

# NEWSLETTER

August 2014

VOL. II, NO 3

## President's Letter

### WHERE ARE OUR BRIDGE CLUBS?

#### Alpharetta Duplicate Bridge Club

6250 Shiloh Rd. #30  
 Back of Building Lower Level  
 Alpharetta, GA 30005  
 Larry Rich: 678-3631-5198  
 E-mail: [info@alpharettadbc.org](mailto:info@alpharettadbc.org)  
 Website: [alpharettadbc.org](http://alpharettadbc.org)

#### Atlanta Duplicate Bridge Center

6761 Peachtree Industrial, Suite 200  
 Atlanta, GA 30360  
 Dan Papineau: 770-248-0306  
 E-mail: [atlantaduplicate@bellsouth.net](mailto:atlantaduplicate@bellsouth.net)  
 Website: [atlantaduplicatebridgeclub.com](http://atlantaduplicatebridgeclub.com)

#### Bridge Club of Atlanta

4920 Roswell Road., Suite 33  
 Atlanta, GA 30342  
 Sam Marks: 678-812-4324  
 E-mail: [sam@sammarksbridge.com](mailto:sam@sammarksbridge.com)  
 Website: [bridgeclubatlanta.com](http://bridgeclubatlanta.com)

#### Buckhead Bridge Club

Northwest Presbyterian Church  
 4300 Northside Drive  
 Atlanta, GA 30327  
 Bill Marks: 770-855-6952  
 E-mail: [billmarks13@gmail.com](mailto:billmarks13@gmail.com)  
 Website: [billsbridge.com](http://billsbridge.com)

#### Dan's Duplicate Atlanta North

1715 Millside Terrace  
 Dacula, GA 30019  
 Dan Osburn: 678-827-1776  
 E-mail: [danosburn@bridgeteachers.us](mailto:danosburn@bridgeteachers.us)  
 Website:  
<https://www.facebook.com/DansDuplicateAtlantaNorth>

John F. Kennedy once said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." Perhaps President Kennedy should have added something about how difficult it can be to cope with change. We just finished a DBAA sectional at the North Atlanta Trade Center. I heard beforehand how bad it would be. "The parking is terrible," but that comment is laughable with the benefit of hindsight. "It's too far out," but no more than five minutes for anyone taking I-285. "We all like the Hilton," but as good as this location may be, we don't sell a lot of rooms for them and we may not always be their first choice. All in all, NATC turned out to be pretty good. We can all find reasons to resist change, even though we all know change is inevitable. I don't yet have a final report on the sectional, let alone know if we'll go back. What you can count on is that in one manner or another, be it location or something else, sectionals will change as our needs and availability of locations change.



Speaking of change, at the sectional many of you learned that a group of local volunteers wants Atlanta to have its own ACBL unit. Whether that change is good or bad is your choice. The volunteers need over 1,000 signatures on their petition to achieve that goal.

On [pages 3-6](#) both sides present their views about creating a separate Atlanta unit. We hope that forum will allow you to make an informed decision.

*Martin J. Nathan*

### Are YOU Missing in Action?

Editor's Request: If you change your e-mail address, or know of someone who is not getting this Newsletter, please send any names and correct e-mail addresses to [maryann.oakley@mindspring.com](mailto:maryann.oakley@mindspring.com). We are missing a lot of people, and there are far too many whose Newsletters bounce because all we have is an outdated e-mail address.

**Duplicate Bridge Association of Atlanta**

6761 Peachtree Industrial, Suite 200  
 Atlanta, GA 30360  
 George Powell: 770-594-1874  
 E-mail: [gpowell622@aol.com](mailto:gpowell622@aol.com)  
 Website: <http://www.dbaa.us/>

**KSU Bridge Club**

KSU Center  
 3333 Busbee Drive  
 Kennesaw, GA 30144  
 Janice Ripley: 770-726-9881  
 E-mail: [bridge4jr@gmail.com](mailto:bridge4jr@gmail.com)

**Marietta Country Club Players**

1400 Marietta Country Club Drive  
 Kennesaw, GA 30152  
 Priscilla Smith: 770-973-7717  
 E-mail: [cook201@bellsouth.net](mailto:cook201@bellsouth.net)

**Midtown Bridge Club**

Ansley Golf Club  
 196 Montgomery Ferry Drive  
 Atlanta, GA 30309  
 Alvin Daigle Jr.: 770-313-5124

**Play Bridge**

4920 Roswell Rd., Suite 33  
 Atlanta, GA 30342  
 Ina Parry: 770-713-1445  
 E-mail: [playbridgeusa@gmail.com](mailto:playbridgeusa@gmail.com)  
 Website: [bridgewebs.com/playbridgeusa](http://bridgewebs.com/playbridgeusa)

**Roswell Duplicate Bridge Club**

St. David's Episcopal Church  
 1015 Old Roswell Rd.  
 Roswell, GA 30076  
 Bill Marks: 770-855-6952  
 E-mail: [billmarks13@gmail.com](mailto:billmarks13@gmail.com)  
 Website: [billsbridge.com](http://billsbridge.com)

**Ruff 'n Sluff Bridge Club**

1809 Roswell Rd.  
 Marietta, GA 30062  
 Priscilla Smith: 770-973-7717  
 E-mail: [rufnsluff@mindspring.com](mailto:rufnsluff@mindspring.com)  
 Website: <http://www.mindspring.com/~ruffnsluff/>

**Silver Belles and Beaus**

5285 Lakeside Drive  
 Union City, GA 30291  
 Bettie Harden: 770-306-3461  
 E-mail: [travell33@gmail.com](mailto:travell33@gmail.com)

**Sportsperson of the Year**

by Roz Howell



Unit 114 will be selecting its 2014 Sportsperson of the year at the October 11 Board Meeting. Everyone in our Unit is invited to nominate a candidate. A committee of five Goodwill members will make a recommendation to the board from the nominations. Members of the Board of Directors are not eligible for this

award. If you know someone that you think deserves this honor, please nominate them by writing a short (no more than one page) explanation of why you think they deserve this award and send it to Unit 114 Secretary, Roz Howell, [rozrhowell@gmail.com](mailto:rozrhowell@gmail.com). You may nominate more than one person and a person may be nominated more than once; actually, that's a good thing. For consideration this year, nominations should be received no later than September 30, 2014. Recent past winners include Mike Sheldon in 2013, Ron Torre & Priscilla Smith in 2012, Mike Kovacich in 2011.

We honor the individual who best demonstrates the following attributes:

1. Observes both the laws and ethics of the game
2. Plays competitively and is always fair
3. Is gracious in victory as well as in defeat
4. Is pleasant as a partner or opponent
5. Exhibits good manners at the bridge table and an awareness that pleasure is also a purpose for playing bridge
6. Graciously abides by the ruling of the directors and does not give unsolicited bridge lessons during the game
7. Avoids discussion of boards in the presence of new opponents
8. Refrains from intemperate drinking and has regards about personal appearance
9. Does not become angered or quarrelsome
10. Has a genuine interest in the preservation and development of duplicate bridge and the maintenance of its good reputation.

