

Phoenix NABC Report

November 2013

Phoenix was a nice place for a National Tournament. There were a few days when it was cold but still much better than the rest of the country where there were ice storms and freezing weather. The players turned up in large numbers; the tournament ended with 12,565 tables; about 1,000 more than anticipated.

Fee Increases

New member dues will increase from \$28 to \$29 and regular one year dues will increase from \$37 to \$39 beginning April 1, 2014.

Tournament sanctions fees will be increased 1.5% beginning April 1, 2014

Membership

At the end of October membership stands at 167,912. Membership increased by 1,504 in 2013, which is the highest membership gain in a single year since 1993.

Tournaments

Regional and Sectional table count have shown small declines. Three fewer Regionals are being held this year. The bright spot is STaCs which were up 10% this year however there were 5 more STaCS this year. The Bridge Department at ACBL is being transformed in order to enhance both customer service levels and experience.

Smoking Policy

Smoking and electronic smoking devices are not permitted in the playing area during any bridge playing event at an NABC.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the ACBL is to promote, grow, and sustain the game of bridge and serve the bridge-related interests of our members.

GNT

Starting September 1, 2013 the GNT competition will have 4 flights as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Championship Flight: | Unlimited |
| 2. Flight A: | 0-6000 MP |
| 3. Flight B: | 0-2500 MP |
| 4. Flight C: | Non-Life Master up to 500 |

The District has the option of conducting any fair bridge competition it chooses to select a winning team.

Phoenix NABC

For the first time Tourney Trax was used to generate all hand records and pre-duplicate boards for the NABC.

In an effort to get the major games started earlier the ACBL worked with BRIDGE WINNERS to pre-sell entries to potential seeded players.

Regional at Sea from Galveston, Texas

The ACBL is now running the Regionals at Sea program, of particular interest to District 16 is the May 11-18 sailing out of Galveston with stops at Cozumel, Grand Cayman and Jamaica. The price starts at only \$999 with Bridge author Mel Colchamiro and ACBL CEO Robert Hartman on board. I have not been on board one of the Regionals but I hear you can win lots of points.

Collegiate Championship

The 2014 Collegiate Bridge Team Championship qualifying game will be held Saturday, February 15, 2014. This free on-line qualifying phase will select the teams for the Summer NABC in Las Vegas. Entry is open to all colleges and universities in North America.

Learn to Play Bridge in a Day

Whirlwind Bridge has a program called Learn to Play Bridge in a Day. For a limited time the Education Foundation has money to support this program. If interested contact the ACBL Education Foundation for details.

DALLAS NABC MARCH 20-30 2014

The next National will be right here in Dallas Texas, Tomi FitzGerald and her hard working committee have planned a great Tournament. Let's all go and make it a big Texas success.

Looking forward to seeing all in Big D.

Dan