

🌟 Summer 2025 Bridge Highlights & Local News 🌟

Hello Bridge Friends,

Welcome to my very first Region 1 Newsletter since stepping into the Board of Directors role this year! 🌟 It's been a busy start—lots to learn, plenty to tackle—and I'm excited to share what's happening both locally and across the bridge world.

In this issue you'll find:

- 🗣️ Updates on what I've been working on at the ACBL Board level
- 🏆 Celebrations of our members' achievements at home and abroad
- 📅 A handy list of upcoming Regional and Sectional tournaments you won't want to miss
- 🌐 News on the World Bridge Team Championships and the Philadelphia NABC
- 📄 Summary of the Summer Board Report from the Philadelphia NABC – key takeaways, decisions, and what they mean for our bridge community

My newsletters will keep you connected to what's happening in our bridge community, highlight exciting opportunities to play, and share the stories that make bridge so special.

Quick Background

Region 1 includes District 1 (PEI, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Quebec, and Eastern Ontario) and District 2 (Southern & Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Bermuda).

Explore the official websites of ACBL District 1 and District 2 to stay informed about upcoming tournaments, masterpoint races, and community initiatives. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the game, these resources offer valuable information to enhance your bridge experience.

District 1: 🗺️ <https://district1acbl.org> GNT's, NAP's, Resources for Youth/Junior bridge, Charity initiatives and more.

District 2: 🗺️ <https://www.d2acbl.org> Interactive maps - visual guides to the nine units within District 2, NAP's, GNT's, tournaments and the Kibitzer, a quarterly newsletter featuring tips, tournament updates and player stories.

Spotlight: Inspiring Stories

Sending congratulatory notes to members achieving new ACBL ranks is one of my favourite parts of this role. Each reply has been filled with inspiring journeys—reminders that bridge is about growth, resilience, and community.

Celebrating YOU!

🏆 NABC Philadelphia Summer 2025

Congratulations to Andrew Risman (Toronto, ON) and Peter Peng (North York, ON) for their 1st place win in the David Dansby Monday Bracketed Round Robin Teams, Bracket 2.

Top 30 Masterpoint Winners

- Edward Xu – 130.26 (North York, ON)
- Richard Chan – 93.25 (Markham, ON)
- David Grainger – 72.09 (Etobicoke, ON)
- Leslie Amoils – 69.08 (North York, ON)
- Jianfeng Luo – 58.69 (North York, ON)
- Rose Hou – 54.25 (Richmond Hill, ON)
- Zygmunt Marcinski – 52.00 (Montreal, QC)
- Michel Lorber – 52.00 (Baie-d'Urfé, QC)
- Bing Le – 48.57 (Pembroke, ON)
- Nicolas L'Ecuyer – 47.32 (Montreal, QC)
- Normand Houle – 45.86 (St-Hubert, QC)
- John Carruthers – 42.00 (Kingsville, ON)
- Joseph Silver – 42.00 (Hampstead, QC)
- Shona Donovan – 41.60 (Kingston, ON)
- Mark Donovan – 41.60 (Kingston, ON)
- Xun Zhang – 40.95 (Longueuil, QC)
- Yan Wang – 40.51 (Richmond Hill, ON)
- Stephane Turcotte – 39.62 (Saint-Laurent, QC)
- Peter Wong – 39.55 (North York, ON)
- Marc-André Fourcaudot – 35.99 (Montreal, QC)
- Yimei Cao – 34.44 (Aurora, ON)
- John F. W. Glynn – 33.98 (Bermuda)
- Rachael Gosling – 33.98 (Bermuda)
- Jonathan Steinberg – 33.72 (Toronto, ON)
- Jessica Lin – 33.48 (Aurora, ON)
- Peter Peng – 30.69 (North York, ON)
- Michael Ritcey – 29.89 (Indian Harbour, NS)
- Nicolas Decelles – 29.40 (Vaudreuil-Dorion, QC)
- François Girard – 29.40 (Quebec, QC)
- Mingmin Zhu – 29.22 (Mississauga, ON)

Masterpoint Races

➡️ [District 1 Mini-McKenny races](#)

➡️ [District 2 Mini-McKenny races](#)

➡️ [District 1 Ace of Clubs races](#)

➡️ [District 2 Ace of Clubs races](#)

➡️ [Canadian Top 100 Masterpoint races](#)

🌐 World Bridge Team Championships

August 25-31, 2025 – *Herning, Denmark*

Open Team: Jason Feldman, Daniel Miles, Frédéric Pollack, Jeff Smith, Nicolas L'Écuyer, Darren Wolpert; NPC: Marc-André Fourcaudot

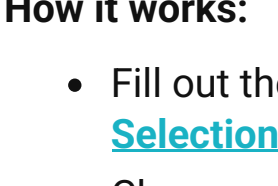
Seniors Team: Dan Jacob, Piotr Klimowicz, Michel Lorber, Zygmunt Marcinski, David Turner, Roy Hughes; NPC: Michael Yuen

Women's Team: Yuan Chen, Lisa Chen, Weijun Chen, Xia Hong, Jingyuan Gong, Yimei Cao; (P.C.) Yuan Chen

Mixed Team: Barry Senensky, Barbara Shnier, Marielle Decelles-Brentnall, Robert Kuz, Sondra Blank, Jeff Blond; NPC: Paul Thurston

Follow results and cheer on Team Canada (NPC - Non-Playing Captain)

➡️ <http://championships.worldbridge.org/47th-world-bridge-teams-championships>



Register for the Canadian Bridge Federation (CBF) – Friday Night Maple Leaf Games

Online games featuring a modern user-friendly interface with video and sound delivering an authentic face-to-face experience to players. I played last Friday and had a blast! Fill out your on-line registration form and share 50% of the revenue with your Home Club.

