



# CLUB MANAGERS

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## Dear Club Managers

Play bridge in paradise! The 2006 Fall North American Championships are right around the corner. We hope you will be able to attend this great tournament. Join us for a "Thank You" reception for club officials and teachers from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17. Check the Daily Bulletin for details. You are all invited and I hope to see you there! Visit the Honolulu NABC pages at [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org) for more tournament information.



Included with this newsletter is your 2007 club game(s) sanction renewal form and information. You are no longer required to have the owner(s) or sponsoring organization sign the renewal form. Please return the forms with the appropriate fees at your earliest convenience.

Be sure to read the article regarding the ACBLscore program and submitting of monthly club reports. Major changes take effect Jan. 1, 2007.

We are looking forward to a great year in 2007. Thank you all for the tremendous job you are doing for bridge. Remember, you can always contact me if the need arises. I'll do my best to answer your questions or find the answers for you.

*Carol Robertson*

Carol Robertson

Director of Club and Member Services

## Sharon Fairchild Elected ACBL President



Sharon Fairchild, a member of the ACBL Board of Directors representing District 5, was elected ACBL president for 2007. Fairchild, of Rocky River OH near Cleveland, is completing her third term as District 5 director (for northeastern Ohio, part of West Virginia, and the western parts of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland).

## ACBLscore Corner

Want a faster ACBLscore posting process? E-mailed reports are posted almost immediately. For instructions on submitting your club reports by e-mail, use this link: [www.acbl.org/acblscore/clubReport.html](http://www.acbl.org/acblscore/clubReport.html).

Please ensure you are using the latest version of ACBLscore. To download the updated version use the following link: [www.acbl.org/acblscore/specificationsDownloads.html](http://www.acbl.org/acblscore/specificationsDownloads.html).

Got questions? We have answers! Frequently asked questions for

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# Special Events

## Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Month

We ♥ our ♣'s, especially during October. All sanctioned clubs may hold a Club Appreciation Pair Game and a Club Appreciation Swiss Team during the month of October per sanctioned session. Masterpoints awarded: 100% sectional-rated black for the Club Appreciation Pair Game. For team events, the club awards 5% gold points to a maximum of 0.25 per player. The remaining points are to be sectional-rated black. The reporting forms and conditions of contest were mailed with the spring newsletter in May.

## Changes are here in GNT/NAP rules

If you're planning on playing in the Grand National Teams or North American Pairs in 2006 and beyond, be aware that residency changes are here.

In Denver, the ACBL Board of Directors amended the Conditions of Contest for the GNT and NAP to reflect:

- A. For the GNT, a member's principal physical residence as of Sept. 1 of the year prior to the national final shall establish the district in which the member is eligible to participate beyond the qualifying stage.
- B. For the NAP, a member's principal physical residence as of June 1 of the year prior to the national final shall establish the district in which the member is eligible to participate beyond the qualifying stage.
- C. Entry forms for the unit and district finals shall include the following statement: "By entering this event, I hereby certify, subject to penalties as provided in the Conditions of Contest for this event and in the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations, that I am eligible to play in this district."
- D. A Credentials Committee shall be formed and comprised of six members

of the ACBL Board of Directors; two each from the Eastern, Central and Western zones. Panels hearing exceptions will be comprised of three of the six members. The president of the ACBL shall select the members of this committee annually. The members shall hear all matters pertaining to the events begun that year.

- E. If a member is unsure which district is the appropriate district in which he may play, the member may seek clarification from the credentials committee prior to the start of the event.
- F. If, at the unit final stage or later, an ACBL member believes that another player is playing in the wrong district, he may challenge that player's eligibility to the Credentials Committee.
- G. The Credentials Committee may request documentary evidence from the member whose eligibility is in question. If a member requesting clarification as provided in paragraph E above fails to provide the requested evidence, no ruling shall be made and the member shall play at his own risk. If a member is unable to verify to the committee's satisfaction that he has played in the district of principal physical residence, the Credentials Committee shall automatically disqualify the member and his partner (NAPs) or teammates (GNTs). If a member is found to be ineligible, the matter may be referred to the ACBL president to make charges to the ACBL Disciplinary Committee.
- H. If players wish an exception from the requirements of sections A and B above, they must begin the process for the NAP by April 1 and the GNT by July 1 in the year they wish to participate. Players must seek permission in writing from the district directors of the district in which they

live and the district in which they wish to play. Both district directors must agree for the exception to be granted. For the Open Flight in the GNT and Flight A of the NAP, this written permission from both district directors will be forwarded to the Credentials Committee for final approval. If the district directors do not agree the exception will not be granted. There is no appeal from these decisions.