## **An Atlanta Unit of the ACBL?**

“It is impossible for ideas to compete in the marketplace if no forum for their presentation is provided or available.” (Thomas Mann)

You may well have seen your fellow players urging ACBL members to sign a petition. And you may have wondered what this is all about. There are two articles beginning on [page 4](#) that give both sides of the issue but first let's provide some background.

The ACBL is administratively divided into 25 Districts. We are members of District 7, which encompasses Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Eastern Tennessee and the western tip of Virginia. Districts are further divided into Units; District 7 has 13 units, two of which are in Georgia. Our Unit 114 takes in roughly the western 2/3 of the state. ([Click here](#) for a map showing our Unit's specific counties. It's near the bottom of the page.) Districts are responsible for regional tournaments, Units control the sanctions for sectionals and both do their best to promote bridge in their respective areas.

Unit 114 is further broken down into five Areas, primarily for election purposes. The Unit defines the Metro Atlanta Area as Cherokee, Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, and Gwinnett Counties.

Judy Fendrick, Roz Howell and Marty Nathan have informed the ACBL that they want to see Atlanta (the Metro Atlanta Area defined above) have its own unit. That kicks off a petition process under the rules set forth by the ACBL. The ACBL approves the form of the petition and sends the sponsors a list of the members in the defined counties. The sponsors must have 50% of the members -- around 1,100 in this case -- sign the petition. Once that is completed, ACBL management will then verify the signatures, get input from the applicable Unit, District and District Director, and forward their recommendation to the Board of Directors. The BOD has the final say.

Where does the DBAA fit into all this? Technically it doesn't. It is an independent organization and not part of the ACBL structure. It of course does share the goal of promoting bridge in the area and works with the Unit and District in that regard.

Now that the lesson in bridge administration is over, here is what each side has to say.

[continued on p.4](#)

**A New Atlanta Unit — Pro**  
by Marty Nathan

Chicago, Orlando, Charlotte, Washington, Pittsburgh... what do they have in common? They each have an ACBL unit for their respective metro areas. The Committee for an Atlanta Unit believes Atlanta should be added to the list. It only makes sense. The Atlanta area with competing businesses vying for your table fees is much different than smaller communities with generally one club often run by the players' non-profit organization.

What these cities and many more have found, and what South Carolina again proved when it recently created a new unit, is that smaller units better serve the local community. This is the primary reason we believe Atlanta should have its own unit.

We have listed many other reasons for a new unit on the back of the petition. There is additional information via the FAQ's we've provided at the sectional and at clubs. Our biggest opponent in this regard is lack of space to tell more. Just ask any of the many volunteers working to make the Atlanta unit a reality.

While we can understand the emotional attachment many have for Unit 114, let's set that aside and check the facts. Atlanta volunteers pull double duty, fulfilling the needs of local players and also attending unit meetings in other parts of the state. We add very little if anything to the welfare of bridge players in Valdosta or Warner Robins or Rome but we lose potential volunteers because they don't want to travel. There are more unit sectionals (the primary function of units) outside Atlanta than within our area, and most all run with little or no help from Atlantans.

Let me address Jack Feagin's various points.

What the unit board voted down by one vote was a motion to study smaller units in Georgia, not an Atlanta unit per se. And the reasons were varied, not the least of which was the Unit gave little time for discussion and several members stated later that they didn't understand what they were voting on.

**A New Atlanta Unit — Con**  
by Jack Feagin

A petition has been started which requests that the ACBL recognize Atlanta as a separate unit. The petition, if approved by the ACBL, would create a separate Atlanta unit consisting of about 2,200 of Unit 114's 3,360 members. The remaining 1,160 players, who are sparsely disbursed across Georgia, would remain as Unit 114 and be a vestige of what that unit once was.

Many players were being pushed to sign before they even understood the issues or heard both sides. If you want to withdraw your approval of the petition contact me and I will email you a special form for this purpose. My email address is [jfeagin2@gmail.com](mailto:jfeagin2@gmail.com).

If you live in any of the 6 DBAA counties (Fulton, Gwinnett, Cobb, Forsyth, Cherokee, DeKalb), please base your decision whether to sign on what is best for the entire unit. And, before you sign the petition, please be aware of the following facts outlined by Unit 114 President Ken Parker:

1. On March 1, 2014, your elected Unit 114 Board of Directors voted against a related precursor motion because they were opposed to Atlanta's becoming a separate unit.
2. On June 14, 2014, your elected Duplicate Bridge Association of Atlanta (DBAA) Board voted against a motion to begin a petition asking the ACBL to recognize Atlanta as a separate unit.
3. Since, June 14, 2014, the DBAA president and a couple of other DBAA Board members, acting against the vote of their DBAA Board, started the petition anyway.
4. Approximately 75% of the elected Unit 114 Board members oppose the petition and want Atlanta to remain a vital part of our unit. All 9 Unit 114 Board members from outside of Metro Atlanta oppose the petition and the loss of Atlanta from our fine unit. Six of the 10 Unit 114 Board members from Atlanta oppose the petition.

The DBAA cannot petition for a new unit. Only a member can. Our committee knew many would ask what becomes of the DBAA and we would have liked to say it would merge into the new unit. That was part of the motion. Now the best we can say is that we hope they will become one entity. Practically speaking, I can't imagine the board not agreeing once the petition drive is done. The board is evenly split on this issue, 6 to 6.

I have the utmost respect for all those who have served the unit. I understand their strong feelings for the unit they served. Most of them however are no longer active in bridge governance. What worked in the 1980's likely isn't what is best for bridge in the 21st century. Our game has changed. Our demographics have changed. Districts 6 and 7 recognized this when they decided the MABC had become an unnecessary layer of management and voted to eliminate its policy-making functions.

Our unit president would have you believe the impetus behind forming a new unit is "a few concerns about unit operations." I have told him repeatedly, and again as recently as last week, that is simply not the case. Yes, the unit has several problems and I and others have worked to fix them. I repeated to him that our committee believes that Unit 114 is just too large to be managed effectively in 6-8 hours of meetings per year. We can't be of much service to our 3,300 constituents. Locals can best serve the needs of the players, whether that be for Atlanta or any other part of the state.

