

Report on Sectional Tournament February 10-12, 2023

Attendance

The tournament was attended by over 250 players and awarded almost 940 masterpoints to 237 players which includes 72 local players. We had 220 tables which is about 65% of the 2019 table count with a higher than normal count of local players. We had 69 room nights booked prior to the tournament. Players came from as far as Bracebridge and Meadville PA and included 1 player from Hawaii and 1 player from Maryland and several from Western New York.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an essential part of a successful tournament. We had volunteers for the following:

Partnership desk (Margaret Dykstra) successfully matched up numerous partners.

Set up and take down crew (Keith Burkell with 3 helpers) the playing area was ready for play at 10:30 after picking up 70 tables, bidding boxes, Bridgemates, bridge scoring and other materials and hospitality materials from the storage location at 7:30 on Friday morning. The picked up materials were returned to the storage location by 7:00 on Sunday evening

Hospitality (Cheryl Loisel with 3 helpers) was a great success by using the area next to the playing area. The crew did an exceptional job by ensuring that only players were allowed in and also ensured that food and drinks were not taken out of the hospitality room. The amount of food and drink on hand was appreciated by the players with the white wine running out on the Saturday and the number of pizzas could have been more. Overall, the hospitality cost was slightly less than \$1000 but over the budget due to using the area next to the playing area.

Vaccination crew (Kathy Morrison with 3 helpers) The crew did an excellent job particular on Friday with all players requiring to be checked and a wrist band to be provided. We did not have any issues with this ACBL requirement.

Prize desk (Mel Norton). Prizes included 20 \$10 voucher provided by Holiday Inn, which were used on the Friday and Saturday and after they had been handed out \$8 Niagara Bucks were used. The prizes were handed out following the second session or the following morning and at the conclusion of the Swiss team game on the Sunday. Prizes were awarded for Section tops in each direction for each stratification. The maximum number of prizes would have been 204 for the 3 days based on the sections in play. A total of 20 \$10 voucher and 54 \$8 Niagara Bucks were awarded with 60 not claimed and 70 not awarded as they were duplicated in the stratification or the stratification had players not assigned in it.

Pre dealing of boards (Pat Reading). The pre dealing was completed on the Friday morning and afternoon. The boards were secured in the Montebello room and were grouped together with 5 sets made for each session.

Directors

The ACBL requires that Tournament Assistants cannot be used for Sectional tournaments with more than 25 tables in play in any session. Since we have more than 25 tables in play we could not use local Tournament Assistants and would have to use Tournament Directors, which are not local and would cost

the additional hotel cost and per diem. Claude Tremblay approached the Director-in-Charge Martin Hunter if he could approach the ACBL to change this requirement and we could use Tournament Assistants instead of Tournament Directors. Martin agreed to approach the ACBL and was successful to make this change as a one time adjustment. This allowed our local Tournament Assistants Claude Tremblay, Muriel Tremblay and Jerry Smee to be assisting Martin Hunter to direct the tournament at a substantial saving of some \$800. Martin Hunter was very pleased with using our local Tournament Assistants. The players had many positive comments in the running of the tournament by the director in charge and the tournament assistants.

Summary

We had a very successful tournament which was extremely well run, and we received several positive comments related to the volunteers and hospitality.

The Sectional shows a net profit of \$630. Even though the hospitality was over budget it will pay off for future tournaments with the positive comments it received and players look forward to attending tournaments with excellent hospitality provided by the volunteers.

I would suggest that we include Cheryl Loisel as the permanent hospitality coordinator for Unit 255.

Wiebe Hoogland

Chair Niagara Winter Sectional.