Effective July 1, 2006 for GNT 2006-07 events

Effective April 1, 2007 for NAP 2007-08 events

## Special event sanctioning for 2007

Enclosed with this issue is your 2007 Special Events sanction form. This form lists the dates of upcoming 2007 special event games as well as the deadline for submission. It is imperative to complete and return the form in a timely manner. The mailing of your game supplies depends on it. You may also sanction the games online by visiting your MyACBL club manager portal page or under Special Events on the page for Club Directors and Managers.

As you know, these special event games entice more players into the club and offer enhanced masterpoints. All special event games offer expert hand analysis. So please, don't delay in signing your club up to host one or all of the special events ACBL has to offer.

If you forget whether you have sanctioned a game or would like to see other sanctioned games in your area, go to the ACBL web site. Click on Play>Special Events>Participating Clubs.

We aspire to provide you with accurate and effective service. Jo Anne Collins (ext. 1286) and Mable Wilkes (ext. 1333) are always happy to assist you with any questions or problems you may have.

# Passed by the Board of Directors in Chicago IL

## Club Discipline

Enclosed with this newsletter is a document regarding changes made to the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations regarding club discipline and regulations. Please retain for future reference.

## Model Bylaws for Incorporated Units

The Sample Bylaws are approved by ACBL to be sent to units requesting assistance with writing appropriate bylaws. They are posted on the ACBL web site in Resources for Units and Districts.

## Membership Residency

The regulation regarding membership residency as been amended as follow:

Members of the ACBL belong to the unit in which they reside. If a member desires to belong to a unit in which he/she does not reside, the member must specifically make this request in writing (e-mail is permissible) to the ACBL stating the unit of preference and the reasons for the request.

Further, if the unit is not in the same district as where he/she resides, both districts must approve the membership in the other district.

The following are some of the reasons why a member would be given permission to belong to a unit outside the district of residence.

To warrant consideration, a player should meet at least two of the six reasons listed:

1. Plays at least once a month in a club in that unit.
2. Attends STaCs or sectionals in that unit at least twice a year.
3. Attends the annual unit dinner and/or annual membership meeting.
4. Participates in unit special events.
5. Serves on the unit board and/or unit committees.
6. Serves on the district board and/or district committees.

The membership approval granted by a district in which the member does not reside may be reviewed by that district from time to time to assure the above criteria continue to justify non-residency membership.

## ACBL Mailing Lists

Management is authorized to provide members of the ACBL Board of Directors, chair of the Board of Governors, unit and district board members or officials and club managers with the wherewithal to obtain free electronic listings of members appropriate to their positions and needs. The listing will be sent as an attachment to an e-mail.

Management is authorized to set fees that will cover costs for any other method (e.g. diskettes, hard copy) of providing lists and/or labels for any of the above and set prices and conditions for commercial use.

**Management note:** We expect programming to be completed by Dec. 31, 2006.

This service will be available on MyACBL to those coded in our database as unit and district officials and club managers. Officials will be able to request the roster for a particular area, and the roster will be sent automatically via e-mail, free of charge. The ACBL will continue to charge for rosters and lists that require special handling. We'll keep you posted.

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## ACBLScore Corner

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ACBLscore are available on our web-site at [www.acbl.org/acblscore/acblscoreFaqs.html](http://www.acbl.org/acblscore/acblscoreFaqs.html).

**ACBLscore Manual:** The ACBLscore user manual for the Windows version which includes lots of screen images can now be accessed from the ACBL's web page: [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org). Go to the ACBLscore page and click on the ACBLscore manual link. If you have ACBLscore questions, consult the manual before calling ACBL tech help. If you don't find the answers, contact our Computer Help Desk, which is available Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CST. Contact [acblscore@acbl.org](mailto:acblscore@acbl.org) or by calling 901-332-5586, ext. 1336.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, clubs will be charged an additional \$2 per game if they either:

1. Mail a hard copy of the monthly masterpoint and financial reports without a diskette. Re-keying this information is extremely time-consuming. Or,
2. Submit reports using an outdated version of ACBLscore. It is important for you to keep your version current so that records are accurate.

