

Scorecard Article Dec 2018

The Hilton Hawaiian Village hosted the Fall NABC and Board meeting. The weather was great, the views spectacular and the people friendly. Congratulations to D16 winners Greg Hinze who won the Nail Life Master Pairs with his partner David Grainger, Hua Yang who won the 0 – 10,000 IMP Pairs with his partner Yuan Wei Wang and to Virgil Massey and Charlene Sands who won the 0 – 6000 Mini-Blue Ribbon Pairs!!!

Turnout for the tournament was disappointing at 6034.5 tables, down from the budgeted 7200. I've only seen data back to 1990, but this was the smallest of NABCs in that time period.

Here are the highlights from the Board meeting:

Russ Jones from District 10 was elected ACBL President for next year. Russ has chaired the Bridge Committee for the past two years and is a former ACBL Tournament Director.

The Board hired Joe Jones as our Executive Director. Joe had been ACBL CFO and stepped in as Interim Executive Director in May. I chaired the Search Committee and after an extensive selection process, the committee recommended that Joe be selected and the Board agreed. Joe has had a positive impact and has established a partnership with the Board. I'm looking forward to working with him in the new role.

The Board voted to establish a Masterpoint Committee to oversee the changes in masterpoint awards. This committee will have ACBL staff members and three at large members. We're optimistic that involving interested members on the committee will improve decisions as well as be more efficient.

A motion was passed to allow Districts that have 8 or more teams competing in their District GNT finals in Flights B and C to send 2 teams to the finals at the summer NABC. I've supported this motion as it encourages more participation at all levels in this competition.

For the past two years, there have been experiments with Knockout events to make them more attractive. Revisions were finalized for the changes which allow reduction of bracket sizes to make the competition fairer without disproportionate reduction of masterpoint awards.

A motion to eliminate the requirement to announce a standard 15 to 17 high card point range was **defeated**. The majority of the board felt the risk of unauthorized information passing between players outweighed the benefit of the change. More players are using variable no trump opening ranges depending on position and vulnerability which would aggravate the situation.

I hope all of you have enjoyed a great holiday season and doing well in the New year. I look forward to seeing you at the Lone Star Regional in Houston from February 4 – 10.