

**ACBL BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
MARCH 11 THROUGH MARCH 14, 2013**

**REPORT FROM BILL COOK, JR.  
DISTRICT 10 REPRESENTATIVE**

- Defeated a motion to move the ACBL wide International Fund Game #1 to the Saturday of Super Bowl weekend.
- Defeated a motion to create a dual system where face to face masterpoints are kept totally separate from on-line points.
- Deferred to the 2013 Summer meeting in Atlanta, a decision to the establishment of an NABC 10K Mixed Swiss Teams of the Summer NABC.
- Deferred to 2013 Summer meeting in Atlanta, a decision to the establishment of an NABC 10K pairs event to be played the first Saturday and Sunday of the Summer NABC.
- Passed a motion that requires all participants in NABC plus events, to be ACBL members whose membership dues and service fees are current.
- Approved a mandatory additional Non-Dues Paying Players fee for all Regionals, of at least \$4.00 per session, except for Charity events or events limited to players with no more than 20 masterpoints.
- Approved a mandatory additional Non-Dues Paying Players fee for all sectionals of at least \$3.00 per person per session, except for Charity events, STaCs or events limited to players with no more than 20 masterpoints.
- Approved a mandatory additional entry fee of \$4.00 per player per session at all NABC's for non-members and unpaid Life Masters, except for Charity events and events limited to players with no more than 20 masterpoints.
- Amended the rules for Eight is Enough game that allows a club to hold an "8 is Enough" game as an open game. There must be no upper limit on the number of masterpoints allowed for team members.
- Effective January 1, 2014, the minimum age for ACBL sanctioned senior events will be 60 years of age. However, those eligible under present rules on December 31, 2013 will remain eligible in subsequent years.
- Amended Item 122-110, Playing Directors in STaC's as follows:

At Sponsor option, the restriction on Playing Directors and their partners on being ineligible to receive overall STaC masterpoints, may be waived. Such waiver shall be noted on the sanction application submitted to ACBL Headquarters.

- Approved the following changes in the ACBL Convention Chart, effective January 1, 2014:
  1. Item #5 of the Disallowed section of the ACBL Super Chart is amended to read, “Opening one bids which by partnership agreement could show fewer than 8 HCP in first and second seat (Not applicable to a psych).”
  2. The ACBL Mid-Chart is amended to add an additional numbered paragraph, Opening weak 2D or 2H opening bid showing at least 5-4 in the majors, if the five-card suit is known. (2)
  3. The ACBL Mid-Chart is amended to add an additional numbered paragraph, Opening weak 2D or 2H opening bid showing at least 5-4 in the majors, if the five-card suit is unknown. (6)
  4. The ACBL Mid-Chart is amended to add an additional numbered paragraph, Opening weak 2H bid showing 5-5 (or more) in hearts and any other suit. (2)
  5. The ACBL Mid-Chart is amended to add an additional numbered paragraph, Opening weak 2S bid showing 5-5 (or more) in spades and a minor. (2)
- The ACBL Alert Chart is amended as follows:
  1. A weak jump shift by advancer is not alertable. Advancer is defined as partner of an over-caller.
  2. All 2 D responses to a strong 2 C opening are non-alertable.
- The new NABC 10K Swiss was approved for the first Friday and Saturday of the 2013 Spring NABC as an experimental event with an option for a second year. The event will award 10% Platinum points, subject to a 10 point maximum for overall awards only. The event is deemed an NABC event, not an NABC+ event.

**ROBERT HARTMAN, ACBL CEO REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:**

- At the end of February, ACBL membership stood at 166,881, the highest total in over a decade. So far in 2013 we have netted 473 additional members.
- Tournament table count for 2013 through February is down comparable to same period in 2012. Regionals down 13%; & STaC's down 14%.
- Sectional table count down 8%, with 6 fewer sectionals being held.
- Preliminary 2012 Club table count for clubs was 3,120,609 with 905,890 being from online games. Club table count for January 2013 was down 1.18% over 2012.
- The Club & Membership Department has made concerted efforts to move all clubs over to electronic reporting thru ACBL score. Of the 3,200 clubs, there are approximately 160 clubs that continue to report manually.

- Bridge clubs across North America came together the week of January 20 & raised approximately \$40,000 for the Hurricane Sandy Relief effort.
- The first Grass Roots FUND month was held in December, 2012 and more than \$82,000 was raised at 20,435 tables. The funds will be distributed to District Treasurers in early March for their use in support of Grand National Teams and North American Open Pair events.
- ACBL score+ entered Phase 4 (core scoring of all game types) at the start of the year and is scheduled to be completed in July. Several programmers have been added to the project (bringing the total to 2 full time and 12 part time programmers) to focus on stratification and masterpoint/matchpoint calculations.
- Tourney Trax, the new Bridge Administration database tool, rolled out February 25. The new tool replaces almost 100 disconnected data bases and will bring increased accuracy, efficiency, and communications to virtually every phase of the tournament cycle. The first feature that is most obvious to the average player is a new layout for the “Find a Tournament” pages of the ACBL website.
- On an experimental basis, the ACBL has allowed BBO to run sanctioned games where the human can declare the hand should their robot partner become the declarer. Results of this experiment are due by the Summer NABC.
- Our new Marketing/Public Relations agency, Golin Harris, is hard at work on the planning and publicity for The Longest Day event – cobranded with ACBL and Alzheimer’s Association. A custom registration kit has been prepared for clubs to sign up and participate.
- A new 24 page mini-magazine is in the final stage of development for use by ACBL and sanctioned clubs to advertise member benefits and solicit membership. The mini-magazine, titled “Bridge Life” is a compilation of education and life style articles found in the Bridge Bulletin and were created to target non-members who have familiarity with the game and/or have played in clubs. In 2012, approximately 75,000 non-members played in clubs and earned masterpoints, but never joined ACBL. Information on these non-members is limited to what the club directors provide in ACBL score. This campaign will include several phases.
- In 2012 a total of \$157,080.78 was distributed by ACBL to 335 co-operative advertising campaigns. This represents a 5.6% increase compared to 2011 District 10 had 18 approved requests for a total of \$7,056.83 and gained 616 new members.
- In 2013 Teacher Accreditation Programs (TAP) will be offered in nine locations compared to seven in 2011.
- Youth NABC & World Open Youth Bridge Championships will be held during the Atlanta NABC in which there will be 13 consecutive days of bridge that they can play amongst their peers.

- Graduates from the ACBL's Funded School Program have grown by 12.2% from 2010 to 2011. From 2011 to 2012 the total classes and graduates increased another 7%.
- District 10 has a total of 101 paid Youth and Junior Members. This is the second largest number of any ACBL district.
- Patty Taylor has been promoted to manager of Club and Membership Services and Shaneka Cunningham has taken over as Special Events Coordinator.