The opposition doesn't believe Unit 114 can function well without Atlanta. My great fear here is that, repeated often enough, this becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. The "sparse population" will still have one of the largest units in the district. It will be twice the size of the average ACBL unit. It already has a functioning board and only needs to appoint a new VP and Secretary. There are many great volunteers throughout the state, and they will do quite well. The Low Country area of South Carolina recently formed a new unit. They report a surge of new

5. Past presidents of the unit are among the most knowledgeable people in Georgia as to whether the petition is good or bad for Georgia bridge. Having done a great deal of volunteer work for bridge, they are in a unique position to comment on these matters. The following is a list of all living past presidents of Unit 114 and where they stand on the issue of Atlanta's departure from the unit. All 16 past presidents oppose the petition, including the 11 past presidents who are from Atlanta. Please speak with any of the following past presidents to learn their perspective on the matter:

2012-13 Nicolas Hammond (Atlanta) - opposed  
 2011-12 Ann Hedden - opposed  
 2010-11 Richard Myers (Atlanta) - opposed  
 2008-09 Tom Wight - opposed  
 2004-05 Sandy Barrow - opposed  
 2002-03 Larry Rich (Atlanta) - opposed  
 2000-01 Mike Kovacich (Atlanta) - opposed  
 1998-99 Emory Whitaker - opposed  
 1996-97 Ed Barnes - opposed  
 1994-95 Joe Sherwood (Atlanta) - opposed  
 1992-93 Randy Pettit (Atlanta) - opposed  
 1986-87 Carey Snider (Atlanta) - opposed  
 1985-86 Shaleen Baze (Atlanta) - opposed  
 1980-81 Jack Feagin (Atlanta) - opposed  
 1979 Bob Duvall (Atlanta) - opposed  
 1978 Jan Steen (Atlanta) - opposed

6. If you still don't know which side of this issue to be on, please speak with any past president of the unit. Or, speak with any of the 6 Atlanta Unit 114 Board members who have expressed their opposition. They are Nicolas Hammond, Bob Jones, Jack Feagin, Dick Myers, Larry Rich, and Josie Mitchell. Bob, Jack, Dick, and Josie voted against starting the petition in the 6/14 DBAA Board meeting, along with DBAA vice-president Mary Ann Oakley.
7. The individuals who have started the petition cited a few concerns about unit operations. All of the concerns expressed

volunteers – over 50 who had previously been uninvolved – and are just thrilled locals are now managing their own unit. We all have that opportunity here if we will just view the glass as half full rather than half empty.

At a DBAA meeting, I asked the opposition to name a single initiative by Unit 114 that benefited the everyday player in the last ten years. Complete silence. Yet so much of the limited time for unit meetings has been devoted to Atlanta issues. The inability to introduce new programs is not for lack of talent; we do have great volunteers in Unit 114. The current structure just gets in the way. Take Atlanta out of the equation and Unit 114 can create some real progress.

No matter how many times I say the petition drive is about a better structure of bridge governance, the unit president keeps making references to money, as if that were a central issue. Yes, the DBAA has an ample treasury but we are gradually reducing that by spending money on programs for players. 2014 will be our fourth straight year with a loss. Unit 114 on the other hand has a much larger treasury and spends little of it. Its most recent financial statement shows that 40% of its spending is on board meetings.

I want to emphasize that this is not an “anti-Unit 114” campaign, as some have portrayed our efforts. I have said this directly to the unit board members. I’ll still go to sectionals in other parts of the state and I hope they’ll still come to those in Atlanta. We’ll still be friends. There are for example already discussions about our Atlanta unit cooperating with Units 114 and 202 (eastern Georgia) to hold true state-wide championships.

Look at it this way. If it looks like a unit, and acts like a unit, and runs sectionals, elections and programs like a unit, it must be a unit. Right? Well, not quite yet. But that’s what we can now correct. Thanks for your support.

have been addressed by the Unit 114 president and with the concurrence of the Unit 114 Board. Improvements will be made on several issues that were raised.

8. Unit 114 has existed since for many decades. Most of our 3,360 members and most of our current and past unit Board members are very proud of our unit. The unit is highly respected throughout the ACBL.
9. Unit 114 recognizes the fine membership and leadership base which Atlanta has and its wonderful contribution to Georgia bridge. This large membership and leadership base is essential to the ongoing good works of the unit as a whole. While the rest of the unit would remain known as Unit 114 without Atlanta, the sparse player population of the rest of Georgia cannot possibly work as effectively as our present unit.
10. Those pushing the petition drive for an Atlanta unit claim they can do more for Atlanta bridge than our large unit can. Well, why haven't they already done these things using their large DBAA treasury? And, why haven't they brought forward their ideas to the Unit 114 Board? Good ideas have always been welcomed by your Unit 114 Board of Directors. We are all anxious to do good things for Georgia bridge and our Entitlement and Outreach function headed by Bob Jones is testimony to this fact.

I have been doing volunteer bridge work for Georgia Unit 114 for 40 years in many ways because I strongly believe in the organization. Please do not sign this petition, or allow your signature to remain on the petition, without carefully studying these issues.

Jack Feagin, past President of the Duplicate Bridge Association of Atlanta, Ga. Unit. 114, District 7 and the Mid Atlantic Bridge Association.

## Unauthorized Information

by Dan Plato



*It's the first board of the day with your brand new partner, someone you've been hoping to play with for some time, and you're the dealer. You hold:*

♠ J 7 2  
♥ 4 3  
♦ K Q J 10 7 4  
♣ Q 5

*"Perfect!" you think, "A rock-solid 2♦ opening bid." So on the table goes the 2♦ bidding card and you hear your partner say "Alert!" The bottom of your stomach falls. Your LHO inquires and partner explains "She has 10-13 HCP with five hearts and four spades."* [Editor's note: The Flannery

Convention. Responder did well by describing the meaning rather than naming the convention. That's the rule.] *Drat. That is indeed your agreement; you even remember discussing it. LHO passes and partner*

*bids 2♠. Your mind is racing, your palms are sweaty and you wonder how you can climb out of this hole. Finally you decide to pass and hope for the best.*

*RHO makes the opening lead and as you're putting your cards on the table, you apologize for screwing up the very first board of what you now believe will be a short-lived new partnership. One of your opponents calls the director. The director arrives and you just want to climb under the table; maybe that call from the urologist will come through in the next couple of minutes and you'll be summoned to the hospital for your kidney transplant.*

This scenario is not that unusual and the histrionics not that exaggerated, but this is a very typical Unauthorized Information (UI) ruling that a Director frequently faces. The first thing a Director will determine is if there has been any Misinformation (MI). Typically the Director checks both convention cards to determine if indeed this partnership agreement is that 2♦ is Flannery. If both cards confirm that Flannery is the partnership agreement, then no MI was shared with the opponents. One of the opponents is likely to sputter "But I would have bid differently if I had known this was a weak 2♦ rather than a Flannery bid!" Unfortunately the director now faces even more UI. This opponent told his partner about the probable good heart holding he has that he wanted to bid but didn't dare and it may impact the defense played.

According to Law 16 Unauthorized Information can come in many forms:

. . . a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unexpected alert or failure to alert, or by unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement or mannerism, (after which) the partner may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information.

Sorting through MI and UI can be a nightmare for Directors and almost impossible to understand by most players. Some basic concepts exist:

- ⇒ The Director does his best to protect the non-offending side.
- ⇒ The Director does his best to explain to the players their obligations.
- ⇒ The players have the most difficult task of bidding and playing as if they did not possess UI.
- ⇒ When a Director rules in these situations he must consider what most bridge players would do if they did not possess the UI, not what *you* might do.

