

## DISTRICT DIRECTOR REPORT FOR MARCH 2015

### **CLUBS /MEMBERSHIP FOCUS**

As I reported last month, I have been appointed chair of the National Board's Clubs and Membership Committee. I served on this committee last year and this year was appointed chair by Suzi Subeck, ACBL President. I am excited by this appointment as Clubs are the heart of the ACBL. And in connection with Clubs and Membership, the committee is the home for marketing. Besides my board committee members, the staff for this committee includes Carol Robertson, Director of Clubs and membership Services and Alex Turner, Marketing Director.

The focus and charges of my committee for the year include:

- Review all aspects of Club Bridge
- Evaluate general regulations for club games
- Review special games at clubs
- Look at the club fee structure as related to club services
- Consider methods to improve membership growth through clubs
- Evaluate how both full-service clubs and smaller clubs fit into the ACBL structure. Should the ACBL be committing more time and resources to one or the other?

### **Multi-Section Club Games**

Another aspect of clubs that was discussed at our last board meeting was Multi-Section club games. My committee plans to continue this discussion. The point of discussion: Is it proper when some clubs have multiple open sections where by design, the club makes one section significantly stronger than another section.

This raises some questions.

1. Is this a violation of ACBL rules which prohibit stacking the field?

2. Is a two section game comparable to two separate one-section club games where one club always has a stronger field because of geographic or temporal factors, except the overall awards are paid for multiple sections within a single club?

3. Should the overall awards be paid to the “weak” section, because there is more volatility in the scores, making it easier to have a high percentage game? It can be argued that the weaker pairs have an advantage from having not to play the strong pairs that are in the other section.

One possible answer to these questions to be discussed is to require that overall awards be based on scoring across-the-field. Since most large clubs already use hand records, this may not be a problem. Additionally, sections can still be scored individually, but the event must be re-scored to determine overall winners. As almost every club uses computer scoring, this would not be a hard task to perform.

This is just a beginning. Any thoughts or suggestions are welcome.

And remember, I can always be reached at [Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net)