

Education Status Report

Management Report – Spring 2011

The main goals of the Education Department, established by the Board in 1986, are:

- a. To perpetuate the game of bridge;
- b. To train more bridge teachers and provide materials to help them teach.

Overview

After almost twenty-five years of pursuing the goals created by the ACBL Board of Directors, the Ed Department has in place a full program of educational programs and products designed to secure the future of the organization.

Of primary importance is the Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) for training new bridge teachers. This seminar continues to effectively recruit and train new bridge teachers who in turn recruit new players and teach them the game. It reflects the Standard American Yellow Card system and is coordinated with the Learn to Play Bridge software.

The ACBL's teaching materials are top of the line products. They have stood the test of time and the texts and teacher manuals are more popular than ever. The five textbooks and teacher manuals offer materials on the Standard American system and have a focus on duplicate bridge. Many additional support products are available for teachers including the eight "Play" courses with booklets and E-Z Deal cards, the Teacher Resource Manual, the Successful School Programs Booklet, the E-Z Guide booklets and E-Z Deal Cards for each of the five ACBL courses. In addition, the teacher section of the ACBL web site provides additional materials and information for our bridge teachers such as mini-lessons, appropriate for celebrity speaker talks, numerous teaching tips on many topics collected over the years from teachers, instruction on MiniBridge, and more.

There are two primary continuing education programs offered now at the NABCs. They are Bridge Teachers and Bridge Cruises and Teaching Youth Bridge.

The future is on the Internet. In order to make the Teacher Accreditation Program more accessible, there are plans to create a new format, a webinar, for online instruction. This is expected to be in place by the middle of 2012. The popular Bridge Teachers and Bridge Cruises program is offered at the NABCs whenever we have a presenter available. There are plans to make a webinar of this program, too. Offering it online will make it possible for more teachers to benefit from the information that will help make them more successful with cruise ship programs.

Teacher Accreditation Program

Since the TAP started in 1986, more than 6,000 people, interested in teaching bridge, have attended the course. We don't know how many of them actually taught bridge, but they were in place and able to teach if they were motivated or if an opportunity was presented.

Today's figures are very positive. There are a lot of bridge enthusiasts who are able to teach and many who are teaching. There are 1,564 (1,488 last report) teachers who have elected to be listed at the ACBL's Find a Teacher web site. Many teachers, who have an established clientele or as much work as they want, don't choose to be listed at our online site. Retired teachers have been marked as inactive.

2010 Accredited Teacher Stats*

TAP Accredited	4,568
TAP Accredited since the TAP was updated	921
Accredited through Better Bridge	837
Accredited through Easybridge!	974
Registered Teachers	249
School Bridge Teachers	578
ABTA Teachers	581
ABTA Master Teachers	95

New Members recruited in 2011 by teachers (to date)	2
New Members recruited by teachers for 2010	1,111
New Members recruited in 2011 by club managers (to date)	11
New Members recruited by club managers for 2010	4,145

*Note that some teachers are accredited in more than one way.

Teacher Accreditation Programs

TAPs are scheduled at all NABCs and as requested at the regional level. The TAP is currently being scheduled annually at the Gatlinburg Regional.

Since the TAP is an interactive course, it is required that someone attend the ten-hour seminar in order to become accredited. This has been difficult if not impossible in the past for people interested in the program but living in remote areas. Plans are underway to supplement the TAPs currently scheduled with a webinar. We hope to have something in place by the middle of 2012.

TAP Stats

Three TAPs are offered annually in conjunction with the three NABCs. This year we will be in Louisville, Toronto, and Seattle. Regional (area) TAPs are scheduled as requested. So far this year, three TAPs are scheduled (Houston TX, Gatlinburg TN, and Penticton BC) with potential sites in Corpus Christi TX and Tunica MS.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
TAPS	10	12	11	10	10	7
Graduates	185	183	224*	181*	250*	242*

*Only newly accredited – many teachers have taken the new TAP to update their skills.

TAP Trainers

Betty Starzec is our Senior TAP Trainer. She will present the Louisville NABC TAP. Carol Mathews will present the Toronto NABC TAP and Marilyn Kalbfleisch will present the Seattle NABC TAP.

Currently we have six TAP Trainers – Betty Starzec, Peg Cundiff, Carol Mathews, Marilyn Kalbfleisch, Pat Harrington and Dee Berry. The TAP Trainers are coming to Horn Lake in May for a brainstorming session.

Teacher Communication

Three or four teacher newsletters have been mailed annually since 1988, with the exception of a two year trial when we offered the publication only online. This publication is the ACBL's main method of communication with its bridge teachers. In addition, prior to each NABC, an e-mail is sent to our teachers alerting them to programs of special interest, and all bridge teachers receive the Marketing Matters newsletter.