[continued on p. 14](#)

## Free Duplicate Game for Social Bridge Players

by Elyse Mintz

As we approach the Labor Day Regional at the Ravinia Hotel in Dunwoody, the DBAA and Unit 114 are busy at work. We are sponsoring a FREE duplicate bridge game to introduce social bridge players to the “mechanics” of the game we so dearly love. At this stress free game for social bridge players, Patty Tucker will teach the use of bid boxes, scoring and game movement. All the players will be at the same level, with little to no duplicate experience, diminishing the jitters of playing that first duplicate game. This will be a sanctioned ACBL game with masterpoints for winners. The event will be all about having FUN while learning to play duplicate bridge. We will need one volunteer for every two tables to ensure that everyone is having a positive game experience.



Please chat up this event. Each club will have an opportunity to benefit from the success of this event by adding new players to their ranks. Each participant will receive a goody bag. We will include a full listing of club names, phone numbers, web sites and addresses. A current list of teachers and ACBL promotional material will also be in the goody bag. Each club and teacher is encouraged to bring us a flyer to add to the goody bag with more details about their club. Give-a-ways for the bags are appreciated too. If you are interested in supplying a door prize, please let Elyse Mintz know. Together we can make this a win-win event for everyone.

We have found that those who attend this event have not only become duplicate players but also are still members years after the event.

**Be a Friend. Tell a Friend: A FREE Fun Duplicate Game for Social Players. At: The Ravinia, 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody, GA 30346. The event will be held on Tuesday, August 26 from 10:00 A.M.- 12:30 P.M.**

Plan on attending. We’ll need plenty of volunteers and hope you can help. Send an email to [mintze@bellsouth.net](mailto:mintze@bellsouth.net) if you can volunteer.

**Limited Games -  
up to 500 MP's**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Roswell DBC</b> 11:00 0-500	<b>Alpharetta DBC</b> 12:00 0-500 7:30 0-500	<b>Bridge Club of Atlanta</b> 12:00 0-100	<b>Ruff'n Sluff</b> 10:30 0-20 (10:00 lesson)	<b>Alpharetta DBC</b> 12:00 0-500	<b>Atlanta DBC</b> 12:00 0-500
<b>Play Bridge</b> 12:00 NLM (<500)	<b>Bridge Club of Atlanta</b> 12:00 0-500	<b>Play Bridge</b> 6:00 0-100	<b>Play Bridge</b> 12:00 NLM (<500)		<b>Bridge Club of Atlanta</b> 12:00 NLM
	<b>Ruff'n Sluff</b> 7:30 0-300 (7:00 lesson)				

You can find the web pages for each club – including phone numbers, addresses and directions – on our web page at [www.dbaa.us](http://www.dbaa.us) or on [page 2](#) of this newsletter . Just click on Club Websites on the menu along the left side of the home page.

The numbers next to the times reflect masterpoint limits. A 0-20 game would be mostly those new to duplicate while 0-500 would have more experienced but not expert players. (NLM generally means up to 500 points.)

## Atlantans Sweep Morganton GNT Finals

The ACBL sponsors two grass roots events each year, North American Pairs and Grand National Teams. Each requires qualification at the club level – within any local player’s reach as our clubs hold so many games in both contests – to play in the District Finals. There are three masterpoint flights in the NAP and four in the GNT, so players are generally face competition at their respective levels. The top three or four pairs in each level in the District 7 NAP receive stipends to attend the following Spring NABC; the winning teams in all four levels in the GNT similarly get stipends for the following Summer NABC.



Open Flight winners: Jack Feagin, Claudia Feagin, Patty Tucker and Kevin Collins

GNT finals are split each year between Morganton NC and Greenville SC. The Open and Flight B (0-2500 MPs) competitions were held the weekend of May 3-4 and our local players took home the honors. Winning the Open flight were Patty Tucker, Claudia Feagin, Jack Feagin and Kevin Collins. (Déjà vu of sorts for Patty and Kevin, who also took the district crown for the NAP last November.)

Jenni and Tom Carmichael also had a great run, finishing third in the open flight. A day earlier, the team of Nancy Motes, Don Baker, Robert Vobejda and Eric Shelton captured the Flight B title.



Flight B champs: Don Baker, Nancy Motes, Robert Vobejda and Eric Shelton

Two weeks later the District held its Flight A and C finals, and more Atlantans turned in outstanding performances. Kish Devaraj teamed with three Carolinians to take the Flight A title, edging out a team that included Nicolas Hammond and Ed Foran.

Each team represented the district in its respective flight at the national competition at the Summer NABC in Las Vegas in July.

Editor’s note: GNT and NAP competitions are open to all players. Ask your favorite director for more details. Or email Coordinator Vicki Bell at [vicki.b.bell@gmail.com](mailto:vicki.b.bell@gmail.com).

Aug 1-3	NLM Sectional	Ruff ‘n’ Sluff Bridge Club
Aug 18-24	District 7 ST@C	Your Club
Aug 26-Sept 1	Atlanta Regional	Ravinia Crowne Plaza
Nov 12-16	Atlanta Sectional	Roswell Adult Recreation Center
Dec 15-21	District 7 ST@C	Your Club
Feb 4-8	Atlanta Sectional	Roswell Adult Recreation Center
May 21-25	Atlanta Sectional	TBA
May 25-31	District 7 ST@C	Your Club

**Tournament Schedule**  
August 2014 – July 2015

Make your plans now to play in all of these tournaments!

## DBAA Game Schedule

The DBAA game is held on Wednesday nights at 7PM at the Atlanta Duplicate Bridge Center.

A free lecture on Modern Doubles by Jack Feagin and open to everyone will take place at 6 pm before the DBAA game on Wednesday night August 20th. This type of lectures for advancing players will continue on a monthly basis if there is sufficient interest.

July 30	Regular Game
Aug. 6	NAP Qualifier (3X)
Aug. 13	NAP Qualifier (3X)
Aug. 20	District 7 ST@C
Aug. 27	<b>NO GAME (Labor Day Regional)</b>
Sept. 3	International Fund (2X)
Sept. 10	International Fund (2X)
Sept. 17	International Fund (2X)
Sept. 24	International Fund (2X)
Oct. 1	Club Appreciation (Teams, 3X)
Oct. 8	Regular Game
Oct. 15	AJB Charity (2X)
Oct. 22	Regular Game
Oct. 29	Club Appreciation (Pairs, 3X)

## Upcoming Special Games

The ACBL offers many special games to clubs, usually including expert hand analyses. Here is what is on tap for the upcoming three months, and all indeed include a handout with expert commentary.

