

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CRAIG ROBINSON

The Grand National Teams event was a resounding success with a 67% increase in table count. 45 teams participated in Scranton, May 14-15 and four champions were determined and will represent our District at the Summer NABC in Atlanta. What was the reason for the increase in attendance? The answer is Unit 120, Northeastern Pennsylvania. 67 players participated from Unit 120. That is 20% of their membership. To put that in perspective, if the event were held in Unit 141 and 20% of their membership played, they alone would produce 137 tables (548 players). I have been playing in Unit 141 tournaments for 35 years and the biggest session table count I can remember is around 100.

So how did they do it? The players in this unit are spread out over a large area. They have a very proactive board that arranges special events throughout the year, run very nice sectionals, and have a very comprehensive web site which is updated almost daily

by George Marcy. Beth Rosenthal is the unit Presi-

dent. She wrote a letter to every club in the unit describing the event (last year the event was held in Lehigh Valley and no members of Unit 120 attended, therefore, the members had to be educated as to what the event entailed). Ray DePew, Vice President and Tournament Chairman, went to every club to talk up the event and then ran the event like he had been doing it all his life. Many other members of the Unit worked at the event to make it a great success.

In June, Unit 120 sponsored a TAP course. It was not in conjunction with any tournament, which is unheard of. But they do things differently in Northeastern Pennsylvania and had 16 attendees. That works out to about 5% of their membership who are now accredited bridge teachers. They have realized that with an aging membership and with some retiring elsewhere, the only way to protect the game they love is to teach it to others.

Congratulations to Unit 120, you are winners!

