

ACBL Unit 255
2023 Summer NOTL Sectional Tournament
Report from the Tournament Chair

General

On August 18th, 19th and 20th, the Unit 255 organized our summer tournament with five games for bridge players with fewer than 750 masterpoints. The actual table count was 65 for five games with an average of 13 tables per game (slightly better than the average at our June 2023 sectional). It was the first time we organized a 750 MP tournament in summer. Although our total income was 19% less than the budget, in terms of customer satisfaction and profit, this tournament was successful.

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 42% of the total players (improved from 38% in June 2023).

Nearly 45% of the total attendance were from the two games on Saturday (August 19th). The attendance from 199ers was poor and we could not justify holding separate 199ers sections. As the highest attendance for a game was 16 tables, we decided to manage with only one section per game. The profit % of this tournament was 46% of the revenue.

Promotions

Through Kibitzer Magazine, flyers, and announcements at our two clubs, we promoted the tournament. Wiebe Hoogland helped with the circulation of promotional e-mails twice to ACBL members with fewer than 750 masterpoints, living within a radius of 100 miles and 75 miles from the Niagara Region.

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 36 lunches (33% of the players from the 10:00 am games). They offered three lunch products reasonably priced \$12, \$13, and \$14.

Partnerships

Peggy-Sue Verkerk did a very good job as the Partnership Chair. She arranged around 20 partnerships.

Logistics

Steve Williams worked hard handling the pickup and transport our belongings from and to the Abbot Self Service Storage facility. Cathy Williams helped with the logistics on both days. Peggy-Sue Verkerk and Cathy Williams helped Steve to do the clean up and packing after the tournament.

Directing

Jerry Smee was the TD for all five games. As usual, he did an excellent job being firm and fair. Jerry reported on the revenues promptly and efficiently, at lightning speed 😊. In the absence of an Associate TD and a tournament treasurer, Sandy Smee volunteered to assist Jerry.

Prizes

We handed the prizes for North-South and East-West winners of three strata per section. We used books donated by Claude, Muriel and Jerry to keep this line item at zero cost. We did not use any Niagara Bucks, budgeted at \$ 360. Moving forward, it is fair to assume that we need an average of eight prizes (for four pairs) per section.

Hospitality

We provided mid game snacks, which were highly appreciated by the players. We also provided bottled water.

Satisfaction

Judging from the verbal feedback from the players, it was clear 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 make a good profit.

Financials

After Muriel Tremblay reconciles accounts, there may be slight changes, but in providing an un-audited flash report our tournament KPIs can be estimated as:

- Actual revenue of \$4,673 against a budget of \$5,800 (-19%)
- Actual expenses of \$2,537 against a budget of \$ 4,164 (-39%)
- **Actual profit of \$2,136 against a budget of \$ 1,636 (+31%)**

Special Thanks

I thank the team of volunteers. I owe a very special thank you to Jerry and Sandra for work during the tournament, and Claude and Muriel for advance preparations. Thank you!

Chandi Jayawardena

August 20th, 2023