Thursday, August 7 (Evening)	Unit Championship
Friday, August 8 (Day)	Unit Championship
Monday, August 11 (Day)	Unit Championship
Saturday, August 16 (Day)	Unit Championship
All of September	International Fund Games
All of October	Club Appreciation Games
Tuesday, October 7 (Day)	Unit Championship
Wednesday, October 15 (Evening)	Unit Championship
Thursday, October 16 (Day)	ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game

In addition, August is the last month clubs can run North American Pairs games. Not only do these games provide incredible points, but also you can qualify to play in the District Finals in the fall. You can compete there in the A or Open flight; the B flight for players up to 2,500 masterpoints; or the C flight for NLM players with fewer than 500 masterpoints. Place among the leaders in your flight and win a stipend from the ACBL and/or District 7 to play for a national title at the Spring NABC next March in New Orleans. **Flight C players**, see your “invitation” on [page 19](#).

September brings back Grand National Teams qualifying games. Again, there will be lots of points and the opportunity to qualify to compete for a national championship at the Summer NABC next year in Chicago. Here there are four flights: Open, A for players up to 6,000 points, B with a maximum of 2,500 points for any player and C for NLM with fewer than 500 points.

## Bridge Teachers

When Starbucks wants to sell more coffee, they open more stores. When the bridge community wants more players, we turn to our teachers. Bridge teachers are the lifeblood of the game. While they do help each of us to learn to play better, their vital role is in bringing in new players. New customers are the key to any enterprise; given an average age around 70 for ACBL members, they are especially critical to the future of duplicate bridge.

We’ve added even more teachers to our already exceptional list of talent in the Atlanta area. Whether you are looking to raise your game to the next level or know someone who wants to join our ranks, check out the list of Atlanta teachers at [www.DBAA.us](http://www.DBAA.us).



## **Another National Tournament for Atlanta**

by Jocelyn Jackson and Rosetta Boyd



The American Bridge Association National Tournament begins Thursday, July 31 at 3:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia, 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road across from Perimeter Mall. (This is the familiar site of the Atlanta Regional.) The American Bridge Association (ABA) will be hosting this national ten-day duplicate bridge tournament from July 31 through August 9 for more than 2,000 duplicate bridge players from across the United States and Canada. At \$10.00 per game, this tournament is a real bargain and should offer excitement to bridge players at all master point levels and experience. Here is the complete schedule. Please note that Wednesday is ABA/ACBL Day and players who win can ask that their points be awarded as either ABA or ACBL masterpoints. All other days, only ABA points are given. So maybe this tournament is a good time to join the ABA! **Phone: 404-289-1824 Location Phone: 770-395-7700**

### **Day 1—Thursday, July 31**

10am G-1 Open Pairs (only session)  
3pm G-2 PRO-AM/HAM Open Pairs  
(AM's U/600, Ham's 600-1999, PRO's 0/2000)  
3pm Side Series Afternoon 1 of 6  
8:30pm G-1 F Alberta Peterson Scholarship Open Pair

### **Day 2—Friday, August 1**

10am & 3pm G-1 Belsaw Open Pairs  
10am G-3 Open Pairs (Only Session)  
3pm Side Series Afternoon 2 of 6  
8:30pm G-2 Speedball Swiss O/U 2000  
5 boards, 5 rounds, and 5 min per board  
8:30pm Side Series Evening 1 of 6

### **Day 3—Saturday, August 2**

10am & 3pm G-1R Rex Watkins Men's Pairs  
10am & 3pm G-1CR Christine P Jones Women's Pairs  
(Flight A Qualifying all others PlayThru) (Over/Under 2000)  
10am G-3 Open Pairs  
3pm G-2 Women's Pairs Consolation  
3pm Side Series Afternoon 3 of 6  
8:30pm Evening KO Teams  
(Registration by Mid-night Friday)  
8:30pm Side Series Evening 2 of 6

### **Day 4—Sunday, August 3**

10am & 3pm G-1CR Pauline Taylor Mixed Pairs Championship  
(Flight A Qualifying all others Play Thru)  
10am & 3pm G-2 Women's Pairs  
10am G-3 Open Pairs  
3pm G-2 Pauline Taylor Mixed Pairs Consolation  
3pm G-3 Open Pairs  
8:30pm Evening KO Teams 2<sup>nd</sup> Round  
8:30pm PM KO Teams II (8 Team Flights)  
(Registration by Mid-night Sunday)  
8:30pm Side Series Evening 3 of 6

### **Day 5—Monday, August 4**

10am & 3pm Victor Daly KO Teams-Championship  
16 Team Flights (Registration by Mid-night Sunday)  
10am Side Series Morning 1 of 3  
8:30pm Evening KO Teams Semi-Finals  
8:30pm PM KO Teams II Semi-Finals  
8:30pm Side Series Evening 4 of 6

### **Day 6—Tuesday, August 5**

10am & 3pm Victor Daly KO Teams Semi-Finals/Finals  
10am & 3pm Second Chance KO Semi-Finals/Finals  
10am G-2 Open Pairs  
3pm G-2 Open Pairs  
8:30pm Evening KO Finals  
8:30pm PM II KO Finals  
8:30pm G-2R Non-mixed Pairs  
8:30pm Side Series Evening 5 of 6

### **Day 7—Wednesday, August 6 ABA/ACBL DAY**

9am GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
12pm & 5pm G-1R National Non-Mixed Pairs  
12pm G-2 Open Pairs  
5pm G-2 Open Pairs  
9pm AWARDS CEREMONY AND BALL

### **Day 8—Thursday, August 7**

10am & 3pm G-1C P.W. Goode National Open Pairs Championship  
Qualifying & Final (Under 5000 Non-Qualifying)  
10am Side Series Morning 2 of 3  
3pm Side Series Afternoon 5 of 6  
8:30pm G-3 Compact KO Teams (16 Team Flights)  
(Registration by 5pm Thursday)  
8:30pm Side Series Evening 6 of 6

### **Day 9—Friday, August 8**

10am & 3pm Will E. Richardson National Swiss Teams  
10am Side Series Morning 3 of 3  
10am G-2 Open Pairs  
3pm Side Series Afternoon 6 of 6  
3pm G-2 Open Pairs  
8:30pm Compact KO Teams (Semi-finals & Finals)  
8:30pm Zip Swiss Teams

### **Day 10—Saturday, August 9**

9am G-2 Swiss Teams (Only Session)  
9am G-1 President's Open Pairs (Only Session)

[continued on p.13](#)

## The Attitude Signal

First hand of the day and you pick up this beautiful collection:

East Deals ♠ K 6 5 3  
♥ K Q 10  
♦ K 7 6 3  
♣ J 3

♠ QJ109 ♥ 842 ♦ 854 ♣ 964



♠ Q J 10 9  
♥ 8 4 2  
♦ 8 5 4  
♣ 9 6 4

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 N
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 N	Pass	4 ♣
All pass			
Lead: ♣ A			

You pass and struggle to pay attention for the rest of the bidding, shown to the left. Partner leads the ♣ A (Ace from AK) and dummy follows. Are you prepared?

