

2015 District 14 GNT Champions

Mike Cassel, D14 GNT Coordinator mc2mikec@gmail.com

Sixteen teams competed at the Hiawatha Valley Sectional in Rochester on April 11-12 for the right to represent District 14 in Chicago at this summer's NABC.



The Championship Flight had a 3 team round robin Saturday to eliminate one. The final was contested over 56 boards between the Peg Kaplan team (Peg Kaplan, Bill Kent, Paul Meerschaert, Carol Miner) and this foursome: Terry Beckman, John Koch, Rob Schachter & Mike Cassel). The match was close through the first 48 boards with team Kaplan up 56-46, but a grand slam swing on board 18 and a 22hcp minor suit game bid by Paul & Carol sealed the victory in the fourth quarter.



In Flight A 3 teams also played a round robin to eliminate one. Kerry Holloway, Michael Lee Howland, Richard Lawson, Andy Caranicas, Eric Hendrickson and Paul Gutterman had a solid final against a Rochester squad: Carol and Bill Cummings, Ginny Rice and Greg Caucutt. The winners have had multiple GNT titles and with the A bracket now upped to 6,000MPs they may achieve even more!



In Flight B, 6 teams including one from Unit 241 in Nebraska played a full Round Robin with 5 10-board matches to eliminate 2 teams. Team Nebraska: Justin Graver, Jonathan Cohn, Jeff Buckwalter, & Rick Ackerman had the top score in the Round Robin and beat the Henson squad: Diane & Larry, Mark Lasoff, & David Trevor. Previous Flight B winners Dennis Cerkvenik, Bill Voedisch, Jim Stepnes with new member Paul Nesvig won their semifinal match against Del Swanson, Gene Brandl, and a trio from Duluth: Larry Uttley, Kerry Hanlon, & Curt Kristensen.

E Deals	♠ A	18
N-S Vul	♥ AKJ87	
	♦ K	
	♣ AK7652	
♠ J108762	♥ KQ5	
♥ 9	♦ 105	
♦ 1082	♣ QJ7654	
♣ QJ9	♠ 84	
22	♠ 943	
4 8	♥ Q6432	
6	♦ A93	
	♣ 103	

Graver & co. were down 9imps at halftime in their final. Board 18 in the second half of the final proved decisive for them as they bid the grand slam to pick up 17 mps against the Cerkvenik team who stopped in game. Jonathan opened with 2♠ white vs red with the West hand. After a takeout double and lebensohl 2N by South, North bid 3♥ and was raised. North did not envision partner with the ♥ Q, ♦ A, and club doubleton. The margin of victory was single digits so winning the match depended on reaching 7♥. Not easy.



Four teams played a Round-robin over 2 sessions on Saturday to crown a Flight C GNT champion. We have a repeat winner pair: Tom Prin and Len Gaer, who also won the Flight C GNT last year with a different pair. This year they were joined by Jim Peterson and Alexis Campbell. Congratulations to all of our champions who will be competing this August in Chicago.