How it works:

- Fill out the online registration form. 🌟 ➡️ [Registration & Home Club Selection](#)
- Choose your Home Club from the dropdown menu at the bottom of the form.
- 50% of the revenue goes directly to your Home Club!

Support your local clubs while enjoying a lively, engaging game night from the comfort of home.

More details about the Maple Leaf Online Games: ➡️ [Maple Leaf Online Games](#)

What I've Been Working On

Since January, I've served on several ACBL committees: Audit, Governance/Communications, Bridge/Executive Initiatives, and the International Stakeholders Task Force.

As a member of the ACBL Board's Audit Committee, I participated in this year's review of the annual independent audit of ACBL's financials. In 2025, we worked for the first time with CBIZ, the firm selected through a 2024 sourcing process. After thorough Committee review and discussions with both CBIZ and ACBL Management, we were pleased to receive an unqualified (i.e., "clean") audit opinion.

On the Bridge/Executive Director initiatives, we are actively reviewing and updating policies and procedures for Local Sectionals. This work includes evaluating best practices, assessing whether Local Sectionals should continue, and clarifying the parameters for how they may be hosted and managed going forward.

I've also addressed one of my longstanding concerns: tackling ACBL's unfair foreign exchange rates applied to clubs and tournaments. From January 1, 2025, when I assumed my position on the Board of Directors, through July 31, the USD exchange rate charged by the ACBL was 44%—about 7% higher than standard banking rates—effectively generating a profit on the exchange. While the ACBL earns revenue from table fees and sanction fees, it should not be profiting on foreign exchange rates at the expense of Canadian clubs and tournaments.

I'm pleased to share that, effective August 1, the ACBL will adjust the foreign exchange rates monthly – fairer and more transparent. A big win for our clubs and particularly our tournaments! 🌟👏

Upcoming Tournaments - Plan Your Calendars

🇺🇸 Regionals

- Barrie, ON | Sep 9–14
- Ottawa, ON | Sep 23–28
- St. Catharines, ON | Nov 11–16
- Toronto, ON | Jan 2–4, 2026 (Non-Life Master Regional)
- Hamilton, Bermuda | Jan 31–Feb 6, 2026 🌿 (one of my favourites!)

🇺🇸 Sectionals

- Oakville, ON | Aug 30–Sep 1
 - St. Thomas, ON | Sep 6–7
 - Quebec, QC | Sep 19–21
 - Port Williams, NS | Sep 26–28
 - Brampton, ON | Sep 27–28
 - London, ON | Oct 18–19
 - Charlottetown, PE | Oct 24–26
 - Toronto, ON | Oct 24–26 (I/N)
 - Paget, Bermuda | Nov 7–11
 - Bedford (Halifax), NS | Nov 14–16
 - Quebec, QC | Nov 21–23
 - Toronto, ON | Jan 2–4, 2026
 - St. Catharines, ON | Feb 13–15
- ➡️ [More Details](#) on these and find a tournament.

Board of Directors Meeting – Summer 2025 Highlights

The Board met in Philadelphia July 21–24. The Board and Committees continue to meet regularly through Microsoft Teams and Zoom.

Financial Performance

- June gain from operations: \$153k (+\$77k above budget).
- YTD net assets up \$687k; \$13.7M in cash/investments.
- Foreign exchange policy revised to allow greater operational flexibility.

Membership

- Total membership: 121,499 (-6% vs. 2024).
- 4,145 new members YTD (+2.4% vs. prior year).

Growing the Game

- New Sapphire Program launched to reward participation and learning with badges and access to exclusive merchandise.
- Guest Memberships are now free and permanent, with access to MyACBL portal, strategy tips, and up to 20 masterpoints before converting to full membership.

Support for Units & Districts

- Online events will no longer be approved at F2F regional tournaments.
- Regional tournament planning guide being updated with best practices.
- "Staff-lite" approach being explored to reduce TD costs.
- Strong push toward pre-registration for better staffing and planning.
- Review underway for Local Sectionals to meet post-pandemic needs.

Fair Play & Discipline

- EDGAR cheating detection continues; ~900 players sanctioned to date.
- New policies allow limited club play for flagged players (under strict conditions).
- Older (pre-2022) cases will be reviewed.
- Ethics certification revised to allow "No Contest" pleas.

Governance

- Ongoing simplification of the ACBL Codification.
- Five motions adopted to improve committee structure, reporting, agenda management, and election transparency.
- New Board Resource Manual nearing completion.

Other Initiatives

- Hall of Fame election procedures simplified and updated.
- International Stakeholders Task Force formed to clarify ACBL's international relationships.
- Experimental model for Fall 2028 NABC being explored (focused on national-level events with pre-registration).
- New Titanium Point masterpoint class under consideration for high-performing players under 10,000 points.
- Toronto is a top candidate for hosting the Summer 2031 NABC. 🌟🏡

Appointments

- Steve Beatty, Bernie Greenspan, Jim Munday & Bruce Rogoff appointed to the Online Ethical Oversight Committee (3-year terms).
- Mark Aquino appointed ABA Liaison for 2025-26.

Curious for more details? You can check out the full Board Report here:

➡️ [District 1](#)

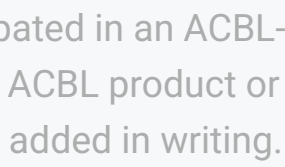
➡️ [District 2](#)

Let's Stay Connected

Your feedback matters! Share your thoughts on how ACBL can improve your bridge experience and support your goals: 📧 region1director@acbl.org

See you at the tables,

Darlene Scott
Region 1 Board of Director



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