

PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND REPORT

Hi all. Rhode Island was a nice place to hold the NABC. The weather was cold, cold, cold, however I was in the host hotel where you could walk on an indoor walk way to the Convention Center where the playing area was and also walk indoors to a shopping mall with a food court, four restaurants, and many other shops. On the two occasions (in 18 days) I went outside there were many restaurants of all types close enough to walk too. There were 9,546 tables in Providence a respectable number but 200 less than the estimate.

Suzi Subeck was elected President of the ACBL for 2015.

Dan Morse was elected trustee of the ACBL 401K.

Membership and number of tables at clubs, regional's, sectionals, and STaC's were close to even from last year. We need to encourage friends to take up bridge to grow our membership

Rule Changes

- Seven day Regionals were approved. Two session gold point events can be held on Monday. First session on Monday must not start before 1 pm. The Houston Regional in January has changed its flyer to incorporate the extra gold point event.
- In a regionally-rated event, a Strati-flighted event may be run as a two or three flight event. If it is run as two flights, each flight may have up to three strats.
- Match awards for Vanderbilt and Spingold events increased to 10 MP. Match awards for Senior and Wagar increased to 8 MP.
- Byes in Vanderbilt, Spingold, Wagar, and Senior KO's will no longer count as a win toward the two wins required to get in the overall.
- MP awards in pair games have been increased approximately 25%.
- At NABC'S the depth of awards in pairs, Swiss, & BAM will pay overall awards to 25% of the field.
- GNT District Finals. For all events which are played over at least three sessions a minimum award of at least 1/3 of the first place award to any team that advances to the second day where there was a 50% or greater reduction in teams from the first day.
- Non LM Sectionals changed name to Limited Sectional with 500 MP top limit and LM if eligible may play.
- DIC will no longer pay TA's and caddies. The DIC will turn over funds to the Sponsor who will pay the TA's and caddies.

ACBL Resource Center

The ACBL Resource Center was launched on November 7. The site is designed to be a convenient, easy-to-use tool that allows bridge clubs, teachers, units and districts the ability to order or download anything they need to grow the game.

Marketing

- The Cooperative Advertising Program is going strong with 291 ads, reimbursed \$138,075 to 186 units, clubs, and teachers so far in 2014.
- The ACBL will market on BBO to players who are not members of the ACBL.
- You can follow the ACBL on Facebook and Twitter.
- The Longest day Alzheimer's fund raising event was a big success this year with \$598,647.00 being raised. Plans are underway for 2015 with expanded participation dates to include Sunday June 21 (Fathers' Day) and Monday June 22.

Looking forward to seeing you at the tables

Dan