

Unit 575 News

January 16, 2012

What is Unit 575 and what does it mean to YOU as a bridge player?

Unit 575 is part of the ACBL (American Contract Bridge League). The ACBL is the governing body for all sanctioned bridge in NORTH AMERICA. The ACBL (acbl.org) is divided into 25 Districts and these Districts are divided into Units. We are one of 24 Units in DISTRICT 18 (confused yet??).

Our Unit 575 (North Saskatchewan) has member clubs in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Meota and Flin Flon.

The **PURPOSE** of our Unit is to supervise and promote bridge within our boundaries (North Saskatchewan). We have the **exclusive right to hold tournaments in our territory** and may also host Special Unit Championships (such as the Women's Teams and Pairs Championships which were held on January 13th and 20th at the Saskatoon Bridge Club). Our Unit receives a share of the ACBL membership fees. This is why you will be asked to pay more card fees at our tournaments if you are not a paid up member of the ACBL.

More important than the purpose of the Unit, however, is our **MISSION**. We exist to encourage all forms of the game for the benefit of our membership. We want to promote **FUN, FRIENDSHIP, and COMPETITION** at all of the events that are hosted by Unit 575.

FACTS ABOUT THE UNIT (DID YOU KNOW??)

- 1) The ACBL sponsors masterpoint races and the Unit gives out the Awards for these events. These are the Ace of Clubs and Mini McKenney Awards. These awards are given in each category for the most points won at Clubs and at Tournaments.
- 2) Our Unit, in conjunction with Unit 573 (South Saskatchewan) sponsors Sectional Masterpoint Awards each year in the Open and Under 200 Masterpoint categories. These awards will be presented at our February Sectional.
- 3) Hannah Moon, a member of Unit 575 (from Prince Albert) won the Richmond Trophy in 2010. This trophy is awarded to the Canadian who wins the most masterpoints in a calendar year.

- 4) The Unit issues subsidies for travel to CNTCs, CWTCs, NAOPs and GNTs. These subsidies are available to any member of our Unit that travels to these events to represent our Unit. They are awarded after the travel is complete and must be applied for.

- 5) The Unit is responsible for handling all reports and complaints made at any of our sanctioned events. This is handled in two ways:
 - a) The Unit has appointed a **Recorder** (currently Cydney Hayes). The Recorder handles complaints that do not warrant the filing of formal charges. Although a complaint of this nature is considered very serious it does not require a formal report to the ACBL.

 - b) The Unit has also appointed a **“Conduct and Ethics” Committee** which acts on disciplinary matters in accordance with the “ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations”. A complaint of this nature must be reported in writing to the ACBL and the appropriate sanction issued.

Please be aware that if you have any issue arise during a Unit event that it may be reported to the Director in Charge, the Unit President or the Unit Recorder.

If you would like further info on any of these issues please visit the ACBL website (acbl.org). You will find a wealth of information there.

The above is just a small sampling of some of the many tasks performed by the Unit. If you would like to know more about the operation of the Unit, the District or the ACBL please feel free to approach members of the Unit Executive . Members are Linda Connell (President), John Pulles (Vice President), Peggy McGregor (Secretary), and Cathy Walsh (Treasurer).

-submitted by

Linda Connell (President Unit 575)