



Fall Edition • September 2009

Look What's Inside

Special Events..... 2

Passed by the ACBL
Board of Directors .3-4

Amnesty 5

MyClub Information..... 5

Life Master
requirements..... 5

A NEWSLETTER FOR

CLUB MANAGERS

Dear Club Manager,

Have you heard? The ACBL office is relocating to Horn Lake MS, a suburb of Memphis. The staff is looking forward to moving to the new building in the spring of 2010. This is an exciting time! The office will be near Interstate 55, just south of Memphis. So if you are in the area, please visit us. You will not be disappointed.

The 2010 game sanction renewal forms are being mailed in September. Please return the form with the appropriate fees at your earliest convenience. The sooner we receive and process them, the quicker we can mail the materials for 2010. We appreciate your cooperation.

I hope to see you at the Fall North American Bridge Championships in San Diego CA, Nov. 26 through Dec. 6. A list of education programs is available on the ACBL web site. Click on the San Diego logo on our home page at www.acbl.org. We are looking forward to a great tournament in San Diego.



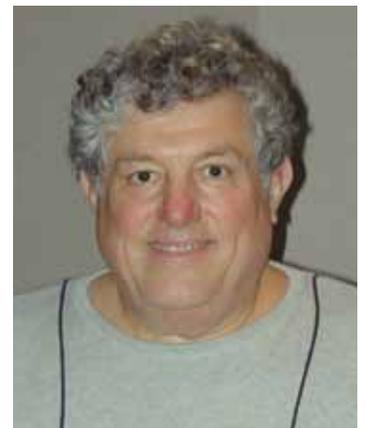
Carol Robinson

Director of Club and Member Services

Rich DeMartino Elected ACBL President

Rich DeMartino of Riverside CT was elected ACBL president for 2010. DeMartino represents District 25, which includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. DeMartino has served on the ACBL Board of Directors since 2001.

One of Rich's goals for the upcoming year is to continue to improve technology by completing a project which will give all clubs the option to post daily club results on the ACBL web site and to make our web site easier to navigate and more user friendly. Another goal is to encourage players at all levels to recognize the importance of being more friendly to each other, especially to newer players.



AMERICAN CONTRACT
BRIDGE LEAGUE
2990 Airways Blvd.
Memphis TN 38116

www.acbl.org





Special Events

Special Event Sanctioning: The 2010 club renewal packet includes the special events sanction form. This form lists the dates of the 2010 special games as well as the deadline for submission. We encourage clubs to sanction games online by visiting the [Special Events page](#) for Club Directors and Managers. If you are unable to sanction the games online, please complete and return the paper form in a timely manner.

New procedures for ACBL-wide Games: Beginning Jan. 1, 2010, information such as the conditions of contest and game files (hand records, analysis, etc.) for the following events will be provided online and by e-mail only:

ACBL-wide International Fund # 1	Feb. 6, 2010
ACBL-wide Senior Game	Feb. 22, 2010
ACBL-wide Charity Game	March 17, 2010
ACBL-wide International Fund # 2	May 13, 2010
ACBL-wide International Fund #3	July 23, 2010
ACBL-wide Charity Game	Nov. 29, 2010

We will continue to provide printed booklets and travelers for the following games:

Worldwide Bridge Contest	June 4, 2010
Worldwide Bridge Contest	June 5, 2010
ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game	Sept. 16, 2010

Further details will be given when you sign up for a game sanction.

If you forget whether you have sanctioned a game or would like to see other participating clubs in your area, go to www.acbl.org/play/Participating-Clubs.php

Contact the Special Events Department at SpecialEvents@acbl.org for more information.

Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Month: Clubs may hold one Club Appreciation Pair game and one Club Appreciation Swiss Team game per sanctioned session during the month of October. Masterpoints awarded: 100% sectional-rated black for the Club Appreciation Pairs Game. The Club Appreciation Team game awards 5% gold to a maximum of 0.25 per player. The remaining points are sectional-rated black. [Click here](#) for the manual report forms and Conditions of Contest.

