

Daily Bulletin

2018 Youth NABC

Editor: Brent Manley

Youth NABC starts today



Patty Tucker

On the 10th anniversary of the first Youth NABC, the 11th edition of the popular tournament kicks off this morning with expectations of a record turnout.

Stephanie Threlkeld, manager of the ACBL's Education Department, under

which the tournament operates, said that as of Aug. 1, 240 players were pre-registered. If all of them show up, the tournament will top last year's record attendance figure of 237, recorded in Toronto.

Each participant in the Youth NABC must be 19 years old or younger and have fewer than 5000 masterpoints. The three-day tournament, which debuted in 2008, was organized by Patty Tucker, founder of Atlanta Junior Bridge and a strong advocate of involving young players in her favorite game. Tucker persevered with her dream tournament despite predictions that the Youth NABC would never work. She has been involved directly or peripherally since the first YNABC took place. "It's Patty's baby," said Threlkeld, "and it's grown."

Threlkeld said the pre-registered players are from five countries: Bermuda (16 players), Canada (21), China (23), Mexico (8) and the United States (172).

Players must be ACBL members. Non-members can join for \$5 at registration. There is no charge for participants. All play is on the Atrium level of the hotel in Room A707.

Each player receives a T shirt and a book bag, and there is lunch every day. The closing reception, which includes drawings for prizes, is scheduled for Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Scholarships will be awarded to the winners of the Baron Barclay National Youth Open Pairs (\$1,000 each) and to the winners of the National Youth Swiss Teams (\$4,000 total). Each Youth NABC gives participants a chance to vote for the player who best exemplifies the ideals of sportsmanship and fair play (tournament directors



Education Coordinator Shaneka Cunningham and Stephanie Threlkeld, manager of ACBL's Education Department, with the Youth NABC banner the day before the start of the tournament.

also have votes). The winner receives the Master Point Press Sportsmanship Award of \$1,000.

Threlkeld has been ably assisted in preparing for the Youth NABC by Education Coordinator Shaneka Cunningham. "There are a lot of moving parts to this," she said. "Shaneka is super organized and does a great job making sure all we need is here."

The tournament, she added, has gained momentum, aided in part by the ACBL's provision of material supporting about 4,000 young players in school bridge programs across North America. "There are some really strong programs," she said.

Commenting on the growth of the Youth NABC, Tucker recalled the famous line from the Kevin Costner baseball film "Field of Dreams": "If you build it, they will come." The young players, she said, "want the same things we want: Good competition, mental stimulation, the chance to travel and make new friends and see old ones. Forty years from now, I hope they'll be the same way I am."

YOUTH NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

All card play is in Room 707, Atruim level

Thursday, August 2

10 a.m. Youth Pairs & O'Brien Gibbs Cardrook Pairs* Single Session
2 p.m. Youth Teams & Cardrook Pairs* Single Session

Friday, August 3

10 a.m. & 2 p.m. **BARON BARCLAY NATIONAL YOUTH OPEN PAIRS**
Two Sessions (one qualifying and one final session) Players must be available for both sessions.
10 a.m. Cardrook Pairs* Single Session
2 p.m. Cardrook Pairs* Single Session
2 p.m. Consolation Open Pairs Single Session

Saturday, August 4

10 a.m. & 2 p.m. **NATIONAL YOUTH SWISS TEAMS**
Two Sessions (one qualifying and one final session) Players must be available for both sessions.
10 a.m. Cardrook Pairs* Single Session
2 p.m. Cardrook Pairs* Single Session
2 p.m. Consolation Swiss Teams Single Session

**Cardrook Pairs are games designed for less-experienced players.*

Youth Award Ceremony

Saturday, August 4 at 5:30 pm
Including Master Point Press Sportsmanship Award, Baron Barclay Youth Pairs Scholarship and National Swiss Teams Scholarship

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A Film About Bridge

Honoring a young player

As the 11th Youth NABC kicks off today, the first Cardrook Pairs game on the schedule at the Youth NABC will be dedicated to the memory of O'Brien Gibbs, a five-year veteran of after-school bridge and summer camp programs in Western North Carolina. O'Brien and his younger brother, William Edward Gibbs, lost their lives in an automobile accident in September 2017.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, Craig White, bridge teacher at Asheville Middle School, wrote: "We have all been blessed to associate with O'Brien and the many other youth players who have participated in our youth clubs, camps, tournaments and in club games, playing with and against many of us. These young people learning the game have been a joy to watch. O'Brien was no exception. He began playing with his older brother five years ago, while in the fourth grade at the Asheville Catholic Club and had continued playing at Asheville Middle School when he transferred there. His mother Jo has been a great supporter and as a teacher at AMS was instrumental in getting a game established there. He and Henry have been loyal and enthusiastic participants in our summer camps."