

# LAS VEGAS NATIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORT

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*July 2014*

Las Vegas! This is the place that has a magic to it, attracting bridge players from all over the world. In every hallway at the tournament site, at least 20 different languages could be heard as players discussed their bidding or play problems. 16,616 tables were in play, fewer than expected by the tournament committee, which did a great job and furnished snacks and entertainment each night. The host hotel, the Westgate Resort Hotel (originally the Las Vegas Hilton and the Las Vegas Hotel), is now about 60 years old and showing its signs of age. The next Las Vegas Nationals will be in 2019, and will be held at the new Cosmopolitan Casino Hotel.

Congratulations to Peggy Sutherlin and Bob Hamman on their inductions into the ACBL Hall of Fame and Sportsman of the year.

Membership is holding steady at 168,000 but tournaments are trending down by one percent. There are more tournaments now so this decline is surprising.

All Units are covered by ACBL insurance policies for sanctioned ACBL events and tournaments. Unit meetings are not covered and may need to self-insure. Contact the ACBL or me if you have any questions concerning insurance.

Screens will be used in Flight B events if space is available and whenever they are used for the Championship flight.

## **ACBL SCORE PLUS**

The ACBL has made the decision to discontinue the Score Project. A working group of board members, internal staff and outside experts determined that efforts to develop a completely new system fell short of what should be required. The ACBL is now moving forward with plans to enhance the features and benefits of its existing scoring software to extend it into the future. The ACBL has already integrated data population with Tourney Tax and are building integration to create real time results display features on the web.

## **THE GOOD WILL COMMITTEE**

All districts with 8,000 or more members shall be entitled to one additional Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill committee member for the following year.

## **ENTRY FEES NABC + TEAM EVENTS/SCORES**

Entry fees for NACB+ events that use screens shall incur a surcharge of \$40 per team for each session that screens are in use.

## **NEW EVENTS**

An ACBL+ Mixed Swiss Team event has been added to the Fall NABC schedule starting in 2015. This event will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday/Sunday, with two qualifying and two final sessions.

A new 0-10,000 IMP Pairs will be held Monday/Tuesday at the Fall NACB, starting 2015.

A 0-10,000 Fast Pairs will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday/Friday at the Fall NABC, starting 2015.

## **MASTER POINT AWARDS**

There are many proposed master point change which would all require a second reading. Anyone interested can read about these changes on the ACBL.org website and are located in the minutes of the Las Vegas NACB section. Some of them concern the M, R and T factors, which are quite complex.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

The new website is enjoying higher usage than the previous site.

- “Find a Teacher” now has a map search which gives teachers the ability to be listed in two locations plus it also has a teacher bio section which the teacher can update and upload a photo.
- “Find a Club” now has a map search and a bio section which can be updated and has a photo upload.
- “Find a Tournament” now as a map search option and now includes STAC results on the info page.
- “The Hand of the Week” includes each weekly article dating back to 2007.
- “It’s Your Call Now” includes the capability for members to update their answers before the poll ends.

Master point confirmation postcards have been discontinued as of June 1, 2014. Members can obtain master point confirmation at “my ACBL” on our website or call Member Services at 1-800-264-2743.

## **MARKETING**

“The Longest Day” was a big success again this year, raising approximately \$500,000 for the Alzheimer’s. The media was helpful in this endeavor, giving us three times more publicity than last year.

## **BRIDGE LIFE CAMPAIGN**

“Bridge Life” magazine went into regular monthly mailing at the end of May, and will be distributed to non-members who earn master points at clubs. Teachers and clubs can order “Bridge Life” on the website’s new ACBL Resource Center.

## **FACEBOOK**

The ACBL Facebook page has increased by 11% in followers this year. If a unit would like a Facebook page, the ACBL would be glad to help.

## **“LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE IN A DAY”**

“Learn to Play Bridge in a Day” is coming to Houston on September 6, 2014. Tell your friends who want to learn more about bridge to sign up because this is a great opportunity. I would urge other units in District 16 to take advantage of this program.

There are lots of good tournaments coming up and I hope to see you at the tables.

Dan