Of the approximately 6000 members coded as teachers in the ACBL database, we have valid e-mail addresses for 5,371 teachers (last report – 5,236).

Intermediate-Newcomer Program

The Ed Department works with the IN Program at the NABC level. The NABC IN Program is run as a model for what the ACBL would like to see our units and districts offer at their tournaments and for club managers to learn how to work with new players.

Club directors can learn more about the IN Program by signing up to work a couple of sessions with the IN directors at the NABCs.

The Ed Department works with one of the IN directors to set the schedule for the Celebrity Speaker program – recruiting and signing up the speakers – and to guide the IN Chairs for all of our NABCs.

Every IN Chair receives a letter outlining their duties and clarifying what the ACBL does to help them organize a successful program.

The Education Department produces the speaker profiles for each NABC Celebrity Speaker Program and the handouts for each speaker. In addition, the department creates, prints and mails brochures for each NABC IN Program and flyers which are sent to the NABC IN Chairs for distribution.

Each summer an IN Status Report for the previous three NABCs can be found in the Journal.

Junior Bridge

It has generally been accepted that a core of young players is essential in perpetuating the game of bridge.

The Education Department continues to build upon programs designed to offer bridge education for youth:

- Organizing the fourth Youth NABC to be held with the summer NABCs;
- Working with teachers to start school programs and make existing programs more successful;
- Providing information for teachers through the ACBL web site;
- Hosting workshops at the NABCs for teachers interested in working with youth;
- Continuing to update the contact list of people interested in working with youth;
- Updating annually the successful school programs booklet;
- Providing material for the Youth4Bridge web site.

School Bridge

Overview: The ACBL School Bridge Lesson Series Program was established in 1989 in an effort to introduce children to bridge in schools and other locations. Since that time more than 45,000 students have participated in the program.

The program is completely subsidized by the ACBL so it is essentially free for all students and there is no cost to the teachers. Textbooks, cards, t-shirts, and trophies are available to all classes. In addition, individuals who teach the School Bridge Lesson Series Program may qualify to receive stipends from the ACBL for their efforts.

The bridge lessons can be held during school time as part of a math or enrichment program, as an alternate to study hall or as an after-school program.

Course Material: Proven course material is offered as a free download at the ACBL web site. The Kitty Cooper one-hour lesson plans are suggested for 4th grade and higher. They have been updated and are coordinated with the updated “Bidding in the 21st Century” texts. In addition, lesson plans written by Donna Compton for younger students are also available at our web site for free download.

The ACBL's Funded School Program Stats:

	S06	F06	S07	F07	S08	F08	S09	F09	S10	F10
College	13	7	4	3	3	6	4	5	2	6
High	41	27	28	26	32	35	42	25	28	25
Middle	94	49	63	77	84	96	85	74	95	83
Elementary	60	56	47	48	42	53	28	46	68	60
Other	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Classes	354		297		351		309		367	
Total Graduates	4830		3694		2803		2764		2970	
Total held for credit	9		8		9		13		20	
Total awarded scholarships	29		9		13		9		8	

Figure 1: School Programs – Fall 2010 Stats:

Total classes – 174

By grade level:

Elementary.....60

High School.....25

Middle School....83

College.....6

by district

1: 23	6: 12	11: 2	16: 1	21: 1
2: 50*****	7: 7*	12: 2	17: 12	22: 3
3: 10	8: 4	13: 5**	18: 0	23: 0
4: 6^	9: 13	14: 9	19: 0	24: 4
5: 5****	10: 3	15: 1	20: 0	25: 0
				99: 1

^: denotes each \$500 scholarship class
credit

*: denotes each class for course

Note: See next page for stats by district of youth and junior members.

YOUTH AND JUNIOR MEMBER STATS BY DISTRICT

(The chart reflects paid members only. '10 in parens.)

District	Youth	Junior
1	16 (20)	25 (28)
2	20 (18)	31 (33)
3	52 (65)	67 (83)
4	13 (20)	38 (44)
5	6 (7)	14 (14)
6	27 (36)	51 (54)
7	95(113)	118 (135)
8	23 (20)	33 (30)
9	40 (44)	54 (57)
10	17 (21)	23 (30)
11	27 (32)	44 (47)
12	21 (23)	27 (32)
13	19 (21)	45 (48)
14	17 (20)	25 (30)
15	63 (66)	67 (70)
16	41 (31)	61 (48)
17	13 (22)	18 (32)
18	6 (7)	10 (13)
19	18 (21)	29 (30)
20	15 (19)	20 (25)
21	42 (51)	62 (75)
22	10 (11)	17 (23)
23	12 (15)	21 (27)
24	19 (26)	33 (41)
25	25 (25)	52 (51)
99	10 (8)	21 (22)
Total	667 (800)	1006 (1154) – Includes Youth Members