Many players would give no thought to this play. More experienced players however know this is an opportunity for an "attitude signal". This signal applies – with a few exceptions – when partner leads and you are not trying to win the trick. (You can also use it when discarding.) Here's how it works. If you think partner should continue the suit lead, you play a high spot card. If you think a switch is better, you

discourage with a low card. High, I like it. Low, I don't.

Now that you understand how the attitude signal works, what card do you play at trick one? The knee jerk reaction is "I don't like clubs. I'm playing the ♣ 4." You'd be happy to encourage partner if you had two clubs as you can overruff dummy. You'd likely encourage as well if you held the ♣ Q 6 4. In those cases, a third round of clubs would rarely be good for declarer.

Here that knee jerk reaction is wrong. Keep in mind we do NOT signal for what we have in our hand. We instead indicate how we think the defense should proceed. A quick digression. Count partner's points, always a good practice on defense. Declarer has 16, give or take a point. Dummy has 12 and you hold four. That's 32, leaving partner with 6-8. So he has the ace and king of clubs and at most the ♥ J.

Where are your four tricks coming from? (Counting tricks good technique, just like counting points.) You have two trumps tricks. Guaranteed. If partner will just take that dang ♣ K, we have this contract beat. You get partner to do that by playing the ♣ 9, an encouraging high card. Yes, partner will think you are crazy when Declarer wins the ♣ Q. She'll get over it once she sees that was the only way to beat the contract. Check out the full hand to the right. If West switches (as your ill-advised ♣ 4 would suggest), Declarer takes two top trumps and four hearts, pitching a club. Now all your side gets is your two trumps and a club.

East Deals ♠ K 6 5 3  
None Vul ♥ K Q 10  
♦ K 7 6 3  
♣ J 3

♠ 7  
♥ 9 7 3  
♦ 10 9 8 2  
♣ A K 10 5 2

♠ Q J 10 9  
♥ 8 4 2  
♦ J 5 4  
♣ 9 6 4

♠ A 8 4 2  
♥ A J 6 5  
♦ A Q  
♣ Q 8 7

Lead: ♣ A

Want to know more about signals? Ask someone who knows. [Click here](#) to find a Bridge Teacher on the DBAA area website.

*Thanks to Marty Nathan for contributing this hand.*

## Atlanta Junior Bridge

by Patty Tucker

The July 4th Sectional saw a number of young faces throughout the tournament. On Saturday our brand new players participated in the traditional AJB game, which is held at every Atlanta area tournament. The winners were **Divali Legore** and **Samay Desai**; second place were Jeremy and Abigail Roberts.

Be sure to make plans to play at the FREE Labor Day Regional on Saturday, August 30 at 10:00 a.m.

There is a FREE AJB game at the Bridge Club of Atlanta every second Saturday at



noon. The next game is August 9. There is a FREE AJB class every Saturday from 4-6 p.m. at the Bridge Club of Atlanta (with the exception of Saturdays in which there is an AJB game). Come learn and play!

ABA [continued from p.11](#)

### What is the ABA?

Founded in 1933 in Buckroe Beach, Virginia, the American Bridge Association (ABA)--an organization of predominately Black duplicate bridge players--has its headquarters in Atlanta at 2828 Lakewood Avenue SW. The organization hosts two national tournaments annually in key cities in the United States, as well as hosts a weekly slate of local and sectional tournaments. In Atlanta, the ABA has seven duplicate bridge clubs, five of which play duplicate in the Cascade area of Atlanta and two in DeKalb County. Atlanta, like many cities, has ABA members who also hold membership in the ACBL. The national president of the ABA is George Hudson of New York; its vice president is Atlantan Gloria Christler. For more information about us or our upcoming national tournament, visit us at [www.aba-ss.com](http://www.aba-ss.com) or [www.ababridge.org](http://www.ababridge.org).



## Board Meetings

DBAA Board meetings are open to all members. Come see how hard we work to enhance your enjoyment of bridge through our various activities and programs. You might even find an opportunity to volunteer. The *tentative* schedule for remaining 2014 meetings is as follows:

August 9	Bridge Club of Atlanta	9:30 - 11:30am
September 27	Bridge Club of Atlanta	9:30 - 11:30am
November 14	Roswell Sectional	5:30 - 7:15pm

### Joke Time

#### “5 Things to Remember in Life”

1. Forgive your enemy, but remember the bastard's name.
2. Money cannot buy happiness, but it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than on a bicycle.
3. Help someone when they are in trouble, and they will remember you when they are in trouble again.
4. Many people are alive only because it's illegal to shoot them.
5. Alcohol does not solve any problems. But neither does milk.



#### Why Is Bridge Better Than Sex

- ◇ You don't have to hide your bridge magazines.
- ◇ It is perfectly acceptable to hire a pro to play bridge with you once in a while.
- ◇ The Ten Commandments don't say anything about bridge.
- ◇ If your partner takes pictures of you at the table, you don't have to worry about them showing up in the tabloids when you become famous.

So, now that dummy is down, there's not much the Director can do but ask that they play the hand and for the non-offending side to call him back if they feel there has been damage. 2♠ goes down 1, but the defenders are cold for 4♥. The defenders call the Director back to the table, mad as wet hornets.

So where's the possible damage? That an opponent didn't get to bid his heart suit? Nope. Law 75 is very clear on this: (paraphrased to meet this particular hand)

#### C. Mistaken Call

The partnership agreement is as explained -- 2♦ is Flannery; the mistake was in South's call. Here there is no infraction of law, since East-West did receive an accurate description of the North-South agreement; they have no claim to an accurate description of the North-South hands. (Regardless of damage, the Director shall allow the result to stand.)

Directors frequently call this situation a "rub of the green": Someone came out smelling like a rose and someone lost out. While the opening bidder's 2♦ bid may have kept the opponents from reaching a nice heart game, it also may have ended disastrously for the declaring side.

The *real* damage here is what the opening bidder probably *didn't* do: she did not raise the 2♠ bid to 3♠. Again the Director should examine the convention cards. In all likelihood this pair plays a new suit by responder over a weak-two bid as forcing. Holding the hand above, the opening bidder should raise to 3♠, the action she would have taken had her partner not alerted her bid. The final result may well be an adjusted score based on Law 12 of 3♠ down two, +200 for E/W.

At this point almost every Director has engaged in the dialogue of the absurd:

Director: You're not allowed to hear your partner's alert and explanation.  
Player: But I did hear it.  
Director: Okay, so you're supposed to pretend you didn't hear it!  
Player: But I did hear it.  
Director: Imagine there is a screen between you and your partner...  
Player: But there isn't a screen.

At this point I am reminded of the classic 1969 AMC Rebel television ad, one of my all time favorites, where the driving instructor screams,

"Look out for the truck!"

And the student squeaks back: "What truck?"

"The one behind the bus!"