If your club is sanctioned for one to three sessions a week, averaging fewer than 10 tables per session, you may contact Carol Robertson, to see if you qualify for special consideration.

Also, new clubs requesting game sanctions, will be required to use ACBLscore (and submit electronically) or the game(s) sanction will not be granted.



# Eight Is Enough

By Mary Oshlag, Germantown TN

We shot two “arrows” into the air — and one hit the target! I’ll start with the successful “arrow.” My husband, Richard, and I have started a Swiss team game once a month (more would be overkill).

It works like this:

1. We get them out by 10 p.m. Because we run this game together, we keep it moving. Richard handles the set-up, computer data entry and caddying. I collect entries, make all the food, direct and caddy. Others have dropped in and helped us with the caddying.
2. We have great food — and lots of it! I make roast beef sandwiches with honey-mustard sauce. I buy Sister Schubert yeast rolls, cook them halfway and stuff them with roast beef and Swiss cheese. The sauce is made with butter, Worcestershire sauce, onion flakes and honey mustard. I put them back in the package and cook them for another 10 minutes at the bridge club. That way I serve them hot and everybody loves them. We also serve Rotel cheese dip and chips and some kind of freshly made cake.
3. We let players know with phone calls and e-mails how much we appreciate their supporting the game. Also, call, call, call and get partnerships and teams together.
4. The way we align the teams is with an “ABC” set-up: A players get 3 points; B players get 2 points and C players get 1 point. No team can have more than 8 points. The breakdown: A= 2000 or more masterpoints; B = 750–2000, and C = fewer than 750. Therefore, you could have a team consisting of 2 A’s and 2 C’s or 4 B’s, etc.
5. We make sure the winners are recognized for their achievements. I take a digital camera to the bridge club, take a photo of the winning team and load it on our computer that night. The next day I place a shot of the winners up on a large poster and leave it up until the next month.

This was not my idea alone. Jack Wynns, a director and teacher at our club, helped me with this idea and supports every game by bringing his bridge class to play. He also volunteered to give a 30-minute lecture prior to the game.

Our first game consisted of 8 tables; then we had 11, then 16, then 17, then 23, and our August game was 27 tables! It takes a lot of work, but this game has been quite successful!

The second “arrow” sounded good, but just didn’t hit its intended target. I contacted virtually every A player in town and got them to commit to playing once a year with a B or C player. We held a stratified matchpoint pair event – and the B and C winners’ names went into a drawing. The winner got to choose from the A players for a date to play at a future club game. For some reason this did not prove popular and eventually we cancelled the game.

# New Idea for Club Managers

Amy and Steve Nellissen run a very successful bridge club called The Bridge Table. They came up with an exciting way to recruit new players. Maybe this is an idea that you could use.

The following letter was sent to all of the bridge teachers in the area. It turned out to be an excellent promotional tool. They met the teachers and the students; the new players learned about “The Bridge Table” and its program of games and activities for newcomers.

## **New for Adult School Bridge Teachers! A Free “Graduation” Duplicate Game for Your Adult School Bridge Class**

Dear Adult School Bridge Teacher:

You put a lot of work into teaching your adult classes. We’d like to help you end the class with a bang by offering you and your students a real ACBL duplicate game for beginners – absolutely free.

We’ll bring our computer and all the duplicate supplies – including bid boxes if you’d like to introduce them – to your location. The game can be scheduled as the last meeting of your regular series, or on a separate date at our club in Franklin Lakes.

- ♣ Your players will feel more comfortable trying duplicate with their classmates and with YOU available to answer questions.
- ♣ These games are an exciting way to celebrate the end of a bridge class.
- ♣ The students LOVE the game, and they get to try duplicate in a non-threatening atmosphere.
- ♣ A few students will be thrilled to win real ACBL masterpoints.
- ♣ They don’t need to know anything about scoring.
- ♣ Minimum of 8 players are needed (you and the director can fill in – in a disqualified status, if necessary).

At The Bridge Table, we have lots of experience running short no-pressure duplicate games for new players (8-10 hands maximum). We know how to keep it fun. Please call early so we can make sure an appropriate director is available.

Yours truly,  
Steve & Amy Nellissen  
Ramsey NJ