

**ACBL Unit 255**  
**2023 Spring NOTL Sectional Tournament**  
**Report from the Tournament Chair**

**General**

On June 2nd, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, the Unit 255 organized our spring tournament for bridge players with fewer than 750 masterpoints. Although the actual table count and total income were around 35% short of our budget, in terms of customer satisfaction, the tournament held in NOTL was a tremendous success. Our volunteers ensured that Bridge players from BCON and NOTL DBC, as well as Bridge Clubs from Buffalo, Burlington, Hamilton, Oakville, Mississauga, Cambridge, Guelph, Toronto, etc., enjoyed bridge and great hospitality of the Niagara Region. Members of BCON and NOTL DBC represented only 38% of the total players. Nearly 50% of the attendance were from Saturday (June 3<sup>rd</sup>) games, only day we had two sections per game. The attendance from 199ers was poor and we could not justify holding sperate 199ers sections. The Unit 255 made a small profit.

**Venue**

NOTL Community Centre once again proved to be an excellent venue for Bridge tournaments. Sweets & Swirls Café in the centre provided three lunch packages on Saturday and Sunday. In total, they served around 38 lunches (33% of the players from the 10:00 am games). They offered three lunch products reasonably priced between \$12 and \$14.

**Partnerships**

Peggy-Sue Verkerk did a very good job as the Partnership Chair. She arranged around 12 partnerships.

**Logistics**

Steve Williams assisted me to pick and transport our belongings from and to the Abbot Self Service Storage facility. Keith Burkell assisted with the logistics on day one. Wiebe Hoogland helped with the circulation of promotional e-mails to ACBL members with fewer than 750 masterpoints, living within a radius of 75 miles from the Niagara Region. Peggy-Sue Verkerk and Cathy Williams helped Steve to do the clean up and packing after the tournament.

**Directing**

Claude Tremblay was the TD for all six games. Jerry Smee was the Associate TD for four games. As usual, they did an excellent job.

**Prizes**

We handed the prizes for North-South and East-West winners of three strata per section. We used books donated by Claude and Muriel to keep this line item at zero cost. We did not use any Niagara Bucks, budgeted at \$ 696.

**Hospitality**

Muriel Tremblay coordinated mid game and end of the day snacks, which were highly appreciated by the players. We also provided bottle water.

**Mini Lessons**

Muriel Tremblay delivered pre-game mini lessons 40-minutes prior to the start of the first games on Saturday and Sunday. This effort was appreciated by the players. 15 players attended these mini lesson on Saturday and 10 on Sunday.

**Promotions**

Through flyers and announcements, we promoted the Unit 255 Summer 750 Sectional.

**Satisfaction**

Judging from the verbal feedback from the players, it was clearly evident that they were satisfied about the efforts and the commitment of the Unit 255 in planning four tournaments, every year.

**Sponsorship**

Generous sponsorship of \$1,000 from Jaclyn Morrison of iA Private Wealth helped us to cover the costs of hospitality etc.

**Financials**

Muriel Tremblay performed the duties of the Tournament Treasurer. Compared to the budgeted 120 tables, last year's spring tournament attendance of 83 tables, the actual table count was 77. As a result, the total income of \$5,338 was 35% short of the top line of our budget. However, through timely cost reductions (Associate TD shifts, equipment transport, cost of prizes etc.), we were able to make a small profit of \$988.

**Special Thanks**

I thank the team of volunteers. I owe a very special thank you to Claude and Muriel for their support, advise, mentorship, hard work and commitment. Thank you!

Chandi Jayawardena

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023