clubs games, marketing tools and enhancing the ACBLscore program. So bring your best ideas and hear what others have to say about growing the game of bridge. See page 2 for the list of other education activities.

If you haven't heard yet, the ACBL now offers a free downloadable PDF file of the ACBL Convention Card. You may also save the file to your computer and edit this card for your personal use. You may access the convention card by [clicking here](#). Please make sure your Members know about this great service.



I look forward to seeing you all "Ruffing on the River" in Memphis this March!

Carol Roberson

Director of Club and Member Services

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ACBL Club Game Results Online Program

Don't forget about the free program we offer clubs with sanctioned ACBL games. This program gives clubs the ability to upload their club game results from ACBLscore on the ACBL web site. Clubs with duplicating machines and/or electronic scoring devices can even post hand records and/or contract information along with their club game results. If your bridge club has access to the Internet and ACBLscore and you're not already taking advantage of this program, we invite you to sign up today and join the more than 900 bridge clubs already using this service! Simply [click here](#) and complete the registration form. Once you've submitted the registration form, a user name and password will be sent to you, via email, along with an instruction guide that details how to get started uploading your game results to the ACBL web site.

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Follow us on American Contract Bridge League and @ACBLbridge

Educational Seminars

at the Memphis Spring NABC – March 2012

Club Directors Course

Tuesday – Thursday, March 13-15

Comprehensive course that prepares candidates for directing club and bridge cruise games. Anyone interested in becoming a club director or a director aboard a cruise ship is invited to participate. Study materials may be purchased through Baron Barclay Bridge Supply. Pre-register online by March 2 at <https://web.acbl.org/Education/CDC/index.do> or contact Joyce Stone at 662-253-3138 or directorcourses@acbl.org.

Fee: \$50

Time: 1–10 p.m. Tuesday with dinner break;

9 a.m.–10 p.m. Wednesday with lunch and dinner breaks;

9 a.m.–noon Thursday followed by lunch break and testing.

Reception for Teachers and Club Officials

Friday, March 16

This is the ACBL's "thank you" reception for the teachers and club officials who work so hard to recruit and retain our Members. All teachers, club managers, directors and owners are welcome to attend.

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Club Manager and Teacher Q & A

Saturday, March 17

Come by for coffee and meet with members of the ACBL staff. This interactive information session will be hosted by Carol Robertson, Director of Club and Member Services. She will be joined by Vicki Campbell, ACBL Marketing Director; Dana Norton, Education Coordinator; Jim Miller, National Recorder & Director of Elections with a special visit by our new CEO, Robert Hartman. We will be there to answer your questions and share thoughts about clubs games, marketing tools and programs. So bring your best ideas and hear from others about growing the game of bridge.

Fee: **FREE** of charge

Time: 10 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

The Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP)

Saturday – Monday, March 17-19

Introduction to the updated ACBL Bridge Series material and other popular teaching products. Learn modern teaching techniques from one of the ACBL's premier teachers in this 10-hour interactive learning course that includes three hours of hands-on experience. Learn the business side of teaching bridge and be introduced to 64 weeks of class material and more! There are even techniques to move your students into duplicate faster. Leave with the tools needed to develop a successful teaching career. Pre-register online at www.acbl.org/teachers/upcomingTaps.html or contact Dana Norton at 662-253-3161 or education@acbl.org.

Fee: \$125 (ACBL Accredited Teachers and ABTA members can take the course for **FREE**)

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., daily

** Special opportunity

In celebration of ACBL's 75th Anniversary ABTA members are invited to take the ACBL Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) at the Spring NABC in Memphis at no charge. For more information contact the Education Department at education@acbl.org.



Club Director Refresher Course

Tuesday - Wednesday, March 20 & 21

Continuing education for bridge directors to increase their skills. Must attend both sessions.

Fee: \$15 covers both sessions. Sign up at door.