ACBL-wide Charity Pairs: The ACBL-wide Charity game will be on Monday evening, Nov. 30, 2009. Hand records and analyses will be provided for this event. Players at clubs with five or more tables in play will be eligible for the competition for overall awards at national and district levels. It's not too late to sign up now for this event. Materials will be mailed in October.



Passed by Board of Directors in Washington DC

Internet Bridge

ACBL-wide races for masterpoints won in internet bridge games will be established.

The ACBL will consider an Internet webpage devoted to Internet activities, including, but not limited to, sanctioned online bridge, bridge, instructional websites, informative websites, online teaching and international websites.

Stratiflighted and Limited, Pair and Team Events

In stratiflighted and limited pair and team events, once the flight of the pair or team is determined, stratification within each flight may be based, at sponsor option, on the average masterpoint holding of the team or pair.

Non Member Masterpoints

A former member who has not paid dues for over 90 days, and has become a nonmember, is entitled to pay dues that were due and owing for whatever period of time he had non-member status (this payment may be for only those years in which the non-member won points and for which the non-member wishes to pay). Any former member who reinstates for a three –year period will have all unrecorded masterpoints credited at no charge. All masterpoints earned during the non-member period for which payment is received will be recorded to the extent possible.

Any member who pays his dues within 90 days after his membership paid-through date will have his masterpoints recorded free of charge. Such dues payment will be credited from the original paid-through date and no break in membership recorded.

Club Discipline

Amendments were made to the rules governing club discipline. These amendments are to codify that a club barring a non-member of ACBL is not within the jurisdiction of ACBL unless the barring is alleged to be due to a discriminatory reason. Below are the current regulations regarding club discipline.

Club management should deal promptly and

fairly with all cases of improper conduct that occur during an ACBL-sanctioned masterpoint game in the club, including cases of unethical practices.

The club manager should either handle these situations personally or establish a standing committee to review all disciplinary problems. Clubs holding non-sanctioned games may deal with problems arising in these games as they see fit.

The club manager can handle many behavior problems by discussing them with the offenders, by issuing a warning, or declaring a period of probation. In extreme cases or cases of repeat offenses, the manager can bar an ACBL member from the club game for a stipulated period of time, or permanently. No open club may bar an ACBL member or members as a class, based upon the player's race, creed, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, national origin, and physical handicap or on his proficiency at bridge.

Unless a non ACBL member is currently suspended or expelled from participation in ACBL sanctioned events, permission to play in an ACBL sanctioned event at that club is at the sole discretion of the club management and ACBL has no jurisdiction.

Therefore, except for a barring alleged to be for the above discriminatory reasons, these regulations do not apply (i.e. the ACBL requirements and rights enumerated in this section do not extend to non ACBL members).

Except as detailed in the previous paragraph, a club may bar an ACBL member for whatever reason it deems proper and consistent with ACBL Rules and Regulations and the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge. An obnoxious or incompatible partnership may be barred as a pair, but each may be permitted to play with other partners.

To bar an ACBL member, club management must notify the member in writing and send a copy of the notification to the ACBL Club Membership De-



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Passed by the Board

Continued from page 3 ➤

partment. The notification must include the member's name and player number and the reason for the barring. An open club can bar members from its regularly scheduled club masterpoint games, membership games, ACBL-wide games, club championships, charity and international fund club championships, and other special events specifically allocated to clubs as outlined above.

These regulations also apply to a club with an invitational sanction except that the club has the additional authority to refuse admittance to an invitational game to someone who does not meet the criteria upon which the invitational sanction is based (*e.g.* a member who has 500 masterpoints is denied admittance to an invitational game that is limited to members with less than 300 masterpoints).

If the member feels that his barring does not comply with these regulations prohibiting barring players as a class, religious or political affiliations, race, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, physical disability or proficiency at bridge, he or she may appeal the barring to the unit disciplinary committee. Appeals from the unit disciplinary committee may be filed in accordance with and under the authority of the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. Until the appeal is lodged and heard, the player remains barred unless reinstated by the club unless a stay is granted by the Unit Disciplinary Chairperson.