"What bus?"

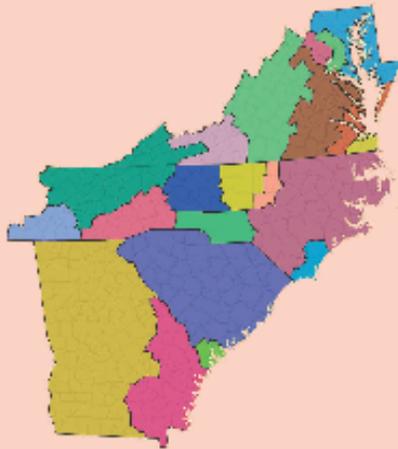
(Really! You can find this masterpiece on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZER63EzKd2c>)

Next time around we'll examine another version of this same scenario:

***It's the first board of the day with your brand new partner, someone you've been hoping to play with for some time, and you're the dealer. You hold:***

♠ J 7 2  
♥ 4 3  
♦ K Q J 10 7 4  
♣ Q 5

***"Perfect!" you think, "A rock-solid 2♦ opening bid." So on the table goes the 2♦ bidding card and you hear your partner say "Alert!" You involuntarily gasp, turn blue, and grab your convention card to double check. Partner has slits for eyes and says "Okay, maybe it isn't meant to be Flannery..."***



# ATLANTA GEORGIA REGIONAL

## MID-ATLANTIC BRIDGE CONFERENCE



**August 26–September 1, 2014**

**Crowne Plaza at Ravinia**

at Perimeter Mall, 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta GA 30346. Call (770) 395–7700 no later than August 4. We have a **limited room block** with a fabulous bridge rate of \$109 plus tax. Free parking; health club; lighted tennis court; jogging trails; convenient shopping.

### **Tournament Chair**

Jack Feagin  
jfeagin2@bellsouth.net  
(404) 252–9246

### **Partnerships**

Carey Snider  
(404) 538-3289  
careybridge@bellsouth.net

Sara Medlin  
(770) 640-8366

♣ Expert Lectures Tuesday through Saturday

♥ Partnership desk open one hour before game time

♦ Hospitality in the playing areas every day

♣ Five Days of **GOLD RUSH**

♣ Non-smoking hospitality suites throughout the week

♥ Renowned MABC Non-Life Master program

♦ Daily bulletins, overall and section top awards

♣ Tons of Free Parking!

MID-ATLANTIC WEBSITE: [WWW.MABCBRIDGE.ORG](http://WWW.MABCBRIDGE.ORG)

# ATLANTA, GEORGIA REGIONAL

## AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 1, 2014

*Strats determined by MP averages, but no single player may exceed the event's limit*

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

Educational Foundation Open Pairs.....	1:30
Educational Foundation Swiss Teams.....	1:30
Educ Foundation 5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs.....	1:30
Lou Bluhm Memorial Trophy Knockouts.....	7:30
<i>Flight A: Unlimited and seeded</i>	
<i>Flight B: Bracketed, 0-5000 MPs</i>	
<i>Continue 9:30, 1:30 &amp; 7:30 Wednesday</i>	
Charity Stratified Pairs.....	7:30
5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Charity Pairs.....	7:30
<i>Evening charity games benefit Atlanta Junior Bridge</i>	

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

*0-5 PAIRS PLAYERS FREE TODAY*

Falcons Compact Knockouts.....	9:30
<i>Two 12-board matches, continue 9:30 Thursday</i>	
Morning Pairs Side Series (1st session of 5).....	9:30
Early Bird 50/100/300 Pairs.....	9:30
DAYTIME Compact Knockouts.....	10:30 & 3:00
<i>Two 12-board matches each session</i>	
Nadine Wood Knockouts.....	1:30 & 7:30
<i>Continue 1:30 &amp; 7:30 Thursday</i>	
Open Pairs (0-3000, 3000+).....	1:30 & 7:30
Charles Goren <b>GOLD RUSH</b> Pairs (0-300, 300-750).....	1:30 & 7:30
Stratified Swiss Teams.....	3:00
Olympic Pairs Side Series (1st, 2nd of 6 sessions).....	1:30 / 7:30
0-5 Trophy Pairs.....	1:30 / 7:30
20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs.....	1:30 / 7:30
Stratified Board-a-Match Teams.....	7:30
50/100/300 Swiss Teams.....	7:30

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

Hawks Knockouts (3 sessions).....	9:30
<i>Continue 9:30 Friday &amp; Saturday</i>	
<i>Maximum 8 teams per bracket</i>	
Morning Pairs Side Series (2nd of 5).....	9:30
Early Bird 50/100/300 Pairs.....	9:30
DAYTIME Stratified Swiss Teams.....	10:30 & 3:00
Braves Knockouts.....	1:30 & 7:30
<i>Continue 1:30 &amp; 7:30 Friday</i>	
Open Pairs (0-3000, 3000+).....	1:30 & 7:30
Oswald Jacoby <b>GOLD RUSH</b> Pairs (0-300, 300-750).....	1:30 & 7:30
Olympic Pairs Side Series (3rd, 4th of 6).....	1:30 / 7:30
5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs.....	1:30 / 7:30
Stratified Board-a-Match Teams.....	7:30
50/100/300 Swiss Teams.....	7:30

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

Bulldogs Compact Knockouts.....	9:30
<i>Two 12-board matches, continue 9:30 Saturday</i>	
Morning Pairs Side Series (3rd of 5).....	9:30
Early Bird 50/100/300 Pairs.....	9:30
DAYTIME Pairs (0-3000, 3000+).....	10:30 & 3:00
DAYTIME Sally Young <b>GOLD RUSH</b> Pairs (0-300, 300-750).....	10:30 & 3:00
Morrill Hall Knockouts.....	1:30 & 7:30
<i>Continue 1:30 &amp; 7:30 Saturday</i>	
Stratified Open Pairs.....	1:30 & 7:30
Olympic Pairs Side Series (5th, 6th of 6).....	1:30 / 7:30
5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs.....	1:30 / 7:30
Stratified Board-a-Match Teams.....	7:30
0-300 Bracketed Pairs.....	7:30
<i>Computer-assigned BAM teams; two chances to win</i>	
Zip Knockouts.....	11:30 pm

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Morning Pairs Side Series (4th of 5).....	9:30
Early Bird 50/100/300 Pairs.....	9:30
Youth Bridge Pairs — FREE.....	10:00
DAYTIME Compact Knockouts.....	10:30 & 3:00
<i>Two 12-board matches each session</i>	
Stratified Swiss Teams.....	3:00
Dickie Freeman Knockouts.....	1:30 & 7:30
<i>Continue 1:30 &amp; 7:30 Sunday</i>	
Open Pairs (0-3000, 3000+).....	1:30 & 7:30
Alfred Sheinwold <b>GOLD RUSH</b> Pairs (0-300, 300-750).....	1:30 & 7:30
Peachtree Pairs Side Series (1st, 2nd of 6).....	1:30 / 7:30
5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs.....	1:30 / 7:30
Stratified Board-a-Match Teams.....	7:30
50/100/300 Swiss Teams.....	7:30
Zip Knockouts.....	11:30 pm