Time: 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., both days

♥ King/Queen of Bridge ♥

Do you know a graduating high school senior who is an ACBL Member who plays and promotes bridge? They could become the **2012 King/Queen of Bridge**. Recent winners have been cited for outstanding tournament performances plus administrative, recreational and promotional activities related to bridge. The ACBL Educational Foundation will present a \$1,000 scholarship to the King/Queen of Bridge.

This competition was established in 1973 by Homer Shoop, an Indiana banker, and is administered today by the ACBL Educational Foundation. A list of previous winners reads like a who's who of bridge: Jeff Meckstroth, Bobby Levin, Steve Weinstein, Brad Moss, Martha (Benson) Katz, Joel Wooldridge and Eric Greco.

To enter the contest, applicants will need to send an e-mail with personal information and qualifications, along with the name of their school and school principal, the school address and phone number to education@acbl.org no later than May 16.



Attention Club Officials and Teachers Recruit - Recruit - Recruit!!!

Take advantage of our incentive programs and get big rewards for new Member recruitment.

For every 25 new Members you recruit in a fiscal year, you will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Baron Barclay Bridge Supply. For every 100 new Members you recruit (no matter how long it takes), you will receive a check for \$500.

Also, **Clubs** receive one "Upgraded Club Championship" for every 10 new Members recruited. You are entitled to hold this game upon notification from ACBL. The game is in addition to your quarterly Club Championship. The awards are 100% sectional rated black points, and there are no additional fees. For more information or to request additional instant membership applications, e-mail club@acbl.org.



2012 Youth North American Bridge Championship

Philadelphia PA is the site of the 2012 Youth North American Bridge Championship (YNABC). The tournament will be held Thursday, July 19 through Saturday, July 21, the last weekend of the Summer NABC.

We would appreciate your help in getting the information concerning this event out to all of your young players. Please let them know that beginning on February 1 they can register online at www.youth4bridge.org.

Philadelphia is a great place to visit with lots of sight-seeing opportunities, and a chance to meet children from all over the world that share their passion for our great game.

If you would like a poster to put up on your club's bulletin board, please contact the Education Department at education@acbl.org.



Special Events

Fund/Foundation Games Reminder

February: All sanctioned sessions may be held as Junior Fund games.

April: All sanctioned sessions may be held as Charity championship games.

September: All sanctioned sessions may be held as International Fund games.

In the remaining nine months of the year (January, March, May, June, July, August, October, November and December) a club may choose from the following fund/foundation games to hold only one of these games per month per sanctioned session:

Junior Fund

Charity Foundation

International Fund

Educational Foundation

A regularly scheduled club game held at a frequency other than weekly, may hold one special “fund” game every fourth game.

It is important to your club and your Members to adhere to the regulations for Fund/Foundation games as set forth by the ACBL Board of Directors.

February is Junior Month

All regularly scheduled sanctioned sessions during the month of February can be a Junior Fund Game. The cost is an extra \$1 per person, and players can win 70% sectional-rated black points. Junior Fund games can not be held during the months of April or September. ACBL's juniors depend on our clubs to keep the youth programs going!

ACBL-wide Charity Game # 1

Help support the ACBL Charity Foundation and the Canadian Bridge Federation Charity Foundation. On Wednesday evening, March 21, 2012, the first of two ACBL-wide Charity events will be held in clubs across ACBL. Masterpoint awards are sectional-rated black. In addition to masterpoints earned at clubs, there will also be ACBL-wide and district-wide awards. Hand records and analysis are provided by e-mail.

Please register online at:

<http://www.acbl.org/clubs/specialEvents.html>

April is Charity Month

Your club can help by hosting a charity club championship game during all regular sanctioned sessions for the entire month of April. The cost is an extra \$1 per person and players can win 70% sectional-rated black points. Clubs may not hold more games to benefit a local charity than they hold to benefit the ACBL Charity Foundation or the Canadian Bridge Federation Charity Foundation. Charity games can not be held during the months of February or September. For more information, contact the ACBL Charity Desk at 662-253-3129 or charityfdn@acbl.org.

