



A Game for All Ages

Youth NABC rolls out the red, white and blue carpet.

Young players came in droves to the 2016 Youth NABC in Washington DC, with a record 233 participants over the three days of the tournament.

Among them were almost 40 students from Beijing and a smaller group from Bermuda. Another boost in attendance came from Silicon Valley Youth Bridge, 24 of whose members traveled to Washington to compete.

Two schools in Orange NJ brought a total of 18 students. One teacher said the kids who joined bridge clubs at the schools were considered “nerdy” until the other kids saw how much fun the bridge students were having.

There were contingents from youth bridge programs in Atlanta and Reno. The Washington DC area also sent school-bridge program students. Michael Yang, who founded Toronto

Youth Bridge in 2013, brought a strong 10-player group. Toronto will host next year’s Youth NABC.

From the beginning of the tournament, parents talked about the benefits of bridge for the children they brought to Washington. Anissa Dyen, who lives in the Orlando FL area, came with three of her children. They were among 32 players from District 9 who “have made friends and memories that will last a lifetime.”

College scholarships as well as masterpoints were available. Baron Barclay awarded \$2000 for the National Youth Open Pairs, and Bridge Base Online sponsored a \$4000 scholarship for the winners of the National Youth Open Swiss Teams. Additionally, Master Point Press funded a \$1000 scholarship for the winner of the sportsmanship award.

Californians win Youth Open Pairs

Two California players put together back-to-back solid sessions in the Baron Barclay National Youth Pairs to win the event in comfort. The two games posted by Brent Xiao and Kevin Huang in the qualifying and final rounds produced a final score of 66.42%, good for a victory and a \$2000 scholarship sponsored by Baron Barclay. Xiao is from Fremont. Huang lives in Palo Alto.

Second place went to Jonathan Baumel, Kennett Square PA, and Gianni Hsieh, Naperville IL. They finished the day with 62.04%. In third were two players from China: Rue Hao and Tianxing Huang.

The winners had to overcome several big games posted by other pairs in the qualifying session, including a 72.05% blast by a pair of Canadians, Bo Han Zhu of Oakville ON and Jacob Freeman of Toronto.



Kevin Huang and Brent Xiao, winners of the Baron Barclay National Youth Open Pairs



Youth Open Pairs runners-up Jonathan Baumel and Gianni Hsieh



Team trophy China-bound

The Chinese team of Xiang Liu, Zhengwen Li, Yimin Yang, Zhefan Zhang, Penxiao Zeng and Yike Xie took the Bridge Base Online National Youth Swiss Teams. The players received individual trophies in addition to a team scholarship award of \$4000.

Missing out on the top spot by about 5 victory points were Evan Berman, Sarasota FL; Jake Olsen, Portland OR; and Luke Williams and Jake Williams from San Diego.

The Northern California squad of Rory Xiao, Arthur Zhou, Michael Hu and Suzanne Campbell finished third.



The BBO National Youth Swiss Teams title went to: (rear) Xiang Liu, Zhengwen Li, coach Min Liang and Yimin Yang; (front) Zhefan Zhang, Penxiao Zeng and Yike Xie.



Second place in the BBO National Youth Swiss Teams: Evan Berman, Luke Williams, Jake Williams and Jake Olsen

It pays to be nice

Avery Dyen of Maitland FL was selected by the other players to receive the Master Point Press Sportsmanship Award. Dyen, 18, will soon enroll in the University of South Florida. "I try to be nice and friendly," she said. "The best experience is meeting people." The Master Point Press award includes a \$1000 college scholarship.



Avery Dyen was voted the recipient of the Master Point Press Sportsmanship Award.