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

Stratified Swiss Teams (one session).....	9:30
Morning Pairs Side Series (5th of 5).....	9:30
Early Bird 50/100/300 Pairs.....	9:30
DAYTIME Open Swiss (0-3000, 3000+).....	10:30 & 3:00
DAYTIME Richard Goldberg <b>GOLD RUSH</b> Swiss Teams (0-300, 300-750).....	10:30 & 3:00
Barb Borah Bracketed Knockouts.....	9:30, 1:30 & 7:30
Stratified Open Pairs.....	1:30 & 7:30
Peachtree Pairs Side Series (3rd, 4th of 6).....	1:30 / 7:30
5/20/50 & 100/200/300 Pairs.....	1:30 / 7:30
Stratified Board-a-Match Teams.....	7:30
50/100/300 Swiss Teams.....	7:30

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

A/X Swiss Teams (0-5000, 5000+).....	10:00 & TBA
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (no player over 3000 MPs).....	10:00 & TBA
<i>Eight-team brackets by masterpoints;</i>	
<i>Three teams in each bracket win GOLD</i>	
Peachtree Pairs Side Series (5th, 6th of 6).....	10:00 / 2:00
50/100/300 single-session Swiss Teams.....	10:00 / 2:00
50/100/300 single-session Pairs.....	10:00 / 2:00

## General Conditions of Contest

- Unless otherwise noted, stratifications are 0-750, 750-3000, 3000+
- Knockouts with one or two brackets are handicapped
- **GOLD RUSH** pairs pay gold points for overall section tops and overall places, red points for other section places and 0-300 stratum
- All under 300 MP events stratified at director's discretion

## Atlanta Bridge Fights Spina Bifida

by Janet Edwards and Brenda Shavin

May 18, 2014 dawned in a downpour, but the final preparations for the first Godfrey's Grand Slam Bridge Benefit went on as planned. Balloons arrived, volunteers set up tables and distributed cards, made the final sound checks and set up video displays. Rollins School of Public Health was abuzz with anticipation of this first of its kind event to be held that day to raise funds for the Center for Spina Bifida Research, Prevention and Policy. Shortly after noon, bridge players from all over Atlanta began to arrive. They filled the Klamon Room on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor, with its broad view of the city, found their places at the tables, perused the silent auction offerings, and greeted their friends. There was a real sense of excitement in the room. Everyone was curious as to what this day was going to be like. By the end of the day it was clear that it had been a great success. Seventy-two Atlanta bridge players had come together for their love of duplicate bridge and to support the important cause of saving tens of thousands of babies around the world from being born with Spina Bifida—a birth defect that puts children into wheel chairs for life.

Dr. Jim Curran, the Dean of the Rollins School of Public Health welcomed participants. Hollywood stars Boris Kodjoe and Nicole Ari Parker made a special appearance to talk about their foundation, Sophie's Voice, which they began in honor of their daughter who was born with Spina Bifida, and which supports the work of the Center for Spina Bifida. Nancy Gore, Roswell High School teacher and adult with Spina Bifida, spoke of the



challenges of living with this crippling birth defect. Finally Dr. Godfrey Oakley, director of the Center, DBAA member and lover of duplicate bridge, spoke of what his work at the Center was trying to accomplish and how grateful he was for the support of his fellow duplicate bridge players and friends.

The main attraction of the day came next. Phillip Alder, *The New York Times* syndicated bridge columnist and



true gentleman, enlightened the crowd with his informative presentation. Peppared with jokes, his truly masterful lesson was fun and challenging. There was something for all players, advanced, intermediate and beginner, to take away from this entertaining part of the day.

Between events participants were busy checking out their silent auction bids. The auction offering playing dates, lessons and free plays at local clubs was open for bidding throughout the day. Thanks to the work of Mike Sheldon, attendees had the option to bid on a total of 42 items. Our duplicate players' competitive spirit was evident by some of the fierce bidding seen throughout the day!

Ina Parry graciously donated her services and directed the "Club Championship" game that afternoon. Phillip Alder agreed to fill in to make an even number of tables. Those who played at his table didn't know whether to be thrilled or intimidated, but he had nothing but kind words for both his partner and his opponents. The leaders of the game in Section Y N/S first Jim Stogner and Jane Bachman; second, Polly and Charlie Simpson; third, Jan Noll and Beverly Wilkinson; fourth, Susan Simpson and Susan

Croft. For E/W first were Sam Marks and Marty Nathan; second, Carolyn Moon and Barbara Goodman; third, Vicki Bell and Elyse Mintz; fourth, Claire Lavery and Merrie Edelston. In Section P the N/S winners were Judy and Bob Fendrick; second, John Thompson and Duke Bhatia; third, Beverly Katz and Wendy Kraitzick; fourth, Laura Wade and Carol Crawford tied with Carolyn Staton and Carole Budnick. First E/W were Mike Sheldon and Joan Duffy; second, Susan and Ron Johnson; third, Janet Brewer and Ruth Ann Gault; fourth, Elizabeth and Clay Long.

The day ended with a celebration of food and drinks on the “Bridge” of the Claudia Nance Rollins Building. Everyone enjoyed a delicious southern buffet prepared and served by the catering staff of Emory University, along with beer and wine and, finally, delicious homemade desserts donated by several of our DBAA members.

Co-chairs of Godfrey’s Grand Slam, Brenda Shavin and Janet Edwards, are proud to announce that the event raised more than \$35,000. They are very grateful for the support of the DBAA, the MABC, Baron Barclay, Inc., and the administration and staff of the Rollins School of Public Health. They would also like to recognize their committee whose hard work made this event possible: Polly and Charlie Simpson, Elizabeth and Clay Long, Mike Sheldon, John Thompson, Elyse Mintz, Nancy Elsea, Peggy Heinish, Janet Brewer, Dan Sadler, Rebecca Williamson, Phyllis Rodbell and Sim Turner. Most of all their heartfelt appreciation goes to all of those who came to the benefit, enjoyed a day of bridge and camaraderie and helped make it possible to continue the work of making Spina Bifida F disappear around the world by 2024.



# New Opportunity

**What:** NAP Flight C  
Now in North Carolina, South Carolina and **Georgia**

**Where:** Atlanta Sectional  
Roswell Adult Recreational Center

**When:** Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>  
Two Session beginning at 9:30AM

**Who:** Flight C — Non-life master and Less than 500 points

**Qualify:** By August 31st  
At your club by finishing in the top half of your flight

**Why:** Winner competes for National Championship at the  
Spring NABC March 15-16, 2015  
Winners get \$900 per person stipend to attend  
the Nationals in New Orleans

For Conditions of Contest [click here](#).