ACBL-wide International Fund Game # 2

Help support North Americans in international bridge competition. On Thursday afternoon, May 10, bridge clubs across ACBL will host the second of three events designed to raise funds to defray expenses of North American teams entered in international competition for World Bridge Federation titles. Masterpoint awards are ½ red, ½ black. In addition to masterpoints earned at clubs, there will also be ACBL-wide and district-wide awards. Printed material is sent by mail approximately 4 to 6 weeks in advance of the game.

Please register online at:

<http://www.acbl.org/clubs/specialEvents.html>

Inter-Club Championship Games

Players at your club play face-to-face with the perk of across-the-field scoring through the Internet to determine overall rankings at all clubs that participate on the same date. Hand records are sent by e-mail a few days before the game is held. The club director sends the game file by e-mail to ACBL the next day to be included in the overall scoring. Your players earn black regular club masterpoints at the club in addition to club championship masterpoints if they place in the overalls. The fees are \$1 extra per person. Two Inter-Club Championship games are scheduled for each month.

Please register online at:

<http://www.acbl.org/play/icc-games.php>

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(Inter-Club Championship Games continued from page 4)

The remainder of the 2012 Schedule is below:

Thursday	February 23	Afternoon
Monday	March 12	Evening
Tuesday	March 27	Morning
Wednesday	April 4	Afternoon
Tuesday	April 10	Evening
Monday	May 14	Afternoon
Thursday	May 24	Morning
Wednesday	June 6	Morning
Thursday	June 28	Evening
Tuesday	July 3	Afternoon
Thursday	July 26	Afternoon
Wednesday	August 1	Afternoon
Monday	August 27	Morning
Tuesday	September 4	Morning
Wednesday	September 12	Evening
Monday	October 1	Evening
Thursday	October 18	Morning
Tuesday	November 13	Evening
Wednesday	November 21	Morning
Monday	December 17	Afternoon
Thursday	December 27	Evening

Please send an e-mail with questions about charity games to charityfdn@acbl.org and questions about other Special Event games to [specialevents@acbl.org](mailto:specialevnts@acbl.org).

Other Games:



From time to time we receive questions from our Membership we feel is valuable to pass along to Club Managers. Please review the below questions and answers so we can all better serve our Members.

Member Question: *There was a correction to my club game. The results are correct on the ACBL website, but not on my club's page. I'm confused.*

Club Manager Answer: Make sure when you send in corrections to club games with your reports that you also remember to update your own website. It can be confusing for players and we want to make sure they know both the ACBL and their club are recording their game information properly.

Member Question: *I'm a new player and I checked online for the local clubs information and it doesn't appear to be accurate. It would be helpful if their game times and contact information were correct. Also, what if I'm traveling and I can't find a club to play at because the information isn't up to date?*

Club Manager Answer: Please take a minute and go to <http://www.acbl.org/play/findClub.html> and verify your club information is correct. Do you have web site? Do you have a club email address? If so, please have it linked to our site. Simply e-mail us at club@acbl.org, and we will be happy to add this to your club information. Your cooperation is much appreciated by our traveling Members.

Update from the Board of Directors Meeting in Seattle, WA

Election of ACBL President

Sharon Anderson from Eagan, Minnesota has been elected as the ACBL President for 2012.

Teacher Stipend

A teacher must be a current ACBL Member in good standing in order to receive the ACBL School Bridge Program Teacher Stipend.

Code of Disciplinary Regulations

2.1.6 Except for ACBL Management in accordance with CDR 2.2.5, none of the disciplinary bodies noted in CDR 2.2 has jurisdiction over the club's manager or staff based on actions taken in pursuit of their club activities unless the action is brought by ACBL

2.1.7 Except for CDR 2.1.1 (d), units, districts and ACBL have no original jurisdiction over *behavior at* club sponsored games. If the unit, district or ACBL is the sanction holder, club manager or club board of directors, the unit, district or ACBL has the same jurisdiction and authority *over behavior* as any other sanction holder, club manager or club board of directors.

