

NEW ORLEANS NABC REPORT

If you like good food and Jazz New Orleans is the place for you. I overdosed on the award winning Gumbo served at the Marriott New Orleans. Their grits in the morning were also award winning quality. If you wanted to walk a few blocks the French Quarter offered many great restaurants. One of my favorites was Gualitos (so good I ate there 4-5 times). It was an experience walking around the Quarter and listening to all the music being played outside and indoors both. The tournament was a success with almost 11,000 tables.

They had special remembrance parties after the games on Saturday and Monday nights. The first was for Director of operations Jeff Johnston, who was in charge of running the NABC'S and the Tournament Directors. Then on Monday there was a remembrance party for Gary Hayden, a long time professional player who was a regular at almost all District 16 Regional's. Both were very well intended and had many fine speakers. Both will be missed.

NEW ACBL WEB SITE

You need to check out the ACBL web site, the new online partnership desk looks very promising. It can be used for tournaments and clubs. Tournament Partnership chairs should make a note of this service.

There is also a New Learn to Play Bridge web application software. The ACBL is launching the new version first for teachers, clubs, units, and Districts. Some of the new features:

- Instantly start playing bridge with robots powered by BridgeBase.
- Test your skills with over a thousand hands on Finesses, Stayman, Fourth best and more.
- Check your ACBL masterpoints with new rank badges and full color masterpoints.

Registration and use of the entire site is FREE.

The newly developed technology committee gave a presentation on future plans for ACBL Score. They answered questions about what lies ahead. The presentation was videotaped and placed on the ACBL web site. If interested here is a link, <http://www.acbl.org/about-acbl/technology-committee/>.

DECISIONS

KO AWARDS FOR 5-6 PERSON TEAMS AT SECTIONALS/REGIONAL'S.

In non NABC events players on KO teams with more than 4 players who are otherwise eligible for overall awards will be subject to the following participation reduction.

For every segment (half a match) of a match that is won and where a participant sits out, the overall awards for that individual will be reduced by 5%. For example, if a player's team win's a 4-session

KO and that participant played only half of each match, that players masterpoint award will be reduced by 20%. To be effective 1-1-16.

CONVENTION CHART MODIFICATIONS

Defense to NT opening: The bid of 2 diamonds showing one suit, either spades or hearts is now General Chart.

TRANSFER RESPONSES are added to the COMPETITIVE BIDDING SECTION OF THE ACBL GENERAL CONVENTION CHART.

GRASS ROOTS FUND

80% of the funds, net of total entry fee awarded by the ACBL for Flights A,B, & C is returned to the Districts that raised the monies. The other 20% will be distributed according to a complex formula that you should read the total minutes (on the ACBL web site) to understand.

GNT ENTRY FEE STRUCTURE

For the first 2 days for Flights A, B, & C of the GNT National Final the entry fee is taken from the Grass Roots Fund.

OTHER

The ACBL has changed their tournament Insurance carrier, if you require an insurance certificate for your sectional or regional there is an application page on the ACBL web site.

Since the longest day falls of Sunday this year the ACBL has approved holding the Longest Day games either Sunday 21, or Monday the 22. This is for a good cause; encourage your club to participate.

On the ACBL web site there is a complete set of minutes available for anyone interested.

Hope to see everyone at the tables

Dan