A club may extend the barring of an ACBL member from Grand National teams, North American Pair events, STaCs, qualifying sessions of a progressive sectional, unit or district competitions, and/or unit-wide or district-wide championships held at the club. A member so barred may appeal the extension of the barring under the process described in the previous paragraph. In such cases, the written notice to the member barred must include the member's right to appeal the action to the Unit Disciplinary Committee in which the club is located within thirty days of the action taken by the club. Such written notice is required, otherwise the barring shall not be effective.

Masterpoint Races

The following races will be determined by masterpoints won in ACBL-sanctioned events (excluding ACBL-sanctioned events that are played on the Internet) sponsored by the ACBL or its Districts, Units and Clubs and any ACBL-sanctioned event designated by ACBL Management such as, but not limited to, an ACBL regional tournament sanctioned to and conducted by another bridge organization as long as an ACBL member may play without regard to his country of residence.

Barry Crane Top 500
Mini-McKenney
Youth
Juniors
District
Unit

The Annual Senior Masterpoint Race will be determined by masterpoints won in ACBL regionally-rated or higher sanctioned senior events (excluding such events that are played on the Internet) sponsored by the ACBL or its Districts, Units and Clubs and any such event designated by ACBL Management such as, but not limited to, an ACBL regional tournament sanctioned to and conducted by another bridge organization as long as an ACBL member may play without regard to his country residence.

Stratification by Average Masterpoint Holding of Team and Pair Events

In stratified events, the stratification level of a team or pair may be based, at sponsor option, on the average masterpoint holding of the team or pair. This option may be exercised in both club or unit games, and tournaments but not in qualifying events.



Amnesty

Be sure to let all of your players know about ACBL's "Amnesty Offer," which is available right now! The offer — available until Dec. 31, 2009 — is for lapsed ACBL members who have unrecorded masterpoints. These former ACBL members are invited to reinstate their membership between now and Dec. 31, 2009 and receive all masterpoints won during the time they were on inactive membership status credited to them at no charge. In addition, those who renew before Oct. 1, 2009, will receive a special bonus offer — a deck of ACBL tournament-quality playing cards. Spread the word!



Reminder of New Life Master Requirements

Effective Jan. 1, 2010, the requirements for Life Master are modified to include earning 500 points, of which 250 must be pigmented as follows:



- 50 must be gold or platinum
- 50 must be red, gold or platinum
- 75 must be silver
- 75 must be black

These requirements do not apply to people who are ACBL members as of Dec. 31, 2009 and maintain continuous membership in the ACBL until they achieve Life Master status. These players will attain Life Master status upon earning 300 points, of which 150 must be pigmented as follows:

- 25 must be gold
- 25 must be red or gold
- 50 must be silver
- 50 must be black

(the rules in effect July 1, 2008)

For members achieving Life Master under the modified rules, the rank of Bronze Life Master is abolished. For these members, a new rank of Advanced NABC Master is created. The requirements for this rank are 300 masterpoints, of which 150 must be pigmented as follows:

- 25 must be gold or platinum
- 25 must be red, gold or platinum
- 50 must be silver
- 50 must be black

(these are the requirements for Life Master in effect July 1, 2008)

MyClub Information

As a club manager, you have quick access to view up-to-date information about your club. You can view sanctioned sessions, the status of masterpoint and financial reports, apply for special game sanction, view suspended members lists, etc. This page appears in your online portal. If you have not already done so, register now by visiting www.acbl.org and clicking on MyACBL.



Be Prepared for the Flu Season

Flu season is almost here. Help keep your players healthy and in the game! Here are some helpful tips to consider:

- ◆ Keep bottles of hand sanitizer available for your players.
- ◆ Wipe the tables and bid boxes with the disinfectant wipes.
- ◆ Encourage players to get annual flu shots.