Volunteer of the Year

The President's Volunteer of the Year is renamed the Nadine Wood ACBL Volunteer of the Year.

2012 – 2013 Youth NABCs

- A. The Summer 2012 Youth NABC to be held July 19 – 21 at the Marriott, in Philadelphia PA is approved.
- B. The Summer 2013 Youth NABC to be held August 2 – 4 at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta GA is approved.

STaC Conditions of Contest

For STaC games at the club level, non-playing directors are encouraged but not required for games with no more than one section of 17 tables or fewer. Non-playing directors are required in games larger than 17 tables or with two or more sections. Club directors who are eligible to play will receive masterpoints.

Alert Chart

There is no requirement to alert a cheapest club bid response over a natural NT opener or overcall, which asks for a 4-card or longer major suit. Rebids by notrump bidder which are different from standard (such as "Puppet Stayman") would still be Alertable.

The definitions of natural openers includes a 1C opener on specifically 4-4-3-2 with 2 clubs and 4-4 in the majors.

Effective immediately the following regulations are in effect:

The Reduction Factor for club online games "not restricted by masterpoints" of fewer than 18 boards will be 60%.

For Rank advancement requirements, restrictions on the use of online points will be removed from the requirements.

For Rank advancements higher than Life Master, the requirements are changed as follows:

- Silver Life Master: Replace "A Life Master with 1000" with "A Life Master with (a) over 1000 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than a combination of 200 silver, red, gold, or platinum points"
- Gold Life Master: Replace "A Life Master with 2500" with "A Life Master with (a) over 2500 masterpoints including (b) no fewer than a combination of 500 silver, red, gold, or platinum points"
- Diamond Life Master: Replace "A Life Master with 5000" with "A Life Master with (a) over 5000 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than a combination of 250 gold or platinum points and (c) no fewer than a combination of 1000 silver, red, gold or platinum points."

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(Updates from the Board... continued from page 6)

- **Emerald Life Master:** Replace “A Life Master with 7500” with “A Life Master with (a) over 7500 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than a combination of 500 gold or platinum points and (c) no fewer than a combination of 1500 silver, red, gold or platinum points.”
- **Platinum Life Master:** Replace “A Life Master with 10,000” with “A Life Master with (a) over 10,000 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than 100 platinum points, (c) no fewer than a combination of 750 gold or platinum points, and (d) no fewer than a combination of 2000 silver, red, gold or platinum points.”
- **Grand Life Master:** Replace “A Life Master with 10,000” with “A Life Master with (a) over 10,000 masterpoints, including (b) no fewer than 100 platinum points, (c) no fewer than a combination of 750 gold or platinum points, and (d) no fewer than a combination of 2000 silver, red, gold or platinum points”

These changes will apply to all players who attained Life Master after 1989. These changes will not cause any player to lose the rank which he or she has obtained as of December 31, 2011. In addition, each player who has obtained the rank of Life Master or higher as of December 31, 2011, will not have to fulfill the new 2012 rank advancement requirements to obtain the next higher rank advancement. However, all players will be required to fulfill the new 2012 rank advancement requirements for any further rank advancements beyond the first advancement achieved after January 1, 2012.

Example: A current Silver Life Master on December 31, 2011 would retain the current requirements for Gold Life Master, but would need to fulfill the new requirements for Diamond Life Master

Customizable TV Ad – Now Available!

We are excited to announce that a TV ad, targeting the baby boomer/recently-retired audience, is now available for clubs and teachers!

This ad is available in two versions — 15 seconds or 30 seconds. The ad may be customized with your personal contact information included at the end of the ad. Just like the radio ads available for clubs and teachers, there is a media buyer to help you negotiate your media purchase(s), handle getting the TV ad to the station(s), and arrange for insertion of your customized contact information.



[Click here](#) to learn more, watch the ads, and request to use the ad to market your club or bridge class.

We can't wait for you to take advantage of this brand new marketing tool!