

Honolulu: Dan Morse's Report of the Winter Nationals - November 2006

Honolulu – what a wonderful place for a tournament.

Jeffery Taylor, Board of Directors, District 19, and his District volunteers went out of their way to make it welcoming to us.

The tournament was visited by a record number of Japanese Bridge players who played very well and seemed to have a good time. Many will probably be back next fall in San Francisco.

The table count was 8,606 and was slightly lower than expected – mainly because the weather was great, beautiful sunsets and sunrises, and plenty of blue water made it tempting to be outside. As the planes flew over many of the players took off and visited the other close islands. The planes, helicopters, and boats were quickly available to bring the people back and forth.

Even I took off a couple of days just to enjoy the weather and relax.

Membership:

Membership is up the ACBL expects to have over 1000 more paying members this year.

ACBL Elections

George Retek and Al Levy were elected as WBF representatives for a 3-year terms. I was elected as 401k trustee for a 4-year term.

The popular and loveable Zeke Jabbour was named Honorary Member of the Year for 2007. Zeke writes the Winsome & Loathsome – Tales of the Trail, in the Bridge Bulletin.

Cooperative Advertising:

This is an excellent program that will pay for 75% of your cost for a newspaper, radio or other type of ad for bridge players up to \$1,000.00. Teachers and Bridge Club owners – Take Notice - use this when you are looking for students or new players.

Board Education

The Board of Directors will engage in an educational program at the March meeting in St. Louis. The program will last one full day and be conducted by Board Consulting Organization.

A Board Oversight Committee was formed to receive complaints from the ACBL President, the Board of Directors, or the CEO concerning inappropriate behavior of a

board member. The committee will be the last 3 Presidents that are not officers of the Board.

Clubs:

Clubs are no longer required to run a Charity Game to receive a sanction.

National Committees

A Tournament Disciplinary Committee was formed.

The committee is to include two players from each district noted for ethics (not necessary bridge ability). I will be appointing two from District 16. If you are interested and plan to attend the NABCs, let me know.

Bylaws:

The ACBL now has available sample Bylaws for Districts as well as Units. If anyone is updating their bylaws, they should get a sample copy from the ACBL.

Possible Sale:

The CEO of the ACBL was authorized to continue negotiations and complete the sale of the Headquarters Building in Memphis.

Conditions of Contest:

The Mini LM pairs will be 6 sessions.

Finance:

2006 is estimated to lose between 150,000 & 200,000. In 2007 Tournament Director Fees will go up but Sanction fees will be lowered to help offset this increase and the budget shows a surplus of 175,000.

The Product Store sale was finalized in September and will allow the ACBL to cut down on overhead in 2007.

Congratulations to the US for winning the Warren Buffett Cup in Ireland. For more information see www.buffetcup.com.

The www.Bridgeiscool.com web site for younger bridge players is being improved; please recommend it to any junior players.

Good Will and Charity Committees:

The ACBL Goodwill and Charity Committees recognize members who work hard or who have worked hard for the good of bridge and promote the best in bridge

The Goodwill Committee promotes being friendly at the tables, volunteering to work at Tournaments, being polite to your partner, your teammates, and your opponents.

The District Director is allowed to appoint two people to the Goodwill Committee and two people to the Charity Committee. The Goodwill Committee can also replace players who have passed away.

Once appointed these people are members for life. My appointments for 2007 are: Goodwill Committee - Martha DeCou, Corpus Christi; Larry Davis, Austin; and Mildred Breed, Austin. Charity Committee - Norm Gautier, The Woodlands; and Tom Hughes, Fort Worth.

Smoking

Attention smokers: All three Nationals next year will be in Marriott's and be completely non-smoking. This could suggest a New Year's resolution.

I hope everyone has a good holiday and a happy and healthy New Year.

Dan